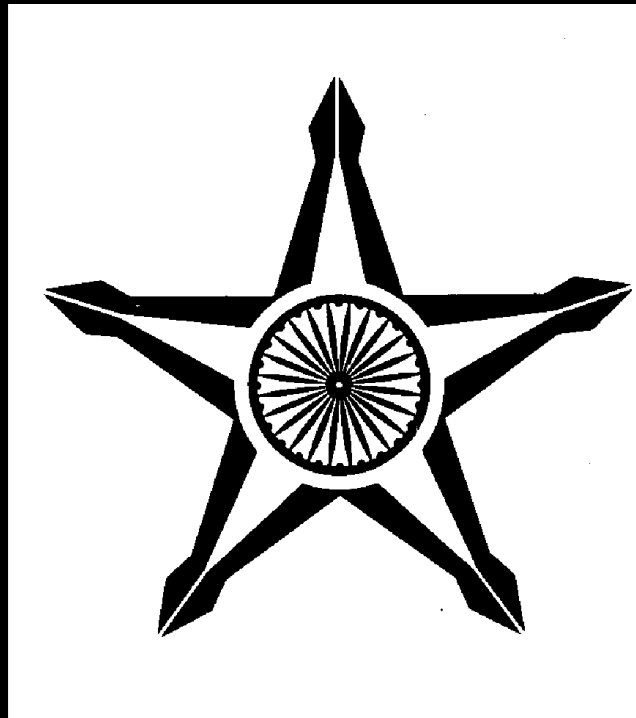


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**“Never doubt that a group of thoughtful,  
committed individuals can change the world.**

**Indeed it is the only thing that ever did”**

**Margaret Mead**

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## Mission

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*To promote peaceful, democratic transformation of Indian Governance process and enable India to achieve full potential through good governance*

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**Can economic reforms alone deliver?**

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**Smaller and more focused government will help**

**But government still has a significant role to play**

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# **Why is governance vital?**

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**The government spends Rs. 1800 crores everyday**

**Government employs 70% of the 27 million organized employees**

**Fiscal deficit (Union and States) - 10% of GDP**

**50 % union tax revenues - interest payment**

**Only 5 % of GDP spent on health, education and social security**

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# **Irreducible role of government**

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**Law and Order**

**Justice**

**Rule of Law**

**School education**

**Primary healthcare**

**Basic infrastructure**

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# **Distortions of state power**

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**Positive power restricted**

**Negative power unchecked**

**All organs are dysfunctional**

**Crisis is systemic**

**Political process ought to be the solution**

**But has become the problem itself**

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**Failure of political process**

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**Parties**

- Autocratic and unaccountable
- Repel the best
- A problem, not solution
- Choice - Tweedledom & Tweedledee

**Elections**

- Change of players
- No change of rules of game
- Criminalization
- Money power
- Flawed process
  - Electoral rolls (40% errors)
  - Boqus voting (22%)



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## **Campaign expenditure – India and US comparison**

**Expenditure for Lok Sabha + all Assemblies – all parties + candidates**

**Estimated : Rs.2500 + Rs.4500 crores**

**Total : Rs.7000 crores = \$1.5 b**

**70-80% is for vote buying**

**US election expenditure in 2000**

**Presidency + House + 1/3 Senate + 1/3 governors**

**Estimated expenditure: (Soft + issue ads Hard) \$ 3 billion**

**80% is for TV advertising.**

**Actual campaign expenditure : 50%**

**\$ 1.5 billion**

**Adjusted to our low per-capita income, and high purchasing capacity of Rupee, our expenditure is 60 times that of US!**

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## **Campaign expenses – vicious cycle**

**Illegitimate expenses are often 5-10 times the ceiling or more**

**(Assembly ceiling: Rs 6 lakhs**

**Lok Sabha ceiling: Rs 15 lakhs)**

**Every crore spent illegitimately**



**Rs 10 crore returns**

**(to cover ROR, Interest, personal upkeep, supporters, family's future, next election costs)**



**Rs 100 crore collected through bureaucracy**

**(for every legislator, there are 2000 employees who need to collect 'rent')**



**people suffer ten times more.**

**Payment extorted, on pain of delay, harassment, humiliation, anxiety and greater loss.**

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# Keys to resolution

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**Change of players not enough, a change in rules of the game needed**

**Values are not the issue, institutions are the key**

**Most players are victims of a vicious**

**Resources are not a problem, the way they are deployed is the key**

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**Way out**

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**Assert people's sovereignty**

**Fundamental democratic transformation**

**People centered governance**

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# **Key governance reforms**

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**Comprehensive electoral reforms**

**Empowerment of local governments**

**Instruments of accountability**

**Speedy and efficient justice**

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# **Electoral reforms**

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## **Process Improvements**

**Preventing polling irregularities**

**Arresting and reversing criminalization of politics**

**Checking abuse of unaccountable money power in elections**

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# **Electoral reforms**

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## **System Improvements**

**Political party reform**

**Proportional representation**

**Direct election of Chief Executive at the State level with clear separation of powers**

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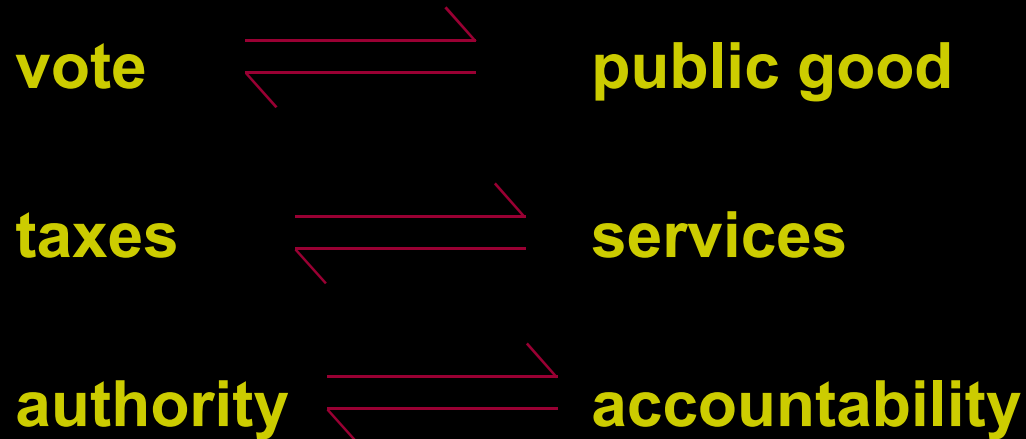
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# Empowerment of Local governments

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**Transfer of funds, functions and functionaries to local governments**

**Link between**





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# Judicial reforms

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**Limit writ jurisdiction**

**Increase number of courts**

**Local courts in local language (Gram Nyayalaya)**

**Time bound justice**

**Independent mechanism for judicial appointments**

**Independent crime investigation**

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# **Instruments of accountability**

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**Right to Information**

**Independent crime investigation**

**Independent appointment of constitutional functionaries**

**Independent and effective anti-corruption agency**

**Term limits for public office**

**Strict penalties for abuse of office**

**Citizen's Charters**

**Stakeholder empowerment**

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# **Approaches to citizens' action**

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**Collective informed assertion**

**Wide dissemination of information**

**Effective mass communication**

**Strategic intervention**

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# Methods of citizens' action

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**Peoples watch**

**Swarajya**

**Election watch**

**Specific issue advocacy**

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**Impact**

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**Citizen's Charters in A.P. - 9 departments**

**A compensation of Rs.50/day for delay in services  
– first time in India**

**Short delivery at petrol stations all over A.P. –  
benefit of Rs. 1 crore/day**

**Toilets for every household – over 2 million toilets  
were built in the last 3 years**

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**Impact**

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**Influenced public discourse on power reforms in A.P.**

**Right to Information – legislation in 2002**

**Election Watch – arresting criminalization in politics**

**EC accepts in principle to make post office nodal agency for voter registration**

**Advocacy for political funding reform – a bill is now before parliament**

**Election watch in several states**

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**Impact**

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**EW work in AP was the basis for movement for candidate disclosures**

**30-35% passive support in AP**

**National Campaign for Electoral Reforms (NCER)**

**Credible platform for national network**

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# **What Next ? - A.P.**

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**Mobilizing 100,000 active citizens**

**Right to information legislation**

**Expansion of citizen's charters**

**Empowerment of local governments**

**Legislation for local courts**

**Police reforms at state level**

**Focus on delivery of school education and public health**

**New stake-holder empowerment laws**



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# How to build a state wide movement ?

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**A group of credible persons with excellent track record**

**Deep insights into political and governance process**

**An agenda that is acceptable to all segments**

**Collective informed assertion on specific issues**

**Full time commitment and professionalism**

**Building a platform with a brand image**

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## **Major activities at national level**

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**Advocacy for political funding reform**

**Advocacy for regulation of political parties**

**Changes in voter registration procedure- post office as nodal agency**

**Measures to curb polling irregularities**

**Proportional representation and separation of powers**

**National platform for governance reforms**

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# Road map to reforms

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**Specific reforms in 3-4 key states**

**Building of state-wide movements in key states**

**Creation of national platform**

**National campaign for a few specific goals**

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**“The punishment suffered by the wise who refuse to take part in the government, is to suffer under the government of bad men.”**

Plato