

**LOK SATTA**

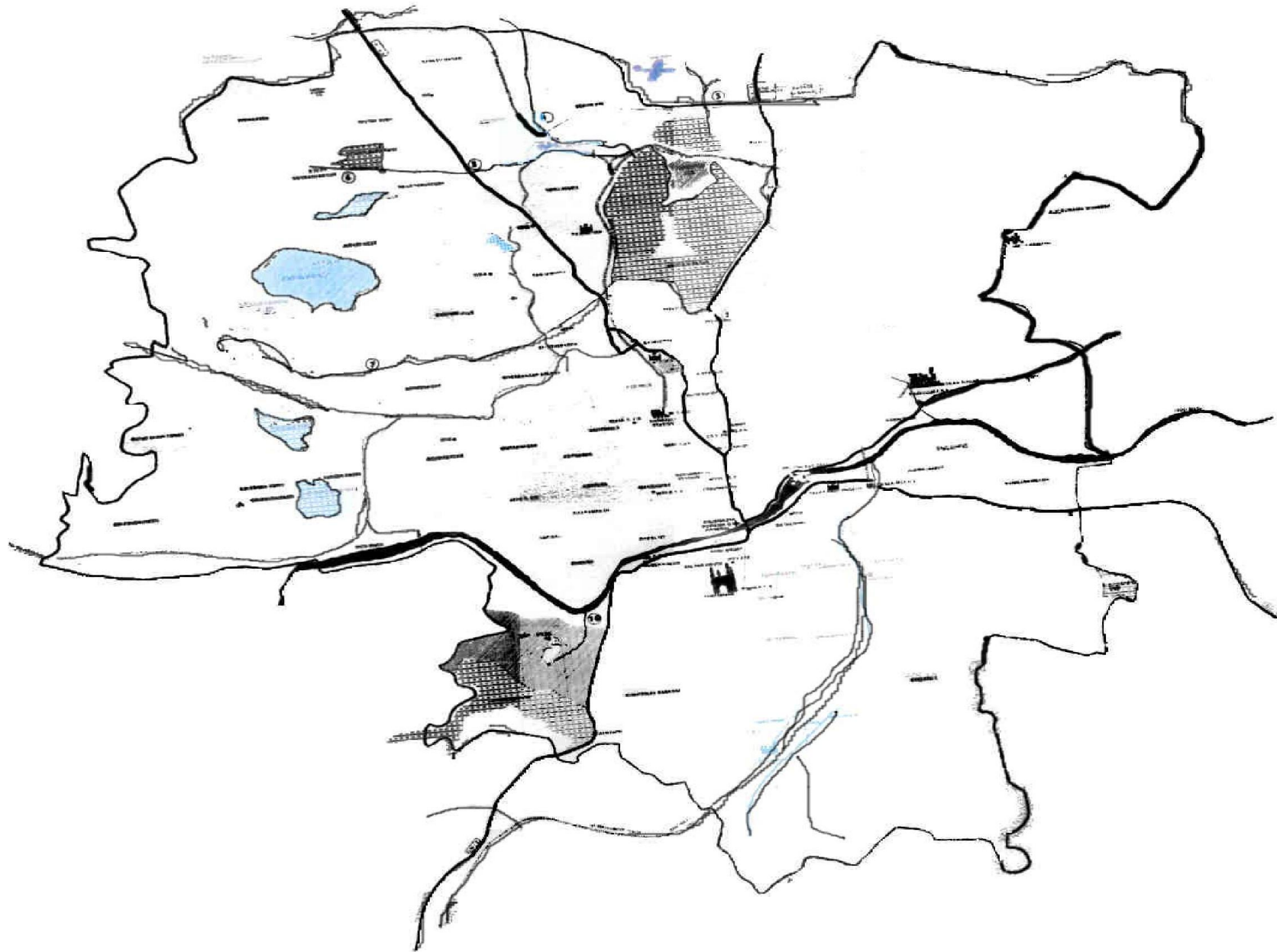
*People Power*

**8th September, 2001**

**MCH Election Watch 2001**

**at**

**LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad**



LOK SATTA  
is concerned with  
GOOD GOVERNANCE  
in the context of a  
DEMOCRATIC POLITY

LOK SATTA

is

committed to

DEMOCRACY

It is NON-PARTISAN as between POLITICAL PARTIES

Its concerns

are RESPECT FOR THE VOTER & THE CONDUCT OF

FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

## LOK SATTA

has worked with some success in  
the furtherance of these objectives  
during recent ASSEMBLY, NATIONAL & PANCHAYAT  
ELECTIONS in ANDHRA PRADESH  
and has earned the respect of the PUBLIC, POLITICAL  
PARTIES, CANDIDATES & THE ELECTORAL  
MACHINERY for the restrained and constructive  
role that it has played.

# THE PRIMACY OF THE VOTER

“ The little man with the little pencil, making the little mark on a  
little piece of paper.....”

Ultimately its for him, and he's the boss

LOK SATTA

recognises

the CENTRALITY of A HEALTHY ELECTORAL SYSTEM

to

A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

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A FLAWED ELECTORAL SYSTEM

results in

A FLAWED DEMOCRACY

## ELECTORAL REFORM

has therefore been one of the focal points

of LOK SATTA's activities

Inter alia, ELECTORAL REFORM is propagated

through LOK SATTA's

“ELECTION WATCH”

programmes

during the conduct of elections



# MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS – HYDERABAD

1. Municipal Elections are due in Hyderabad  
around February 2002
2. Municipal Elections in Hyderabad are being held after a lapse of many years. The last time municipal elections were held in Hyderabad was in 1986.
3. Hyderabad is one of the premier cosmopolitan cities of India
4. In terms of size, population and wealth, it is the most important city in Andhra Pradesh

5. The citizens of Hyderabad depend upon their Municipality for a variety of things that affect their immediate well being and the conduct of their daily lives

Amongst these are:

1. Provision of Adequate and Clean Water
2. Proper Drainage & Sewerage
3. School Education
4. Primary Health
5. Further Schooling and Medical facilities
6. Quality of life in the shape of parks and open spaces and control of pollution
7. City Planning, regulation of building, improvement of slums
8. Provision of a host of licenses and permissions
9. Services like the provision of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

Hyderabadis have a DUTY to elect good representatives to provide these services and the RIGHT to demand that they perform in an Efficient, Responsible and Responsive manner.

LOK SATTA considers the HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL  
ELECTIONS an important occasion for the furtherance of  
their objectives of good DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE  
through their programme  
of  
ELECTION WATCH.

# Objectives of Election Watch

- Promote voter awareness
- Ensure purity of elections
- Bring pressure on parties to put up desirable candidates
- Discourage candidates with criminal record
- Help voters make informed choices
- Set a citizen - centered agenda for MCH
- Generate demand for electoral reform

## **Election Watch Activities**

1. Verification of voters' lists and rectification of defects
2. Screening of Candidates
3. Go out and Vote Campaign
4. 'Know Your Candidate'
5. Common platforms and live TV debate
6. Monitoring of polling
7. Post - election monitoring

## Verification of Voters' lists

- About 27 lakh voters

  - Lok Satta Surveys:

    - 44.8% errors in voter registers in cities

    - up to 22% voting fraud in Hyderabad

- 100 'Wards' electing corporators

- Assembly rolls will be applicable (a law is due to be enacted)

- Existing rolls form the basis

- Additions and deletions only on application in duplicate

  - \* form 6 for addition

  - \* form 7 or 8B for deletion

- Municipal officials in charge of voter registration

- Forms to be filed by the applicants personally

## Verification of Voters' Lists in Andhra Pradesh

### Survey of Urban Polling Stations

Particulars of electoral rolls verified			Deletions Required (Errors of Commission)					Additions Required (Errors of Omission)				Total Errors	
District	No. of Polling Stations.	No. of Voters	Moved out of the area	Death	Other *	Total	% to voters	Attained 18 years of age	Moved into the area	Total	% to voters	Total number	% to voters registered
Vizag	3	1298	355	22	17	394	30.4	82	413	495	38.1	889	68.5
E.Godavari	3	419	78	14	0	92	22.0	39	85	124	29.6	216	51.6
W.Godavari	2	1491	121	12		133	8.9	46	179	225	15.1	358	24.0
Krishna	3	1919	690	35	0	725	37.8	53	500	553	28.8	1278	66.6
Kurnool	3	1796	419	43	28	490	27.3	62	90	152	8.5	642	35.7
Nalgonda	1	797	273	5	2	280	35.1	34	125	159	19.9	439	55.1
Warangal	2	1863	320	28	30	378	20.3	43	74	117	6.3	495	26.6
Guntur	5	4060	1039	83	92	1214	29.9	209	604	813	20.0	2027	49.9
Hyderabad	5	4459	923	31	42	996	22.3	85	691	776	17.4	1772	39.7
<b>Urban Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18102</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>4702</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>2761</b>	<b>3414</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>8116</b>	<b>44.8</b>
<b>Rural+Urban</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>40399</b>	<b>5852</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>7008</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>3353</b>	<b>4453</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>11461</b>	<b>28.4</b>

\*[under-aged / ineligible / fictitious]



**Post-Polling Survey of Select Polling Station Areas  
(1999 Assembly and Parliamentary Polls, Hyderabad, AP)**

Assembly Constituency / Polling Booth No.	No. of voters	No. of votes polled	No. who reported that they actually 'voted'	No. not voted or doubtful cases				Percentage of doubtful and 'not voted' votes
				Residing in the area but not voted	Left the area but residing within the city	Left the city / country etc.	Total	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
207/173	1143	625	483	5	91	46	142	22.7
207/176	956	459	377	15	41	26	82	17.9
209/93	725	428	306	20	95	7	122	28.5
209/75	989	495	380	42	72	1	115	23.2
210/426	893	476	399	22	49	6	77	16.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4706</b>	<b>2483</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>21.7</b>

## Screening of Candidates

- Post box no: 100, Hyderabad - 4
- Screening Committee
- Bench Marks
  - conviction
  - charge sheet
  - rowdy sheeter
  - history sheeter
- Information from public & other sources for information on potential candidates
- Screening of available information
- Write to parties
- if they are put up as candidates, make the lists public

## Voter Verification – Logistics

- Lok Satta’s role only facilitatory
- 3 - 5 volunteers in each of the 100 Wards
  - \* volunteers drawn from citizens, activist groups, consumer organizations, colleges and residents’ associations
- Voters’ list for the Ward area polling stations to be supplied by Lok Satta
- Wide Publicity to the programme to encourage voters to participate
- Address and phone no. of Local Election Watch office to be publicized
- Statutory forms will be made available locally
- Lok Satta will work with the municipal officials to facilitate filing applications
- Lok Satta will monitor processing of applications
- The programme will close by November end.

# Know Your Candidate

- Information on
  - personal details
  - income and assets
  - criminal record, if any
  - political history
  - views and aspirations

collect from candidates

make public

## Common Platforms & TV debate

- All recognized party candidates
- Predetermined format
- Brief statements
- Time-bound answers to written questions
- Impartial moderator
- Wide publicity
- Questions from Lok Satta panel
- TV debate between candidates for Mayor's office

# Go out and Vote Campaign

- Television
- Radio
- News coverage
- Pamphlets
- Posters
- Cinema Slides
- Hoardings
- Other means of communication

# Monitoring of Polling

- Wherever feasible
- Trained volunteers
- Coordination with State Election Commission

## Post – Election Monitoring

- Voter / Corprator / Official interface
- Monitoring performance
- Constitution of Ward Committees
- Empowerment of Ward Committees
- Development of Citizen’s Charters
- Monitoring their implementation
- Accountability to citizens



# STRUCTURE FOR FURTHERING THESE AIMS

FIELD VOLUNTEERS



A CENTRAL WORKING GROUP



APEX COMMITTEE

# FIELD VOLUNTEERS

- 100 Wards
- 3 to 5 Volunteers per Ward
- Training
- Establishment of a presence in Each Ward
- **Pre-voting**
  - Scrutiny of Rolls
  - Rectification
  - Individual Registration
  - Identification of Candidates
  - Candidate Information
  - Candidate Information - Common Platforms
- **Election Day**
  - Monitoring Polling
- **Post Election**

# WORKING GROUP

- Planning
- Selection of Volunteers
- Training of Volunteers
- Guidance of Volunteers
- Liaison Where necessary with Govt. Authorities
- Coordination of Ad Campaign
- Centralized HELP LINE to VOLUNTEERS & GENERAL PUBLIC

# **APEX COMMITTEE**

- Monitoring - Guidance, Advice
- Intervention if necessary, at critical junctures

## SOME CRITICAL AREAS

### 1. Accuracy of Voter Rolls:

Bogus voting

### 2. Registration of Voters / Removal of Voters.

Forms 6, 7, 8

### 3. Criminalization

- The Law
- The Wider Context

Rowdy Sheeters - People against whom cases are pending

- Criminalization & Public Opinion
- Sensitivity of Politicians to Public Opinion

## **SOME CRITICAL AREAS**

### 4. Common Platforms:

- Interface
- Structured Meetings
- Mayoral Candidates
- Election Manifestos / Promises

### 5. Monitoring on Election Day

### 6. Post Election

## **AD. CAMPAIGN**

1. Hoardings
2. Posters
3. News
4. Public Events

### **THEME**

**VOTE:- DO NOT VOTE FOR UNDERSIRABLE  
CANDIDATES - VOTE FOR GOOD CANDIDATES -  
VOTE INTELLIGENTLY**