

# **SILENT REVOLUTION**

**YOUR VOTE – YOUR FUTURE**

## **LOK SATTA PARTY'S 50 IRREVOCABLE GUARANTEES**

### **Foreword**

Lok Satta Party was formed with the goal of creating new politics for a new generation of Indians. For Lok Satta, power is a means to promote public good, and not an end in itself. Lok Satta believes that elections are about the people and their future, and not just about candidates and parties.

That is why Lok Satta unequivocally rejects traditional vote-gathering techniques employed by traditional parties in India. Most Indian political parties take advantage of the poverty, ignorance and helplessness of the bulk of the people.

Vote buying, distributing liquor, arousing animosities on sectarian grounds, enticing people with short-term sops and freebies, running politics as big business, abusing public office and trust for private gain, indulging in dynastic politics – all of these are endemic to our political crisis.

Lok Satta is striving to change the rules of the game by adopting and practicing internal democracy, transparent resource mobilization and utilization, national public policies and democratic methods of mobilizing public opinion, enhancing the liberty of all sections.

Every political party has the obligation to analyse social conditions and propose clear and unambiguous goals for progress and prosperity. Lok Satta's goals are:

- Eliminating all forms of discrimination by birth through ensuring opportunities for quality education, healthcare, skills and employment.
- Enhancing incomes in agriculture and other traditional occupations.
- Improving quality of life by creating basic amenities in all rural and urban settlements.
- Establishing truly empowered and effective district and local governments and decentralizing power.
- Promoting full transparency and accountability at all levels of governance.
- Establishing rule of law and ensuring that all people are treated equally without favouritism or discrimination.
- Ensuring social justice by building a new society in which a child's future is not determined by birth, caste, family, region, religion or wealth.
- Utilizing public resources fully and properly.
- Eliminating corruption.

It will be the duty of a future Lok Satta government to introduce specific policies and programmes to implement this agenda of governance. Meanwhile, it is the responsibility of Lok Satta Party to design these policies and programmes, and mobilize public opinion in support of them. Traditional politics in India regards people as mere vote banks and mendicants seeking alms from the state. Misappropriation of a large proportion of public money, squandering precious resources, transferring a small part of public money to the tax payers in the form of sops and freebies for short-term political gain, and reducing people into abject dependence on political patronage and state support are the key features of the traditional, kleptocratic politics of India. Lok Satta aims to transform this by enhancing the capabilities of citizens, making them partners in wealth creation, and promoting the dignity, self-esteem, security and opportunities of every individual.

It is in this spirit that Lok Satta is placing before the people irrevocable and specific pledges to which the party is fully committed. It will be the primary task of Lok Satta government to fulfil these pledges in full measure.

Deep reflection, an unflinching commitment to achieve long-term public good, and treatment of citizens as sovereigns are embedded in each of these guarantees. In drafting these pledges, the following standards have been applied:

- Every citizen will have opportunities for growth without discrimination
- Politics and governance will be people-centered
- People are the true sovereigns in a democracy
- The citizen will be enabled to be self-reliant and independent
- Fulfillment of the long-term national goals
- Implementing best practices to achieve maximum output at least cost.
- Designing of rational, creative and practical policies.

Lok Satta is fully committed to each of these pledges. They constitute the well considered answer to the genuine question from people: “What can we expect from a Lok Satta government?”

We call upon every thinking citizen in the state to enlighten their families and fellow citizens about the new society Lok Satta envisions - a society in which there is dignity, opportunity, and justice for all Indians.

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## **GOVERNMENT AT OUR DOORSTEP**

Many districts in Andhra Pradesh are bigger than nearly 100 countries in the world. There is no reason why people in a district should come to Hyderabad to get their problems solved. This negates the very notion of self-governance. In order to bring governance closer to people, every district will have a District Government with all

necessary powers. All local governments will be empowered with funds, functions and functionaries. Lok Satta government will bring in an institutional revolution by ensuring a Citizen centered governance process that will establish the link between taxes and services.

### **1. Elected District Governments**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee the establishment of a directly elected District Government for each district of the State.**
- Each district will have a directly elected premier who will Head a Cabinet of District Ministers to administer the district..
- District Collector will act as the Chief Secretary to the District Government.
- District Ministers will be in-charges of various portfolios such as school education, health care, agriculture, animal husbandry, basic amenities in villages and cities, employment generation, social security for poor, civil supplies, social welfare, and other local issues. Necessary funds will be devolved to local governments.

### **2. Empowered Local Governments**

- **Lok Satta Government will guarantee the empowerment of district governments, panchayats and municipalities with full decision-making and implementation powers on subjects that fall within their purview.**
- Laws will be suitably enacted/ammended to empower district governments, panchayats and municipalities.
- Local governments will be responsible for providing safe drinking water, sanitation, drainage, roads, housing, implementation of various programmes, issuance of certificates and other basic amenities. Necessary funds will be devolved to local governments.

### **3. Substantial Funds for District Governments**

- **Lok Satta Government will guarantee that 50 % of the State's annual planned budget will be transferred to district governments.**
- All the funds pertaining to various sectors that are being governed by the district government will be transferred to district government.

- In addition to the existing funds, every panchayat, town and city in the District will get Rs 1000 per-capita every year for developmental activities. For a population of 1000, a panchayat will receive Rs.10 lakhs of additional funding. A panchayat with 10,000 population will receive Rs. 1 crore of additional funding. Similarly, for a population of 1 lakh, the panchayat will receive Rs. 10 crore as additional funding.

#### **4. Public Participation in Governance**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee that people will be direct participants in the functioning of the local governments..**
- Committees comprised of elected stakeholders, local government representatives, and experts will manage education, healthcare, civil supplies, irrigation, and market services at the local level.
- Ward committees in all municipalities and corporations comprised of members from each polling station will be instituted.
- Heads of all the panchayats, municipalities, corporations and district governments will be directly elected by the people.
- All government orders, instructions and files will also be maintained in Telugu.

# GRAM SWARAJYA

70 percent of our population lives in villages, and many of these citizens do not have access to basic amenities, such as clean drinking water.. Absence of basic infrastructure and minimal delivery of services have made living conditions miserable. To compound this misery, corruption, nepotism, and favoritism are preventing common people from reaping the benefits of various government programmes. Lok Satta government will take concrete steps and measures to create basic amenities and proper living conditions for all.

## 5. Funds for Villages

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee funding of Rs 1000 per-capita per year for developmental activities to every Panchayat (this is in addition to existing funding).**
- For a population of 1000, a panchayat will receive Rs. 10 lakhs in additional funding.
- A panchayat with 10,000 population will receive Rs. 1 crore in additional funding.
- These funds will build capacities of local governments to fundamentally improve the living conditions in villages.

## 6. Safe Drinking Water for Every Village

- **Lok Satta government guarantees establishment of water treatment plants in all villages to ensure clean and protected water supply.**
- All treatment plants will be equipped with filtration and disinfecting equipment.
- Periodic water testing to ensure quality of water supply.
- Panchayats will be equipped with necessary funds and management powers to ensure quality water supply. Stringent action will be taken against panchayats if they fail to perform this important function. If situation demands panchayats will be dissolved.

## 7. 'Jala Raksha' - Combating the Menace of Contaminated Water

**Reverse-Osmosis and De-Mineralization plants will be established in all villages that are suffering from high fluoride and excessive salt content in water.**

Local youth/village youth will manage these plants under the supervision of panchayats.

Even remote villages will have high quality water supply to ensure healthy living.

### **8. 24 hour power to every village**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee continuous, uninterrupted 24 hour power supply to all villages.**
- Agricultural power transformers will be separated and quality power supply without voltage fluctuations will be ensured.
- Farmers will be compensated if pump-sets burn out due to voltage fluctuations.
- Local governments will be empowered to manage local power distribution.

### **9. No more Public Defecation**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee a toilet with a septic tank to every house.**
- Health and dignity for women, children and the elderly.
- Ban on public defecation.
- Gram Panchayat will be empowered to construct toilets with public funds and enforce ban on public defecation.
- Stringent action will be taken against panchayats, including dissolution of panchayat, if they fail to perform this important function.

### **10. Villages Connected by Roads**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee high quality all weather roads connecting villages to nearby towns.**
- Panchayats will maintain the roads and necessary funds will be devolved.

## 11. Bus Service to Every Village

- **Bus services to every village will be operationalised by Lok Satta government.**
- A minimum of four trips per day. More trips based on local requirements.
- Free travel for students and patients visiting hospitals.
- Transport facilities for agricultural produce.
- To ensure transportation services to villages, the corporation will receive necessary subsidies.



# 'SURAJYA' IN TOWNS AND CITIES

In our cities, basic amenities, such as clean drinking water, proper sanitation, roads and other public services, are in decrepit condition. Absence of quality public transport, traffic problems, land grabbing, settlements, illegal constructions, theft, and kidnappings have ruined city life. Lok Satta party will focus on these problems and usher-in good urban governance.

## 12. Guaranteed Civic Amenities

To ensure quality living conditions Lok Satta government will guarantee:

- **Clean and safe water supply (you will not need to depend on water bottles from private suppliers).**
- **Stress-Free public transport (public transport as convenient as private vehicles, and far more affordable)**
- **Quality Sanitation (no more heaps of garbage and contaminated water)**
- **Ward government for local services (people will not have to run around government offices)**
- **Citizen Charter for all public services (accessing services without becoming a victim of corrupt practices)**

All Municipalities and Corporations will get an additional Rs 1000 per-capita every year. For a population of 1 lakh, the municipality will receive Rs. 10 crores as an additional grant. Similarly, for a population of 10 lakhs, the corporation will receive 100 crores as an additional grant.

## 13. Establishing Ward Governments

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee an elected ward government will be created for every ward. Rs. 500 per capita will be granted by the Lok Satta Government to each ward government to immediately address the needs of people.**
- **Special programmes to ensure basic amenities in all low income localities of the city/town.**

- Direct people's participation in ward governments to ensure quality water supply, maintenance of roads, drainage, street lights, and sanitation.
- Comprehensive Citizen Charters with strict penalties for delays.
- 24 hour call center to receive and act on complaints on public amenities.

#### **14. Quality Public Transport**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee a dependable and efficient public transport system.**
- Lok Satta government will ensure expansion and improvement of road network in the cities.
- Strong public transport to reduce fuel expenses and usage of private vehicles. Public transport to be made convenient and easy.
- New Flyovers, ring roads, by-pass roads in cities to reduce traffic congestion

#### **15. Lok Satta Party's 'Bharosa' for Lowering Crime**

- Lok Satta government will guarantee rigorous measures to combat crimes such as theft, robberies, and kidnapping. Lok Satta government promises safe cities for all
- **Lok Satta Government will operationalise Community policing**
- Residents of colonies / mohallahs will be active partners in crime prevention
- Caste and Communal violence prone areas will be identified and preventive measures will be instituted. Any such violence will be ruthlessly curtailed

# **1 000 SMALL TOWNS IN ANDHRA PRADESH**

Large numbers of people are migrating to big cities in search of employment and basic amenities/facilities such as hospitals and quality schools. On an average 5000 people per day migrate to cities in our state, and a large number of them end up in slums. Due to the absence of basic infrastructure in rural areas, villagers are forced to commute to distant cities for even the smallest problems.

In order to address these problems Lok Satta government will develop 1000 small towns, which will result in integration of rural areas with urban economy. Migration to urban areas will be prevented by creating modern facilities, employment opportunities, and good living conditions in the rural areas.

## **16. Small Towns will be Developed**

- **A town within a radius of 10 km of every village will be developed by Lok Satta government with all necessary infrastructure at a cost of Rs. 25 crores.**
- 1000 such small towns will be developed across the state. These towns will be identified and developed based on road connectivity, natural resources, human resources and agricultural produce in neighboring villages.
- These towns will be endowed with quality educational facilities, health services, clean and safe drinking water supply, drainage, public parks, library, skills training, small industries, and transport facilities, making these small towns economic hubs and magnets for local migration..

## **17. Urban Amenities in Rural Areas**

- **Lok Satta government guarantees access to quality urban amenities and services to all villages.**
- All towns will be connected with neighbouring villages by roads and bus facilities.

- In the small towns, an E-seva center will act as an inter-face with the government, computer center and skills training centers will be established.
- Each small town will have a 30 bed-hospital which will become a hub for '108' services.
- All small towns will have agricultural markets and cold storage facilities.
- These small towns will become nodal points for agri-clinics in neighboring villages.

# EDUCATION

In our society, the fate of 90 percent of people is being determined by the accident of birth and economic conditions. A mere 8 per cent of people have access to higher education. The poor are being compelled to pay heavy amounts even for primary education. In spite of large out-of-pocket expenditure most poor children have no real opportunities to fulfill their potential. Lok Satta Government will completely transform this situation and will ensure that everyone has access to high quality education. Lok Satta government will ensure that the governance apparatus and the political process will revolve around delivery of basic entitlements such as quality education. It will strive to build a non-discriminatory and caste free society by ensuring access to quality education for every child irrespective of caste, gender and economic status.

## **18. Quality Education for All** **Government and Private Education to be on Same Level**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee that government and private schools will be on the same level in terms of medium of instruction, quality of education, examination pattern and basic facilities.**
- Free, good quality education for all up to 12th grade.
- A pre-school within the locality for all pre-school children (3 years and above) with nutrition, play, and healthcare.
- English as a language from 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and mother-tongue as medium of instruction for the first five years.
- Good quality education with English as medium of instruction from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Integrating intermediate education with high school education
- Free, quality coaching for state and national entrance examinations for all.

## **19. Modern Facilities for All Schools**

- **Lok Satta government will ensure that every school will have necessary classrooms, teachers, teaching equipment, computers, broadband internet and assured power supply.**
- All schools will be connected through broadband internet.

- All schools will have basic amenities like playground, toilets and clean drinking water.
- Where necessary, hostel and transport facilities will be provided to students.
- Health care facilities will be available at the school.

## **20. Teachers to Become Stakeholders**

- **Lok Satta government guarantees that teachers will be partners in the educational system and school administration.**
- Teachers will not be treated as mere public servants. Instead, teachers will be given the respect they deserve, as they are the custodians of our children's future. Vidya Volunteers, contract teachers/lecturers, will be given due respect and compensation.
- Teachers will play a key role in Mandal and District Educational Boards.
- Teachers will be freed from all non-academic work.
- There will be a strong and effective inspection mechanism to monitor and improve quality of education.
- Teachers will have opportunities for promotion.
- Constant training to teachers on latest teaching methods.
- Residential facilities to teachers and their families close to school in rural areas.

## **21. Higher Education for Everyone**

- Lok Satta government guarantees that every young person who is deserving and desirous shall have access to quality higher education such as engineering, medicine, computers, all professional courses and university education. Lack of financial resources shall not become a cause for discontinuing the pursuit of higher education.
- Higher educational institutions will be completely revamped to ensure that graduating students have necessary knowledge base and skill sets to navigate the ever changing employment market.

- Every district will have “Higher Education Zone (HEZ).” Investors will be given special incentives to open higher educational institutions of excellence in these zones.

## **22. Ten Percent Bonus Marks for Students from Rural Areas and Poorer Sections**

### **Poor to Compete on Level Playing Field with Rich Students**

- Irrespective of caste and religion, all children and youth from poor families will be given 10% bonus marks at the time of entrance examinations, higher education and employment.
- Special efforts to ensure that benefits of reservations are reaped by the poor of all castes.
- This means that students belonging to poorer sections and rural areas 60 marks will be added as bonus marks for 600 marks. This policy will allow poor students to compete on equal terms with students from wealthy families.

## **SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH**

More than 10 lakh youth in Andhra Pradesh are unemployed due to lack of skills and/or opportunities. Lok Satta government will guarantee adequate skills and employment for our youth in the private sector. The newfound ability of our youth to contribute to society will be a source of confidence for them. If someone is willing to start their own business, Lok Satta government will provide special training, loans, and required facilities. Every hard working youth will be given an opportunity to stand on his/her feet.

### **23. Guidance for Youth**

- Lok Satta government will guarantee skills training for youth to prepare them for the changing needs of the market and society.
- Youth will be given free training in over 200 guidance training centres across the state.
- Based on the nature of the course, training will be provided free for 3 to 12 months.

- Monthly stipend of Rs.1500 will be paid to trainees.
- The design and implementation of courses will be done in collaboration with industries and banks.

#### **24. Provisions for Employment**

- Lok Satta government will guarantee every skilled youth an opportunity.
- For employment of every trained youth, Lok Satta government will arrange placements across the globe.
- Lok Satta government, as a duty, will provide fundamental facilities to whoever is willing to take up their own business or profession.

#### **25. Employment Opportunities in Government**

- Lok Satta government will guarantee additional 1,50,000 jobs in education, health, crime investigation, justice, and basic service delivery.
- The distribution of power supply will be decentralized, and as a result, 60,000 people will be provided jobs locally in administration of power supply.
- Additional employment will be given to the youth in the services offered by public-private partnerships.
- District governments will be formed, and additional employees will be deployed to administer these district governments.

#### **26. Development Brigade**

- A Development Brigade will be established to provide youth with opportunities to voluntarily participate in services designed for national development.
- Lok Satta government will guarantee that 1,00,000 youth will be selected every year for the Development Brigade. These youth will be trained in the various sectors which are required to fulfill local needs. These youth will be paid a Rs. 3000 per month incentive for their 2 years of service to the country.



- Lok Satta government will implement a policy to ensure that at any given point in time, 2,00,000 youth will be working for the Development Brigade.
- Local governments will utilize services of these youth in education, healthcare, agriculture, and the war against corruption and alcoholism.

## **HEALTH FOR ALL**

Our public health system and preventive care are in disarray. As a consequence, lakhs of families are experiencing severe financial and emotional stress. There is a high reliance on out-of-pocket payments for health care, which is imposing disproportionate burden on the poor and many of them are falling below poverty line. Further, lack of quality maternal and child care is contributing to high infant mortality rate.

Lok Satta government guarantees high quality health care for all. A citizen can exercise his right for quality health care at any hospital (public or private) and the government will bear the expenses. Lok Satta government's health care policies will ensure that families will no longer have to worry about which hospital to access, and how to generate resources in case of an illness.

### **27. Quality Health Services**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee:**
  - **All Primary Health Centers will work round the clock.**
  - **They will be equipped to deal with deliveries and other emergencies**
  - **30-100 bed-hospital for every of 75,000 people**
- MMR vaccines to all infants to protect from these diseases.
- Every district will have a super specialty hospital. In order to access quality health services, patients will no longer have to travel outside the district.

### **28. Free and Universal Health Care to All (Aarogyaraksha)**

- **A patient can go to any government hospital or accredited private hospital of his/her choice and get free treatment and Lok Satta government guarantees a Health Card for this purpose.**
- All expenses for diagnosis, in-patient care, operations and medicines for in-patients will be borne by the Lok Satta government

- Everyone can access high quality health care for wide range of illnesses such as malaria, heart diseases, maternal care, typhoid, stomach pains and so on.

### **29. Public -Private Partnership in Health Services (Ubhayatarakam)**

- Along with government hospitals free health care facilities can be availed at small private hospitals and clinics
- Standardization of costs and protocols for patient care. Hospital will be reimbursed the costs of care every month based on the patients handled and standard costs
- Patients will be free to visit the hospitals and doctors of their choice, and the money will follow the patients to the best doctors and hospitals.
- Private doctors can use the facilities of government hospitals

# **AGRICULTURE**

About 70 per cent of population still depends on Agriculture. Farmers are struggling against insurmountable odds such as insufficient extension networks, dilapidated rural infrastructure, lack of timely credit, inappropriate trade and marketing policies, low capital formation, poor technology, and low value addition. Over 70 percent of farmers are not able to access bank credit and latest technological innovations. Exploitation of farmers at markets and by middle men has become regular phenomenon. Lok Satta Government will address this sorry state of affairs and will transform agriculture sector into a profitable industry.

## **30. Quality Power Supply to Farmers**

- **Agricultural transformers will be separated, and power with stable voltage and will be guaranteed; farmers will be compensated by the Lok Satta Government for motors burnt on account of voltage fluctuations.**
- Villages will be guaranteed 24-hour power supply through decentralized distribution.
- Additional funds will be granted to enhance the quality of power distribution.

## **31. Agri-Clinics - Prosperity to Farmers ('Rytusiri')**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee the establishment of 'Rytusiri' agri-clinics.**
- **Farmers can access various services at the Agri-Clinics such as:**
  - **Quality seeds, pesticides, agricultural instruments at affordable prices.**
  - **Provision to sell all agricultural produce at profitable price.**
  - **Farmers can access the agri-clinic round the clock for advice and services.**
  - **Latest market information.**
  - **Free Soil Testing.**
  - **Free veterinary services.**

- One fully computerized agri-clinic will be established for every 3,000 acres.
- All agricultural equipment and implements will be made fully tax-exempt. Farmers can purchase all agricultural equipment at factory prices.
- Agri-clinics will facilitate collective selling of farmers' produce to retail chains and super markets at profitable rates.

### **32. 'Akshaya' – Credit to Farmers and Tenants**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee Akshaya Cards to all farmers for accessing credit depending on his/her land holdings and other properties. Depending on family and agricultural requirements credit will be extended on over-draft basis.**
- Every Farmer will have an account in cooperative and commercial banks.
- All farmers will get direct access to loans, and usurious lending practices will be prohibited.
- Special arrangement for farmers to access credit.

### **33. Farmer Controlled Market Yards ('Rythe Raju')**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee the democratization of market committees. Elected Farmer's Committee will manage market yards. Lok Satta Government guarantees corruption-free market yards.**
- Facilities to ensure direct selling at the Market Yards. Integration with retail chains, information on global markets and opportunities to export will be provided at the market yards.
- Market Yards will have storage facilities and pledge loans will be guaranteed on stored produce.
- Cold storage units and radiation units for various agricultural produce, specifically for perishable items such as fruits and vegetables.
- Quality seeds, pesticides, and agricultural equipment will also be sold at the Market Yards. Depending on the market, Seed-Centers will be established.

- Modern abattoirs and other facilities will be established for production and export of meat.

### **34. Agro-Industries to Guarantee Crop Prices**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee the establishment of agro-industries that will ensure minimum support prices for fruits and vegetables.**
- Provisions to sell at minimum support prices even if prices plummet in the market.
- Agro-Industries that enhance the value of crop will be established.
- A state federation of agro-based industries to sell their produce will be established. Government will provide a subsidy to this federation if necessary.
- Training to children of farmers and employment in agro-industries.

# **RIGOROUS LIQUOR CONTROL**

Over 75 lakh families are experiencing the pernicious impact of liquor consumption in the state. Government policies are encouraging many to become alcoholics, which is generating severe financial stress in many families. Increased consumption of alcohol is resulting in deterioration of health standards and early mortality. Tragically, children are paying a heavy price as they are left to fend for themselves. To address this sad state of affairs, Lok Satta government will implement strict measures to control liquor consumption immediately.

## **35. Ban on Private Liquor Shops**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee the banning of all liquor sales through private outlets, and auctioning of liquor licenses.**
- Sale of liquor will not be treated as a source of revenue by the government.
- Instead of existing 6,800 liquor outlet, not more than 1000 licensed liquor outlets will be permitted in the state

## **36. Removing Belt-Shops**

- **Lok Satta Government guarantees complete ban on sale of liquor in villages and in low-income localities.**
- Complete ban on belt-shops, which are having harmful impact on the lives of the poor.
- Lok Satta government will eliminate the menace of illicit and country liquor.
- A de-addiction unit will be established in every Mandal to treat alcoholics.

## **37. Ban on Public Liquor Consumption**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee the prohibition of public consumption of liquor.**
- Both public consumption of liquor and appearing in public in an inebriated condition will be deemed as a crimes.

- Public consumption of liquor will be permitted only in select hotels and tourist places. Consumption in sitting-rooms will be prohibited. Liquor will not be available on any highways.
- Stringent punishment for committing crimes or causing accidents in an inebriated condition.

### **38. Powers to Panchayat**

- **Lok Satta government guarantees full powers to Panchayats to search, to confiscate, and to produce suspected offenders in court in cases pertaining to illicit and country liquor.**
- Panchayats and local women's group will be empowered to take tough action against illicit liquor consumption.
- Stringent action will be taken against any Panchayat, up to dissolution, which fails to prevent the sale of illicit liquor and/or close down belt-shops.

# JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our legal system has become ponderous, excruciatingly slow and inefficient. Political interference has become a major obstacle in the effective functioning of police. Delays have become a defining feature of our judicial system. Lok Satta Government will bring about systemic reforms in policing and judiciary to ensure equal justice for all.

## 39. Police for Public Service

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee that all crime investigation is made independent of unwarranted political interference.**
- Comprehensive reform of crime investigation and law and order divisions of Police Department.
- FIR will be filed for all the complaints received in the police station.
- Mandatory video recording of police interrogation.
- “Orderly System” will be abolished.
- Police recruitment will start at Sub-Inspector (SI) level. Respect, dignity and opportunities for all police personnel.
- “District Forensic Lab” in all districts to speed up criminal investigation.

## 40. Speedy and Accessible Justice

- **Lok Satta Government will establish local courts in every mandal to guarantee justice within 90 days. These local courts will be an integral part of the existing judicial system, and will dispense justice in the local language.**
- Cases that call for an imprisonment for less than a year, and civil disputes involving upto Rs.1,00,000 will be taken up by these local courts.
- Depending on the situation, collection of evidence and investigation will be carried out at the site of dispute.
- Lok Satta government will establish an independent institution of ‘Special Prosecutor’ headed by a judge in every district.
- Depending on the local requirements additional criminal and civil courts will be established to expedite the prosecution of various cases.



- The functional and territorial jurisdiction of local courts and local police will be the same to ensure justice delivery.

# **COMBATING CORRUPTION**

Corruption has become a defining feature of both the administrative and the political apparatus in the state. Distribution of liquor and vote buying have resulted in the spiraling of election expenditure. To recoup the money spent during elections, elected representatives have institutionalized corruption in contracts, tenders, transfers, postings and land grabbing.

Lok Satta government will usher-in a corruption-free governance process.

## **41. Special Courts to Combat Corruption**

- **Lok Satta Government will constitute a special court in each district to try charges of corruption against elected people's representatives and officials.**
- Through special laws, illegal assets and properties of corrupt politicians will be seized and redistributed for public purposes by the government.
- An independent anti-corruption mechanism will be instituted. Wide-ranging powers will be given to the Lok Ayukta.
- An independent Ombudsman will be created in all districts to investigate allegations of corruption, abuse of authority, and official misconduct in local governments. The Ombudsman will punish, and if necessary remove from service, officials who are found to be guilty.

## **42. Transparency and Accountability**

- Lok Satta government will guarantee the following at all levels of administration:
  - Implementation Right to Information Act fully and stringently.
  - Citizen charters for all government offices and services with a mandatory compensation ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs.100 to be paid to citizens on a daily basis for delay in services.
- Public Hearings and social audit for all government projects and government programmes will be conducted to ensure transparency. Beneficiary selection will be done in Gram Sabhas.

- Digitizing government records/documents and proactive disclosure of all information.
- A round-the-clock call center will be established in all districts and cities to receive and act on various civic complaints. Immediate computerization of civic complaints, alerting relevant officials. Action on the civic complaints will be taken in a time-bound manner.

# **SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL**

About 90 per cent of workers are in the unorganized sector and many of them are daily wage earners. A bout of illness or an accident or the onset of old age means absence of daily earnings and severe financial stress for the families. The government is not coming to the rescue of these unorganized sector workers and the indigent.

Lok Satta government will ensure social security, financial assistance and social justice the exploited sections of our society. These sections include: small farmers, agricultural labourers, hawkers, handicraft workers, handloom workers, toddy tappers, carpenters, potters, blacksmiths and other traditional services; construction labourers, contract workers, casual labourers, coolies/hamalis, rickshaw drivers, auto- rickshaw drivers, taxi drivers and truck drivers; unorganised labourers in private schools, shops, nursing homes and related services; DWCRA, DWCUA and other women groups.

## **43. Social Security for one Crore Families**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee financial security of Rs. 1 lakh for one crore low-income families in a span of seven years.**
- For the first time in the country social security will be ensured, with necessary legal provisions, to all families in the unorganized sector who earn a monthly income of less than Rs.5000.
- Under the scheme, a family that saves Rs.400 a month will receive an equivalent matching grant from the Government so that in seven years, it will have accumulated upto Rs.1,00,000 including interest.
- Upon the maturity of the account, the account holder can withdraw all of the amount, or he/she can receive a monthly pension every month.
- In case of an emergency, the account holders can withdraw the money saved.
- The corpus will enable the family to take up an economic activity of its choice and lead an honorable life without any crutches.

## **44. Security for Vulnerable Sections**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee social security to poor citizens with no source of income and to people who need state assistance.**
- Lok Satta government will ensure corruption and delay-free pensions for the elderly, widows, and the absolute poor who have no source of income.
- Enhancement of incomes will be ensured by modernizing handicrafts..
- Physically challenged citizens will be provided with financial security and special incentives.
- Senior citizens, ex-servicemen, and retired employees will be made partners in social service and necessary special incentives will be provided.

# **ABOLISHING CASTE**

Discrimination by birth is still prevalent in our society and is a powerful source of inequality and internal strife. The current political culture exploits this by dividing our people further for narrow political gains with temporary and short-sighted solutions. Discrimination by birth is uncivilised, undemocratic and violates basic human rights. Lok Satta will start a reform movement to remove discrimination by birth and to build a unified society.

## **45. Abolishing Caste within One Generation**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee equal opportunities for growth to all, irrespective of caste, religion, gender, and financial status.**
- Lok Satta government will work tirelessly to abolish caste within one generation.
- School, College and University educational records will not refer to the caste of the individual, except in the case of beneficiaries from schemes pertaining to SC, ST and BC.
- Lok Satta Government will ensure that students from all castes live together in hostels. All government constructions will ensure that people belonging to different castes stay together.
- Abolition of caste will figure prominently in school education and necessary changes will be made to the curriculum. This will pave the way for emergence of a non-discriminatory society.
- Irrespective of caste and religion, all children and youth from poor families will be given 10% bonus marks at the time of entrance examinations, higher education and employment. This will ensure an equal playing field for the disadvantaged to compete with children from richer sections of the society.
- Special incentives for inter-caste married couples and their children.
- Lok Satta Government will create an asset for the poor from the discriminated sections.

- Modernisation of various professions to enhance incomes, and ensure respect and opportunities for all who practice them.
- Special efforts will be taken by Lok Satta Party for the political empowerment of discriminated castes and sections.

# REFORMING THE FUNCTIONING OF STATE LEGISLATURE

People are constantly and carefully monitoring the functioning of our legislature through media. They notice that political parties in the legislature are increasingly getting mired in the current corrupt, and power hungry political culture. As a consequence, the people's basic needs are taking a back seat, and the people's mandate is losing its meaning. These developments indicate that our democracy is facing a serious threat.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to reform the functioning of our legislative assembly. This should become the platform for a democratic debate and an instrument to effectively monitor the functioning of the government.

## 46. Standing Committees

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee special legislations for creation of Standing Committees on key public issues and sectors.**
- Standing Committees will play a pivotal role in policy making of the government. Standing Committees will give MLAs an opportunity to gain knowledge, expertise and skill in various fields.
- These committees will have oversight and monitoring powers over various government departments. These committees will be empowered to carry out thorough public hearings, to discuss and consult experts on key public issues, to draft bills, laws, and implement policy.
- The government should take cognizance of the recommendations and reports of these committees.
- Appointments to constitutional offices in the state and key government departments should be approved by these committees.
- Lok Satta government will take necessary steps to enhance the respect for legislative bodies.

## 47. Reforms to Functioning of Legislative Assembly



- **Lok Satta Government will guarantee the following legislative reforms:**
  - **A clear code-of-conduct for all legislators and stringent action against those violating it.**
  - **A legislator will loose his membership and will be expelled from the house, if he conducts himself in a manner that results in gross violation of basic democratic norms and/or misuse of office.**
- Clear guidelines will be developed to ensure strict time limits for assembly sessions and speeches of its members.
- MLA Constituency Development Funds (MLALADS) will be abolished and those funds will be directly allocated to local governments.
- Necessary measures will be taken to restrict the executive powers of the MLAs. There will be clear delineation between executive and legislative functions. MLAs will not have any role in running local governments and in government boards.
- Special incentives for MLAs such as quotas in petrol-bunks, gas connections, telephone connections, and house-sites will be completely abolished.
- Lok Satta government will ensure that all recognised political parties will be provided with necessary staff and assistance to work on policy matters.
- MLAs will be provided with necessary training and appropriate staff to assist them in carrying out their duties efficiently.

# REMOVING REGIONAL DISPARITIES

There are serious regional disparities among different states of our country. Similarly, we have regional inequalities among different regions in a state. Even in a district there are disparities among different mandals. Fruits of development are not reaching all people equitably. If these disparities are not addressed immediately, then they may generate friction among various sections of the society with tragic, undesirable, and even violent outcomes.

Lok Satta government will strive to remove disparities at various levels and will take immediate measures to ensure sustainable and balanced development of all the regions.

## 48. Removing Disparities in Regional Development

- Lok Satta government will take cognisance of people's perception on the existing regional inequalities. To remove these inequalities, Lok Satta will work within the framework of the constitution and will take the following immediate measures:
- **As per Article 321 D of Indian Constitution, Regional Boards with necessary legal powers will be instituted to remove regional disparities in the state by the Lok Satta Government. Further, establishment of District Governments and allocation of funds on the basis of development indicators is guaranteed.**
- Lok Satta Government will duly implement all agreements, legislations and government orders that have been formulated so far to address the regional inequalities in the state. District-wise budget allocation will be done.
- **Lok Satta government will appoint an independent commission to examine water allocation among different regions and its recommendations will be fully implemented.**
- Growth corridors comprised of education zones, agricultural zones and industrial zones will be operationalised for the rapid development of backward areas in the state.
- There will be strict restrictions on usage of productive agricultural lands for non-agricultural purposes. Permissions for non-agricultural usage will be granted only after the farmers have been guaranteed a better life.

- Usage of natural resources for the development of tribal areas. A guaranteed share for the tribals in the income generated from the use of natural resources.

## **RIGHT TO VOTE**

The Right to Vote is the foundation of a democracy. The fates of governments and the collective fate of citizens is decided by the voters. However, serious flaws in the voter rolls have a capacity to fundamentally alter the people's mandate. These flaws are facilitating serious voting frauds, such as large scale voter impersonation, and denying legitimate voters the right to vote.

Lok Satta Movement has been fighting ceaselessly for a decade to reform the voter registration process. Now, Lok Satta government will guarantee all the necessary support to the Election Commission of India and the Union Government to ensure error-free voter rolls.

### **49. Correction of Voter Rolls**

- **Lok Satta government will guarantee that every eligible person in the state becomes a registered voter.**
- Citizens can access their voters' lists at the nearest post offices throughout the year.
- Voter registration will be done in an easy, accessible, simple and transparent manner at the local post offices through out the year.
- Special measures will be taken to remove ineligible and fake voter names from the voter rolls.
- Latest computer and internet-based technologies will be employed for effective revision of voter rolls.

# LAND RECORDS AND STAMP DUTIES

There is no clarity on land survey records and land ownership titles. This is resulting in disputes and land grabbing. Rationalization of stamp duty with land prices has not been done, which is giving tremendous scope for black money and corruption. Lok Satta government will remove this irrationality pertaining to land records and registration duties.

## 50. Land Record and Stamp Duties

- Significant reduction in stamp duties pertaining to sale of land.
- Rationalization of land prices with market values.
- Mandatory Title Deeds guaranteeing ownership for all those who purchase land.
- **Lok Satta government will guarantee that a comprehensive and integrated land-use, land-cover survey will be conducted across the State and relevant records will be made available to the public via internet.**