



**Lok Satta Party**  
**Newsletter**

February 2012

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# Battle against corruption

Corruption has become the biggest challenge the Indian republic faces in its 63rd year. It has become all-pervasive and gigantic,

Although the Union and State Governments spend billions of rupees on economic development year after year, millions of people continue to remain mired in poverty, illiteracy, ill health and unemployment or under-employment. It is because a section of politicians and bureaucrats have been siphoning off funds meant for development and welfare. They have mastered the art of plundering scarce natural resources for personal gain.

In recent times, public revulsion against corruption has forced political parties to think of ushering in institutional mechanisms to mitigate if not eradicate corruption.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill is one of them.

The Lok Satta Party has been in the forefront in suggesting the creation of a strong and independent Lokpal at the national level, Lokayuktas at the State level and ombudsmen at the district level to fight corruption.

Political parties, however, have backtracked on passing the crucial legislation. Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan focuses on the issues to be resolved in his article 'Lokpal - What Next?'



The anti corruption mechanisms should facilitate sure and swift punishment, including rigorous imprisonment and confiscation of ill-gotten properties of guilty elected representatives and bureaucrats.

Institution of Lokpal and Lokayuktas is necessary but not adequate. Cleansing of the political system is paramount if corruption were to be eliminated. At present, candidates running for elections spend many times more than the permitted amount to get elected. Once they get elected, they focus their attention on not merely recouping their investment but on amassing wealth for generations to come. In the first-past-the-post system of elections, every vote becomes important. Candidates, therefore, woo voters with money and liquor. They promise freebies at State expense once they assume power. The system is so vitiated that the best and the brightest in society have shunned politics. A remedy lies in switching over to the system of proportional representation.

Concentration of power in a few hands accounts for the phenomenal growth of corruption. Corruption can be mitigated if there is devolution of powers, responsibilities, resources and personnel on local bodies.

Thus the battle against corruption has to be waged on many fronts.



# FDI in Multi-brand Retail

## Assessment of impact on farmers

Analysis shows that farmers have benefited with the coming of Multi-brand retail collection centres. There seems to be a case to suggest greater competition in this area would result in the companies reaching out to farmers and helping them enhance their practices, a phenomenon currently absent.

A field visit was conducted on the 22nd of December, 2011 to evaluate the impact of procurement practices of organized multi-brand retailers on the farmers in the villages of Shamirpet, Potaram and Ontimamidi villages in Andhra Pradesh. The stakeholders covered in the survey included farmers and their representatives, labourers and management of the Distribution Centres and representatives of respective Rythu Bazaars. The organized retailers covered included the More, Spencer's, Reliance Fresh, ITC Choupal and Metro Cash and Carry.

Farmers were found to benefit from selling to organized retailers even if they charged lower prices because of the stability of demand and use of

standardized weights to measure the quantity procured which offsets the higher price per unit fetched at times by selling through the traditional market route. Despite the price differential, due to commissions and weighing inconsistencies with the products sold at the Bazaar, the net benefit to the farmer was about the same or even more in several instances. Though rejection was higher at the organized retail outlets, the rejected material could be easily sold in the local markets at almost the same price. Farmers on the other hand, had become more quality conscious and it was believed that farming practices had changed and the farmers themselves had adopted ways to enhance the quality of produce after the coming of organized retail procurement centres.

It was observed that there was limited amount of sale to organized retailers and their demand usually outweighed the supply from the farms. This had helped the retailers maintain their quality standards without significantly investing in activities to improve efficiency levels of the farmers. Also, significant amount of information asymmetry was found to exist between need of the market and farmers'

knowledge about what to produce. Hence, increased competition among retailers could lead to further investments which could drastically improve farming practices. Impact of investments by organized retail is already being observed in poultry and milk.

One matter of concern was that of manual farm labourers who are employed over the farms by big farmers. Though, there is a perception that their availability is on a decline, it



seems that they might get impacted adversely with high mechanization and adoption of commercial agriculture.

Summing it up, it can be said that farmers have benefited with the coming of Multi-brand retail collection centres. There seems to be a case to suggest that greater competition in this area would result in the companies reaching out to farmers and helping them enhance their practices, a phenomenon currently absent.



# Gram Nyayalayas

In 2009 with the enactment of Gram Nyayalayas Act 2008, provision was made for the creation of over 1100 Local Courts in Andhra Pradesh - under the law, every intermediate Panchayat (Mandal) would have at least one rural court. All these local courts will be an integral part of the independent justice system, which is the corner stone of our Constitution and rule of law.



In the last Assembly session, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has confirmed sanctioning of 140 Special Magistrate Courts (Civil Judge Junior Division) and 113 Special Judicial Magistrate of II Class/Special Metropolitan Magistrate Courts (Morning Courts) at various places in the State under 13th Finance commission and appointing with the retired Judicial officers as Special Judicial Magistrates. The Government also confirmed that High Court of Andhra Pradesh has identified places to establish 139 Gram Nyayalayas in the State. The High Court has fixed the ratio for appointment of Gram Nyayadhikaris recently. This work is set to begin soon.

This is the result of efforts of the Lok Satta movement that had been seeking the formation of local courts ever since it took birth in August 1997. Lok Satta Party also made this a part of its agenda to make justice accessible to people at their doorstep.

LSP had written letter to CM to undertake the following steps as per the provisions of The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2009). The details can be seen in the box to the right.

**Gram Nyayalayas will greatly contribute towards restoring the culture of the rule of law which has been gradually eroded. The statute offers the great promise of speedy, accessible and affordable justice to the poor who have hitherto not been able to access courts because of barriers posed by costs, distance, language and procedural difficulties.**

## LOK SATTA'S PROPOSALS

**E**stablishment of Gram Nyayalayas in all Mandals, in consultation with the High Court (Section 3 (1)).

**A**ppointment of Nyayadhikaris in consultation with the High Court (Sec 5).

**E**nsuring necessary facilities for enabling the conduct of trials in the villages (Sec 9).

**D**efining the civil and criminal jurisdiction of these courts (Sec. 12 (2) and 14 (3) read with the First and Second Schedules).

**A**pproaching the High Court for setting pecuniary limits of civil cases to be tried by these courts (Sec. 13(2)).

**T**he Union Government has conveyed its commitment to: (i) bearing the entire capital cost of setting up of these courts (estimated to be around Rs. 18 lakhs per one such Gram Nyayalaya) and (ii) reimbursing a substantial part of the running costs of these courts (estimated to be around Rs. 6.4 lakhs per court per year). Reports indicate that the Union Law Minister has announced the allocation of Rs. 1400 crores for the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas across the country this year. Now that such funding is available, the State Government should ensure the allocation of adequate financial resources for these courts, by sending proposals to the Union government for financial assistance.

**O**ther procedural, administrative and consultative steps to expeditiously constitute Gram Nyayalayas and ensure their smooth and efficient functioning.



Lok Satta Party welcomed wholeheartedly the Supreme Court decision today canceling the 122 licenses of 2G spectrum granted without transparency or competition. The party expressed the confidence that the Court's decision of denying the fruits of corruption to the corporates will deter them from indulging in massive collusive corruption at the cost of the country. Lok Satta filed the petition for cancellation of licenses, and involved eminent Indians like JM lyngdoh, TS Krishnamurthy, N.Gopaldaswamy, P.Shankar, Admiral Tahiliani; and Julio Rebiero. The logic of Lok Satta is that unless the bribe giver in cases of collusion is denied the benefits of corruption, there will be no deterrence against future fraud and collusion. Senior Advocate Prashant Bhushan appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioners. [More](#)

Lok Satta Party asked the State Government to prevail upon the Union Government to institute a thorough inquiry into the Yanam incidents. Although Yanam forms part of Puducherry Union Territory, Andhra Pradesh has a stake in it as Yanam's economy is

intertwined with the Godavari districts of AP. [More](#)

Lok Satta party flays postponement of civic elections for partisan purposes. Elections had been postponed from September 2010 when they were due. Deferment of elections runs counter to Constitutional provisions and deprives people of elected local governments. [More](#)

# PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

Lok Satta Party wants the Government to come down heavily on those who are attempting to foment communal trouble by defiling or damaging or destroying Ambedkar statues. Stirring up enmity between two castes is no less heinous than spreading disaffection between Hindus and Muslims. LSP asks the Government to restore the desecrated statues and consider installing a statue of Ambedkar in the State Legislature. [More](#)

Lok Satta Party today demanded that the State Government constitute an Agricultural Calamity Relief Fund to go to the immediate relief and rescue of farmers without waiting for the time-consuming Government of India assistance. [More](#)

Lok Satta Party demands a thorough overhaul of the liquor policy in the wake of the illicit liquor and toddy tragedies in the State. Nationalization of the retail liquor trade, strict curbs on the number of retail outlets and making Panchayat responsible for eradicating the illicit menace alone are the need of our times. [More](#)

Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan has requested Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy to intervene immediately in what appears to be "an organized racket to defraud the exchequer in the name of Rajiv Yuva Kiranaalu. [More](#)



## Lokpal - What Next?

"It is never too late to act. The last year has taught us valuable lessons. In the new year we should apply these lessons, and act wisely and in concert to ensure creation of effective, independent, anti-corruption regimes and institutions all across the country. The bitterness, mistrust and acrimony of the past year must give way to greater harmony, resolve, and mutual respect. The nation's self-image and self-esteem, people's confidence in governance process, and India's global reputation and investor confidence in the nation are all at stake. It is time to act decisively and swiftly." [Read Lok Pal -What Next?](#)



## KUKATPALLY EXCELS

Kukatpally is now emerging as a model constituency. LSP has taken developmental initiatives on war-footing in this constituency. Balancing both the current needs of the constituency and also the long-term needs, LSP is delivering for all. From water to schools, hospitals to electricity, Lok Satta is addressing every issue. Watch out the party in action and the testimonials from the residents on the issue of water, roads, parks, training etc. :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9rjiOLnOgQ>

In each of the issue, we also bring to you a detailed report card on each developmental work, starting with the water issue.

## RESOLVING WATER PROBLEMS

Lok Satta Party has worked tremendously to ensure safe drinking water for the residents of Kukatpally constituency. Dr.JP had initiated new projects and also completed the long-pending projects in the constituency

Here are some of the initiatives taken :

- Before May 2009, Kukatpally constituency would get only 8 MGD out of 20 MGD. Lok Satta Party brought pressure upon government to increase it to 14 MGD.
- Similarly LSP also brought pressure upon government to bring Krishna Phase 3 water supply to Hyderabad City and Kukatpally.
- So far Rs.1.2 Crores spent from MLA funds for severe water pollution works in all divisions of the constituency.
- Rs.50 Lakhs from Corporator funds also allotted for pollution and new connection works in all divisions.
- Completed the pending drinking water pipeline works in Hasmatpet with a cost of around Rs.26 lakhs. Likewise completed the water tank construction with a cost of Rs.90 lakhs. This has benefitted 50,000 people in Hasmathpet.
- Completed the pending pipeline work in Moosapet with a cost of Rs.70 lakhs and Rs.40 Lakhs sanctioned for sump construction.
- Distribution network in Hasmathpet and Anjaiahnagar is sanctioned with 30-70% base and also to be sanctioned for Shanthi Nagar and Ramaiah Nagar soon.
- Proposal of sump in 3rd Phase and 6th Phase in KPHB to improve storage.
- Laid 70 bore wells and setup booster pumps in Parwathnagar and Sathyana-rayana Swami Colony with a cost of Rs.24 lakhs to increase the water speed. This had benefitted around 2000 residents of the area and regulated the water supply for the residents.

## STATES

### ANDHRA PRADESH

**Gearing up for Municipal polls:** The party units of Chilkaluripeta and Vijayanagaram districts have called upon the party workers and conducted training for the forthcoming municipal polls.



**Sanitation Issues:** Under the leadership of Constituency Incharge, Madasu Bhanu Prasad, party workers toured 21 wards in Chilkaluripeta and investigated the local problems. They addressed the issues such as sanitation and unhygienic conditions in the locality behind Brahmamgari Temple that were occurring due to non-removal of silt, leakage of drainage pipes. In another area, there was water going waste due to leakage from the pipes. Party workers brought this issue to the notice of municipal authorities and pursued for action.

**Addressing drinking water problem** in Bandaluppi in Vijayanagaram district : Lok Satta Party workers supported the people of the village and agitated before the collectorate to address their grievance. District President Bhisetty Babji expressed unhappiness with the governments' inability to provide drinking water to a village with a population of 5 thousand. He made a repre-



sentation on this before the collectorate.

**Raithu Chaitanya Yatras** demanding the government's support to the price or sale of produce by the government or support through millers was conducted in the villages of Anantapur districts. LSP Taluka president Mr. B. Babu said the farmers are struggling to get a fair price for their crop and without support are resorting to suicides. Farmers' leaders and party leaders participated in these meetings.

**Relay strikes for road expansion in Kurnool:** In the Nandyal town, Lok Satta Party activists participated in relay strikes for resuming of road expansion activity in the town which has been causing hardships to the people.

**Condolence to the kin of hooch tragedy victims in Mylavaram:** Mahila Satta unit members met the families of hooch tragedy victims and consoled them. They listened to the problems of the families and demanded ex-gratia from the government to the families of the victims.

## Yuvasatta activities

Blood donation camps were organized in Amalapuram in which youth participated in large numbers. Yuvasatta President called the youth to fulfill the dreams of Vivekananda and take charge of the country. He said change will not come until youth strive for it. He deplored the government for using the youth as

just vote banks.

One day relay strike was conducted by the Yuvasatta activists for setting up degree colleges for poor students in Medchal. Under the leadership of Vinod Reddy, Sai Kumar an, Nagaraju and Ajit Singh, the party demanded setting up degree college in the district]

Katari Srinivas had given a call for making people's problems as party's agenda. He said party activists should work towards increasing the membership and educated them on the RTI and leadership issues.

## DELHI

Lok Satta Party has decided that it will contest at least fifteen out of the 272 seats in coming Municipal Council of Delhi elections. The seats contested will be five in each of the three areas that MCD is likely to be trifurcated into. Lok Satta in Delhi will learn from "People Power" efforts already underway in Mumbai and Pune to select good candidates and help them win elections. The team is currently active in 'Get 5' fund raising activity.

## KARNATAKA

Loksatta Party Karnataka State Unit announced Dr Ashwin Mahesh as its candidate for Bangalore Graduates Constituency of the Karnataka Legislative Council (MLC). Dr Mahesh was chosen by 84% of the voters as the preferred candidate to contest the election. Dr. Ashwin Mahesh has been associated with Loksatta for many years and served along with Dr. JP in the 2nd ARC. Dr Ashwin Mahesh, a visiting Professor at IIM-B

Public Policy, played a key role in organizing the Round Table on Lokpal in New Delhi and has been a leading voice against corruption in Bangalore as the founder of Corruption Saaku- Citizen movement. Dr Mahesh is well known personality in the city as an urban policy expert and made significant contributions towards lake development across the city, public transportation (Big 10 system), Traffic Mangement System and many [more](#).

Loksatta Karnataka has announced that it would similarly field candidates for the Assembly elections too, and is preparing to identify citizen candidates for this contest as well.

Loksatta Karnataka recently launched new web-site [loksattakarnataka.org](http://loksattakarnataka.org) designed to be fully interactive and encourage participation from members and supporters. Shri J.Srinivasn made remarkable efforts to bring this new generation web platform to the party and we believe many others can benefit from the experience.

Loksatta Karnataka recently constituted the Election Authority as per



the party constitution. Smt. Rohini Chandrakant has been elected as the Chair Person and Mr. B.Sreenath



and K. Surya Prakash are the members of the EC. The term of Shri N.S.Ramakanth and Shri. CN Deepak as President and Secretary of Bangalore City Unit ends on January 26th 2012. Smt K. Ramalakshmi is the President of State Unit. The EC issued a notification for electing State level working committee members and office bearers for Bangalore City Unit.

[Click to watch Loksatta Karnataka's journey on video](#)



## MAHARASHTRA

Lok Satta Mumbai is running 'Ab Bas! Apna Neta Aap Bano!' campaign for 2012 Mumbai Municipal Elections. 20 Lok Satta Party's candidates across Mumbai and Thane are contesting for BMC elections which are scheduled to be held on February 16th. Youngsters, as young as 24 years, are using Lok Satta's platform to challenge traditional politics in this election. The team is actively campaigning using Social Media and other channels.

[Click to catch up on the campaign trail on our facebook page](#)

BMC Elections on 16th February 2012 Stand up and Fight for your

City - Come forward and Campaign for Lok Satta Candidates.

## TAMIL NADU

**General Council Meeting & New Office bearers of LSP-TN:** A General council meeting of Loksatta party (LSP), Tamilnadu was conducted on 3rd January 2012 in Chennai. Various strategies, development activities to strengthen the party were discussed.

**Membership drive in Chennai Book Fair:** Chennai Book Fair is a major literary event in Tamilnadu where nearly half a million people visit. A publicity campaign was conducted at this place where LSP team interacted with more than 400 members at the venue.

**Statewide Anti Liquor campaign :** Mr.Ravichandran, life member and Mr.Selvaraj, executive member of Loksatta Party-Tamilnadu participated in the 2000km cycle yatra(for 23 days) organised by an Gandhian movement for Liquor prohibition. A meeting was also organised to honour these activists. Moondravathu Sakthi" (Third force), a federation of NGOs and people movements organised this program.

**Membership enrollment:** Around 102 executive members(with 3 life membership) were enrolled. Plans are on the anvil to open new branches at Coimbatore and Kancheepuram.

## UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh, Noida: Lok Satta Party's candidate Shri Anoop Khanna

will be contesting in Noida Constituency for Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections to be held on February 28th. The team is actively campaigning across Residential Sectors in Noida.

## PFL ACTIVITIES

People For Lok Satta (PFL), an NRI political nonprofit organization based in US, has launched its new improved website. The site [www.PeopleForLokSatta.org](http://www.PeopleForLokSatta.org) was launched by Ms. Tiruman Sheshamma from Matlam, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, another elected leader from Lok Satta Ms. Seshamma shared her experiences during elections and thanked PFL for extending the help in constructing water plant for the people of her constituency. PFL has celebrated Republic Day across its chapters and by organising events in Bay Area, Boston and Chicago.







# Support Us

Lok Satta Party has grown out of the movement launched by Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan to eradicate corruption and cleanse the political system. It is a party of the people, for the people and by the people. It stands by its slogan that in a democracy people are masters; rulers are their servants.

We, responsible Indians, have to nurture and nourish the party because it ours.

Our dream of a corruption-free society based on ethical politics can be realized by strengthening Lok Satta Party by making a donation. You will get 100 percent income tax rebate for your donation.

Please rest assured that not a rupee of your contribution will be spent on mobilizing people for shows of strength or distributing liquor to influence voters. Not a single rupee will go into leaders' bank accounts or party workers' pockets.

The party will utilize every rupee you donate to educate, enlighten and empower people.

It will go into programs that transform money-centered politics into people-centered politics. You will invariably get a receipt or coupon for your donation.

The only party in the country that accounts for every rupee it receives and spends, and displays its audited accounts on its website is the Lok Satta.

Your contribution strengthens the Lok Satta Party, and paves the way for transforming politics and ridding society of corruption. Better economic growth and prosperity can be sustained only in such a corruption-free society.

**Click here to**

**CONTRIBUTE**

## PEOPLE'S PULSE

"It is the only party which advocates (truly) for those reforms (change in rules of the game) – political, electoral, judicial etc. Besides it has a strong ideology and a definite and clear practical and feasible policy stand on every issue – ranging from agriculture, health, education etc to dealing with corruption and more than all a committed leadership to take this forward. A leadership that is organically grown and elected through internal election and not appointed by any high command. A leadership that is inclusive (youth, women etc)."

**Karthik Dinne**, [Student, IIT Kharagpur.]

"Lok Satta and the ideologies of its leaders have proved to be the ray of hope in our lives for creating a sustainable society. We need creative and enlightened visionaries who are willing to strive for empowerment, development, peace and prosperity and this party has the potential to give us leaders, who we can look up to, leaders, who we can believe in and leaders, who will be our mentors".

**Akshara Baru**, [Symbiosis Law School, Pune]

## CONTACT US

Lok Satta Party

H.No. 8-2-674 B / 2 / 29

Plot No 93, Happy Valley,

Road No 13-A, Banjara Hills

Hyderabad – 500 034

Tel: 91-40-23311816 / 23311817 / 23311819

Fax: 91-40-2331 0612

Email: [info@loksattaparty.com](mailto:info@loksattaparty.com)

[www.loksatta.org](http://www.loksatta.org)