Annual Report

Association for Democratic Reforms and
NATIONAL ELECTION WATCH

April 2015 - March 2016
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Our Activities: 2015-16

Election Watch

The Election Watch is the flagship programme of ADR. In 2003, the Supreme Court made it mandatory for candidates contesting elections to declare their criminal, financial and other background details to the citizens. ADR and NEW started the process of conducting Election Watches by which these background details provided by the candidates to the Election Commission (via their affidavits) were analyzed and released in an effort to help the citizens make an informed choice.

Over a period of time, this process has become more streamlined with the use of an online tool (the Election Watch Software) to feed and analyze the details of the contesting candidates. The Election Watch process, which began with the 2002 Gujarat Assembly Elections, now covers every Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Assembly election. It also covers local body elections in some states.

Interaction with voters has also become much more extensive. 6 to 9 months before elections, the process of awareness generation among the voters is undertaken with the help of the National Election Watch network. Meetings, seminars and awareness drives are undertaken and data with respect to outgoing elected representatives (criminal, financial and other background details, data on performance of MPs/MLAs and Assemblies) and political parties is released. Separate meetings are held with the Election Commission (or state Chief Electoral Officers at the state levels) to garner the ECI’s collaboration during elections. At the central level, the Election Watch process starts at least 2 weeks before polls when the data entry team starts uploading data from the affidavits of the candidates into an online database and then the comprehensive reports are released via email to journalists and other prominent people who are part of our email database. To disseminate it directly to the general public, ADR uses multiple channels including national and vernacular media, online campaigns, SMSs, bulk voice calls, social media and outdoor campaigns.

ADR’s over 1200 State Partners spread across the country engage in various grass-root level campaigning and interactive activities, like meetings, workshop, seminars and outdoor campaigns to make voters aware of the criminal, financial and other background details of contesting candidates and help citizens make an informed choice.
During the year 2015-16, Election Watch was conducted for the following elections:

- State Assembly elections for the following states: Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.
- Rajya Sabha (Upper House) elections
- Bye elections
- Local Body Elections

Following analysis on background information of Candidates and the Winners contesting different elections were undertaken during 2015-16:

1. Analysis of background details of Candidates and Winners of Assembly elections held in Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry.
2. Analysis of background details of Candidates and Winners of City Corporation of Panaji elections.
3. Analysis of background details of re-contesting MLAs in Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal and Puducherry Assembly elections.
4. Analysis of background details of Ministers of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Puducherry State Assemblies.

5. Analysis of election expenditure declared by the MLAs of Bihar.

6. Analysis of Register of Member’s Interest for Rajya Sabha members.

7. Analysis of background details of MPs and MLAs from West Bengal.

8. Analysis on the nexus of crime and money in Bihar Assembly elections (10 years of Bihar Election Watch).

9. Analysis of election expenditure declared by the newly elected MLAs of Bihar 2015 assembly elections was also released.

**Political Party Watch**

ADR strongly believes that political parties are the key link between the people and their representatives and they must uphold democratic norms and transparency in their structure and working. With the aim above, ADR started a new program called Political Party Watch (PPW) in 2008. Under this program, donations above Rs 20,000 that are received by Political Parties (National & Regional), the Income Tax Returns filed by the Political parties and election expenditure declared by them are thoroughly analyzed and reports are released for the public. PPW reports are always supported with scanned copies of Income Tax Returns of various political parties (national, regional and unrecognised parties) and RTI applications for those who want to authenticate the data.

It is a matter of concern that currently only National Parties and very few Regional Parties file their IT Returns on a regular basis every year. Moreover, the system of disclosure of financial details is not consistent among all parties.

Following analyses on Political Parties were undertaken during 2015-16:

1. An analysis of donations above Rs 20,000 to political parties of Delhi for financial year 2014-15 was released in April 2015.

2. A report on National and Regional Recognised Parties as equal defaulters in submitting expenditure statements for Assembly Elections was released in June 2015.
3. An analysis of IT Returns and donations of National Parties during financial year 2013-14 was released in August 2015.

4. Analysis of Income & Expenditure of National Political Parties for FY 2013-2014 was released in October 2015

5. Analysis of Donations Received by Major Political Parties of Delhi for FY 2013-14 and 2014-15 was released in February 2016.
6. ADR analyzed the details of income, expenditure and donations of major political parties of the North East Region FY 2004-05 - 13-14 and released in Feb 2016.

Strategic Litigation

1. Political parties under RTI:
   a. The six national political parties again boycotted 21st Nov 2014 and 7th Jan 2015 hearings on non-compliance of CIC’s 3rd June 2013 order declaring the parties as Public Authorities under the RTI Act. Finally, on 16th March 2015, the CIC observed that the RTI Act does not provide the Commission with ample powers to deal with cases of contempt and non-compliance.
   b. Taking a step forward, ADR filed a petition in the SC on May 19, 2015 for implementation of CIC’s June 3rd, 2013 order. The next date of hearing is on 30th June 2016.

2. Election expenditure of political parties: On 9th May, 2014, a writ petition was filed by ADR in Delhi High Court demanding regular monitoring of election expenditure incurred by political parties. Delhi HC issued a notice to the Government of India on ADR’s petition. The last hearing was on March 17, 2016 and the next date of hearing is on 2nd August 2016.

3. Income Tax Returns of MPs: ADR’s second appeal in this case is pending with the Central Information Commission. In its petition, ADR had requested that the information regarding the IT Returns of MPs/MLAs should be made available in the public domain. The last hearing took place on 16th April 2013.

4. Audit Reports of six Electoral Trusts before FY 2013: ADR’s second appeal in this case is pending with the CIC. In this petition, ADR had requested that the audit reports of the six electoral trusts before FY 2013 be made public as the Electoral Trusts Scheme came in 2013 without retrospective effect. The first hearing was held on 12th February 2016 and the last hearing on this matter was on 21st June 2016 before a double bench.
5. **Paid news case:** Former Maharashtra CM Ashok Chavan had filed an appeal in the Delhi High Court on July 25, 2014 against Election Commission’s order indicting Chavan for not filing correct expenses for the 2009 assembly elections, widely known as the “paid news” case. Based on the appeal, Delhi High Court had imposed a stay order on ECI’s said order on July 28, 2014. That stay order was then challenged in the SC by the petitioner Mr. Madhao Rao Kindhalkar, a politician from Maharashtra. However, the SC did not entertain the plea stating that the question of law involved in the current appeal was not dealt by the Supreme Court in the previous matter and it ordered Delhi High court to dispose of the matter within 15 days. Currently, the matter is pending before a double bench of Delhi High Court and the next date of hearing is July 28th, 2016. ADR had also intervened in the case.

6. **Independent and Impartial FCRA tribunal:** The writ petition has been filed in the Delhi High Court requesting them to direct Union of India to set-up a body or tribunal or committee independent of political executive to administer enforcement of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010. The next date of hearing is on 11th July 2016.

7. **BJP and INC violating FCRA regulations and taking foreign funding:** On 28th March, 2014, Delhi High Court held BJP and INC guilty of taking foreign funding and violating the provisions of FCRA. The court directed the Home Ministry and ECI to take action against these two parties within six months. As a result both INC & BJP separately filed petitions in the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court order. Supreme Court, however, even while accepting the plea did not give any stay order over Delhi H.C’s judgment. Therefore, the judgment of Delhi High Court is still very much in force. The next date of hearing is on 12th July 2016.
Networking and Advocacy: Events held

In addition to our grass-root level advocacy campaigns, directly organized by the State Coordinators of the National Election Watch, ADR has organized/launched many press conferences, panel discussions, outdoor campaigns and Social Media campaign. Many informative articles were also written by in-house researchers that were published in reputed newspapers and magazines.

Some of the activities conducted by ADR during 2015-16 are mentioned below:

**Press Conference:** A Media Dialogue on May 20th, 2016 at Press Club of India, Delhi, on Criminal, Financial background and other details of newly elected MLAs in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry Assembly elections 2016 was organized.

**Press Conference:** A press conference on May 23rd, 2016 at Press Club of India, Delhi on 11 years (2004-2014) of donations and expenditures of political parties was organized.

**ADR Tamil Nadu Survey:** ADR conducted a voter perception survey of over 16,000 respondents across all the 235 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu from December 2015 to February 2016, ahead of the state Assembly elections. The larger purpose of this survey was to highlight voter priorities so that they are reflected in the election agenda and manifestos of political parties. Respondents have also rated the performance of the status of governance on these issues in the past five years, reflecting a sort of “performance rating”.

**Voter Awareness Campaigns:** Ahead of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry Assembly elections, ADR used various mediums to encourage people to vote for candidates with clean images.

- Hoardings/Banners: Hoardings and banners were placed at many busy markets, roads etc. to exhort voters to select clean image candidates ahead of the State Assembly elections.
- Auto Campaigns: Posters with messages encouraging people to select the right leader in Assembly elections were displayed.
• Lakhs of SMS/Out Bound Calls (OBD) were pushed to inform people about the background details of the candidates.

**Social Media Campaigns:** Throughout the year, more intensively ahead of elections, ADR keeps posting informative creative/infographics/news items on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to disseminate information and build public opinion on the need for electoral and political reform.

Many of our infographics posted on these social media platforms received hundreds of shares and likes. Some example are below:

A creative made on newly elected MLAs in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry:

https://www.facebook.com/adr.new/photos/a.461048446542.253557.133856666542/10154196945991543/?type=3&theater

A creative made on election expenditure of Political parties:

https://www.facebook.com/adr.new/photos/a.461048446542.253557.133856666542/10154204047021543/?type=3&theater

A creative made on Tamil Nadu Voter Survey:

https://www.facebook.com/adr.new/photos/pcb.10154143260651543/10154143256871543/?type=3&theater
Activities organized at the State level

Bihar

ADR and Bihar Election Watch launched a ‘Mera Vote Mera Bihar’ campaign against criminalization and money power in the state. Celebrities like Mr. K J Rao, NDTV’s Ravish Kumar, actor Manoj Bajpai, actor Sanjay Mishra, Padmashree Sharda Sinha and academician Anand Kumar volunteered to shoot videos for voters’ awareness where they appealed to voters to elect clean candidates, to vote ethically and make an informed choice. (The videos can be accessed here: https://www.youtube.com/user/adrspokes). Mr. K. J. Rao, former Election Observer of the Election Commission of India, was an integral part of the election campaign and helped with the process of election monitoring. The campaign also involved the use of other offline and online media to reach out to citizens with the same message.

Odisha

Odisha Election Watch held its Annual State Conference on Electoral and Political Reform with a focus on ‘Improving Transparency and Accountability of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Odisha’ on the 22nd of July 2015.

Assam

The 1st NE regional consultation on electoral reforms was organized at Guwahati on 14th Feb 2016. The consultation was attended by our partners from the NE states, 2 retired CECs, politicians, academicians and media personalities.

Jharkhand

Jharkhand Election Watch (JEW) on 28th October 2015, held a state level workshop on ‘The Role of Civil Society in PRIs’ Election of Jharkhand State’ in collaboration with the State Election Commission (SEC). JEW also conducted an extensive PEVAC campaign during the Panchayat elections held in November in close collaboration with the SEC. A voters’ awareness campaign for the Panchayat elections on 6th Dec 2015 in Jharkhand was initiated in collaboration with the State Election Commission.
Uttar Pradesh

Core Committee meeting of UPEW was held at Lucknow on 28th July 2015 to work out details of Panchayat Elections campaign plan targeting 13 districts and 660 gram panchayats. A voters’ awareness campaign, ‘Mera Gaon – Mera Vote’ was initiated for the Panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh. The campaign for voters’ awareness in Uttar Pradesh for the Panchayat elections has covered more than 528 panchayats in 9 districts namely, Bundelkhand, Meerut, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Jhansi, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda and Chitrakoot region. The campaign saw participation from 12485 women and 22336 men. The mobilization of citizens during the Panchayat elections aims to create a volunteer network of 1 lakh persons which will also be active for the Assembly elections in 2017.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra Election Watch had organized a half day Conference on “Road map for Electoral Reforms in Maharashtra” on 16th September 2015 at IMC, Mumbai. It was jointly organized by ADR & Indian Merchants Chamber. Mr. J.S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner, Maharashtra was the chief guest for the conference. Apart from discussing various pioneering initiatives undertaken by SEC in Maharashtra, few brainstorming sessions took place regarding reforms needed, identifying research gaps & analysis of data related to local body elections as it will greatly help in improving conduct of elections, improve quality of contesting candidates, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in governance.

ADR and state election watch chapters from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry organized voter awareness campaigns for the 2016 state assembly elections. Eminent celebrities from the states appealed to the voters to make an informed choice and not to sell their votes.
Information Technology

ADR has been using Information Technology tools widely to ensure effective and efficient data analysis along with greater dissemination of its research. The following were the major activities of the IT team this year:

1. **Maintenance of and updating the Election Watch Software:** The online tool was revamped to include more reports for the Election Watch analysis during the Assembly elections of 2015 and 2016.

2. **Political Party Watch Software:** The online tool has been created for entering donation details of political parties in myneta.

3. **ADR Blog:** ADR Speaks was launched as a platform for all the articles written by ADR Trustees, State Coordinators and employees on various subjects related to our work.

4. **The management of the website** ([www.adrindia.org](http://www.adrindia.org) and [www.myneta.info](http://www.myneta.info)) is being done by our in-house IT team. It is also being continuously revamped to make it more reader friendly.
12th Annual National Conference on Electoral and Political Reform

Under the aegis of ADR and the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Election Watch teams, the 12th Annual National Conference on Electoral and Political Reforms was held on the 12th and 13th of March 2016 at Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute of Andhra Pradesh / Centre for Good Governance, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Topics of discussion during the Annual Conference ranged from ‘Re-hauling the electoral system in India’, ‘Criminalization of politics and lack of transparency in political party finances’ to ‘Conflict of Interest: Impact on good governance’. These discussions were enriched by the participation of eminent people including the Chief Election Commissioner Dr. Syed Nasim Ahmad Zaidi, who was the Chief Guest, representatives of political parties, civil society and the media.

Dr. Zaidi inaugurated the Conference. Representatives of the National Election Watch from each State Chapter, members of political parties, government institutions and media were present to deliberate on issues related to electoral and political reform in the country.

Other eminent personalities who participated in the various panel discussions besides Dr. Zaidi, were Shri H.S. Brahma (Former CEC), Shri Dasoju Sravan (Chief Spokesperson, Indian National Congress), Shri Shailesh Gandhi (Former Information Commissioner), Shri Subhash Chandra Agarwal (RTI Activist), Dr. R.Balasubramaniam (Founder & President – Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Founder & Chairman – Grassroots Research & Advocacy Movement), Shri Harish Narasappa (Founding Partner – SAMVAD, Co-Founder and President of Daksh), Ms. Bhanupriya Rao (Founder Member – Gender in Politics & RTI campaigner), Shri V.Nagi Reddy, IAS (Telangana State Election Commissioner), Shri V.Panduranga Rao (Former Sarpanch, Nalgonda), Shri Kusam Rajamouli (Former Sarpanch, Warangal), Shri Ajay Gandhi (Member of the Board, Manthan & AP & Telangana EW), Shri Rajiv Kumar (Bihar EW), Shri Sudhir Pal (Jharkhand EW), Shri Naveen Gattu (COO, Gramener), Shri Abhinandan Sekhri (Co-Founder, Newslaundry), Shri Nikhil Pahwa (Founder, Editor & Publisher – medianama.com) and Shri Sanjay Dubey (Founder & Editor, satyagraya.com).
Our Achievements: 2015-16

Impact of our work

1. Ahead of the 2016 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, ADR conducted a survey on voter priority of important issues and the performance of the elected representatives on them in all the constituencies of Tamil Nadu. More than 16,000 voters participated and outlined their priorities with regard to governance issues. The survey reports generated tremendous interest in the performance of elected representatives in Tamil Nadu and was widely covered by the Electronic and Print Media.

2. The 12th Annual National Conference on Electoral and Political Reforms which was held in March 2016 in Hyderabad, Telangana, saw the participation of over 500 people, including activists from various districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and officials from different Government institutions like ECI and Law Commission, senior leaders from different political parties, eminent civil society activists, senior media persons as well students and citizens.

3. ADR and NEW wrote letters to the newly-appointed Chief Ministers from different states with appeals to provide clean, transparent and exemplary governance.

   https://www.facebook.com/adr.new/photos/a.10152408912926543.1073741853.133856666542/10152408913221543/?type=1&theater

4. ADR has been actively involved in spreading awareness among the people and within this year, scores of articles and TV shows can be cited which quoted data presented by ADR on the issue of electoral and political reforms. Some of the press coverage can be viewed on: http://adrindia.org/media/adr-in-news

5. On social media platforms like Facebook/Twitter we are being followed by thousands of people. Our ADR Facebook page has over 50,000 followers, while myneta Facebook page has over 55,000 followers. Within this year, many of our posts/infographics/creatives have seen a viral effect on the Web with hundreds of Likes and Shares. Our Facebook Link is: https://www.facebook.com/adr.new?fref=photo&ref=settings

6. Google Reach Volunteer Program: ADR is part of the Google Reach Volunteer Program where Google organizes workshops for ADR employees.
Awards & Recognitions

**November 2015:** International Centre for Parliamentary Studies, London has awarded Association for Democratic Reforms for “Outstanding Achievement in the 2015 category of Citizens Engagement” at the International Electoral Awards 2015, held in London from 12-14 Nov ’15.
Photo Gallery
Capacity building of volunteers under "Mera Mera Desh Campaign"
Bihar Assembly Election 2015
Date: 9th October, 2015
Venue: A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna-01, Bihar
Organised by: Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)
& Bihar Election Watch (BEW)
About ADR

The History

A group of professors from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad set up Association for Democratic Reforms in August 1999. They filed a Public Interest Litigation in Delhi High Court in 1999 asking for disclosure of criminal, financial and educational background of candidates contesting elections. Based on this, the Supreme Court in 2002 and subsequently in 2003 made background disclosure mandatory for candidates to disclose in their affidavits criminal, financial and educational background to be submitted to the Election Commission of India.

ADR has been conducting Election Watches since 2002. The first election watch was conducted by ADR in 2002 for Gujarat Assembly Elections whereby detailed analysis of the backgrounds of candidates contesting elections was provided to help the electorate make an informed choice during polls. Since then ADR has conducted Election Watches for almost all state and parliament elections in collaboration with the National Election Watch. There is now an Election Watch chapter present in each state in the country working as National Election Watch.

ADR along with the NEW has also increased its efforts towards increasing transparency and accountability in the functioning of political parties. After a Central Information Commission (CIC)’s order in 2008, it started analyzing and disseminating information on the Income Tax Returns and Donation details of political parties. In 2013, based on a complaint filed by ADR and Shri Subhash Agarwal, the CIC declared 6 national parties as ‘public authority’ under the Right to Information Act.

As part of the same effort, ADR has also increased its engagement with political parties with the objective of soliciting their support in reforming the political system.

Strategic litigation is another tool employed by ADR to push for required reform in the political and electoral system. ADR has intervened in several PILs, some of which have resulted in landmark judgments and has filed PILs itself in some cases.

ADR is supported and strengthened by the National Election Watch and a large number of very eminent personalities who continue to collaborate with ADR/NEW in various efforts. ADR uses Information Technology to streamline its data analysis and has over time, increased its communication initiatives to broaden its outreach on the ground.
Our Trustees

1. Prof. Trilochan Sastry (Professor, IIM Bangalore)

2. Prof. Jagdeep S. Chhokar (Former Professor, Dean, and Director In-Charge, IIM Ahmedabad)

3. Prof. Ajit Ranade (Chief Economist, Aditya Birla Group)

4. Prof. Sunil Handa (Chairman, Eklavya Education Foundation & Visiting professor, IIM Ahmedabad)

5. Dr. Kiran B. Chhokar (Programme Director, Higher Education, Centre for Environment Education (CEE))

6. Ms. Kamini Jaiswal (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Secretary, Center for Public Interest Litigation)

7. Mr. Jaskirat Singh, Founder & CEO, Webrosoft Solutions INC.

8. Vipul Mudgal, the Director of Common Cause and head of the Inclusive Media for Change Project of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS).
Our Founders (1999)

1. Trilochan Sastry (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

2. Jagdeep S. Chhokar (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

3. Sunil Handa (Eklavya Education Foundation, Ahmedabad and visiting Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad)

4. Ajit Ranade (Professor, ICRIER, New Delhi)

5. Devanath Tirupati (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

6. Brij Kothari (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

7. Pankaj Chandra (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

8. Rajesh Agarwal (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

9. P.R. Shukla (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

10. Prem Pangotra (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

11. Sudarshan Khanna (Professor, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad)
### Financial status

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND &amp; LIABILITIES</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>PROPERTY AND ASSETS</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trust Funds or Corpus :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Immovable properties :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet.</td>
<td>18,614,000.00</td>
<td>23,814,000.00</td>
<td>Computer: (At Cost) (Fcra)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : During the year</td>
<td>5,200,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from Founder Members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,361,357.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet.</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures: (At Cost) (Fcra)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Earmarked Funds :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>247,469.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Created under the provisions of the Trust Deed of Scheme or out of the income)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Office Equipment: (At Cost) (Fcra)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Fixed Assets Fund (Fcra)Opening Balance:</td>
<td>721,043.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>649,723.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: During the year</td>
<td>(17,480.00)</td>
<td>703,563.00</td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(47,200.00)</td>
<td>602,520.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hivos Fixed Assets Fund: Opening Balance</td>
<td>1,189,353.00</td>
<td>1,158,730.00</td>
<td>Computer: (At Cost) (Local)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: During the year</td>
<td>(30,623.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>579,790.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets Fund (Sdtt): Opening Balance</td>
<td>548,084.00</td>
<td>133,424.00</td>
<td>Additions during the year</td>
<td>(37,000.00)</td>
<td>676,214.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : During the year</td>
<td>111,958.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(17,480.00)</td>
<td>72,062.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: During the year</td>
<td>(37,000.00)</td>
<td>623,762.00</td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets Fund - Local: Opening Balance</td>
<td>365,005.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures: (At Cost) (Local)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : During the year</td>
<td>460,839.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>261,957.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets Fund - ADR: Opening Balance</td>
<td>348,153.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office Equipment: (At Cost) (Local)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : During the year</td>
<td></td>
<td>348,153.00</td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>579,790.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulation of funds u/s.11(31.03.2014)</td>
<td>19,500,000.00</td>
<td>15,000,000.00</td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(21,466.00)</td>
<td>336,325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Transferred to Income &amp; Exp A/c</td>
<td>(4,500,000.00)</td>
<td>15,000,000.00</td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(21,466.00)</td>
<td>336,325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation Fund : (Fcra)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Investments :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>1,300,766.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>HDFC Bank - local-General Fund</td>
<td>32,025,769.82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>89,495.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>HDFC Bank - local-Corpus Fund</td>
<td>27,218,218.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Equipment</td>
<td>311,119.00</td>
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<td>HDFC Bank- Fcra Utilisation A/c</td>
<td>15,280,704.15</td>
<td>74,524,692.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation Fund : (Local)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Project Advances</td>
<td>1,038,461.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>586,930.00</td>
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<td>To Other Advances</td>
<td>1,866.01</td>
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<td>Furniture</td>
<td>33,876.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,701,380.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Equipment</td>
<td>135,138.00</td>
<td>755,952.00</td>
<td>To TDS Earlier Years</td>
<td>931,266.40</td>
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<td>Grants :</td>
<td>7,644,000.00</td>
<td>111,794.56</td>
<td>To TDS F.Y 15-16</td>
<td>514,570.58</td>
<td>2,639,202.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>APPS- Received during the year</td>
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<td>1,347,441.02</td>
<td>Security Deposits:-</td>
<td>538,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: Utilised during the year</td>
<td>(6,074,489.47)</td>
<td>15,425,910.78</td>
<td>(i) Cash And Bank Balances-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Omidyar Network- Received during the year</td>
<td>21,500,400.25</td>
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<td>In Current/Savings Account with :</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: Utilised during the year</td>
<td>(6,074,489.47)</td>
<td>15,425,910.78</td>
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<td>60,082.54</td>
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<td>Less: Utilised during the year</td>
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<td>1,347,441.02</td>
<td>HDFC Bank -(APP) 50100123140349</td>
<td>(21,832.96)</td>
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<td>Less: Utilised during the year</td>
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<td>1,347,441.02</td>
<td>HDFC S/B-16651450000035</td>
<td>167,211.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry Creditors</td>
<td>339,790.00</td>
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<td>HDFC S/B Utilisation -16651450000028</td>
<td>1,401,821.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisions for Expenses</td>
<td>523,117.96</td>
<td>995,320.96</td>
<td>PNB S/B A/c -3093000117477093</td>
<td>1,393,748.02</td>
<td>3,021,831.06</td>
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<td>Liabilities :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TRUSTEE</td>
<td>TRUSTEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duties &amp; Taxes</td>
<td>132,413.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry Creditors</td>
<td>339,790.00</td>
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<td>TRUSTEE</td>
<td>TRUSTEE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for Expenses</td>
<td>523,117.96</td>
<td></td>
<td>TRUSTEE</td>
<td>TRUSTEE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income and expenditure Account :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TRUSTEE</td>
<td>TRUSTEE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet.</td>
<td>14,162,467.54</td>
<td>16,490.00</td>
<td>Cash in hand - Local</td>
<td>16,490.00</td>
<td>25,136.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : Trfd from Fixed Asset Fund</td>
<td>85,103.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cash in hand - Fcra</td>
<td>8,646.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : Surplus as per Income &amp; Exp A/c</td>
<td>2,806,528.44</td>
<td>17,054,098.98</td>
<td>For ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Income outstanding                              The above Balance Sheet to the best of my/our belief contains true account of the Fund and liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust.

For MIHIR MEHTA & CO:  
Rent: NIL  
Interest: NIL  
Other Income: NIL  
Total Rs.: NIL  

MIHIR DINESH MEHTA  
PROPRIETOR  
Place: Ahmedabad  
Date:  

TRUSTEE  TRUSTEE
## Financial status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Expenditure in respect of properties:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Grants Utilised - Annexure-3</td>
<td>12,999,789.95</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rates, Taxes, Cessess - Muni. Tax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Utilisation of Accumulated Fund u/s 11</td>
<td>4,500,000.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance - Building</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Voluntary Contributions</td>
<td>5,786,617.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Interest on Bank Deposits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saving Bank Interest</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation (by way of provision or adjustments)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Membership Fees</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interest on Income Tax Refund</td>
<td>13,517.80</td>
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<td>Income Accumulation u/s 11</td>
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<td>Misc. Income</td>
<td>2,760.00</td>
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<td>To Depreciation:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interest on Staff Loan</td>
<td>2,421.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Depreciation on Computer/printer</td>
<td>178,530.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Depreciation on Furniture &amp; Fixtures</td>
<td>21,755.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Depreciation on Office Equipments</td>
<td>84,670.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Income Applied to Fixed Assets</td>
<td>207,792.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Loss of Assets written off</td>
<td>19,444.00</td>
<td>512,241.00</td>
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<td>To Expenditure on objects of the trust:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Religious</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Educational</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Medical Relief</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Relief of poverty</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Other charitable objects: Electoral Reforms</td>
<td>7,315,128.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Activities Exp- Annexure-1</td>
<td>7,315,128.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Election Watch Activities Exp- Annexure-2</td>
<td>18,038,813.40</td>
<td>25,353,942.07</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,806,528.44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28,672,711.51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28,672,711.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As per our report of even date attached

For MHIR MEHTA & CO
Chartered Accountants

MIHIR DINESH MEHTA
Proprietor
Place: Ahmedabad
Date:

For ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

TRUSTEE    TRUSTEE
Our supporters

The various activities we carry out are made possible through the support of individuals and organizations. We gratefully acknowledge the financial, material, moral and technical support of the following partners:

1. Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
   4th Floor, SB Tower, MG Road,
   Haridevpur, Shanthala Nagar,
   Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001

2. Omidyar Network India Advisors Private Limited
   61B, 2 North Avenue
   Maker Maxity, Bandra-Kurla Complex
   Bandra (E), Mumbai
   Maharashtra - 400 051

3. Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
   Bombay House, 24 Homi Mody Street,
   Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400 001

4. Caring Friends

5. Vikram Sarabhai Foundation
   Core 4A, 5th Floor,
   India Habitat Centre,
   Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003

6. Some eminent individuals
National/State Election Watch Coordinators

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ujjainihalim@hotmail.com
Press Clippings (2015-16)
**Politics over Philanthropy**

Indians gave more to political parties than charities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLITICAL PARTIES</th>
<th>GET RICHER BY 2.5 TIMES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>327.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>176.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-12</td>
<td>131.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-13</td>
<td>116.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNC</td>
<td>87.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>562.4</td>
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</table>

**High on Funding**

Political donations rose in India as several elections were held.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>-72</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Low on Charity**

India and the top five in the World Giving Index.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Corporate-Individual Divide**

Corporate funding comprises 92% of the total.

**Maharashtra Tops**

The list of donor states.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>39.3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**ADR demands candidates' affidavits be made public**

**Ahmedabad:** The Gujarat Election Watch (GEW) and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) in a letter to the state election commissions have demanded that affidavits filed by candidates for the local body elections should be made public.

The GEW and ADR has in the letter have stated that affidavits of candidates contesting Uttar Pradesh panchayat elections and Maharastra municipal body elections were readily available on their SEC's website. “We appeal to you to make candidature affidavits available on your websites for wider dissemination and voters’ awareness. Only then the voters will be able to make an informed choice,” the letter states.

**Nimme Nagar Sevak Aathwii Pasa**

[Image of a cartoon showing a man and a woman with the text in Marathi.]
Why Not RTI
Scrutiny of
Accounts: SC

Supreme Court issues
to Centre and
Election Commission

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on
Tuesday asked the six national par-
ties to explain why their account
books and donor details should not be
disclosed to the public under the
Rights to Information Act. The Central
Information Commission had or-
dered, on June 3, 2015, the parties to
share such details with information
seekers but most of them ignored the
order though they have not chal-
 lenged it. The six national parties are
BJP, Congress, CPI, CPM, BSP and
NCP.

A bench, comprising Chief Justice
H.L. Dattu, Justice Arun Mishra and
Justice Anuradha Bhute, issued notices
to the Centre and the Election
Commission too, demanding that they
place their views on the conten-
tions issue before the Court. The
Congress and the BJP had vehemently
opposed to the CIC order, though the
CPI said that it was not averse
to sharing everything except a few things
such as donor details.

In a writ filed in the top
court, RTI activists Jagdeep S.
Chhokar for the Association for
Democratic Reforms and Subhas
Agrawal, sought court intervention
to revive the CIC order implemented in
the interests of transparency and ac-
countability in the functioning of
political parties in the country. Their
case was argued by activist lawyer
Prashant Bhushan who made out a
very strong case to make political par-
ties accountable and transparent.

"Political powers have been en-
dowed with several statutory and
constitutional powers in the country.
They can dispense members under
the Tenth Schedule for defying their
whips. They get hundred percent IT
exemptions on all donations made to
them," he argued. "Ultimately they
decide the fate of legislation, decide
policies. They form governments and
control the legislatures. They are also
substantially funded by the state,"
Bhushan contended.

The CIC had declared all political par-
ties as "public authorities" under
the RTI, making it mandatory for them
to disclose for public scrutiny details of
their income, expenditure, donations
and funding including details of do-
nors making donations to those par-
ties and their trusts. But political par-
ties continued to defy the CIC, which
does not have powers to initiate con-
tempt proceedings, forcing activists to
move the SC," Bhushan said.
प्रचाराया शेषदर्श पावसाचे पाणी

कसे येणार ‘अच्छे दिन’?

Two ₹100cr-plus candidates in fray for Sunday’s Vasai-Virar civic election

१०० करोड माहिती

कॅड्रीएम्सी: चुनाव जीतने वालों में 30 क्रांतिकारी

Uncle in bid to reunite Thackerays for KDMC

२५% newly-elected corporators have criminal cases against them: Report
ADR reiterates demand of political parties funding source in public

By Our Reporter

Agartala, Aug 19: Following the instances standard global norms, national and regional political parties of India must provide all information on their finances under the Right to Information Act, demanded The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has been working for electoral and political reforms.

ADR officials here today said being a largest democratic country in the world, the main stakeholders of democracy in India – the political parties are not disclosing their source of funding despite direction from Central Information Commission.

Moreover, Election Commission of India (ECI) on November 19 last year made details of their audited expenditure mandatory for all political parties to the commission in every financial year. But this is also being desperately followed by the political parties, ADR officials said.

"Source of funding for ensuring transparency in functioning has been practiced and well accepted in the countries like Bhutan, Nepal, Germany, France, India, Brazil, Bulgaria, US and Japan but in India, it is disobeyed," the officials pointed out.

They stated according to ECI direction, due date for submission of annual audited accounts for the parties was November 30, 2014 and found of the six national parties, BSP, Biju Janata Dal, CPM and NCP submitted their audited report while INC protest the move stating that unless necessary amendments were made in the RP Act, 1951, the ECI did not have the power to demand such reports.

On the other hand, BJP, on July 19 had requested for four weeks’ time but in yet to file the reports, the officials said adding those parties playing a decisive role at the election do not come from voluntary contributions of above Rs 20,000 but in case of the national political parties should lead by example rather than curtailing any attempt at transparency.

Reiterating the return of five National Parties available in the public domain, ADR stated that a total income of the parties recorded Rs 844.71 crore collected from all over India in 2013-14 and CPIM declared the second highest income of Rs 138.87 Cr, which is 14.4% of the total income of the national parties.

The report shows that only 41% of the total donations of the parties came from voluntary contributions of above Rs 20,000 but in case of the national political parties should lead by example rather than curtailing any attempt at transparency.

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Among the new ministers, Akkipalli Madhu Mohan Reddy, the Union Minister of State for Finance, Home Affairs and Revenue, Andhra Pradesh, and Sivakumar R, the Minister for Finance and Revenue, Tamil Nadu, have been given portfolios.

The cabinet also includes Ln. Gen. (Retd.) P K Pillai, who served as the Chief of the Army Staff from 2013 to 2015.

The new ministers will take charge of their respective portfolios in the coming days.
"Compulsory voting difficult to implement in India"

The pros and cons of introducing compulsory voting during elections was one of the topics that took centre stage at the 6th annual conference on electoral and political reforms. During the panel discussion on "re-hauling the electoral system in India" held on Saturday, Sanjivini Rupak, general secretary, FII, argued that given the complexity of the country and the large number of voters it would not be easy making voting compulsory.

"Compulsory voting in India is very difficult to implement. It was tried in the local elections in Gujarat and to take action against those who did not vote was tough. India is a huge country and it will not be easy enforcing this rule. The reason why many people do not vote is because they feel all the parties are the same and won't do anything for them," said Rupak.

Jaya Prakash Narayan, president, Lok Satya Party, had a different take on it.

"Compulsory voting needs to be taken seriously. The fine for not voting can be probably Rs. 100 towards municipal tax. There will be moral pressure on the voters and the model can be similar to the one in Australia," said JP.

The two-day conference is being organised by AP and Telangana Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Srinivasan Ramani, associate editor, The Hindu felt that NOTA (None Of The Above) option on the EVMs was being exercised only to satisfy the voters' conscience. "NOTA is a waste of vote. It is a negative vote which doesn't count and does not serve any purpose. I do not see any significant value except for the voter emotionally expressing the voting and registering it," he said.

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