



NATIONAL ELECTION WATCH



Annual Report | 2010-2011



Annual Report | 2010-2011





Contents

Who are we?	1
Our Mission	2
Our Approach	3
Our Programs	5
Our Activities: 2010-2011	6
Cross-cutting Advocacy Initiatives	8
The Seventh National Conference on Electoral and Political Reform	10
Communication and Information Technology	14
Research and Publication	16
Our Achievements: 2010-2011	17
Brief background of ADR	19
Our achievements till date	21
Financial Status	23
Some eminent persons who are or have been involved with this initiative	25
Founders of ADR	26
Current trustees of ADR	26
State coordinators	27
Acknowledgement to our supporters	28
Volunteer for ADR	28



Who Are we?

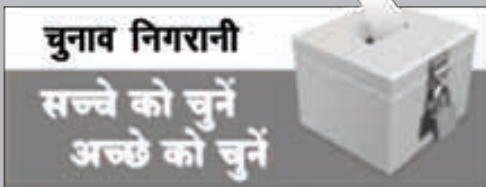
Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) was established in August 1999 by a group of Professors from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. In 1999, we filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) with the Delhi High Court asking for disclosure of criminal, financial and educational background of candidates contesting elections. Based on this, the Supreme Court in 2002 and subsequently in 2003, made it mandatory for all candidates contesting elections to disclose criminal, financial and educational background prior to the polls by filing an affidavit with the Election Commission. 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 the electorate in order 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. It also conducts multiple projects aimed at increasing transparency and accountability in the political and electoral system of the country.

The National Election Watch (NEW) is a nationwide campaign comprising of more than 1200 non-governmental organizations and other citizen led organizations working together with ADR on electoral reforms to improve democracy and governance in India. NEW is active in almost all states of India and it has, along with ADR, conducted Election Watches for almost all states and Lok Sabha elections to enable voters to make informed choice during elections.



Our Mission



Our goal is to improve governance and strengthen democracy by continuous work in the area of Electoral and Political Reforms. The ambit and scope of work in this field is enormous, hence, ADR has chosen to concentrate its efforts in the following areas pertaining to the political system of the country :

- Corruption and criminalization in the political process;
- Empowerment of the electorate through greater dissemination of information relating to the candidates and the parties, for a better and informed choice;
- Need for greater accountability of Political Parties; and
- Need for inner-party democracy and transparency in party-functioning and gaps in the disclosure of candidates' profiles;





Our Approach

1 Mobilising other civil society organisations – ADR has mobilised other civil society organisations to participate in the process of Electoral and Political Reforms. It has built a huge network consisting of almost 1200 organisations all over the country in the last ten years. These organisations work on a number of issues in their own states and come on a common platform with ADR to press for Electoral and Political Reforms. They also participate in the Election Watch process.

2 Engaging with opinion influencers and national strategic institutions - ADR has been bringing together the opinion influencers of the country like retired judges, bureaucrats, social activists, significant political leaders etc. and working closely with institutions like the Election Commission of India, State Election Commissions to take

forward its work on bringing in greater transparency and accountability in electoral and political processes. This has also been done with the aim of influencing these policy influencers to formulate better policies and to work towards better implementation of the existing policies. ADR regularly sends the election analysis to these opinion makers and solicits their views to make campaigns more effective.

3 Communicating with larger audience- ADR uses several techniques to facilitate communication with larger audience with the intent of making information about candidates available to citizens of the country so that they can make informed choices. Engagement with media and use of latest information technology tools has been part of this strategy. ADR press releases





continuously go to more than 5000 journalists. ADR undertakes country wide SMS and helpline campaign while conducting Election Watches. It also has its easy-to-remember and use website www.myneta.info on which information based on self declared affidavits filed by candidates is readily available. ADR has its presence on social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook. A number of short films have been conceptualised and widely circulated as part of this strategy.

4 Litigation and RTI as a strategy –ADR has used litigation as a tool to bring in much required reforms in electoral and political systems of the country. The landmark judgement of Supreme Court to make available criminal and financial information of the candidates was based on a PIL filed by ADR. ADR had also filed a PIL in Supreme Court to issue order to conduct an inquiry to examine all defaulting parties taking tax benefits without divulging their funding details.

Although the Supreme Court set the PIL aside saying that the time is

not appropriate to take up the PIL, the issue was covered and debated extensively in the media and public forums. It has helped create more awareness amongst the public about questioning the parties and making them more accountable.

ADR since the inception of Right to Information Act (RTI) in 2005 has used it for getting information from various concerned bodies like Election Commission of India (ECI), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Income Tax offices and so on. On the basis of an RTI filed by ADR, the Central Information Commission (CIC) in April 2008 gave a landmark ruling by saying that Income Tax Returns of Political Parties would now be available in the public domain along with the assessment orders.

ADR is continuously using RTI as a tool to get information on various electoral and political issues which it analyses and provides to the media for dissemination of information. It currently has one complaint and three second appeals lying with the CIC. ADR hopes that through the judgments in these RTIs it would be able to move one step forward towards the achievement of its main goal which is to bring about improvement in quality of democracy and governance.





Our Programs



ADR, in its quest for improving governance and strengthening democracy, is implementing activities that can be broadly categorized under two programs :

A) Electoral Process Reform

Since the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court, ADR along with the National Election Watch, has conducted Election Watches for the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, Rajya Sabha elections and almost all State Assembly elections post 2002 in the country. Under the Election Watch of Parliament and State Assembly elections, ADR discloses the background (criminal, financial and educational) of candidates who are contesting the elections. Along with this disclosure, ADR has also started analyzing the election expenditure of candidates. Also, in the effort of providing a more holistic analysis of elected representatives, the

Election Watch program will now include analysis of the performance of MLAs and MPs based on select parameters. Expanding the focus of Election Watch to local body elections, Panchayat Election Watch has been conducted in Jharkhand and the effort is planned to spread to other states to cover Panchayat and Municipal elections.

B) Political Process Reform

Political parties function as the key link between the people and their representatives, and thus, in their structure and working, political parties must adhere to democratic norms and transparency. ADR has been making several efforts to bring greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of political parties. It had sought disclosure of financial information by the political parties, in line with the recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee Report (1998) on state funding of election expenses and the 170th report of the Law Commission. The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) vide his order dated April 29, 2008, has held that copies of the Income Tax Returns of the political parties filed with the public authorities and the assessment orders passed on them will be available to the citizens. Taking it forward, ADR has been scrutinizing the copies of the IT Returns of political parties collected using RTI.

Additionally, ADR has been collating details on all state sponsored facilities being provided to political parties in an effort to strengthen its case with respect to a pending complaint with the CIC on declaration of political parties as 'public authorities'. Under the Political Party Watch Program, ADR has also started analysis of election expenses and also contribution reports of political parties.



Our Activities:

2010-2011



Election Watch

In close collaboration with our networking partners, ADR continues to conduct Election Watches during the Parliament and Assembly elections. We have expanded our scope to include election watch to the Rajya Sabha and local body elections. ADR has also successfully mobilized and networked with a large number of civil society organizations all over the country. This in turn has helped in taking the campaign to grass-roots while strengthening our network across the country. ADR has also got great support from the various media organizations. All our press releases and reports have been extensively covered by the media – both the print and visual.

- The elections for 55 seats of the Rajya Sabha were held in two phases on June 14, 2010 and June 17, 2010 in 13 states. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW) have analyzed the affidavits of all the candidates and winners in these 13 states namely: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.
- A complete analysis of criminal and financial details of the candidates and winners of Rajya Sabha 2010 Elections, were shared with the media. All of these reports and press releases were extensively covered by the print as well as electronic media.
- Elections to 243 seats of Bihar Assembly were held in November 2010. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) in collaboration with Bihar Election Watch Chapter had organized a workshop on 'Electoral and Political Reforms' in Patna on June 6, 2010. Specific action plans and strategies for the upcoming elections were discussed. The report of criminal and financial details of current Cabinet Ministers and the 2005 State Assembly election report were released. The Conference was attended by senior leaders of political parties, people from the civil society, senior bureaucrats and police officials. The Conference was widely covered by the state media. Sensitization Workshops on Electoral and Political Reforms in

districts like Patna, Bodh Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Ara Lakhisarai, Bhagalpur, Katihar, Madhepura were held.

- In 2011, preparations were made for the upcoming Assembly Elections in five other states namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam and Pondicherry in April 2011. These included organizing consultations in all the states spearheaded by partners, preparing teams for research and data entry and review at national and state levels, establishing help-lines in local languages and establishing a multi-lingual facility for the SMS service.
- Analysis of the performance of outgoing MLAs of the five Assemblies and performance of the Legislative Assemblies themselves was released prior to the polls.
- Panchayat PEVAC activities were held in Jharkhand in November 2010, focusing on promoting accountability & enhancing the participation of marginalized in the PRIs. Within the scope of campaign, 2 state level meetings were held in Ranchi and a Soochna Rath for awareness generation in the villages of Kanke and Kisko Blocks was organized.

Political Parties Watch

- ADR has, through the RTI applications to numerous government bodies, collected a substantial amount of information using which questions can be raised as to why political parties have still not been designated as 'public authorities' and hence not falling within the ambit of the RTI Act. Using all this information, a complaint has been filed by ADR with the Central Information Commission (CIC) for declaration of political parties as 'public authorities'.
- ADR is accessing the Income Tax Returns of Political parties in India and analyzing them. The reports based on these analyses are being released to the media.
- ADR after following up with the CIC for almost 2 years has finally acquired the contribution reports of major political parties which have been analyzed. On the basis of these contribution reports releases were made to the media to raise the issues of financial transparency in the existing political system.
- Efforts are being taken to analyze and bring out reports based on the election expenditure of political parties. This report was first created during Bihar Assembly Elections, 2010.
- ADR also filed an RTI to Rajya Sabha Secretariat to access information filed by MPs under the Register of Interest. As the secretariat refused to divulge the information even after the first appeal, a second appeal has been filed at the Central Information Commission (CIC).
- ADR as part of the Working Group on Governance in the National Advisory Council (NAC) which is chaired by the UPA Chairperson has brought the NACs focus on passing of a Bill on Regulation of Political Parties. This bill has been drafted by a team put together by Justice M.N Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India (with ADR as a part of the team.)
- With regard to inner party democracy and transparency and accountability in funding of political parties ADR has held meetings with political leaders from various political parties. The purpose of these meetings has also been to discuss the Bill mentioned above. Attempts are also being made to meet the young MPs to get their support for the above given agenda.



Cross-Cutting ADVOCACY Initiatives



1 Sensitization Workshops prior to the Bihar Assembly Elections: Post the Conference in Patna held on 6th June, 2010 on Political and Electoral Reforms, ADR, in collaboration with Bihar Election Watch chapter organized a series of sensitization workshops across Bihar. The first was held on the 26th of August 2010 in Bodh Gaya town of Bihar state. Similarly, other Conferences were held in Muzaffarpur, Ara Lakhisarai, Bhagalpur, Katihar and Madhepura.

2 State Level Convention on Electoral and Political Reforms, Orissa: ADR in collaboration with the Orissa

Election Watch chapter organized a State Level Convention on Electoral & Political Reforms on 28th & 29th August 2010, at Bhubaneswar. The main purpose of this Convention was to share the learning of 2009 General Election, discuss and suggest electoral reforms at various levels including required reforms for local bodies (including Panchayati Raj system & Municipalities etc.) and to prepare a future strategy for Orissa Election Watch.

3 Seminar on the 'Role of Women and Civil Society in Good Governance', Jamia Millia University: Celebrating India's 63rd year of Independence and acknowledging the growing role of youth within the country, ADR, in coordination with the Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia University, organized a seminar on the Role and participation of Women in Good Governance and the Role of civil society in Electoral and Political Reforms on August 31, 2010. The speakers comprised Mr. Anil Bairwal, National Coordinator, ADR and Prof. Jagdeep S. Chhokar, former Director In-charge of IIM, Ahmedabad. The seminar was moderated by Dr. Bulbul Dhar, Director SNCWS Science and vote of thanks was received by Professor Haque, HOD, and Department of Political Science.

4 The Election Commission, along with the Ministry of Law and Social Justice, has initiated a series of nationwide consultations on Electoral Reforms for 2010 and 2011. ADR and the respective NEW chapters have participated, by invitation from the Election Commission, in consultations held in Chandigarh, Mumbai, Bangalore

and Kolkata. We have been conducting and will continue to conduct partner meetings and Press Conferences prior to the consultations in every region. Press Releases are also being issued before as well as after each Consultation to generate awareness and build public opinion on the issue of Electoral Reforms and the efforts being made thereon.

5 A lot of interest has been generated across the country because of the exposure on paid news. The issue of the unbridled use of money during elections, something that ADR has been vehemently working against, has therefore received a new prominence. The Press Council of India (PCI) had set up a panel to study the 'paid news syndrome'. ADR was invited to share its views and analysis with the panel for the preparation of white paper on 'paid news'. The Chief Election Commissioner raised the issue of tackling money power during elections during the 'National Conference on Political and Electoral Reforms' held in Chennai in February

this year. Consultations on the use of money power and specifically on paid news are therefore being planned to use the issue as a tool to highlight the larger problem of unaccountable use of money in the electoral and political arena.

6 The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has set up a task force to evolve a National Strategy to Combat Corruption. ADR has been asked formally to be part of this committee. ADR has one representative on this committee.

7 ADR has initiated a bi-monthly event called Face The Press along with partner organizations which is aimed at holding national leaders to account. This has been started in partnership with the media and the first round of discussions took place in Mumbai on the 28th of March, 2010. The national leader who was part of the first round of discussion was Mr. L.K Advani, Chairman of BJP Parliamentary Party.





The Seventh National Conference on Electoral and Political Reform

7th National Conference on Electoral and Political Reform: The 7th National Conference on Electoral and Political Reform was held at IIT, Chennai. It witnessed the participation of 500 persons belonging to civil society, media etc. The Conference was inaugurated by the Chief Election Commissioner, Dr. S.Y. Quraishi who also released the National Election Watch's Report on the Bihar Elections. There was substantial participation of all major political parties including that of Mr. T. K. S. Elangovan (DMK), Mr. Gnanadesikan (INC), Mr. Madhavan Kutti (CPI-M), Dr. Maithreyan (AIADMK) and Mr. D Raja (CPI). The major highlights of the Conference were:

The ECI announced new guidelines to curb money power in elections.

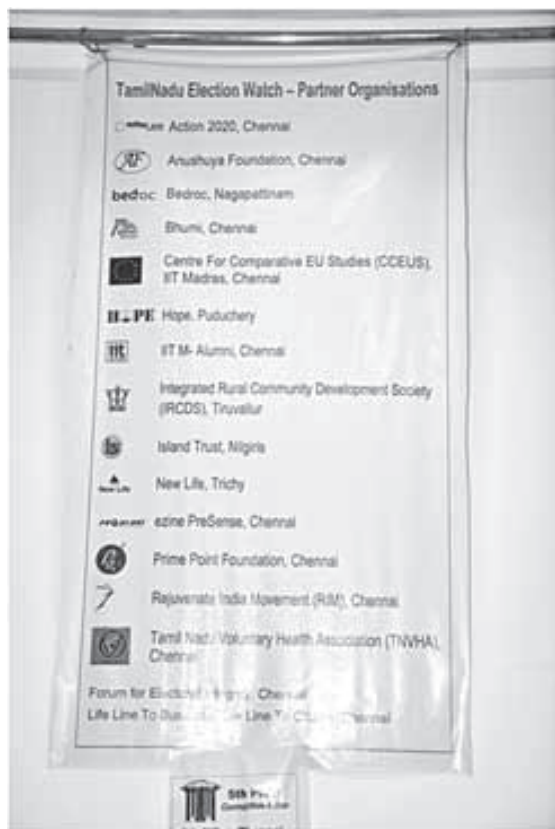
The Chief Election Commissioner, Dr. Quraishi, inaugurated ADR website's section on IT returns of political parties.

Representatives of all political parties discussed means to bring about Political Party Reforms

A comprehensive draft bill on regulation of political parties being drafted under the guidance of former Chief Justice of India, Mr. Venkatachaliah was introduced in the Conference.

ICAI guidelines on Income Tax returns of political parties were presented at the Conference.

Representatives of all political parties gave broad support to these initiatives.











Communication and Information Technology

Information Technology is a very important tool used in the functioning of ADR's programmes. It makes the processes of data entry, analysis and dissemination more effective and expedient.

SMS MYNETA <constituency name> to 56070



SMS MYNETA <pincode> to 56070



- Initiatives undertaken to disseminate information on contesting candidates and elected representatives during all the elections include target campaigns for urban people: 'push SMSs' which provide specific information through bulk sms-ing services especially sent before, during and after polls providing criminal, financial and educational details of candidates/winners, also urging voters and political parties to vote for clean and honest candidates. The combined urban and rural targeted initiative include a toll-free helpline (to provide information regarding any specific candidate/winner in local language), and a 'Pull SMS' service. Within the 'Pull SMS' service, information on criminal, financial and educational antecedents of elected representatives within a particular constituency can be acquired by sending a simple SMS.
- The software developed for collating information regarding criminal, financial and other antecedents of candidates and winners is the back-bone to all our reports. It ensures easy accessibility of the same information on myneta.info or on our SMS service. Reports are generated by the tool at the level of the candidates/winners (from State Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections) and constituencies and the same can be easily viewed at myneta.info. The website will be further expanded to provide a more holistic view of the candidate/winner by adding information on performance of the elected representatives in the legislature.

- We continuously update and maintain information regarding candidates and elected representatives at www.myneta.info where current information of the contesting candidates in recent or past elections can be viewed. This tool has been enhanced to generate reports at the level of the candidates/winners (from Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections) and constituencies.
- The software used to map pincodes of areas can now also map constituencies. This will help in giving users information about the candidates based on their pin code as well as constituency through SMSs.
- ADR is also present on Facebook and Twitter (www.twitter.com/adrspeaks) to ensure that the information collated by it is disseminated as widely as possible.





Research and Publication



ADR has come out with several publications and pamphlets this year. These publications have been shared with the Members of Parliament (MPs), Party Presidents, Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries, Supreme Court judges and eminent citizens to inform them and garner their support towards good governance. These publications have been widely appreciated and used by elected representatives and media. The publications that were published during this year are:

1. 'Recommendations of the National Commission to Review the Working of Constitution' (NCRWC) on electoral processes and political parties.
2. 'Proposed Electoral Reforms by Election Commission of India'.
3. '170th report on reform of the electoral laws by the Law Commission of India'.
4. Proceedings of the Sixth National Conference.
5. 'Election Watch Report of Bihar 2010 Assembly Elections' released by the Chief Election Commissioner during the 7th National Conference on Political & Electoral Reforms in Chennai.
6. 'Analysis of Criminal and Financial details of MLAs of Outgoing Assemblies' – these reports were prepared for the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal and the UT of Puducherry and released in the respective states prior to the polls.
7. A detailed document on 'ADRs recommendations for Electoral and Political Reforms' has been prepared. This includes all reports brought out by committees created on electoral reforms. This document has been circulated to the CEC and the two ECs. It has also been passed on to the Committee on Electoral Reforms set up by the Ministry of Law and Justice and Election Commission of India.
8. ADR also brought out a report on 'The performance of Outgoing MLAs and Legislative Assemblies' for Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal and Puducherry. This report was released to the national media as well as the local media of the respective states prior to the Legislative Assembly polls.



Our Achievements: 2010-2011

- For the elections held in April, 2011 an encouraging step taken by the Election Commission was that it substantially changed the format for affidavits to be filled by candidates during elections to enhance the

scope of disclosure by the candidates. These changes were mainly based on feedback and recommendations provided by ADR. This was a welcome change, as many of the loopholes in information provision were taken



care of now (like source of income declared in IT, year of filing of IT Returns, assets, liabilities of spouse and dependents etc.).

- ADR has representation in the task force set up by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to evolve a National Strategy to Combat Corruption. ADR has been asked formally to be part of this committee.
- ADR has also been invited to be on the Working Group on Governance in the National Advisory Council (NAC) which is chaired by the UPA Chairperson.
- Because of an RTI application that ADR has been following up with the CIC for almost 2 years, the contribution reports of major political parties have been made public. Added to this is the fact that the Election Commission has taken very proactive steps towards bringing in some level of accountability in the functioning of the political parties by getting the ICAI to develop reporting formats for political parties.
- In January 2011, the Election Commission of India entrusted the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) with the task of developing accounting format for political parties.
- ADR won the NASSCOM award for ICT led Innovation by Multi-stakeholder Partnerships. This award was for the Election Watch software of ADR and Webrosoft.
- ADR's booth at 'Expo on Democracy and Open Government' in Mumbai was visited by President Barack Obama. He not only appreciated the SMS campaign of ADR, by which anyone can get information about the candidates contesting elections from their constituency, but also mentioned about it in his speech in the Parliament.
- The campaign to reduce criminalization and 'money power' from politics is becoming stronger day by day:
- On July 10, 2010, Secretary General of Lok Sabha P D T Achary said "Criminals being elected to the Assembly is a serious issue that needs to be addressed".
- In May, 2010, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Mayawati announced the expulsion of about 500 party leaders with criminal past.
- Details of the movable and immovable assets of 30 Bihar ministers, including that of CM Nitish Kumar, were uploaded on the government website in January, 2011. It is seen as a step aimed at ending corruption promised by the Chief Minister himself.
- In January, 2011 President of India, Pratibha Devisingh Patil, emphasized the need to curb the influence of money power in the elections besides looking at the criteria for contesting candidates so that criminals are debarred from contesting elections.
- In February 2011, the BJP-led NDA said it would direct its MPs, Chief Ministers and senior most party leaders to declare their assets.



Brief Background of ADR

Early 1999:	11 IIM-Ahmedabad professors get together to form Association for Democratic Reforms to work on electoral reforms.
August 1999:	ADR files PIL in Delhi High Court seeking disclosure of pending criminal cases by candidates contesting elections to parliament and state assemblies.
November 02, 2000:	Delhi High Court upholds above PIL.
December 2000:	Government of India appeals to Supreme Court against the judgment of Delhi High Court.
May 02, 2002:	Supreme Court rejects the appeal and upholds the High Court judgment.
June 28, 2002:	Election Commission issues orders to implement the Supreme Court judgment.
July 08, 2002:	All party meeting decides to amend Representation of People Act to prevent/dilute the Supreme Court's orders.
August 22, 2002:	Cabinet sends Ordinance for amending the Representation of People Act, to President for signature.
August 23, 2002:	President returns the Ordinance.
August 24, 2002:	Cabinet sends the Ordinance to the President a second time, the President signs, in keeping with the convention.
October 2002:	PILs filed in Supreme Court, including one by ADR, challenging the constitutional validity of the amendment to the Representation of People Act, done by above Ordinance.
March 13, 2003:	Supreme Court declares above amendment of the Representation of People Act as "illegal, null and void" and restores its May 02, 2002 judgment.
March 27, 2003:	Election Commission issues orders implementing the Supreme Court judgment.
December, 2002:	First Election Watch conducted for Gujarat Assembly Election

Post 2002, data for over 50,000 candidates, self-declared by the candidates themselves under the Supreme Court order, is now available.

2007:	RTI applications filed before the Election Commission and Tax authorities seeking information about whether Political Parties file their contribution reports as per Sec 29(A) of RPA (Representation of Peoples' Act) 1951 to get tax benefits under Sec 13A of Income Tax Act, 1961
21 Jun 2007:	EC response contains details on 21 parties' contribution reports. Many parties are listed for not submitting the reports ever. Tax authorities refuse to divulge the information
2008:	CIC on Second Appeal allows tax returns of political parties to be made public and directs the authorities to furnish copies of the IT returns of the parties to public
2008:	Scrutiny of copies of the return reveals that all the parties have availed benefit under Sec 13 A of the Income Tax Act, even those who have not filed their statutorily mandated contribution reports before Election Commission.
2008:	PIL filed in the Supreme Court to issue order to conduct an inquiry to examine all defaulting parties whom have been given benefit of section 13A of Income Tax Act and to take appropriate action against the defaulting political parties to recover the income tax due from them from the date of default till date
Nov, 14 2008:	Supreme Court sets the PIL aside saying that the time is not appropriate to take up the PIL.
Jan 2009:	
May 2009:	Results of Lok Sabha Election Watch shows that majority of candidates with heinous criminal records lost elections.
Nov 2009:	
17th August, 2010:	First ever report on Income Tax returns and Assessment Orders of Political Parties from AY 2002-2003 to AY 2009-2010 released by ADR and NEW.
14th September, 2010:	First ever report on sources of Income and Expense details as per Income Tax filed by political parties for FY 2007-08 and 2008-2009 released by ADR and NEW.
3rd January, 2011:	First ever report released by ADR/NEW based on contribution reports filed by political parties.
12th February, 2011:	Webpage containing scanned and uploaded copies of Income Tax Returns and Assessment Orders of national and regional political parties inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner, Dr. S.Y. Quraishi.
24th March, 2011:	First ever report on MLA performance released by ADR and NEW.



Our Achievements: Till Date

- ADR won two milestone judgments on disclosure of candidate's criminal and financial records from the Supreme Court in May 2002 and March 2003 respectively. Since then, 1200 NGOs from all over the country are supporting ADR and ADR in partnership with its partners has organized Citizen Election Watch for all major elections and disclosed candidate's background information to the media and the public.
- After the Supreme Court's order, Members of Parliament (MPs) lined up to clear their outstanding dues to the Government for rent, electricity, phone bills and so on to avoid embarrassing disclosures while filing nomination papers.
- The Election Commission has completed a massive exercise based on the Gujarat Election Watch report to verify information filed by candidates in the nomination papers and affidavits, and has started proceedings against candidates with false declarations. They are now currently doing that for the subsequent elections as well.
- A Bill on Electoral Expenses was passed in September 2003. The EC has taken it one-step forward and asked candidates to file a statement of expenses in every three days during the campaign. The EC has also made this information (in addition to the affidavits filed by candidates disclosing financial, criminal and educational background) available to citizens on request to Returning Officers, District Election Officers and the CEOs.
- Civil Society non - partisan Election Watches are springing up in different states. In the Lok Sabha 2004 Elections, 19 States and 5 Union Territories carried out Election Watches. In the Lok Sabha 2009 elections, Election Watches were held in all states and union territories in the country.
- Bihar Election Watch in October - November 2005 resulted in intense pressure on the Chief Minister Designate due to the extensive media coverage of candidate background. As a result, for the first time, Bihar has a Council of Ministers without any known criminal record.
- A national level political leader contacted ADR during the UP Election Watch in 2007 and wanted the list of candidates for his party with criminal details. Similarly, this also happened in the Karnataka Assembly Elections 2008.
- The Election Commission inaugurated Civil Society led National Conferences on Electoral Reforms in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Patna, Lucknow, Mumbai, Bhopal and Chennai. These Conferences were action

oriented and resulted in successful Election Watch campaigns. The Election Commission has backed this work and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) has attended each year's Annual National Conference on Electoral and Political Reforms.

- The EC issued several very significant orders in the last two years relating to candidate disclosure, ensuring those affidavits are complete, taking action against false affidavits based on complaints, and disclosing electoral expenses.
- In April 2008, ADR obtained a landmark ruling from the Central Information Commission (CIC) saying that Income Tax Returns of Political Parties would now be available in the public domain along with the assessment orders.
- In the Karnataka Assembly Elections, 2008, there was a reduction in the number of candidates with serious offenses put up by parties. There were 93 such cases against candidates in the 2008 elections, down from 217 in the 2004 assembly elections.
- Overall, the percentage of candidates with pending criminal cases came down from 20% to 14% in the assembly elections held in the country in 2008 for the states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, NCT of Delhi and Mizoram.
- Mr. L.K. Advani, Leader of the BJP gave a press statement that the BJP would not field candidates with criminal records (October 2008). Mr. Rahul Gandhi, General Secretary of the Indian National Congress (INC), made similar announcement.
- A large number of candidates with serious pending cases that contested Lok Sabha 2009 elections like Pappu Yadav, Atiq Ahmed, Mukhtar Ansari, Akhilesh Singh, etc. lost.
- The number of total serious IPC sections against MPs decrease from 296 in Lok Sabha 2004 to 274 in Lok Sabha 2009.
- On Jan 25, 2010 both the Congress Chief Ms Sonia Gandhi and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Ms Sushma Swaraj of BJP made public statements calling for a consensus on barring candidates with criminal backgrounds from contesting elections.
- On Feb 3, 2010 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asked his Cabinet colleagues to disclose details of their assets and liabilities and refrain from dealing with the government on immovable property.
- Because of an RTI application that ADR has been following up with the CIC for nearly the past 2 years, the contribution reports of major political parties have been made public. Added to this is the fact that the Election Commission has taken proactive steps towards bringing in some level of accountability in the functioning of the political parties by getting the ICAI to develop reporting formats for political parties.
- On July 10, 2010, Secretary General of Lok Sabha P D T Achary said "Criminals being elected to the Assembly is a serious issue that needs to be addressed".
- In May, 2010, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Mayawati had announced the expulsion of about 500 party leaders with criminal past.
- In January 2011, the Election Commission of India entrusted the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) with the task of developing accounting format for political parties.
- Details of the movable and immovable assets of 30 Bihar ministers, including that of CM Nitish Kumar, were uploaded on the government website in January, 2011. It is seen as a step aimed at ending corruption promised by the Chief Minister himself.



Financial Status

THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST ACT, 1950
SCHEDULE VIII [VIDE RULE 17 (I)]

Name of the Public Trust : ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2011
REGISTRATION No. F/9339/AHMEDABAD

FUND & LIABILITIES		PROPERTY AND ASSETS	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Trust Funds or Corpus :		Immovable properties :	0
Balance as per last Balance Sheet.	0	Computer : (At Cost) (Fors)	
Adjustments during the year (give details)		Balance as per last Balance Sheet	566,454
Contribution from Founder Members		Additions during the year - Fors	6,100
Opening Balance	6,000		572,554
Democracy & Governance Reforms Fund :		Less: Sales during the year	0
Opening Balance (2008-09) - Ford	571,279		572,554
Opening Balance (2008-09) - Hivos	640,827	Furniture & Fixtures : (At Cost) (Fors)	
Add : During the year	0	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	107,787
	1,218,106	Additions during the year - Fors	2,350
Less : Appropriation to Income & Expenditure A/c	1,212,106	Less: Sales during the year	0
	6,000		110,117
Other Earmarked Funds :		Office Equipment : (At Cost) (Fors)	
(Created under the provisions of the Trust Deed of Scheme or out of the Income)		Balance as per last Balance Sheet	187,673
Ford Fixed Assets Fund (Fors) Opening Balance:	688,721	Additions during the year - Fors	1,450
Add : During the year	9,900	Less: Sales during the year	0
Hivos Fixed Assets Fund: Opening Balance	173,173		189,123
Add : During the year	0	Computer : (At Cost) (Local)	
Fixed Assets Fund (Sdrt) : Opening Balance	0	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	0
Add : During the year	536,966	Additions during the year	315,670
Fixed Assets Fund - Local : Opening Balance	0	Less: Sales during the year	0
Add : During the year	50,750.00		315,670
	50,750	Office Equipment : (At Cost) (Local)	
Income Accumulation Reserve :		Balance as per last Balance Sheet	1,250
Opening Balance	0	Additions during the year - Local	147,171
Add : From Income & Expenditure A/c	4,567,943	Less: Sales during the year	0
Local Fund	2,158,728		148,421
Fors Fund		Furniture & Fixtures : (At Cost) (Local)	
	6,726,671	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	4,650
Depreciation Fund : (Fors)		Additions during the year - Local	124,875
Computer	455,065	Less: Sales during the year	0
Furniture	34,758		129,525
Printer	18,863	Investments :	0
Office Equipment	63,083	Advances :	
	571,769	To Employees - Local	14,686
Depreciation Fund : (Local)		To Contractors - Fors	130,845
Computer	176,427	To Contractors - Local	19,997
Furniture	13,371	To others - TDS Earlier Years	30,099
Office Equipment	22,291	To others - TDS A.Y 10-12	21,459
	212,089		223,086
Liabilities :		Income outstanding :	
For Expenses - Fors	49,676	Interest - Local (Bank FDR)	7,752
For Expenses - Local	5,300	Interest - Fors (Bank FDR)	125,263
For Advances (Hivos) - Fors	613,200		132,995
For rent and other deposits	0	(i) Cash And Bank Balances-	
For Sundry credit balance - Fors	0	In Current Account with :	
	668,176	IndusInd Bank Ltd,Ahmedabad - Local	1,484,530
Income and expenditure Account :		IndusInd Bank Ltd,Ahmedabad - Fors	831,374
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	612,218	State Bank of India	738,297
Less : Appropriation, if any	0	In Fixed Deposit Account with	
Add : Surplus/less : Deficit		IndusInd Bank Ltd - Fors	3,692,810
As per Income & Expenditure A/c.	2,349,478	In Fixed Deposit Account with	
	2,961,696	State Bank of India - Local	4,012,266
		(ii) Cash on hand - Local	8,702
		Cash on hand - Fors	16,441
		Income and expenditure Account :	
		Balance as per Balance Sheet	0
		Add : Deficit as per Income & Exp A/c	0
Total	12,605,911	Total	12,605,911

As per our report of even date

For MIHIR MEHTA & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTSMIHIR MEHTA,
PROPRIETOR

Place : Ahmedabad

Date : 14 MAY 2011

Income outstanding
(If accounts are kept on cash basis)

Rent	NIL
Interest	NIL
Other Income	NIL
Total Rs.	NIL

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 ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

TRUSTEE

TRUSTEE

THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST ACT, 1950

SCHEDULE IX [VIDE RULE 17 (3)]

Name of the Public Trust : ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

Registration No. F/9339/AHMEDABAD

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2011

EXPENDITURE	Rs.	Rs.	INCOME	Rs.	Rs.
To Expenditure in respect of properties :			0 By Rent (accrued)		0
Rates, Taxes, Cessess - Muni. Tax			(realised)		
Repairs and maintenance - Building			0 By Interest (accrued)		0
Salaries			(realised)		
Insurance					
Depreciation (by way of provision or adjustments)			On Securities	0	
Other expenses			On Loan	0	
			On Bank Account - Bank SB. A/c.	0	
			On Income Tax Refund	1,040	
To Establishment Expenses			On Bank FDR A/c. - For	250,715	
-Traveling Exp.			On Bank FDR A/c. - Local	64,139	315,894
-Entertainment Exp.					
			By Dividend		0
To Remuneration (in the case of a math to the head of the math, including his house-hold expenditure, any)			0 By Donation in cash or kind - Local		744,900
			By Donation in cash or kind - For		0
To Legal Expenses			0 By Grants (Ford Foundation - For)		4,611,000
To Professional fees - For			0 By Grants (Hivos)		3,550,000
To Contribution and Fees			0 By Grants (Tata) - Local		7,815,000
To Amount written off			0 By Income from other sources		
(a) bad Debts			(Election Watch - Book Publication Income)	49,340	
(b) Loan scholarships			Previous Year Adjustment	955	50,295
(c) Irrecoverable rents					
(d) Other items - Loss on Computer			0 By Transfers from Reserve :		1,212,106
			(Appropriation From Democracy & Governance Reforms Corpus)		
To Miscellaneous Exp			By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet		0
To Depreciations (Computer) - For	43,420				
Depreciations (Office Equipment) For	22,114				
Depreciations (Furniture) - For	8,243				
Depreciations (Printer) - For	1,331				
Depreciations (Computer) Local	176,427				
Depreciations (Office Equipment) Local	22,104				
Depreciations (Furniture) - Local	12,906	286,545			
To Amounts transfer to Income Accumulation Reserve					
- Local	4,567,943				
- For	2,158,728	6,726,671			
To Income Applied to Fixed Asset A/c					
- Local	587,716				
- For	9,900	597,616			
To Expenditure on objects of the trust					
(a) Religious	0				
(b) Educational	0				
(c) Medical Relief	0				
(d) Relief of poverty	0				
(e) Other charitable objects- Schedule - 1					
Election Watch Expenditure (For)	5,051,722				
Election Watch Expenditure (Local)	3,287,163	8,338,885			
To Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet		2,349,478			
Total		18,299,195	Total		18,299,195

As per our report of even date attached
For MIHIR MEHTA & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Strike off whichever is not applicable
For ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

Mehra

MIHIR MEHTA
PROPRIETOR

Place : Ahmedabad

Dated : 14 MAY 2011



K. K. K.

TRUSTEE

S. S.

TRUSTEE

K. K. K.



Some eminent persons

who are or have been involved with this initiative

1. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, Former Chief Justice of India
2. Justice Jeevan Reddy, Former Supreme Court Judge and Chairman of the Law Commission
3. Justice B.J. Divan, Former Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court
4. (Late) Justice P.D. Desai, Former Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court
5. Justice T.U. Mehta, Former Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court
6. Mr. V. T. Shah, Former DG Police, Gujarat
7. Mr. Julio Rebeiro, Former DG Police, Maharashtra
8. Admiral Ram Tahiliani, Former Head of the Indian Navy, and President of Transparency International
9. Mr. J.M. Lyngdoh, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India
10. Mr. T.S. Krishnamurthy, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India
11. Mr. C G Somiah, Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India
12. Justice Shiva Shankar Bhatt, Former Justice of the Karnataka High Court
13. Late Mr. L.C. Jain, Former Member Planning Commission; Former High Commissioner to South Africa
14. Mr. T.R. Satish Chandran, Former Chief Secretary; Karnataka, Former Governor Goa
15. Dr. Samuel Paul, Former Director of IIM Ahmedabad
16. Dr. Narayan Sheth, Former Director of IIM Ahmedabad
17. Mr. Ramachandra Guha, Eminent Historian and columnist
18. Mr. P.S. Appu, IAS, Former Secretary to the Government of India
19. Mr. P.V. Shenoi, IAS, Former Secretary to the Government of India
20. Mr. K C Sivaramakrishnan, , Former Secretary to the Government of India
21. Mr. I.C. Dwivedi, Former DG Police, Uttar Pradesh
22. Justice Sachidanand Awasthi, Former Judge of the MP High Court
23. Mr. B.G. Deshmukh, Former Cabinet Secretary, Government of India
24. Justice Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari, Former Justice of the Mumbai High Court
25. Mr. D.M. Sukhtankar, Former Chief Secretary; Maharashtra
26. Lt. Gen. Y.D. Sahasrabuddhe, Former Director General Army Service Corps
27. Justice S.C. Verma, Former Lokayukta U.P.
28. Justice Kamleshwar Nath, Former Judge of Allahabad High Court
29. Justice D.K. Trivedi, Former Judge of Allahabad High Court.
30. Shri R.C. Tripathi, Former Secy. Genl. Rajya Sabha
31. Shri S.A.T. Rizvi, Former Secy. Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of India.
32. Prof. Banwari Lal Sharma, Formerly of Allahabad University
33. Prof. S.K. Agarwal, Former Vice Chancellor Agra University.
34. Dr. Bhumitra Dev, Former Vice Chancellor Gorakhpur and Ruhelkhand Universities
35. Dr. Veer Bhadra Mishra, Retd. Prof, BHU
36. Prof. Waseem Barelwi, Renowned Urdu Poet and Social Activist
37. Shri Prakash Singh, Former DG BSF & DGP U.P
38. Shri Ram Arun, Former DGP, U.P.
39. Dr H.K. Paintal, Former Professor, Lucknow University
40. General (Retd) Shankar Roychowdhury, Former General, Indian Army
41. Ms Aruna Roy, founder member MKSS

Founders of ADR

1. Prof. Trilochan Sastry, Ph.D. (MIT)
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
2. Prof. Jagdeep S. Chhokar, Ph.D. (Louisiana State University)
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
3. Prof. Sunil Handa, BTech (BITS, Pilani); PGDM (IIM - Ahmedabad)
Eklavya Education Foundation, Ahmedabad and visiting Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad
4. Prof. Ajit Ranade, Ph.D. (Brown University)
Professor, ICRIER, New Delhi
5. Prof. Devanath Tirupati, Ph.D. (MIT),
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
6. Prof. Brij Kothari, Ph.D. (Cornell University)
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
7. Prof. Pankaj Chandra, Ph.D. (Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania)
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
8. Prof. Rajesh Agarwal, AICWA, ACA, MIIA
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
9. Prof. P.R. Shukla, Ph.D. (Stanford University)
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
10. Prof. Prem Pangotra, Ph.D. (Wisconsin University)
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
11. Prof. Sudarshan Khanna, PG (Industrial Design)
Professor, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

Current trustees of ADR

1. Prof. Trilochan Sastry
Professor and Academic Dean,
Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore
2. Prof. Jagdeep S. Chhokar
Former Professor, Dean, and Director In-Charge,
Indian Institute of Management, 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. Prof. Brij Kothari
Adjunct Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad,
(Ravi J. Matthai Centre for Educational Innovation)
7. Prof. Devanath Tirupati
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
8. Ms. Kamini Jaiswal
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India,
Secretary, Center for Public Interest Litigation

State Coordinators

- 1 **Andhra Pradesh Election Watch**
Mr. Ajay Gandhi
ajay@wingsinfo.net
Ms. Sowmya Kidambi
sowmyakrishkidambi@gmail.com
Mr. Rakesh Reddy Dubbudu
rakesh@bhumi.in
- 2 **Arunachal Pradesh Election Watch**
Mr. Bamang Tago
acr2000@gmail.com
- 3 **Assam Election Watch**
Mr. Tasaduk Ariful Hussain
arif@nestinfo.org
- 4 **Bihar Election Watch**
Mr. Anjesh Kumar
anjesh.kumar@gmail.com
Mr. Ramesh Kumar
sarvanginvikas@gmail.com
- 5 **Chhattisgarh Election Watch**
Mr. Gautam Bandyopadhyay
gautamraipur@gmail.com
Mr. Uma Prakash Ojha
ojhaup@gmail.com
- 6 **Goa Election Watch**
Mr. Ajit Ranade
ajit.ranade@gmail.com
- 7 **Gujarat Election Watch**
Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar
jchhokar@gmail.com
Ms. Pankti Jog
janpath@bsnl.net
Mr. Anand Padh
apadh.core@gmail.com
- 8 **Haryana Election Watch**
Mr. Jaskirat Singh
jaskirats@gmail.com
- 9 **Himachal Pradesh Election Watch**
Mr. J.R Ramoul
yumdhahimachal@yahoo.com
- 10 **Himachal Pradesh Election Watch**
Mr. P. R Ramesh
lkmtheog@yahoo.co.in
- 11 **Jammu & Kashmir Election Watch**
Dr. Muzaffar Bhatt
budgam_social@rediffmail.com
- 12 **Jharkhand Election Watch**
Mr. Sudhir Pal
manthan_ranchi@hotmail.com
- 13 **Karnataka Election Watch**
Mr. Trilochan Sastry
trilochans@iimb.ernet.in
Mr. Sridhar Pabbisetty
psridharp@gmail.com
Ms. Sindhu Naik
sindhunaik@gmail.com
- 14 **Kerala Election Watch**
Mr. T. Ravindran
ravindran@transmaticsystems.com
Prof. Sudhir Kumar
sudhir.dcsmat@gmail.com
- 15 **Madhya Pradesh**
Mr. Rakesh Ranjan
rakeshranjan_rti@yahoo.co.in
- 16 **Maharashtra Election Watch**
Mr. Ajit Ranade
ajit.ranade@gmail.com
Mr. Nitin Valame
nitin.valame@gmail.com
- 17 **Manipur Election Watch**
Mr. Sumorjit
somorjitm@hotmail.com
- 18 **Meghalaya Election Watch**
Ms. Mayfereen Ryanthiang
mayfereenlyngdoh@gmail.com
- 19 **Mizoram Election Watch**
Mr. Vanlalruata
ruataprim@yahoo.in
- 20 **Nagaland Election Watch**
Ms. Hekani Jakhalu
hekanijakhalu@yahoo.com
- 21 **Orissa Election Watch**
Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty
pecuc@hotmail.com
- 22 **Pondicherry Election Watch**
Mr. Victor P. Joseph
vrhope@gmail.com
- 23 **Punjab Election Watch**
Mr. Jaskirat Singh
jaskirats@gmail.com
- 24 **Rajasthan Election Watch**
Mr. Nikhil Dey
nikhildey@gmail.com
Mr. Kamal Tank
kamalrti@gmail.com
- 25 **Tamil Nadu Election Watch**
Dr. Sudarsan Padmanabhan
sudarsanp@iitm.ac.in
- 26 **Tripura Election Watch**
Mr. Biswendu Bhattacharjee
biswendu.tripura@gmail.com
- 27 **Uttar Pradesh Election Watch**
Dr. Lenin
pvchr.india@gmail.com
Mr. Sanjay Rai
sanjaykrai@yahoo.com
Mr. I.C. Dwivedi
icdwivedi@gmail.com
Mr. Sanjay Singh Parmarth
parmarths@gmail.com
Mr. Mahesh Anand
gss_sonebhadra59@rediffmail.com
Mr. Snehvair Pundir
Snehvir.pundir@gmail.com
Mr. Ravi Chopra
psiddoon@gmail.com
- 28 **West Bengal Election Watch**
Dr. Ujjaini Halim
ujjainihalim@hotmail.com
Mr. Biplob Halim
bipimse@cal.vsnl.net.in

Acknowledgment to 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. Ford Foundation
55 Lodi Estate
New Delhi 110 003, India
2. HIVOS
Hivos Regional Office India
Flat no. 402, Eden Park
No. 20 Vittal Mallya Road
Bangalore - 560001
India
3. Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
5th floor, Eruchshaw Building
249, D.N. Road, Fort
Mumbai.

Volunteer for ADR

We are always looking for bright people with a passion to strengthen Indian Democracy specifically in the field of electoral and political reforms. You can involve yourself at Delhi and/or at other places in several ways:

Volunteer for Election Watches: We need people for various activities during election watches, like: data entry, interacting with election officers, etc.

Answer the Helpline: Answer the questions coming from states going to polls on candidates based on the affidavits filed by them.

Design Work: Create pamphlets, banners to support the Election Watch teams in states. The pamphlets are based on current events and findings.

Public Dissemination: There are a lot of election watch public dissemination activities going in all states. You can participate in these activities.

Media Watch: We have a media watch program going on in which you can participate.

Translation Activities: A lot of our press releases newsletter etc., need to be translated into local languages. You can help in these translations.

If you are interested in engaging with us, please write to us at adr@adrindia.org

*"No office in the land is more
important than that of being a citizen"*

Felix Frankfurter



Contact Us

Association for Democratic Reforms

B-1/6 Upper ground floor,
Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110 016

T: +91 11 4081 7601 | F: +91 11 4609 4248

Email: adr@adrindia.org | Twitter: <http://twitter.com/adrspeaks>

Websites: www.adrindia.org | www.myneta.info