Annual Report
2014-15
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Our Activities: 2014-15

Election Watch

Concerned by the increasing influence of money and muscle power in the Indian politics and sharp erosion in the ideological orientation of political parties, a group of professors from Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Delhi High Court in 1999. The aim of the petition was to get authentic information about the candidates contesting elections, so that people can make an informed choice. Based on this petition, 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.

Since 2002, when the first Supreme Court decision came, ADR has been engaged in the Election Watch process of analyzing the background details of candidates contesting different elections. This information is released to the public in the form of reports to help them make a better and informed choice. The Election Watch process, which began with 2002 Gujarat Assembly Elections is now the flagship program of ADR and covers every Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Assembly elections and some local body elections.

The Election Watch process starts 4-6 months before polls with the process of mobilization of citizens with the help of the partners. Once the affidavits declaring background details of candidates are made available, the same are entered in an online database and processed as reports that are released at least 10 days before polls. These press releases are aimed at helping citizens make an informed choice. 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, padyatras, street plays and outdoor campaigns to make voters aware of the background details of candidates and urge them to vote for honest and clean candidates.

During the year 2014-15, Election Watches were conducted for the following elections:

- **Lok Sabha** (Lower House) elections
- **State Assembly** elections for the following states: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and Delhi.
- **Rajya Sabha** (Upper House) elections
- **Bye elections**
- **Local Body elections**
Following analyses on background information of Candidates and the Winners contesting different elections were undertaken during 2014-15:

1. Background details of Union Council of Ministers (Pre and Post Expansion).

2. Analysis of asset declarations of Union Council of ministers.


4. Background details of Candidates and Winners of Navi Mumbai and Vasai Virar City municipal corporation elections.

5. Vote share and representativeness for the Assembly elections of Haryana and Maharashtra.

6. Background details of re-contesting MLAs in Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly elections.

7. Background details of Ministers of Delhi State Assembly.

9. Register of Member's Interest for Rajya Sabha members.

10. Background details of MPs and MLAs from West Bengal.

11. The nexus of crime and money in Bihar Assembly elections (10 years of Bihar Election Watch).


13. Election expenditure declared by the MPs 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 above aim, 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 to the public. IT Returns of political parties are obtained via RTI applications to the IT Department while donation reports and election expenditure reports are obtained from the ECI. The scanned copies of these documents are available on myneta.info.

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 disclosing their financial details is not consistent among the parties.

Following analyses on Political Parties were undertaken during 2014-15:

1. IT Returns and donations of National Parties during financial year 2012-13 was released in June 2014.

2. Donations above Rs 20,000 to political parties of Delhi for financial year 2012-13 was released in August 2014.


5. Donations above Rs 20,000 to National and Regional Parties during financial year 2013-14.


11. A report on the transparency guidelines issued by the Election Commission to the political parties, which came into effect on 1st October 2014.
Strategic Litigation

1. Political parties under RTI

a. The six national political parties INC, BJP, CPI, CPI(M), BSP & NCP boycotted the hearings convened by the CIC on 21st Nov 2014 and 7th Jan 2015 for the contempt and non-compliance of its 3rd June 2013 order which had declared these parties as “Public Authorities” under the RTI Act. Finally, on 16th March 2015, the CIC while holding its 3rd June 2013 order legally correct and final, 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 19th May 2015 for implementation of CIC’s 3rd June 2013 order.

2. Election expenditure of political parties: On 9th May 2014, a writ petition was filed by ADR in Delhi High Court seeking appropriate direction to regulate and monitor the election expenditure incurred by political parties on and during the election. After hearing our arguments, notices were issued by Delhi HC to the Government of India and Election Commission. The next date for hearing is 9th July 2015.
3. **Foreign funding of political parties:** Special Leave Petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court by both INC and BJP separately on the issue pertaining to “foreign funding”. These SLPs have been filed against Delhi High Court’s order dated 28th March 2014. The order was announced on a petition filed by ADR. The Delhi HC, in its order, held these two major national political parties guilty of taking foreign funding thereby violating the provisions under FCRA.

4. **Paid news case:** Former CM of Maharashtra, Ashok Chavan was found guilty by the ECI for incorrect filing of expenditure statement incurred during Maharashtra Assembly Elections 2009. Ashok Chavan challenged the order of the ECI in the Supreme Court in which ADR supported ECI’s decision and hence intervened in the matter. Currently, the matter is pending before a double bench of Delhi High Court and the next date of hearing is 14th July 2015.

5. **Income Tax Returns of MPs:** ADR’s second appeal in this case is pending with the Central Information Commission. In its appeal, 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.

6. **Cases against the Parliamentarians:** On 10th March 2014, the Supreme Court had passed an order wherein all the High Courts were asked to conclude the cases against the Parliamentarians within one year. This order came after the recommendations of the 20th Law Commission (244th Law Commission Report). ADR was part of a round table and National Consultation on Electoral Reforms which were organized by the Law Commission for their 244th Report and it had also submitted its recommendations to the Law Commission pertaining to this issue.
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 organized/launched many press conferences, panel discussions, outdoor campaigns and Social Media campaigns throughout the year. Many informative articles were also written by in-house researchers in reputed newspapers and magazines.

Some of the activities held by ADR during 2014-15 are mentioned below:

1. On 12th December 2014, ADR made a submission to the Supreme Court instituted SIT on black money citing the need for greater transparency in political party financing and electoral campaigning expenditures.

2. ECI sought the views of ADR/NEW on “Political Finance and the 255th Report of the Law Commission of India.” Along with other stakeholders ADR/NEW made a submission to ECI on 28th March 2015.

3. After the Central Information Commission (CIC) observed in its order dated 16th March 2015 that the RTI Act does not provide the Commission with the ample powers to deal with the cases of contempt and non-compliance by political parties, ADR decided to file a petition in the Supreme Court on 19th May 2015 for implementation of the CIC’s 3rd June 2013 order of declaring 6 national parties as ‘public authority’ under the RTI Act.

4. ADR and NEW wrote letters to the newly-appointed Prime Minister and Chief Ministers from different states with appeals to provide clean, transparent and exemplary governance and received assurance from Delhi and a few other state governments that they will keep ADR’s suggestions in mind.
5. **Press Conference**: A Media Dialogue on Jan 30, 2015 at Press Club of India, Delhi, on Criminal, Financial background and other details of contesting candidates in Delhi Assembly elections 2015 was organized.

6. **Media Panel Discussion**: Ahead of Haryana Assembly elections, ADR and NEW had organized a Media Dialogue on Sept 25, 2014 at Press Club of India, Delhi, to brainstorm on how pressure can be mounted on Political Parties to restrain them from fielding candidates facing criminal charges in the Assembly polls and other related issues.

7. **Press Conference**: A press conference was held on June 20, 2014 at Press Club of India, Delhi on “Fast Tracking of Cases against Sitting Lok Sabha MPs”.

8. **ADR Maharashtra Survey**: ADR and Daksh conducted a voter perception survey of over 20,000 respondents across all the 288 Assembly constituencies in Maharashtra in September 2014 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”.

9. **Voter Awareness Campaigns**: Ahead of Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi Assembly elections, ADR used various media to encourage people to vote for candidates with a clean image.

- **Street Plays**: Prior to the Delhi Assembly elections in January 2015, ADR collaborated with ‘Steps for Change’ to conduct over 40 street plays in red-alert constituencies of Delhi (where three and more candidates face criminal charges against them.) The aim of the street plays was to spread awareness among the voters and encourage them to see the background of their candidates before voting.
- **Hoardings/Banners:** Hoardings and banners were placed at many busy markets/roads/metro stations of Delhi in January 2015 to exhort voters to select clean candidates ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections.

- **Auto Campaigns:** Posters with messages encouraging people to select the right leaders in 2015 Delhi Assembly elections were displayed on 1200 autos in Delhi in the month of January 2015.

- **Lakhs of SMS/Out Bound Calls (OBD) were pushed out to inform people about the background details of the candidates.

10. **Social Media Campaigns:** Throughout the year, and more intensely ahead of elections, ADR posts 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 examples are below:

A creative made on the 2nd anniversary of Nirbhaya rape case: [bit.ly/nirbhayarapecase](bit.ly/nirbhayarapecase)

A creative made on the Republic Day 2015: [on.fb.me/1Bwlr0n](on.fb.me/1Bwlr0n)

A creative made on election expenditure of Political parties: [on.fb.me/1K6D9f6](on.fb.me/1K6D9f6)

‘Mera Vote Mera Desh’ Campaign

ADR and NEW launched a nation-wide Campaign titled ‘Mera Vote Mera Desh’ for the Lok Sabha elections. The objective of the Campaign was to reduce the influence of crime and money in elections. The Campaign rolled out in different parts of the country, urged voters to “vote for clean candidates” and not yield to inducements during elections (“don’t sell your vote”).

As part of this Campaign, a gamut of activities were initiated in all states including awareness drives with community based organizations, colleges and universities, media campaigns using print/electronic media, social platforms like Facebook and Google, street plays etc. The Campaign was endorsed by a number of celebrities (local and national) whose messages to voters were relayed using various media. Information on contesting candidates were provided to citizens through Press releases, toll free Helplines, SMS services and out bound bulk calls.

Partners across the states took initiatives to spread awareness regarding the need for a clean, transparent and accountable polity. The Mera Vote Mera Desh Campaign was spearheaded by the National Election Watch coordinators in almost every state in active collaboration with the Election Commission, civil society organizations, educational institutions, NSS, women’s groups and various community based organizations.

Activities organized at the State level

Bihar

Bihar Election Watch organized a seminar in Patna on 8th February 2015, ahead of the Assembly elections in Bihar to be held in October-November 2015. The seminar was in two sessions; first with regard to the ‘Need for inner party democracy and criteria for selection of candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections’ and second regarding the ‘Transparency and accountability in the functioning of Political parties’. Shri A. N. Tiwari, Former Chief Information Commissioner, Dr. Shambhu Sharan Srivastava,
Former Member of Legislative Council of Bihar, Shri Prem Kumar Mani, Former Member of Legislative Counsel-Bihar, and many other eminent persons attended the event.

**Jharkhand**

Jharkhand Election Watch held a meeting of its Core committee on 9th February 2015. This ‘State Consultation on Political Reforms for Good Governance’ was organized to prepare a work plan for the JEW for the next five years. Political party representatives like Shri Shivshankar Oraon (MLA, BJP) & Dr. Rajaram Mahato (ex-MLA, INC), Dr. J. P. Gupta (CPI), Shri Nadeem Khan (ML) and Shri Manohar Yadav (SP) and Prof. Trilochan Sastry, Founder Trustee of ADR, and many other eminent persons participated in the meeting.

**Uttar Pradesh**

UP Election Watch organized a conference in Lucknow on 13th February 2015, ahead of the Assembly elections in UP to be held in 2017. The topic of the discussion was ‘The Role of Civil Society in Electoral Reforms.’ Shri Ramakant Pandey, Deputy CEO, UP, Shri Nishith Rai, Chancellor, Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, Maj. Gen. Anil Verma (Retd.), Head, ADR, and some eminent politicians from the National parties attended the event.

**Maharashtra**

Maharashtra Election Watch had organized a Conference on “Electoral Reforms--Maharashtra Perspective” on 22nd December 2014 at Mumbai for obtaining views on improving the conduct of Local body elections in Maharashtra. Shri J. S. Saharia, State Election Commissioner (SEC), Prof. Ajit Ranade, Founder Trustee, ADR, & Maharashtra Election Watch (MEW), Shri D. M. Sukhtankar, President, AGNI, Maj. Gen. Anil Verma (Retd.), Head, ADR, and many other eminent persons attended the event.
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 2014.

2. **Political Party Watch Software:** An online tool has been created for digitizing donation details of political parties in myneta.
3. **Payment Gateway**: Introduced to facilitate direct online payments through gateway at donations.adrindia.org.

4. **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.

5. **Management of the Website** ([www.adrindia.org](http://www.adrindia.org)) has been taken over completely by our in-house IT team. It is also being continuously revamped to make it more reader friendly.

6. **Embedded infographic**: Embedded infographics have been made in html for Lok Sabha book which can be embedded in the website as well.
11th Annual National Conference on Electoral and Political Reform

Under the aegis of ADR and the West Bengal Election Watch team, the 11th Annual National Conference on Electoral and Political Reforms was held on the 21st and 22nd of March 2015 at Ramakrishna Mission Institute, Golpark, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Topics of discussion during the Annual Conference ranged from ‘Making flow of money in politics transparent: A case for good governance’, ‘Time to build a functional democracy: Empowering local body institutions’ to ‘Media neutrality and its significance in democracy’. These discussions were enriched by the participation of eminent people including the Chief Election Commissioner Shri H. S. Brahma, who was the Chief Guest, representatives of political parties, civil society and the media.

Shri H. S. Brahma 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.

Some of the eminent personalities who participated in the various panel discussions besides Shri Brahma were Swami Suparnananda Maharaj, Secretary, RKM, Golpark, Shri Sukhvilas Verma (INC), Shri T. S. Krishnamurthy (Former CEC), Shri Manoj Bhattacharya (RSP), Shri Prabodh Chandra Panda (State Secretary, CPI), Shri Asim Dasgupta (CPI (M)), Shri Amit Choudhary (CPI(ML)(L)) and Shri Ravindra Kumar (M.D. & Editor – in – Chief, The Statesman).
Our Achievements: 2014-15

Impact of our work

1. Based on a petition filed by ADR to monitor election expenditure of political parties, the Delhi High Court, on 28th May 2014, issued notices to the Union Government and the Election Commission asking them to file their submissions. The next date for hearing is 9th July, 2015. This case has highlighted the enormous amount of money being spent by political parties during elections and pressed for a need to put a cap on political parties’ election expenditure as it exists on candidates’ expenditure.

2. On 28th March 2014, the Delhi High Court held the two major National political parties, BJP and Congress, guilty of taking foreign funding and thereby violating the provisions of FCRA. The Delhi HC also directed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Election Commission of India (ECI) to take action against the two parties within six months. The matter is pending before the Supreme Court and as of now SC has not put a stay on Delhi HC’s order.

3. In the Ashok Chavan paid news case, the Supreme Court passed a judgment holding that Election Commission of India (ECI) has power to disqualify a candidate...
in relation to filing of false election expenditure statement under Section 10A of RPA. ADR had intervened in the case supporting the stand of the ECI. This is one of the few cases where Paid News has been taken as a valid ground for the conviction of an MP/MLA.

4. Ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, ADR-Daksh conducted perhaps the largest ever survey in India where over 2.5 lacs people from 525 Lok Sabha constituencies participated and outlined their priorities with regard to governance issues. The survey reports generated tremendous interest in the performance data/ratings of MPs and was widely covered by the Electronic and Print Media.

5. The 11th Annual National Conference on Electoral and Political Reforms which was held in March 2015 in Kolkata, West Bengal, saw the participation of over one thousand people, including activists from various districts of West Bengal 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.

6. 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

7. 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. Even newly launched ADR blog has hundreds of 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

8. Google Reach Volunteer Program: ADR has been selected for the Google Reach Program where Google will organize private workshop for ADR employees.
Awards & Recognitions

**January 2015:** National Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms won Election Commission of India’s prestigious ‘National CSO Award – 2014’ for “Best Voter Education and Awareness Campaigns for General Election to Lok Sabha 2014” on the occasion of National Voters’ Day on 25 January 2015. State Election Watch chapters of Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have received special mention in the award.

**August 2014:** Recognition for ‘outstanding achievement’ in the category of ‘International Institutional Engagement Award’ by International Centre for Parliamentary Studies, London, UK.

**April 2014:** Awarded the ‘NDTV Indian of the Year-India’s Future’ in Public Service Category.

**March 2014:** Awarded ‘Innovation for India Awards 2014’ by Marico Innovation Foundation under the Social Category.
Photo Gallery (2014-15)
"Electoral reforms for citizens means to vote responsibly and to vote for good candidates."

-GOC Shri Rakesh, while addressing the Conference on the issue of electoral and political reforms on 21st March, 2015.

"The RTI responses have revealed that the electoral reforms recommended by several government commissions have been pending for decades. Political Parties must be audited by CAG."

-Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal (RTI Activist).

"Political Parties are the weak links in Indian democracy and all the major electoral reforms till date have only been brought by the Supreme Court. State funding of elections with setting up of National Election Fund (NEF) to which corporates and citizens can donate funds and get 100% tax exemption is recommended. There is also the need for a separate law for regulating Political Parties functioning and their finances."

-Fomer CEC Shri TS Krishnamurthy

"Senior journalist Shri Pranay Gaba Thakurta said that the Politico-business nexus is the Gangotri of corruption. He suggested that the Political Parties should not be free to have their own auditors to audit their annual accounts."

"There is a minimal legislation in field of monitoring of donations received by Political Parties, present mechanism of monitoring of party funds is replete with loopholes. When sources of 90% of funds received by Political Parties are not known, it is impossible to monitor these funds."

-Shri PK Bish (Director General - Expenditure, EC)
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 broad base 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. Dr. Vipul Mudgal, 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

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2015**

<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>3,423,000.00</td>
<td>15,191,000.00</td>
<td>Computer : (At Cost) (Fcra)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : During the year</td>
<td>18,614,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>1,468,516.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from Founder Members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Additions during the year</td>
<td>117,204.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(224,363.00)</td>
<td>1,361,357.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Earmarked Funds :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures : (At Cost) (Fcra)</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>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>385,138.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Additions during the year</td>
<td>2,200.00</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(139,869.00)</td>
<td>247,469.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Fixed Assets Fund (Fcra)Opening Balance:</td>
<td>1,019,752.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Office Equipment : (At Cost) (Fcra)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less : During the year</td>
<td>(298,709.00)</td>
<td>721,043.00</td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>702,256.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hivos Fixed Assets Fund: Opening Balance</td>
<td>1,353,540.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Additions during the year - Fcra</td>
<td>46,131.00</td>
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<td>Less : During the year</td>
<td>(164,187.00)</td>
<td>1,189,353.00</td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(98,664.00)</td>
<td>649,723.00</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets Fund (Sdtt) : Opening Balance</td>
<td>641,525.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less : During the year</td>
<td>(92,721.00)</td>
<td>548,804.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets Fund - Local : Opening Balance</td>
<td>270,958.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Computer : (At Cost) (Local)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : During the year</td>
<td>94,047.00</td>
<td>365,005.00</td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>561,190.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets Fund - ADR : Opening Balance</td>
<td>182,618.00</td>
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<td>Additions during the year</td>
<td>24,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add : During the year</td>
<td>165,535.00</td>
<td>348,153.00</td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(5,400.00)</td>
<td>579,790.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulation of funds u/s.11(31.03.2014)</td>
<td></td>
<td>19,500,000.00</td>
<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures : (At Cost) (Local)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>134,766.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(62,704.00)</td>
<td>72,062.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation Fund : (Fcra)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Office Equipment : (At Cost) (Local)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>1,209,879.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
<td>222,427.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>72,352.00</td>
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<td>Additions during the year - Local</td>
<td>68,326.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Equipment</td>
<td>284,768.00</td>
<td>1,566,999.00</td>
<td>Less: during the year</td>
<td>(287,960.00)</td>
<td>261,957.00</td>
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## Financial Status

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<th>FUND &amp; LIABILITIES</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>PROPERTY AND ASSETS</th>
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<th>Rs.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation Fund : (Local)</td>
<td>536,143.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Investments :</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>536,143.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Fixed Deposit Account with HDFC Bank</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>29,633.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>- local-General Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Equipment</td>
<td>105,211.00</td>
<td>670,987.00</td>
<td>HDFC Bank - local-Corpus Fund</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Grants:</td>
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<td>HDFC Bank- Fcra Utilisation A/c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ford Foundation- Opening</td>
<td>1,285,723.73</td>
<td></td>
<td>30,994,452.85</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: Utilised during the year</td>
<td>(1,285,723.73)</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,174,457.16</td>
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<td>Omidyar Network- Opening</td>
<td>28,761,073.00</td>
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<td>1,702,956.99</td>
<td>52,871,867.00</td>
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<td>Less: Utilised during the year</td>
<td>(28,761,073.00)</td>
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<td>To NGO Partners</td>
<td>91,743.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hivos- Opening</td>
<td>339,059.00</td>
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<td>To Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>87,968.00</td>
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<td>Add: Received during the year</td>
<td>3,760,062.00</td>
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<td>To TDS Earlier Years</td>
<td>532,116.08</td>
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<td>Less: Utilised during the year</td>
<td>(4,099,121.00)</td>
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<td>To TDS E.Y 14-15</td>
<td>481,106.52</td>
<td>1,192,933.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rohini Nilekani- Opening</td>
<td>2,009,629.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Security Deposits:-</td>
<td>538,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: Utilised during the year</td>
<td>(2,009,629.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(i) Cash And Bank Balances-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In Current/Savings Account with :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IndusInd Bank,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ahmedabad - Local</td>
<td>26,117.18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IndusInd Bank,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ahmedabad - Fcra</td>
<td>15,105.54</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HDFC Bank - Local</td>
<td>496,090.85</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HDFC Bank - Fcra Utilisation A/c</td>
<td>(424,927.51)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State Bank of India-Local</td>
<td>6,683.50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Punjab National Bank - Local</td>
<td>10,739.90</td>
<td>129,809.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities :</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Income and expenditure Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duties &amp; Taxes</td>
<td>48,145.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balance as per last Balance Sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry Creditors</td>
<td>176,920.52</td>
<td></td>
<td>Add : Trfd from Fixed Asset Fund</td>
<td>12,175,649.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>17,245.00</td>
<td>242,310.52</td>
<td>Add : Surplus/less : (Deficit)</td>
<td>55,100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>As per Income &amp; Expenditure A/c</td>
<td>1,435,817.83</td>
<td>14,162,467.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57,935,122.06</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57,935,122.06</td>
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## Financial Status

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2015

<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>39,115,546.73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates, Taxes, Cessess - Muni. Tax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance - Building</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Voluntary Contributions</td>
<td>11,834,302.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation (by way of provision or adjustments)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>By Interest on Bank Deposits Interest on FDRs-IndusInd Bank</td>
<td>79,196.64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interest on FDRs-HDFC Bank Saving Bank Interest</td>
<td>4,731,865.27</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>165,630.62</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,976,692.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>By Other Income Annual Membership Fees</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Member Entrance Fees Charity Trust Contribution</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Refund</td>
<td>192,857.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interest on Staff Loan</td>
<td>2,392.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>201,249.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Remuneration (in the case of a math to the head of the math, including his house-hold expenditure, any)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Accumulation u/s.11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Depreciation :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation on Computer/printer</td>
<td>265,663.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation on Furniture &amp; Fixtures</td>
<td>32,277.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation on Office Equipments</td>
<td>96,447.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Applied to Fixed Assets</td>
<td>257,861.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss of Assets written off</td>
<td>59,919.00</td>
<td>712,167.00</td>
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</tr>
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<td>To Expenditure on objects of the trust</td>
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<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 : Administrative Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exp-Annexure-1</td>
<td>8,445,940.64</td>
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<td>Election Watch Activities</td>
<td>45,533,864.79</td>
<td>53,979,805.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exp-Annexure-2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet</td>
<td>1,435,817.83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56,127,790.26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56,127,790.26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Estates
   New Delhi - 110 003, India

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   No. 20, Vittal Mallya Road
   Bangalore - 560 001, India

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

4. Caring Friends
   44, Vaikunth CHS Ltd.,
   Lallubhai Park Andheri (W)
   Mumbai - 400 058, Maharashtra

5. Vikram Sarabhai Foundation,
   Core 4A, 5th Floor,
   India Habitat Centre,
   Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003

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ujjainihalim@hotmail.com
Press Clipping (2014-15)

88% of Maharashtra MLAs are crorepati

A FEW CRORES AND MORE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 Maharashtra Assembly Elections</td>
<td>₹198 Cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Maharashtra Assembly Elections</td>
<td>₹156 Cr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No PAN Details
Two MNAs whose total assets exceed Rs 1 crore have not declared their PAN details in their affidavits.

Party-wise Crorepatis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Total Assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shiv Sena</td>
<td>54 of 63 MLAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>39 of 41 MLAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>38 of 42 MLAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCP</td>
<td>104 of 127 MLAs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maharashtra boasts of more crorepatis in its legislative assembly than even Haryana, with 88% of the MLAs in the writer's club compared to only 83% in the northern state.

In fact, 203 of the 288 MLAs in Maharashtra have declared assets above Rs 1 crore, of which 60 have assets worth more than Rs 10 crore and 18 have assets exceeding Rs 50 crore. Topping the chart with the highest assets is RPS MLA Mangal Prabhat Lodha, followed by NCP candidate Abu Azmi, who was elected from Mankhurd with declared assets of over Rs 100 crore.

The analysis, done by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), also shows that average assets of MLAs have increased from Rs 1.48 crore in 2003-04 assembly elections to Rs 2.07 crore in 2014 assembly elections. Alok Sharma, state co-ordinator of ADR, said all data is based on affidavits filed by the candidates. "A large majority of people in Maharashtra remain poor, but the people's representatives only seem to be getting richer."

Criminal Lawmakers?

185 MPs in the current Lok Sabha have declared criminal cases against themselves.

2 MPs have cases related to crimes against women related to kidnapping, abducting or inducing to compel her marriage, etc. (IPC Section-366)

10 MPs have cases related to robbery and dacoity

7 MPs have cases related to kidnapping

This is 34% of total LS MPs, compared to 30% in the previous Lok Sabha having criminal cases.
‘ Voters don’t mind candidates with minor criminal records’

Mumbai: In what could come as a surprise to many, voters often overlook candidates’ criminal records. NGOs from the city said. Despite statistics which NCRB’s report shows, voters with criminal records, they say that unless the crime is very grave, voters often vote for the candidate. That is what NGOs have found through surveys conducted over the past few years.

Recently, when the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) analyzed self- sworn affidavits of 2,336 candidates from Maharashtra contesting the assembly elections, they showed how out of 1,316 candidates fielded by five major political parties (BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress and NCP), 640 (48%) of them have criminal cases against them.

Sharad Kumar, coordinator at ADR, said that by presenting these statistics they want the voter to make an informed choice. “But political parties often look through candidates with criminal records if they feel that he or she is a winning candidate. This leaves the voter with little choice. But many times, the educated voters give importance to criminal cases.”

SURVEYS BY NGOS

Shyamulkulkarni, a trustee of AGNI (Action for good Governance and Networking in India), said recently, when there was a ‘Meet your candidates’ session at St. Andrew’s Church courtyard in Bandra, she saw how the educational qualifications of candidates mattered to voters. “Voters were keen on the candidates who represented them being smart. In case of criminal records, unless it was something grave like money laundering or molestation, voters did not consider it an important factor while voting. A factor which mattered to voters was if the candidate was a builder; then they were unsure about him, as there were chances of him favoring the builder’s lobby,” said Kulkarni.

The Praja Foundation NGO, which also conducts its own surveys, recently released results of one which showed how 53% from the city perceived their MLAs to be extremely corrupt in 2014. They said that they observed that most voters believed that voting was their ‘responsibility’. “Therefore, even if the candidate was a criminal but did social work like held blood donation camps or took people on a yatra to a religious place, there were chances of them voting for him,” said Milind Mhaske, project director, Praja Foundation.

Government’s black money list to Supreme Court

Minining firm under lens funded BJP, Cong

The donations

Gangadhar Tendulkar Limited donated Rs. 1.02 crore to the BJP and Rs. 33 lakh to the Congress.

An analysis of donations reveals that Tendulkar, whose MD Radha Tendulkar is the member of both the BDP and the Congress. The mining company in the past years donated Rs 1.48 crore to the BJP and Rs 85 lakh to the Congress.

The donations for Tendulkar are on the black money list.

The conclusion

The donations by Tendulkar group are listed against the names of Tendulkar MD Radha Tendulkar (Gangadhar Tendulkar Limited) and Dr. (Mrs.) Tendulkar Padmanabha (Tendulkar Industries Private Limited). Again in 2008-09, the following amounts were donated to the BJP by Tendulkar Industries Private Limited: Rs 25 lakh on June 29, 2008; Rs 20 lakh on March 11, 2009; Rs 30 lakh on March 30, 2009; and Rs 15 lakh on November 23, 2009.

Youths urged to protect democracy

Tracking poll mood

Annual Report 2014-15  41
Half the city MLAs face criminal charges

Stuti Girula
Mumbai, August 12

As many as 36 of the 32 Members of Legislative Assembly (excluding four ministers) from Mumbai state were charged in criminal cases as of December 2012. This was revealed by NGO Aajeevika Foundation, which released a report card on MLAs Monday.

Fifteen MLAs had FIRs against them in criminal cases as per election affidavits filed by them before the FRA (Assembly polls).

Post elections, new criminal cases were registered against 10 MLAs till December 2012. This has exposed the sorry state of criminalisation of politics in everyday life in Mumbai. Dropping of criminal charges or addition of new cases has occurred without any conviction in all cases.

Justice P B Sawant, retired Supreme Court judge said that election reforms were needed.

An urgent amendment to the law is needed that asks for suspension of a public representative against whom an FIR or chargesheet is filed, till the time he is acquitted by court. Having said that, it is also important to have a system that can check false FIR and false naming in chargesheets, he said.

He added that the trend is going on due to lack of checks and balances in the system and electoral fraud.

Know Your MLAs

Mumbai City

MLA

Chargesheets

Abu Azmi
9
Abrol Shahabuddin
9
Bali Nandgaonkar
5
Gopal Shetty
8
Mangal Late
5
Mangal Sangale
4
Nitin Sawant
4
Prakash Mehta
7
Bala Sathe (Shiv Sena)
7
Pravin Darekar
12
Kamal Khedkar
4
Kamal Laxman
2
Sattar Tanwir
1
Vidya Sheode
8
Sudhakar Desai
3
Virendra Bhokar
3

Women’s Day Celebrations

Khan to return home on February 3

Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan’s decision to return to Mumbai on February 3 on the eve of Women’s Day will be his first official visit after he was discharged from the hospital on Sunday.

PRAVIN DAREKAR

Questions asked

Is VRS ROOM open for all? What are the rules?

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88% of new Maharashtra MLAs are crorepati

HOUSE BREAKUP 22 Oct, 2014

MONEYBAGS, CRIME-ACCUSED MAKE IT TO MHA ASSEMBLY

DUBIOUS NETAS

165 136
Pending cases 2014 2009

114 86
Serious criminal cases 2014 2009

74/122
MLAs facing criminal charges

15/63
BJP

39/41
Sena

38/42
NCP

CROREPATI MLAs

253 174
2014 2009

80 (28%) MLAs have total assets worth more than ₹ 10 cr

2014 2009

104/122
CROREPATI MLAS

148 or 52% MLAs booked in criminal cases

94 face criminal charges like murder, kidnapping & dacoity

2 STATES: TALE OF TAINTED MLAs

MAHARASHTRA

HARYANA

148 or 17% of the 88 MLAs have criminal cases like forgery & extortion

Total MLAs

Cong 24 (30%) 81
NCP 25 (41%) 61
BJP 28 (46%) 46
Shiv Sena 35 (78%) 41

198 or 70% MLAs are crorepati with average asset of ₹ 4.51 cr

Source: ADR analysis based on candidates’ affidavits filed with EC in 2009
50% of Maha MLAs have criminal background: ADR

17% Of Haryana Legislators Are Tainted

New Delhi: Almost half of the members of the Maharashtra Legislative Body have criminal cases pending against them. While the MLAs have huge power, most of them have been implicated in criminal cases. This is a serious concern as the criminal cases against them could have a direct impact on the voters. Hence, a large number of voters are likely to be affected by these cases.

Complaints on:
- Media and social media
- Absence of real elections
- Lack of long-term plans
- Increase in criminal activities
- High tax rates
- Non-transparent financial planning

What’s the aim of EWR?
- To increase participation in elections
- To increase transparency in the election process
- To encourage people to vote
- To ensure genuine representation

NGO AGRM wants candidates to:
- Implement the Maharashtra Rights to Essential Services Act
- Promote peace and social harmony
- Provide basic services to the people
- Support the underprivileged sections of society

BJP readies report card ahead of Shah’s visit

Maharashtra unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has prepared a report card for the upcoming elections. The report card includes details of the performance of the candidates and their contributions to the society.

What do NGOs want political parties to do?
- Provide equal opportunities to all candidates
- Ensure transparency in the election process
- Provide funds to political parties for election campaigns
- Promote cashless transactions

Other plans:
- Address the needs of the underprivileged sections of society
- Ensure equal opportunities for all candidates
- Promote peace and social harmony
- Ensure transparency in the election process
12 of Modi’s ministers, 65 MPs have licensed guns

From p1

The guns were sold below the market price.

An analysis shows that of the 65 BJP MPs owning guns, over two dozen have licences for two or more weapons. These include Ram Kripal Yadav, Radha Mohan Singh, Om Prakash Yadav, Dharmpur, Anurag Singh Thakur, Laxman Giluwa, Prahlad Singh Patel, Uday Pratap Singh, Nagendra Singh, Anoop Mishra, Vincent H Pala, Nihalchand, Santosh Gangwar, Virendra Singh, Jagdambika Pal, Rajvir Singh, Ashok Kumar Dohare, Mukesh Rajput, Vijay Kumar Singh, Kirti Vardhan Singh, Adityanath, Krishna Pratap, Keshav Prasad, Nepal Singh, Sharad Tripathi, Rajesh Kumar Singh and Feroze Varun Gandhi.

While one rifle or revolver is enough for security, one wonders why a politician would need two or more weapons!

Queries to most of the ministers remained unanswered.

However, Minister of State for Human Resource Development Ram Shankar Katheria told DNA that the revolver had been with him since 2001 after the brutal murder of his father Sosonal in 1986 and brother Ram Gopal in 2001. He had got it for self-defence and has licence from the Uttar Pradesh government. Katheria got security in 2009 when he was elected MP from Agra.

Jasvinder Singh of ADR put it this way: “In a country like India where the public remain without security and firearms, it is really unfortunate that MPs and ministers who have security feel the need for guns.”

CEC may de-register ‘dormant’ parties

KOLKATA, SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2015

Chief Election Commissioner of India S.S. Bahman said on Saturday that the Election Commission was contemplating revoking the registration of political parties which did not contest in elections in last 5-10 years. He said this while addressing a conference on “Election and Political Reforms” organised by West Bengal Election Commission (WREC).

The Chief Election Commissioner informed that there were more than 3,000 registered political parties in the country of which less than 300 participate in the electoral process. He said the remaining behind not contesting elections despite being registered was the certain financial benefits, such as exemptions from income tax, the political parties enjoy.

“We are not able to enforce it. But if there is a pressure from the people on electoral representatives, I think this kind of bogus registration of political parties for doing other than the real political activity can be curbed. But state funding or no funding is not the issue here,” he said.

Meanwhile, speaking on EC’s initiative to seed Aadhaar card information with the electoral roll, he said, “When we are able to seed the Aadhaar figure (number) on EPIC card that will ensure that there is not a single duplicate number. We will do it definitely by 2015 and then India will be the only country in the world where there will be complete biometric voters.”
"No office in the land is more important than that of being a citizen"

Felix Frankfurter