

ALL INDIA PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO



Let People's Realities Define Our National Priorities !

Summary of Demands from 100 Parliamentary Constituencies

February 2009

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

Introduction

With the Budget Session of Parliament coming to a close, all eyes are now on run up to the national elections expected to be held in April this year. With less than two months to go, political parties are already begun vying with each other to garner mind and media space as the **world's largest electorate** prepares to choose the government that will set the agenda for India in the next five years.

In this context, a **first-of-its-kind effort** is being made by citizens' groups and civil society organizations across the country to create a national agenda through a localized process of consultation and dialogue. The '*All India People's Manifesto*', an initiative of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan¹ which is a national campaign for governance accountability, is bringing local groups together to discuss and develop a 10-point development agenda for each constituency. This effort aims to inspire people to engage with the national elections as an opportunity not only to cast their vote, but also shape the future that they want for themselves and for the country.

Coverage

The All India People's Manifesto process has already been flagged off in **365 of the 547 constituencies of India, spread over 27 states and 2 Union Territories**². The first 100 Local Manifestos that have been released as part of this process include the constituencies of Rae Bareilly (Sonia Gandhi), Chapra (Lalu Prasad Yadav), Lucknow (Atal Behari Vajpayee), Vaishali (Raghuvansh Prasad Singh), Ambala (Selja Kumari), Nellore (Panabaka Lakshmi), Sasaram (Meira Kumar), Hajipur (Ram Vilas Paswan), Dausa (Sachin Pilot), Jhunjunu (Sis Ram Ola) and Bikaner (Dharmendra).

Process

The Local Manifestos have been developed through a **two-stage process** that includes in the first stage, public meetings held in village clusters to identify prevalent needs and concerns. For

¹ '**Wada Na Todo Abhiyan**' is a national campaign working with local partners across 23 states to hold the government accountable to fulfill its promise to End Poverty & Social Exclusion. Our efforts include consistently tracking the performance of the UPA government on its National Common Minimum Program (2004-2009) and its reports have been widely quoted by the media as a parallel report to the government's evaluation of its own performance.

² Andhra, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, J&K, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Himachal, Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal, Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Nagaland, Delhi, Chandigarh and Punjab.

instance in Maharajganj constituency of Uttar Pradesh, five separate public meetings were across blocks of the constituency to develop the base list of aspirations. In the second stage, the overall demands have been taken back to the constituency through a ‘public hearing’ or Lok Adalat involving representatives of the different communities and groups present in the constituency.

For instance, the Local Hearing organized in Kurnool constituency of Andhra Pradesh involved presentations made by Youth and Students Associations, the Teacher’s Federation, Advocates, Senior Citizens, SHG members, NGOs, Political Organizations and representatives from other professional associations. Experts, academics and respected figures from the constituency have been involved to support the prioritization of demands for the constituency.

The local media has been extensively involved in covering and reporting the proceedings across parliamentary constituencies. For instance, in Etah (Uttar Pradesh), youth groups facilitating the process effectively used door-to-door campaigning, public hoardings, cable television and the extensive coverage provided by local newspapers to create a high level of visibility and enthusiasm for the development of the People’s Manifesto in the constituency.

Panchayat members, Members of Legislative Assembly and local office bearers of political parties have also attended these public hearings at the constituency level. In states such as Maharashtra, the Member of Parliament has been present at the Public Hearing to receive the People’s Manifesto from the given constituency whereas in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, MPs have received the Local Manifesto through a delegation.

A total of 230,943 people have been involved through the public consultations and hearings that were organized in 100 parliamentary constituencies. This includes the direct participation of citizens from different walks of life as well as organizational representatives speaking on behalf of an extended community. For instance, 5000 people – including an overwhelming majority of women – attended the Public Hearing held in Gondia-Bhandara constituency of Maharashtra.

Emerging Demands

The demands made across 100 parliamentary constituencies covered in the first phase of the All India People’s Manifesto process present a vivid picture of the **gains and misses in the current term** of government. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Domestic Violence Act clearly emerge as the initiatives with the greatest recall value at the local level, with a

majority of the constituencies calling for further measures to strengthen and expand the scope of the Act.

On the contrary, there seems to be a mood of discontent in relation to issues such as the regulation of land transfers, local management of natural resources, pricing of agricultural produce and support to farmers as well as the management of social conflict and exclusion.

The Manifestos have highlighted the need to strengthen the governance through measures such as Police Reforms, greater political participation of women, integration of Dalits, Adivasis, Minorities and Denotified Tribes in the social and economic sectors and steps to curb communalism and persecution of minorities in the name of ‘terrorism’. The demand for a political representatives who will ‘walk with the people’ and leaders with integrity and clarity of vision has also emerged as a common thread across constituencies.

The demand for better functioning social services, with a clear preference for public management rather than transfer of key sectors such as Health and Education to private agencies has been expressed. Several constituencies have also aspired for better physical infrastructure and connectivity, particularly with the objective of boosting the local economy.

Support from Eminent Citizens

Mohini Giri (Founding Chairperson of the National Women’s Commission), **Gauhar Raza** (Film maker and scientist) and **Colin Gonsalves** (Human Rights Lawyer) released 100 People’s Manifestos from constituencies across eight states in a curtain raiser event of the All India People’s Manifesto.

“This is what I have been dreaming over the last 40 years of my work and through this effort we can achieve this dream to bring people closer to democracy,” said **Mohini Giri** while releasing the People’s Manifestos at this event.

“We are on the brink of one of the biggest movements seen in post-independence India”, said noted film maker **Gauhar Raza**. “There is a need to rekindle the dream of a plural India and this effort finally makes it possible for hundreds of thousands of voices across the country heard.”

Human Rights advocate **Colin Gonsalves** highlighted the importance of the demands that have emerged in reinforcing the priorities such as the Right to Food and Protection against Torture. “The charters reflect what is uppermost in the minds of the people across the country and

validate the efforts being made to protect and ensure the rights of the most marginalized in the country,” he said.

Members of Parliament Respond

Lok Sabha MP, Sanjay Dhotre endorsed the People’s Manifesto at the local hearing in the parliamentary constituency of **Akola**, Maharashtra and assured that the Manifesto will be incorporated in his own election manifesto and taken up with his party manifesto committees. More recently, the **State Minister for Industry**, Narayan Rane and Member of Parliament for **Wardha**, Suresh Waghmare also attended the Lok Adalat organized on 21.02.2009.

The Member of Parliament from **Hamirpur, UP** has officially acknowledged the Local Manifesto. “I will, through my office, take into consideration the demands that have been put forward and work to integrate the same...Your efforts are worthy of encouragement and I congratulate you for the same,” says the letter sent by Rajnarayan Budholiya, MP, Hamirpur. Members of Parliament from **Anand** (Bharatsinh Madhavsingh Solanki), **Godhra** (Bhupendrasingh Prabhatsingh Solanki), **Saharanpur** (Rasheed Masood) and Sachin Pilot (**Dausa**) have received delegations submitting the Local Manifestos and promised consider to the demands raised.

Next Steps

In March, the All India People’s Manifesto will also go online through an integrated framework of web tools aimed at mobilizing youth and netizens to ‘voice their demands’ via video, SMS and a host of social networking sites. The month long e-campaign is expected to generate the demands to form the Local Manifestos in the metro cities and other urban constituencies. The coming month will also see the consolidation and release of thematic charters that have emerged through the All India People’s Manifesto process including the consolidated outcomes of the Women’s Charters to be released on the occasion of International Women’s Day.

For more information and to stay updated on developments, visit www.wadanatodo.net or contact Pasang Lepcha at **9810745404** or pasang@wadanatodo.net

100 CHARTERS - LIST OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES			
State		Constituency	Member of Parliament
Andhra	1	Amalapuram	GV Harsha Kumar, INC
	2	Anantapur	Reddy , Anantha Venkatarami INC
	3	Bhadrachalam	Midiam Babu Rao, CPM
	4	Chittoor	Dk Adikesavulu Naidu, TDP
	5	Hyderabad	Owaisi , Asaduddin AIMIM
	6	Kurnool	Reddy , K Jayasurya Prakash INC
	7	Machilipatnam	Badiga , Ramakrishna INC
	8	Nagar Kurnool	DrM Jagannath, TDP
	9	Nandyal	Reddy , SPY INC
	10	Narsapuram	Chegoni Harirama Jogaiyah, INC
	11	Nellore	Panabaka Lakshmi, INC
	12	Ongole	Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, INC
	13	Rajampet	Sai Pratap Annayyagari, INC
	14	Tirupathi	Chinta Mohan, INC
	15	Vijaywada	Lagadapati Rajagopal, INC
Bihar	1	Araria	Paswan , Sukdeo BJP
	2	Arrah	Singh, Kanti, RJD
	3	Aurangabad	Nikhil Kumar, INC
	4	Banka	Yadav Giridhari, RJD
	5	Bhagalpur	Hussain , Syed Shah Nawaz BJP
	6	Buxar	Lalmuni Chaubey, BJP
	7	Chapra	Lalu Prasad, RJD
	8	Hajipur	Paswan , Ram Vilas LJSP
	9	Jehanabad	Singh, Ganesh Prasad, RJD
	10	Karakat	Bikramganj Meena Singh JD(U)
	11	Katihar	Nikhil Kumar Choudhary, BJP
	12	Maharajganj	Prabunath Singh, JD(U)
	13	Madhepura	Pappu Yadav, RJD
	14	Munger	Monghyr Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav RJD
	15	Purnea	Singh , Uday BJP
	16	Sasaram	Kumar , Meira INC
	18	Siwan	Shahabuddin, Dr Mohammed, RJD
	19	Supaul	Saharsa Ranjeet Ranj, LJP

	20	Vaishali	Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, RJD
	21	West Champaran	Bettiah Raghunath Jha RJD
Haryana	1	Ambala	Selja , Kumari INC
	2	Karnal	Sharma , Dr Arvind Kumar INC
	3	Kurukshetra	Jindal , Naveen INC
	4	Bhiwani-Mahendragarh	Kuldeep Bishnoi (INC)
Gujarat	1	Amreli	Thummar , Shri Virjibhai INC
	2	Anand	Solanki , Bharatsinh Madhavsinh INC
	3	Banaskantha	Chavda , Harisinh Pratapsinh INC
	4	Bulsar (ST)	Patel Kishanbhai Vestabhai
	5	Dahod (ST)	Babubhai Katara, BJP
	6	Junagadh	Barad , Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai INC
	7	Kaira	Patel , Dinsha J INC
	8	Kutch	Gadhavi , Pushpdan Shambhudan BJP
	9	Patan	Kanodia , Mahesh Kumar BJP
	10	Porbandar	Patel , Shri Harilal Madhavjibhai BJP
	11	Rajkot	Kathiria , Dr. Vallabhbbhai BJP
	12	Sabarkantha	Mistry , Madhusudan Devram INC
Maharashtra	1	Akola	Dhotre , Sanjay Shamrao BJP
	2	Amravati	Gudhe , Anantrao SS
	3	Aurangabad	Khaire , Chandrakant Bhaurao SS
	4	Beed	Patil , Jaisingrao Gaikwad NCP
	5	Bhuldana	Adsul , Anandrao Vithoba SS
	6	Chandrapur	Ahir, Hansraj Gangaram BJP
	7	Gondia & Bhandara	Patle , Shishupal Natthu BJP
	8	Jalna	Danve , Raosaheb Patil BJP
	9	Latur	Patil , Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar BJP
Rajasthan	1	Jodhpur	Bishnoi , Jaswant Singh BJP
	2	Dausa	Pilot , Sachin INC
	3	Tonk	Meghwal , Kailash BJP
	4	Jhalawar	Singh , Dushyant BJP
	5	Jhunjhunu	Ola, Sis Ram INC
	6	Nagaur	Dangawas , Bhanwar Singh BJP
	7	Barmer	Singh , Manvendra BJP
	8	Sikar	Maharia , Subhash BJP

	9	Bikaner	Dharmendra , BJP
	10	Alwar	Yadav , Dr Karan Singh INC
Uttar Pradesh	1	Bahraich	Sayda , Rubab SP
	2	Balrampur	Singh, Brij Bhushan Sharan BJP
	3	Banda	Gupta , Shyama Charan SP
	4	Bareilly	Gangwar , Santosh Kumar BJP
	5	Bijnor	Munshiram , RLD
	6	Chail (SC)	Kumar , Shailendra SP
	7	Deoria	Singh , Mohan SP
	8	Etah	Yadav , Dr Kunwar Devendra Singh SP
	9	Faizabad	Yadav , Mitrasen BSP
	10	Fatehpur	Nishad , Mahendra Prasad BSP
	11	Ghazipur	Ansari , Afzal SP
	12	Ghosi	Rajbhar , Chandra Dev Prasad SP
	13	Hamirpur	Budholiya , Rajnarayan SP
	14	Hapur	Goel , Surendra Prakash INC
	15	Jaunpur	Yadav , Parasnath SP
	16	Lalganj	Saroj , Daroga Prasad SP
	17	Lucknow	Vajpayee , Atal Bihari BJP
	18	Maharajganj	Chaudhary , Pankaj BJP
	19	Mirzapur	Dube, Ramesh BSP
	20	Misrikh	Rawat , Ashok Kumar BSP
	21	Muzaffarnagar	(Hasan, Munawar, BSP)
	22	Padrauna	Yadav , Baleshwar NLP
	23	Phulpur	Ahmad , Ateeq SP
	24	Pratapgarh	Singh, Akshay Pratap SP
	25	Rae Bareli	Gandhi , Sonia INC
	26	Saharanpur	Masood , Rasheed SP
	27	Sitapur	Verma , Rajesh BSP
	28	Unnao	Pathak, Brajesh, BSP
	29	Varanasi	Mishra , Dr Rajesh Kumar INC