



PEOPLES MANIFESTO



- ***By the People***
- ***Of the People***
- ***For the People***

PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO

[for 2023 Assembly elections for the state of Telangana]

In a democracy political parties, at the time of elections, release Manifestos loaded with Welfare programmes they are going to implement. In the recent past political parties are competing each other and rolling out a basket of welfare programmes which are mostly voter centric. If all the announced welfare programmes are added up, the sum will be many times more than the entire annual budget of the state. The on-upmanship of political parties in announcing freebies is nothing but bribing the voters with the tax payers money. We have many examples of countries spending major chunk of their budget on welfare programmes leading to serious financial crisis. Unfortunately selfish politicians are not able to see the ground realities. Therefore, there is a need to balance between welfare and development. The manifesto of any political party should be development and community centric welfare and not voter centric welfare programme, keeping the facts in view and after wide range of consultations with cross section of society. Forum for Good Governance prepared peoples manifesto.

1. 25% OF THE STATE BUDGET TO BE ALLOCATED TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION.

Education : After formation of Telangana State, budget allocation is gradually reduced from 10% of budget to

6%. The budget allocation is just sufficient to meet salary expenses of Teachers leaving very little for maintenance of school buildings. Many school buildings are in bad shape and lack drinking water and toilet facilities. In order to deliver social justice to all youth in the State, educational loans and financing for skill development should be given to all students who seek them, on long term repayment basis.

Health : Shortage of doctors and supporting staff is effecting the health services. Added to it preventive health care is not taken care. Corporate hospitals are flourishing due to trust deficiency with Government hospitals.





2. GOVERNANCE REFORMS IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION SECTOR FOR BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY.

Article 171 (3) (C) provides for One – Twelfth of total members of legislative council shall be elected from Teachers.

In Telangana there are 5 MLCs from Teachers constituency. They are meant to represent teacher’s problems and make efforts to solve them. That being the case, why there should be teachers unions. At present there are 53 unions some recognized and some not. In the name of union work they don’t attend classes. The department heads have no control leading to effecting education. Government teachers and highly qualified and well paid when compared to teachers working in private schools, nevertheless standards in Government schools are poor. If given a chance parents prefer private school paying heavy fee. The education department needs reforms by insulating from Unions.

In Medical and Health department also the unions are spreading indiscipline. Service motto towards patients needs improvement. There is a need for structural reforms.

3. BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR WELFARE PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 30% OF ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE STATE.

Welfare programmes are like pain killers, and for they provide only temporary relief. Short sighted politicians are neglecting programmes like health, education, infrastructure development and are busy in inventing new free bees to lure the voters. Major chunk of budget should be spent on infrastructure development and employment generation programmes.

4. AS RECOMMENDED BY STATE FINANCE COMMISSION REGULAR RELEASES TO BE MADE TO LOCAL BODIES AS THEIR RIGHT AND NOT AS A GRATIS.

Article 243 –I of Constitution of India mandates constitution of State Finance Commission (similar to Central Finance commission) to review the financial position of Panchayats and recommends distribution between the state and the Panchayats of the net proceeds of taxes etc. livable by State. In the State of Telangana State Finance Commission recommendations are not followed and the

Government at their will and pleasure release amounts to Panchayats as a gratis while the central funds are released regularly state funds are not released leading to Gram Panchayats and other Municipal bodies starved of funds. Classic example is the GHMC. Following the spirit of the 74th Amendments of our Constitution, local self government at the level of the municipality is to be strengthened by the state government by transferring the 18 functions mentioned, with necessary functionaries and funds. Inspired by the Bhagidari System that was very successfully practiced in New Delhi, many construction, development and repair works can be entrusted in a collaborative manner to the Resident Welfare Associations; in which case, there will be more quality, less delays and lower cost.

5. TAX TO BE REDUCED ON PETROL AND DIESEL.

Central and State taxes put together form 50% on the cost of petrol and diesel in the market. Central Government have reduced the taxes twice but the State is not reducing. The sale price of petrol and diesel in Telangana is one of the highest in the country. High cost of petrol and diesel is fueling inflation especially articles of daily need.



6. RYTHU BANDHU (R.B) TO BE GIVEN TO PEOPLE HOLDING LAND UP TO 10 AC. ONLY. IF THE TENET FARMER IS CULTIVATING THE LAND HE SHOULD GET RYTHU BANDHU.

Present system of paying R.B. based on land holding as recorded in pass book should be modified. R.B. to be given to farmers holding 10 Ac. and below and is cultivating. Fallow lands and leased lands should not be given R.B. instead of paying to absentee land lord R.B. to be paid to tenant farmer.

7. CROP INSURANCE TO BE COVERED TO ALL THE FARMERS IN THE STATE.

Farmers to be covered under crop insurance to protect him for vagaries of nature leading to crop failures, barring few states like Telangana it is being implemented in entire country.

8. FREE ELECTRICITY TO AGRICULTURE (BORE WELLS) TO BE LIMITED TO 3 BORES (PUMPS), MORE THAN THAT THEY SHOULD BE CHARGED.

Lot of public funds are being spent on irrigation projects to provide irrigation water

to all the agricultural lands. Big farmers with multiple bore wells are consuming large quantity of electricity. Free power to be limited to 3 bore wells per farmer over and above they should be charged.

9. SEED CERTIFICATION UNIT TO BE STRENGTHENED AND NO SPURIOUS SEED SHOULD ENTER THE MARKET.

Farmers are cheated by spurious seeds being sold in market. Seed certification wing should be strengthened and cases booked on suppliers and sellers of spurious seeds.



10. OIL SEEDS AND MILLETS CULTIVATION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES.

In Telangana Paddy is being grown on more than 50% of total cropped area. Due to increased Paddy cultivation there is

problem in marketing, added to it lands are becoming saline due to continuous Paddy cultivation. Oil seeds and millets cultivation should be encouraged which is in great demand and to help farmers subsidy and support price to be thought off.

11. HIGH POWER TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SHOULD BE CONSTITUTED TO INQUIRE INTO ALL THE IRRIGATION PROJECTS TAKEN UP DURING LAST 10 YEARS REGARDING THEIR TECHNICAL SOUNDNESS, COST EFFECTIVENESS, ETC.

During last 10 years huge funds are spent on irrigation projects. There is a continuous allegation of corruption, defective technology and the need of such mega projects are making common man confused about the utility or otherwise of irrigation project taken up during last 10 years. To clear the confusion a high power committee to be constituted to go into the technical soundness, cost effectiveness and the need for such mega projects.

12. WHITE PAPER TO BE BROUGHT OUT ON POWER GENERATION IN THE STATE.

When Telangana State was formed the State was producing hardly 50% of its power requirement. Government of Telangana gave top priority for power generation,

so far 60 thousand crores were spent, still we are purchasing 25% of our power requirement from other states at huge cost. Bhadradi power plant which has completed much beyond schedule has become controversial. The 4000 M.W. Yadadi power plant is limping. The state is spending thousand crores monthly to purchase power at high cost. The distribution corporation is in neck deep losses, dues have mounted to 60 thousand crores. Government should take people into confidence and publish a white paper on power sector in Telangana.

13. GOVERNMENT WORKING SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE. ALL THE G.O.S ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AND MAJOR DECISIONS TAKEN TO BE PUT ON GOVERNMENT WEBSITE.

Democracy requires an informed citizenry and transparency of information which are vital to its functioning and also to contain corruption and to hold Governments and their instrumentalities accountable to the Governed (people). All the Government orders and major decisions taken by Government should be put on Government website. Politicians and officers taking decisions with malafied intentions should be made accountable.

14. CORRUPTION IN ADMINISTRATION TO BE CONTROLLED.

Corruption has become a serious problem in the state. Major corruptions in big projects or petty corruption in Revenue and Municipal offices is hampering progress. The citizen is facing much difficulty in getting the work done which he is lawfully entitled. Major corruption in construction of Mega projects, etc is eroding the confidence of people. In Secretariat corruption related cases are pending for decades. Some institutions like Commissioner of enquiries, Tribunal for disciplinary proceedings are adding to the delay. All corruption related cases to be disposed in 3 years time. Law, Governing Municipality, HMDA, and Revenue etc. should be simplified to prevent corruption.



15. LOKAYUKTA ACT TO BE AMENDED ON THE LINES OF KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA ACT.

Telangana State Lokayukta Act has limited powers and cannot take cognizance of irregularities committed by MLAs, MPs, Ministers and Chief Minister. In contrast Karnataka Lokayukta Act is very powerful and has jurisdiction to inquire omissions and Commissions committed by MLAs, MPs, Ministers and Chief Minister. At

present in the state of Telangana political corruption is rampant especially the MLAs. This has to be controlled by amending the Telangana Lokayukta Act.

16. ECONOMY TO BE OBSERVED IN ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE.

Close to 60 thousand crores per annum is the wage bill of employees working and retired. Added to it, to rehabilitate the politician's lot of corporations are created adding to expenditure. Economy should be observed in Government spending.

17. STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAINTAIN CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH UNION GOVERNMENT AND TRY TO GET AS MANY CENTRAL PROJECTS AS POSSIBLE.

Since last two decades, the regional parties in states are on warpath with Union Government. Telangana State is suffering because of State Government not maintaining cordial relations with Union Government. Irrespective of party affiliations the state should maintain good working relations with union Government and try to get Central schemes to the state.

18. ALL VACANT POSTS IN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO BE FILLED UP FOLLOWING DUE PROCESS.

State Government should give utmost importance to education, as poor, mostly in villages depend on Government schools and colleges. All the vacancies should be filled up to provide quality education.

19. ALL THE VACANT POSTS OF DOCTORS AND OTHER PARA MEDICAL STAFF TO BE FILLED UP FOLLOWING DUE PROCESS.

Many hospitals are under staffed. Government should see that all the hospitals should have required doctors, staff and also medicines.

20. CONTROL THE CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR BY REDUCING SALE POINTS IN PHASED MANNER.



Since formation of Telangana State liquor consumption has increased many folds. In 2014 the State revenue from liquor was Rs. 8000 crores which is now increased to Rs. 40,000 crores - a jump of 500%. Today in villages we may not find a Government school but we find 3 to 4 belt shops selling liquor. Liquor consumption should be reduced gradually by reducing sale outlets.

21. ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SALE OF DRUGS AND THEIR CONSUMPTION.

During last five years the consumption of drugs has increased many folds in the State. Consumption of Ganja is spreading to villages and many youth are being addicted to it. At present attempts being made by Government is appreciable but not sufficient. Earlier Hyderabad city was consumption centre for drugs, today it has become a distribution centre also.

22. POLITICAL PARTIES MUST CALCULATE THE FUNDS REQUIRED FOR ALL THE PROMISES MADE IN THEIR ELECTION MANIFESTO AND TELL THE PEOPLE WHERE FROM THESE EXTRA FUNDS THEY ARE GOING TO GET.

Without any reference to funds availability tall promises are made. Free bees the political parties are announcing will not improve the living condition of poor, but put a heavy burden on state budget. Venizulaa, an oil rich country has become bankrupt thanks to heavy spending in the name of welfare programmes.

23. AS DIRECTED BY SUPREME COURT OF INDIA (IN PRAKASH SINGH BADAL CASE) THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE UP POLICE REFORMS. PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF POLICE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE DONE REGULARLY AND PLACED ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

Politicians have taken the control of Police department. Various cadres of the police officers for plum postings and post retirement benefits are dancing to the tune of politicians. Equality before law and rule of law have no place in the working of the department. In the year 2006 Supreme Court of India



issued guidelines for effective functioning of Police department. Inter-alia, the guidelines recommend for constitution of State Security Commission (SSC) to ensure State Government does not exercise unwarranted influence or pressure on the Police, lay down broad Police guidelines, give direction and evaluate the performance of the State Police. The other directive of Supreme Court is Establishment of Police Complaint Authority. The function of the Authority is to inquire into cases of misconduct by the Police officers. State Government should take steps to constitute State Security Commission and Police Complaint Authority.

24. STRICT CONTROL ON FOOD ADULTERATION.



Food adulteration is rampant in the State affecting the health of people. There should be strict control on eateries especially on the outskirts. The Food Inspectors in GHMC and in other urban areas to control food adulteration. At present one food testing lab at Hyderabad is not able to cope up the work load. Another lab with latest technology should be established.

25. MLAS AND MINISTERS SHOULD FILE THEIR ANNUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT (LIKE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) TO SPEAKER TO BE KEPT ON GOVERNMENT WEBSITE.

On the lines with Government employees the MLAs, MLCs, MPs, Ministers and Chief Minister should file their annual property statement to speakers who should place them on the floor of the house and on Government website.

26. WATER BODIES AND RIVERS TO BE PROTECTED FROM POLLUTION.

Inspite of WALTA Act Government is unable to protect the water bodies and rivers from pollution and encroachment. Pollution Control Board should be strengthened to take cognizance of pollution caused by polluting industries. Musi River, Husain Sagar and many small tanks in GHMC limits are the classic example of Government neglect of water bodies.

27. FOREST PROTECTION TO BE TAKEN ON TOP PRIORITY. ALL THE ENCROACHMENTS IN FORESTS AFTER 2005 SHOULD BE EVICTED. NO MORE PODU CULTIVATION.

Denudation of Forests is causing ecological imbalance. Encroachments into forests, cutting tree growth and cultivating the land (PODU cultivation) should not be encouraged. All the encroachments into forests after 2005 should be evicted and planted with fruit bearing trees to help local Tribals.



28. 25% OF THE TICKETS TO BE GIVEN TO WOMEN BY ALL POLITICAL PARTY TILL THE WOMEN RESERVATION BILL COME IN TO OPERATION.

Indian Parliament has enacted women reservation bill making 33% reservation to women in State Assemblies and Parliament, but it may take some time before the Act comes into force, mean while political parties should give 25% tickets to women in Assembly and Parliament elections.

29. GUIDELINES / RULES TO BE FRAMED FOR SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES FOR WELFARE PROGRAMMES. IN RURAL AREAS THE GRAMA SABHA SHOULD IDENTIFY THE BENEFICIARIES AND IN URBAN AREAS THE WARD COMMITTEES SHOULD IDENTIFY THE BENEFICIARIES. THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY INVOLVEMENT OF POLITICIANS (MLAS) IN SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES.

In selection of beneficiaries for welfare programmes Grama Sabha at village level and Ward Committees at Urban areas should be the authority and the Collector should approve such list. The MLAs who are causing havoc in selection of beneficiaries should be kept out of the programme. There should be involvement of Resident Welfare Association in decision making regarding all activities in their neighborhood.

30. PERSONS WITH CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TICKET BY POLITICAL PARTIES TO CONTEST ELECTIONS.

At present close to 40% of sitting MLAs and MPs have criminal cases against them. If things are allowed to drift further, the day is not far off when in State Assembly and Parliament only criminals will be sitting and deciding the fate of people. No party should give tickets to people with criminal record. In case a criminal is given ticket the party should explain the reasons for such decision, also publish in print media (three times) about the cases pending on such candidates.



31. THERE SHOULD BE TOTAL BAN ON SALE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS.

In a poor country land is the capital and our well being lies in proper utilization of the land. As the population increases we may require land for habitation, other civic amenities like schools, hospitals, burial grounds etc. No Government land should be put to sale. However, lands may be given on lease for short terms for productive purposes.

32. CONTROL ON PRICE RAISE.

Due to faulty taxation policies the prices of commodities are increasing. Heavy taxation on petrol and diesel is one of the reasons for overall inflation. Government should take steps to control the prices, especially food articles.

33. SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION ACTIVITIES TO BE TAKEN UP.

As the technology is improving skilled persons are required to handle it. Even in Gulf countries skilled persons are in demand. Youngsters, especially school and college dropouts should be imparted skills so that they get employment.



34. CONSTITUTION OF WELFARE BOARD FOR TELANGANA PEOPLE WORKING IN GULF COUNTRIES.

Close to 12 lakh people especially from rural areas went to Gulf countries in search of employment. Sometimes due to not having proper VISA papers they are landing in trouble. On the lines of Kerala Government Welfare Board for Gulf labour should be established with sufficient funds.

35. ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPORTS

For Health and Social development of children Government should provide facilities for sports in educational institutions by allotting suitable grants.

- *Our Vote is not for sale.*
- *Don't come to our village with money and liquor.*



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