



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
Chief Electoral Officer, Andhra Pradesh
and
Let's Vote, a Civil Society Organization**

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Recognizing

- that the democratic framework of our country has been shaped through credible, transparent, impartial electoral processes put in place by the Election Commission of India over the last sixty years, and also
- that these processes, enfranchising every eligible elector in this country, begin with voter registration and ultimately seek to provide a level playing field for all political parties and an environment that is conducive for conducting a free and fair poll, in which all eligible electors can and should participate
- that these processes must be citizen-friendly providing all necessary information to potential voters so that they become active, informed and responsible citizens fully engaged in the process of democratic governance through effective electoral participation
- that there is an imperative need for greater participation of all the stakeholders that in the broadest sense would imply greater citizen engagement in the election process
- that young Indians who become qualified to be registered as voters on turning 18 years need to be given the necessary facilitation to understand their new role and get engaged with the electoral registration and further participation process
- that civil society organizations can play a significant catalytic role in enhancing citizen engagement especially in the areas of reaching out to the last-mile in furtherance of the Election Commission's goals.

Let's Vote, a non-political, civil society organization, registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001 on 23rd December, 2008 with the following objectives:

- (a) Engage and educate professionals about development issues, value and significance of franchisee and encourage them to participate in the electoral process to participate in nation building and development
- (b) Engage and collaborate with Election Commission and other like-minded organizations to facilitate and improve the quality of electoral rolls, ensuring EPIC cards for all interested citizens and timely updates to the citizens on the process, as and when relevant.

Partners with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Andhra Pradesh to further the objectives of the Election Commission of India and work towards deepening the foundations of our democracy by:


1. Assisting the Chief Electoral Officer in taking up voter awareness programs in a completely non-partisan manner and without any political bias whatsoever.
2. Initiating advocacy programs with corporate houses and other institutions to facilitate voter registration by getting applications from eligible employees and transmitting to the concerned Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), receiving the EPICs from the EROs and distributing them to the employees.
3. Lending technical support to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer in using technology to make the voter registration process and other electoral processes more citizen-friendly and transparent.
4. Supporting various participative initiatives to make electoral rolls cleaner and poll process more efficient.

In order to make the partnership work, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will provide the required support and facilitation by:

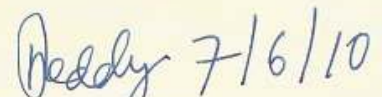
1. Recognizing Let's Vote as a partner organization
2. Providing latest information on electoral processes regularly
3. Creating collaborative forums for working on technology-mediated process improvements
4. Instructing the Electoral Registration Officers to ensure applications received from Let's Vote are processed expeditiously within a mutually agreed time frame

While this Memorandum sets out only the broad contours of the collaboration between Let's Vote and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, it does not cover all the possible avenues of collaborative work. In fact, we recognize that it is the spirit of working together for a common purpose that shall guide us in nurturing this partnership and make it both fruitful and sustainable and the finer details of this collaborative endeavor will constantly keep evolving as we move forward. Since, non-partisan, objective, non-political citizen awareness, facilitation and engagement are the basis of this MOU, any deviation will automatically mean that this Memorandum has lost its relevance and stands terminated forthwith. The sole arbiter in such case shall be the Election Commission of India.

Signed on June 7, 2010 at Hyderabad.



(Dr. I.V. SUBBA RAO)
Chief Electoral Officer,
Andhra Pradesh



A. BHASKAR REDDY
National Convenor, Let's Vote,
Hyderabad

Dr. I.V. Subba Rao, I.A.S.,
Chief Electoral Officer &
Ex.-Officio Principal Secretary to Government



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D.O.Lr.No.CEO/Spl/2010, dated 05-06-2010

Dear

As a part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Election Commission of India, a Photo exhibition on salient features of Elections in the last sixty years is being organized on 7th June, 2010 at 4.00 pm at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad. Mr.Navin B.Chawla, Chief Election Commissioner of India and Mr.V.S.Sampath, Election Commissioner of India will be inaugurating this exhibition.

In addition, we have organized a meeting on the theme of "Civil Society Collaboration in Election Management – Moving forward" at 4-30 pm at Jubilee Hall.

This meeting with Civil Society Organizations and Universities is intended to open new pathways of collaboration with Civil Society and academia in enriching our democratic fabric. It will be our endeavour to learn from the past experiences of partnership building and forge an institutional bond between the office of the Chief Electoral Officer and the civil society partners. Initially, we have identified the Federation of Resident Welfare Associations in Hyderabad and a voluntary group that helped generate a high level of voter awareness in the last General Elections called 'Let's Vote' for entering into an M.O.U. with CEO's Office.

The second theme of the meeting would be to explore avenues for enhancing civic engagement of young citizens by integrating citizenship education into the teaching learning process in Colleges and Universities. We had a very enthusiastic response to this idea from the State Council of Higher Education and many Universities in the State when we met them on 22-5-2010. We shall be taking the first step forward in translating this vision into reality by entering into MOUs with three Universities – Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur; Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda and Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Anantapur. We hope to enter into more such MOUs in the months to come.



Election Commission of India
Diamond Jubilee Year 2010

GREATER PARTICIPATION FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY

We shall be also presenting, on this occasion, awards to Electoral Registration Officers and Booth Level Officers who have achieved 100% coverage of voters under photo electoral rolls and Electors' Photo Identity Cards programme.

I shall be grateful if you could kindly grace both these events and enrich the deliberations by giving us your valuable advice on taking forward these path breaking initiatives. The programme is enclosed for your kind information.

Regards

Yours sincerely,

I.V. Subba Rao
(I.V.SUBBA RAO)

Sri A.Bhaskar Reddy,
Co-Convener,
Let's Vote
Road No.2, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad

Program of Election Commission of India at Hyderabad

7th June 2010

Photo Exhibition

Ravindra Bharathi

- 4 pm: Arrival of Invitees
- 4.15 pm: Arrival of CEC and EC(S)
DG (IEC) & CEO, AP to receive
- 4.15pm: Inauguration of photo exhibition
- 4.30pm: Leave for Jubilee Hall

Civil Society Collaboration in Election Management- moving forward

Jubilee Hall

- 4.35pm: Arrival of CEC, EC (S)
- 4.40 pm: Welcome address by CEO, AP
- 4.45pm: Introductory remarks by DG (IEC), ECI
- 4:50pm: Address by EC(S)
Address by CEC
- Session 1:**
- 5:05pm: Participation of Civil Society organizations in electoral process
Speakers – Representatives of Election Watch, Lets Vote, Residents Welfare Associations
- 5.30pm: Partnership of Universities and academic bodies for enhancing youth participation and incorporating citizenship education
Speakers – Three Vice Chancellors and Chairman. AP Higher Education Council
- 6:00pm: Political Parties for lending strength to the Collaboration
Speakers – Representatives of 9 recognized Political Parties of AP

Session 2:

6.30pm: Signing of MOUs between CEO, AP and Let's Vote, Federation of Resident Welfare Associations and Universities (4)

Session 3:

6.35pm: Presentation of awards to outstanding Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Registration Officers and Booth Level Officers

6.50pm: Acceptance speech by one ERO and two BLOs

Concluding Session:

7:00 pm: Remarks by two Former CECs Mr. Lyngdoh and Mrs. RamaDevi

7:00pm: Summing up by DG (IEC)

7:05pm: Concluding remarks by CEC and EC(S)

7.30-7.35pm: Vote of thanks

