

PLAN OF ACTION

AGENDA: POLICY MAKING VIS-A-VIS ELECTION MANIFESTO: FAKE PROMISES AS AN INSTRUMENT TO WIN ELECTIONS.

Suggested Electoral Reforms:-

1. Students must be educated about the value of their vote and other electoral rights while pursuing secondary education. Political education shall be mandatorily provided to the high school students to develop political acumen alongside academic knowledge.
2. Online registration facilities shall be provided for all prospective voters at the age of 17 years, so that they can be in the electoral roll as soon as they attain majority.
3. New voting methods shall be introduced to improve the electoral participation. Online voting through secure and safe government apps and provision of postal-voting for people residing outside their home states shall be introduced.
4. Parties shall be directed to release their manifestos within a certain period of time, prior to the elections, so as to provide ample time for the public to understand it. Failure to do so shall invoke disqualification unless a valid reason is given for not releasing the manifesto in time.
5. Voters shall be made aware regarding the manifestos, so that they can decide on the basis of concrete information, and not merely in the lure of flimsy promises made informally by the parties through various other means.
6. A committee needs to be constituted under the aegis of the ECI consisting of legal-professionals in order to look into the lawsuits pending against the political leaders and other men with such associations.
7. A government program shall be launched to ensure that everyone gets the opportunity to vote. Educational institutions, NGOs, civil society organizations shall be required to spread awareness in order to inculcate a commitment to the electoral process in the voters.
8. A track-record of political leaders, consisting of their works, shall be publically released by their party mandatorily. This shall be weighed above their words, promises or “tape-records”.

9. Right to recall (against MPs and MLAs) shall be provided to the citizens as a legal right. The Bill of 1974 concerned with the same shall be re-introduced.

10. The youth shall be motivated to participate in politics. Infrastructural reforms shall be introduced to facilitate this, like teaching public administration and other relevant disciplines in high school. Also, work needs to be done in order to remove the stigma from politics.

11. To prohibit appointment of election commissioners who have dubious political affiliations.

12. The process of appointment of Election Commissioners shall be reformed to prevent political influences. An independent collegium shall be constituted to recommend names for appointment of Election Commissioners to a Constitution Bench which shall then be forwarded for the President's assent.

13. SVEEP (Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation) Program and other similar initiatives shall be widely used. It shall be used to apply targeted interventions designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state as well as the history of electoral participation in previous rounds of elections.

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CONTRIBUTORS

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