



Call to Action For The

ALL INDIA PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO

Let People's Realities Define Our National Priorities

What is the 'All India People's Manifesto'?

The *All India People's Manifesto* is a blueprint for the future of India – made by the people of India. It is a statement of national objectives based on the ground realities and aspirations of people living across the country, and an assertion that in the world's largest democracy, it is not merely our votes but also our voices that need to be heard.

Why develop an 'All India People's Manifesto'?

The *All India People's Manifesto* is an ambitious plan for an extensive, decentralized and cumulative process to develop local demands for governance and development across the parliamentary constituencies of the country. It is an opportunity for a wide spectrum of civil society groups across local, state and national levels to come together and create a platform for collective negotiation with political parties on the 'people's priorities' for the upcoming national elections in 2009.

How will the 'All India People's Manifesto' be made?

The *All India People's Manifesto* will be put into action through 543 local hearings organized from **1 September 2008 onwards**, and includes:

1: The Development of Local Manifestos

Direct consultations or 'local hearings' will be held across the 543 parliamentary constituencies of India in the run up to the national elections. Each of these hearings will result in the formation of a '**Local Manifesto**', stating **10 Key Demands for Governance & Development** prioritized by the local constituency, and a '**Women's Charter**' outlining the priorities of women in the given constituency.

Every local hearing will conclude with the **presentation of the Local Manifesto to the existing Member of Parliament and other representatives** expected to contest the upcoming national elections in order to ensure the integration of demands in their future governance agenda.

2: The Development of 'Social Inclusion' Charters

Parallel efforts will be undertaken to consolidate the priorities emerging from the reserved parliamentary constituencies (SC / ST constituencies) in order to develop **Dalit & Adivasi Manifestos**. The consolidation of **Women's Charters** across parliamentary constituencies and initiatives for the development of Governance Charters specific to Youth, Denotified & Nomadic Tribes, People with Disabilities and other socially excluded groups are also proposed.

3: The Development of the All India People's Manifesto

The *All India People's Manifesto* will be framed on the basis of the demands that have been raised across the Parliamentary Constituencies, as well as through the consolidation of regional, thematic and constituency specific demands.

How will the People's Manifesto Influence the Political Agenda?

The *All India People's Manifesto* aims to facilitate a **systematic process of engagement with political parties** at the state and national levels to integrate people's priorities in their agenda for the national elections.

The presentation of the Local Manifesto to current and potential elected representatives during the course of the local hearings will enable the **negotiation and representation of demands** at the **constituency level**. Following this, meetings with **state and national party offices** will be organized to present the *All India People's Manifesto* and demand its inclusion in their election manifestos and post-election governance charters.

The collaboration of **regional and national media** at every stage will be an integral strategy to ensure public opinion and political will for the People's Manifesto.

Get Involved:

- Identify the **parliamentary constituency** in which you can initiate / contribute to the People's Manifesto process
- Organize a **first meeting of local groups and organizations** who would be interested in contributing to the Local Manifesto process
- Divide responsibilities to speak to other local actors and **outline the development issues and priorities of the constituency**
- Finalize a **date and venue for the Local Hearing** and co-ordinate for the **participation of the current Member of Parliament, as well as other parties / candidates** who are likely to contest the national elections
- Circulate a **draft of key issues and priorities** that may be presented at the Local Hearing across local groups for their inputs and consensus.
- Organize a **second meeting of the participating groups** to outline the **10 Key Demands for the People's Manifesto**.
- Identify **local representatives** who can set the context for the demands that will be presented at the Hearing, and include **experts, public personalities and community leaders** who can add their perspective and inputs to strengthen the local agenda.
- **Inform the media** about the Local Hearing and **publicize the upcoming event** through posters, banners, handbills, cable tv, local news papers / channels. Work directly with local groups to **ensure a quorum of participants** for the meeting.
- **Print copies of the 'People's Manifesto' and 'Women's Charter'** which will be released to the media and handed over to political representatives at the culmination of the local Hearing.
- **Send a Statement of Outcomes** along with the local **People's Manifesto** to the media, the political parties in your state and civil society networks.
- For further information about the groups involved and state / constituency co-ordination points, please contact the National Secretariat – All India People's Manifesto at 011-46082371 to 74 or write to campaign@wadanatodo.net