

Delhi Election Watch

a coalition of concerned citizens and civil society groups

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To all members of the present Delhi Legislative Assembly

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this on behalf of the Delhi Election Watch which is a coalition of several NGOs in the city. One of the main objectives and programme of the Delhi Election Watch is to help the voters know the background and other relevant information about candidates contesting elections so that they can make a carefully considered choice in casting their vote.

As you are aware candidates for Assembly and Parliament elections are now required to file, along with their nomination papers, a disclosure statement by affidavit containing information about their financial assets and liabilities as well as criminal antecedents, if any. As you will appreciate the main purpose of this disclosure requirement is to enable the citizen to have full information about the candidates. The forthcoming elections to the Delhi Assembly will be the first time that this requirement of disclosure will be put into effect.

While the time schedule and other procedures to be followed in regard to nominations will be determined by the Election Commission in due course, we as a coalition of non-government organizations are very much interested in expediting this process. We would, therefore, like to know whether (a) you will be contesting the forthcoming Assembly elections and (b) if so, whether you are prepared to furnish to the Delhi Election Watch the various items of information as contained in the questionnaire attached.

We would like to make it clear that we are seeking this information only as citizens and not in any other capacity on behalf of the Election Commission or any other official agency. It is entirely up to you to send this information to us. By doing so you will have demonstrated clearly your willingness to be open and transparent about your own candidacy and background. You will also be giving a positive affirmation of your faith in an open and transparent electoral system and your respect for the citizenry. **We shall highlight and publicise the fact that you have so readily responded to this request. We will also try to organize meetings where your transparent approach will be publicised** We shall of course be in touch with you if we need any clarifications once we have received your response.

We are seeking this information from all the sitting MLAs who may be contesting the elections again. The responses will be studied by a committee of eminent persons set up by the Election Watch. This Committee is headed by **Admiral Tahiliani** former Chief of Naval Staff and includes former Delhi High Court Judges **S P Wad and Jaspal Singh, P K Dave**, former Lt. Governor of Delhi, **Shanker Sen** and **P S Bawa** former DGs of Police, **P P Rao, Prashant Bhushan, Kamini Jaiswal and Sanjay Parikh**, Advocates of the Supreme Court, journalists and academicians including **B.G. Verghese, Yogendra Yadav** and **Madhu Kishwar, Maj. Gen. Saighal (Retd), Maya Daruwala** of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiatives, educationists as **Mrs.Vibha Parthasarthy** and **Prof.Syed Shahid Mahdi** , Vice Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard and others. **Mr.K.C.Sivaramakrishnan** ,Former Secretary to the Government of India, is the convener of the committee.

After analyzing the response, we will disseminate in a transparent manner, the information conveyed by you to the voters in your constituency. We may also arrange meetings using such media as feasible so that voters in your constituency can get to know you better.

We look forward to a positive response from you. Kindly address your response to Delhi Election Watch, P.O. Box 5333, Chanakypuri, New Delhi-110021.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K.C. Sivaramakrishnan),
Convenor
Screening Committee.