

### **Demand swaraj these elections:**

In last 60 years, we have tried every political party and every politician. But things have gone from bad to worse. Merely changing parties and politicians won't help. Demand Swaraj from the parties in these elections.

New laws would need to be passed to give swaraj to the people. Vote for that party, which promises to give swaraj.

Called Swaraj Andolan or Lokraj Andolan or Swaraj Abhiyan or Lokraj Abhiyan or Movement for self Rule, this movement is bringing people together to demand, persuade and force both state and central governments to provide necessary legislative and constitutional framework to give swaraj to the people.

Contact us to join Swaraj Abhiyan.

**For more details:**

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## **Why Swaraj?**

हमें स्वराज चाहिये।  
स्वराज होगा तो जनता विकास खुद कर लेगी।

सच्ची लोकशाही केन्द्र में बैठे हुए 20 आदमी नहीं चला सकते। वो तो नीचे से हर गांव के लोगों द्वारा चलायी जानी चाहिये। ताकि सत्ता की केन्द्र बिंदु जो इस समय दिल्ली, कलकत्ता या बंबई जैसे बड़े शहरों में है, मैं उसे भारत के 7 लाख गांव में बांटना चाहूंगा...

*Bapu*  
M.K Gandhi

### **Is India really a democracy?**

- What can you do if the school teacher does not turn up to teach at the government school?
- What can you do when a doctor in a government hospital does not attend to patients?
- What can you do when you know that a ration shop keeper is siphoning off ration supplies?
- What can you do if the policeman does not take action on your complaint?
- What can you do if the Engineer colludes with the contractor and makes a road which wears off within a few days?
- What can you do when sweepers do not turn up for work and your area remains dirty and unhygienic?

All we do is complain to higher authorities, who don't act on our complaint. In short, we have no control over the teachers who don't turn up to teach at government schools, or janitors who sweep the road, the ration shopkeeper, the government hired contractors, the politician, the policemen, or the bureaucrat.

And that's the reason why, 62 years after independence, there is so much illiteracy, so much poverty, so many people die of simple diseases like TB, so many people go hungry, roads are broken and cities are filthy.

In theory, we are the masters in a democracy. But in practice, our role is limited to casting our vote once every five years. In next five years, we are left to plead before the politicians and bureaucrats, who don't care to listen to us or meet our needs.

#### **Swaraj:**

Swaraj is about giving direct control over local officials and politicians to people's assemblies—mohalla sabhas in urban areas and Gram Sabhas in rural areas. In swaraj, people's assemblies have power to summon officials and directly penalize them, if needed.

These assemblies would meet every month and take decisions regarding all issues in their area. Decisions taken by these assemblies would be implemented by elected representative (mohalla sabha representative in urban areas and panchayat members in rural areas).

The people's assemblies should have complete control over all public funds spent in their area. People would have power to spend public funds in such a manner that no one starves, no one is homeless, no one is illiterate and no one goes without adequate health care in that area. Why should the schemes related to our lives be made in Delhi or state capitals by some politicians and bureaucrats who have no clue about our problems? Shouldn't we have the power to plan for our own lives and surroundings?

If elected representatives act against the will of the people, the people's assemblies would

have the power to recall them.

Therefore, the people, through people's assemblies should directly manage all affairs of their area, which can be managed at their level. Only such issues, which cannot be managed at their level will go to higher levels of government.

If majority of Gram Sabhas and mohalla sabhas in a state vote for a particular issue, the state government should implement it or enact necessary law or amend existing law.

### **That would be true democracy - government by the people.**

**This is Swaraj. This is self-rule.  
This is Lok Raj.**

#### **Swaraj in ancient India and other countries:**

This is how it used to be since Buddha's time until 1820. The villages were run by the people's assemblies. Those who invaded India merely took control of central government. Villages continued to be governed by village assemblies. But after 1820, the British demolished this system and introduced collectorates taking away all power from the people handing it to British bureaucrats. Unfortunately, we did not restore the powers back to the people after independence.

Today, in many countries like US, Switzerland, Brazil etc, people collectively take decisions on all local issues in people's assemblies.