MAHATMA GANDHI’S SATYAGARH REVIVED

CITIZENS OF DELHI DECIDE ‘ENOUGH IS ENOUGH’
7th JULY 2005
THE BEGINNING

• Government & Discoms decide to hike electricity rates by 10%
• Citizens offered no explanations nor opportunity to discuss issue
• Arbitrary decision rejected…slow burn opposition starts
• RWAs band together for non-violent struggle for justice & fair play
THE CAUSE

• Unilateral imposition of power tariff hike
• Faulty meters running too fast
• Apparent collusion between Government & Discoms
• Tacit acceptance of Power Theft at a continuing high level

BATTLE LINES DRAWN BETWEEN CITIZENS & GOVERNMENT
THE STRATEGY

• RWAs, earlier encouraged by Govt, now leading the struggle
• From all across Delhi, RWAs unite in CAPTH (Campaign Against Power Tariff Hike)
• Project prominent citizens and RWA leaders as spokespersons
• Seek & secure widespread local/national media support
THE TOOLS

• Agitate against unfair/unjustified hike
• Refuse to pay enhanced charges
• Core Teams help mobilise individuals & groups, encourage & motivate
• Make Cause No1 Issue in the Capital City through daily meetings, press/TV coverage
• Alert politicians to citizens’ concerns
THE COUNTER ATTACK

• Attempts made to divide RWAs...they fail
• Threats made to cut off power of those who do not pay the hiked rates...they fail
• Misinformation disseminated suggesting agitation is limited and rapidly petering out...facts prove otherwise

PANIC SETS IN AS CAPTH GAINS STRENGTH & PUBLIC SUPPORT
THE CUTTING EDGE

• The Cause is Just & Citizens United
• The Issue is Focused & of Public Concern
• The Media is Responsive & Supportive
• The Leadership Emerged from Amongst the Citizens
• Resentment & Anger were Harnessed in a Non-Violent Struggle…Satyagarh Revived

RISING CITIZENS TIDAL WAVE MAKES GOVERNMENT BEND
31st AUGUST 2005
JUST 8 WEEKS LATER

• Citizens’ Will prevails
• Government & Discoms retreat
• All threats withdrawn
• Power hike cancelled
• Better more consumer-friendly service promised

ROLL-BACK COMPLETE!
THE LEARNING

• Strength of New Satyagarh Movement proven
• URJA (United Residents Joint Action) formed on 3rd September 2005
• Citizens resolve to tackle other Good Governance issues
• Political & Bureaucratic institutions on notice
THE MORAL OF THIS STORY

Citizens United in Action
Are an Unstoppable Force to Secure
Justice & Fair Play
For All
OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

• RWAs from all across Delhi who formed the backbone of the movement:
• Old Rajinder Nagar, Lado Sarai, Govindpuri, Sheikh Sarai, Rohini, I P Extension, Mayur Vihar, GK 1, Dwarka, North West Delhi Citizen’s Forum, Kalindi & about 10 other areas who raised their Voice.
OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

• Core Teams who worked tirelessly:
  • Sanjay Kaul, President - People’s Action & Promod Chawla – Convenor, CAPTH, Trustee nnfi, Col Dinesh Shandiliya, Ajay Jain TCP, Mou Banerjee, Pawan Jain, S P Gupta & R L Dua, Old Rajinder Nagar, D M Narang, Arvind Mehta, Anant Trivedi, Ishwar Nagar - strategist nnfi
  • Lado Sarai RWA, Col Shivraj Kumar, Munirka, Ravinder Singh, Inventor Engineer, R K Atri, Dwarka, Rajiv Kakria, Divya Sehgal, Sat Goel, GK1, R C Kamboj, Rohini, A M Prabhakar, Malviya Nagar, Dr Mohanty NW Delhi, Anil Sood, Chetna, S R Sangar & Varinder Arora, I P Extension. Also C R Park.
  • Umpteen other stalwarts who signed up & spread awareness, never to forget Simran Deep, Nisha Puri of Govindpuri also Anil Khanna, Tilak Nagar.
OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

- Prominent citizens who provided unstinted support:
  - Roshan Seth, Tara Sinha, Shiv Khera, Pritish Nandy, Joginder Singh, Sanjay Parikh, Prashant Bhusan & Ram Tahiliani
OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

• Media…Press/TV/Radio…both National & Local, whose intensive and extensive coverage were essential elements

• NDTV, 7 Channel, Sahara, Times Of India, Hindu, HT, Navbharat Times, Regional & Neighbourhood papers - our grateful thanks to all.
FOR OUR FUTURE

• We need citizens across the country to mobilise themselves
• Guidance and support from local citizens…prominent persons and celebrities, a key factor
• Media participation essential…and available in support of Justice & Fair Play

THE BATTLE WAS WON...BUT THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES
LET’S WIN THIS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM FROM EXPLOITATION THROUGH SATYAGARH

NON-VIOLENTLY
LET'S WIN THIS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM FROM EXPLOITATION THROUGH SATYAGARH NON-VIOLENTLY