



# YOUR VOICE OUR PLEDGE



Lok Sabha Elections 2014

**MANIFESTO**

Indian National Congress

# THE OPEN MANIFESTO PROCESS: PATHBREAKING POLITICAL REFORM

The Indian National Congress has pioneered an entirely new way in which political party election manifestos are prepared. It is our firm belief that the Indian National Congress Manifesto must reflect the voice and aspirations of the people and a new vision for the country.

There were several consultations held across the country over a five-month period (from October, 2013 to March, 2014) with different stakeholders, to get their inputs on India's future growth, development and inclusion agenda. The Congress Vice President Shri Rahul Gandhi participated in several of these interactions including those with representatives from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities, women organisations, youth, labour, industry, Panchayat representatives, ex-servicemen, railway porters, rickshaw pullers, salt-pan workers and farmers. In addition to this a dedicated website ([www.incmanifesto.in](http://www.incmanifesto.in)) was established to invite suggestions from all citizens for the Manifesto. A separate website for the "National Student Manifesto" was also created.

We received tens of thousands of suggestions through these consultations, on the websites and social media platforms, phones, emails, etc. These suggestions were carefully considered and have been included, wherever feasible.

We believe this unique exercise has made the Manifesto inclusive and fully reflective of the voice of the people of India.



<https://www.facebook.com/IndianNationalCongress> <http://www.youtube.com/user/indiacongress>

[instagram.com/inc\\_india](https://www.instagram.com/inc_india)

<https://twitter.com/INCIndia>

[1800 208 2020](tel:18002082020)

• Congress: The Only Choice	2
• Congress or BJP	4
• The UPA Report Card	6
• Landmark Legislation: 2009-2014	8
• Our Pledge: A 15 Point Agenda for Socio-economic and Political Transformation	10
• The Detailed Action Plan 2014-2019	14

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. A New Future for the Hands that Build the Nation	14
2. Economic Growth	14
• An Economic Roadmap for 2014-2019	15
• The Indian National Congress's 100 Day Agenda for Growth	16
• Accelerating Job Creation and Skill Development	17
3. Protecting the Interests of Labour	19
4. Right to Health	20
5. Empowering Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes	21
6. Women's Empowerment and Protection of Children	24
7. Safeguarding Minorities	26
8. Youth and Student Agenda	27
• Building the Best Education System in the World for our Students	28
• Promoting Sports	29
• Other Youth Issues	30
9. Rural Development and Panchayati Raj	31
10. Agriculture and Farmer Welfare	32
11. Accelerating Industrial and Manufacturing Growth	34
12. Infrastructure	36
• Transport	36
• Energy	37
13. Urban Development	38
14. Housing	39
15. Environment	40
16. Innovation, Information and Communication Technology	41
17. Fighting Corruption	43
18. Governance Reforms	43
• Electoral Reforms	44
• Legal and Judicial Reforms	44
• Police Reforms	44
19. Internal Security	46
20. Defence and Welfare of Ex-Servicemen	46
21. Foreign Policy	47

### • An Appeal



The Indian National Congress has made seminal contributions to India's unity, integrity, secular polity and democratic federalism. We have championed the rights of the weaker sections, created conditions for faster economic growth and have been the principal instrument of social and economic change, the preferred political choice for crores of women and men.

Our central values resonate the very idea of India, that has come to us over the centuries, an India that rejoices in and celebrates its many diversities, and builds on these diversities to strengthen the bonds of unity through secularism, pluralism, inclusion and social justice. This is the India that Mahatma Gandhi envisaged. This is the India for which our Freedom Fighters gave their all. This is the India that the Indian National Congress has always dedicated itself to. Ours is the one Party with a history of a liberal philosophy that has enabled the country to build strong political and economic institutions and transform itself.

In the 1950's, the Indian National Congress put India on the path of industrialisation through the public sector, ensuring both rapid and balanced regional growth across the face of our country. A massive infrastructure for science and technology was also established. In the 1960's, the Green Revolution was launched to make India self-sufficient in food grains and a direct assault on poverty. In the 1970's, further gains were made through the Green Revolution and a White Revolution was unleashed that was to make India the world's largest producer of milk. In the 1980's, economic reforms were launched in response to new challenges, to

modernise the Indian economy and bring about the information and communications technology revolution. In the 1990's, radical economic reforms were instituted leading to accelerated economic growth and widespread economic and social transformation. At the turn of the millennium, we brought about a "Regime of Rights" marking a paradigm shift in India's politics and development. Beginning with the Right to Information, Right to Work (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), Right to Education and the Right to Food, we have launched a radical progressive economic and social development discourse.

The depth and breadth of its political and administrative experience makes the Indian National Congress most intrinsically aware and closely associated with the beliefs, and principles and need of the people of India. We are the Party that has always believed in the idealism and leadership abilities of the youth. We have remained connected with their aspirations and have been inspired by their restless vibrancy.

Our vision is one of inclusive and sustainable growth fuelled by agricultural development,

regional balance, progress in backward areas and a strong conviction that in order to prosper every citizen must have the opportunity to evolve to the best of her or his ability. Ours is a Nation of incredible but often untapped talent that needs and deserves to be unleashed.

We envision an India where power would have been devolved to the grassroots and to the marginalized so that they can shape their own destiny.

We envision an India charting a new future rather than rewriting its past; living in harmony, not in turmoil; thriving in peace

communal harmony, and economic growth and social justice, are two sides of the same coin and must always go hand-in-hand.

The Indian National Congress is the only Party that combines experience and youth, wisdom and exuberance, achievement and ambition.

The Indian National Congress seeks a renewed mandate on the strength of its heritage, its record of service, both in and out of power, and its clear vision for the future.

---

# CONGRESS

# THE ONLY CHOICE

---

rather than suffering in conflict; imbued with humility, not with arrogance.

We envision an India where the government serves the people rather than where people serve the government.

We believe in a simple universal truth: equity and opportunity for all.

The Indian National Congress is the only Party that believes that economic growth and



Since its formation, 128 years ago, the Indian National Congress has spoken for every section of Indian society and has mirrored India's "unity in diversity".

The Indian National Congress's secular and liberal ethos has a place for each and every Indian.

**Ours is an inclusive vision.**

The Indian National Congress stands in sharp contrast to the divisive and disruptive ideology of the BJP. We have always been the secular and progressive force in this country and strived to unite all religions, castes and communities in the ideological battle against those who would polarize and divide our society.

Our democratic Constitution and institutions are the cornerstone of Modern India. All of us, who wish to build a better India and rid the country of poverty and

Aware of the challenges thrown up by the undemocratic and exclusionary politics of the BJP, particularly in the recent past, the Indian National Congress is committed to confronting these challenges with determination.

We do not respond by subverting democratic institutions and blocking Parliament session after session, year after year. We do not respond by turning people against each other and lighting the fires of communal hatred. We do not respond by

Congress is the only natural choice for the people of India.

# CONGRESS OR BJP

*Secular Liberal Nationalism vs Narrow-minded Communalism*  
*Inclusive Democracy vs Divisive Authoritarianism*

The BJP's narrow and communal perspective denies equality to all.

**Theirs is an exclusionary doctrine.**

corruption, must respect these institutions and work through them. They are the legitimate instruments in our hands. No individual or authority can replace the values and processes of democratic governance.

Peace cannot be constructed on conflict. Societies cannot be built on injustice and hatred.

proposing either that the structures of democracy be handed to one single person or that they be viciously undermined.

The Indian National Congress responds through legitimate peaceful, democratic and Constitutional means. These are the pillars on which our great Nation stands. It is for this reason that the Indian National



It was the tireless campaign and vision of Sonia Gandhi, President of the Indian National Congress, that brought together and gave shape to the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) headed by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in May 2004.

The work of the Congress-led UPA government was appreciated and the people of India gave us a renewed mandate, with a larger majority, in 2009.

Chairperson of the UPA, Sonia Gandhi, and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, has

The 2009 Mandate was to safeguard and advance the interests of India's farmers and create an environment conducive to their prosperity.

This has been achieved in substantial measure.

The 2009 Mandate was for empowering the poor and the marginalized, especially Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and women.

This has been achieved in substantial measure.

The 2009 Mandate was to open the doors of education and skills, and provide access to

## THE UPA REPORT CARD

translated into reality the pledges we made in May 2009.

The 2009 Mandate was for socially inclusive economic growth with a focus on jobs and livelihoods, and social justice.

This has been achieved in substantial measure.

The 2009 Mandate was to take forward the commitment made by our government in 2004 promising "A New Deal for Rural India."

This has been achieved in substantial measure.

immense opportunities they hold out for our biggest asset, our youth.

This has been achieved in substantial measure.

The 2009 Mandate was for maintaining peace and security and for fighting the challenges thrown up by undemocratic, divisive and exclusionary political and social interests.

This has been achieved in substantial measure.

### WE LET THE RECORD SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

- The Congress-led UPA has brought 14 crore people out of poverty in the last ten years. The rate of poverty decline has tripled as compared to the preceding decade. This is the greatest achievement of the UPA governments, and we are proud of it.
- In the ten years of UPA-I and UPA-II, India achieved an average annual growth rate of 7.5%. During the NDA tenure the average annual growth rate was 5.9%.
- Today, we produce 263 million tonnes of food grains. Ten years ago, at the end of the NDA tenure it was 213 million tonnes of food grains.
- Today, the installed power capacity is 234,600 MW. Ten years ago, it was less than half at 112,700 MW.
- Today, the number of mobile subscribers has crossed 95 crore. Ten years ago, it was a mere 3.36 crore subscribers. Telephone density in rural areas has increased 26 times.
- Today, coal production is 554 million tonnes per year. Ten years ago, it was 361 million tonnes per year.
- Today, we have 389,578 km of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). This is more than 7 times the 51,511 km of rural roads ten years ago.
- Today, the Central Government's spending on healthcare is Rs. 36,322 crore, 5 times more than the Rs. 7,248 crore it was ten years ago.
- Today, minorities have 43,52,000 bank accounts in 121 districts of the country. The total volume of lending stands at Rs. 66,500 crore. Ten years ago, minorities had 14,15,000 bank accounts. The total volume of lending was just Rs. 4,000 crore.
- Today, 41,16,000 women Self-Help-Groups have been credit linked to banks. Ten years ago it was only 9,71,182.
- Today, the total credit to small businesses stands in excess of Rs. 5,27,000 crore. Ten years ago, credit to small businesses stood at below Rs. 80,000 crore.
- Today, the Central Government's expenditure on education is Rs. 79,451 crore. Ten years ago, it was Rs. 10,145 crore.
- Today, the total value of India's international trade stands at US \$ 800 billion. Ten years ago, it was US \$ 142 billion.



The Indian National Congress-led UPA government has had an unmatched record when it comes to the passage of significant, historic and pathbreaking legislation. The Indian National Congress is a Party that takes its commitments to the people as sacred. The Party has worked to realise almost all the promises made to the people in its earlier Manifestos and campaigns:

1. The Indian National Congress led the charge to enact a unique and unprecedented law to safeguard food security for the poorest. The National Food Security Act marked the realisation of over a decade of work and has been hailed as a visionary law by the people.
2. The seminal Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 - a key campaign promise of the Indian National Congress in 2009 - was enacted after two years of nationwide consultations. This law was a historic victory for our brothers and sisters working in the agriculture sector. The law ensures that land cannot be acquired without the land owners consent, promises up to four times the prevailing market value as compensation and repeals the Land Acquisition Act of 1894.
3. The Indian National Congress led the way in bringing about historic reform with regard to women's rights in the form of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and the salutary Protection of Women

from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013. These laws made the system more sensitive to the challenges faced by our women. Penalties have increased and new crimes were included to make the definition more women friendly so that the law better serves the interests of the aggrieved.

4. In a bid to bring greater clarity on the subject, the Congress-led UPA Government enacted a new Companies Act, 2013. This new law, resulting from comprehensive consultations with all stakeholders brings about radical changes that will stimulate entrepreneurship, make it easier to start new businesses and encourage Corporate Social Responsibility.
5. Mindful that our Nation's citizens, and particularly our senior citizens, deserve greater security with regard to their pension funds, the Congress-led UPA Government enacted the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013, to establish a regulator to ensure these funds are protected from unscrupulous individuals.
6. The Indian National Congress has always looked to the people for guidance in the discharge of its duties. The Lokpal

and Lokayukta Act, 2013 was born out of a determination to give the people a strong, independent authority to act as a watchdog against administrative corruption. This authority empowers the people by giving them a high-powered forum to tackle corruption in the bureaucracy and the political system.

7. In one earliest actions on being re-elected, the Congress-led UPA government passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act in 2009. This law, which guarantees free education in primary schools, also puts in place provisions for minimum standards for the establishment of new neighbourhood schools.
8. The Indian National Congress, which has been firmly dedicated to the cause of protecting our nation's environment and forests, enacted the National Green Tribunal Act, 2009 to establish a special fast track court to hear disputes related to these issues.
9. The Indian National Congress piloted and passed the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood & Regulation) Act, 2014. This

Act will protect livelihood rights of lakhs of street vendors.

10. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 not only prescribes stringent punishment for employing manual scavengers but also has provisions for rehabilitation of these families. An age-old blot on our society will finally be erased.

## LANDMARK LEGISLATION: 2009 - 2014



1. We will endeavour to bring around two-thirds of our population – the skilled hands that build India – into the middle class, through a package of basic rights for all workers – formal and informal, organized and unorganized, regular and contractual. Our aim will be to provide them and all low-income families with economic security and a minimum standard of living to uplift their condition. The charter of minimum socio-economic rights we will put in place includes:
  - a. Right to Health
  - b. Right to Pension
  - c. Right to Homestead or Housing
  - d. Right to Social Security
  - e. Right to Dignity and humane working conditions
  - f. Right to Entrepreneurship that will protect and assist all those who seek to become entrepreneurs
2. To support the Right to Health, the Indian National Congress will increase health expenditure to 3% of GDP and provide universal and quality health care for all Indians (including free medicines). To support the right to homestead/housing, we will ensure affordable and quality housing for all. The Indira Awaas Yojana and the Rajiv Awaas Yojana will be expanded to cover all poor rural and urban households.
3. Continuing our record of delivering India's highest growth rates, we will restore India to 8% plus growth rate within 3 years:

These new rights will supplement the other rights established under UPA-I and UPA-II - Right to Food; Right to Information; Right to Education; Right to Employment; Rights to fight corruption (Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act as well as Whistleblower Protection Act); Right to Identity (Aadhaar) and the Right to direct receipt of welfare benefits (Aapka Paisa, Aapke Haath – Direct Benefits Transfers). Together, these rights will provide an economic platform for people below the middle class to transform their lives and to transform India primarily through their own effort, not through any handouts of the government.

- India a world leader in agricultural production and agro-industry, taking advantage of our national endowments and the genius of our farmers. We will focus on increasing agriculture productivity and farmer incomes by increasing investments in irrigation, agricultural value chains, cold storage and warehousing, etc.
- f. We will introduce the Goods and Services Tax Bills and a new Direct Tax Code Bill in Parliament and ensure they are enacted within one year.
  - g. We will ensure that the unpredictable risk of retroactive taxation is avoided.
  - h. We will invest more than 1 trillion
  - k. We will ensure that growth is socially responsible, and comes from genuine value addition, not from stripping our natural resources or from underpaying our labour.
  - l. We will ensure that all our towns and Gram Panchayats are connected with high-speed broadband connectivity within 18 months.
  - m. Serious and systematic efforts have been made by the Congress-led UPA government to track down and recover black money. This determined effort will continue unabated. We will appoint a Special Envoy to pursue this agenda.

4. We will provide skills-training to 10 crore youth and provide them with employment opportunities over the next 5 years.

5. We will ensure that every citizen has a bank account within the next five years.

6. We will implement the National Youth Policy that sets a new vision for leadership development amongst youth and for the development of sports. We will bring enhanced focus on education for our youth and our students.

## OUR PLEDGE: A 15 POINT AGENDA FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

- a. We will ensure that India has a globally competitive business and investment-friendly environment.
- b. We will continue to take firm action to control inflation even in a difficult global economic scenario.
- c. We will promote an open and competitive economy, open to global and domestic competition.
- d. Our vision is building India as the world leader in manufacturing. We will ensure a 10% growth rate in the manufacturing sector with a special emphasis on small and medium enterprises.
- e. We will continue on the path of making

- dollars over the next decade on upgrading India's power, transport and other development infrastructure. We will support more transparent, competitive and better-regulated Public Private Partnerships for both hard and soft infrastructure development.
- i. We will promote a more flexible labour policy as needed for maintaining competitiveness, while moving towards international labour standards for our workers.
  - j. We will promote greater integration with the global economy and encourage Foreign Direct Investment, especially in labour intensive sectors.

- a. We will expand higher education opportunities with a focus on students from low-income families.
- b. We will scale up skill development and training to open up new opportunities for upward economic mobility for our people.
- c. We will open up our higher education system to investment from India and from abroad and bring the best



- available knowledge and teaching to our youth.
- d. We will move our focus from ‘Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan’ to ‘Shreshth Shiksha Abhiyan’, making “quality” the centre of our agenda
  - e. We will strengthen the implementation of the Right to Education, ensure universal enrolment in secondary education, and reduce drop-out rates in middle and secondary levels.
7. The protection of minorities is at the core of the ethos of our country. The Communal Violence Bill, which was drafted and introduced by the Indian National Congress, remains an important commitment. We will work towards its enactment at the earliest.
  8. We will continue our focus on empowerment of women and fight for their security (suraksha), self-respect and dignity (samman), and equality (samanata).
    - a. We will ensure the passage of the Women’s Reservation Bill.
    - b. We will initiate immediate action to formulate a Citizen’s Charter for Women’s Safety and Security.
    - c. We will provide upto Rs 1 lakh as low interest loans to women through Self-Help-Groups for livelihood activities.
  9. We will enhance legal protection and resource allocation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
    - a. We will enact central legislation on
- the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub Plans to ensure focused spending of funds on weaker sections.
- b. We will ensure the passage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2013.
10. We will strongly protect the interests of the Other Backward Classes, especially those amongst them that are most deprived. We will establish a new commission to inquire into the condition of the most backward and marginalized Other Backward Class communities who have not adequately received the benefits
- of government programmes; and will recommend corrective measures.
11. We will strengthen the legal and institutional framework to protect our children. We will improve the working conditions of Anganwadi and related workers in whose care our nation entrusts our most precious asset – our youngest citizens.
  12. We will give a major impetus to planned urbanization, creating inclusive cities, revamping urban governance, empowering mayors, increasing low-
- income housing and making larger investments in urban infrastructure, especially in multi-modal transport.
13. We will accelerate governance reform including legal, judicial and electoral reform, building on the momentum of the last few months.
    - a. We will enact the remaining anti-corruption and accountability bills that were blocked by the opposition;
    - b. We will ensure the immediate passage of The Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill, Prevention of
- and monitored at every step.
- e. We will develop a consensus and bring about legislative amendments towards effective and meaningful electoral reforms.
14. We are committed to a series of specific legislative, administrative and regulatory measures to protect our environment, an endowment entrusted to us for the benefit of future generations. We will set up a National Environmental Appraisal and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA), a professional agency to conduct environmental appraisals in a time-bound and transparent manner.
15. The Indian National Congress believes modernisation of our defence forces is imperative. The Indian National Congress shall ensure that the process of procuring the finest, and most state-of-the-art equipment is carried out efficiently and transparently, while ensuring rapid development of our domestic defence industry. We will continue to protect and advance the interests of our defence personnel and ex-servicemen. We will continue to follow an unwavering pro-India foreign policy, enhance bilateral relationships with our neighbours and friendly nations, enhance commercial ties and strive to mobilize support for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council.

## OUR PLEDGE: A 15 POINT AGENDA FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION





## 1. A NEW FUTURE FOR THE HANDS THAT BUILD THE NATION

It is because of the Indian National Congress that employees in the organised sector have been fully protected through legislation and are entitled to social security in different ways. While organised sector employment must expand, the reality is that employment in the unorganised sector contributes close to 94% of India's labour force.

In recent years, with the expansion of employment opportunities because of rapid economic growth, this segment has expanded. In recognition of this, in 2008, the Congress-led UPA government passed the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.

The Indian National Congress believes that it is time to scale up these programmes across the country so that all workers derive benefits from both legislation and programmes in the next five years. To ensure a basic rights and welfare package for all working people, the Indian National Congress will ensure:

1. Enforcement of Minimum Wage laws;
2. Provision of Pension cover;
3. Provision of life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits – free medicine, old age protection, Provident Fund, employment injury benefit, housing, education schemes for children, and old age homes;

4. Creation of a working environment that enables all such workers to carry out work without harassment. We will also ensure humane working conditions;
5. Strengthening of collective bargaining;
6. Programmes for upgrading skills and income including use of improved technology.

## 2. ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Indian National Congress is committed to achieving 8 % growth per year, within 3 years, to be sustained over the next two decades.

The Indian National Congress's agenda is one of social and economic transformation. Growth is essential for this transformation to happen and for it to be truly meaningful. It is economic growth that creates jobs for our youth. It is economic growth that gives us the resources to invest in our social welfare programmes and infrastructure development. The nature and quality of growth is equally important to ensure that the gains of growth are equitably distributed.

Over the last ten years, the Congress-led UPA governments have pursued and delivered rapid and inclusive economic growth. We have delivered economic growth of 7.5 % per

annum, compared to 5.9 % delivered by the NDA, even as poverty has declined three times faster. The growth under the Congress-led UPA has been faster and more inclusive than any earlier period in India's history. And it is not just the acceleration of growth that gives the Indian National Congress satisfaction. In keeping with the long-standing tradition of the Indian National Congress, we have made the growth process more socially inclusive than it has ever been.

The UPA governments' record on growth is unparalleled.

However, given the economic slowdown in the last few years, driven by the global financial crisis, bringing India back on track to achieve 8% inclusive growth will be an overriding priority of the next Congress-led government.

### An Economic Roadmap for 2014-2019

The Finance Minister in his budget speech earlier this year has laid out a roadmap of ten important tasks to be undertaken by the next government. The Indian National Congress affirms its commitment to this roadmap which is outlined below:

- i. Fiscal Consolidation: We will achieve the target of fiscal deficit of 3 % of Gross

Domestic Product (GDP) by 2016-17, and remain below that level always.

- ii. Current Account Deficit: Our Current Account Deficit can be financed only by foreign investment, whether it is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) or External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) or any other kind of foreign inflow. Hence, there is no room for any aversion to foreign investment.

- iii. Price Stability and Growth: In a developing economy we must accept that when our aim is high growth there will be a moderate level of inflation. Reserve Bank of India must strike a balance

between price stability and growth while formulating monetary policy.

- iv. Infrastructure: We will rebuild our infrastructure and add a huge quantity of new infrastructure.

Every proven

model must be adopted. The Public Private Partnership (PPP) model must be made more transparent and competitive and more widely used. New financing structures will be created for long term funds and pooling of investments.

- v. Manufacturing: We will focus on manufacturing and especially on manufacturing for export. We propose that all taxes, Central and State, which go into an exported product should be waived or rebated. We also propose that there should be a minimum tariff protection so that there is an incentive to manufacture goods in India rather than import them into India.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



vi. Financial Sector Reforms: The recommendations of the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission that require no change in legislation must be implemented immediately and, for the other recommendations, we must draw a timetable for passing legislation.

vii. Subsidies: Given the limited resources, and the many claims on the resources, we must choose the subsidies that are absolutely necessary and give them only to the absolutely deserving. We will also consider introducing sensible user charges because many more people are willing to pay for better quality services, for example, uninterrupted power and better quality train services. We will use this money saved to expand health, education and infrastructure.

viii. Urbanisation: Our cities will become ungovernable, and perhaps unlivable, if we do not address the decay in our cities. Cities have wealth, cities also create wealth. That wealth should be tapped for resources to rebuild the cities with a new model of governance.

ix. Skill Development: Skill development must rank alongside secondary education, university education, total sanitation and universal health care in the priorities of the government.

x. Sharing responsibility between States and Centre: States have the fiscal space to bear a reasonable proportion of the financial costs of implementing flagship programmes and must willingly do so, so that the Central

government can allocate more resources for subjects such as defence, railways, national highways and telecommunications that are its exclusive responsibility.

### The Indian National Congress's 100 Day Agenda for Growth

While the above presents a medium-term agenda for reform, the immediate priority is to ensure that the economy gets back on track to the target of 8 % growth.

While consolidating on the announcements and progress made over the last year, we commit to implementing the following

agenda within 100 days of forming the next government:

1. Introduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bills in Parliament and ensure they are enacted within 1 year. GST is likely to increase the aggregate revenue which will be used to fund the extra investment in infrastructure, health and education.
2. Ensure that we are on track to pass a new Direct Tax Code Bill in the first year of the new Lok Sabha.
3. Announce a detailed Jobs Agenda to ensure that we create 10 crore new jobs

and entrepreneurship opportunities for our youth.

4. Amend the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act to codify a credible commitment of the government to achieve fiscal deficit of 3 % of GDP by 2016-17, and stay below that always. Set up an independent National Fiscal Responsibility Council that will submit an annual report to the Parliament on the progress made in achieving our fiscal commitments.

5. Building on the success of the Cabinet Committee on Investment and the Project

Monitoring Group in clearing stalled investment proposals, set up a National Investment Facilitation Authority, a permanent body headed by the Prime Minister, and supported by a full-time secretariat, with the explicit mandate of identifying delayed projects and resolving inter-ministerial issues to enable rapid and transparent approvals to large projects, especially in the infrastructure sector.

6. Bring a Bill to set up a National Environmental Appraisal and Monitoring Authority to conduct rigorous and time-bound environmental appraisals and

recommend environmental clearances where appropriate in a time-bound and transparent manner.

7. Set up a Regulatory Reform Task Force for a review of all regulatory processes of central government ministries with the intent of repealing unnecessary processes, streamlining the regulatory structures and improving ease of doing business in India.

8. Put out a clear policy on tax treatment of foreign firms and Merger & Acquisitions (M & A) transactions while ensuring that taxes are paid by multinational/foreign entities in the jurisdiction in which the profits are earned.

9. Lay out a clear roadmap for dealing with immediate issues of public sector banks, including

recapitalisation, Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), operational autonomy, human resource development and succession planning in each bank.

10. Implement the recommendations of the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission that require no change in legislation and lay out a timeline for passing required legislation.

### Accelerating Job Creation and Skill Development

The landmark 'National Manufacturing Policy' of the UPA government brought the

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



agenda of job creation and manufacturing led growth on the policy landscape. This policy incorporates the agenda of creating 10 crore jobs in the manufacturing sector alone within one decade.

Today, two-thirds of Indians, nearly 80 crore Indians, are below 35 years of age. Getting well paying, decent jobs or entrepreneurship opportunities as they enter working age, is their number one priority. While a number of steps have been taken in this direction in the last decade, this remains an overriding national priority, requiring a lot more to be done. The Indian National Congress will announce a Jobs Agenda within 100 days of forming the government. This agenda will include the following elements:

1. The Indian National Congress is committed to creation of industrial corridors to catalyze economic growth and give a focused thrust to manufacturing in the country.
2. Create 100 new urban clusters around existing small and emerging cities and link them with power and transport facilities to scale existing economic activities.
3. Increase India's investment rate to 38 % to ensure more new investments are made to create jobs.
4. Improving India's 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking from the current 134 to 75 within 5 years, by streamlining the process for starting a business, getting

various permits, easing access to credit, streamlining the tax enforcement system, and various other interventions.

5. Create an enhanced framework to promote exports. Waive off all taxes, Central and State, that go into exported products. Put a minimum tariff protection so that there is an incentive to manufacture goods in India rather than import them.
6. The Congress-led UPA government, being fully aware of the importance of skilling to increase employability set up the National Skills Development Agency

to coordinate various disparate training efforts of different Central government ministries, State governments, industry, etc. We commit to increasing the resources at its disposal and enhance its mandate.

7. Reform the Apprentice Act, 1961, to encourage more firms to hire apprentices in their firms, which has proven to be a very effective way of providing "on-the-job training" to new employees.
8. The Standard Training Assessment and Reward (STAR) Scheme set up by the UPA government will be better funded

and a robust monitoring system will be put in place to track the manner in which skills are imparted and certifications given at the ground level under this scheme.

9. Community colleges stand at the crossroads of higher education and the real world. We have begun a programme to convert 200 existing educational institutions into community colleges. This will be completed within 5 years.
10. The Indian National Congress is committed to the creation of new and upgrading of existing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). Recognising the need to have

quality world-class training methods and infrastructure, we will introduce incentives for Public Private Partnership and engage world class expertise to ensure our youth are best equipped to take on demanding jobs in today's globalized world.

### 3. PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF LABOUR

The Indian National Congress will extend social security to the entire labour class, both organised and unorganised.

The Indian National Congress has stood for the cause and rights of labour. We have

enacted several laws to protect their interests including the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act. We will ensure the effective implementations of all such laws.

1. The Indian National Congress will ensure health insurance as well as pension cover for this group.
2. The Indian National Congress is committed to the strictest implementation of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1970, to end exploitation of workers and to improve their welfare and working conditions.

3. We will focus specially on labour working in hazardous industries.

4. Aadhaar is a powerful tool for protecting the interests of migrant labour,

as well as ensuring the smooth flow of remittances to their families. All migrant labour will be covered under the Aadhaar programme in the next one year, through a special campaign.

5. The special needs of labour working in plantations, particularly those relating to housing, will be addressed through ongoing programmes.
6. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted; this will be implemented in letter and spirit.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



7. We will set up a Commission to explore the possibility of bringing all Labour Laws under one comprehensive Law.

#### 4. RIGHT TO HEALTH

The Indian National Congress will increase health expenditure to 3% of GDP and provide universal and quality health care for all Indians.

The Indian National Congress has endeavoured to provide quality public health services to all citizens. Its forward-looking Schemes have achieved great success. This is reflected in the decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio and Infant Mortality Rate. The Janani Suraksha Yojana, a scheme started to encourage institutional delivery has achieved great success in increasing the number of beneficiaries from 7.3 lakh in 2005-06, to nearly 113 lakh pregnant women in 2010-11.

1. We were the first party to implement development policies as human rights. To strengthen this framework, we now pledge to enact a Right to Health to ensure that all people obtain easily accessible, quality health services, based on a combination of public provision and social insurance. The new National Health Mission will emphasize both rural and urban health care.
2. We will provide for 5 state of the art mobile health care vans in every district, equipped with x-ray and other equipment, to provide health care check ups including, mammography, blood tests, etc.

3. The Indian National Congress will expand the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana to enable access to a continuum of comprehensive primary, secondary and tertiary care.

4. The Indian National Congress commits itself to increasing the Institutional Delivery Rate. Maternal and child health care will also continue to be a major focus. We aim to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio drastically.

5. Almost 56% of adolescent girls in India are anaemic. Anaemia and malnutrition among

mothers endanger the mother's health and causes growth retardation and vulnerability to diseases in children. This is not just a socio-economic challenge; it is a political challenge to which the Indian National Congress reaffirms its commitment.

6. Almost 60% of open defecation in the world takes place in India. Poor sanitation is a serious health hazard. We will endeavour to provide a functional toilet in every school and every household.

7. There has been a reduction of new HIV infections in the country by 57%. We aim to reduce this further and provide

comprehensive care and support to all persons living with HIV/AIDS.

8. We will launch focused intervention to improve the Child Sex Ratio, within an overall "National Strategy for Care and Protection of the Girl Child" from birth to adolescence.

9. Health and Family Welfare Programmes will be strengthened to achieve a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 between 2017 and 2020. Particular attention will be paid to regions which still have a high TFR (above 2.5).

10. India's success in becoming polio-free through vaccination will be replicated. Our goal is to ensure universal coverage of routine immunization through campaigns and effective monitoring in districts throughout the country.

11. To ensure effective implementation of all health related initiatives, we will work to strengthen the primary health workforce including Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Male Multipurpose Workers (MMWs),

Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Community Health Officers etc. We will work to fill the current vacancies and improve their competencies through nationwide capacity building programmes linked to the National Health Mission.

12. We will create 60 lakh new jobs in the health sector by 2020 by training and expanding the current teaching programmes for healthcare professionals, particularly in the public sector institutions. We will start a three-year Diploma Course in Public Health.

13. Primary health care infrastructure will be strengthened right upto the point of the community health centre and continuity of care would be assured.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019

#### 5. EMPOWERING SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

The Indian National Congress will continue to work towards the empowerment of the marginalised sections of society.

The principles of equity and inclusion have been weaved into the very fabric of the Indian National Congress. It is because of the initiatives of the Indian National Congress that the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes have seen



an improvement in key socio-economic indicators. In fact the annual rate of decline for poverty in the period between 2004–05 and 2009–10 has been much higher than between 1993-94 and 2004-05 for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Indian National Congress has enacted several laws for the weaker sections including the Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 to push for rehabilitation of these families. The Constitution (117th Amendment) Bill 2012 to provide reservation in promotions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. We will continue to fight the deep-seated prejudices, traditional hierarchies and disparities faced by these sections, socially, politically and economically.

1. The Indian National Congress is committed to finding a way forward for introducing reservation in education and employment for economically weaker sections of all communities without in any way affecting existing reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
2. We now pledge to enact central legislation on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub Plans so that the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be accelerated to become at par with other Castes.

3. The Indian National Congress will ensure the passage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2013.
4. With a strong focus on education and vocational skills, we will endeavour to establish one Navodaya Vidyalaya type of school of high standards for weaker sections, in every Block of the country.
5. We will continue to provide assistance to fund the cost of education in both private and government institutions for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students, with priority to those students

whose parental income is less than Rs. 6 lakh per annum.

6. All Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students fulfilling the admission criteria will be provided with universal access to the Rajiv Gandhi Research Fellowships. In addition, 1000 overseas scholarships for eligible students will be provided annually.
7. Every Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe unemployed graduate or post graduate will be provided with a Skill Development Voucher of Rs. 10,000 to

pay for the appropriate skill development course.

8. The Indian National Congress has ensured the reservation of 4% of procurement from small and medium Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe enterprises. We will push for strict implementation of this norm.
9. The Indian National Congress, recognizing that dalit women are more socially and economically vulnerable, has endeavored to work for their upliftment and welfare and will continue to ensure dignity through economic and social empowerment.

12. The Indian National Congress is committed to creating national consensus on affirmative action for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector.

13. We will take steps to ensure that all reserved posts are filled and a special drive will be undertaken to fill all the backlog vacancies in reserved posts in government and Public Sector Undertakings.

14. The Indian National Congress is deeply committed to developing a National Action Plan for the Development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and

Other Backward Classes. There shall be a special survey, which will be undertaken once every five years to estimate, on select development indicators, the gap in the development of these groups.

15. The Indian National Congress will ensure that the existing Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Candidates will be extended to students belonging to Other Backward Classes.

16. The Indian National Congress will establish Special Commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to identify communities within each group which have not benefited from reservations and other affirmative action programmes and which need to be given a special focus.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019

10. We will encourage and support Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs by providing them easy access to credit and other incentives like tax rebates at the initial stages of establishment of their business etc.

11. We will focus on development activities for creating social and economic opportunities for Scheduled Tribes. We will ensure the stringent implementation of PESA, 1996 and the Forest Rights Act, 2006 to ensure that Scheduled Tribes are empowered and brought into the mainstream.



## 6. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

The Indian National Congress will ensure the safety and security of our women and children. We will provide them equal access to social, economic and political opportunities.

The Indian National Congress is a party that has gone beyond the rhetoric and hyperbole relied on by most parties when it comes to the empowerment of women and children. The Indian National Congress has enacted several women and child oriented Acts, including the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2013, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. We have also ensured that gender equality and child care facilities are mainstreamed in government schemes like MGNREGA. We will continue to work for the development our women and children.

1. The Indian National Congress will ensure that all laws for the welfare of children including the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, will be strictly enforced.

2. We will further strengthen and expand the scope of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, set up in 2007.
3. We will also ensure that the strongest possible action is taken to prevent child trafficking.
4. The quality of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) programme will be vastly improved and special incentives will be given to Anganwadi workers.

5. The Indian National Congress is committed to the enactment of the Women's Reservation Bill to reserve 33 % of all seats in the Lok Sabha, and in all State legislative assemblies for women.
6. We will initiate immediate action to formulate a Citizens Charter for Women's Safety and Security.
7. The Indian National Congress has placed a high premium on the education of women. We will continue with this focus, to achieve gender parity in literacy.

8. Fast-Track Courts will be established with 'in-camera' proceedings facilities in State headquarters and in regional centres. The purpose of these Courts will be solely to address crimes against women. Mandatory procedure for the rapid conclusion of cases where custody of children is involved shall be put in place.
9. We will increase the number of girls hostels, particularly in tribal areas and hostels for working women, with day care, to encourage women to become well-educated and earn their own livelihood.

10. We will ensure that all measures are taken to make women feel safe and protected. We will expedite such measures as the creation of functional helplines in all major towns and cities and rural areas for prompt grievance redressal for women, exclusive 24-hour transport facilities and gender sensitivity classes for police men and women, particularly in registering and investigating complaints made by women.
11. The Indian National Congress will open "One Stop Crisis Centres" for women in all hospitals to provide medical, legal and

psycho-social aid in cases of rape and domestic violence against women.

12. The Indian National Congress, true to its long-standing history, will take measures to enable increased participation and reservation for women at all levels within the government. We will ensure that at least 25% of the total police officers, sub-inspectors and constables at every police station in the country will be women, over the next five years. We will ensure the number of women police stations in the country goes up from 500 to 2000 in the next five years.

13. The Indian National Congress will earmark at least 30% of all funds flowing into Panchayats and Nagarpalikas for development of women and children and focus on the special needs of female agricultural labour and women cultivators.

14. We will encourage the setting up of "Poorn Shakti Kendras" at block level to provide a single window mechanism for awareness, information, access and utilisation of government schemes and programmes.
15. The Indian National Congress will provide land rights for women especially single women, women-headed households, land for women whose husbands have migrated away from villages.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



16. The Indian National Congress will strive to clear all pending compensations to women with missing husbands in areas of unrest and conflict and especially border areas including providing employment to war widows and their families.

17. We will strengthen institutional arrangements to provide access to credit, training and marketing for women in the unorganised sector in peri-urban and rural areas.

18. The Indian National Congress is deeply distressed with the continued sexual exploitation of tribal girls at various places, such as hostels, and continued trafficking in young women belonging to tribal communities. This matter will receive the highest priority and will be taken up with all State governments and special Schemes will be introduced, like through the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for securing their livelihoods.

19. The Indian National Congress will work with women's Self-Help-Groups for the distribution of free sanitary napkins for adolescent girls.

20. The Indian National Congress believes that society should be more sensitive to the rights of the transgender community. This issue will receive separate and continued attention.

21. Through the NRLM we will provide low interest loans, of upto Rs. 1 lakh, to women for livelihood activities.

## 7. SAFEGUARDING MINORITIES

The Indian National Congress will focus on accelerating concrete, sustainable and long-term plans for the welfare of the Nation's minorities.

The Indian National Congress has always been at the forefront in promoting Schemes for the welfare of minorities. A separate and dedicated Ministry of Minority Affairs was established under the Congress-led UPA-I

government. Since then many far-reaching programmes in various sectors have been implemented with significant results.

1. Numerous scholarships have been distributed to children belonging to the minority community. The Corpus of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been more than tripled to over Rs 700 crore in an attempt to encourage candidates from the minority communities to pursue opportunities in higher education. This work will be continued so as to ensure that no child who applies for educational support is denied it at any level.

2. 'Priority Sector Lending' disbursement for minorities has steadily increased. We will continue to ensure that members of the minority communities have easy access to credit and other incentives like tax rebates etc., to encourage entrepreneurship.

3. For the effective management of Waqf properties and in realisation of the specific promise made in 2009, the Congress-led UPA government became the first government to pass a law providing clear guidelines to prevent the usurpation and mismanagement of Waqf properties. The Indian National Congress pledges to continue with this programme.

6. We will work to create a ready corpus, along the lines of the Maulana Azad Educational Fund for young entrepreneurs. Skills development programmes for minorities which have been carried out successfully in various districts, will be implemented across the country.

7. While much work has been done to implement the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, the Indian National Congress will work tirelessly to ensure that every single recommendation is reviewed and efforts are made for their implementation.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019

## 8. YOUTH AND STUDENT AGENDA

The Indian National Congress will continue to focus on youth capacity building, education, leadership and

development. Opening up the political system and giving a voice to each and every young Indian will continue to be a priority area.

The Indian National Congress believes our youth is our biggest asset. In the past decade not only have we actively encouraged young leadership and political opportunities for all but also remained committed to creating an enabling and rewarding environment to build the capacity of our youth to take on roles more actively in our country's future. We spend more than Rs. 90,000 crore across various schemes for the youth, and we will only increase this.

4. The Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2013, which was drafted and introduced by the Indian National Congress will be passed as a matter of priority.

5. The Congress-led UPA government has taken steps to address the conditions of backward minorities by aiming to provide them reservation in educational institutions and in government employment. We will pursue this matter closely in Court and ensure that the policy is implemented through proper legislation.



## Building the Best Education System in the World for our Students

The Indian National Congress has been unequivocal in its emphasis and support for providing affordable and quality education. We will continue to keep education on the very top of our development agenda.

Education is the backbone of human development and is vital to ensuring equal social, political and economic opportunities for all citizens. We enacted the Right to Education Act 2009, which provides for free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years. As a result, enrolment of children at the primary education stage has now reached near universal levels. 1.98 lakh primary schools and 1.1 lakh upper primary schools have been constructed. Under UPA-I and UPA-II, the per capita public expenditure on education increased from Rs. 888 in 2004–05 to Rs. 2,985 in 2011–12. Our focus will now be on improving the quality of education- we will move from “Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan” to “Shreshth Shiksha Abhiyan.”

1. The Indian National Congress will strengthen the implementation of the Right to Education Act to ensure quality learning outcomes, adequate infrastructure and facilities in schools, regular teacher training and an optimal Pupil Teacher Ratio. We will also ensure quality in teacher training by making

suitable investments and amendments to regulations, wherever required.

2. We will enhance focus and resources on the implementation of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, to improve quality of secondary education. We will achieve near universal enrolment in secondary education.
3. The Indian National Congress will place a special emphasis on reducing the drop-out rate particularly in middle and secondary levels.

4. We will establish an independent regulatory mechanism to oversee State and private institutions to ensure standardisation and quality of education.
5. We will support regional and context specific curricula as well focus on developing life skills including leadership building.
6. We are committed to the cause of special education. We will strengthen facilities for children with special needs and disabilities. We will also award priority to developing infrastructure for differently-abled persons.

7. The Indian National Congress will take systematic steps to address issues relating to discrimination against students from the North East and Jammu and Kashmir.
8. We will continue to place a special focus on ensuring educational access to civil strife affected areas and the North East region.
9. To focus on higher education, we launched the Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) to provide strategic funding to improve college and university infrastructure. RUSA will help create 70 new universities, provide infrastructure in

current universities, upgrade autonomous colleges to Universities, and create a new model of general degree colleges and professional institutions.

10. The Indian National Congress will set up a “National Commission for Students”, a body which will protect and promote the interests of students. This Commission will review Constitutional and legal safeguards for students, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the government on all policy matters concerning students.

11. The Indian National Congress will continue to expand its support to providing interest-free education loans to students at all levels especially to the weaker sections of society.

12. The Indian National Congress is committed to exploring the possible partnerships with the private sector in the delivery of education. New Public Private Partnership models will be explored and appropriate regulatory systems, accreditation procedures, policies and incentives will be developed, to enable private education providers to take on the challenge of expanding and improving secondary education, in particular.

13. Indian National Congress will establish a “National Youth Commission”, which will be a professional and dedicated focal point for youth development in all aspects.

14. We will establish a centralised students exchange programme to encourage National unity.

## Promoting Sports

The Indian National Congress remains committed to ensuring that sports opportunities are expanded and made more available and accessible to the youth.

We will strive to be a Nation where sport in all its forms is promoted and encouraged.

1. Due to the UPA-II's recent efforts, India has been reinstated as a member of the

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019





International Olympic Committee. The Indian National Congress will continue to clean up sports administration. We will ensure active involvement of former sportspersons in sports administration.

2. The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan launched by the Congress-led UPA government will be implemented to ensure high quality sporting facilities in every block of the country.
3. A "National Sports Education University" will be set up to educate students of exceptional talent. There would be a team of experts who would be continuously scouting for talent in every sport across the country in the age-group of 8-15 years. It will have world class coaches and facilities.

youth in Railways, Indian Army and other Central government departments.

3. The Indian National Congress remains committed to eradicating the problem of drug abuse. A nation-wide assessment of the prevalence of this problem will be undertaken. Funding will be adequately provided for drug-rehabilitation centres which will be set up in each district.
4. The National Service Scheme, launched by the Congress-led UPA government for graduates, aims to enhance IT literacy, financial literacy, english communication and other soft skills; to make the youth

## 9. RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

The Indian National Congress will continue to work progressively to ensure the prosperity of rural India.

In the ten years of UPA-I and UPA-II, the rural areas of the country have seen unprecedented economic development and improvement in quality of life. For the first time in over two decades, the increase in rural consumption, at 18%, has outpaced urban consumption. Rural poverty declined at 0.7 percentage points per year between 1993-94 and 2004-05. It declined more than three times faster at 2.3

Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers and various others, must have their contributions recognised in a meaningful manner. The Indian National Congress will ensure that they are compensated adequately for their services and have access to high quality training and decent working conditions.

2. The Indian National Congress fulfilled its promise and implemented the National Food Security Act, a statutory guarantee to ensure adequate quantity and quality of food at affordable prices to people to live their life with dignity. The Indian National Congress will attempt to expand the focus of the current food security Schemes to include subsidised pulses and cooking oil for beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019

### Other Youth Issues

The Indian National Congress will promote social inclusiveness, employability and entrepreneurship development among the youth.

1. The Indian National Congress will provide a special youth development package (entrepreneurship/employment) for Left-Wing Extremism affected areas with special focus on women and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
2. We will start a special drive for recruitment of North East and Jammu & Kashmir

more employable. The Indian National Congress is committed to increasing funding and reach of this Scheme while prioritising its implementation.

5. We will seek to ensure priority to differently-abled youth with respect to education and employment opportunities.
6. We will set up government run employment exchange/ facilitation centers for youth seeking foreign employment opportunities. These will help curtail middlemen/fraudulent recruiting agencies. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs will be the nodal agency for this.

percentage points per year in the UPA period between 2004-05 and 2011-12.

Farm wages in real terms increased impressively after 2004 to reach Rs.184.7 per day in 2012-13. Our flagship and historic programme, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has been a significant contributor in this; on an average 1 in every 4 rural households has sought work under MGNREGA every year.

1. All development functionaries at the village level who perform vital nation-building tasks like Anganwadi workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs),

3. The Indian National Congress will implement a Universal Pension Scheme, for the elderly, destitute, widows and other similar groups (based on certain exclusions).

4. We will expand the current Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to ensure that an all-weather road will connect all habitations with a population of 125 persons and above.
5. To promote effective access to clean drinking water and water for irrigation, we will set up a legal and institutional framework, in discussion and with consensus of States, for water. We will



also ensure 100% coverage of rural habitations for drinking water in the next five years.

6. We will continue to support Self-Help-Groups (SHGs) and assist the poor to set up small businesses. We will set up more branches of the Bharatiya Mahila Bank and women only branches of other public sector banks. Our target is to ensure the formation of 7 crore SHGs by 2019.

7. The Indian National Congress will ensure 100% modernisation and digitisation of land records to ensure transparency in land titles.

8. The Indian National Congress will substantially increase Panchayat funding, especially of untied funds. We

will also encourage Panchayats to raise their own resources so that Panchayat representatives, in consultation with Gram and Ward Sabhas, can themselves decide how and on what to spend their money.

9. We will set up a "National Panchayati Raj Commission", with branches in each State and Union Territory, so that:

- a. Probity and transparency is ensured in the functioning of Panchayats and their elected representatives;
- b. Panchayati Raj functions in line with the Constitution and the laws of the land, especially in tribal areas covered by Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA);

c. Gram Sabhas are strengthened and legally mandated to secure responsible and responsive local government;

d. The individual citizen is empowered to secure, through the local Panchayat, his or her rights and entitlements and other benefits provided for in the Constitution.

## 10. AGRICULTURE AND FARMER WELFARE

The Indian National Congress will continue to provide an impetus to agricultural growth, productivity and incomes. We will also stay focused on providing all possible support for

our farmers, in particular women and small and marginal farmers.

The Indian National Congress has instituted schemes like the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. As a result of these measures, the agriculture GDP growth went up from 2.6% (under the NDA) to 3.1% under UPA-I and further to 4% under UPA-II.

1. The historic decision by the Congress-led UPA government to allow Foreign Direct Investment in multibrand retail will transform the agrarian economy as it will create a beneficial value chain from farm-to-fork, creating rural infrastructure for sorting, grading, packing, cold storage

facilities and ware housing. It will ensure that the farmer gets a much higher value for her or his produce.

2. We will continue to nurture Public Private Partnerships for increasing investments in value-chains, cold storage facilities, grading and standardisation, quality certification and warehouses. This will greatly aid in increasing agriculture productivity and exports.

3. We will add 1 crore hectares to irrigated area by completing the radical Water Reforms Agenda of the 12th Plan, which is based on Irrigation Management

Transfer to Water Users Associations of farmers. This will ensure Gross Irrigated Area crosses 10 crore hectares in India.

4. The current water use efficiency in irrigation is 40%. The Indian National Congress will actively support more efficient water use technologies including reuse and recycling of water. We will complete the historic aquifer-mapping and the groundwater management programme launched by UPA-II over the next five years, to ensure sustainable utilisation of groundwater to secure the livelihoods of lakhs of our farmers,

particularly in regions where groundwater depletion has taken place.

5. Small and marginal farmers own more than half the country's total cattle and buffalo. However, only 12% of the total expenditure on agriculture is on livestock development. The Indian National Congress will place a special emphasis on livestock, fisheries, opening of veterinary schools and centres, fodder development through animal husbandry programmes and schemes like MGNREGA. MGNREGA will also be harnessed to support the construction of poultry shelters and water bodies for fisheries.

6. The Indian National Congress will increase spending to ensure access and quality in agriculture education, including increasing the amount for and number of post-matric scholarships

and research fellowships for veterinary students.

7. The Indian National Congress will increase coverage of crop insurance schemes, particularly among the small and marginal farmers and non-loanee farmers. Settlement of claims on time, better crop yield estimation to determine premiums etc., and involvement of private sector will be other areas of focus.

8. The Indian National Congress will allocate special funds for agricultural research to develop new technologies

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



for disease management of crops and livestock, high-yielding-varieties of crops, etc.

9. The Indian National Congress will promote resource conservation technologies and agriculture practices like integrated farming, organic farming and develop wastelands for dry land farming.

10. We will cover 250 lakh hectares as watersheds, as part of the dramatically reformed Integrated Watershed Management Programme launched by UPA-II.

11. There are lakhs of families in our coastal belts that depend on fishing for their livelihood. To enhance their welfare, a new

Ministry of Fisheries will be established and all steps will be taken to further enhance their livelihood security.

12. The Indian National Congress, honouring the commitment made in the 2009 Manifesto, enacted the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Indian National Congress will ensure fast and fair implementation of the Act such that farmers, landowners and livelihood losers get adequate compensation for their acquired land.

13. The Indian National Congress has more than doubled the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for farmers for wheat and paddy from 2004-05 to 2013-14. The MSP for other cereals increased three-fold. We will continue our endeavour to provide higher MSP to increase profitability of agriculture for our farmers.

14. The Indian National Congress will provide concessional loans to groups/collectives of small and marginal farmers and women farmers upto Rs. 5 lakh to enable them to gain better access to inputs and services.

15. The Indian National Congress will strive to lower interest rates for farmers to ensure they are able to access extension services and agriculture inputs like seeds, water, fertilizers etc.

## 11. ACCELERATING INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING GROWTH

The Indian National Congress commits to 10% growth in manufacturing and an increase in contribution of manufacturing sector's share to 25% of GDP. We will also support rapid acceleration in exports.

We are aware that the deceleration in investment in manufacturing has been a serious concern. We propose to take strong measures to promote the manufacturing industry.

1. Utmost priority will be given to the implementation of the National Manufacturing Policy to enhance the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25% by 2022, which will be achieved by an annual growth rate for the sector in the range of 12-14%. We are committed to creating National Investment Manufacturing Zones as greenfield integrated industrial townships to make India a manufacturing hub of the world. 16 new world-class

cities have already been notified across the country.

2. The Indian National Congress is committed to the creation of industrial corridors to catalyse economic growth and give a focused thrust to manufacturing in the country. The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor has decisively moved into the implementation phase. Conceptual planning of the Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor, Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor and Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor has been completed and work for implementation of these Corridors will start soon.

3. Special emphasis will be given for enhancing the competitiveness of manufacturing. We will encourage the allotment of land from existing land banks for priority sectors to provide an impetus to manufacturing.

4. A patent pool will be created which will ensure that the Indian small and medium enterprises are able to access world-class technology at affordable cost.

5. The Indian National Congress will introduce the Goods and Services Tax Bills and a new Direct Tax Code Bill in Parliament and ensure they are enacted

within one year. We will also announce a Jobs Agenda, with a focus on attracting new investments for job creation, within 100 days of government formation.

6. We will endeavour to create a stable and predictable business environment. We will ensure that the interface between government and industry is simplified and will usher in comprehensive regulatory changes in this regard. This will include optimising the use of electronic platforms and minimising human interface wherever possible. Redundant procedures will be weeded out and the E-biz Project will be implemented across the country, which will ensure 'single window electronic clearances' platform for all investors, embracing in its fold all regulatory approvals of the Central and State governments.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



7. The Indian National Congress will continue to pay special attention to industries in the North East. It will also work to establish better connectivity, collection centres and market linkages for these areas and provide special incentives for entrepreneurs from the region.

8. The Indian National Congress will come out with a transparent policy for development of natural resources and have a special purpose vehicle for this, which will be responsible for judicious allocation, striking a balance between present requirements and future demands. It will also ensure that an independent regulator monitors the process of such allocation.

9. The Indian National Congress recognizes the need for creating flexibilities in the labour market, especially in the export-oriented industry, given the cyclical nature of demand. The Indian National Congress is committed to protecting the interests of labour through more progressive labour laws.

10. The policies to encourage foreign direct investment pursued by the Congress-led UPA Government ensured that India remained amongst the top 3 investment destinations globally. Over the last 4 years, India received foreign investment of US\$ 175 billion. The Indian National Congress is committed to sustaining an investment climate which is welcoming

and supportive of Foreign Direct Investment.

11. The Indian National Congress will strengthen multilateral trade systems and investment flows for future prosperity. The Congress-led UPA government has embarked on a path of greater economic integration. The trade in goods and services has exceeded US\$ 1 trillion and we will ensure that this gets doubled within a period of 5 years.

## 12. INFRASTRUCTURE

The Indian National Congress is of the

firm belief that infrastructure will serve as the backbone of India's growth. We pledge to spend \$1 trillion on upgrading India's infrastructure in the coming decade.

### Transport

India is growing very rapidly and transport is a foundational pillar of that growth. The Indian Railways is the world's largest rail network and currently carries 822.4 crore people a year. During the UPA government, the total goods carried by the railways doubled to 1 billion tonnes. The Congress-led UPA governments have built or upgraded 17,394 km of highways. There has been a ten-fold increase in investment in road construction

in rural areas. We will continue to invest in creating an extensive and world-class transportation network which will connect people across the country.

1. The Indian National Congress will launch a "National Road Transport Safety Programme". Road Accidents will be halved within five years by strong willed political commitment to this Programme. The Programme will make every possible effort to change the road safety culture while establishing clear road safety norms.

2. The Indian National Congress recognizes that the Indian Railways is the lifeline of the Nation and is committed to railway

modernisation. We will ensure effective implementation of the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee.

3. The Indian National Congress will ensure that all million-plus cities are covered by High Speed Rail.

4. We have begun work on the Western and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridors, which will revolutionise freight, transport in India, making it more efficient. The Indian National Congress is committed to ensuring these projects are completed in a time-bound manner.

5. We have over the last decade, used the Public Private Partnership model to unveil world-class airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore and the Airports Authority of India has upgraded several others. As the demand for air travel is increasing tremendously, we will upgrade and create new infrastructure for air travel across the country.

6. The Indian National Congress will ensure adequate funding and timely development of Regional Rapid Transit Systems. The work of preparation of Feasibility Studies of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors for the three prioritized corridors: Delhi-Sonipat-Panipat, Delhi-Gurgaon-Rewari-Alwar, Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut is already being done. We will ensure these are fast-tracked.

7. We are committed to investing in and upgrading the logistics, infrastructure and development of the port sector in India. We will continue to work in this direction.

8. The Indian National Congress will emphasise development of India's inland waterways, which totals about 14,500 kms in length, along with coastal shipping. We will work to set up terminals at major ports and providing adequate road and rail connectivity to inland water and coastal terminals and non-major coastal ports.

### Energy

India's power generation capacity more than doubled to 2.34 lakh MW over the past

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



decade. To promote equitable and inclusive access to energy, we have recently increased the number of subsidised cooking gas cylinders per household to 12 per year. The Indian National Congress will continue to enable the provision of clean, efficient and affordable energy for all.

1. The Indian National Congress is committed to the establishment of a clearly defined policy for fair, transparent equitable and time bound development of natural resources. The Indian National Congress will immediately put in place a Special Purpose Vehicle for this which will be responsible for a judicious allocation, of resources on the basis of usage and not arbitrarily, while striking a balance between present requirements and future demands. We will also ensure that an independent regulator monitors the process of natural resource allocation, in a manner that best serves the interests of the Nation.

2. We will effectively implement the National Mission on Energy Efficiency to improve energy efficiency in all areas of the economy including power, transport, urban housing, consumer goods and in rural housing.

3. We will work to ensure greater access to electricity; 100% access in urban from current 94% and 90% access in rural areas from current 67.3% under the Rajiv

Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).

4. We are mindful of the fact that while we have worked to increase access to electricity, its availability remains an area of concern. The Indian National Congress will work to improve the quality and unit consumption of electricity in rural areas.

5. Women being the main energy users and primary energy suppliers are worst affected by restricted LPG supply. There still exists a strong disparity between urban and rural areas. We need to work

effectively to increase household access to LPG and kerosene, especially the availability to rural households.

6. We will give a new thrust to new and renewable energy, including hydel, solar and nuclear energy.

7. We will ensure accelerated implemented of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission and launch a “National Wind Energy Mission”.

### 13. URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Indian National Congress affirms its

commitment to creating inclusive cities, revamping urban governance, increasing low-income housing, and making large investments in infrastructure.

With the 74th Amendment to India’s Constitution devolving power to urban local bodies, and through the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), we have given a major impetus to urban development in India.

30 crore Indians currently live in towns and cities. Within 20-25 years, another 30 crore people will get added to this. Recognising the challenges of urbanisation ahead, the Indian

National Congress is committed to adopting a proactive approach to address them.

1. The Indian National Congress will ensure that Mayors and Municipal Chairpersons have fully functional powers, so that they can operate as Chief Executives Officers of cities with executive powers and responsibilities and not just ceremonial positions. We will also increase the tenure of Mayors.

2. Urban constituencies are rapidly growing in population and the disparity between constituencies is increasing. This undermines the principle of equality of

vote and also results in under-franchise of urban areas. We will ensure this issue is revisited so that constituencies can be adjusted to reflect population changes.

3. JNNURM was a landmark initiative undertaken by the Congress-led government; it put the urban agenda centre stage with major investments in urban infrastructure. We also launched a revamped JNNURM-II with more funding and more powers to local governments. JNNURM-II is giving priority to the strengthening of human and institutional capabilities, local planning and improvement in governance. We will continue to implement this with vigour and focus to ensure better sewage facilities, roads and multi-modal public transport.

### 14. HOUSING

The Indian National Congress will continue to work towards providing affordable and quality housing for all sections

1. The Indira Awaas Yojana will be expanded to cover all poor rural households. Financial assistance for this will include money to not only construct a pucca house but also individual sanitary toilets and drinking water connections.

2. For urban areas, the Rajiv Awaas Yojana will be expanded to cover all poor urban households. The Scheme is expected to

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



cover 250 cities by the end of the 2017. Funds have already been released to 162 cities for undertaking preparatory activities under Slum Free City Planning Scheme. Our priority will be time-bound implementation of this initiative.

3. We will endeavour to ensure a Right to Homestead for all poor households.
4. We will endeavour to ensure Title Deeds are given to those who have been living on lands for more than two decades.

## 15. ENVIRONMENT

The Indian National Congress is committed to sustainable development in its true spirit. We will continue to accord the highest priority to environmental protection and to ensure that all people in India have the right to a clean environment, which secures their health, livelihood and nutritional well-being. The Indian National Congress has always prioritised conservation of our national environment. It was Smt. Indira Gandhi who raised the importance of this agenda as the only visiting Head of State at the UN Conference on Human Environment, 1972. The Indian National Congress has enacted various laws for environmental protection, including the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

1. The Indian National Congress will bring a Bill to set up a National Environmental Appraisal and Monitoring Authority

(NEAMA) - a professional agency to conduct rigorous and time-bound environmental appraisals and recommend environmental clearances, where appropriate, in a time-bound and transparent manner.

2. We will put water conservation at the heart of our programmes for agriculture, rural and urban development. This will be done by focusing all current programmes on augmenting water through decentralized systems, conserving water through all means and promoting recycling and reuse of water in all sectors. Water is a public right, but also a public responsibility.

We believe that while pricing of water must ensure that users internalise ethics of conservation, it is also imperative that it be sustainable and affordable. We will promote these principles in all our programmes for water and waste management.

3. The Indian National Congress will take up the cleaning of rivers on a large scale. The National Ganga River Basin Authority has begun the ambitious task of cleaning the Ganga River. We will use similar models of creating empowered, well-funded agencies to clean other major rivers in the country.

4. An overwhelming number of women, especially in rural India still use polluting biomass for cooking, which puts an unbearable health burden on them. The Indian National Congress is committed to providing clean cooking fuel across the country in an accelerated manner in order to address this.
5. We will launch "Green National Accounts" by 2016-17, to ensure that the costs of environmental degradation are clearly reflected in India's national accounts. We will also develop indicators that will provide data to the public on the state of our natural resources.

6. We will engage tribal and forest-dwelling communities more centrally in forest management, and ensure they get benefits from forest produce, including bamboo and other non-timber forest produce. We will ensure that revenues from forest-based activities, including from wildlife tourism, are shared with local communities. This will serve as a bedrock for making forest conservation more durable and effective.
7. We will continue to implement the various missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change with purpose and determination.

8. The Congress-led government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission under which we set the ambitious target of deploying 20,000 MW of grid connected solar power by 2022. We will ensure this target is met well in advance.

9. We will also launch a major new "National Mission on Wind Energy" to harness the power of this clean and renewable source of energy, which has tremendous untapped potential in India.

10. India is one of the world's mega biodiverse countries. We will continue to give the highest priority to protecting this biodiversity.

11. We will continue to strongly advance and protect India's interests in international climate and other environmental negotiations.

## 16. INNOVATION, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The Indian National Congress will give a renewed thrust to use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Under the Indian National Congress's leadership, the country is moving towards transformation through 'Democratisation of Information'. Efforts are underway to use ICT tools to herald transparency, efficiency,

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



accountability and accessibility to create more inclusive and responsive structures, which are in tune with the needs of 21st century India. In fields such as agriculture, financial services, commerce, education and health, this ICT-led Democratisation of Information is revolutionising service delivery, citizen interface and accountability through innovative practices. New tools under this will be the biggest game changer for bringing about larger systems reform.

1. The Indian National Congress will ensure that all Indian residents have a unique Aadhaar number. This will serve as a proof of identity and proof of residence. It will also enable access to services (like opening a bank account) for a vast majority of Indians.
2. The Indian National Congress is committed to using the Aapka Paisa Aapka Haath platform for all government programmes. Direct Benefit Transfer will ensure time-bound delivery of benefits at the individual's doorstep, and remove corruption and leakages.
3. The Indian National Congress will increase the annual expenditure on science and technology to at least 2 % of GDP. This has to come from both government and industry. Steps will be taken to encourage the corporate sector to invest in Research and Development.
4. The Indian National Congress will connect all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats with high-speed broadband connectivity within 18 months, with a view of

improving public delivery mechanism. The vision is to transform governance and service delivery in areas such as health, education and agriculture, and unleash local innovation capacity.

5. We will ensure the passage of the Electronic Delivery of Service Bill 2011. We will, in accordance with the Bill, work to effectively deliver all public services (like passports, ration cards and driving licenses) electronically.
6. We will work to establish a Rapidly Deployable Multi-Protocol Wireless Communication system; interoperable

across all the services engaged in disaster management.

7. We will ensure effective implementation of the India Inclusive Innovation Fund so that innovative enterprises can profitably, scalably, and competitively engage citizens at the bottom of the economic pyramid. We recognize the need for grassroots innovation and will ensure this initiative is well funded.
8. We currently import popular branded hardware in the IT sector. We will give special tax incentives for setting up manufacturing for such products in India.

## 17. FIGHTING CORRUPTION

The Indian National Congress re-emphasizes its commitment to better delivery of services while eliminating corruption and leakages.

The Indian National Congress gave the people of India the Right To Information (RTI). The RTI has been our most powerful weapon in the fight against corruption. Few governments have had the courage to enact legislation that rendered their processes more transparent and open to scrutiny. In recognition of a widespread public concern over the issue of corruption we passed the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

With the passage of the Right to Information Act, 2005 the Indian National Congress empowered the people with the biggest tool to fight corruption and ensure transparency of public service delivery systems. The recent landmark Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2014 is another step in our efforts to create a society free of corruption. The Indian National Congress will give the highest priority to the passage of the following Bills:

1. The Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill, 2011 has the potential to be the second RTI. We will ensure its passage. Redressal of public grievances at the grassroots

level within a specified period of time is necessary to ensure good governance.

2. Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International Organizations Bill 2011 to criminalise bribes offered by foreign officials and organisations.
3. The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, which enlarges the definition of taking a bribe and covering commercial organizations.
4. The Public Procurement Bill, 2012 regulates public procurement by all Ministries and Departments of the Central government, Central Public Sector Enterprises and bodies controlled by the Central government to ensure transparency, and fair and equitable treatment of bidders. This will promote competition and enhance efficiency in procurement processes.

## 18. GOVERNANCE REFORMS

The Indian National Congress will give the highest priority to ensuring accessibility and transparency in governance systems.

The Indian National Congress will ensure that the recommendations of the second Administrative Reforms Commission are implemented in letter and spirit and monitored at every step.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



## Electoral Reforms

We will ensure appropriate electoral reforms to make the political process more transparent and accountable.

The Indian National Congress has always demonstrated its steadfast commitment to electoral reforms. This includes strengthening the legal and judicial framework for disqualifying those convicted of specified crimes, disqualifying persons convicted of crimes against women and weaker sections and disqualifying those who subvert the integrity of the electoral process.

1. The Indian National Congress is fully in favour of a special monitoring system for timely disposal of all cases involving elections, for introducing transparency in financing of political activities and in expanding state funding for elections.
2. The Indian National Congress will continue its efforts to enact the Women's Reservation Bill to ensure one-third reservation for women in Parliament and State legislatures.

## Police Reforms

The Indian National Congress will continue the process of police modernisation. We will ensure our police forces are well-trained and sensitive to the needs of the citizens.

The Indian National Congress believes that police administration must become more

progressive and sensitive to the needs of people, particularly the poor and the weaker sections of society. Many recommendations have been made from time to time. The Judiciary has also made suggestions. We will accord the highest priority to instituting these reforms.

## Legal and Judicial Reforms

We will bring in a new wave of far reaching legal and judicial reforms aimed at transforming the current legal system.

The Indian National Congress considers an independent judicial system as a corner stone of our Constitutional democracy and the

guardian of the rights and liberties of our people and the values of our Constitution. A sound judicial system is also central to our economic growth and social transformation.

In the last ten years, UPA-I and UPA-II have delivered the largest and fastest expansion of our legal and judicial system ever in our history. The government has produced a clear road map for judicial reform and established a National Mission for Justice System Delivery and a National Court Management Systems Committee housed in the Supreme Court and operating under its auspices. The funding of the judicial system, including through funds made available by the Finance Commission, has witnessed a quantum increase. The number

of judges increased by almost 50%. Fast-track courts have been continued and supported. There has been significant investment in improving the infrastructure and the working conditions of judges. Judicial and legal education has been substantially expanded.

For the first time in decades, pendency of cases has begun to come down even as new filings have been going up. In the 2014-2019 period, the Indian National Congress will bring in a new wave of far reaching legal and judicial reforms aimed at transforming the current legal system.

## Protection of Human Rights

1. The Indian National Congress remains committed to the resolute defence of human rights in India consistent with our Constitution and with the international law and covenants.
2. The Indian National Congress will enact a law to ensure that consensual sexual relations between adults of the same-sex, are not criminalised.

## Judicial Appointments

3. The Indian National Congress has introduced a Judicial Appointments Bill in Parliament establishing a new method

of appointing judges through a Judicial Commission. The Bill will be enacted after consultation and consensus building over the mechanisms proposed in the Bill.

4. We will support all initiatives to make the higher and lower judiciaries truly representative of the diversity of our society, especially with respect to gender, caste, religion and region. This will be done in consultation with and with the guidance of the Chief Justice of India and his/her companion judges and without derogation from the independence of the judiciary.

## Judicial Accountability

5. The Congress-led UPA government introduced the Judicial Accountability Bill to bring about more transparency in the appointment of judges. We shall make

every effort for the enactment of this bill at the earliest.

## Reducing Delays

6. The Indian National Congress government will support all measures taken by the judiciary to improve court management so as to ensure quick and timely disposal of cases. A strategy will be developed for disposing of long delayed cases. Due consideration will be given to expanding use of fast-track courts.

## Access to Justice

7. The Indian National Congress will continue and strengthen legal aid for

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019





the indigent. Additionally, we will also establish a cadre of public defenders who will assist indigent litigants from different social backgrounds.

8. We will continue to promote and strengthen Gram Nyayalayas across the country.

## 19. INTERNAL SECURITY

The Indian National Congress will continue to deal firmly with internal security threats.

The Indian National Congress has always given the highest priority to internal security. Over the last few years, spending has been increased, intelligence has been strengthened and more personnel have been recruited in police and paramilitary forces. As a result, overall incidence of crime has reduced. We will continue to pursue our internal security agenda with determination.

1. The Indian National Congress recognises the fundamental need to give a sense of security to every Indian. It vows to mobilize all the resources of the State to maintain law and order and provide maximum possible security to all Indians, against both external and internal threats.
2. We will ensure that our police forces are fully equipped with the modern weapons and technology. Deployment of specialist battalions and recruitment of additional personnel will also be pursued.

3. We will continue to address the challenge of Left Wing Extremism with a firm hand. We will strengthen the numbers, equipment and infrastructure for our security forces posted in these areas, even as we continue to pursue a development agenda to empower the people in these areas.

## 20. DEFENCE AND WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

The Indian National Congress is committed to rapid modernisation of our defence forces. India's security preparedness will be based on a comprehensive security doctrine that combines conventional and strategic measures.

1. The continued and rapid modernisation of our Defence Forces is imperative. The Indian National Congress shall ensure that this process of procuring the finest state-of-the-art equipment is carried out in an atmosphere of efficiency and full transparency.
2. India has emerged as one of the world's largest importers of defence equipment; it is thus imperative to encourage indigenous manufacturing in every way. This will also generate substantial employment. To this end, we shall work towards giving a fresh impetus to upgrading our existing manufacturing capabilities while creating new avenues for expanding military capability.

3. The Indian National Congress has always given the highest priority to the welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their families. One of the first achievements of the first Indian National Congress-led UPA government was the creation of the Department of Ex-Servicemen's Welfare. In pursuance of our continued commitment, the Indian National Congress led UPA-II has now fulfilled the long-standing demand of One Rank-One Pension, a key campaign promise of the Indian National Congress in 2009. This will bring tremendous relief to the families of Ex-Servicemen.
4. A "National Commission for Ex-Servicemen" will be established to

- provide a further impetus to programmes designed for the welfare of their families and expand opportunities for them in Nation building and other productive activities.
5. On the strategic front India will maintain a credible deterrence and second strike capability. We shall continue the missile programme to meet potential threats in the region.

## 21. FOREIGN POLICY

The Indian National Congress is committed to the articulation and implementation of a robust and dynamic foreign policy.

The Indian National Congress remains committed to building peaceful, stable and mutually beneficial relations with all major powers and all our Asian neighbours.

1. India will continue to benefit from global opportunities and contribute to worldwide efforts in creating and managing institutions to deal with challenges like climate change and sustainable development, non-proliferation, international trade and cross-border terrorism.
2. The Indian National Congress will strive to mobilize support for India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

3. Global Terrorism must be combatted with determination and cooperation. We will be engaged in creating a robust framework of intelligence sharing, cutting out financial flows to terrorist outfits, and stopping money laundering, to address the issue of terrorism.
4. India has emerged as a critical bridge between the developed world and the developing world, along with Brazil, China and South Africa. At the same time we have our own unique position that combines the cumulative heritage of Non-Aligned-Movement and its advocacy of freedom for African countries and steady support for Palestine. We will continue to support the goodwill nurtured for decades amongst socialist countries.

# THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014 -2019



5. We will work to strengthen the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) framework and endeavour to meaningfully realise a South Asian economic community, as economic engagement is critical to realising the true potential of this region.
6. We expect to proceed with our mutual efforts with China to work through established instruments towards a resolution of differences of perception about the border and the Line of Actual Control (LAC), even as our economic cooperation and multi-lateral cooperation continue to grow.

We will continue to extend all possible humanitarian and development assistance to enable the Tamil-speaking people and other minorities to rebuild their lives in a dignified manner. We will work with other countries, to prevail upon Sri Lanka to ensure a credible, objective, time-bound inquiry into allegations of human rights violations and excesses committed by the Sri Lankan forces during the concluding phases of the operations against the LTTE.

9. For Afghanistan, we believe the real threat is not within but from terrorism from beyond its borders. If the peace process remains Afghan owned and Afghan driven, we will work to support it.

---

## THE DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2014-2019

---

7. On Pakistan we will encourage the new government's stated position to improve relations with India but calibrate the dialogue consistent with delivery on accountability for 26/11 as well as dismantling of the infrastructure of terrorism on Pakistani soil.
8. On Sri Lanka, we will engage with that country to ensure that the Tamil-speaking people and other minorities have full equality and equal rights under the law. We will continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to implement the 13th Amendment and create autonomous provinces, especially the provinces of the North and the East.
10. Protecting Indians overseas from exploitation or threats will remain a paramount concern of the Indian National Congress.

For the Indian National Congress, a Manifesto is more than a catalogue of promises and pledges to be forgotten after elections are over.

It is an agenda for governance to be followed diligently and meticulously.

It is an agenda for good governance on which progress must be reported to the people of the country, regularly, in a transparent manner.

It is in this spirit that the Congress-led UPA government has been releasing a "Report to the People" every year. This will continue.

The 2014 Lok Sabha elections will offer stark choices.

On the one side is the Indian National Congress with its long track record of achievements and accomplishments, with its vision and values bequeathed to it by a most remarkable generation of Indians led by Mahatma Gandhi.

---

## AN APPEAL

---

On the other side is an ideology of hate, bigotry and prejudice, an ideology that negates the very idea of India that has been cherished by us for centuries.

On the one side is the Indian National Congress, which celebrates and rejoices in the multitude of diversities of India.

On the other side is an ideology that seeks to impose uniformity in the name of unity.

A vote for the Indian National Congress is a vote for fulfilling the aspirations of the youth of our nation, for ensuring that women lead a life of dignity.

Economic growth, social harmony, empowerment of weaker sections and strengthening of democratic institutions have to all go hand-in-hand.

It is only the Indian National Congress that will, by its very character, ensure that this happens.



# Indian National Congress



हर हाथ शक्ति  
हर हाथ तरक्की



[www.inc.in](http://www.inc.in)

 <https://www.facebook.com/IndianNationalCongress>  <http://www.youtube.com/user/indiacongress>

 [instagram.com/inc\\_india](https://www.instagram.com/inc_india)

 <https://twitter.com/INCIndia>

 1800 208 2020