



PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO & POLITICAL PARTIES' MANIFESTO

A Comparative Analysis
General Election, 2014



People's Voices

The People's Manifesto clearly reflects an urgency to address inequalities and calls for a greater commitment to fulfilling the promise of basic services – particularly, health, education, water and sanitation and food security. The poorest and most excluded are systematically deprived of the benefits of development and economic progress. Welfare schemes and policy reforms are neither enough nor there is proper implementation of the existing schemes. People have demanded structural adjustments that would overthrow deeply entrenched hegemonies and put an end to discrimination. Key emphases emerging from the people include the need for greater regulation of the private sector particularly in health, education, land rights and in preservation of forest and natural resources, a strong justice delivery system, protection of rights and entitlements across all sections of marginalized and vulnerable groups including women, children, dalits, muslims, adivasis, persons with disability, minorities, youth and the LGBT community. The People's Manifesto tables an extremely constructive critique of the policy instruments and large social sector investments by pointing out critical flaws that compromise their efficacy and impact. Recommendations on governance, decentralized planning and resource allocation are important inputs that could frame the political and social commitment of the forthcoming government in an effective way. The manifesto prioritises upholding national integrity and simultaneously protecting the rights of the excluded, with emphasis on local and specific development needs. On various urgent matters such as health, it has called for time bound commitments.

People's review of India in the past decade

India has embarked on an intensive economic and social reform in the past two decades. Various pro-poor and progressive reforms have been initiated with budgetary allocations for a number of large flagship programs. Yet economic growth and policy reforms have failed to reduce wide disparities in income and standards of living exist across states and social groups, rendering progress or social protection ineffective for a large majority.

Exclusion is the central dimension of poverty in India

In a country which houses the second largest population of the poor, discrimination of the poorest and most marginalized across caste, religion, tribal groups, women and girls, remain as the biggest impediment to an equitable and just society. In a country of 1.2 billion people, the excluded groups – dalits, adivasis, muslims and other minorities – constitute 38 per cent of the population – a large percentage of the world's most marginalized.

The main causes of inequality are the practices of discriminatory employment and historic deprivation of assets and this is directly linked to lack of choice resulting in exclusion from healthcare, education and decent employment i.e. access to a better and empowered life.

Discrimination against women: the multiplier effect

Despite legal safeguards, violation of women and girls continue unabated. In the recent decades, India has passed several legislations, particularly those that address violence against women in the public and domestic spheres including laws on female foeticide, dowry, bigamy, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. Yet the safety net has failed to improve the lot of women who continue to be vulnerable and are relegated to the margins of benefit and empowerment.

Education has overlooked issues related to quality, access and employability

India is poised to meet the MDG targets on education by delivering on the target of 100% enrolment in primary education and an equal enrolment ratio of boys and girls up to Class V. While advancements have taken place, quality of

learning, equitable access and high drop-out rate particularly in girls are significant impediments. Basic literacy is not enough as it does not translate to employability or lift people out of poverty and deprivation.

The government's commitment to universalisation through the landmark Right to Education Act, is considered a good start but an inadequate one as the praxis has been beset with challenges of planning and infrastructure. Below par quality of teaching is punctuated by caste and religion based discrimination. Children of dalit, tribal and other minority groups, particularly girls, often face severe harassment at school from peers and teachers, forcing them to drop out. Girls drop out of school commonly due to lack of separate toilet facilities, demands of surrogate parenting and increased pressure of domestic chores brought on by water scarcity and other causes.

Healthcare, sanitation and access to safe drinking water

Health care is a pressing concern, particularly slow progress on improvement in conditions of maternal health, maternal mortality, infant & under five mortality and malnutrition. Lack of infrastructure, trained medical practitioners in difficult to access parts of the country are some of reasons, aggravated by social practices, prejudice against women making it difficult for them to access health benefits, lack of awareness, escalating food prices. Privatisation of healthcare and medicine patents have driven up costs, resulting in health shocks that deplete the meager income of poor families or force them to opt out of treatment. The primary area of concern in case of children is the struggle to improve their survival chances one month after birth and malnutrition.

People's living conditions are worsened by lack of sanitation facilities and availability of clean drinking water. In rural as well as urban part of the country, health conditions are severely affected as alarmingly large sections of people survive on unsafe water and live amidst absent sanitation facilities.

Growth and progress led by access to decent jobs and economic opportunities have eluded the poorest and most marginalized.

GDP led growth is not sufficient to lift people out of poverty, to reduce inequalities and to improve social conditions. Inflation, rising food prices and lack of jobs have marred progress, particularly for the bottom 20 per cent of the population. Various factors such as lack of decent and fair employment opportunities, vulnerable working conditions particularly for women, continuing practice of child labour and a slow agricultural sector, plagued by lack of incentives and safeguards, have resulted in large pockets of income inequality.

Rising prices and market dynamics have brought about a food crisis

Staple food crops such as rice and millet have been replaced with cash crops. More and more people are sliding into food insecurity and have reduced access to nutritional food.

Conflict, corruption, crime and coalition politics emerge as challenges to India's impressive record as the world's largest democracy, calling for a greater commitment to human rights, accountability and freedom from violence.

Coalition politics has resulted in an unstable federal system with long hours at the parliament wasted on partisan debates, pushing back important legislations and amendments. Gaps in governance, lack of accountability and commitment to human rights have emerged as challenges to India's impressive record as the world's largest democracy. It has resulted in a lack luster implementation of basic services and perpetuated an overall environment of corruption that undercuts all social protection programs and progressive reforms. Indifferent governance is also linked to peace and human rights particularly in conflict affected parts of the country such as the North Eastern states and Jammu & Kashmir.

WHAT WE DEMANDED AND WHAT WE GOT

A Comparative View of Political Manifestos from People's Perspective General Elections, 2014

People's Manifesto	Promises in Political Party's Manifestos
1. Health	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase spending on health to meet 5% of GDP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public expenditure on health to be raised to at least 5% of GDP (CPI-M, CPI) • Increase health expenditure to 3% of GDP (Congress)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact with immediate effect the National Health Bill 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (Congress) • Health care should be made one of the human rights (CPI) • Introduce a comprehensive legislation on Right to Health Care (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure life saving and essential medicines are available free of cost to all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide universal and quality health care for all Indians including free medicines (Congress) • Guarantee that all essential drugs are available on a regular basis to public health facilities and made available free of cost to the people (AAP) • Ensuring uninterrupted supply of all medicines, free of cost, in all public health facilities (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve with immediate effect infrastructure and resources of all public health facilities by implementing Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary health care infrastructure will be strengthened right upto the point of the community health centre and continuity of care would be assured (Congress) • Strengthening, expanding and reorienting the public health system so that it is accountable to local communities and guarantees free and easy access to a range of comprehensive health care services (CPI-M) • Modernize Government hospitals, upgrading infrastructure and latest technologies (BJP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every village and urban settlement to have household level toilets, effective drainage and sanitation systems, waste disposal and recycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will transform the quality of life of women in Rural India by providing electricity, tapped water, cleaner fuel and toilets in every home; Set up modern, scientific sewage and waste management systems;will introduce Sanitation Ratings measuring and ranking our cities and towns on 'sanitation';and rewarding the best performers; make potable drinking water available to all thus reducing water-borne diseases, which will automatically translate into Diarrhoea-free India (BJP) • Will endeavour to provide a functional toilet in every school and every household (Congress) • Ensuring affordable basic services like drinking water, sanitation, power, transportation, ration shops, health facilities, schools,street lighting, etc., for the urban poor (CPI-M)
2. Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for education to a minimum of 6 per cent of GDP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public spending on education would be raised to 6% of the GDP (BJP, CPI-M) • Increase the spending on education to at least 10% of GDP (CPI)

People's Manifesto	Promises in Political Party's Manifestos
2. Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill existing gap of 1.18 million teachers through a recruitment drive; 50% of teachers should be women. • Enforce measures related to quality of teaching such as teachers per subject, teaching equipment, learning materials, minimum working hours, qualification of teachers, IT based learning environment • Ensure quality education in government schools which is missing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest priority would be given to address the acute shortage of teachers and researchers, quality of education and research, and also the employability factor associated with most of the courses; review and revise education system (BJP) • 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; ensure quality in teacher training by making suitable investments and amendments to regulations, wherever required (Congress) • Implementing the RTE; Improving quality of schools and teachers (CPI-M) • Adequate numbers of qualified teachers to be appointed on a regular basis through a transparent selection process; Revamp teacher education system (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up separate toilets for girls in all schools; incentivize education for girls through measures such as crèche facilities at schools to support sibling surrogacy, enforce security measure for girls to attend school safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls shall be provided all possible help to continue and complete school education; Launch a national campaign for saving the girl child and educating her - 'Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao' (BJP) • Special provisions for girls to ensure total enrolment, check drop-outs, high quality learning and non-discrimination within schools and access higher education (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take stringent and closely monitored steps to ensure social inclusion in all schools, including provisions for children with special needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special measures to close the continuing gap between adivasi, dalit children and socially vulnerable groups; stringent action against discrimination at any level (CPI-M) • Special pedagogy would be developed for differently-abled students (BJP) • Will strengthen facilities for children with special needs and disabilities (Congress)
3. Jobs and Employment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 200 days of employment to people in rural areas and make timely payment of wages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wages shall be disbursed in a timely manner without insistence on bank accounts or UID; provision of unemployment allowance will be simplified and assured (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote entrepreneurship, enhance the scope and budgetary allocation of the National Livelihood Mission, revive traditional livelihood, artisan skills, provide technical and financial support to improve farming practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence courses will be started in new domains for self-employment, family run businesses, entrepreneurship and innovation, and these courses would be provided for free to women; launch a 'National Multi-skill Mission; strengthen the traditional employment bases of agriculture and allied industries, and retail -through modernization as well as stronger credit and market linkages (BJP) • Right to Entrepreneurship that will protect and assist all those who seek to become entrepreneurs; NRLM will provide low interest loans, of upto Rs. 1 lakh, to women for livelihood activities (Congress) • Encouraging small and medium enterprises in labour intensive sectors with adequate incentives, infrastructure support and sufficient credit from banks

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3. Jobs and Employment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure special bank credit policy for self employment, artisans and handicapped persons (CPI) • Will create eco-system where every enterprising citizen or community has access to capital, information and infrastructure, such that innovative and productive entrepreneurship becomes the new engine for accelerating growth in our country (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the imperatives of financial migration by providing employment opportunities within each state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the employability issue by initiating a multi-skills development programme in mission mode. Focus will be on job creation and entrepreneurship, in both rural and urban areas; encourage and empower our youth for self-employment incubating entrepreneurship as well as facilitating credit (BJP) • 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; will provide skills-training to 10 crore youth and provide them with employment opportunities over the next 5 years (Congress) • Counter the growing trend of migration under economic distress through a concerted push in traditional industries, small-scale enterprises and agriculture sector with better infrastructure availability, easy access to formal credit, appropriate technological intervention and support for fair pricing (AAP) • Ensure economic development of the State, focusing particularly on generating employment for the youth and reconstructing the damaged infrastructure (CPI-M) • Guarantee right to work as fundamental right (CPI)
4. Food Security	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universalize coverage of National Food Security Act; include pulses and edible oil along with the food grain entitlements to all households. • Make clear provisions to cover migrant workers, homeless population, destitute people and out of school children. Set-up community kitchens in urban areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective implementation of the Right to Food Security Act; seek the participation of voluntary organizations in running community kitchens (BJP) • Expand the focus of the current food security Schemes to include subsidized pulses and cooking oil for beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (Congress) • Elimination of the present targeted system and establishment of a reformed and strengthened universal public distribution system excluding only income tax payees; Along with foodgrains, the PDS will supply essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, sugar, kerosene at controlled prices; special measures like free kitchens for vulnerable sections of the population such as migrant workers, destitutes, widows, disabled persons (CPI-M) • Expand and establish universal PDS system; food security for all (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement restructured ICDS, set up anganwadi cum crèches and extend coverage of temporary settlement to all migrant and street children; ensure nutrition rich food for pregnant and lactating mother 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the issue of under-nutrition and malnutrition; program for women healthcare in a mission mode, especially focusing on domains of Nutrition and Pregnancy - with emphasis on rural, SCs, STs and OBCs (BJP) • The quality of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) programme will be vastly improved (Congress) • ICDS Scheme will get higher allocations to ensure hot cooked nutritious meals and be brought under the Food Security law as a legal right; entitlements for food and nutrition for pregnant women and lactating mothers will be included in the law (CPI-M)

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4. Food Security	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve delivery of mid-day meal scheme, including nutritional quality of meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-day meal scheme would be revitalized in terms of management and delivery (BJP) Mid-Day Meal Scheme will get higher allocations to ensure hot cooked nutritious meals and be brought under the Food Security law as a legal right (CPI- M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage decentralized procurement, especially from small and marginal farmers and adopt strong measure to arrest corruption and profiteering in the Public Distribution System (PDS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radically transform the Food Corporation of India (FCI); review the successful PDS models, and incorporate the best practices to revise the existing PDS, for benefitting the common man (BJP) Expand and strengthen the FCI with emphasis on building more modern godowns throughout the country particularly in the neglected eastern and north eastern regions, to prevent the monumental wastage of food grains due to poor storage; set up procurement centres in all States in cooperation with State Governments to prevent distress sales (CPI-M)
5. Land and Forest Rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard land rights of the adivasis by strong implementation the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006; appoint people's representative at the district and block level with immediate effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the tribal land is not alienated (BJP) Stringent implementation the Forest Rights Act, 2006 to ensure that Scheduled Tribes are empowered and brought into the mainstream; 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 (Congress) Implementing the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, in full; amending the Act to include other traditional forest dwellers with 1980 as the cut-off year; protecting land rights of adivasis and restoring land illegally alienated from them (CPI-M) Ban on eviction of tribals from forest land (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent exploitative use of forest resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to protecting the existing forests and wildlife reserves, the wastelands of the country will be used for social forestry; encourage citizen's participation in reforestation, agro forestry and social forestry, through targeted programmes (BJP) The local communities (Gram Sabhas) shall play a vital role in the management of natural resources (AAP) 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 (Congress) Prevent the encroachment and takeover of common lands like pastures, community forests, scrublands, etc (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote adivasi self rule, local planning and ownership of governance by implementing the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas(PESA) Act 1996 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stringent implementation the PESA Act, 1996 to ensure that Scheduled Tribes are empowered and brought into the mainstream (Congress) Extending Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act to all development blocks with high tribal concentration in all states and districts of India; extending similar protection to urban areas and municipalities in states where it does not exist (CPI-M) All tribal populated areas be brought under Schedule 5 of the constitution PESA; suitable amendments in laws to protect and promote tribal autonomy (CPI)

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5. Land and Forest Rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the dalits from forceful evictions, allocate specially reserved land to the landless dalits, create fast track courts for speedy resolution of land disputes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific commitments on land rights of Dalits by political parties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement land reforms and ensure household and agricultural land to the landless people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Land Use Authority, which will work with the State Land Use Authorities to regulate and facilitate land management (BJP) Will endeavour to ensure Title Deeds are given to those who have been living on lands for more than two decades; will endeavour to ensure a Right to Homestead for all poor households (Congress) Reverse the current thrust to dilute land-ceiling laws; speedy and comprehensive steps for implementing land reforms (CPI-M) Radical land reforms and distribution of land to the landless to ensure land for agriculture and cultivation (CPI)
6. Agriculture and Farming as Livelihood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to make the state self-sufficient in the production of seeds, agricultural research centres, agricultural universities and other agriculture research institutes may be strengthened with proper and adequate means and infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing latest technologies for farming and high yielding seeds; work with the states to set up seed culture labs in each district and regional agriculture innovation labs to conserve agro-biodiversity and to identify and preserve rare indigenous varieties (BJP) Will allocate special funds for agricultural research to develop new technologies for disease management of crops and livestock, high-yielding-varieties of crops, etc (Congress)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote organic farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up the 'Organic Farming and Fertilizer Corporation of India', to promote organic farming and fertilizers, and provide incentives and support for marketing organic produce (BJP) Will promote resource conservation technologies and agriculture practices like integrated farming, organic farming and develop wastelands for dry land farming (Congress) Support for ecologically sustainable agriculture; special marketing incentives for organic produce; indigenous varieties of crops and livestock (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that farmers receive fair prices for their produce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the concept of consumer friendly farmers' market to reduce wastages and increase incomes and risk coverage; take steps to enhance the profitability in agriculture, by ensuring a minimum of 50% profits over the cost of production (BJP) Provide higher MSP to increase profitability of agriculture for our farmers (Congress) Increase MSP to cover full costs including family labour and give a return of at least 50 per cent above costs (CPI-M) Remunerative MSP for farm products (CPI) Fair and remunerative MSP for diverse crops which would be 50% more than the input cost (AAP)

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6. Agriculture and Farming as Livelihood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include farm labour under the permissible list of MGNREGA works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking MGNREGA to agriculture (BJP) • Extend labour subsidy to the small and marginal farmers under MNREGS (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure and improve financial assistance for the farmers; make the loan sanction process easier; regulate financial institutions to ensure that the farmer does not slip into chronic debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and expand rural credit facilities; cheaper agriculture inputs and credit; implement a farm insurance scheme to take care of crop loss due to unforeseen natural calamities (BJP) • 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; increase coverage of crop insurance schemes, particularly among the small and marginal farmers and non-loanee farmers (Congress) • Ensure comprehensive debt relief and loan waiver to the distressed farmers covering both institutional and private debt owed to money lenders Institute a crop insurance scheme for crop and cattle covering all farmers including tenant farmers and sharecroppers with additional subsidies for small and marginal farmers (CPI-M) • Interest free loans to small and marginal farmers; comprehensive and compulsory crop insurance (CPI) • Prevent farmers' suicides by ensuring farmers'- including small and tenant farmers-access to credit and insurance (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban production of crops and seeds through genetic engineering; invest in state held seed banks and grain storages at the Panchayat level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetically Modified (GM) foods will not be allowed without full scientific evaluation on its long-term effects on soil, production and biological impact on consumers (BJP) • Safeguard the peasantry's right to traditional seeds and biodiversity as well as to save and reuse all seeds (CPI-M) • Regulate Genetically Modified crops to ensure that safety to food, human health and environment is ensured before the introduction of irreversible technologies (AAP)
7. Women	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass the Women's Reservation Bill with immediate effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to 33% reservation in parliamentary and state assemblies through a constitutional amendment (BJP) • 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 (Congress) • Passage and adoption in the Lok Sabha of the One Third reservation Bill for Women in Parliament and State Assemblies, which had been adopted in the Rajya Sabha as a priority (CPI-M) • Bring legislation to provide 33% reservation for women in parliament and assemblies (CPI) • Support 33% reservation for women in parliament and state legislatures and ensure that women will be represented in all councils, committees and task forces related to policy and practice across the board (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create women cell in all police stations and special women police stations in all district head quarters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make police stations women friendly, and increase the number of women in police at different levels (BJP) • 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; will ensure the number of women police stations in the country goes up from 500 to 2000 in the next five years (Congress)

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7. Women	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect women and girls from all forms of violence by rigorous implementation of legal safeguards such as the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, 498A of the Indian Penal Code, Dowry Prohibition Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will ensure that all measures are taken to make women feel safe and protected; 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; 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 (Congress) Strict implementation of laws related to women, particularly those related to rape; appropriate measures would be taken to check female foeticide, dowry, child marriage, trafficking, sexual harassment, rape and family violence (BJP) Putting in place a series of measures to prevent, curb and punish those responsible for the horrific increase in violence against women (CPI-M) Ensure that each government agency produces a detailed action plan to implement laws to end violence against women (AAP) Establish strong mechanism to ensure women safety and strict implementation of the existing laws protecting the interest of women (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure faster delivery of justice; set up fast track courts for a speedy disposal of cases across the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast-Track Courts will be established with 'in-camera' proceedings facilities in State headquarters and in regional centres (Congress) Setting up of fast track courts (CPI-M) Work with state governments to establish responsive and fair fast track courts for crimes of violence against women (AAP) Ensure fast track courts for justice to women victims of violence (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect land, forest and property rights of women through stronger enactment of existing laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove any remaining gender disparities in property rights, marital rights and cohabitation rights (BJP) Will provide land rights for women especially single women, women-headed households, land for women whose husbands have migrated away from villages (Congress) A law for joint matrimonial property rights (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure fair and equal resource distribution, employment and income opportunities for women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will enable women with training and skills - setting up dedicated Women ITIs, Women wings in other it is; will ensure that the loans to Women Self Help Groups would be available at low interest rates (BJP) Will strengthen institutional arrangements to provide access to credit, training and marketing for women in the unorganised sector in peri-urban and rural areas (Congress) A law to ensure linkages between SHGs and banking institutions and guarantee of subsidized interest rates of not more than 4 per cent with special concessions for SHGs of SC/ST women, protective legislation for domestic workers and for home based workers (CPI-M) Ensure secured, dignified, remunerative employment for women (AAP) Equal rights for women in all spheres (CPI)

People's Manifesto	Promises in Political Party's Manifestos
8. Child Rights and Youth	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment for child protection, education, health and nutrition. The budget for children should be increased up to 10% of the total union budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, amend and strengthen Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS); focused efforts will be made to address issue of anemia (BJP) • Strengthen the legal and institutional framework to protect our children (Congress) • 3% of GDP to be spent on child care (CPI) • Delegation of finances and powers to the National and State Commissions for the Protection of Children (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and regulation) Act to ensure all children avail of RTE provisions and harmonize the age definition of all child related legislations in line with the National Policy for Children 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, amend and strengthen the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2012 (BJP) • 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 (Congress) • Amendments in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation Act) to remove the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous working order to ban all forms of child labour; expansion of The Right to Education Act to include all children from the age of 3-18 years (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigorous effective implementation of Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 to prohibit gender based selection. Establish a dedicated cell with budgetary allocation within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for stricter implementation of the law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate measures would be taken to check female foeticide. • Launch a national campaign for saving the girl child and educating her - '<i>Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao</i>' (BJP) • 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. (Congress) • Strict implementation of the PCPNDT Act (against sex determination tests and female foeticide) and the activation of defunct monitoring committees (CPI-M) • AAP will adopt a zero tolerance approach towards sex selective abortion and work towards its complete elimination by strengthening legislation against its practice and implementation of strict punishments if violated; budgeting at Central, State and local level for initiating an extensive sensitization campaign. (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure children's voices and participation in the democratic process through neighbourhood children's parliament, children gram sabhas across India, participation in developing and all policy, program and legislative matters relevant to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up neighbourhood Children's/ Youth Parliament across India that leads to vibrant student committees (BJP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create viable employment options for all. Guarantee respectable and rewarding employment at the home town; create special job opportunities for rural youth from class 10 onwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will initiate nation-wide 'district level incubation and accelerator programme' for encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship; address the employability issue by initiating a multi-skills development programme in mission mode. Focus will be on job creation and entrepreneurship, in both rural and urban areas (BJP)

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8. Child Rights and Youth	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an unemployment allowance for the unemployed youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of jobs or unemployment allowance (CPI-M) • Unemployment allowance to all employed people (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate 35 % reservation of youth representation in legislative assemblies and cabinet equivalent bodies of which 50 % will be for women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and revise policies to seek participation of youth in decision-making and nation building process and actively get the youth to participate in decision-making bodies (BJP) • Ensure adequate representation of youths in all decision making bodies (CPI)
9. Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims and Persons with Disabilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a legislation on SCP and TSP to give legal sanction to the plan allocation to SCs and STs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will enact central legislation on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Sub Plans to ensure focused spending of funds on weaker sections (Congress) • Enactment of a central legislation for Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and for the Tribal Sub-Plan (CPI-M) • Central legislation for Special Component Plan for SC/ST sub plan (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up an institution at the centre and state level to allocate funds to various ministries, ensure timely disbursement and oversee implementation and monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the funds allocated for schemes and programmes for SC, ST, OBCs and other weaker sections are utilized properly (BJP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the recommendations made by the Rangnath Misra Commission and Sachar Committee for development and empowerment of muslims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the recommendations of the Sachar Committee (Congress) • Implement the recommendation of Sachar Committee and Ranganath Mishra Commission (CPI-M) • Implementation of Sachar Committee and Ranganath Commission reports (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End discrimination against children of dalits, adivasis, muslims and other minorities in schools and institutions of higher education by stringently adopting the Right to Education Act and enforcing structural corrections that challenge the elite order perpetuating exclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to the eradication of untouchability at all levels (BJP) • Will ensure the passage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2013 (Congress) • Strengthening of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act with appropriate amendments to include expanded ground that constitute discrimination (CPI-M) • Wide spread public education to change the mindset of caste based inequality and untouchability; ensure muslim children do not face any discrimination while seeking admission in private and government schools (AAP)

People's Manifesto	Promises in Political Party's Manifestos
9. Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims and Persons with Disabilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guarantee access to employment opportunities by enacting equal opportunity laws that prohibit discrimination in capital markets, hiring decisions and processes at the work place and by ensuring a reservation in the private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; committed to creating national consensus on affirmative action for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector (Congress) • Enactment of a central legislation to provide reservations to the private sector for SCs and STs (CPI-M) • Ensure the implementation of reservation policy in the interest of SC/ST/OBC in all sectors including private sector (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure minimum wages adjusted for inflation and economic assistance under Manual Scavenger's Act (1993), rehabilitation through vocational training, access to decent and permanent housing, sanitation and drinking water facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to eliminate manual scavenging; a mission mode project would be made for housing, education, health and skills development (BJP) • 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 (Congress) • Amendments to remove loopholes in the legislation for prevention of manual scavenging and time-bound rehabilitation scheme with adequate allocations (CPI-M) • Ensuring house sites, houses, sanitation, water, health, electricity connections to all scheduled caste families and scheduled caste inhabited areas in a special drive with budgetary allocations to close the continuing gap between SCs compared to other communities as far as housing and civic facilities are concerned (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass the Disability Bill (2009) and enforce its recommendations immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact the 'Rights of the Persons with Disabilities bill' (RPWD)(BJP) • Amending and passing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill and other laws in consonance with the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities taking into consideration various concerns expressed by the disability sector (CPI-M) • Enact disability rights legislation (CPI) • Participation of PwDs in all PwD related legislations (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate budget for the rehabilitation, healthcare, skills training and special education needs for persons with disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure maximum economic independence of the disabled by creating more income generation models for them; Identify each and every special needs person across the country - establishing a web based disability registration system to issue universal ID for all applicable government benefits (healthcare, transportation, jobs, education etc) (BJP) • Ensure priority to differently-abled youth with respect to education and employment opportunities (Congress) • Special legislation for employment and livelihood of differently abled (CPI) • Special provisions for PwD in education and employment opportunities (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it mandatory for all public infrastructure, transport systems, hospitals and schools to be accessible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure disabled friendly access to public facilities, public buildings and transport (BJP) • Making all buildings, public places, transport, information and other avenues fully accessible and barrier free for people with disabilities (CPI-M) • Make public infrastructure(including building, transport and communication) to be made barrier free (AAP)

People's Manifesto	Promises in Political Party's Manifestos
10. Accountable Governance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate Grievance Redressal Law to strengthen grievance redressal on public services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage technology for e-Governance and engage proactively with the people through social media for participative governance and effective public grievance redressal mechanism (BJP) Will ensure the immediate passage of The Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill (Congress) Passing an Act for grievance redressal with powers to have detailed citizen's charters prepared for each public authority (CPI-M) Enact grievance redressal legislations (CPI) Grievance redressal mechanisms will be introduced (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and operational details of all government programs are to be made readily and regularly available in the public domain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology enabled e-Governance - minimizing the discretion in the citizen-government interface; system-based, policy-driven governance - making it transparent (BJP) Will ensure the passage of the Electronic Delivery of Service Bill 2011 and in accordance with the Bill, work to effectively deliver all public services (like passports, ration cards and driving licenses) electronically (Congress) Total transparency and accountability in governance at all levels (CPI) Will promote the use of information technology to promote transparency and reduce corruption in government functioning (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce accountability of the gram panchayats, hold regular gram sabha and committee meetings with proper maintenance of reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the institution of the Gram Sabha, respecting their inputs and initiatives for development process (BJP) Gram Sabhas are strengthened and legally mandated to secure responsible and responsive local government (Congress) Legislate swaraj bill to devolve power to Gram Sabhas and Mohalla Sabhas to curb corruption at the local level (AAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise greater public spending through progressive taxation policies such as increased direct tax rates. Reduce indirect tax rates which adversely impact the poor and marginalised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationalize and simplify the tax regime; bring on board all State governments in adopting GST, addressing all their concerns (BJP) Ensure that we are on track to pass a new Direct Tax Code Bill in the first year of the new Lok Sabha; will ensure that the unpredictable risk of retroactive taxation is avoided (Congress) GST to be implemented only after ensuring a higher rate for the states so as to at least partially correct the present fiscal imbalance (CPI-M) Move towards a simple, progressive and stable tax structure; no more routine tax amnesty programmes and stringent measures to recover taxes from evaders (AAP)
11. Human Rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abolish all anti-people, anti-democratic laws such as Armed Forces (Special Power) Act (AFPSA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and replace it with a suitable law which provides a legal framework for the operation of the armed forces without the draconian provisions (CPI-M) Repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act from Manipur, Kashmir and other NE region (CPI) Review and reform of laws like AFSPA to make them time-bound and humane (AAP)

People's Manifesto	Promises in Political Party's Manifestos
11. Human Rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police and judicial reforms to be undertaken with focus on responsiveness to marginalized groups and speedy redress of appeals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform the criminal justice system to make dispensation of justice simpler, quicker and more effective and after examining the recommendations of the earlier reports on this subject; reinterpret the age-old concept of community policing in modern times; evolving ways for the police to reach out to the people, building bonds of trust and friendship - including spreading out into areas of public safety and public wellness (BJP) Will bring in a new wave of far reaching legal and judicial reforms aimed at transforming the current legal system; will ensure our police forces are well-trained and sensitive to the needs of the citizens (Congress) Reforming the judicial system to provide speedy relief at affordable cost to the common people (CPI-M) Implement the Supreme Court judgment on Police Reforms giving the police greater functional autonomy from the misuse by the political executive (AAP) Ensure timely justice to all at affordable cost; reforms to make police force a body for service of people in place of being an instrument of the state for oppression as it is today; and implement Police Reform Commissions' report (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise national integration and communal harmony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the setting up of a permanent Inter-faith Consultative mechanism to promote harmony and trust, under the auspices of religious leaders (BJP) Pass Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill 2013 (Congress) Enacting a comprehensive law against communal violence; purging all school textbooks of content reflecting communal bias and prejudices (CPI-M) Foster and promote understanding between the communities through dialogue, interaction and cultural exchanges; prevention of communal violence (AAP) Enact stringent law to curb communal violence and ensure proper rehabilitation of victims (CPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent racist attack on the youth from North East in metro cities; provide protection as outlined by the International Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination ratified by the Government of Indian in 1968 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take measures for the safety of North-Eastern students studying across the country including setting up Hostels for North-Eastern students at various educational centres (BJP) Will take systematic steps to address issues relating to discrimination against students from the North East and Jammu and Kashmir (Congress) Enactment of anti-racist law and other measures to ensure greater security for people from the North-East in other parts of the country (CPI-M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise housing as a human right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will roll out a massive Low cost Housing programme to ensure that by the time the nation completes 75 years of it Independence, every family will have a pucca house of its own (BJP) Will continue to work towards providing affordable and quality housing for all sections; will endeavour to ensure a Right to Homestead for all poor households (Congress) Expanding public provisioning of housing with full civic amenities; curbing unbridled real estate development catering to the affluent classes; running adequately provisioned night shelters, homes and community kitchens for the most vulnerable and destitute; halting demolition of slums; ensuring in situ development of slums with facilities; Ensuring that slum areas are not transferred to real estate developers (CPI-M) Housing for all (CPI)

National Platform on People's Manifesto:

Alliance for Right to Early Childhood Development | Campaign Against Declining Child Sex Ratio | Child Rights Coalition | CASA | CRY | GCAP | Indian Social Institute | National Adivasi Solidarity Council | NCDHR | Nine is Mine | OXFAM India | PACS | RTE Forum | Save the Children | Youth-unManifesto | Wada Na Todo Abhiyan | World Vision.

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