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जीवेगा  
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UNNATI VIDHAN

# A MANIFESTO FOR PROGRESS



हम वचन

निभाएंगे

उत्तर प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी



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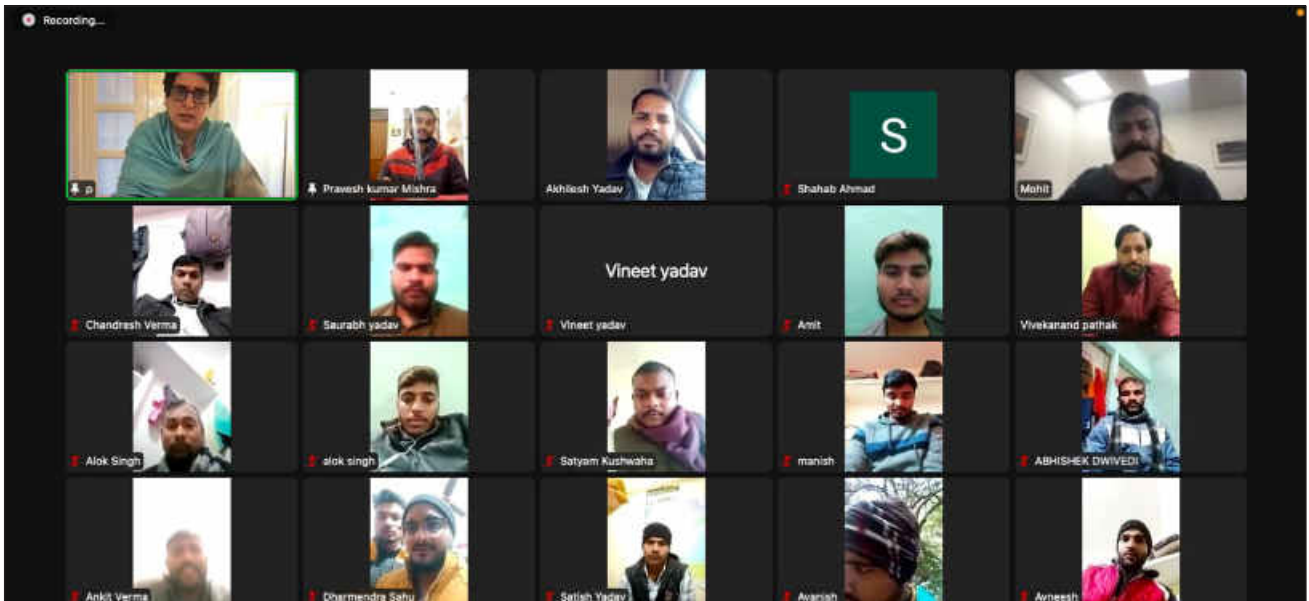
## PREFACE

The Congress Party believes that the people of Uttar Pradesh deserve a government that places their progress and well-being at the heart of its agenda. Their search for a political dispensation that can positively transform their lives has been repeatedly frustrated by divisive political agendas. This has prevented the unlocking of the state's immense potential.

The Congress Party's manifesto for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha election captures the essence of a year-long series of discussions held with people across the state. It reflects their many voices, their aspirations and their genuine needs. It became amply clear during these discussions that the people of Uttar Pradesh, who have contributed so much to the building of modern India, feel let down by the governance that has relegated their state to backwardness and denied them their rightful place. Their strong desire for a responsible, sensitive, participatory and humane government was apparent in our interactions.

This manifesto is an acknowledgement of what the people of Uttar Pradesh have demanded. It is a solemn commitment to walk with them on a journey of collective progress. A commitment that when people speak of a good life in times to come, they will look to Uttar Pradesh.

# PROCESS



Over a period of one year, leaders and office-bearers of the Congress Party held consultations with hundreds of civil society organisations and thousands of people in divisions, districts and cities across the length and breadth of Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, as COVID-19 restrictions were imposed, a large number of people emailed us and submitted their views via a designated web page, and participated in online consultations.

Through these discussions it became clear that the people of Uttar Pradesh want greater participation in governance and decisions that affect their lives over the next five years. Elements of such governance were identified by thousands of citizens as well as specialists with whom leaders of the Congress Party interacted.

Their views and suggestions were compiled and discussed at length with eminent economists, former ministers of the United Progressive Alliance government and other domain experts to ascertain their viability and practicality. The final document is the result of a meticulous process through which the voice of the people of Uttar Pradesh has been translated into programs and policies to be implemented for the betterment of the state.

This manifesto contains three parts. Part 1 addresses the concerns of the general public. Part 2, a Women's Manifesto, is specifically prepared for the women of Uttar Pradesh as an acknowledgment of their immense untapped potential to contribute to the politics and development of the state. Part 3 is a Youth manifesto that reflects the aspirations of the youth of Uttar Pradesh and outlines the Congress Party's commitment to securing a strong future for them.





# HAMARI PRATIGYAYEIN



In order to transform the lives of the women and men of Uttar Pradesh, the Congress Party has made the following promises:

- All farmers' debts will be waived. The Congress Party is committed to realizing the immense potential of Uttar Pradesh's agricultural sector.
- Paddy and wheat shall be procured at ₹2,500 per quintal and sugarcane shall be procured at ₹400 per quintal
- Electricity bills shall be reduced by half and pending arrears from the COVID-19 period shall be waived.
- ₹25,000 shall be provided to families worst-affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The massive backlog of 20 lakh jobs in the public sector including police, healthcare and education, shall be filled.
- Every girl in 10th and 12th standard will be given a smartphone and every woman enrolled in a graduate programme will be given an electric scooty.
- 40% of Vidhan Sabha tickets in the 2022 election will be given to women.



# KRISHI

## Agriculture



From the Green Revolution onwards, successive Congress Party governments at the centre and in various states have demonstrated their commitment to a dynamic and vigorous agricultural sector. As a result of these policies, Uttar Pradesh is India's leading producer of food grain, sugarcane, potatoes, and a number of fruits and vegetables. If properly incentivised and supported, agriculture could be a massive source of income and employment for the people of the state. The Congress Party is committed to realizing the immense potential of Uttar Pradesh's agricultural sector.

### FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

The 2.5 crore farmers of Uttar Pradesh are the backbone of the state economy. However, in recent years farmer distress has increased exponentially due to the continuing fall in rates at which their produce is purchased, high input costs exacerbated by the rise in prices of petrol, diesel, and electricity, collapse of the fertiliser distribution system and a crushing debt burden. The Central government's callous and indifferent attitude towards farmers was reflected in the three black agricultural laws which it was later compelled to withdraw. The Congress Party will ensure that farmers get remunerative prices that cover the costs of cultivation and thereby provide both farmers and farm workers with sustainable livelihoods.

**IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE PRIMACY OF FARMERS IN UTTAR PRADESH, THE CONGRESS PARTY RESOLVES THAT:**

- Remunerative prices, lower input costs and a much-needed debt burden relief shall be ensured to farmers. Public and private industry will collaborate to expand value-addition





and tap new markets — including global markets — for the produce of Uttar Pradesh's farmers.

- Farmer debts shall be waived within 10 days of forming the government.
- Paddy and wheat shall be purchased at an MSP of ₹2,500 per quintal.
- Sugarcane shall be purchased at ₹400 per quintal.
- If necessary, the difference between central and state MSP shall be paid directly into farmer bank accounts.
- Pending dues from the corona period shall be waived and electricity bills shall be reduced to 50%.
- A formula to ensure that sugarcane farmers are not made to wait months to be paid their dues and receive their fair share of the ₹40,000 crore Uttar Pradesh earns from excise on alcohol shall be implemented.

## FOOD PROCESSING

**Food processing offer the most direct way to increase the incomes of farmers. Uttar Pradesh has been the largest producer of sugar and potatoes for several years, but this home-grown revolution has received little state government support in recent years with little investment in farm infrastructure. The Congress Party will maximise facilities for cold storage and food processing and bring food processing back to the centre of agricultural policymaking. It will particularly focus on the small and medium enterprises that form the backbone of the industry.**

- A maximum number of blocks will be equipped with cold storage facilities and existing facilities will be incentivised to store fruits and vegetables of different temperatures and storage durations.
- Ethanol blending shall immediately be stepped up in Uttar Pradesh from below 10% currently to 15%, and to 20% as soon as feasible in order to increase sugarcane farmer revenues.
- In water-scarce regions like Bundelkhand, the production of dals and pulses will be incentivised and dal mills will be established to provide employment.
- Uttar Pradesh is India's largest and best mango producer yet Indian exports consist mostly of varieties from southern and western India. Branding and marketing of Uttar Pradesh's vast variety of mangoes to the global market will be stepped up exponentially to raise orchard incomes. Food processing units will be established in Malihabad and other mango growing areas of the state.
- The disruption of the leather industry has perversely led to the import of Chinese leather substitutes by Agra's dynamic shoe industry instead of locally-available supplies. Agra and Kanpur leather units have been forced to move to Kolkata. Order will be restored to the investment environment to ensure that UP's farmers, entrepreneurs and workers benefit rather than Chinese firms.



- India is the world's largest producer of mentha oil and Uttar Pradesh is the maximum producing state. Lakhs of small and marginal farmers earn their income from this. Options to smooth out volatility in mentha prices, including the establishment of an MSP, will be explored and implemented.
- Building on Uttar Pradesh's success with mentha, an Uttar Pradesh Ingredient Extract Board shall be set up in Barabanki to connect the state's farmers to domestic and global markets for ingredients. This will allow them to benefit from global trends such as plant-based proteins, meat alternatives and the shift from artificial to natural ingredients and additives.

## STRAY ANIMALS

**The Uttar Pradesh government's measures to manage the issue of over 12 lakh stray animals causing damage to farmer's crops and property across Uttar Pradesh have entirely failed. Gaushalas run by the state which lack basic facilities like shelter, fodder and water are grossly violative of animal rights. Numerous incidents of appalling brutality towards the animals and their pitiable condition have come to the fore in the last few years. The Congress Party recognizes this issue as a growing source of pain to farmers as well as a cause of immense suffering to the animals themselves.**

**In order to help resolve this issue:**

- Stray cattle and wild antelope herd damage to crops will be compensated up to ₹3,000 per acre.
- A Godhan Nyay Yojana on the lines of the Chhattisgarh model for management of stray cattle shall be implemented. As part of this scheme, cow dung (gobar) shall be bought at a fixed rate of ₹2/kg. This will encourage farmers to keep their cattle, promote organic farming instead of expensive chemical fertilisers, and facilitate the use of gohar gas.
- Self Help Groups shall be encouraged to utilise gohar for vermi-composting and other productive uses that provide them with a steady income.
- For a fixed period, an amount of ₹500 shall be paid per stray animal that is turned into a village gaushala. Every nyay panchayat shall have a gaushala where stray cattle shall be housed and returned to the owners when requested.

## IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL

**Rivers such as the Ganga and Yamuna are central to the identity, history and economy of Uttar Pradesh. Yet water management remains a challenge, and many parts of the state are beset by floods and drought. To properly manage this challenge:**

- A master plan shall be drawn up to ensure irrigation to water deficient areas, especially Bundelkhand.
- Incentives shall be provided for micro-irrigation projects including drip irrigation and sprinkler systems, particularly in water-stressed regions such as Bundelkhand.



- A master plan shall be drawn up for the prevention of floods in the main rivers of Uttar Pradesh through better coordination with counterparts in Nepal and infrastructure preparations in the flood-prone areas. Flood plain zoning will be implemented to minimise the periodic damage to crops and habitations.
- Clearing of water channels and dredging of river courses shall be done on a regular basis in coordination with the Water Resources Ministry at the Centre. A special Ganga Cleaning and Upgrading Authority will be set up.
- Flood management based on historic data and vulnerability maps will be put in place with adequate infrastructure and rescue equipment. It shall be kept in a state of preparedness and reviewed each year before the flood season.
- A network of canals will be built to bring treated wastewater from cities like Kanpur to Bundelkhand to be used for irrigation.
- Mapping and registration of water bodies including village ponds shall be done within two years. A special Water Body Task Force shall undertake protection, preservation, recharging and rehabilitation of water bodies and connect them through natural links. Ground water recharging will be attached to the Water Body Task Force.





# SWAWLAMBAN

## Job Creation

The current government's performance on employment has been catastrophic. UP was India's third largest economy when the BJP took office, it is now in fifth position. Per capita income in UP has increased by a dismal 0.43 % on average over four years. In the past five years, the working age population of Uttar Pradesh has increased by 2 crores but the total number of jobs has shrunk by over 16 lakhs. The state unemployment rate has averaged a shocking 7% under the BJP government. Lakhs of young men and women have been so discouraged by their situation that they have stopped looking for a job at all. This dismal situation is a challenge to welfare and to social stability.

The Congress Party believes that providing jobs and job opportunities is a central priority. It is imperative to revitalise the private sector by strengthening MSMEs. With traditional industries as well as large manufacturing units, Uttar Pradesh has the potential of becoming a leading employer. Generating productive jobs in critical government functions is also essential. This will address both the massive unemployment in the state and the need for fully functioning services in the areas of health, education and policing.

### LABOUR- INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES

Investment in labour-intensive industries is the optimal way to share the benefits of industrial growth in an equitable way. Good quality and stable jobs are also needed for the economic and psychological well-being of the working class. To generate jobs in manufacturing:

- A new Industrial Policy will be announced with special focus on labour-intensive manufacturing in sectors like weaving leather, footwear, garments, food processing, furniture, etc. This will include appropriate concessions and incentives.





- The GST Council shall be approached in coordination with like-minded state governments and requested to simplify and reduce GST rates.
- Lofty promises of collateral-free loans under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) remain unimplemented. These will be fully implemented.
- The One Product One District policy will be relaxed to provide support to different clusters within the same district. All industries that have (e.g. more than 100 units) will be declared a cluster.
- Many government departments still do not procure from or issue tenders to MSMEs. It will be ensured that all departments do so as required by the Uttar Pradesh Procurement Manual.
- A “plug-and-play” commercial infrastructure shall be set up for MSMEs to enable them to operate at scale without unnecessary hassle.
- Permanent exhibition spaces along the lines of “Dilli Haat” for handicrafts shall be set up at major urban centres of Uttar Pradesh.
- The electricity wheeling charge shall be reduced to allow MSMEs to purchase power from the lowest cost source.
- Uttar Pradesh's industries shall be revived by promoting traditional clusters and creating new ones. Each cluster will be provided with credit, marketing, skills and technology and will be support with better electricity, water supply, and sewerage infrastructure to attract more private investment. Details and table provided in Bharti Vidhan (Employment Manifesto).
- All efforts will be made to transform Western Uttar Pradesh into a world-scale Urban Mining and Recycling Centre. Meerut is an automobile recycling centre, Moradabad processes 80% of all e-waste and Loni's foundries and smelters are recycling hubs. These centres will be connected directly to global markets. Effluent treatment facilities, skills and benefits to the workforce engaged in these industries shall be ensured.



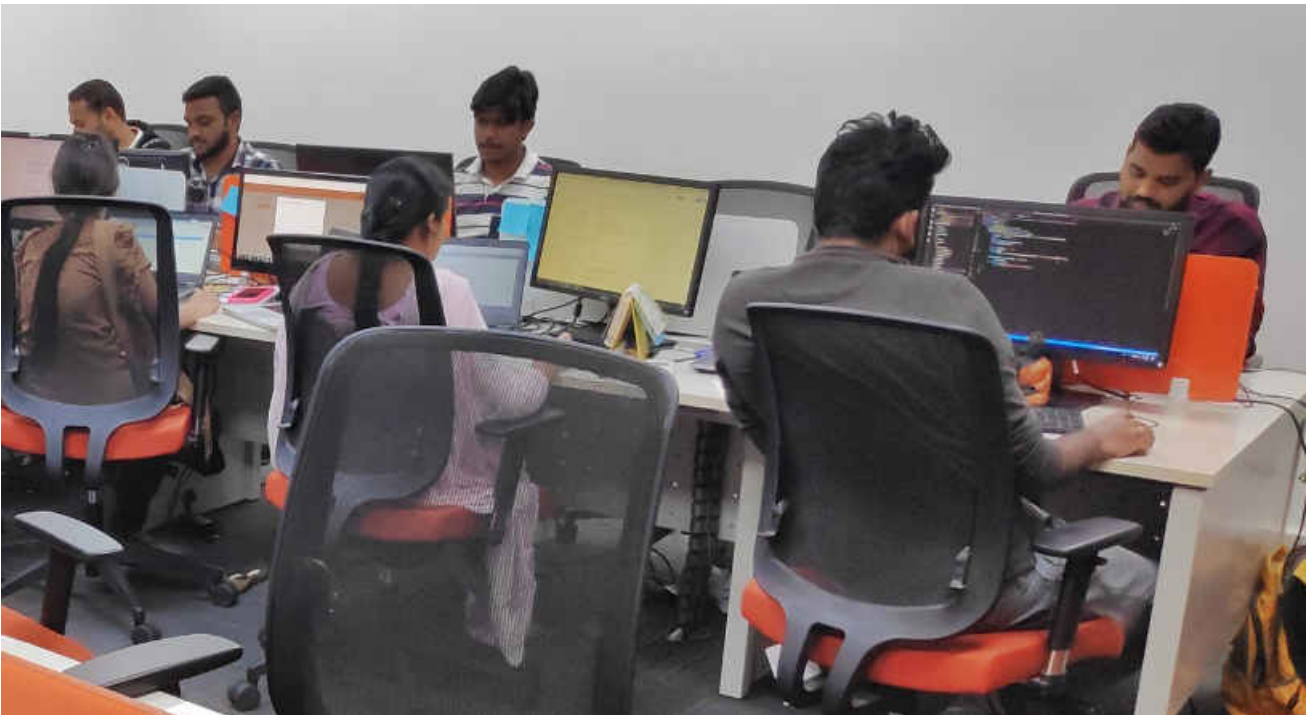


## WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES

Under BJP rule, both formal sector workers (such as government employees) and informal sector workers have suffered immensely. These constitute the majority of Uttar Pradesh's workers and artisans. The BJP has denied government workers their rights and benefits by outsourcing recruitment and hiring via contracts. Meanwhile informal sector workers have been denied basic social security such as insurance and pensions.

The Congress party firmly believes that formal and informal workers in Uttar Pradesh deserve to be treated with dignity and granted parity and it is committed to restoring their rights and benefits to them.

- Outsourcing will be stopped and contract (samvida) employment will be rationalised. Contract employees will be regularised in a phased manner depending on experience and term of service.
- The state government contribution to government employees' pension plans will be increased and the demand of government employees for a minimum guaranteed pension will be taken up with the Central government.
- Investment in the public health system will be increased so that workers' expenses on medical care and medicines shall be significantly reduced.
- Domestic workers and caregivers will be recognised and provided with the same benefits as other informal workers, such as pensions and insurance.
- Safai Karmis will be regularised and outsourcing will be stopped.
- Midday meal cooks (rasoiya) will be paid ₹5,000 per month.





# INFRASTRUCTURE

**The Congress Party believes that while large infrastructure projects such as expressways, airports and industrial corridors are essential, it is equally imperative to strengthen Uttar Pradesh's regional and district infrastructure. Funds will be directed towards infrastructure that supports people and businesses in small towns, semi-urban and rural areas and helps transform the district economy.**

- Investments will be made to expand the network of state highways and roads that connect tier 2 and 3 towns and district headquarters.
- Roads once built at the taxpayer's expense too often fall into disrepair. Sufficient funds will be allocated for road and highway maintenance.
- The Jamuna-Agra-Lucknow Expressway will be inter-linked with the proposed Ganga Expressway at four crucial places.
- All toll roads will be provided appropriate ambulance services and first aid trauma centres at reasonable distances with links to nearby hospitals.
- Parallel roads will be built along existing highways for exclusive use by kanwariyas and urs travellers with facilities to break journeys at appropriate points and medical services.
- The Baudh Shanti Circuit will be developed and expanded to include Sankisa, Sarnath, Shravasti, Kushinagar, Kaushambi and Kapilvastu.

## SHAHRI VIKAS - Urban Development



Urban Development in Uttar Pradesh has been largely centered around the state's more politically significant urban centers. Despite this, congestion, pollution, poor planning and a lack of amenities such as sewerage and drains have made Uttar Pradesh's biggest and most populous cities uncondusive to healthy civic living. Tier 3 cities remain virtually neglected.

The Congress Party will treat urban development as synonymous with making Uttar Pradesh's cities liveable, safe and inclusive. It will focus as much on the development of smaller towns where the majority of urban Uttar Pradesh resides as on the larger urban centers. Affordable housing will be provided for the poor and the middle class. Measures will be taken to control water, air and noise pollution. Public-private partnerships will be undertaken to create new public spaces for reading, recreation, sports, culture and the arts and the maintenance of existing public spaces. Cleanliness and sanitation will be emphasised and public art will be encouraged.

- Slum upgradation will be prioritised and land rights will be granted to slum dwellers.
- Land and incentives for affordable housing for the middle class shall be provided.
- All towns shall have labour haats where labourers can interact with potential employers while being able to access proper facilities for seating, shelter, and toilets. We will set up Indira Canteens in their vicinity to provide affordable meals -- see the attached Shakti Vidhan (Women's Manifesto) for details. Labourers will have the option to register for social security benefits.
- Spaces will be created for street vendors to protect them from police harassment while ensuring there is adequate public space for recreational activities.





- Tracks will be built for walking and cycling and pavements will be made for pedestrians where space is available for safe passage.
- To reduce traffic congestion and chaos, stands will be provided for all modes of public transport (e-rickshaws, auto rickshaws, tempos, buses) to reduce traffic congestion and chaos. Operators and citizen groups shall be brought into a consultative route-planning and zoning exercise with the local government.
- Focus shall be put on electrified public transport to help reduce noise and air pollution in larger cities.
- Public parks will be revived in a manner that they become part of the public life of the city. Urban reforestation will be undertaken to reduce pollution and improve the quality of life in partnership with the private sector.
- The ineffective Swachh Bharat scheme will be altered and adapted to local conditions to make it more effective.
- The building of open landfills across Uttar Pradesh will be halted and closed landfills will be built in major cities along with methane extractors for better waste disposal.
- Comprehensive legislation for Town and Country Planning will be passed to integrate planning and development between cities and countryside as well as regulate conversion of rural land use. Appropriate exceptions/local regulation under panchayats shall be provided for buildings within gram sabha lal dora area.

## GRAMEEN VIKAS - Rural Development



India is said to live in the villages where in fact 60% of the population resides. Migration to the cities, although inevitable and useful in a limited way, becomes a serious problem for urban civic amenities. The Congress party has always advocated and implemented an equitable development of rural India. Flagship schemes like the MGNREGS, even though weakened considerably by the BJP government, have proved to be pillars of sustenance for rural communities through the COVID-19 crisis. The Congress Party resolves to provide the rural population with all good reason to live a fulfilling life in rural areas.

- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act will be implemented in letter and spirit with empowered Gram Sabhas and Panchayat office bearers.
- Gram Pradhan salaries will be increased to ₹6,000 per month.
- Chowkidaar salaries will be increased to ₹5,000 per month.
- Every year one village per Block shall be chosen for integrated development and upgrading under a specific scheme for the purpose, each such village shall be provided a pillar for putting up of public documents and notices.
- The backwardness of districts shall be reviewed based on delineated parameters of industry, education, employment, migration, economic output and suitably incentivised.
- Zoning plans shall be published for rural areas providing easy access to land use conversion based on the plan. The agricultural use will be strictly preserved where the land use is non-convertible agricultural.
- Village area construction and land use shall be regulated by the Gram Panchayats under appropriate legislation to be passed. This will ensure that the essential rural character of the villages is retained along with the scope for modern facilities to be built.
- Land Records shall be modernised and digitised by updating Land Records legislation and e-access shall be provided with suitable security checks.





# SEHAT

## Health



The COVID-19 pandemic cruelly exposed the neglect and negligence of UP's healthcare system. A collapsed health infrastructure and critical shortages of medicines, beds, oxygen and other facilities overwhelmingly overpowered the valiant efforts of healthcare professionals and workers.

Out-of-pocket health expenditure is one of the leading causes of impoverishment of families in Uttar Pradesh. UP's per capita expenditure on health and life expectancy at birth is one of the lowest in India. The state is afflicted by a shortage of healthcare professionals, increasing out-of-pocket expenditure for citizens and a lack of planning. Going by the norms of the Indian Public Health Standards, over a third of UP's rural population is currently unable to access primary healthcare. It is no surprise that UP ranks at the bottom of the NITI Aayog's health ranking of states. The Congress Party firmly resolves to transform Uttar Pradesh's health sector and make it accessible to all citizens of the state.

### RIGHT TO HEALTH

Health is a right for each and every citizen of Uttar Pradesh. With this clear understanding, a dynamic public health system that provides free and quality care to the people of Uttar Pradesh and provides employment to lakhs of healthcare professionals will be developed. The Congress Party believes that the health and well-being of the people of Uttar Pradesh is one of its foremost objectives.

- All patients in the public health system will have the Right to free treatment, free medicines and free diagnostic tests, as is available in Congress-ruled states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.



- Free in-patient treatment will be offered up to a maximum of ₹10 lakh.
- Budget spending on healthcare will be increased from the existing 5% of the state budget.
- All of UP's 711 Community Health Centres and 2,880 Primary Health Centres will be upgraded to the IPHS. Currently zero centres meet this standard.
- 15,614 of 20,778 Sub-Health Centres in UP still lack an electricity connection (as on 31 March 2020). All these will be electrified.

## COVID WARRIORS

**Uttar Pradesh's COVID Warriors faced one of the worst onslaughts of the pandemic the world has witnessed. Courageous doctors, nurses and health workers worked way beyond the call of duty under the most extreme conditions to save lives. However, the Uttar Pradesh government's appalling attitude and misdirected aggression towards health workers, hospitals and health centers caused further suffering rather than providing succour and support when it was most required. Throughout the pandemic no financial incentives or supportive measures were taken to assist healthcare providers.**

**The Congress Party believes that the state owes a great debt of gratitude to all those health workers who risked their lives in order to save people afflicted with COVID-19. it is the responsibility of the state to support them in every way. To this end:**

- The families of frontline health workers and government employees who tragically died doing COVID-19 duty but were denied the central government's ₹50 lakh insurance package will be given an equivalent amount as compensation for the loss of their loved ones.
- All sanctioned posts of doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives in Sub-Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals. Appropriate packages and benefits including performance-based incentives, difficult area allowances and accommodation & transport facilities in remote areas will be offered.
- Timely payment of salaries to all doctors and nurses, especially their pending dues from the COVID-19 period, will be assured. Deprivation of their dues while they risked their lives to save others is a shocking insult to our frontline workers.
- A pathway for contractual doctors and nurses to be made permanent in a time-bound manner will be created.
- Transparent criteria for the posting and transfer of healthcare professionals in the public health system will be created and enforced.
- It will be ensured that humane norms are followed in setting duty hours for doctors and nurses.



# SHIKSHA

## Education



Education is a fundamental right, but access to quality education in Uttar Pradesh remains poor. The government of Uttar Pradesh has cut spending on education, which has fallen in real terms by 13% between 2016-17 and 2020-21. The share of education in the state budget has also dropped from 14.7% to 12.8%. Furthermore, the inclusion of casteist and communal elements have distorted the curriculum which urgently needs to be reversed.

The Congress Party believes that education is the right of every child. Improving the quality of government schools by involving stakeholders and incentivising teachers while providing good quality facilities to children is essential to providing them a good education. Teacher training and recruitment needs to be strengthened across the government school system. Enabling access to education for all and ensuring that classrooms are inclusive and egalitarian is pivotal. Facilities like internet connectivity, tablets and other modern tools should be made available as far as possible to enable access to the latest educational resources.

## SCHOOLS

While the private sector has a role in scholastic education, it is incumbent on the government to provide free and good quality education to those who cannot afford private schools. However, according to a survey, 87% of parents in Uttar Pradesh feel that the government has not been able to regulate private schools effectively. 59% of parents were forced to buy school supplies from a specific vendor and 59% had to pay hidden charges throughout the year. Most parents prefer to send their children to private schools if they can afford to. During the COVID-19 pandemic a majority of children have fallen behind by



up to two years. This is an unprecedented phenomenon that needs to be dealt with on a war footing.

The Congress Party will work to strengthen the government school system and improve its standard to match those of the best private schools. To this end:



- Existing regulations on school fees will be enforced since an unprecedented rise in fees has forced many children to drop out of school.
- Many children lacking access to online classes fell behind during various school closures due to lockdowns. Catch-up classes will be arranged for them using shiksha mitras and educated youth and adequate arrangements will be made to assist them to return to class where they left off.
- Efforts will be made to increase the proportion of Right to Education (RTE) compliant schools from the current 28% to 100% for the 6-14 age group. Schools will be incentivised to admit children from Economically Weaker Sections and Disadvantaged Groups for 25% seats as required by Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act.
- School Management Committees (SMC's) will be operationalised to ensure that parents and Gram Pradhans assert their stakeholder rights in ensuring the quality of education and functioning of schools under RTE.
- Schools will be allowed to shut down only with the approval of the SMC and the Gram Sabha.
- Public libraries will be set up at the block level with Internet connections. Books and online subscriptions will be available in Hindi, English and local languages. There will be resources available for competitive exam preparation.



- The school curriculum in Uttar Pradesh has become increasingly regressive. It contains anti-women, casteist and communal elements. A curriculum Review and Advisory Committee shall be set up to ensure compliance with Constitutional values and a scientific outlook.
- All schools will be required to make their playgrounds available for local children at specified hours.

## TEACHERS

**Teachers are among the most important members of our society. Along with parents, they develop our children's minds and shape their futures. Yet in Uttar Pradesh, teachers face numerous problems related to their wages, working conditions and their dues from government. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the state government's disregard for their welfare. 2,500 teachers died due to COVID-19 after they were forced to present themselves for election duty at the peak of the second wave. The families of the deceased teachers have received no compensation yet. To ensure that teachers are treated with fairness and dignity:**

- The 2 lakh education vacancies in Uttar Pradesh will be filled.
- Ad hoc teachers and shiksha mitras will be regularised with weightage being given to their experience and service.
- Teacher transfers in a rule-bound and transparent manner at all school levels will be ensured.
- Government teachers are given many responsibilities in addition to their teaching duties. Teachers will be given full disclosure about the nature and duration of their tasks whenever these are allotted.
- Teachers will be given the time and opportunity to receive up-to-date training.
- The delay in appointing professors in various colleges will be ended.





# PARYAVARAN

## Environment and Climate Change

As an agricultural state that has ecologically sensitive regions such as Bundelkhand and Vindhyaachal, Uttar Pradesh is very vulnerable to climate change. Floods, droughts, heat and cold waves are already leaving a mark. Furthermore, air pollution reduces life spans across western and central UP in the winter months. In 2020, seven Uttar Pradesh cities including Kanpur and Lucknow ranked among the ten cities in the world with the worst air quality surpassing the national capital, Delhi.

Global trends towards solar power and vehicle electrification provide an opportunity for Uttar Pradesh to become a leader in the country. The Congress Party will strive to convert the problem of pollution and adaptation to climate change into an opportunity to generate jobs and resources while simultaneously resolving them. Policy will be formed in a manner that creates an ecosystem that includes citizens and small businesses, rather than being confined to headline-catching announcements and cash handouts to select businesses.

### SOLAR POWER

- Reliable 24x7 electricity using village-generated solar power will be provided. Solar power generated by rooftop panels for ₹4.50 per unit up to 1 MW from any village will be purchased. This will increase rural incomes and help the finances of Uttar Pradesh's distribution companies.
- Rooftop solar panels will be installed on all government school-buildings to ensure regular electricity supply. This will also instill environment-consciousness among students.



## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- The targeted number of electric buses on UP roads under Phase III of the 2019 UP Electric Vehicle Policy will be raised from 400 to 6,000 by 2030. Their numbers will be concentrated in regions that bear the brunt of air pollution.
- Western UP will be transformed into a world-scale Urban Mining and Recycling centre, and industries that produce recycled cobalt, lithium carbonate, nickel and manganese dioxide used in electric vehicle batteries will be enabled.
- These industries will be connected to the automotive recycling industries in Meerut and elsewhere with infrastructure, health and skill development services for the informal workforce.
- E-rickshaws in all towns will be given stands and charging stations to facilitate smooth, congestion-free operation in coordination with other types of public transport.

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND NATURAL DISASTERS

- “Climate budgeting” will be introduced to determine the degree to which state budget expenditure is helping build resilience to natural disasters and climate change. This will help Uttar Pradesh access global financing for related development projects.
- An Uttar Pradesh Climate Change Authority will be established to oversee time-bound Climate Risk Assessments and to ensure the operationalisation of the State Action Plan on Climate Change.
- A State Adaptation Fund will be established to provide finance for the Climate Change Authority. Preference will be given to projects that benefit poor and vulnerable sections like farmers, fishermen, forest dwellers and artisans.
- Where appropriate, MGNREGS public works will be directed towards helping vulnerable rural communities deal with the impacts of climate change and disasters, including water scarcity and flooding.
- A risk insurance scheme will be established to provide immediate relief to poor households suffering the impact of natural disasters, including flooding.



# PARIVAAR

## Children And Families

**An unacceptable number of children in Uttar Pradesh suffer from chronic malnutrition. India is ranked a poor 101 out of 116 in the Global Hunger Index. In Uttar Pradesh, two out of five children are stunted (or are too short for their age) and one out of five children are wasted (too thin or low weight for their height). The proportion of severely wasted children in Uttar Pradesh increased between 2015-16 and 2020-21, signifying a deterioration in nutrition levels.**

**Children also are deprived of a nurturance, shelter and safety when they lose their parents. Systems that take care of orphaned or destitute children and protect them from exploitation and abuse are the responsibility of society and the government. Secure foster homes, adoption by caring foster parents and a good quality education should be made available to these children.**

**The Congress Party will take strong action to improve child nutrition and to ensure that various child protection laws whose implementation in Uttar Pradesh has been lacking are properly enforced.**

- Midday meals are essential to retain children in Anganwadis and schools. Midday meal audits will be carried out to ensure that children receive proper nutrition.
- Balanced midday meals with adequate protein and carbohydrate intake will be provided.
- The 2000 Juvenile Justice Act will be fully implemented and functioning childcare institutions such as Child Welfare Committees, district Child Protection Societies and Special Juvenile Police Units will be set up.
- Proper implementation of the Child Labour Act and the Integrated Child Protection Scheme will be ensured.





- Trained social workers who can support and guide families that adopt children, as well as single mothers and women subjected to cruelty and deprivation shall be made available in sufficient numbers.
- Safety of children and vulnerable persons shall be given high priority. There are periodic incidents of children falling into unguarded bore wells and becoming sad additions to figures of fatalities. All borewell companies shall be compulsorily registered and be required to seek permission and take required precautions before commencing work.





# SAAMAAJIK SASHAKTIKARAN

## Social Upliftment And Empowerment



Under the Yogi government, Uttar Pradesh has seen a decline in the standing and privileges of all oppressed and deprived sections. Whether it is the daily incidents of crime against Dalits across the state, including chilling examples in Mahoba, Agra, Gorakhpur, Rae Bareli and Hardoi, the targeting of Economically Weaker Sections, the destruction of the livelihood of Nishads who depends on rivers for sustenance in Prayagraj, or the horrifying crimes against communities including Pals, Kashyaps, Prajapatis, Vishwakarmas, Rajbhars, Chauhans, Kumhars, Mauryas in other districts, the BJP government has shown no inclination to put an end to them. On the contrary, cases of collusion and protection of perpetrators of heinous crimes against particular communities have become the norm.

The Congress government shall guarantee to all citizens equal respect and dignity, security of their lives and property, protection against anti-social forces. Dalits, Economically Weaker Sections, Minorities, Backward Classes, vulnerable persons and other citizens shall have no fear of violation of their civic rights. We will take decisive steps towards the upliftment of vulnerable sections, and ensure that their social, political and economic rights are protected.

### SCHEDULED CASTE WELFARE

- Free education will be provided to SC students from KG to PG.
- SC public employees will be given reservations in promotion.
- The state Home Minister will be a Dalit minister. The government will act unfailingly to end atrocities against the Scheduled Castes (SC).



- The privatisation of profitable state PSUs and the backdoor erosion of SC reservations will be halted.
- We will ensure that all Dalit sub-castes benefit from reservations.
- More than half of India's manual scavengers live in UP, and most belong to the SC community. It will be ensured that all of them benefit from government rehabilitation packages and their children receive skill training that enables them to take up alternative employment if they so wish.
- It shall be ensured that SC-registered businesses receive the benefits they are due through the National Small Industries Corporation.
- Prompt action shall be enforced in cases of violence against SCs and it shall be ensured that FIRs are filed without delay.

## OBC WELFARE

- It will be ensured that all OBC sub-castes benefit from reservations, including via a sub-quota for the Most Backward Classes (MBC) category.
- Targeted government programmes such as hostels, scholarships, training, grants for books and accessories, and the setting up of cooperative societies will be generated for MBC communities such as Nishad, Bind, Mallah, Kewat, Kashyap, Bhar, Dhimar, Batham, Prajapati, Rajbhar, Kahar, Pott, Manjhi, Tuhaha, Gaur Gadhriyas, Machua etc. We will provide rights on rivers and river banks to communities like Nishad and Mallah that have long inhabited those areas.
- Groups like Nat, Baheliya, Chidimar, Kapadiya, Sansi, Sapera, Bhatu, Habuda, Bajigar, Pardhi, Kanjar, Brijwasi and Banjara that need new professional avenues will be rehabilitated and retrained.
- The privatisation of profitable state PSUs and the backdoor erosion of OBC reservations will be halted.
- OBC reserved seats will be filled in a time-bound manner in education, police and healthcare.
- The government shall at the earliest conduct an OBC survey to comply with the Supreme Court directions on reservations in promotion.

## MINORITY WELFARE

- Constitutional autonomy shall be restored to minority institutions in issues pertaining to management and hiring of staff.
- The process of modernisation of Madrasas shall be re-instituted and the study of traditional and modern curriculum shall be promoted. Facilities at madrasas shall be suitably upgraded to make them a source of employable citizens.



- Special efforts shall be made as in the case of Dalit and OBC students to provide minority students with access quality education in model schools to be established in areas where minorities reside. Where necessary, seats shall be made available in existing or newly-built student hostels near educational institutions.
- In the interests of fairness and equality, appropriate provision of minority representation in government job hiring shall be made.
- The functioning of waqfs will be streamlined and the investment procedure modernised. Efforts shall be made to educate potential settlers to adopt waqf instruments to secure benefits.
- A Commission for Backward Minorities will be established to study their social, educational, economic backwardness and examine steps that can be taken under existing or new laws to address the causes of backwardness.
- For better participation and representation in governance, we will expand the Vidhan Parishad including seats artisans and weavers.



## TRIBAL WELFARE

- Free education shall be provided to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students from KG to PG.
- ST public employees will be given reservations in promotion.
- Scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers have rights to land and resources under the 2006 Forest Rights Act. Under the BJP government, these claims have not been honoured; most have been rejected. It will be ensured that rights to minor forest produce and settlements on traditionally-occupied forest lands are protected.

- The privatisation of profitable state PSUs and the backdoor erosion of ST reservations will be halted.
- The Kol community will be added to the ST list.
- A high-level committee will be set up to probe how forest land traditionally belonging to Sonbhadra's adivasis has been given illegally to wealthy outsiders. Clear titles will be given to the traditional dwellers.
- Schooling and teaching of talented children in Sonbhadra has been stalled because of a longstanding scam in an Eklavya Model Adivasi Vidyalayas. The completion of these schools will be ensured and teachers will be put in place within six months of completion.
- There will be local employment in contract jobs for coalfields, factories, and other industrial ventures. All project-affected families will be surveyed and sorted for various kinds of employment depending on their skill levels.

## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**The Congress party recognises and respects that citizens with disabilities are due their full rights and dignity as equal citizens of India. A Congress government will ensure better integration of persons with disabilities in the everyday life of the community.**

- All government institutions will be compelled to comply with the 2016 Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, including reservations in government jobs and facilitating disabled access to all government buildings. We will proactively tap into central funds intended for this that the Uttar Pradesh government has failed to utilise.
- The pension for low-income persons with disabilities will be increased to ₹3,000 per month.
- Particular focus will be placed upon ensuring access to education for children and young adults with disabilities. School administrations and classmates will be sensitised to act inclusively.
- Regular training camps will be held to train and assist parents and caretakers of children with disabilities in the rural setting using available materials and aids.
- Regular camps will be held in every district to enable those with disabilities to access government services and benefits such as pension papers, health insurance and differently abled certificates.
- 25% of all new Common Service Centres given to Village Level Entrepreneurs will be reserved for persons with disabilities.





# ABHIVYAKTI

## Freedom of Expression Art And Culture

### LANGUAGES

**Uttar Pradesh has a long and vibrant tradition of literature and language. In order to keep this tradition alive the Congress Party will:**

- Traditional languages such as Awadhi, Brajbhasha, Bhojpuri, Bagheli, Bundeli, Kaurvi and Khadi Boli will be given adequate state support for promotion and preservation. In addition, we will also preserve and promote established dialects of the state.
- Literature academies and academic departments will be set up to support and encourage traditional languages in state universities, and their books will be made available in local libraries and online.
- Full support will be provided to the study of Sanskrit and to Sanskrit Pathshalas, and the backlog of vacant posts of principals and teachers will be filled.
- The Uttar Pradesh Urdu Akademi will receive full support in its mission to preserve, foster and develop Urdu language and literature. Adequate numbers of Urdu teachers will be recruited to meet the demand for Urdu at all levels of education.

### CULTURE

**Uttar Pradesh plays an important role in India's cultural imagination, whether sites of pilgrimage and architectural wonders or intangible parts of our heritage such as music, dance and theatre. The Congress Party will place the people of Uttar Pradesh at the centre of the state's cultural policy.**



- The state will fund the establishment of a cultural venue in every nyay panchayat where local festivals and cultural events will be celebrated, including tribal festivals.
- UP's special composite culture needs a renaissance that binds people together. The state will identify special cultural and community icons like Valmiki, Surdas, Ravi Das, Malik Jaisi, Amir Khusro, Meera, Kabir, and hold major public events annually to commemorate their memory and enhance inter-community and inter-faith dialogue.
- Similarly, the state will celebrate inspiring icons of the freedom movement such as Chandrashekhar Azad, Ramprasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan and others. Families of freedom fighters will be invited to participate.
- Each year the state shall celebrate a festival dedicated to the Mother Ganga at Allahabad and Varanasi. The festival shall be preceded by a three-month campaign to clean the Ganga.
- Parashurama Jayanti will be declared a state holiday.



# NYAY

## Governance, Law And Justice

No modern State, a creation of the people through the Constitution, can claim success without giving to itself a quality of governance that is compatible with the Constitution. The Congress Party will work with the public to craft a society that is fair, just, secure and prosperous. It shall commit itself to a Citizen's Charter for open, transparent, fair, and sensitive administration.

The past five years have witnessed an unprecedented assault on human rights and civil liberties encouraged and organised by the BJP government. It has sowed hatred, anger and divisiveness in society. The Congress Party will work tirelessly to restore the primacy of law and justice and to promote reconciliation among Uttar Pradesh's various communities.

### GOVERNANCE

As the Congress Party did during its tenure at the centre, with landmark legislations such as the Right to Information, we will strive to make governance in Uttar Pradesh transparent, accessible and fair. To this end:

- For better participation and representation in governance, five seats will be added to the Vidhan Parishad for groups including artisans, weavers, farmers and ex-servicemen.
- A Citizens' Rights Act will be brought in to outline administrative best practices, make the Lokpal Act more effective and enforce the Protection of Whistleblowers Act to strengthen the fight against corruption.
- A dedicated, special police unit shall be set up to control muscle power in the public auction of public resources that will be answerable to a judicial tribunal to enforce accountability.





- Information will be proactively placed in the public realm consistent with the Right to Information Act to help citizens access various government benefits.
- E-Governance will be given greater emphasis. District websites shall provide current and archived data going back 10 years.
- All district postings will be done by an Administrative Board with the final approval of the concerned Minister. Tenure shall be protected and not interfered with or transfer ordered unless warranted by circumstances and once again after approval of the Board.



## POLICING

**The police comprise a crucial arm of governance, tasked with enforcing the law, protecting citizens and preventing crime and disorder. In Uttar Pradesh, lakhs of policewomen and policemen work long hours away from their families to achieve these goals, and need to be appreciated. However the current government has misused the police to harass opponents and to suppress legitimate, peaceful protest. To restore policing to its legitimate place:**

- The Uttar Pradesh Human Rights Commission will be empowered to exercise its powers to investigate human rights abuses that have plagued the state under BJP rule, including group violence, vigilantism and the targeting of vulnerable groups. The Commission will present a report summarising the state of law-and-order over the previous five years and steps will be taken to end the abuse of state power.
- A Police Ombudsperson will be set up to look at irregularities in investigation and abuse of law after charge-sheets or closure reports have been filed. It will direct appropriate compensation for innocent persons wrongfully arrested or otherwise harassed by the police, and ensure that their properties, if arbitrarily confiscated, are returned to them.
- Motivated cases against journalists will be dropped and those in jail will be released.



- The gun license regime shall be made transparent and subject to clear guidelines with provision for appeal.
- The arbitrary use of Goonda Act to oppress political opponents shall be subjected to effective procedure and clear guidelines to ensure innocent persons are not harassed.
- The powers and jurisdiction of special units like EOW, Special Cell, CBCID, UPSSF shall be reviewed and rationalised to reduce confusion to the public. Supreme Court guidelines shall be followed strictly to prevent unnecessary arrests for political reasons. Unjustified arrests will lead to strict accountability. FIRs will be available online.
- The state government shall allow CBI to exercise investigation powers only on specific cases and not as a carte blanche that facilitates politically motivated cases.
- A statutory Criminal Injuries Compensation Board shall be set up to provide compensation to victims of criminal incidents as per a provided schedule. The Board would be authorised to direct/recommend further assistance or compensation such as government employment to victim families in appropriate cases.
- Urgent reforms of policing will be undertaken to make service conditions of police personnel reasonable and conducive to courteous and efficient conduct. We will regulate the working hours of police personnel and ensure that constables are posted close to their home districts. We will upgrade their allowances and improve family facilities including housing.
- Women constables will be permitted to be posted in their home districts.
- Home Guards will be paid according to Supreme Court guidelines and will not be arbitrarily removed from service.
- District, block and city Sadbhavna Committees will be mandated to help authorities restore normalcy and – in cooperation with authorities – to initiate steps to address public grievances in areas prone to rioting or social tensions. They will comprise prominent elders and leaders from all local communities and will be encouraged to deal with contentious issues before they escalate and to promote inter-faith and inter-caste dialogue and social engagement.
- The scope of e-FIRs will be expanded to make it easier for common people to get justice.

## LAW AND JUSTICE

**A well-functioning judiciary is essential to the delivery of justice. Access to justice is challenging in Uttar Pradesh, and lawyers operate under difficult conditions. To improve matters:**

- The Allahabad High Court will be consulted to address growing congestion and distance travelled by litigants, and the setting up of a bench in western UP will be explored.
- Legislation and administrative steps for strengthening personal safety of members of the profession will be undertaken.



- An affordable insurance scheme for lawyers will be instituted to provide them with social security and disability support.
- Legal Aid will be provided for those who cannot afford legal services, including victims of state-sponsored violence. This will be regulated by Legal Aid Boards. State- and district-level committees shall budget contractual engagement of young lawyers for three years under supervision of senior advocates to conduct legal aid cases. They will also be free to conduct privately received cases.



## MILITARY VETERANS

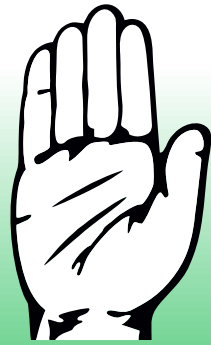
**Veterans and ex-servicemen have dedicated their lives to the nation, and deserve our wholehearted gratitude. With 3.8 lakh military veterans, Uttar Pradesh has the largest such population in India. We will make sure they get their due.**

- All military stations in the state will be provided special facilities for military veterans through the Soldier Board. These will include library, sports and recreation facilities and short-term accommodation. Special Task Force Units shall be mandated at each district facility to assist veterans to set up startups and get re-employment in business and industry.
- Once every year on the Flag Day the veterans will be given public honour and helped to march through the main city centre.
- For better participation and representation of veterans in governance, one Vidhan Parishad seat will be created for ex-servicemen.









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