

Demand Charter 2023-24

Education

- Make adequate allocation for education by ensuring that it does not fall below 6% of the GDP
- Extend the purview of the RTE Act from birth to 18 years in line with the internationally recognized definition of childhood by including ECCE, pre-primary and higher secondary education as a legal entitlement.
- Stop the increase of commercialization and privatisation of education and enforce accountability of private schools and ECCE Centres by drafting, implementing and enforcing a national regulatory framework including regulation of fees, compliance with quality norms and addressing social segregation through the growth of private provision
- Review and revise the National Education Policy to realise the right to education
- Increase budgets for direct benefit schemes like Post-Matric Scholarships, National Overseas Scheme, Hostels, and Skill Development schemes, and timely disbursement of cash to the recipients

Food Security and Nutrition

- Quotas under the National Food Security Act should be immediately expanded on the basis of the population projections for 2023 to cover 67% of population
- Truly universalise the Public Distribution System to include all vulnerable persons
- Ensure decentralized grievance redressal mechanisms under NFSA
- Reinstate eggs/equally protein-packed substitutes in meals, incorporating dal etc. instead of just cereals to combat undernutrition and malnutrition

Health

- Ensure universal health coverage for all with special provisions for marginalised communities to address challenges posed by their socio-economic conditions.
- Immediately initiate legislation on “Right to Health and Healthcare” in larger context of major expansion and strengthening of Public health services.
- Increase public allocations on health care to at least 3% of GDP
- Scrap schemes like PM-JAY that are directing government funds to private health systems and instead use these resources to strengthen the public health system
- Strengthen death reporting system; ensuring rights of records and certificates; and, ensuring public dissemination of gender, caste disaggregated data on morbidity, mortality and utilisation

Agriculture and Farmer Welfare

- Farmers’ incomes must be enhanced by guaranteeing MSP for all crops which gives the farmers at least 50 per cent returns after covering all input costs of capital and the rent on the land.
- Address farm debt by regulating input prices, strengthening state support and curbing extortionary private moneylending practices
- Land reforms must be re-initiated and excess of ceiling land must be given to landless farmers
- Stagnating rural minimum wages must be raised and employment opportunities must expand

Employment

- Combat rising inequalities and income disparity at all economic and extra-

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- economic levels for all marginalised communities
- Substantially increase allocations to MGNREGA to increase employment opportunities in rural areas
 - Develop and build institutional mechanisms to promote entrepreneurial education along with affordable and inclusive access to financial and capacity building institutions towards promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth in the growing market opportunities.
 - Horizontal reservations for transgender persons with 1% of seats from the general OBC, SC and ST categories would be reserved for trans* people coming from socially marginalised communities
 - Realise women's empowerment in terms of wage parity, autonomy in decision-making, and addressing structural barriers for women across identities
 - Given that sexual harassment at the workplace and the burden of unpaid care work are deterrents to women's workforce participation, urgent implementation of preventive and protective measures such as maternity benefits, creche facilities at the workplace and sensitization and awareness-raising on the POSH Act are required to ensure an increase in women's economic participation.
 - Appropriate schemes should be adopted and implemented for the economic development of minorities for skilling their youths and providing them easy bank loans for promoting entrepreneurship
 - Ensure rightful wages for Anganwadi workers, Sathins, Sahyoginis, etc. and their labour

Economy

- Raise corporate taxes to 65% by adding 1% rise in surcharges for the richest 7% of Indians and increase direct taxes to combat revenue losses

and uncollected taxes and fund universal healthcare, education, social security, and welfare for all citizens

- Dedicate policy support towards enabling Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises with regular and stable employment generation and formal social security given to all
- Design and revise policies centrally focusing on the urgency to prioritise equitable and inclusive gendersensitive sustainable and sustained livelihood opportunities

Social Security

- Strengthen existing schemes such as Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESI) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) with budgetary support and expansion of coverage
- Ensure 'Social Protection Floor' including ESI benefits, EPF benefits, maternity benefits, and all other essential human wellbeing benefits
- Revise Code on Social Security 2020 to lay down a clear map for moving towards an integrated, universal and adaptive social protection system encompassing the whole life-cycle of a citizen
- Revise Code on Social Security, 2020 to address implementation obstacles due to overlapping authority between central and state administrative and financial structures
- Procedural Safeguards Against Internet Shutdowns and ensuring access to social security programmes under the NREGA and Food Security Act, irrespective of internet availability

Livelihood

- Recognizing the multidimensionality of urban poverty: Apart from employment and incomes, urban poverty is closely linked with various other forms of deprivation – lack of housing, basic services (water, sanitation), basic

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infrastructure (health, education) and social security. Thus, all these dimensions of urban poverty need to be tackled simultaneously.

- Rehabilitation entitlements to be provided under the 2013 scheme, including alternate livelihood options, financial assistance, housing, and education support to the children of the persons engaged in manual scavenging
- Build incentives for usages of latrines and keeping them functional rather than construction of toilets
- Continue to reinforce further campaigns like Community Led Total Sanitation under SBM 2.0 for ODF and ODF + and finally ODF ++ to bring in sustainable behaviour change.

Justice

- Undertake review and repeal anti-terror laws including UAPA that restrict freedom of speech and expression.
- Repeal the offence of sedition in Section 124A of the IPC as undemocratic and unconstitutional.
- Laws for controlling the communal discrimination and violence should be passed by the Parliament and enacted. A separate law should be enacted against the mob lynching as advised by the Supreme Court of India.
- Enact the Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence Bill and review and repeal the following anti-minority laws within one year:
CAA 2019;
All “anti-conversion” laws which target religious minorities

Climate Change

- Enhance the budget for climate actions under the DAPSC-DAPST proportionate to SC and ST population, Gender budget and Child budget, considering regional and

socio-economic vulnerabilities and exposure to climate risks

- Establish a strong institutional mechanism solely focused on climate action and policy
- Update the National Action Plan on Climate Change and reconstitute the Prime Minister’s Council on Climate Change
- Give proper directions and financial backing to all State Action Plans on Climate Change
- Support for environment-based livelihoods such as fishing, forest produce, through measures to enhance production and marketing with fair pricing

Governance

- Mandate specific timeframes and deadlines for the comprehensive discussion and review of each Bill
- Refer complex Bills promptly to the parliamentary committees headed by opposition members for thorough scrutiny
- Make regulatory regime easier for NGOs in terms of annual registration
- Roll back the restrictive measures imposed on NGOs regarding sub-granting, administration expense cap and others
- Recognise Voluntary organisations contribution to nation building
- Have a strict political drive to implement PESA and give adequate power to the gram Sabhas through a transparent grievance redressal mechanism while also organising a large scale awareness campaigns round rights under PESA and other state level laws in forest areas.

Transparency

- Re-introduce the ‘Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill, 2011’ (GR Bill)

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- Implement the Whistle Blowers Act passed in 2014
- Provide autonomy to the Lokpal and Lokayktas with regards to scope of operations and tenure and type of appointments
- Reconsider Rule 22 of the RTI Act, which effectively allows the government to fix different tenures for different information commissioners.
- Reconsider amendments to the RTI Act introduced in Parliament in 2019 that empowers the central government to decide the tenure and salaries of all commissioners in the country.
- Meaningful Public Consultation on the Data Protection Act (DPDPA) 2023
- Inclusion of the “public trust doctrine” in the new Digital Indian Act
- Significantly increase allocation of Union Budgets (up to 6 per cent of the total Budget) and state level public investments on children to address the impacts of COVID-19, especially on the marginalised children, improve the rate of undernourished and anaemic children in the country, implement the new NEP 2020 in its full spirit, and create safer environments and spaces for all children to grow up in a healthy manner free from crime and violence.
- Youth should be seen as equal partners as opposed to junior partners in national building, and they should be given representation in governance structures, beginning with the third tier of government - Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies.
- The budget of scholarship schemes for minorities should be made at par with the SCs who almost match with the former in the demographic attributes
- The left-out recommendations of Sachar Committee should be approved for implementation such as the establishment of a databank on minorities and promotion of diversity in the country.
- The schemes undertaken for the welfare and development of minorities should be strengthened by conducive policies and due fiscal support.

Inclusion

- Utilise demographic data on human development and deprivations for the SC and ST populations from government data points to inform livelihood, climate etc. missions and schemes
 - Ensure rights of adivasi communities on ancestral land, and not displacing them for mining and other activities without consent
 - There needs to be strict collection of data along with focus on disaggregated data on disability for targeted policy reforms.
 - Elimination of all direct human contact with faecal matter during sanitation work
 - Re-energisation of the redress system for gender-based violence through optimal utilization of the Nirbhaya fund. A fund to be included under Mission Shakti for gender sensitisation of all personnel who provide first-responder services.
 - Recognise violence against women as a public health issue and build synergies with the Health and Social Justice and other ministries of the government
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Wada Na Todo Abhiyan is a campaign, formed by 3000+ Civil Society Organisations in 2004, to promote governance accountability while reflecting the needs and voices of marginalized communities.
