



BHARTI VIDHAN

THE YOUTH MANIFESTO



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PREFACE

The Indian National Congress is deeply committed towards providing a bright and secure future for the 7-crore-strong youth population of Uttar Pradesh. These young women and men brimming with creativity and potential are the future of our nation.

Leaders and office bearers of the Congress Party spent a year engaging in consultations and conversations with young people in Uttar Pradesh in order to understand their difficulties, dreams and aspirations. This manifesto reflects the hopes of university students, entrepreneurs, professionals, educated and unemployed youth desperate for a chance to build their futures, and young people from marginalised groups with tremendous potential but not enough avenues to fulfil it. It provides a detailed road map of how the Congress Party proposes to provide employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for young men and women across the state.

The Congress Party believes that progress is founded on a good education. It pledges to significantly increase funding for primary, secondary, and higher education and to make every effort to correct systemic disparities. It will unshackle the immense potential of the state to provide opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship to the youth. New avenues will be created with a focus on manufacturing clusters, the creative industry, technological innovation, and by providing robust support for local & traditional handicrafts and small businesses.

The power of young people, their freedom, self-expression, passion, vitality, creativity, and determination are the driving forces of a nation. The Congress Party pledges to create an environment that allows these dreams to fly so that the young women and men of Uttar Pradesh move towards a hopeful and promising future.





BHARTI KRANTI

Providing Jobs and Employment Opportunities

Crores of young men and women of Uttar Pradesh are eligible for employment but lack job opportunities. Youth unemployment has increased five-fold in the last five years: for those with secondary education, it has tripled; for those with higher secondary schooling it quadrupled; for graduates it has increased from 21% to 51%; for those with technical diplomas/certificates it has risen from 13% to 66% and for technical graduates it has increased from 19% to 46%. These facts tell the shocking story of how the BJP government has failed the youth of Uttar Pradesh.

Employment by the government and public institutions plays a central role in creating opportunities in a state with a vast young population. Young people aspire to being recruited for stable and well-paying jobs in the hope of building a better future.

The current government's appallingly negligent approach towards this critical aspect of our contemporary economy, its policy of selling off profitable public assets and its leniency towards corruption in the recruitment process and the conduct of recruitment tests has progressively crushed the hopes of lakhs of young people. The young people of Uttar Pradesh have thus lost faith in the very system that is responsible for assuring their futures.

IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE FAITH OF CRORES OF YOUNG CITIZENS OF UTTAR PRADESH AND EMPOWER THEM TO BUILD THEIR OWN FUTURES, THE CONGRESS PARTY RESOLVES TO FILL THE MASSIVE BACKLOG OF JOBS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR INCLUDING HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION AND POLICE. 20 LAKH JOBS SHALL BE GUARANTEED OF WHICH 8 LAKHS SHALL BE FOR WOMEN.

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, THE CONGRESS PARTY WILL ENSURE THAT:

- The 1.5 lakh vacant teachers' posts in the primary education sector shall be filled.
- The 1 lakh vacant principals' posts in the basic education sector shall be filled.



- The 38,000 vacant teachers' posts in the secondary education sector shall be filled.
- The 8,000 vacant teachers' posts in higher education and colleges shall be filled.
- A mass recruitment drive shall be conducted throughout the state to fulfil the student-teacher ratio as laid out by the Right to Education Act.
- The 2,500 vacant posts in the Higher Education Department, the 400 posts in the Secondary Education Department, 9,000 posts in the Basic Education Department, 5,800 posts in the Technical Education Department and the 7,400 vacant posts in the Vocational Education Department shall be filled.
- The 32,000 Physical Education instructor posts lying vacant and 2,000 teachers' posts in Sanskrit schools shall be filled.
- The 6,000 vacant government doctors' posts shall be filled. The shortfall includes 600 posts in district hospitals, 800 posts in Primary Health Centres (PHC) and 2,000 specialist doctor posts (paediatricians, OBGYNs and surgeons) in Community Health Centres (CHC). Filling these will reduce the current ratio in Uttar Pradesh of 20,000 patients per government doctor – double the national average of 10,000 – to a more respectable 13,333.
- Appropriate packages and benefits including accommodation and transport facilities in remote areas, performance-based incentives, and difficult area allowances shall be offered to doctors to facilitate and encourage them.
- In order to achieve these targets, we will explore combining it with the Mid-Level Service Provider concept. Competency-bridge courses shall be conducted for graduates from clinical and paramedical backgrounds to give them the competence to provide services at the Sub-Health Centre and other peripheral levels.
- The 1,900 vacant paramedical staff positions in district hospitals, the 1,500 vacant nurses' positions in government hospitals and the shortfall of 29,100 Auxiliary Nurse Midwife, Health Worker and Health Assistant positions in PHCs and Sub-Health Centres shall be filled.
- The 500 vacant radiographer posts in CHCs and the 1,800 vacant posts of lab technicians in CHCs shall be filled.
- The 19,300 vacant posts for Anganwadi workers and the 27,100 vacant Anganwadi helper posts shall be filled.
- The 4,000 vacant ASHA posts shall be filled.
- The 8,000 vacant posts in the AYUSH Department shall be filled.
- The 1.15 lakh vacant posts in the Uttar Pradesh Police shall be filled. These include 19,900 Sub Inspectors, 38,300 Head Constables and 51,400 Constables.
- The 3,000 vacant posts in the State Secretariat, 11,000 vacant posts in the Public Works Department, the 6,000 vacant posts in the Women and Child Development Department, the 9,000 vacant posts in the Panchayati Raj Department, the 29,000 vacant posts in the



Revenue Department, the 12,000 vacant posts in the Agriculture Department, the 4,500 vacant posts in the Food Logistics Department, the 20,600 vacant posts in the Irrigation Department, the 4,700 vacant posts in the Forest Department, the 4,500 vacant posts in the Finance Department, the 9,000 vacant posts in the Tax Registry Department and all other vacant posts in remaining state government departments shall be filled.

- Outsourcing will be stopped, and contract (samvida) employment will be rationalised. Contract employees will be regularised in a phased manner.

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONGST THE YOUTH OF UTTAR PRADESH, THE CONGRESS PARTY WILL ENSURE THAT:

- The One Product One District policy will be relaxed in order 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. Uttar Pradesh's industries shall be revived by promoting traditional clusters and creating new ones. Each cluster shall be provided with credit, marketing, skills and technology and will receive focussed infrastructural support such as improved electricity, water supply, and sewerage to attract more private investment.
- A network of educated men and women named 'Udyog Sahayaks' shall be created to help scale up micro-entrepreneurs and connect them with government benefits such as loans and subsidies as well as services such as digital payments and tax compliance in return for a token fee. The government will provide training and equipment for up to one lakh Udyog Sahayaks. These Udyog Sahayaks shall be deployed in large numbers to the industrial clusters listed below.

The table below shows industry clusters that will be developed in the above stated manner.

Industry Clusters	
District	Industry
Azamgarh, Mau, Ghazipur, Varanasi, Sant Ravidas Nagar	Handloom weaving
Mirzapur, Bhadoi, Sonabhadra	Carpets
Farrukhabad, Etah, Agra	Potato processing
Kushinagar, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Shravasti	Buddhist tourism
Varanasi	Integrated Tourism and weaving
Unnao, Kanpur, Agra	Leather and footwear
Firozabad	Glassware
Bulandshahr	Pottery
Barabanki	Mint



Farrukhabad, Kannauj	Printings & Perfumes
Saharanpur	Wood Carving
Moradabad, Aligarh	Brass and locks
Agra	Integrated tourism and stone
Lucknow	Horticulture (Mango processing)
<i>*New Hubs in Noida, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Meerut, Allahabad</i>	

- A new scheme will be launched to provide collateral-free credit of up to ₹5 lakh for entrepreneurs below the age of 30.
- The collateral-free loans promised to micro and small enterprises by the current government under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises and the Mukhya Mantri Swarojgar Yojana shall be properly implemented.
- A 'Seed Start-up Fund' of ₹5,000 crore shall be instituted for the promotion and encouragement of Start-ups. Priority will be given to entrepreneurs below the age of 30 years.
- A state-run 'Youth Mart' shall be set up in every district. These will plan, promote, facilitate, organise, and assist in the establishment and development of handloom, local crafts, pottery, wool work, carpentry, dollmaking and speciality agricultural products from each district.

The 'Youth Mart' shop will procure directly from self-help groups, civil society organisations and local co-operative societies at a fair and remunerative rate in bulk, and assist in the packaging, marketing and sale of these products to national and international vendors.

- The 'Youth Mart' will coordinate with national-level institutions to promote the export of Gram Udyog products.
- Each 'Youth Mart' will have a specialised social media skills kiosk that will offer free assistance to young entrepreneurs for the marketing and promotion of their products using social media tools.
- Emphasis for the development of dying crafts and traditions in order to revive them and re-introduce them to the world. Agricultural products from each district will also be promoted.
- The Congress Party will ensure that training camps for young men and women aspiring for recruitment into the army and other paramilitary forces shall be set up at every mandal.
- A network of franchisee-operated fair price shops shall be built across Uttar Pradesh. These will be staffed by women, marginalised and special needs groups such as the persons



with disabilities, survivors of crime and severe illness etc. These shops will generate jobs, promote entrepreneurship, and give market access to products by artisans, self-help groups and small businesses like food processing units. 50% of these will be reserved for youth under age 30.

PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO CRORES OF INDIANS. THE HANDING OVER OF THESE ENTERPRISES TO CRONY CAPITALISTS ROBS THEM OF GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AND EFFECTIVELY ERODES THE GUARANTEE OF RESERVATIONS FOR THE MARGINALISED. THE SWEAT AND TOIL OF CRORES OF INDIANS BUILT THESE PUBLIC ASSETS AND THEY RIGHTFULLY BELONG TO THEM.

THE CONGRESS PARTY RESOLVES TO PUT AN END TO THE RECKLESS PRIVATISATION OF PROFITABLE PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND TO ENSURE THEIR CONTINUING OWNERSHIP BY THE PEOPLE OF INDIA.





BHAROSA

Reinstating Trust in the Recruitment Process

The selection process for recruitment to government jobs has been summarily destroyed by the current BJP government. Young aspirants endure inordinate suffering at the hands of a mafia-controlled cheating industry. Genuine aspirants are entrapped in an endless loop of expenditure for entrance forms, tuitions and preparatory work. Many of them suffer a waiting period stretching into years without any guarantee of employment. In the last five years alone 12 competitive exam papers have been leaked in the state, cut-off marks have been altered post examinations and re-exams have been ordered repeatedly for the same posts shattering the hopes of aspirants.

IN ORDER TO PUT AN END TO THIS EXPLOITATIVE AND UNJUST DISTORTION OF WHAT SHOULD BE A SEAMLESS RECRUITMENT PROCESS, THE CONGRESS PARTY RESOLVES TO INTRODUCE A TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE SYSTEM THAT WILL STREAMLINE THE EXAM PROCESS AND MAKE IT YOUTH-FRIENDLY.

- No examination fees will be charged for any state government competitive exams.
- All young people will be provided with free bus and rail travel for competitive exams across the state.
- The tedious and long process that students go through from the initial notification of competitive exams to their eventual appointment will be overhauled and streamlined. A job calendar will be prepared for every recruitment that includes exam dates, the date of the interview, date of result and the date of the appointment. The appointment date will be no later than six months after the date of notification. Criteria laid out in this calendar (e.g., cut-off marks, eligibility etc.) will remain unchanged after the publishing of the notification.



- Penalties for violations of the exam calendar will be swift and severe. Accountability shall be imposed under a special law that will include immediate suspension of offending officials.
- A Special Recruitment Commission will be set up to ensure faithful application of the recruitment law. The Commission will ensure adherence to the exam calendar and resolve any disputes that arise during recruitment. This will end the interference of cheating mafias and of corruption in the recruitment process that has led to scams, paper leaks and intentional delays.
- The Commission will ensure the swift resolution of all recruitment-related cases currently pending in the courts, such as those relating to 32,000 Physical Education teachers, 21,000 positions for OBC, SC and ST teachers, 4,000 posts for Urdu teachers.
- To prevent exam papers from leaking, such as the 2021 TET paper leak which crushed 22 lakh young people's aspirations, they will be printed only at designated presses. Accountability for any leaks will be fixed from top to bottom and appropriate punishment given to all guilty parties.
- An online dashboard of all government vacancies shall be put in the public domain. This dashboard will be updated in real time, bringing transparency into the system and providing the requisite details that young applicants need to find suitable jobs.
- A 'Social Justice Observer' shall be designated for each recruitment process in order to ensure the strict implementation of OBC, SC, ST and EWS reservations. Violations of reservations, as in case of 69,000 teacher recruitments, shall not be tolerated.
- A review of existing exam centers will be conducted to determine whether they are geographically accessible to applicants across all regions of Uttar Pradesh.



BHAVISHYA NIRMAN

Building the Future



The current BJP government has consistently underfunded education. Over the past five years, the state budget allocation to education in Uttar Pradesh has been far below the average of all states. 40% of the schools in Uttar Pradesh lack electricity. There is a shortage of teachers across the board at the primary, secondary, and higher education levels.

Young men and women are the flagbearers of Uttar Pradesh. It is imperative for them to be given the opportunity to access quality education to prepare themselves for contemporary socio-economic challenges. The Congress Party believes that the 7 crore youth of Uttar Pradesh are entitled to exemplary facilities for their health, education and overall advancement.

TO PROVIDE A SOLID EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION THAT ENABLES YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACCESS MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT, THE CONGRESS PARTY WILL ENSURE THAT:

- Expenditure on education will be increased substantially from the abysmally low 13% budgeted for 2021-22.
- Facilities like laboratories, libraries, dormitories/hostels, sports grounds and messes at all state-led universities will be upgraded. Free Wi-Fi shall be provided in all of Uttar Pradesh's universities. Additionally, innovative facilities such as technology labs, virtual learning spaces and e-libraries, shall be provided to universities like Lucknow University, Purvanchal University, Bundelkhand University, Gorakhpur University, Rohilkhand University and Meerut University.
- Well-connected, vibrant and functional Advanced Placement Cells shall be established in all state universities to provide students with employment opportunities.



- New and well-equipped Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) will be set up to cater to the needs of local industries, and to offer job-oriented training. The number of ITIs in Uttar Pradesh shall be raised from 3,302 to 5,000. New polytechnics will be established and their number in Uttar Pradesh increased from 109 to 200. Facilities at existing technical colleges shall be upgraded.
- All district-level colleges will be equipped with upgraded facilities like laboratories, free Wi-Fi, sports grounds, libraries and hostels.
- The time-bound completion of academic sessions shall be strictly enforced to reduce the stress caused to students by unnecessary delays.
- A three-year support scheme to provide a stipend to deserving young lawyers on merit-cum-means basis shall be instituted to facilitate them in their early careers. Long-stay homes shall be established in Allahabad and Lucknow at a short distance from the court premises. Suitable libraries and other support facilities shall be provided.





BHAGIDARI

Strengthening Democracy and Social Justice

In a democratic nation, young people must be encouraged to express themselves freely and to participate in the democratic process. They are the best guarantors of a vibrant and inclusive democracy. The banning of student elections, incarceration of students on false premises, destruction of their academic careers, and the stifling of their free expression has marked the current state government's tenure in Uttar Pradesh. A grave injustice is being done to the young people of Uttar Pradesh by robbing them of their democratic rights.

The Congress Party reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Constitutional rights and freedom of young people. This freedom will be incomplete unless an environment of equality, inclusivity and justice is assured to them.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE FREE EXPRESSION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, AND TO DEEPEN MEASURES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTHS COMING FROM DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES, THE CONGRESS PARTY RESOLVES THAT:

- Pre- and Post-Matric scholarships for Dalit, OBC and EWS students that have been insufficiently provided under the BJP rule shall be offered regularly. This will be ensured through consistent budgetary funding.
- A single-window scholarship portal shall be created to ease applications. All scholarships shall be linked with bank accounts for direct transfer. The total number of scholarships and the amount granted shall be made available on the portal.
- Scholarships will be regularly reviewed in order to increase their scope, funds and beneficiaries.



- Colleges and universities will be encouraged to build endowment funds to support deserving poor students.
- Seed capital of ₹5 lakh shall be provided to Dalit, OBC, ST and EWS beneficiaries to set up retail shops. This will both empower and generate jobs for these communities. 50% of these funds will be reserved for youth under the age of 30.
- Hostels shall be opened for Dalit students in each district of UP. The current government's malicious attitude towards existing Dalit hostels marked by reduced funding and the intentional denial of adequate facilities shall be reversed. Existing Dalit hostels shall be upgraded and provided with all facilities.
- Youth from families of Safai Karamcharis will be provided with special opportunities to train and gain employment and special incentives will be given to them to start their own business.
- The Congress Party will set up a world class institute for youth from traditional boatman and fisherman communities (such as Nishads, Mallahs, Machhwaras etc.) to provide training in maritime and aquatic professions such as fisheries, boating, cruise ships, security businesses, water sports and so on. After training the graduates will be connected to various parts of the country where these skills are in demand.
- Youth from traditional boatman and fisherman communities (such as Nishads, Mallahs, Machhwaras etc.) aspiring to set up their own business in any sector shall be provided with loans up to Rs 5 lakh with a 1% interest rate.
- Youth from the Bunkar community aspiring to set up their own business in weaving or any other sector shall be provided with loans up to Rs 5 lakh with a 1% interest rate.
- The Congress Party will create a level-playing field for recruitment into the police force to ensure that the rules do not systematically exclude marginalised groups that are unable to meet, for instance, minimum physical standards.
- Student union elections will be held regularly in all colleges and universities.
- A commission shall be set up to enquire into cases of students falsely accused and imprisoned for participating in peaceful protests and expressing their discontent with the policies of the current government.
- Students whose educational careers have been ruined due to such cases shall be compensated and allowed to re-enter their education at the same level as they left.





BHALAAI

Promoting Physical and Mental Well being

The Congress Party believes that it is essential to ensure the physical and mental well-being of young people. Stress triggered by unemployment, COVID-19, and the lack of educational and professional opportunities have contributed to a sharp increase in physical and mental health issues amongst the youth of Uttar Pradesh.

Drug and alcohol abuse is rampant in the state, according to data collected by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The prevalence of alcohol consumption in Uttar Pradesh is 45%, much higher than the national average of 27% in the 10-75 age group for men. The number of people who require intervention for alcohol abuse is the highest in Uttar Pradesh at 1.6 crore. The prevalence of cannabis/ganja use in Uttar Pradesh is 3.2%, almost three times the national average of 1.2%. 28 lakh people in Uttar Pradesh need intervention with regard to cannabis-related problems. Close to 11 lakh people in Uttar Pradesh need intervention for opioid abuse (viz. opium and heroin). The consumption and abuse of sedatives, chemical inhalants and hallucinogens is also the highest in Uttar Pradesh.

A lack of adequate creative and recreational spaces for young people and the absence of sufficient mental and physical health infrastructure contribute to the worsening of these serious problems.

IN ORDER TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO STRENGTHENING THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF UTTAR PRADESH, THE CONGRESS PARTY WILL ENSURE THAT:

- Steps will be taken to promote local skills in sports like archery in Sonbhadra, wrestling and basketball in western Uttar Pradesh etc.
- An Olympic-level rowing, diving and swimming academy will be established in Allahabad



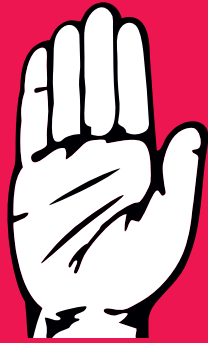
with a special focus on the development of these sports among youth from traditional river, boatman and fisherman communities (such as Nishads, Rajbhars, Mallahs, Machuas etc.)

- A world-class academy will be set up for the comprehensive and inclusive development of cricket in Uttar Pradesh. A state-wide under-19 cricket tournament shall be held annually, to prepare and identify outstanding players and enable them to build professional careers in the sport.
- There will be a periodic review of the cadre of state sports coaches to promote excellence. Their placement in districts will be rationalised and they will be incentivised and provided with competitive remuneration.
- A fully equipped gym with a trained physio-coach shall be provided at every block.
- District-level recreational centers and amphitheatres will be built to provide a platform for cultural expression to aspiring performance artists, singers, musicians, dancers, comedians etc.
- A state-wide Youth Festival shall be held once a year to showcase the talents of Uttar Pradesh's youth in the cultural domain. This will include talent across all domains including popular music, comedy, cinema etc. It will be held in a different city every year.
- To foster new media talent our government will tie up with social media platforms and the creative industry to encourage creative expression in these new avenues. Competitions (short films, Instagram reels, YouTube shorts etc.) shall be held and grants provided for rising social media talent.
- The Super Specialty Tertiary Care Institute of Mental Health will be set on a campus in the suburbs of Lucknow. It will offer a comprehensive range of psychiatric, rehabilitative and counselling services for depression, addiction and substance abuse and other mental health problems. This modern facility will integrate evidence-based therapies supported by departments of clinical psychology, nursing, occupational therapy and medical social work with the objective of providing holistic care to patients. It will be equipped with wards for inpatients and specialist outpatient clinics.

The institute will serve as a world-class training center for the next generation of mental health professionals serving in Uttar Pradesh and across the country. It will collaborate with specialist tertiary care institutes in India and overseas. It shall serve as the hub for four regions of the state – Purvanchal, Pashchim, Bundelkhand and Avadh.

- Monthly awareness and counselling camps shall be held to disseminate correct information regarding mental health, to de-stigmatise its treatment and to treat and assist those with mental health issues.
- The number of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHC) in the state shall be increased in accordance with the population of young people. Dedicated mental health specialists will be appointed at the AFHCs.





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