

IYDF

MANIFESTO 2026

Indian Youth Democratic Front

"Youth Speaks . Nation Leads"

A CONTRACT WITH INDIA

Nine Pillars · Specific · Measurable · Time-Bound

indianydf.org · New Delhi · 2026

FOREWORD

A Contract With India

India is the world's youngest nation by median age — 28.4 years. Yet for decades, the political architecture of our country has been shaped overwhelmingly by voices from a different generation, representing a different era. The aspirations of 600 million young Indians have too often been an afterthought in policy rooms and election manifestos.

This Manifesto is our contract with the people of India. It is built on nine pillars — each grounded in specific, measurable, time-bound commitments. We do not offer rhetoric. We offer a roadmap.

— *National President, Indian Youth Democratic Front · New Delhi, 2026*

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CHAPTER 01

Vision, Mission & Core Values

The foundational principles on which every IYDF commitment is built.

Our Vision

- ◆ A prosperous, just, and democratic India where every young citizen — regardless of birth, background, or belief — has equal opportunity to realise their fullest potential, participate in governance, and contribute to a sustainable and inclusive nation.
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Our Mission

- ◆ To build a youth-led political movement that holds power accountable, drives evidence-based policymaking, champions constitutional values, and transforms India's democratic institutions for the 21st century.
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Our Core Values

- ◆ Constitutional Democracy — We uphold the letter and spirit of the Constitution of India.
- ◆ Secularism — We treat all religions equally and oppose all forms of communalism.
- ◆ Social Justice — We fight systemic discrimination based on caste, gender, religion, or disability.
- ◆ Youth Empowerment — We believe in political power for those under 40.
- ◆ Transparency — Zero tolerance for corruption. Open books, open governance.
- ◆ Federalism — We respect the rights of states and support cooperative federalism.
- ◆ Sustainability — No development that destroys the environment for future generations.

CHAPTER 02

Education for All

India's greatest investment. 260 million students in school. 38 million in higher education. Transforming education from privilege to right.

School Education

- ◆ Raise education spending to 6% of GDP within 5 years, as recommended by NEP 2020.
 - ◆ Achieve 100% enrolment and zero dropout rates for girls through targeted scholarships, midday meals, and safe school infrastructure.
 - ◆ Recruit 5 lakh additional qualified teachers and conduct regular performance assessments.
 - ◆ Introduce coding, financial literacy, and civic education as mandatory subjects from Class 6.
 - ◆ Digitise all government school classrooms with high-speed internet and smart boards within 3 years.
 - ◆ Support mother tongue instruction at primary level while ensuring English and Hindi proficiency.
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Higher Education

- ◆ Establish 50 new Central Universities, one in each aspirational district cluster.
- ◆ Introduce an Income-Contingent Loan Scheme — repaid only after income exceeds Rs. 5 lakh per annum.
- ◆ Reserve 30% of IIT, IIM, and NIT seats for students from government schools through a merit-based pathway.
- ◆ Create a National Research Fellowship Fund of Rs. 10,000 crore to support 1 lakh PhD scholars annually.
- ◆ Regulate private college fee structures to prevent exploitation and ensure transparent admissions.
- ◆ Establish 500 new Skill Universities; recognise vocational education on par with traditional degrees.

CHAPTER 03

Employment & Dignity

12 million young people enter India's workforce every year. IYDF's employment agenda is bold, targeted, and multi-sectoral.

Job Creation

- ◆ Enact a Youth Employment Guarantee Act — guaranteed employment or stipend for every registered unemployed graduate within 6 months.
 - ◆ Create 1 crore government jobs over 5 years through filling vacancies and new positions in education, health, and infrastructure.
 - ◆ Launch Mission MSME 2.0 — triple credit flow to MSMEs through dedicated youth entrepreneur loan windows at 4% interest.
 - ◆ Establish a National Startup Fund of Rs. 25,000 crore with zero-collateral loans up to Rs. 50 lakh for youth-led startups.
 - ◆ Mandate 30% youth employment (below 35) in all public sector procurement contracts.
 - ◆ Extend MGNREGA-equivalent urban employment guarantee — 100 days of work per year for every unemployed urban youth.
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Labour Rights

- ◆ Enforce a national minimum wage of Rs. 500 per day, indexed to inflation, applicable to all sectors including gig workers.
- ◆ Legislate Social Security for Gig Workers — mandatory insurance, pension, and healthcare by platform companies.
- ◆ Abolish unpaid internships in all companies receiving government contracts or tax benefits.
- ◆ Strengthen labour inspection; enforce anti-discrimination laws in hiring for SC/ST/OBC and women.
- ◆ Cap working hours at 48 per week; mandate paid overtime.

CHAPTER 04

Healthcare as a Right

India spends barely 2.1% of GDP on healthcare. Out-of-pocket expenses push 5.5 crore Indians into poverty every year. IYDF commits to ending this.

- ◆ Raise public healthcare spending to 5% of GDP over 10 years.
- ◆ Establish at least one functioning Primary Health Centre within 3 km of every village.
- ◆ Introduce Universal Health Coverage — free outpatient, inpatient, and diagnostic services at all government hospitals.
- ◆ Expand Ayushman Bharat to 100% of the population with minimum Rs. 10 lakh annual coverage per family.
- ◆ Launch a National Mental Health Mission — one trained counsellor per 1,000 youth in schools, colleges, and urban centres.
- ◆ Cap prices of all essential medicines; bring 500 more drugs under price control.
- ◆ Recruit 3 lakh doctors, 10 lakh nurses, and 5 lakh ASHA workers over 5 years.
- ◆ Legalise and regulate reproductive healthcare; ensure access to contraception and safe abortion services nationwide.

CHAPTER 05

Clean Governance

India's greatest resource is the trust of its citizens. IYDF commits to a governance revolution that puts citizens — not power — at the centre.

- ◆ Establish an independent National Integrity Commission with suo motu powers to investigate any public official.
- ◆ Mandate live streaming of all Parliamentary and State Legislative proceedings.
- ◆ Introduce Right to Time-Bound Service Delivery for all 500+ central government services; penalty on officers for delays.
- ◆ Enact a Whistleblower Protection Act — guaranteed anonymity and legal protection for all whistleblowers.
- ◆ Cap campaign expenditure; mandate real-time online disclosure of all political donations above Rs. 1,000.
- ◆ Enact a 50% reservation for youth (below 45) in all legislative bodies through a National Youth Representation Act.
- ◆ Lower the voting age to 16 for local body elections.
- ◆ Implement e-governance for 100% of government services within 3 years; digitise all land, property, and court records.
- ◆ Establish Citizens' Audit Committees at district level to review public spending and project delivery.

CHAPTER 06

Social Justice

India's Constitution promises equality. IYDF will fight to make constitutional promises real for every citizen regardless of caste, gender, or religion.

Caste Justice & Reservation

- ❖ Conduct a comprehensive Socio-Economic Caste Census to update OBC reservation data.
 - ❖ Implement sub-categorisation within SC/ST reservations to benefit the most marginalised communities.
 - ❖ Extend reservation benefits to the private sector for companies employing over 100 persons and receiving government contracts.
 - ❖ Criminalise manual scavenging with mandatory imprisonment; provide rehabilitation to all affected families.
 - ❖ Establish fast-track courts in every district for atrocity cases under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.
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Gender Justice

- ❖ Implement the Women's Reservation Act fully across all tiers of government — Panchayat to Parliament.
- ❖ Introduce paid parental leave of 26 weeks for mothers and 12 weeks for fathers in all sectors.
- ❖ Establish one-stop crisis centres for women in every district; 24/7 helpline staffed by trained counsellors.
- ❖ Decriminalise and legally recognise same-sex partnerships; introduce Civil Union legislation.
- ❖ Ensure equal pay for equal work through mandatory pay transparency reporting for companies with over 50 employees.

CHAPTER 07

Environment First

The climate crisis is today's emergency. India's youth will bear the consequences. IYDF commits to a Green New Deal for India.

- ◆ Achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2047 — India's 100th year of independence.
- ◆ Invest Rs. 5 lakh crore in renewable energy over 10 years; target 1,000 GW of solar and wind by 2035.
- ◆ Create 50 lakh Green Jobs in renewable energy, afforestation, waste management, and sustainable agriculture.
- ◆ Implement a Carbon Tax on heavy industry; use revenues for climate adaptation in vulnerable regions.
- ◆ Ban single-use plastics completely by 2027; establish Extended Producer Responsibility for all packaging.
- ◆ Revive 5,000 rivers and water bodies through a National Water Rejuvenation Mission.
- ◆ Mandate Environmental Impact Assessments for all infrastructure projects with mandatory public consultation.
- ◆ Introduce Climate Change as a compulsory subject from Class 8 to Class 12.
- ◆ Protect 35% of India's land area as forests and biodiversity reserves by 2035.

CHAPTER 08

Technology for All

Technology is the great leveller — but only if access is universal, data is protected, and AI is governed with ethics.

- ❖ Declare broadband internet a basic right; provide free high-speed internet to all rural households by 2028.
- ❖ Enact a comprehensive Personal Data Protection Act with an independent Data Protection Authority.
- ❖ Establish an AI Ethics Commission to regulate Artificial Intelligence in policing, judiciary, and public services.
- ❖ Create a Digital Literacy Mission targeting 20 crore citizens — especially women, elderly, and rural populations.
- ❖ Invest Rs. 1 lakh crore in semiconductor manufacturing to reduce India's dependence on technology imports.
- ❖ Mandate open-source software for all government digital infrastructure.
- ❖ Launch a Cybersecurity Corps — train 10 lakh cybersecurity professionals over 5 years.
- ❖ Regulate social media platforms to prevent misinformation, protect minors, and ensure algorithmic transparency.

CHAPTER 09

Federalism & Regional Identity

India is a civilisation of nations, languages, and cultures. IYDF believes in strong states and a cooperative Centre — not an overbearing government.

- ◆ Increase states' share in central tax devolution from 41% to 50%.
- ◆ Restore full statehood to Jammu & Kashmir immediately.
- ◆ Establish an Inter-State Council that meets quarterly and has binding mediation powers.
- ◆ Protect linguistic minorities; introduce a National Language Rights Act ensuring mother tongue education.
- ◆ Devolve more powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions; increase their budgetary allocations to 10% of state budgets.
- ◆ Oppose any attempt to impose a single language, culture, or religion on any region of India.

OUR PLEDGE TO INDIA

We, the Indian Youth Democratic Front, make this solemn pledge to every citizen of India: We will fight for your rights, not for our seats. We will spend public money on public good, not on personal gain. We will speak truth to power, even when silence is easier. We will represent the India that exists — diverse, democratic, and dignified — not the India that fear and prejudice imagine. We pledge to earn your trust, one act of service at a time.

— Indian Youth Democratic Front - 2026

JAI HIND · JAI BHARAT · JAI YUVA SHAKTI

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