

# Promises to keep

What the **election manifestos** say

## CONGRESS



### Economic policy

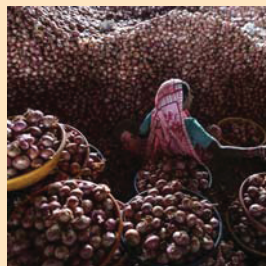
- ▶ Achieve 8% annual growth over three years.
- ▶ Target fiscal deficit of 3% GDP by 2016-2017.
- ▶ Price stability and growth.
- ▶ Make PPP model more transparent and competitive.
- ▶ Minimum tariff protection to ensure that there is an incentive to manufacture goods in India.
- ▶ Focus on manufacturing for export.
- ▶ Better targeting of subsidies to give them only to the absolutely deserving.
- ▶ Hundred-day agenda includes introduction of goods and services tax; passing a new direct taxes code; setting up a national investment facilitation authority to enable rapid approval for investment projects, especially in the infrastructure sector; having a clear policy on tax treatment of foreign firms, mergers and acquisitions transactions, and ensuring that taxes are paid by multinationals.
- ▶ Create 10 crore jobs in manufacturing sector in a decade.
- ▶ Set up new industrial training institutes and upgrade existing ones.



## BJP

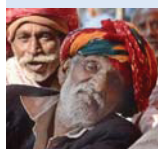


- ▶ A range of measures to control price rise: special courts to stop black-marketeering, hoarding; setting up a price stabilisation fund, and evolving a national agriculture market.
- ▶ Develop labour-intensive domains such as manufacturing and tourism.
- ▶ Encourage self-employment by facilitating credit.
- ▶ Introduce a multi-skills development programme with focus on job creation and entrepreneurship.
- ▶ Create public awareness about corruption.
- ▶ Technology-enabled e-governance.
- ▶ Rationalisation and simplification of tax regime.
- ▶ Black money: minimise generation of black money; set up a task force to initiate the process of tracking down and bringing back the black money stashed abroad in foreign banks.

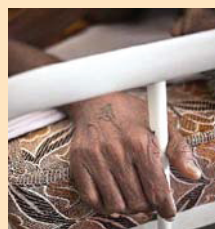


### Labour

- ▶ Health insurance and pension coverage.
- ▶ Strict implementation of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1970 to end exploitation of workers.
- ▶ Focus on workers in hazardous industries.
- ▶ Make Aadhaar a tool of social inclusion.
- ▶ Cover all migrant labour under Aadhaar in next one year.
- ▶ Implement unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, in letter and spirit.



- ▶ Issue identity cards to workers in the unorganised sector and make arrangements to provide quality health care and education services.
- ▶ Extend access to modern financial services to labour.
- ▶ Strengthen pension and health insurance safety nets for all kinds of labourers.



### Social Security

- ▶ Increase health expenditure to 3% of GDP, provide universal and quality health care to all Indians.
- ▶ Enact Right to Health and ensure access to quality health care based on a combination of public provision and social insurance.
- ▶ Launch a new national health mission to emphasise both rural and urban health care.
- ▶ Functional toilets in every school and household.

- ▶ Lay special emphasis on vulnerable children, especially those belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs, migrants, slum dwellers, street dwellers, and those with disabilities.
- ▶ Effective implementation of Right to Education and Right to Food Security.
- ▶ Review and strengthen Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2012, and Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

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- ▶ Enact the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes subplans to accelerate the development of SCs and STs.
- ▶ Ensure passage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2013.
- ▶ Focus on development activities to create social and economic opportunities for STs. Ensure stringent implementation of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act and the Forest Rights Act, 2006, to ensure that STs are empowered.
- ▶ Take steps to ensure that all reserved posts are filled.

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- ▶ Welfare of senior citizens: provide financial support, invest in setting up and improving old-age homes, employ senior citizens as volunteers/part-time workers in development programmes.
- ▶ Enact "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill".
- ▶ Establish web-based disability-friendly access to public facilities, public buildings and transport.



### Minorities

- ▶ Continue scholarships for children of the minority community.
- ▶ Continue easy access to credit for minorities.
- ▶ The Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence Bill, 2013, to be passed as a matter of priority.
- ▶ Provide reservation for backward minorities in educational institutions and in government employment—ensure that the policy is implemented through proper legislation.

- ▶ Strengthen minority educational systems and institutions. National Madrasa modernisation programme will be initiated.
- ▶ Empower waqf boards in consultation with religious bodies; take steps to remove encroachments from waqf properties.
- ▶ Preservation and promotion of Urdu.
- ▶ Setting up of a permanent interfaith consultative mechanism to promote harmony and trust.

### Protection of Human Rights

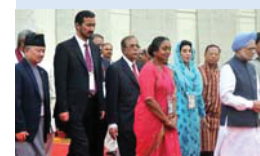
- ▶ Will enact a law to ensure that consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex are not criminalised.

- ▶ No mention.

### Foreign policy

- ▶ Contribute to worldwide efforts to create and manage institutions to deal with challenges like climate change and sustainable development, non-proliferation, international trade and cross-border terrorism.
- ▶ Strive to mobilise support for India's permanent membership in the U.N. Security Council.

- ▶ Equations with other countries to be based on pragmatism and a doctrine of mutually beneficial and interlocking relationships.
- ▶ Will champion uniform international opinion on issues like terrorism and global warming.
- ▶ Will pursue friendly relations in the neighbourhood.



- ▶ Engage in creating a robust framework of intelligence-sharing, cutting out financial flows to terror outfits.
- ▶ Work to strengthen SAARC and endeavour to realise a South Asian economic community.

- ▶ Mutual efforts with China towards resolution of differences of perception about the border and the LoAC.
- ▶ Improve relations with Pakistan, but calibrate the dialogue consistent with delivery on accountability for the 26/11 terror attacks as well as dismantling of infrastructure of terrorism on Pakistani soil.
- ▶ Engage with Sri Lanka to ensure that Tamil-speaking people have equal rights under the law.
- ▶ Support Afghan-driven peace process in Afghanistan.

- ▶ Work towards strengthening regional forums like SAARC and ASEAN.
- ▶ India shall remain a natural home for persecuted Hindus and they shall be welcome to seek refuge here.
- ▶ Continue dialogue with global forums like BRICS, G20.
- ▶ NRIs and professionals settled abroad will be seen as a vast reservoir to articulate the national interest globally.



### Governance and Corruption



- ▶ In favour of setting up a monitoring system for timely disposal of election-related cases.
- ▶ Continue police modernisation to ensure that police forces are well trained and sensitive to the needs of the armed forces.

- ▶ Administrative reforms will be a priority.
- ▶ Digitisation of government records.
- ▶ Performance review, social and environmental audit of all government schemes.
- ▶ Elimination of obsolete laws, regulations, obsolete structures.