



## AMPLIFYING PEOPLE'S VOICES - 2019



**W**ada Na Todo Abhiyan' (WNTA, Do not break your Promises) is a national campaign of over 3500 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to promote governance accountability to end 'poverty, social exclusion & discrimination' initiated in 2004.

WNTA is a non-partisan campaign having no affiliation to any political party. It believes that the scope of involvement of a citizen should go much beyond from being a passive voter to be an active participant in various processes of democracy. An important dimension in the work of WNTA is to bring people's aspirations and demands to the governance process, particularly in the time of elections through 'People's Manifesto'.

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan ensured that our partners and networks and the associated communities across the country pro-actively participate in voicing their demands in the manifesto for the General Elections of 2019. We express our gratitude to all those who contributed to the Manifesto. It includes those on children, Youth, Women, Dalit, Tribals, bonded labor, Senior Citizen, nomadic & de-notified tribe, fishing communities, LGBTQIA +, the person with disabilities, safai karmacharis, school education, health care for all, right to food, water, sanitation, urban development, peace and justice, governance accountability, budget, civil society and media to name some.

The Manifestos are the outcome of years of engagement with the communities, research and evidence building, multiple consultations and discussions. These Manifestos have a depth of information and strategies to translate the Constitutional promises to all citizens, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized sections. We tried to incorporate most of the demands, yet the Manifesto takes cognizance of the existence of a large number of marginalized who are currently not mentioned.

### CHILDREN

1. Participation for All Children:-Promote the creation of vibrant and genuine federated, neighbourhood, inclusive Children's Parliaments while establishing child participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies related directly to children. Ensure that existing participatory systems like membership of children in School Management Committees, Village Child Protection Committee, Vigilance Committee under Food Security Act, Village Vigilance Committee for Prevention of Child Marriage etc are strictly adhered to.

2. Budget for All Children:-There should be mandatory announcements of annual budgets for children in the budget documents for National and State governments.

Increase Budget to 6 % of GDP for education by 2024. Increase health budget: The budget 2.5% of GDP by 2021 and to 5% of GDP by 2025.

3. Data of All Children:-The government must invest in maintaining effective data systems that provide re-

al-time and disaggregated data, for each and every child.

4. Access to vibrant child Rights Systems by All Children:- Strengthen the National Child Rights( State and District), Commission(s) in line with NHRC while in vesting in all child focussed systems and bodies [ like ICPS, DCPU, CWC, JJB, Bal Mitra-Child Friendly Police stations etc] to make these more functional and robust. Strengthen the reporting mechanism on violence against children while making it more accessible to children.

5. The inclusion of All Children:- Ensure a barrier-free, violence-free and non-discriminatory environment for all children particularly the last child in lines with the pending draft bill prepared and drafted by Civil Society Organisations 'Prevention of All forms of discrimination and Violence against Children and Educational Institutions Bill, 2018.

### YOUTH

1. Foster safe, empowering and democratic spaces that are co-led by youth offering self to society refl-active experiences that inspire love, learning, freedom, ownership and social hope in all educational institutions and spaces of youth engagement including school, college, NYKs, NSS, youth clubs etc Set up equal opportunity cells and youth commissions in partnership with civil society organisations to operationalise them at all levels.

2. Create a positive climate for entrepreneurship and employment for young people with special focus on excluded youth with spaces for experimentation, ease of funding and regular mentoring and celebration of entrepreneurship among others.

3. Recognise the specific disadvantages of excluded youth from marginalized and vulnerable communities. Facilitate their access to social and political participation, protection from atrocities and implementation of NALSA and 377 in all states, including protection and prompt grievance redressal mechanism against any form of atrocities and exclusion in all public and private institutions.

### WOMEN

1. Prevent crimes against women by strengthening institutions, enhancing budgetary provisions and strict implementation of women-friendly legislation.

2. Protect and support vulnerable women - single women including widows and half-widows and destitute women through legal and financial assistance and reservation in jobs.

3. Ensure priority to women from SC/ST/OBC communities, female-headed households, widows, homeless, aged, destitute, survivors of sexual violence, acid attacks etc. in all government-sponsored schemes specially housing schemes

4. Set up an Empowered Commission to monitor and review the implementation of all rights-based legislations.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

1. Enhance pension amount to Rs. 2000/-p.m per person or half of the minimum wage whichever is higher and index it to inflation.
2. Prioritise the elderly under the NFSA as a vulnerable group and inadequate entitlement should be strongly reprimanded by the State.

## DALITS

1. Access to justice: Include Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and Amendment Act 2015 in the IX Schedule of the Constitution to prevent any dilution and effectively implement it to prevent atrocities and ensure justice. Ensure protection of inter-caste married couples. Protect human rights defenders. Eliminate all forms of manual scavenging and sewer deaths.

2. Non-discrimination in public services: Ensure non-discrimination and equitable access to quality health care, education, public distribution system, water and sanitation, roads and public places, disaster relief, and rehabilitation and all others.

3. Inclusive economic development: Centrally legislate and effectively implement scheduled caste sub plan and scheduled tribe sub-plan. Extend reservation to the private sector.

Enact Central Equal Opportunity and Equality laws or special legislative measures to prohibit discrimination in the capital market, labour hiring, workplace, private enterprises, etc. Extend reservations to SCs and STs in High Courts, Supreme Court, Defense, and in Rajya Sabha.

Distribute 5 acres of arable land for cultivation for a family from SC and ST communities and ensure living wages to all informal workers.

4. Governance and participation: Make Constitutional Amendment to include Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims into the Scheduled Caste list through Article 341 (1) for safeguarding their rights and entitlements. Amend Part IX of the Constitution to create list IV for local governments under article 243. Provide special protection to Dalit and Adivasi elected women representatives.

## TRIBALS

1. Safeguard land rights of the adivasis by a strong implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006.

2. Promote adivasi-self rule, local planning, and ownership of governance by implementing the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996

3. CAMPA Act should be revoked and Gram Sabha's powers to conserve and manage forests, including any plantation activities, should be respected; in any case, there should be no privatisation of forest management.

## MINORITIES

1. Enact comprehensive national legislation against targeted and communal violence. Enforce the rule of law and ensure stringent action under criminal law against all those who channel hate speech with the intention of inciting violence and hatred against the Christian community and other minority groups.

2. Conduct sensitization programs for the police officials regarding laws on religious freedom as envisaged in the Indian Constitution and on laws related to human rights, and prosecute police officials who fail in their constitutionally mandated duty to enforce the law of the land, by being complicit in attacks against religious minorities

3. Amend paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 to include Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims.

4. Ensure that an active Commission for Human Rights and Commission for minorities is operational in every state and that members of each commission are appointed by transparent and non-partisan procedures.

## NOMADIC & DENOTIFIED COMMUNITIES

1. Provide Constitutional recognition for NT-DNT communities. Set up an independent commission to oversee their development, inclusion, and participation in all dimensions and levels, taking forward the Renke Commission report.

2. Ensure priority provisions in all public services and government provisions to address the backlog of disadvantages.

## FISHING COMMUNITIES

1. Recognise the tenure rights of the small scale fish workers on the water bodies and their inalienable right to protect the water bodies and the fish resources.

2. Enact a Central Marine Fishing Regulation Act to ensure preferential access of small fishing communities to marine fish resources, restricting the mechanized fishing sector from over and destructive fishing.

## BONDED LABOUR

1) Implementation of existing laws and adoption of a comprehensive law (Ensure passage of Trafficking in Persons Bill 2018 to ensure deterrence of crime) to tackle and eradicate human trafficking in all its forms (particularly labour trafficking and trafficking for sex) and modernize Police Units / ensure Police reforms to ensure effective law enforcement.

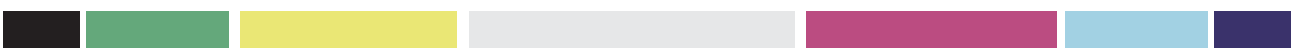
2) Ensure systemic reforms in the criminal justice systems.

**A.** Strengthen performance-based evaluation for law-enforcement to ensure reduction of crimes against the poor, marginalized, minorities, children & women. Towards this, we demand government review and reporting of action taken to protect persons under laws such as Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Juvenile Justice Act.

**B.** Strengthen Institutional mechanisms for effective and time-bound rehabilitation of all victims of trafficking (bonded labour and sex trafficking victims) and government review, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers.

**C.** Ensure that rehabilitation will be not contingent upon the conviction of the offender and government institutional mechanisms to ensure time-bound cash and non-cash benefits to survivors.

**D.** Convergence of all departments to ensure better inter-departmental coordination in rescuing, providing rehabilitation benefits to survivors and prosecuting offenders.



3) Create strong accountability mechanisms: Create strong accountability mechanisms at all level of governance, work alongside NHRC and state and national commissions for protection of the rights of the vulnerable including women and children. It is important that bonded labour be seen within the larger framework of the crime of Human Trafficking and stronger punitive measures taken against perpetrators, this will, in turn, deter perpetrators from using bonded labourers at their worksites and ensure all violence against the poor and marginalised is addressed and Justice delivered to all citizens.

### LGBTQIA+

1. Amend the 2018 legislation on human trafficking that relies heavily on criminal punishments and places the guilt on the trafficked persons than punishing the employers.
2. Set up mechanisms to take forward the constitutional education on LGBT+ rights as pronounced by the Supreme Court on September 6th 2019: i) translate the judgement in as many languages as possible; ii) ensure that all lower courts, police stations, administrative units, educational institutions have information material that explains the judgement and its impact.

### PERSONS with DISABILITIES

1. Implement in letter and spirit the 'Right of persons with disabilities Act', 2016 ensuring adequate budgetary provisions, making public places and services irrespective of their ownership accessible, addressing discrimination in education, promoting equitable opportunities in employment and economic activities and enhancing participation in elections and governance.
2. Ensure disaggregated data on persons with disability to guide all planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring of state services and provisions.
3. Promote non-discrimination and inclusion of persons with disability through enhanced public education and institutional spaces for the interface.

### SAFAI KARMACHARIS

1. Abolish the inhuman practice of Manual Scavenging by implementing The Prohibition Of Employment As Manual Scavengers And Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, in letter and spirit. The survey for the identification of the manual scavengers should be expedited and completed in all the states and UTs. The declining trend in the budgetary allocation towards the SRMS scheme should be reversed and increased to match the requirement for its effective implementation.
2. Stop contract employment of safai karmacharis by state and private persons and ensure an end to all sewer-related deaths through improved sanitation and sewer systems.

### EMPLOYMENT

1. Fill the 24 lakh vacant (sanctioned) posts in various departments and withdraw the scrapping of 4 lakh Central Government posts.
2. Implement Fair exam code to ensure that every recruitment process is completed within a maximum time span of 9 months.
3. Create more job opportunities based on real requirements in key sectors like Education, Policing, Judiciary, Armed, and Paramilitary forces, Healthcare, Anganwadi, etc.

### SCHOOL EDUCATION

1. Implementation of Right to Education Act 2009
2. Extension of Right to Education Act from pre-primary to higher secondary
3. 6% allocation on education from GDP.

### HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

1. Make the right to health a justiciable right at primary, secondary and tertiary health care and services for all through public health legislation. Improve, democratise radically and expand exponentially the public health system to play a leading and regulating role in the national health care system.
2. Increase the public expenditure on health to 3.5% of the GDP in the short term and 5% of the GDP in the long term in 60:40 ratio spending by centre and state respectively. Abandon the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' based on the discredited 'insurance' model and absorb existing publicly funded insurance model into an expanded and strengthened public health system.
3. Regularise all contractual health workers – ASHA, Anganwadi workers and helpers and provide protection under labour laws. Increase public investment in education and training of the entire range of health personnel.
4. Universalise community-based planning and monitoring of public health services, effectively regulate the private medical sector and expand and strengthen the ESI system to include the unorganised and agricultural sectors. Eliminate all forms of discrimination in the health care system and services and ensure vulnerable sections enjoy comprehensive quality health care.

### RIGHT TO FOOD

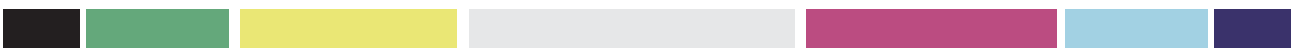
1. Universal PDS with subsidised cereals, pulses and edible oil.
2. Universal maternity entitlements for all pregnant and lactating women, linked to wages, with no conditionality.
3. Grievance Redressal: Appoint State Food Commissions, District Grievance Redressal
4. Officers and Vigilance Committees in all states, districts, blocks, and fair-price shops and also
5. Ensure a mechanism so that social audits are regularly conducted for all food schemes.

### WATER

1. Legislate and implement the water rights bill (or water security bill) and model groundwater bill
2. Reduction of non-revenue water and improvement in cost recovery by service providers with the aim to build abilities to serve more people in limited water resources.
3. Metering and regulations at the user level to be introduced for all kinds of water use.
4. The budget allocation for NRDWP should be ensured at least 25000 crore INR per annum (as per the CAG recommendations based on the current costs), in order to realistically achieving all targets within the SDG timeframe.

### SANITATION

1. Ensuring special initiatives to ensure toilet coverage for the left-out populations.
2. Introduce a time-bound drive for getting necessary technological corrections and retrofitting of the toilet





infrastructure and fittings, to ensure sanitation safety and to prevent water contamination

3. Build accountability of implementing officials and ensure stringent enforcement of the Manual Scavenging Act 2013 and the Order of the Honourable Supreme Court in 2014 in this regard

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Ensure Right to housing, the land title for bastis and reservation of land for public purposes.

2. Implement zero eviction policy without any cut-off dates in cities.

3. Implement 74th Constitutional amendment to effectively devolve urban planning and finances and reconceive all urban missions as 'liveable and just cities' for all.

4. Enact the draft Domestic Workers (Registration Social Security and Welfare) Act to safeguard the working conditions of 5 million Indians.

5. Implement the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 and Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008 to secure working conditions for the 63% urban Indians who work in the informal sector.

## PEACE & JUSTICE

1. Repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act; Disturbed areas act to be made actionable by state governments and by the Centre only in emergency conditions of heightened conflict

2. Repeal the colonial law on Sedition as there are many laws which deal with these issues.

3. Set up a network of counseling centres with trained psychologists, psychiatrists, and caregivers for persons living in regions of violent extremism and where police, military, and paramilitary are given sweeping powers to address the needs of all who experience the impact of conflict.

## GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Lokpal should be appointed in a transparent manner, in keeping with the spirit of the law. Appropriately amend the Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013 to: modify the composition of the selection committee to provide for the leader of the single largest party in opposition in the Lok Sabha to be a member, in the absence of a recognised leader of opposition; roll back regressive amendments made to the law which diluted provisions related to asset disclosure; provide for setting up of Lokayuktas in states with the same framework as the Lokpal at the centre; vest administrative control of the anti-corruption wing of the CBI in the Lokpal. Operationalise the Whistleblowers Protection Act, passed in 2014, by promulgating appropriate rules and ensure that the regressive Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 is not enacted.

2. Enact the Grievance Redressal Bill (Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill, 2011), which lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in 2014, to provide for an accessible, decentralized and responsive system for time-bound redress of citizens' grievances in the states and at the centre, to empower people to realize their rights and entitlements.

3. Strengthen the Right to Information regime by ensuring timely and transparent appointments of information commissioners; setting up empowered task forces in all states and the centre to monitor mandatory proactive disclosures; withdrawing regressive amendments to the RTI Act proposed in 2018.

## BUDGET

1. Increase Tax: GDP ratio to adequately finance the basic public services like education, health, agriculture, employment, social security, water and sanitation and enhancing budgets children, women and persons with disability.

2. Institute and increase taxes on super rich/ rationalising the tax exemption/ imposing inheritance tax.

3. Do away with subsidies to corporate and ensure special budget provisions for the vulnerable communities (SCSP, TSP, MsDP, budgets for women, children, persons with disabilities) are effectively implemented.

4. Revisit the economic framework in keeping with the directive principles to prevent accumulation of wealth and reduce inequalities.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

1. Create a conducive and enabling environment for civil society organisations, people's movements, and NGOs to function. Make transparent the system for the regulation and monitoring of CSOs/NGOs.

2. Recognise the contribution of civil society organisations, especially in promoting the rights and development of the vulnerable and hard to reach communities and engage their knowledge, linkages, and resources to build greater equity and inclusion for the vulnerable and marginalised communities.

## MEDIA

1. Create a model code of conduct for media coverage in times of riots, violence communal conflict, natural disaster, and war.

2. Investigate fake news; create a separate agency to arrest its spread.

## Contributors

Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), Community Youth Collective, HelpAge India, Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS), Jan Swasth Abhiyan, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, National Coalition for Bonded Labour and Human Trafficking, NFIW, National Youth Equity Forum, Nazariya | A Queer, Feminist Resource Group, Nine Is Mine, Oxfam India, Right to Education, Right to Food, Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS), Save The Children, Vikalp Sangam, WaterAid, Yuva Halla Bol World Vision -India, Railway Children -India, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights, CRY, CSEI, Chetnalaya and many more

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