

WOMEN IN MANIFESTOS

India's women electorate is large and diverse. Women account for 48.6% of all registered voters in the ongoing elections. Eleven (11) states have more women than men electors. National Parties have dedicated specific chapters for promises targeted specifically at women. Here, we take a look at the major promises.

NATIONAL PARTIES WITH MANIFESTOS



HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND EDUCATION

-  Expand health services for prevention and reduction of anaemia, breast cancer, and osteoporosis. **Focused initiative to eliminate cervical cancer**
-  **Provide clean cooking fuel** at affordable prices to all households and increase the usage of LPG cylinders
-  **Double the contribution** of the Central Government to the pay of frontline health workers (ASHA, Anganwadi, Mid-day Meal cooks)
-  Increase the number of **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas** in consultation with the state governments
-  **PM Ujjwala Yojana** will be continued and expanded to provide clean cooking fuel

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION

-  Implement the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** (Women's Reservation Bill)
-  More women belonging to SC, ST, OBC, and minorities will be **appointed as Judges** of the Supreme Court and High Courts
-  **Reserve 50%** of central government jobs for women starting in 2025
-  Increase opportunities for women to serve in combatant and non-combatant roles in the Armed Forces. Additionally, achieve a composition of **33% women in the Central Armed Police Forces**
-  More women will be appointed as Judges, Secretaries, high ranking police officers, law officers, and as directors of listed companies
-  Implement women's reservation immediately in the Parliament and State Legislatures **without waiting for the next delimitation exercise**





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LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BIAS



All laws to be **scrutinised for gender discrimination and gender bias**. The offending provisions will be removed or amended



In matters of marriage, succession, inheritance, adoption, guardianship, etc., laws will be reviewed to ensure equality between women and men



Will appoint an **Adhikar Maitri** in every Panchayat to serve as a paralegal to educate women and assist them in the enforcement of their legal rights



Enact law for **equal rights in marital and inherited property** for all women. Strengthen maintenance laws for women and children. Ensure protection and rehabilitation of all deserted women



Implement a **Uniform Civil Code** to achieve gender equality

SKILLING, LIVELIHOOD, AND EMPLOYMENT



Empower 3 crore women to become **Lakhpati Didis**



Will **expand women's participation in the workforce** through measures to ensure fair and equal wages, safe places of work, childcare services, preventing sexual harassment and violence, and extending maternity benefits



Integrate **SHGs in the service sector** such as IT, healthcare, education, retail, and tourism through skills training and tools to increase their income



Support **women with disabilities** for livelihood and housing



Double the number of **Anganwadi workers** and create an additional 14 lakh jobs



Launch **Mahalakshmi Scheme** to provide Rs.1 lakh per year to every poor family as **unconditional cash transfer**. Amount to be transferred to the bank account of oldest woman in the household



Minimum wages and wages under MGNREGA will be increased to Rs.400 per day

FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Enhance **market access for women SHG enterprises** in ongoing initiatives such as One District One Product, Farmer Producer Organisations, Ekta Mall, ONDC, GEM, One Station One Product



Re-incorporate the **Bhartiya Mahila Bank** (Women's Bank) with all-women Board of Directors



Increase availability of **institutional credit** extended to women, with particular focus on SHGs



Law to ensure **linkages between SHGs and banking institutions**. Guarantee loans at a subsidised interest rate of not more than 4% with special concessions for SHGs of SC/ST women



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SAFETY, SECURITY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

-  Ensure development of **infrastructure** such as working women's hostels, creches, etc. with specific focus on locations near industrial and commercial locations to facilitate increased participation of women in the workforce
-  Expand **Shakti Desks** (Women Help Desks) in police stations for timely investigation and resolution of issues
-  Strengthen Emergency Helpline 112
-  Ensure strict enforcement of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act 2013, and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2015
-  In partnership with state governments, double the number of **working women hostels** in the country, with at least one Savitribai Phule hostel in each district
-  A **code of conduct** for all elected representatives in different spheres to adhere to standards of decency in public comments and discourse about women and against sexist and misogynist language which demeans and insults women
-  Put in place a series of measures to prevent, curb, and punish those responsible for the horrific increase in violence against women and children
-  Protective legislation for domestic workers and for home-based workers
-  Allocate funds to support state governments to build **night shelters for migrant women workers**. Additionally, set up hygienic public sanitation facilities and install free napkin vending machines in public spaces and educational institutions
-  Law against honour-crimes and trafficking of women and children
-  Make **marital rape a criminal offence**