



PROVISIONS RELATED TO LAND AND HOUSING IN ELECTION MANIFESTOS 2019

(OF NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA)

	Indian National Congress (INC)	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI (M))	Communist Party of India (CPI)
Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a comprehensive policy on Urbanisation after wide consultation. We will address the issues concerning towns and cities including city governance, livelihoods, housing, habitat, pollution, climate change, urban transport and disaster management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saashray (Housing) - Pucca house to every family who are living in a kuchha house by 2022. • Accelerate the pace of providing access to basic amenities such as housing, electricity, toilet, cooking gas, and health/social security to every poor Indian household, rural and urban, in the next five years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are committed to fulfil the dream of every Indian to have her/ his own house. Migration is a serious concern in the metros. Adequate housing stock will be created at affordable rates for economically weaker sections, Lower Income Group, Middle Income Group to prevent slums from coming up. • Affordable housing, infrastructure and strengthening of civic amenities, promotion of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing peoples' right to water and housing and ensuring affordable basic services like drinking water, sanitation, power, transportation, ration shops, health facilities, schools, street lighting, etc., for the urban poor. • Ensuring house sites, houses, sanitation, water, health, electricity connections to all scheduled caste families and scheduled caste inhabited areas in a special drive with budgetary allocations to close the continuing gap between SCs compared to other communities as far as housing and civic facilities are concerned. • Expanding public provisioning of housing with full civic amenities; curbing unbridled 	

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			<p>efficient and good public transportation network, children friendly cities, safe cities for women and dignity to its seniors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Stock will be created in tier two and tier three cities. • The criteria of minimum 30 metres for housing is inadequate for Indian families and will be increased to 50 metres to allow the entire family to stay together and prevent migration. 	<p>real estate development catering to the affluent classes.</p>	
Forced Evictions and Settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to Housing for the urban poor and protection from arbitrary eviction. • Slum Upgradation and Transformation Scheme to ensure basic services such as drinking water, 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halting demolition of slums with a zero eviction policy; ensuring in situ development of slums with facilities; ensuring that slum areas are not transferred to real estate developers; providing basic services to people living in slums. 	

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	<p>electricity and sanitation to slum dwellers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slums will be transformed by replacing huts and <i>kuchha</i> (temporary) dwellings with proper houses, roads and other public facilities. 				
Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building night shelters for the homeless so that no one will sleep in the open. • Review and update the list of beneficiaries for National Food Security Act within 6 months. Care shall be taken to include the homeless, destitute persons and migrant workers. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running adequately provisioned night shelters, homes and community kitchens for the most vulnerable and destitute. 	
Discrimination in Access to Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Discrimination Law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, gender or language in the supply of goods and services that are made available to the public in services that are made available to the public in general such as housing, hostels, hotels, clubs, etc. 				

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Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distortions that have crept into the text and the implementation of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and the Forest Rights Act, 2006 will be removed and the original purposes of the Acts restored and enforced. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 to ensure its universal application on all laws requiring land acquisition, rigorous definition of public purpose, full and prior informed consent from all affected persons, binding social impact assessment and compensation and R&R in such manner as to ensure a far better quality of life and share in enhanced land value. Enact suitable policies to adequately compensate all dispossessed and displaced farmers. Recognizing the rights of agricultural workers as persons affected eligible to full compensation and Resettlement & Rehabilitation in all cases of land acquisition and displacement. Withdrawal of amendments to LARR which in the name of ease of business removes all right of consent of Adivasi communities for land acquisition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop land acquisition or land pooling without informed consent of the farmers. No acquisition or diversion of agricultural land for commercial land development or for creation of land banks. Prevent the bypassing or dilution of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 at the state level; and evolve land use and agricultural land protection policy.

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Land Reform and Redistribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with State Governments to digitise land ownership and land tenancy records. • Acquire <i>panchami</i> and <i>mahar</i> lands in the occupation of non-Dalits and distribute the lands to SCs and STs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitization of Land Records - On the lines of Aadhaar project, we will complete digitization of land records on a mission mode. • We will implement second-generation land reforms to ensure title guarantee for the landholder and reduce land-related litigation. • We will create a model law for conclusive titling (in consultation with states) promoting title guarantee and title insurance and work with States to implement this system. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse the current thrust to dilute land-ceiling laws; speedy and comprehensive steps for implementing land reforms. • Prevent the encroachment and takeover of common lands like pastures, community forests, scrublands, etc. • Protect all government and public sector land held in public trust from transfer by lease, sale, diversion or any other manner to the private sector. • Takeover and distribution of all surplus land above ceiling and handing over of cultivable wasteland to landless and poor peasant households free of cost, with priority to SCs and STs; joint pattas to be distributed including equal right of women to the land. • Prohibit land grab for real estate speculation. • Redistributing land to agricultural workers, free of cost; providing homestead land to all rural households; constructing rural dwellings for all rural workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure implementation of land ceiling laws, transfer of surplus land and other available land to landless poor and Dalits.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of 5 acres of arable land for cultivation for a landless family from SC and ST communities. • Households with PwDs [persons with disabilities] should have first claim on all land distribution programmes of government surplus land as well as ceiling surplus land. 	
Homestead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to Homestead Act to provide a homestead for every household that does not own a home or own land on which a house may be built. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide house sites and homestead land to all sections of the rural and urban landless. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide land and livelihood rights to the landless, including agricultural and homestead land, water for fishing, mining of minor minerals.
Women and Land/Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize ownership and tenancy rights of women farmers and ensure women get the benefits of agriculture related schemes. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide land rights and pattas to women and mutation of land in the name of women successors. • Comprehensive policy for women from farm suicide affected families to support them. • Recognizing rural women as farmers and ensure all rights to them as farmers.

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for equal right on inherited and marital property to women. • Priority to women from SC/ST/OBC communities, Female headed households, widows, homeless, aged, destitute, survivors of sexual violence, acid attacks etc. in government housing schemes.
Forest Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement, in letter and spirit, the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and to secure for the Scheduled Tribes the rights guaranteed under the Act. • Remove the inconsistencies between the Forest Rights Act and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority Act, 2005 and to reaffirm the role of the Gram Sabha. • Time-bound review of all IFR/CFR claims rejected under the Forest Rights Act 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribals will be given legislative protection over their land holdings. • Proper implementation of The Forest Act will be done ensuring non displacement of local Tribals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal of National Forest Policy which advocates privatisation of forests and replacement with an appropriate policy protecting tribal rights. • Implementing the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, in full; amending the Act to include other traditional forest dwellers with 1980 as the cut-off year; no eviction of Adivasis from their habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting land rights of adivasis and restoring land illegally alienated from them. • Stop uprooting Adivasi farmers in the name of afforestation, ensure strict implementation without dilution of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act and Forests Rights Act, 2006. • All major areas of tribal population be brought under the 5th schedule of the constitution and PESA to fully and

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	and disposal within 6 months. Meanwhile, stop the eviction of the 18.9 lakh households that face imminent eviction.				effectively protect their rights through Gram Sabhas.

*Text in bold/emphasis provided by Housing and Land Rights Network

Sources:

1. 'Manifesto, Lok Sabha Elections 2019,' Indian National Congress (INC): <https://manifesto.inc.in/pdf/english.pdf>
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3. 'Lok Sabha Election Manifesto 2019,' Nationalist Congress Party (NCP): https://ncp.org.in/adminpanel/magazine/NCP%20Manifesto%20Loksabha%202019_English_V5_Hires_r.pdf
4. 'Election Manifesto, 17th Lok Sabha 2019,' Communist Party of India (Marxist): <https://cpim.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-ls-elc-manifesto.pdf>
5. 'Election Manifesto of the Communist Party of India for the 17th Lok Sabha Elections, 2019,' Communist Party of India (CPI): <https://www.comunistparty.in/blog/election-manifesto-of-the-communist-party-of-india-for-the-17th-lok-sabha-elections-2019>