



Preamble to the India Greens Party (IGP) manifesto, 2019

Formed on 18th November 2018, India Greens is a party with a pledge. Its registration as a Pan India political party will be complete by May 2019. It commits to arrest the blindfold development plundering India's nature and environment. It is committed to impart environmental issues in India, a due merit in India's democratic electoral process. The apathy of almost all political parties and their commitment (if any) to environmental issues is well known. IGP wishes to change this scenario.

Although IGP will not contest 2019 Loksabha elections, it will make every attempt to influence the mandate of the voters by reaching out to them, asking them to enquire the stand of various contestants about the issues mentioned in this manifesto, and appeal to people, media and the candidates to vote for only those who endorse this manifesto at least in part, but more than 50%, and are ready to commit it in their individual respective manifestos.

IGP envisages this election as a nationwide chance to impart due electoral merit to the burning environmental issues of India.

We hereby appeal the voters at large, to raise the issues mentioned in this manifesto and ask a commitment of their candidates on them-and subsequently vote only those who endorse it.

Future is Green! Green is future!! Jai Bharat.

Fundamentals of Green politics:

Green politics is a political ideology which places high importance on environmental goals and on achieving these goals through broad-based, grass root, participatory democracy. Green politics is advocated by supporters of the Green Movement, which has been active through Green parties in many parts of the world since the early 1980s.

In 2001, the Global Greens were organized as an International Green Movement. The Global Greens Charter identified six guiding principles: ecological wisdom, social justice, participatory democracy, nonviolence, sustainability and respect for diversity. India Greens Party is totally committed to this green charter.

The 'Four Pillars of Green Politics'

1. Ecological Wisdom - It encapsulates the diverse teachings and philosophies represented in numerous environmental movements. Its central tenets include a recognized need to reduce the negative impact of human civilization on the natural environment, the biosphere and the planet, and to find new, alternate ways to cohabit harmoniously with earth's other life forms.

2. Social Justice - It reflects the general rejection of discrimination based on distinction between class, gender, ethnicity or culture. Green parties are almost universally egalitarian in their outlook, seeing that great disparities in wealth or influence are caused by the perversion of or total lack of social institutions that prevent the strong from plundering the weak.

3. Grassroots Democracy or Participatory Democracy - It is embraced by Greens as the only reliable governance model for achieving social change. Many Green parties have rejected or constrained the traditional role of leaders as "party boss", in favour of having figurehead leaders or spokespersons. IGP constitution is configured to prevent the party bureaucracy from accumulating too much power in the organization, in favour of more decentralized or member driven processes.

4. Nonviolence - It reflects the Green movement's policy of rejecting violence as a means to overcoming its opponents. The Green Philosophy draws heavily on both Gandhian and Quaker traditions that advocate measures by which the escalation of violence can be avoided, while not cooperating with those who commit violence.

The four pillars are generally considered interdependent, comprising an internally consistent ethical system. IGP believes that progress towards achieving each one of the four pillars is dependent upon progress towards achieving the others.

This manifesto explains our stance on how various environmental issues which need to be addressed, in the executive, legislative and judiciary of governance. Let us start the executive area reforms we stress, with water resources and Agriculture which form the basis of all development.

Water Resources and Agriculture

- We clearly state that we are in total opposition of the river linking projects and privatization of water resources by any means.
- WE stress the importance of river ecology and the natural flow regime of all surface flows. For this all natural cover types need to be retained and enhanced from source region to sea. Rivers in particular will be managed with ecosystem approach.
- Order of Priority for use of water: nature's services, drinking water, domestic needs, agriculture and livestock, industry and recycling.

- For ground water recharge, it is necessary to develop guidelines in consultation with stakeholders and Gramsabhas for the sustainable use of ground water. Use of existing tube wells and addition to this number should be controlled by the Gramsabha in consultation with the latest available scientific knowhow.
- We want to stress progressive development of all natural forms of agriculture and progressive elimination of all forms of broad spectrum chemical insecticides, pesticides, growth hormones, chemical fertilizers and heavy agro machinery.
- All measures for recycling of agricultural waste in situ will be supported and encouraged. We will support development of self assessment of quality of all produce of organic agriculture. All virtual export of water and soil needs to be banned.
- We will strongly support maintenance of wilderness and difficult areas to support pest control, pollination and yield improvement of agriculture.
- Subsidy should be provided to natural agriculture which will encourage creation of new employment opportunities.
- The present allocation of funds for development of large irrigation projects and watershed projects should move from the current 80:20 to 50:50.
- Only organic farming efforts will be supported for rehabilitating water logged and saline lands.
- Present system of irrigation water pricing is unacceptable. Water pricing must depend on location of the field in relation to the water source and the current practice of crop pattern.
- Policies that promote all genetically modified (GM) seeds and food will be opposed for well-known reasons. GM crops must be labeled.
- Development of crop pattern must be based on local needs and microclimatic cultivars. This will be the overall responsibility of the Gramsabha and other grass-root organizations in consultation with appropriate agencies.

- Special emphasis on improving productivity of rain fed agriculture, through identifying the crop varieties resilient to climate change.
- Agricultural universities must emphasize training and education in natural methods of agriculture.

Urban Issues and health

- All efforts to create a regional development authority will be supported and it will be seen that regional planning is connected to the development of the hinterland and will be based on principles of sustainable and ecologically consistent development. The growth of urban areas will be linked to the carrying capacity and resource potential of the hinterland. Development of employment opportunities will be balanced between rural areas and small and medium sized towns so that indiscriminate growth of metropolitan areas is automatically restricted.
- All efforts directed towards minimizing transport will be encouraged. Sustainable transport policies which emphasize public and Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) and restrictive policies on private auto transport will be encouraged. All natural and built heritage including rivers, streams and open spaces in urban areas will be protected and strictly treated as no development areas.
- No privatization of natural resources including water sources, urban recreational areas.
- Principle of Block Pricing will be adopted for all public utilities. Urban based waste will be managed in situ. This will be the responsibility of the consumer. This is to be achieved by segregation of waste in biodegradable, recyclable, hazardous, E-waste and biomedical categories. We support cultivation of clean habits among citizens. Extended Producer Responsibility principle will be enforced. (Polluter Pays principle and complete product life cycle responsibility). We will continue to encourage segregation of waste in appropriate categories.
- In urban areas, appropriate number of E-waste collection and processing centers will be created at ward level.

Energy and Natural Resource Management

- Focus on sustainability of natural resources and energy: Information on availability of resources to be generated through survey, transparent system for information sharing regarding availability of natural resources, Energy Planning based on - demand has to be within availability, Promoting sustainable energy generation, gradually shifting from non-renewable to renewable energy sources, for sustainable and renewable energy.
- Dependence on the natural, photosynthesis based energy conversion processes, promote energy plantations, using resources in their most natural form – avoid conversions.
- Assign acceptable levels of carbon footprint to individuals and businesses and provide incentives for consumption within quota, with penalties/taxes for over consumption:
- Assign energy quota: A minimum amount of energy required for a reasonable quality of life can be accessed at a subsidized rate, any consumption more than that to be priced at the actual realistic price (inclusive of environmental cost). Similar system for all natural resources, high taxes for luxury items, high rate of interest for home loans (e.g., linked with number of homes already owned).
- Promote decentralization of energy and natural resource generation as well as management: Local self-government bodies should decide local energy and natural resource generation and management policy, local production, consumption and recycling and waste management to be promoted – plan for self-sufficient villages/clusters. Resource Users' Association along with a systematic program for capacity building will be created at the local level.
- Preventing misuse/nonuse of natural resources (e.g., keeping land fallow, uncontrolled use of water, etc.): Requisition of unused buildings because buildings represent 'locked' in natural resources.

- Rights of non- humans with respect to use of natural resources: acknowledging the rights, and putting in place legal measures.
- Restoration of natural resources should be incorporated as policy: initiating models of Eco-restoration.
- Widespread, professionally designed publicity campaigns for promoting sustainable life styles: To link 'status' with sustainability (addressing the issue of people's aspirations)
- Environmental rating and profiling of candidates appearing for election: Environmental outlook of candidate to be used as a parameter while selecting candidates (by parties) as well as while endorsing or voting for candidates (by environmentally conscious voters or organizations)
- Encourage generation of electricity at local township level.
- Precautionary principle be followed while sanctioning ANY industrial development project/process. 'Polluter pays' will not rule anywhere.

Protected areas, Forests, Forest lands, and wildlife

IGP recognizes forests as a most valuable resource, carbon sink, a provider of many ecosystem related services and ecological capital.

As a result IGP manifesto emphasizes that:

- National Afforestation Program (NAP) be implemented fully, with an aim to achieve TRUE 33% canopy cover (not by monocultures or plantations). Strict allocation of funds and their proper dissemination be observed for this purpose.
- Ensure that the area under protected areas(Pas) be maintained strictly as 5% of the country's total area. Presently these areas have shrunk to less than 5% owing to the cancellations and diversions of lands.
- Strict maintenance of Eco-sensitive zones within 10 km circumference around these protected areas.
- Defined restrictions on cattle and human movements in Pas and zones around them. Vaccination of all cattle and domestic livestock in these

areas to prevent spread of communicable diseases in wild life, which, is a major issue today hidden by the governance.

- State wise animal welfare centers to care for animals captured and injured a result of human-wild life conflict.
- Uniform compensation policy for people affected by such conflict.
- Management of Pas and eco sensitive zones must be given to the centre, and not states.
- Separate forest custodies and forest courts for related crimes, including poaching. Presently, police corruption and general judicial delay is negatively affecting the forest governance.
- Rights and privileges of indigenous people dependent on forests must be redefined for their welfare.
- Wildlife conservation will be looked upon as a means of employment generation, and local youth should be encouraged for it.
- Beats and ranges of forest personnel should be reorganized in smaller units for better efficiency.
- A separate authority (like the NTCA) be constituted for small mammals and neglected species of India's flora and fauna- for all which presently fall under any of the IUCN categories-vulnerable, endangered, and critically endangered.
- Any roads or transportation around the PAs (not inside them) will have mitigation measures and corridors for safe movement of wildlife.
- Non-native exotic species planted for quick results will be removed in a time bound manner.
- Grasslands and its flora and fauna will be identified as an independent ecosystem and all measures to conserve them will be initiated.
- Wetland management rules 2010 will be restored and wetlands will be accordingly protected.

Some points on the legislative:

- Ecological training workshops be made mandatory for all elected representatives.

- Each constituency to define ecological and environmental improvements to be ensured in next 5 years from the elected representative. Periodic reviews of related performance -at least three in his/her 5 year tenure will be publicized. This assessment will be done by an independent panel of experts.
- Inter linking of rivers, Sagarmala project, Chardham highway and tourist oriented blind development of Andaman archipelago and Nicobar will be reversed and cancelled.
- IGP believes firmly that time is ripe to divide MoEF into three separate ministries – Ministry of climate change, ministry for forests and wildlife conservation and ministry of environment and resources.
- So also other related ministerial work has to be coordinated with an intra ministry cell for nature and environment.-These include ministries of mining, tribal welfare, water, energy, and likewise.

Points for the judiciary:

- For better ecological and environmental governance, all concerned ministries, tribunals, statutory authorities will be bestowed their original judiciary, constitutional powers. Dilutions done by the 2014-2019 government will be nullified.
- Penalties, imprisonments and fines for wild life related crimes will be escalated to at least double their present tenures.
- NGT be expanded and establish one unit per state. Its verdict will be challengeable only in Supreme Court. The cases appearing before the tribunal will be actually adjudicated without escaping by appointing a committee.
- CAMPA will be abolished. The sanctions to industries will be in a precautionary manner, there will be no question of diverting a forest land without due procedures specified and hence an irrelevant act like CAMPA will be redundant.
- States which fail to perform their environmental obligations and duties as specified by the judiciary/Ministry.(Examples-demarcation and

counting of wetlands, determining the boundaries of protected areas etc.) will be heavily penalized in form of a massive cut in their vital funding received from Centre. Also such states need to pay the central government double the amount as fine for the tasks not performed.

Climate change:

- Country's genuine need for power will be assessed. Wasteful consumptions of electricity like day-night cricket matches will not be allowed. Total consumption pattern will be decided on the Bhutan model of vital consumption. This will reduce the energy hunger of the nation, and production targets will be set accordingly. And then it will be easier to switch over to non-fossil renewable sources.
- 'Renewable' status allocated to large hydropower projects by the BJP government, which paves their easier entry in critical ecosystems and habitats will be abolished.
- Coal cess collected will be strictly utilized for betterment of environment or towards mitigation measures.
- Gadgil committee report on Western Ghats will be fully implemented in its original form. A similar committee be constituted for Eastern Ghats.
- CRZ modifications of 2019 will be abolished in Toto.
- NDCs accepted in Paris, 2015 will be fully achieved.
- With an urgent linking of food security to climate change, genuine research on traditional Indian, resilient cultivars will be undertaken and crop patterns will accordingly be shifted.