

# TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF BASIC INCOME IN INDIA

## IT'S TIME FOR UBI!

### What is UBI?

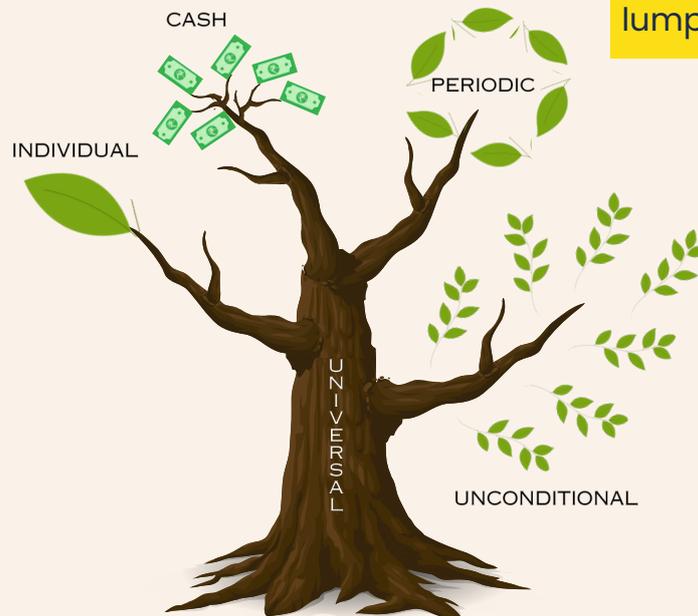
A Universal Basic Income is a regular, unconditional, individual cash payment given to all citizens, to meet their basic needs.

**A UBI has 5 core principles.**

**Cash**, as opposed to in-kind transfers or coupons.

**Periodic (monthly)**, as opposed to a lump sum payment.

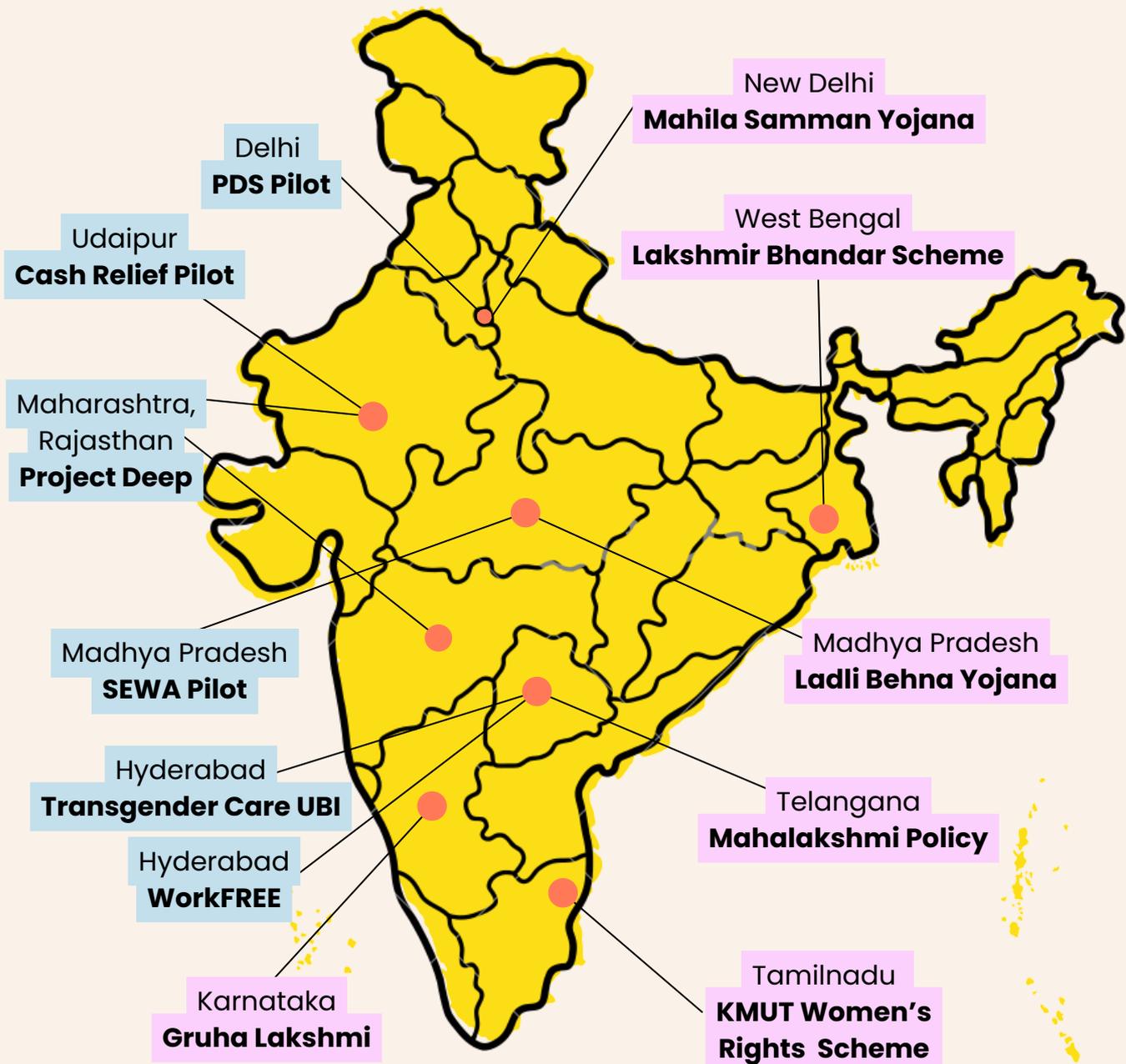
**Individual**, as opposed to paid for the household.



**Unconditional**, as opposed to conditional.

**Universal**, as opposed to targeted.

# BASIC INCOME GOVT SCHEMES AND RESEARCH PILOTS IN INDIA



Civil Society Pilots



Government Schemes

# WHY UBI IN INDIA?



## 1. Rising inequality and income insecurity

**2nd**

India is ranked as the second most unequal country in the world

**69%**

of jobs in India are at threat from automation

**90%**

Almost 90% of the labourforce is in an informal and unprotected system

Pandemics, automation, climate change and rising inequality have made the lives of the poor increasingly precarious and uncertain. An unconditional cash support can augment and compound the broader social security guarantee package (food security, education, health, transport etc.)

## 3. Stimulating economic growth and innovation

**65%**

of India is below 35. We need to capitalise on this demographic dividend

### VISHWAGURU

India's aspirations to the status of a World Leader cannot be achieved with large parts of the population living in insecurity and poverty

### ECONOMIC STIMULATION

Pilots across India show how unconditional cash boosts money back in the economy and sparks entrepreneurship, investment and innovation

## 2. Inefficiencies in fragmented welfare system

**ONLY 50%**

of India's welfare budget reaches the hands of the poor

**MILLIONS**

Of eligible welfare participants miss out on being registered for or

### SCATTERED AND FRAGMENTED

Policies working in silos with disparate budgets and identification and management systems.

## 4. UBI shows a marked increase in



Access to healthcare and nutritional outcomes



Quality Education



Financial Inclusion, freedom from debt and improved savings



Dignity, recognition and social relations



Better Labour Choices and reduced exploitation

# FAQs

## 1. Won't people drink or smoke it away?

Studies show most people use UBI for basic needs like food, healthcare, and education. In many cases, UBI was found to reduce substance abuse. Poverty is a cause of, not a hindrance to, substance abuse.

## 2. Get lazy and stop working?

A review of evidence from pilots across the world, including by Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee shows that UBI doesn't significantly reduce work. Instead, it empowers people to seek better opportunities and invest in education or entrepreneurship.

## 3. How do we pay for this?

There are a number of proposals, including restructuring the public finance base and streamlining existing financial flows that can help fund a significant UBI. The money exists!

# INDIA BASIC INCOME COALITION

## (i-BIC)

We are a group of activists, academics, civil society organisations and committed citizens devoted to building a more dignified, robust and future ready social policy framework for India.

If you would wish to reach out to us for more information, collaboration and support, please feel free to reach out to [sarathdavala@gmail.com](mailto:sarathdavala@gmail.com)

Information about the individual organisations can be found below.

