

Manifesto/Vision Document

# Sunil Kumar Singh

#First Preference Vote



*Sunil  
Kumar  
Singh*

Ballot No.

# 199

## Mission To Empower Advocates

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world;  
the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.  
Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man,"

- George Bernard Shaw

# I am an unreasonable man

School's national basketball at the age of 15. Practised basketball with a Junior India players, services team, etc.

**Founded and led a movement** for increasing age, attempt and CSAT reform in the UPSC civil services exam in 2013 and after almost 10 protests at the national level, the Union Public Service Commission and Government of India changed the rules of eligibility of the civil services exam in 2014. Also, they increased the number of attempts from 4 to 6 and the age from 30 to 32, consequently benefiting Gen, OBC, SC, and ST students. Later, CSAT was made qualifying. This is benefiting lakhs of students every year.

*Reference (www.fightupsc.com)*

As the initiator and leader of that movement, **my name was featured in all the country's top newspapers, including The Hindu, Frontline, Hindustan Times, and major national television channels such as DD News, NDTV, etc.**

After many suggestions from professors at JNU and DU, I took the Delhi University entrance exam and secured 82nd rank. Initially took admission at CLC; later shifted to LC-2. While studying in the final year of the **LLB program at Delhi University's Faculty of Law**, the faculty made changes to the supplementary exam, jeopardising the careers of more than 500 students. I successfully mobilised the final-year students, represented them as a party in person, and argued a writ petition challenging changes to the supplementary exam. Within two months, we successfully won the writ petition. This benefited more than 500 students who are advocates today. Since becoming an advocate with the Delhi Bar Council, I have taken on challenging cases and successfully represented clients across a range of legal issues.

## Vision on the policy issue for my Fellow advocates

- ① **Quality improvement in Education:** In the last 15 to 20 years, there has been a mushrooming of colleges and a significant increase in LLB seats, and yet neither the syllabus nor the quality of education has improved. This is damaging the overall image of the fraternity. There is a need for a national debate among all stakeholders on how the profession should progress over the next 20–30 years. We need to improve the quality of education. What should be the number of admissions or seats at the national level for LLB courses? How can young and bright students join this profession? It's also important that we review the current national policy and create more stringent standards. We need to ensure quality and better standards. We need to ensure a minimum standard of work and a decent living for every advocate and to protect the image of the fraternity. The Bar Council of Delhi sends its representative to the Bar Council of India, from where these policies are made. We must review core quality issues to improve this noble profession. If elected, I will work towards this goal.
- ① **Embracing capitalism:** The country has adopted capitalism, and we are fully integrated with the idea of a capitalist economy. Yet the advocate today can't get high compensation for their client. Also, they can't share revenue from such successful pleadings. If the esteemed members elect me, I will work to change this policy. **Advocates must be allowed to share the proceeds of compensation of the client and will work to improve the earning potential of my fellow advocates.**

- ① **The current medical insurance policy for advocates** is inadequate and, in fact, it is a joke. Also, there are no **pension benefits for advocates**, which requires immediate attention. Advocates don't have any contributory pension scheme, such as NPS or UPS. Advocates are officers of the court, yet they are not made part of NPS or UPS. If elected, **I will work to increase the medical insurance benefit to 1 crore and include advocates in the NPS and UPS schemes.**
- ① **Training and guidance for young and first-generation advocates:** There is no policy by the Delhi Bar Council to train young advocates in procedural law who get enrolled. If elected, I will work to institutionalise a policy that ensures all young advocates receive training in procedural law. They also have access to all files, formats, and case records, allowing them to see the case's trajectory. They must be provided with various formats, drafts, and other materials so they are comfortable and can compete with other advocates who have this advantage. If elected, I will bring about a complete policy change in this regard. Already we have initiated and made a platform for helping young advocates on which we connect advocates with mentors, share drafts, formats, case files and improve their learning and knowledge. ([www.youngadvocatesassociation.com](http://www.youngadvocatesassociation.com))
- ① **Special training for mid-career advocates:** The current advocates who have been working for the last 5 to 10 years need to be trained in different avenues of law. This way, they can upgrade their skills and improve their earning potential. If elected, I will initiate online and offline training programs for mid-career advocates to upgrade their skills.
- ① **Advocate Protection Act:** Rajasthan has passed the Advocate Protection Act. It's high time we in Delhi also enact such legislation and give special protection to our fellow advocates. If elected, I will work toward this goal.
- ① **Transparency in the advocate disciplinary committee:** Many fellow advocates have raised concerns that the disciplinary committee does not operate transparently and in a helpful manner. We need to improve its working style and procedures. If elected, I will work to improve its functioning and bring more transparency to its functions, keeping the best interests of our fellow advocates in mind.
- ① **Special stipend and assigning cases from DLSA to young advocates:** Young advocates need incentives to pursue a career in law. Because of the inherent challenges in the early years, they leave the profession. Several states, such as Bihar and Karnataka, are providing stipends to young advocates. The recent Supreme Court judgment has made it mandatory to complete 3 years of advocacy before anyone can join the judicial services. However, there is no consideration of how this fellow advocate will survive the first 3 years in the profession. It's high time that we make a policy for giving them a **minimum stipend (Rs 20,000) for 3 years** so that they survive the hardship of the profession. Also, the DLSA needs to assign a limited number of cases to new advocates under the supervision of a mentor advocate so that young advocates can develop advocacy skills and a client base. If elected, I will work toward achieving this policy.
- ① **Not to join any political party or take any appointment with government or state.** There are many other issues which need to be taken up; however, due to limitations of this vision document, I am not able to convey this to my fellow advocates. However, as a personal promise, if elected I will not join any political party and will work with all political parties for the betterment of my fellow advocates. I will also not accept any appointment with the government, including standing counsel, etc., or any other appointment, as I see this as a conflict of interest. I make this promise to serve my fellow advocates, and I will stand with them at all times.

“These woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.”

– Robert Frost



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