Payment for contributors

India Development Review (IDR) was launched in 2017 as an independent media platform for the development sector. Since then, we have shared knowledge and insights from contributors across India including grassroots workers, industry experts, funders, researchers, and activists, representing the intersections of gender, class, caste, sexuality, and disability.

However, we could not pay our contributors. This proved to be a roadblock in a society where economic marginalisation is often a by-product of the other systemic exclusions that people face.

We are happy to announce that this is changing. IDR will now be paying contributors from communities marginalised by the barriers of class, caste, gender, sexuality, disability, geography, and religion.

Whom does this include?

This list of contributors will include economically marginalised people; people from the Dalit, Adivasi, and Muslim communities; LGBTQIA+ communities; people with physical and mental disabilities (including those who identify as neurodiverse); and people from spatially marginalised regions (including Kashmir, the Northeast, and other remote areas of India where location acts as a barrier to sharing knowledge).

What will the payment structure be?

- Contributors will be paid INR 5,000 for longer articles (1,000–2,000 words), which include analyses and op-eds.
- For shorter articles (up to 500 words), such as the ones featured in our Ground Up section, contributors will be paid INR 2,000.
- For audio, video, and text interviews (including podcasts, Instagram Lives, and ADILO features), contributors will be paid INR 3,000.

Things to keep in mind

- All submissions will go through IDR’s editorial review process. IDR editors reserve the right to accept or reject a submission based on its suitability for the platform.
- Contributors who choose to be paid will need to share details of their Indian bank account and a copy of their PAN card. These details will remain confidential. Payment will be made within one month of an article being published.
- The contributors who choose to be paid must indicate this in the subject line of their e-mail pitch using the format ‘Pitch for a paid submission: (mention subject/theme/name of your pitch)’.
- Contributors who identify with the mentioned categories of people but do not want to be paid can request to waive the payment.
- Payment to contributors will be trust-based. IDR won’t question the authenticity of a person’s identity.
- All contributors will be asked to fill up a form that gathers information about the person, their identity, and background. We capture this information for our own records, to ensure that we are covering a diversity of voices and perspectives on IDR—the objective is to hold ourselves accountable to featuring multiple narratives and lived experiences. Only the team at IDR will have access to this information and may use it from time to time to present an aggregate view and break-up of our author base. These details will remain confidential and will not be shared with external stakeholders.
A contributor will be paid for up to three submissions in a financial year. This cap is to ensure that IDR can compensate a diverse set of authors under this fund.