



WEST BENGAL TRINAMOOOL CONGRESS

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Subrata Bakshi, MP
President, WBTC

Partha Chatterjee, MLA
Secretary General, WBTC

No. 5000 /AITC / PC / 13 - 14 [R]

March 23, 2014

Dear Friend,

Sub : 16th Lok Sabha Election – 2014

All India Trinamool Congress [AITC] Manifesto

Enclosed please find English & Bengali version of AITC Manifesto for the ensuing 16th Lok Sabha election – 2014 for your kind information and ready reference.

It will be highly appreciated if the points written in our Manifesto be informed to the members of your Chamber.

Meanwhile, **Ms Mamata Banerjee**, Hon'ble Chief Minister and the undersigned join in conveying a happy and prosperous Bengali New Year 1421.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,


[Partha Chatterjee]



Election Manifesto

Secularism ♦ Development ♦ Progress



**SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA
ELECTION 2014
ALL INDIA TRINAMUL CONGRESS**

16th Lok Sabha Election 2014



AN APPEAL

Mothers, Brothers & Sisters.

The rampant misrule of the past decade has left us **weak, demoralized and divided**, with **inequity, injustice, falling economic growth and corruption** all around. The **time has come for CHANGE** and the time has come for the **REGENERATION of India.**

Our Party's **ideology** is fundamentally '**pro-people**' - a Government **of the people, by the people and for the people.**

We will bring '**people centricity**', **transparency and integrity** on all matters of **Governance**. All policies **must stand the test** of these **fundamental values.**

We believe in **policies** which are necessarily **people friendly, Industry friendly and farmer friendly.**

Our humble effort will be to create a **dynamic India** that **proudly holds its head high in the comity of Nations.**

Our message is one of **hope and change.** Our message is one of **fulfilment of dreams into reality** of all **brothers and sisters** of this great Nation.

Secularism is our **ideology** and full **protection of minorities** is our **mission.**

Providing **food, shelter and livelihood** to the poor people of India is our **utmost priority.**

We stand at the **cross roads of history** when the nation is **demanding a political change and a change in governance.** The **Congress and the**

BJP have totally lost their credibility and credentials with the people of India. **Widespread and rampant corruption** marked the UPA-II **misrule**.

And **BJP** has been repeatedly **held responsible for riots and communal strife**. Of course, the **Communists have lost all credibility and support of the people** due to their **inner contradictions** and **fascistic misrule**.

While Trinamool Congress has a long history of struggle for the people, it has found wide acceptance among the people, representing the best model for Governance, Progress & Prosperity of the people.

Even during NDA regime, we did not tolerate anti-people policy adopted by NDA and had immediately put on record our strong protests.

Therefore, **Trinamool Congress strongly believes in an independent, honest and grassroots based Federal Front** that will **serve the diverse aspirations of a united India**.

Jai Hind

Bande Mataram

Khuda-Hafiz

17th March, 2014



Mamata Banerjee

Chairperson, All India Trinamool Congress

The National Manifesto of **All India Trinamool Congress** **Our Vision & Mission**

To achieve these goals, we present a pointed **Manifesto** of our Party.

1. We believe in a **United India** characterised by its **unique diversities**.

It is time that a new model be unveiled in which the **Unity of India is strengthened** while the **Diversity of India is fully protected**.

2. We believe in a **Secular India**.

3. The commitment to **Federalism** in our **Constitution** has not been carried out in spirit or in practice. Therefore, after 66 years of Independence, the time has come for us to **empower the States** while the Centre concentrates on its appropriate domain (like foreign policy, defence, etc. for the genuine).

4. A major proportion of our nation consists of **Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** and **OBCs**, many of whom still continue to remain at the margins of our economy, society and polity. They **must be empowered and mainstreamed so that they can live with pride and self-confidence**.

- Therefore, a **Special Thrust will be given** for the **social and economic empowerment of Minorities**. A shining example of this comes from the sincere action taken in West Bengal regarding the reservation of OBCs which has, in turn, led to the inclusion of a large number of minorities within the reservation category. 17% of the population of Bengal fall under the OBC category. **By implementing reservation for these OBC communities, 94% of the Muslim population of Bengal has been covered, who can now avail the benefits of reservation under the OBC category.**

Similarly, **reservation of OBCs in Higher Education**, to the tune of 17% has been introduced in Bengal (in addition to the SC, ST reservation). This has **opened up the possibility of 94% of the Muslim population of Bengal, to avail Higher Educational opportunities** - this, **without reducing the seats of the General category students** by suitable expansion.

- **Safety and security of linguistic minorities will be fully protected.**
 - **A Special Thrust will be given for the social and economic empowerment of Backward Classes** - dalits, tribals and OBCs.
-

- A **Special Drive** will be given to **eliminate the backlog of caste certificates** of the **SC, ST and OBC** communities across India.
 - **All underprivileged tribal population of the nation will be given a special status equivalent to the BPL.**
5. **Special thrust will be given to all local languages of our Nation.** We have already implemented a **policy in West Bengal of recognising languages as official languages** in the Districts or Sub-divisions or Blocks or Municipalities as the case may be, where the population of such language speaking people exceeds 10% as a whole. **Accordingly, in addition to Bengali, Nepali and Urdu we have also recognised Hindi, Santhali, Oriya and Punjabi languages as an official language as applicable.**
6. The **women** of this nation represent almost half of its population.
- **Empowering them in every walk of life in our society, economy and polity** is at the core of our thinking for the future.
 - A special thrust will be given on **empowering the 'Girl Child'.**
7. We believe that **'jobless growth' is intolerable and is dangerous for our democracy.** Employment generation and growth must go hand in hand, **complementing each other.** For this, we will **rethink our current economic policies.** Employment must become the **fulcrum of future economic growth**, keeping in view India's **demographic dividend.**
8. **Rising prices have hurt all Indians**, irrespective of whether they are farmers, workers, white-collared professionals or home-makers. **Hence, controlling inflation will be our top priority.**

We were **deeply troubled by the UPA-II's repeated increases in petroleum and diesel prices**, badly hurting the lives of the common people. We were **equally troubled by the sudden and irresponsible removal of subsidy on cooking gas cylinders** adversely affecting the mothers and the sisters across the spectrum. When we could not tolerate this anymore and **our voices of protest were not heard anymore**, we chose to **withdraw from all the Ministerial portfolios and withdrew from UPA-II altogether to protect the interest of the common man.**

Our voices of protest against the withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizers used by our farmers were also ignored. We could not remain in the UPA-II government while our **farmers suffered every day.**

9. At the same time **we protested strongly against the policy of introducing FDI in retail**, keeping in view the interest of millions of small and tiny **retailers** spread across the country. **Our manifesto clearly opposed FDI in retail** and **UPA-II was fully aware of our commitment to the people** on this matter. But **our voices were simply ignored** and the **vested interest of global retailers was succumbed to by the UPA-II government**. When **we give a word to the people we strongly believe in upholding it and not betraying the trust of the people**. Therefore, on the issue of **FDI in retail** too, **we had to resign from UPA-II**. **Principles matter to us rather than devious political expediency**.
10. Similar was the case on our **repeated protests against FDI in insurance**. We were equally strong in **protesting against the placement of Provident Funds of Employees into the stock market**, risking their life savings. But once again **our voices were not heard in UPA-II**.
11. **We repeatedly expressed our apprehension and disagreement on SEZs** which had become a **land leveraging device for a handful of deceitful businessmen**. Once again **our voices were not heard** and the mistake on this count continued to be made. Today most people agree that **SEZs have failed the nation** and have become **a tool in the hands of a few vested interests** and land mafias.
12. We will give a **big thrust to Administrative Reforms** to make **government more accountable to the people**. We will **universalize and intensify all forms of e-governance** in the country to bring further **efficiency and transparency in governance**.

We will create an **e-structure** which will **monitor the outcomes of all government projects**.

We will **tighten all timelines of deliverables to the people**.
13. To eradicate corruption we will set up **Lokpal and Lokayukta** in every State.
14. We will deepen the **Panchayati Raj System** and will give **full protection** to this important institutional mechanism.
15. We believe in massive comprehensive **Electoral Reforms** drawing on international best practices so that the corrupt and the criminals do not become people's representatives.

We believe that to reach this goal of **corruption-free politics**, the time has come for the nation to adopt **Government Funding of Elections** which is **already functioning** in many nations of the world, including **U.K., Germany, France, Russian Republic, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Thailand, Mexico, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Denmark**, etc.

16. We believe in major **Judicial Reforms**, the basis of which must be to bring **timely and speedy justice to the poor in particular**.

- A **Review Committee** will be set up for pro-people **systemic changes** in the **Judiciary**.
- We will set up **Human Rights Courts** to deal with all human rights violations.
- We believe that time has come to set up exclusive **Women's Courts**.
- We strongly believe in setting up **Fast Track Courts** across the country keeping in mind the delivery of **speedy justice** in cases of **atrocities on women**, so that **strong punishment** is meted out to culprits **immediately**. **Justice delayed is justice denied**.
- For this, we will target the **appointing** of significant number of **Judges in the Lower Courts and Higher Courts** within a time frame.

17. We believe in '**Health For All**' in a time bound manner.

- Comprehensive change in providing **health services to each and every village will be at the heart of this 'health for all' programme**.
- **Mother and child care** will be at the heart of '**health for all**'.
- **Many more maternal care wards will be set up in different district and State hospitals**.
- **Every senior citizen**, below a certain level of family income, will be **provided with free medical care**.
- Our commitment is to cover **every Indian with health insurance** on a compulsory basis in a time bound manner.
- Special focus will be given on **preventative care** and research on **traditional medicines**.
- A **big push** will be given to **produce** significantly larger number of **doctors, nurses, paramedics, diagnostic technicians, trained dais**, etc.
- A massive emphasis will be given to the entire vertical of health for all with a commitment to **spend a significantly higher proportion of the GDP for health care**.

18. We believe that one of the **drivers of pro-people growth is rural roads**. We **will target 100% rural connectivity** in a time bound manner.

We will also introduce **Major Initiatives for Connectivity of All State and District Highways with National Highways**.

19. It is a tragedy that **drinking water** is still not available to the rural people after sixty-six years of Independence. We propose to **cover 100% of the population with safe drinking water** in a time bound manner. Our effort will include appropriate technologies for providing safety and purity of drinking water, with a **special thrust on the rural population**.

We will create a **Special Initiative** for providing **safe drinking water to all arid areas** of the nation and those with **special problems like salinity, arsenic, fluoride etc.**

20. **National Yuva Vista** will focus on the youth of the country and **produce a comprehensive and time bound Plan of Action** to cover **rural youth** and **urban youth** across India.

21. A **Talent Bank** will be created for the youth for exchange and sharing of ideas, **cutting-edge research** and employment opportunities in the knowledge domain, **also covering the Indian youth living abroad**.

22. A massive emphasis needs to be given to the entire vertical of **primary schools, secondary schools, vocational institutes, colleges and Central Universities** with a **commitment to spend a significantly higher proportion of the GDP**.

An **Expert's Committee** will be set up for an **employment oriented Educational Policy** in the country.

- **New Central Universities** of high quality will be set up across the country within a time frame.
- **New All India Medical Institutes** will be set up in all of the 4 regions of the country within a time frame.
- **Madrasahs** will be empowered and mainstreamed as per their own requirement.
- A nationwide programme of **Long Term Educational Loans for Students** will be put in place drawing on **global best practices**.

23. For the **General Category** of people in our Population a new scheme will be created for the **economically backward population within the general category**.

This scheme will address their needs of **housing, education, health, skill development and employment**. We will also provide **special interest subsidy for educational loans** for the youth of the General Category Population and also support their **entrepreneurial development**.

24. We will create a **National Cultural Development Council** which will work with each and **every State** to **generate and stimulate local and traditional cultures of the States**.

- The **artists and folk performers**, particularly at the rural level, will be provided with a **stipend and medical insurance** as we have successfully done in West Bengal.
 - The **regional** cultural activities like **regional films, theatres, jatras**, etc. will be given a **special push**.
25. **Backward Districts across the nation** will be given **special focus** for suitably **empowering and mainstreaming** them.
26. The **hill people** of our nation need a helping hand. In addition to the '7 Sisters' and the other 3 Hill States of North India, a **Special Scheme** will be introduced for the **remaining Hill People**, including those of **Darjeeling**.
27. Despite a special financial dispensation for the **North-Eastern States** of India, their growth and development **has not been satisfactory** specially Tripura, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Sikkim. We will strongly focus on **real, sustainable, people centric and environment friendly development of the North-Eastern States** which have over 66% of forest cover, huge hydel power potential, major agro-processing opportunities, traditional textiles capabilities, massive tourism potential, etc. and is also the **Gateway to ASEAN Nations** and can be the **Gateway to the Look East Policy**.
28. In the State of **Jharkhand**, the **upliftment** of the **downtrodden people** and the development of Jharkhand as a whole is not at all encouraging. **Special focus** will be given on the **growth and development of the state in all spheres** for suitably **mainstreaming** them.
29. Tourism is an employment intensive sector which employs people from all segments of society. In order to further stimulate tourism **we will give Industry Status to the Tourism Sector** and launch a **National Tourism Initiative**. The objective will be to strengthen current tourist destinations, develop new tourism destinations across the country and significantly strengthen the tourism infrastructure of our nation including Rural Tourism.
30. We will give top priority to the growth and development of the agricultural sector, allied services, fisheries and animal husbandry.
- We will **ensure** that farmers get an appropriate **procurement price for rice, jute, wheat, etc.**
 - We will create a major **Farmers Productivity Initiative** to increase productivity of farmers exponentially.
 - We will give a **special focus** on production, distribution and research of high quality **seeds** for farmers.

- We will also focus on **crop diversification** and **multi-cropping** to bring higher incomes to farmers.
 - **A fresh credit policy** will be created for the **farmers**.
 - **Small farmers** who have taken loans and are unable to repay them will be considered for a **National Loan Waiver Scheme** of the Government.
 - We will implement a **village centric** and **people centric policy** of **industrialization of the agricultural and allied services sector** to **combat rural unemployment**.
 - A **New Scheme** will be created for **Skill Development** and **Educational Opportunities for the Children of the Farmers** of our nation, with a futuristic and integrative vision.
 - We will create a **Landless Labour Livelihood Initiative**.
 - An **integrated policy** on the **development of coastal and inland fish cultivation** will be formulated to bring about a significant and sustainable growth of this sector. **Welfare of the small and marginal fishermen** will be kept in view.
 - The **National Livestock Policy** will be **reviewed** and **restructured** keeping in view the interests of the farmers and small livestock growers of the country.
31. We will formulate and implement a **National Policy for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises**. This will be a **key driver** for generating **employment** and **entrepreneurship** at the grassroots level.
32. The time has come for the formulation of a holistic and sustainable **Industrial Policy**. A **thorough review** of the current **manufacturing policy** is also called for. We will frame a **National Industrial Policy** keeping in view **employment generation potential in manufacturing, mining, power sectors and engineering**.
33. A new **forward looking IT Policy** focusing on both **software** and **hardware** will be put in place keeping in view the fast changing global technologies.
34. A **special thrust** will be given for the **mainstreaming and empowerment of the entrepreneurs of the Unorganised and Informal Sector** while ushering in **welfare measures for the workers** of this major area.
35. **Labour Friendly Laws** will be created through a **High Powered Committee** which will also have representation from various stake holders.
36. **Nature has been tortured** for many years. Therefore, **eco friendly** and **people friendly Environmental Law** will be developed.

37. **A New Forward Looking Motor Vehicles Law** will be created, given the **quantum growth of motor vehicles** in the country in recent years.
38. It is our objective to create an **infrastructure and communication network** vertically from **village to district, district to State and State to the National**, using cutting edge technology.
39. A major **Highway Corridor Project** will be initiated on a **Mission Mode basis, connecting the North to the South and East to the West - Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Kohima to Dwarka**. This **North South East West Corridor** will be called the '**Four Sisters**'.
40. With an objective of creating a **holistic, sustainable and forward looking reform** in the **Indian Railways**, the **VISION 2020** document which was formulated in the year 2009 and tabled in the Parliament, will be **further enriched and fully implemented**.
41. We will launch **Water Transportation Corridors for Rivers** to utilize their full potential for **cargo transportation, tourist cruises and heritage tourism**. These would include the rivers of **Ganga and Hooghly, Brahmaputra and Teesta, Brahmani, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari, Narmada, Riverine Sunderban Delta, the Backwaters of Kerala and other such rivers and water-bodies** across the country.
42. **A new people friendly, industry friendly, environment friendly and employment friendly PPP policy** will be put in place to **augment government's investable resources**.
43. A new **National Investment Policy** will be formulated keeping in view **employment intensity, productivity and appropriate technology**.
44. **IPC and CrPC** which were created in the colonial era will be **revamped** in the modern context. **Stringent laws** will be framed keeping in mind **atrocities against women**.
45. The **Land Acquisition Act** will be **amended** such that the **legitimate interests of farmers will be fully protected**. We have passed a **Land Act** in West Bengal which **totally eliminates** any scope for **forcible acquisition of land by the government or any private entity**.
46. We will **not allow any forceful acquisition of land** in the country.
47. A **New Land Bank and Land Use Policy** will be put in place.
48. **New Forest Law** will be enacted. **Rights of Tribal people** and forest dwellers will be restored.
49. **New Energy Policy** will be implemented with a target of '**Electricity for All**'. **All villages of India will be electrified in a time bound manner**.

The New Energy Policy will also focus on issues relating to **natural gas, thermal and hydel power, CBM** and all forms of **non-conventional sources of energy**.

50. **Development of Modern Infrastructure** across the country will be given the highest priority.
51. An action plan will be formulated on **Rainwater Harvesting and Water Distribution** for domestic use and irrigation.
52. **New Education Policy with a focus on employment orientation** will be implemented.
53. A mechanism will be devised through which **black money will be identified and unearthed from wherever it may have been parked, including those in foreign banks**.
54. Tough **laws will be made against adulteration** of foods, fuels, medicines, etc. to save the common people.
55. **A New Law** will be formulated for the **judicious use of natural resources**.
56. A **judicious Tax Policy** will be brought in place that keeps in view the interests of the common people. We support the introduction of the **GST on condition that there is a consensus among all States on the nature of the GST** to be introduced. **Interests of States cannot be trampled** on this matter.
57. We will implement '**Banking for All**' such that there will be **NO unbanked villages** in the country. Financial empowerment must reach the grassroots level **using Post Offices** as an instrument of financial inclusion.
58. A **fresh, holistic and sustainable policy** will be formulated on **Urban Development** with clear plans of **decentralization of urban facilities**. A focus will be given on **solving the problems of the urban poor**.
59. A **new Foreign Trade Policy** will be introduced which **strongly supports the growth of exports from India**, particularly those from **Small & Medium Enterprises** which tend to be **labour intensive**.
60. We are emphatic that **bifurcation of States** in India can take place **only after such proposal is cleared by the concerned State Government**.
61. Our **Foreign Policy** with all countries including the neighbouring countries will be guided by the following:-
 - **Peaceful co-existence** with all.
 - **Self-interest of our nation**.
 - Greater **promotion of social, economic, technological and cultural ties** with all nations.

- **Resolving territorial or other disputes** through talks and negotiations.
- The **World** must be looked upon as **one single family**.

62. Our **Defence Policy** will be guided by the following:

- **National Security** will be upper most.
- A **corruption free** and **transparent** procurement policy for all defence equipments through **e-tendering** and other **transparent e-processes** based on **full integrity**. More efforts will be made on **self-reliance** and **indigenous production**.
- Emphasis will be spread equally for proper maintenance of defence assets on the basis of **regular checking** and **monitoring mechanism** and also for fresh acquisition on need basis.
- A proper **plan of action for recruitment of defence personnel** and taking **full care of the welfare of the defence personnel and their families** at all times is our imperative.

This '**people centric**', '**development centric**', '**growth centric**' and '**employment centric**' manifesto, covering the **empowerment of all weaker sections** of our great democracy, including **SC, ST, OBC, Minorities, economically disadvantaged among the general category**, will lead to a **RESURGENT India**.

It will bring back the **moral fibre** of the Nation. It will create a **strong India**, a **just India** and a **dynamic India** that will **hold its head high once again** in the comity of Nations.

Cast your vote by pressing



the button  **on this symbol**

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