

Manifesto 2019



Ma Maati Manusher



**Trinamool Congress
Standing by the People**



**We all stand for the country
Not for Modi
For the welfare of the people -
Remove BJP, save the country**

An Appeal

I convey my deepest respect, 'pranaam', 'salaam', 'johar', regards and compliments to all my mothers, brothers and sisters.

Bengal and many other states would soon be ushering in a New Year. Ramzan is also coming. To all people of all communities I wish 'Shubho Noboborsho' and 'Ramzan Mubarak', in advance.

With deep respect, I recall all those who have sacrificed their lives for the country and its interests. From valiant soldiers to brave commoners - many have lost their lives. To all of them I convey my greatest respect.

At this very moment, the country is going through a crucial time. Soon, the 17th Lok Sabha Elections 2019 will be hosted in the country. This time, these elections are vital for the country not only from the political point of view, but also for building a strong future for the nation. This Lok Sabha election could majorly determine the way the country is presented to the next generation. These things can be said with conviction because in the past 5 years, we have witnessed a completely different India, thanks to the ruling party of BJP.

The Narendra Modi-led BJP Government came to power in 2014. They had promised that they would bring good time or 'acche din' for the country. But what did we see during their ruling period? Forget about 'acche din', the nation is moving towards decadence! India is not just the name of a nation. It's a nation made of ideologies. It inspires a way of life. And these ideologies or lifestyles have been established based on certain special attributes. However, ever since the BJP Government has come into power, they have been ready to destroy the inherent good qualities of the nation and build a different India.

India is today the largest democratic country in the world. The seeds of this democratic thought are there in our ancient philosophy, our ancient belief system. The tradition of acceptance of diversity which the Veda-Upanishads talk about has been upheld during the later years under the rule of emperor Asoka and the Mughal emperor Akbar.

Instances of discarding the other in order to preserve the self, has been observed in the West. But, it has always been the opposite for India – this country has always tried to build an identity of unity for the self by accepting the other. India has taught us the ideal of non-violence. Neither division nor violence, what has always been at the root of India's philosophy is welfare for the society and universal humankind. It is in this holy land, that Boru Chandidas had once declared echoing this thought, "*humanity is the greatest truth, there is no greater truth than that.*" It is in this holy land that Kabir had risen above the differences and emphasised on humanity. It is in this holy land that Lalan had talked about the pursuit of humanity. Ramkrishna and Vivekananda also delivered the same message. Mahatma Gandhi too had dreamt of an India of religious harmony, instead of a one plagued with discrimination. Thus, this holy land has through time, flowed with diversity in its stride while praising the beauty of human and humanity. The pursuit for unity and harmony amidst diversity is the life force of India. If you want to understand India, you will only be able to do so through her diversity and pluralism. However, in the past five years we have seen, under the BJP Government, India's uniqueness of unity in diversity has been threatened. We have noticed that during the BJP's rule, an attempt has been made to obliterate this unique characteristic of the country and establish a narrow-minded nation. There is no place for a different point of view, anymore. We all have to parrot the ruling party's opinion, and if we don't, we must face the ruling party's assaults, State power's attacks. Instead of building this great nation, the administrator has pushed it towards destruction. India is being thrust towards a future of darkness. Any citizen of the country, with a good conscience, is currently worried and concerned about India's plight. If we have to protect India's age-old heritage and glory, we must defy BJP. Hence, the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections will also test how well the morally-conscious citizens can protect their nation's glory.

Another unique feature of this pluralistic India is its secularism. This is a very important feature of our constitution too. And the cue to this secularism goes right back to the days of the Vedas and Upanishads to the policies of Asoka the Great and Mughal emperor Akbar. This country which believes in “as many are the beliefs, so many are the ways” has always set an example when it comes to different communities harmoniously living together. Great thinkers like Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Guru Nanak, Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr. Ambedkar, Annie Besant have held the flag of communal harmony high and let out the message of humanity to the world. Leaders like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Jawaharlal Nehru have held this very flag, higher. However, under this BJP regime, India is losing its feature of being non-violent, secular and harmonious and is being converted into a country of religious orthodoxy, violence and brutality. Under the BJP Government, India has gradually metamorphosed into a free zone of violence, hooliganism and religious fundamentalism. The Prime Minister and his party have indulged in a heinous conspiracy of spreading the poison of communalism and destroying India’s innate pluralism. They are conspiring towards building a one-dimensional India by negating the presence of different religions and cultures. They are trying to destroy India’s generosity and secularity, and establish it as a narrow-minded nation, run by fundamentalists.

Under the BJP Government, led by Narendra Modi, the whole nation has fallen prey to the conspiracies of communal fundamentalism. If they are successful, India will lose its secular, generous and diverse characteristics and turn into a narrow-minded, one-dimensional, communal nation. And, that is why this evil power has brought communal violence and hooliganism in Gandhiji's nation of non-violence. Under Narendra Modi’s regime, BJP and its supporters have tried to create an environment in the nation, where everything will be decided based on the directions given by them. They will determine the definition of patriotism. They will decide who is a terrorist.

However, the strange thing is that when we look back into our history, we can find that the fundamentalists have never had faith in anything, from the beginning of the Independence Movement to the hoisting of the national flag or anything else related to the constitution. Under the BJP rule, such

communal powers who desire disunity, are raising their heads all across the nation. They want to stain our diverse India's great ideology and spread the fire of fundamentalism and communalism. In Gandhiji's non-violent nation, they want to bring a time of disharmony, hatred and violence.

The National Crime Records Bureau published a report in 2017. Inferences from the report show that 97% of the mob lynching that have taken place on grounds of killing an animal from 2010 to 2017, has happened in the last three years. Out of the 63 reported incidents, 61 of them have been carried out by self-proclaimed protectors of cows. The data thus clearly suggests that the instances of mob lynching have mostly taken place after the BJP has come to power. It is important to keep in mind here that most of these incidents have happened in states where the ruling government is BJP.

What is more important is that, in each and every case, the criminals have been declared as heroes, by the fundamentalists. What scares me more than these cruel crimes is the fact that the ones who have committed them are being looked-up at, as heroes. It's evident that, the BJP, along with its supporters, is trying to push our secular, tolerant nation towards bigotry, hatred and animosity.

In the past five years, we have witnessed democracy being threatened in India - the largest democracy of the world. We have seen undeclared dictatorship being established under the veil of democracy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, blinded by his pride, has forced his autocratic opinions down everyone's throat. In a democracy, the opinion of the opposition is extremely important. However, Narendra Modi has ignored the opposition's point of view and has forced us all to accept his opinions. Several poor people of this country have lost their homes because of his foolhardy decisions. On one hand, Modi's demonetisation, and on the other hand, his random decision to introduce GST, have completely crippled the economy of the country.

8th November 2016, was a black day in the history of India. Modi shocked the entire nation by declaring that the use of 500 and 1000 rupee notes would be discontinued, in the name of demonetisation. As a result, around 86% of the notes in use became obsolete, with just one announcement of his.

The entire nation was subjected to a lot of harassments due to this sudden decision. An unending queue before the banks could be seen. Regular, busy lives of people were cramped with this new activity – queueing before the bank for hours. The old and the sick queued outside banks for hours on end. A lot of people helplessly died just by waiting in the queue. This has affected the people who only have hand to mouth means. From small-scale to marginal farmers, labours, everyone has been severely affected by this decision. Due to the cash-strap, businessmen could not buy their raw materials. They could not even sell them to the consumers who did not have any money either. They could not pay the salary of their workers. This is applicable in the case of the marginalised farmers as well. They could not buy fertilisers and seeds due to the shortage of cash, nor did anyone buy their wares. Daily wage earners did not get their wages and many labourers had lost their jobs. After the decision of the note-ban, the RBI has changed the rules of deposit and withdrawal of money at every stage. In the first 50 days, after demonetisation, RBI had issued 74 different directives. This had led to such a situation that the first thought that crossed a person's mind in the morning was to check whether or not the RBI has changed any more rules. Such a precarious situation has never been seen in India before. A cloud of anxiety had descended on the people of India with the Prime Ministers help. After demonetisation was announced, I had immediately stated it to be a disastrous step for the country, on Twitter. Today, it has been proven to the entire nation, how right my opinion was. None of the reasons cited by Narendra Modi for demonetisation, has come true.

Narendra Modi had cited three main reasons for this: firstly, to destroy the flow of black money in the country; secondly, to put an end to fake notes and thirdly, to prevent money from going into the hands of terrorists. After a few days had passed, it was seen how his schemes due to the note-ban decision were a complete failure. Narendra Modi had declared that as a result of the demonetisation, all the black money in the country would be exposed. Hence, a lot of people had gone through the trouble of standing in long queues in front of banks, for the welfare of the country. Gradually, it became evident, that the demonetisation had completely failed to rid the country of its black money. As per the annual report prepared by the

Reserve Bank of India for the FY 2017-18, almost 99.3% of the demonetised money, was redeposited in banks. Therefore, after ensuing limitless torture on the people and standing on top of more than hundred corpses, the Prime Minister was reduced to a zero. Narendra Modi had announced that the note ban was his war on corruption. But according to the reports of the RBI, the note ban looked like a corrupt act in itself. Crores of farmers, labourers and people belonging to the unorganised sectors had to go through so much pain due to him.

During his election campaign and the note-ban, Narendra Modi has mostly wasted his words on black money and corruption. He had given full assurance to the citizens that he will make the land free of corruption and rid it of black money. He promised to bring back the black money stashed away in foreign lands. What did we see in reality? Not one case of such an operation involving the exposition of black money has taken place in the media, rather corruption is running riot and is being guarded by the ruling party. Narendra Modi had announced in his speech that through the note-ban, terrorist activities can be thwarted which again turned out to be completely untrue. Kashmir has become restless after the note ban. Our jawans have lost their lives at the hands of the terrorists. On the other hand, the Maoists are running riot in Chhattisgarh, Bihar and the other states. Statistics shows that in BJP regime the terrorist activities in India have increased by 260%.

Therefore, the promise that was made by the ruling party about the note-ban was not fulfilled. The success was also based on a false premise. Thus, it brought about the ruin of many poor people rather than doing any good to the country. Since all the money was returned in the banks, they were forced to reduce the rate of interest drastically. Interest rates were reduced in the small savings banks as well. Thus, senior citizens who depend on the rate of interest of the banks, were going through a really hard time.

Things didn't come to an end with the demonetisation, for GST soon followed suit. We have always said that we are in support of a well structured GST system. We need to see how well prepared our economic system is to take in such a big decision. Therefore we were against the hurried implementation of GST. We had made it known to the Centre time

and again but the centrally ruling BJP imposed their own anyway. The same had happened in the case of GST and the common people including small businessmen, industrial labourers and the poor people had to suffer. For me, GST is nothing but a 'Great Selfish Tax' which had been imposed by BJP to harass the common people, to snatch away work, to close down businesses and to destroy the economy. In one such midnight, India arose to freedom and on a similar midnight, the poor people lost their financial independence because of the GST system introduced by BJP Government.

After coming to power the Prime Minister had promoted 'Make in India' with much aplomb. He promised that there would be an inflow of foreign capital if it is implemented but the records suggest otherwise during their tenure. The value of our currency has been reduced to shambles. Petrol and diesel are running a race to score a century. The price of gas is skyrocketing. Unemployment is rampant in the whole country. The way things are going, the whole country is being led towards poverty by BJP. Poor people are getting affected due to his hurried decisions of note-ban and GST. The law has become such that the poor will become poorer. While this is happening, the BJP want to promote the politics of religion, the temple versus the mosque and the politics of hatred where the people blinded with greed will stop reflecting on themselves and their own progress. They will forget the promises of progress that the BJP had made towards them. However, we have faith in people. I believe, that in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, people will have a worthy comeback against the atrocities of the BJP Government, through their votes.

Most of the population in India earn their livelihood from agriculture. The progress of the country depends on the progress of the farmers. The farmers have faced immense problems during the BJP Government's tenure. They are not only unable to get a fair price for their crops, but they are also debt ridden. The agricultural structure has been totally dismantled during the tenure of this government. The agricultural economy of the country has been completely jeopardised during this time and progress in this sector has lessened considerably during this time. It has been the lowest in the past three decades, i.e. less than 2%. the real income of the farmers in the past five years has lessened by 1.3% every year. Farmers

have been burdened with debt which has led them to commit suicide since they cannot get a fair price for their produce. The Centre informed the Supreme Court in 2017, that every year over twelve thousand farmers have committed suicide since 2013. This comes at a time when the Prime Minister prides on being a passionate well wisher of the farmers, when the plight of the farmers under BJP Government in Maharashtra gives a glaring picture of the grim reality. According to the information given by the Government of Maharashtra, since 1st March to 31st May, 2017 around 639 farmers have committed suicide. During this Government's tenure, not only has the agricultural production reduced, the rate of suicide among farmers has spiked by 42%.

Whenever there is a question of stopping the farmer suicide rates or exempting their debt, the Finance Minister of the BJP Government denies any responsibility. When certain states exempt the debts as a result of the farmer's protest, the Finance Minister openly proclaims that it is solely the responsibility of that state and the money is to be obtained by the state itself. The Centre will not pay for it. The Central Government tries to shrug off all the responsibilities when it comes to the problems that are being faced by the farmers. The Central Government thinks that it is not their responsibility to see to the well-being of the farmers and to bring them back from the path of suicide. No proper steps had been taken to address the exemption of the debts of the farmers, rather the BJP Government is immensely worried about the corporate business magnates. When they are unable to pay up after taking loans running into crores, the BJP Government is helping them to flee to foreign lands or exempting their loans. It is surprising to know how this government is unable to exempt the burden of debt off the shoulders of the suicidal farmers, but is easily able to exempt the debts of the corporate capitalists. Till September 2017 under the BJP Government, around 2 lakh 42 thousand crores of rupees have been rubbed off the accounts in the nationalised banks. This information has been given in the Parliament by the Finance Ministry of the BJP Government. The banks are convinced that the huge debt will never be repaid. No justification has been given by the Ministry in the Parliament regarding the individual details of the debt, and whose debts have been cleared from the accounts. By way of justification, it

has been said it was classified information. There is no doubt that the lion's share of the debts belong to the corporate businessmen. Since the BJP Government is so lenient towards them, the banks were never proactive enough to get them cleared.

The BJP Government is based on a premise of falsehood. The Prime Minister had promised that by the year 2022 the farmers will be earning double their income. But during his tenure, the conditions of the farmers have worsened manifold. BJP Government had three flagship schemes in the agricultural sector and their conditions are in dire straits.

The rise in the dire conditions of the farmers under the BJP Government has risen to such an acute height that is evident from their protest. From the information given by the NCRB, since 2014, around 640 farmers had protested in an organised manner. In the year 2016, it had increased to 4800 according to the list. While in 2018, it has increased exceedingly. We have seen how farmers have been murdered by bullets in Madhya Pradesh by the BJP run State Government. The BJP-aided State Government of Maharashtra have deceived the farmers there. In reality, BJP has only spoken about the progress of the impoverished but is actually busy filling the pockets of the rich corporate businessmen while turning a deaf ear to the pleas of the poorer sections of the society.

Under Narendra Modi's regime, the country has witnessed perilous times. The BJP has turned the country's self-governing, independent organisations into obedient slaves and has used them for its own selfish political motives. In a democratic system, the role of the opposition is crucial. The base of democracy lies in the parliamentary right of the opposition to give a differential opinion. On the other hand, the autonomous organisations like the CBI are pillars that uphold democracy. But both these instruments have been jeopardised during the tenure of the BJP Government. By jeopardising the democracy of the country, BJP is trying to establish an autocratic one. Then, the masses need to obey whatever the Prime Minister says. Suffocating the opposition when they give differing views has become commonplace. As a result, during the era of this government, the voice of the opposition is being challenged and the base of expressing differing opinions in a democracy has become endangered.

Throughout the country, if one notices the alertness of the central organisations then everyone will think that the government is waging a war against corruption. But if one delves deeper then they can understand that these organisations are used as weapons of political threat towards the opposition by the BJP, the reason being that their concern is more about those states which are governed by the opposition. We are surprised at the silence that is being maintained by these same organisations when it came to investigating the charges against the leaders who belong to BJP.

We have seen, how in the name of the Citizenship Act, a lot of legitimate residents of Assam have been removed from the citizenship list. According to the news, 23 lakh Hindu Bengalis, Bengali Muslims, Assamese localites, Nepalis, Biharis, Uttar Pradeshis, Tamilians, etc. have been removed from the electoral roll. It was I, who stood against this decision taken by the Central Government. I had sent a team of eight representatives, chosen from amongst my party members, to Assam, to analyse the prevailing circumstances. However, in an unprecedented situation, the team was detained at the airport by BJP members. Even our female representatives, who were a part of the eight-member team, were harassed at the airport. The North-Eastern states remain enraged by the Citizenship Act issue. Under the BJP Government, an extreme form of anarchy has descended upon this country.

The overbearing governing body was raging to monitor all the activities of the citizens of the country. Actually, through such monitoring, the ruling party wants to spread a kind of fear in the minds of all Indians, so that they are afraid to rise in opposition. They must think twice before they revolt, because 'Big Brother' is always watching them! In April 2018, the Centre had planned to establish the Information & Broadcast Ministry's Social Media Communication Hub to keep a tab on all Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp activities. They want to create a technology that can monitor all digital interactions. Using software, they want to acquire information about the topics of discussion on Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp. Also, this technology will allow the Centre to access information from e-mail IDs. They will be able to keep a track of any Facebook or WhatsApp account, as per their wish. They will also be able to know the opposition's views about

the ruling party as well as the extent to which these opinions have been able to influence the general public, through this surveillance.

Strangely, the Prime Minister wanted to establish this undesirable surveillance against the constitutional rights of the citizens. One of the most fundamental rights under the Constitution is that of enjoying our own personal space. However, the administrator wanted to establish this surveillance system, ignoring this fundamental human right. We were the ones who vehemently opposed this depraved action. It is our party, that had filed a case against the Centre in the Supreme court. As a result of the case filed by us with the Supreme court, the Centre was ultimately forced to give up their plan.

The fact that the Centre wanted to curb the fundamental human right enjoyed by the citizen's of the country, was exposed on December 2018, when the central Home Ministry introduced another rule. According to this rule, as per the Information Technology Act 2000, Section 69(1), ten central bodies are authorised to monitor any computer in the country. After the introduction of this new rule, not just e-mails, but even the information stored in someone's computer or phone, including images, can all be accessed by these ten organisations. Along with this, the rule allows the ten organisations to confiscate any personal computer or phone, based on suspicion. The owner of the computer or phone can also be interrogated. If the person refuses to cooperate, he or she can be arrested and imprisoned for up to seven years.

The question is, can the government monitor its citizens in this manner in a democratic nation? The topmost court of the country has acknowledged the Right to Life and Personal Liberty in Article 21 of the Constitution of India. However, if the reigning party exercises this rule, it will not be without curbing the constitutional rights that every citizen is entitled to. The Government already has the capacity to better national security, rather than citing the implementation of this law as a reason. They also have more than one machinery to support this cause. However, once this law is implemented, the Government and the ruling party will be able to interfere in any person's private space. Will the BJP Government not at all

protect the freedom and privacy of any human being? From the Centre's such desperate measures, it appears as if there was a super emergency in the country!

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had once claimed, when he would come into power, peace would prevail in Kashmir. Terrorists would not find the courage to enter and sabotage the country. However, we have seen, how after the BJP Government took over the country, the disturbances in Kashmir increased. Terrorist attacks have one after the other killed our soldiers. Only a few days ago, one of the most terrifying terrorist attacks in the history of Kashmir, took place in Pulwama. More than 40 brave soldiers were mercilessly killed. What is shocking is that, though information about this attack had already been received much before it actually took place, it wasn't possible to stop the terrorists and save our soldiers. I really wonder if this whole thing has been a political game-plan, to divert people's attention from BJP's failures, just before the elections.

In the past five years, the history that the BJP Government has created with India, is a history of her people being cheated. In this time period, we have witnessed the extreme misery that has descended upon the lives of all Indians. India has become a haven for nepotism and corruption. The positions of authority in the Central Government have been given to individuals who are the closest aides of the BJP. Various constitutional positions are being assigned to the BJP loyalists. During BJP governance we have seen how the State had intervened in the workings of the academic institutions. When any intellectual protests against the Government, there is always a tendency to transfer him from his position. Various corporate magnates are given various opportunities and advantages by the BJP. Loans running into crores are being given to them and if the debt is not paid then they can quietly leave the country, which is permitted by the Government who helps them to do that.

BJP projected extremism in the garb of patriotism. Under this extremism, whoever has a different opinion is branded as a traitor. We have witnessed all this in the present times. BJP has created such a belief that theirs is the only opinion that is beneficial for the country, and if one does not agree with

them then they are hunted down as traitors. In *Hirak Rajar Deshe* we have seen that the subjects do not even have the right to question the authority. In BJP's regime we have seen the shadow of Hirak Raja's kingdom spreading over India. The very same BJP who is now certifying nationalist ideologies across India and promoting the same, has its roots in an organisation who played a loathsome role in India's freedom struggle. The ones who were against the freedom struggle are the same people who have become advocates of patriotism, as they are the ones who are deciding the course of nationalism. What can be more surprising than this! The people who had spewed venom against Mother India's inherent characteristics and heritage are the same ones who are raising victorious slogans in Her name. They are deciding what the definition of nationalism is. They are trampling on humanity and creating a deluded illusion of nationalism all over the country where they can brand anyone as a traitor and attack them.

In Modi regime we saw the endangerment that is faced by human rights. Narendra Modi has talked about a clean India and it is clear to everyone across the world that India today is actually a gala field for frenzied murderers. His slogan 'Sab ka Sath, Sab ka Vikas' has today been realised in a very different way. Drenched in the blood of Muslims and Dalits, in this country today 'Sab ka Vikas' has become 'Shab (dead body) ka Vikas'. So, the need of the hour is for rational citizens to join forces for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and do away with this politics of division and hatred, and thus, build a new India.

In the past five years, All India Trinamool Congress has given shape to the protest movement against BJP Government's anti-public policies. Despite being attacked and sued relentlessly, we were the ones who most vehemently opposed such an arbitrary and fascist rule, with the public on our side. In the face of resistance from the centre, Maa-Mati-Manush's Trinamool Congress has brought about remarkable development in West Bengal. The state has emerged as the guiding light of progress and development, for the entire country. While there has been a 2-crore drop in employment and a drastic rise in the unemployment rate of the country, we have painted a much different picture in the State. Here, the unemployment rate has reduced by 40%. In fact, we have also been adjudged no. 1 in the

country, in terms of development in several other fields. We must create opportunities for the students and youths of the country by generating employment for them. We must fill the reserved seats meant for SC/ST/OBC/Tribals/Minorities. Also, we will give special importance to women employment. Going against BJP's violent and riotous politics, we have set an exceptional precedent in terms of communal harmony in West Bengal. I and my team have always stood by the public and always will. Thus, we earnestly request the people of India to help our candidates emerge victorious in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, and stand by us, as we undo the damage wrought by maladministration and lay the foundation of a better tomorrow for India. In areas where we are not partaking in the elections, kindly cast your vote in favour of BJP's strongest opponents and cast out the evil force that BJP is. Let's build a grand alliance of rational beings, all across India.

The upcoming Lok Sabha elections hold a special significance in the history of the nation. For in this election, we'll be determining our very future; we'll be deciding the kind of India we would be gifting the next generation. We have two choices. We can either choose a secular, rational, liberal, tolerant India, or we can choose a narrow-minded, regressive, communal India. If we wish to keep our traditions and values intact, if we wish to keep our polytheistic and liberal ideologies alive in the light of our history, we must together resist this fundamentalist and communal evil force, at once! If we consider ourselves true patriots, the onus of protecting the honour and values of the nation, is on us. Today, if we submit ourselves to such divisive, communal powers, it would be a grave defeat for all those noblemen who have painstakingly shaped the country's ideologies and values for so long. Thus, our sole duty at the time is to resist that defeat and re-establish India as the liberal, democratic, polytheistic, tolerant and secular country that it truly is.

The All India Trinamool Congress has always been eager to pioneer the mission of defeating all evil powers and building a new India. And in the forthcoming days, our pride, our West Bengal, can show the entire nation the way towards progress. Our success proves our calibre to run

the government. We don't feel the need to beat our own drums through lectures. Our work speaks for us.

Young students will show the way to the new generation. We must give them priority, make them a part of development and lead them towards the goal of employment. In this regard, West Bengal has shown the way to the entire nation.

We must give priority to women empowerment, for the betterment of the nation, the public and Bengal. One of our most important goals is to help the Dalit community progress and give them a respectable position in the society.

Along with their daily right to property, the right to pattas, the right to peaceful living, the right to employment, the right to language and the right to forests, the tribal languages 'Alchiki' and 'Kurukh' have been given the deserved recognition, for our tribal brothers and sisters. In the forthcoming times too, protecting the interests of our tribal friends will be our duty.

Ensuring the security, secularity and development of all our brothers and sisters belonging to the minority or the OBC, is our duty. We have already proven this through our initiatives in West Bengal.

In West Bengal, the general classes and the economically backward people do not lag behind in terms of education, culture and employment, or in being a part of any other welfare work. All can enjoy the various privileges of the Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship, and that of the schemes such as 'Kanyasree', 'Yuvasree', 'Sabuj Sathi', 'Sabujasree', 'Rupasree' and 'Samabyathi', in the society.

Our primary goal is to provide food, clothing, shelter and employment to all. Thus, we are proud that we could make available food grains at Rs. 2 per kg and free treatment in government hospitals, for the people. Nearly 8.5 crore people have been enrolled under the 'Khadya Sathi' scheme. Apart from this, 7.5 crore people have been covered under the 'Swasthya Sathi' scheme. This scheme allows people to get free treatment not only in government hospitals, but also in the private ones. Also, as a part of this

scheme, the women of the house have been provided with Smart Cards.

The 'Kanyasree Prakalpa' – an initiative to empower women – has not only won the world, but has helped several women to progress in life.

From agriculture to industry, from a Bengal of excellence to a Bengal of culture – Bengal leads everywhere, with pride. From the planes to the hills, our aim is to bring an all encompassing development. We shall find the best suited way to bring permanent solutions in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Mirik, Kurseong and the plains.

Not only in Bengal, but if the Trinamool Congress can spread its branches in other States, it can ensure similar privileges for the people of those States too.

The death knell rings for the Modi Government. With your support, blessings, good wishes and kindness, if the new government comes into power, it will build a new united India, a developed India, a democratic India, where there is no place for any dictatorship.

Students and youths, farmers and farm labourers, women, minority communities, scheduled castes, tribals, other backward classes (OBC), and Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis and people from all other religions, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Vindhyachal to Dwarka, Nalanda to Varanasi, Jaipur to Bengal, Assam to the North-East, Jharkhand to Odisha, North to South, East to West, Central to North-East India, oceans to mountain ranges, Jangalmahal to the beloved North Bengal and South Bengal, everywhere by judging the work done by the Maa-Mati-Manush Government and out of the faith, blessings, 'duah' and love that you have for us, help the candidates of All India Trinamool Congress win by casting your rightful and valuable votes. It is our earnest plea to help All India Trinamool Congress candidates win in Assam, Odisha, Andaman and Bihar too. In places where you don't find All India Trinamool Congress Candidate, kindly cast your vote for anti-BJP regional party candidates. At the same time, by countering the slander, conspiracies, propagandas, misuses of financial power, animosities, etc. wreaked by the BJP and other

political parties, help us get an opportunity to serve you. Following the Common Minimum Programme, we are committed to build a 'United India'. For, Bengal will be the one to show the entire nation the way towards unmitigated development and prosperity.

On a mission to achieve unity, religious harmony and comprehensive development.

Your blessed

Sincerely,



President, All India Trinamool Congress

**An account of
Modi Government's failures
and misrule in the
past five years**

Utter failures of the modi regime cannot be hidden under vacuos media blitz and orchestrated lies:

1. **Modi Regime Brought Acute Farm Distress to the Farmers of India:**

i. Farmers of our nation have been cruelly neglected under the Modi Government, leading to acute farm distress. Shockingly, **36,420 farmers committed suicide between 2014 and 2016. Since then the Government has suppressed the suicide statistics by refusing to bring it to the public domain.**

ii. It is shameful that the Agricultural GDP growth in the country has fallen sharply during the first 4 years of the Modi Government to a low of 2.5% compared to 5.2% of the previous 4 years. Even recently, the growth in take home income of the farmers has sharply declined from 9.12% to 2.04% between October – December, 2017 and October-December, 2018.

While Modi speaks of doubling farmers' income by 2022-23, farmers income in West Bengal has increased by 3 times from Rs. 91,020 in 2010-11 to Rs. 2,91,000 in 2017-18.

iii. **The export of agricultural produce has fallen from a peak of \$42.5 billion in 2013-14 to a negative growth in agricultural export during the Modi Government's tenure.**

Simultaneously, **agricultural imports into our country have continuously risen at the cost of our farmers.**

The net export surplus has fallen from \$25 billion in 2013-14 to less than \$10 billion in 2017-18.

This has also added to a surplus of agricultural produce at home and consequent price fall and sharp reduction in profitability ratio across most crops in the country since 2013-14.

These pathetic data of the agricultural sector during the Modi tenure has been bleeding the farmers. This horrible reality has brought farmers to the streets across the country. The blood of farmers has tainted the hands of Modi.

2. **Modi Regime's Rampant Corruption: 'Khaya aur khane diya'.**

i. **Rafale Scam:**

Modi Government spoke of '*Na khaunga, na khane dunga*' when it came to office. The truth is '*Khaya aur khane diya*'. Corruption has spread its wings from the highest level in the Central Government. **The Prime Minister himself has been accused of violating all established norms in the Defence Department to directly benefit Mr. Anil Ambani in the Rafale case, to the tune of Rs. 30,000 crores.**

This is the mother of all scams in the history of modern India.

ii. **MSME 59 Minutes Loan Scam:**

Another scam that is little discussed but shameful in nature is the MSME 59 minutes loan. CapitaWorld, an **Ahmedabad based Fintech Company** was selected to manage the vital online loan processing platform by violating tender stipulations to give undue favour to this Company. With such irregular selection, CapitaWorld will not only make substantial income by charging fees to the applicants and banks, but will also have access to massive personal data, which is at the risk of being misused.

This huge scam promoting the CapitaWorld needs to be investigated and how much money the scam involves must be revealed.

Truly speaking all the states governed by BJP are corrupt. There is neither any law nor administration.

3. **Modi Regime Damages the Banking Sector of India Deeply: Mounting NPAs and Outright Theft.**

- i. The huge banking sector of India is facing acute problems created by the Modi regime and is a victim of utter neglect and confusion.

The Banking Sector has emerged as an area of massive scams rarely seen in the banking history.

- ii. It is shocking that the Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of the Banks in our country has climbed from over Rs. 2 lakh crores (Rs. 2,09,840 crores) in 2014 to a staggering Rs. 10 lakh crores (Rs. 10,36,187 crores) in 2017-18 – NPA has grown more than 5 times during the Modi regime.

There is no doubt from this glaring figure that the Modi regime has crippled the banking sector of India.

- iii. Even more shameful is the fact that large industrialists have defrauded banks and have run away to other countries beyond the reach of India. It has also come to light that CBI facilitated the escape of an industrialist by lowering the Lookout Circular (LoC) from 'detain' to 'information' only. As a result, the industrialist could smoothly escape to a foreign country. Who in Modi regime asked the CBI to lower the guard to facilitate the escape of this industrialist? The responsibility must be assigned and punishment meted out.
- iv. It is already reported that by May 2018, 23,000 bank frauds worth Rs. 1 lakh crores has taken place over the last 5 years as per the RBI.

4. **Modi Regime's Demonetisation: The Draconian and Ruthless Act Against the Common People of India.**

- i. **On 8th November, 2016, Narendra Modi let loose the most destructive and despotic policy of demonetisation, destroying the livelihoods of millions of farmers, crores of entrepreneurs in the informal sector, crippling small businesses and ruining small traders, across the length and breadth of the country.** With 99.3% of the banned notes returning to the banking system, there is a deep feeling in the minds of the people that **demonetisation is a mega scam in our nation's history where a few lakh crores of black money have been converted into white post demonetisation.**

The Government of India itself admits that there are over 3 lakh bank accounts which has mismatch. It appears that 80,000 cases were being pursued by the Modi Government, yet not a single person has been sentenced for black money.

- ii. Demonetisation extinguished lakhs of crores from the economy due to the fall in growth in GDP and now the nation faces a breach of the fiscal deficit target, shortfall in GST collections, fall in employment growth, farmer suicides, export growth decline, terrible state for small enterprises and a massive value destruction of the huge informal sector of India which provides livelihood to crores of common people. Due to this, the lives of several lakh people have been threatened.

5. **Modi Regime's Bravado of Launching Unprecedented GST on the Heels of Demonetisation: the Double Blow to the Common People of India.**

- i. **Following in the footsteps of the draconian hit of demonetisation came the premature launching of the GST** in a completely unprepared manner. The chest thumping launch of the GST from the Central Hall of the Parliament was obviously done to reap political benefits.

The result of this misadventure has destroyed many Small and Medium Enterprises of India.

Furthermore, **the inadequate GST Network (GSTN) is creating huge amount of black money and Hawala transactions.** Input Tax Credits are being taken against fake invoices generating black money.

- ii. **West Bengal had warned against this possibility well in advance and asked the Government of India not to launch the GST from July 2017 but to no avail. Now the Government of India has woken up by conducting a few raids here and there as tokenism.** At the end of the day, once again, it is the **common people and the small entrepreneurs are the sufferers of the incompetent and thoughtless Modi regime.**

6. **Modi Regime's Misrule has Resulted in a Cruel Rise in Unemployment, Hurting the Poorest of Our nation.**

- i. The unemployment rate under the Modi regime has significantly increased putting into destitution large number of families. A sharp rise in unemployment has been documented following demonetisation and half-baked GST.

From 4.50% of rate of unemployment rate in 2017, it has sharply climbed to 5.96% in 2018.

It is shocking that in 2018 alone 1.1 crore (11 million) jobs were lost even more pathetic that these job losses were mostly in the unorganised rural sector according to the prestigious Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

There is little doubt that such a major increase in unemployment is a significant blow to the lives of the common youth in this country and demonstrates the ill health of the Indian economy.

- ii. **In contrast to this, unemployment has declined significantly in West Bengal over the last few years and this too, according to the Central Government's Labour Bureau. The percentage reduction of unemployment in Bengal over four Financial Years from 2012-13 to 2015-16 was almost 40% according to the Central Government data.**

Behind this positive outcome of West Bengal lies the conscious and strategic focus on labour intensive sectors of our State, while we have kept our eye on increasing aggregate GDP growth.

West Bengal has demonstrated that you can produce growth with employment, as against Government of India's anti-people policies of growth that produced unemployment and not employment! This too, is an utter failure of Modi Regime.

7. **Modi Regime Fails Maa Ganga Despite All Rhetoric:**
- i. One of Modi's emotional expressions relate to the Ganga which he describes as his 'mother'. In reality one of his terrible failures is his incapacity to clean up Ganga under the Namami Ganga Scheme. **With all the blusters of Namami Ganga, what the nation is facing is utter failure on this very important mission under the Modi watch.**
 - ii. The reality of the Modi regime's failure in the area of environment is that **India now ranks 177th in the Environmental Performance Index out of 180 countries – what a shame!**
8. **Modi Regime's Utter Failure in 'Make in India': Pathetic Decline in Growth of Investments in the country.**
- i. The slogan of 'Make in India' was to be actualised with growing investment and capital formation in India. The data of the Central Government belies this expectation and paints a pathetic picture.
 - ii. Growth in investment in a nation is measured by the growth rate of Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in the country. **This investment figure has seen a sharp decline hit by demonetisation and GST and other confused policies of the Modi Government. In 2016-17, the investment growth rate was 10.14% and fell sharply to 7.63% in 2017-18.** This data shows that 'Make in India' is another vacuous slogan of the Modi regime.
 - iii. With regard to Foreign Direct Investment into India, the data is even more disappointing during the Modi regime.
On one hand, Mr. Modi has clocked the largest number of foreign visits by travelling to 92 nations in 55 months (including repeat visits). This has cost the taxpayers crores of money. We have heard loud talk about Foreign Direct Investment outcomes from Modi visits.
The data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) belies these boasts on Foreign Direct Investment growth.

From a positive growth of 27.28% of direct FDI into India in 2015-16, the FDI growth rate fell to an appalling negative 5.99% in 2016-17 and further fell to negative 6.60% in 2017-18, under the Modi regime.

This data from RBI has let the cat out of the bag. The Modi regime has been an utter failure in attracting Foreign Direct Investment. Faced with this data from RBI, the 'Make in India' slogan sounds totally hollow.

9. **Modi Regime's Disastrous Failure on Citizenship and Residence Policies**

- i. The **mishandling of the policies on citizenship issues by the Modi Government** such as Citizenship (Amendment Bill), National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam and Permanent Resident Certificates (PRCs) in Arunachal Pradesh, **has triggered unrest in the North-Eastern States and is likely to drastically affect the rest of India in the near future.**
- ii. The Modi Government appears utterly confused on its stance on citizenship issues and this confusion is adding fuel to the fire already burning in the North-Eastern States, thus driving the people to uncertainty.
- iii. This is another example of utter confusion and failure of the Modi regime.

10. Prime Minister Modi had delivered speeches in various public meetings and made **baseless claims** about the success of schemes/ programmes, which are far from reality in the following cases:

- i. On Rural Sanitation & Swachh Bharat Mission- Grameen
- ii. On LPG Connection under Ujjwala Yojana
- iii. On coverage under Rural Electrification
- iv. On Broadband connectivity
- v. On number of Bank Accounts opened

Today, Delhi needs a People's Government

All India Trinamool Congress'
Mandate to the People of India

This Manifesto of the All India Trinamool Congress is being presented to the people of India in the backdrop of these dangerous developments described in Part I and Part II above. **We need to stand up to save the nation from divisiveness, hatred and authoritarianism and rekindle the unity of India and celebrate its rainbow of colours.**

1. We strongly believe in the **democratic polity that is inclusive of all people, cultures, religions and creeds of India.**
2. We therefore believe in a **secular India.**
3. We strongly believe in **federalism enshrined in our Constitution.** Empowering the States is critical for the growth and development of India. At the same time, we believe in a positive and synergic role of the Central Government as enshrined in our Constitution.
4. When we speak of inclusion we are conscious of the fact that **Minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs** consists of a large proportion of our nation, many of whom continue to remain marginalised in our society, economy and polity.
5. We strongly believe that our National Policy must empower these disadvantaged groups and bring them into the mainstream. **We must bring back their pride, sense of self worth and self confidence which has been severely damaged by the Modi regime over the last five years.**

- We have walked the talk in West Bengal on what we have been able to do for the Minorities of our State.

Bengal is No.1 in the country in providing scholarships to the Minority students. Over 2 crore 3 lakhs Minority scholarships have been awarded with a financial disbursement of Rs. 5,257 crores.

Bengal is also No.1 in disbursement of loans to the entrepreneurs of the minority community. We have disbursed more than **Rs. 1,300 crores** among more than **8 lakh minority entrepreneurs**, for them **to stand up on their own feet with dignity.**

We hope to draw from these experiences at the national level and across States in the future.

In our Reservation Policy for OBC community, 94% of the Muslim population of Bengal have been automatically covered. This too, will help in building a brighter future.

In Higher Education, we have introduced reservation for the OBC category to the tune of 17%, without reducing the seats of General Category students, through necessary expansion.

We will draw lessons from the great success story of West Bengal.

- **Hindi has been given the status of Second Official Language. We have protected interests of linguistic minorities by conferring 'Official Language' status on Urdu, Odia, Santali, Gurumukhi (Punjabi), Rajbongshi, Kamtapuri, Kurmali and Kuruk languages in addition to Bengali, Hindi and Nepali. Similar inclusive approach on linguistic minorities will be adopted wherever required in the country.**
- Our aim is to empower the Backward Classes like the Dalits, the Tribals and the OBCs even more.

Under '**Sikhashree**' Scheme we have **awarded scholarships to 70 lakh SC & ST students** since 2014-15.

1 crore bicycles are getting distributed under our flagship programme 'Sabooj Sathi'.

Our experience will enlighten us to formulate policy at the all India level so that the SC, ST and OBC population can immensely benefit across the country.

Mindful of the underprivileged tribal population of the nation, we will provide a special status for this segment of society in India, equivalent to the BPL category.

- We have eliminated the backlog of **Caste Certificates of SC, ST and OBCs** in West Bengal by **issuing 64.83 lakh certificates in the last 7 years. We shall do the same at the all India level, wherever required.**
6. **Women in general and the girl child in particular will have a pride of place, in our policy-making process, at the national level.**
- We are proud to state that the project to uplift and empower girls up to 18 years of age, entitled **Kanyashree, has received the highest award in the world from the United nations, competing with 552 social sector projects from 62 countries.** Today more than **60 lakhs** girls up to the age of 18 have registered for Kanyashree **online**, receiving scholarships at school and college levels and receiving Rs. 25,000 at the age of 18 if they are in the educational stream and still unmarried. Since there is no income ceiling for Kanyashree, 60 lakh girls up to the age of 18 have come under this scheme.
 - Since its launch on 1st October, 2013, the **Kanyashree project has been funded to the tune of Rs. 6,580 crores** by the West Bengal Government. In sharp contrast, the Central Government's *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*, **which was introduced two years after the success of Kanyashree**, on 22nd January, 2015, has been funded by a meagre Rs. 562 crores for the entire country till date.
- Our mandate is to draw lessons from the global prize winning Kanyashree project and apply them for all of India.**
7. To thoroughly understand the financial condition of India, we will consult the best economists and other specialists, to come up with an **Economic Policy that will not only be limited to the growth of GDP from 7% to 10%, but will also specifically focus on generating employment.**

We have been able to demonstrate this in the case of West Bengal. Not only is our GDP growth significantly higher than that of the all India figure, but **we have also succeeded in reducing the unemployment rate by almost 40%** [Data from Labour Bureau, Government of India]. **Between 2011-12 and 2018-19, West Bengal has generated as much as 1 crore jobs (99.22 lakhs).**

This success is partly explained by our clear focus on the labour intensive sectors. For example, **from 49 MSME clusters in 2010-11 we have now established 522 MSME clusters in West Bengal,** creating huge additional employment with growth.

We will work with all States to identify their individual core competencies and encourage them to focus on labour intensive sectors, many of which are also export oriented.

In near future, by creating innovative short term and long term employment creation, industry creation and agriculture creation, we shall take India to world stage. **In our model of growth with employment, we will focus on agriculture and allied industries as well as pertinent areas of manufacturing with high employment elasticities.** We will also focus on established as well as emerging services at the cutting edge. In this context, **as we encourage futuristic technologies** such as block chain and numerous dimensions of AI (Artificial Intelligence), **we will constantly keep in view that they must benefit the basic needs of our people such as health, education and other areas of quality of life of the common people.** We must also remember that the purpose of adopting **technology is to serve mankind and not create Frankensteins.**

Such an overall development **strategy of growth with employment,** supported by enrichment of human capital with **employable skills,** will alone give us the demographic dividend from the **youthful population** of our nation and shield us against the dangers of a demographic deficit.

Within this model of development we will create a comprehensive and time bound plan for the speedy employment of the youth of our country.

8. **We will build up our NATIONAL STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES targeting at least 45 days in order to partly use the reserves as a buffer stock for stabilisation of petroleum prices for the common consumer.**

Today we have only 5-6 days of oil reserves and the Modi Government never paid any attention to this in the last 4¹/₂ years. It **kept increasing petrol and diesel prices for consumers, even when global crude prices had fallen significantly.** This not only demonstrates the ruthlessness of the Modi regime against the common people of our country but also exposes the short sighted and immature policy approach of the Modi regime for the vital sector of hydrocarbons.

9. To make the interface between the Government and the people easy and transparent **we will take the e-Governance process to compete with the best in the world.**

We can draw lessons from West Bengal which has received the highest awards in many fields of e-Governance and digitalisation, even from the Government of India, in the last few years.

10. **We will set up a transparent and time bound monitoring structure of all Central Government projects focussed on measurable outcomes.** We will encourage the States to do the same on their own volition, while paying full respect to the institutions of a federal polity.

11. **All timelines for deliverables of Central Government projects will be significantly tightened to serve the people faster and better.**

12. **We will encourage the setting up of Lokpal and Lokayukta in all States to promote the anti-corruption drive and bring transparency in governance.**

13. **We will work with the States to strengthen and deepen the Panchayati Raj system to encourage decentralised governance and protect this grassroots institution, within our federalist structure.**

14. **We want electoral reforms.** This will be designed to prevent corruption and criminality in our democratic polity. In fact, **we will find the appropriate model for government funding of elections which is already functioning in 62 countries in the world** including developing countries like Thailand, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, and developed countries like UK, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
15. Students and youths, farmers and farm labourers, women, minority communities, scheduled castes, tribals, other backward classes (OBC), and Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis and people from all other religions, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Vindhya to Dwarka, Nalanda to Varanasi, Jaipur to Bengal, Assam to the North-East, Jharkhand to Odisha, North to South, East to West, Central to North-East India, oceans to mountain ranges, Jangalmahal to the beloved North Bengal and South Bengal - we shall take the whole of Ma-Mati-Manush towards development and prosperity, and create a new India.
16. **We will fully protect the independence of the Judiciary.**
17. **We will initiate systemic judicial reforms to reduce and then eliminate the backlog of the mountain of accumulated cases,** stretching today from the lowest to the highest Courts in the country. In order to do this **we will set up Fast Track Courts with sufficient funding and Judicial personnel for delivering speedy justice.**

The time has come to **set up exclusive Women's Courts** where women form half of India's population. It would be our objective **to deliver justice speedily and facilitate strong punishment for atrocities on women and for atrocities on SC, ST and Minorities, as well as people at large.**

This vision will require appointment of significant number of judicial personnel and judges from the lowest to the highest court of the land. We commit ourselves to this major task.

18. **We will bring 'Health for All' and raise the health expenditure as a proportion of GDP steadily with a target of reaching 4.5% in place of the current 1% (1.38%).**
- It is our resolve to **provide health services to each and every village in the country.**
 - It is our resolve to **give centrality to the health of mother and child in our 'Health for All' programme.**
 - We will **set up** requisite number of Sick Neonatal Care Units (SNCU) and Sick Newborn Stabilization Units (SNSU) **all over the country** (as we have successfully done in West Bengal).
 - **All Government hospitals will provide free medicines and free treatment and free diagnostics** (as we have successfully done in West Bengal).
 - It is our desire to **cover every Indian** with a health insurance having a **family income up to Rs. 5,00,000 per annum.**
 - It is our resolve that every **senior citizen** having family income up to Rs. 6,00,000 per annum will be provided with free medical care.
 - It is our resolve to enlarge the scope of **preventative care** across the country which in turn will reduce health expenditure.
 - We will further encourage research and development on **traditional medical practices.**
 - It is our resolve to build **Multi/Superspeciality Hospitals at the Sub-Divisional levels** in a time-bound manner. In West Bengal, we have built 42 such new Multi/Superspeciality Hospitals bringing great relief to the common people.
 - We will significantly enhance the seats for **training of doctors, nurses, paramedics, diagnostic technicians, trained dais, etc.**

- We will examine the possibility of **training and accreditation of the current rural health professionals** for providing very basic health services and preventative care.
19. **We will target 100% rural connectivity in a time bound manner. We will create connectivity of all State and District Highways with the National Highways Network.**
20. It is a travesty and a shame that safe drinking water is still not available to countless villages after 71 years of independence. **It is our firm resolve to cover 100% of the population of the nation with safe drinking water in a time bound manner. We will put into use cutting edge technologies and best practices** in our endeavour to provide safe drinking water for all, with a special focus on rural India.
- We will identify special geographical areas which suffer from issues of fluoride, arsenic and salinity of water and address these problems in an aggressive manner.** (We have done this for West Bengal particularly in the arsenic prone areas with a great degree of success).
21. **It is our resolve to take the expenditure on education from the current 3% (3.24%) to 6% of GDP. We expect that 70% of this expenditure will go towards School Education to benefit the common people and 30% will go towards Higher Education to enrich the human capital on research and innovation.**
- We will also focus on the **quality of education** aside from the quantity of students in the educational stream.
 - We will set up an **Expert's Committee for drawing up a job oriented educational system in the country, without compromising on the widening of the horizon of learning,** which has now come to be called - Liberal Arts. A report from such an Expert Committee will guide the Central Government and enrich the policy perspectives of the State Governments so that the current system of education can be revamped and

recast for jobs as well as wider knowledge (which benefits society as a whole).

- In the past 7.5 years, **28 new universities** and **50 new colleges** have been established. **11 new universities** are being set up.
- In the past 7.5 years, **8 new medical colleges have been established and 10 new medical colleges are being set up** in the state.
- Drawing on global best practices we resolve to put in place a nationwide programme of **Long Term Educational Loans for the students of our country.**

22. **For the economically backward population within the General Category of people of our country, we will create a new scheme which will address their needs of housing, education, health, skill development and employment. We will also support the entrepreneurial development of the youth belonging to the General Category of our population.**

23. **Agricultural and allied sector, fisheries and animal husbandry is our top priority.**

- We will ensure that the farmers of our country get an appropriate **procurement price** for rice, jute, wheat and other major crops.
- With an aim to increase productivity of farmers exponentially, we will create a major **Farmers Productivity Initiative.**

Our special focus will be on production, distribution and research of **high quality seeds** for farmers. In order to bring sustained livelihood of farmers across the year, we will focus on **crop diversification and multi-cropping** which will also bring higher incomes to farmers.

- It is time to have fresh look at the credit policy for the farmers beyond the instrument of Kisan Credit Card. **We will develop a holistic and forward looking policy for credit flow to farmers.**

- **Small and marginal farmers who are presently unable to repay their debts would be in our thoughts for some suitable relief to mitigate their hardship**
 - We will bring suitable models of industrialisation of the agriculture and allied services sector using **appropriate technologies, to create employment in the rural sector. Village centricity will lie at the heart of our development model.** The movement of **skill development** and educational opportunities will be taken to the **children of our farmers** with a holistic vision.
 - We are committed to enhance the **livelihood of landless labourers**. For this we will give a special focus.
 - We will formulate an integrated policy on the **development of coastal and inland fish cultivation** to bring about a significant and sustainable growth of the fishermen of our country. **Welfare of the small and marginal fishermen** will be our topmost priority.
 - We will review and restructure the **National Livestock Policy** keeping in view the **interests of the farmers and small livestock growers** of the country.
 - An important area within the allied services in the rural sector is **poultry farming and production of eggs**. This is an activity where **rural women** are also engaged in large numbers in many States. We will give a special thrust to entrepreneurship in this sector and also complement this with encouragement of poultry feed industry with all food safety measures.
 - It is said that White (Milk) Revolution has taken place in parts of the country. To further uplift the rural sector **we will give emphasis on value added products** (such as cheese, butter, ghee, sweetmeats, confectionaries, etc.) emerging from the White Revolution.
24. One major sector in India, in the agrarian economy, still remains unaddressed sufficiently. This is the sector of **Food Processing**, still

awaiting to climb the value chain. It is estimated that at least 40% of fruits and vegetables produced in India, is wasted. This is so due to the lack of **cold chain infrastructure** as well as processing facilities in the country.

We will focus on this sector from **end to end creating appropriate infrastructure, including temperature controlled solar warehouses** (as done successfully in West Bengal) and **with a specific focus on cold chain such as refrigerated container transportation.**

We will also **focus on conversion of raw materials** (fruits and vegetables) **into processed outputs**, meeting all the food safety norms at global benchmarks.

This thrust on food processing in the entire value chain **will also produce huge employment from farm to table.**

25. It is time for us to **revamp the nation's policies on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.** It is sad that they were the worst hit by demonetisation and then the half-baked GST.

- We will **formulate and implement a National Policy for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, with an eye to improve technologies and capacity to scale up.** This is the sector which will form the cornerstone of employment generation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.
- We may draw some lessons from West Bengal's success story, where our tenure in Government has witnessed a growth in MSME clusters from 49 to 520. We have felt the inadequacy of bank lending in this sector, though our MSMEs have received Rs. 44,000 crores in 2017-18 – No. 1 in the country. To meet greater appetite for further bank loans among MSMEs, **West Bengal has now integrated the Cooperative banking system of the State with MSME lending.**

26. It is known that the largest employment is provided by the unorganised and informal sector of the nation. The informal sector employs 92% of India's 527 million work force according to InterNational Labour Organisation (ILO) study. Yet, we have not focussed on this sector where millions of tiny and micro entrepreneurs are engaged.

We will deeply focus on these entrepreneurs to **empower them in all manner including bank finance, technological upgradation, marketing, skill development and managerial capacity.** We will examine the possibility of creating clusters of informal sector entrepreneurs which will give them **legitimacy** and bring **standardisation** and **regulation** on a consensus basis. For this we will form a **Special Task Force** which will guide our policy matrix.

27. It is unfortunate that the Industrial sector produces only 26% of GDP after 71 years of independence. Even more unfortunate is that the **manufacturing sector consists of only 16% of GDP.**

We need to have a new National Industrial Policy which will also be synergic to direct and indirect employment generation in the areas of manufacturing, mining, power and range of other industries. This Policy should also **integrate industrial research in the vast domain of engineering and management education in India** for us to rapidly upgrade technologies in this fast changing world. This Policy must also **integrate industrial exports as an imperative.**

28. The world of Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (IT&ES) is changing at a heavy pace. The days of back office BPO will be over soon with slowing down of global labour arbitrage. Therefore, **we will work towards making India a leader in the world in the new areas of Artificial Intelligence, Block Chain, Machine Learning and Big Data and Data Analytics.**

We also need to look at integrating these areas with industrial modernisation, health, education, agricultural growth and other social infrastructures. Therefore, a **holistic IT Policy** inclusive

of advanced training has become an imperative. The areas of **electronic hardware manufacture**, which unfortunately has thrust a huge import burden on our nation today, will also be another area of focus for us.

29. We need to create **labour friendly laws**, where there is **greater cooperation between labour and management without in any way diluting the rights of workers**. A **High Powered Committee** will look into in this major area to create a broad consensus in a constructive manner
30. To generate and stimulate local and traditional cultures, little traditions and great traditions, of each and every State of our country, **we propose to create a National Cultural Development Council** which will work in coordinatiNtion with the respective States.

The **rural artists and folk performers will be provided with a stipend and medical insurance** as we have successfully done in West Bengal.

Special push will be given for the development of regional cultural activities like **regional films, theatres, music, jatras, etc.**

31. We resolve to give special **focus on the Backward Districts of the country** for suitably empowering and mainstreaming them.
32. We propose to extend our **helping hand to all the hill people of our country. We shall bring a special scheme for the people living in hills. We are proud of our hills in Bengal, such as Kalimpong, Mirik, Darjeeling, Kurseong. Our Government is always proactive to bring socio-economic change in the lives of the people living in hills. A Special Scheme will be introduced for all Hill People of our nation**, in addition to those residing in the 'Seven Sisters' and the other 3 Hill States of North India. This will of course include our very own Darjeeling and Kalimpong as well.
33. It is quite tragic that even with special financial dispensation, the growth and development of the North-Eastern States of our

country has not been satisfactory. **We resolve to strongly focus on real, sustainable, people centric and environment friendly development of the North-Eastern States** which is the gateway to the ASEAN nations as well. With over 66% of forest cover, huge hydel power potential, major agro-processing opportunities, traditional textiles capabilities, massive tourism potential, etc., we propose to make Jharkhand, Odisha, Andaman, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura as well as Sikkim, the gateway to the Look East Policy.

34. **Special focus will be given on the growth and development of all the tribal areas of our country.**
35. **It is our resolve to give Industry Status to the Tourism Sector and launch a National Tourism Initiative.** This will boost the tourism sector which employs people from all economic strata of the society and is one of the most employment intensive sectors. Our objective is not only to strengthen the current tourist destinations but also explore and develop new tourist destinations across the length and breadth of our beautiful country. We will significantly strengthen the tourism infrastructure of our nation with special emphasis on Rural Tourism.
36. We are aware that with industrialisation and urbanisation comes the threat of environmental deterioration. Our nation is a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. **With these in view, we are deeply committed to a Green and Clean Environment which is eco friendly.** Therefore, we will formulate eco friendly and people friendly environmental laws.
37. There has been an exponential increase in the motor vehicles in the country. Therefore, **Motor Vehicles Law needs to be re-examined and appropriately recalibrated.**

38. The need for rapid growth of urbanisation in the country:
- Along with the rapid urbanisation in our country, general housing and low cost housing need to be focussed on. To ensure that every poor person has a shelter over his head, the 'Nijo Griho Nijo Bhumi' scheme has been introduced. We want to create a similar scheme for all the citizens of the country. **As a result, all issues of housing will be addressed holistically.**
 - With the **rapid growth of existing cities and towns** and with the **creation of new cities and new towns**, the pressure on urban infrastructure will need to be addressed. We will look at this challenge in holistic manner and **formulate appropriate action.**
 - A comprehensive sustainable model of urban development and a plan for decentralisation of urban facilities will be produced. This will have a particular focus on the urban poor.
39. Major Highway Corridors across the nation is an imperative. We will look at the '**Four Sisters**' - **Highway Corridor from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Kohima to Dwarka.** We will implement the 'Four Sisters' project in a time bound manner.
40. Reforms in the Railways is very critical at this juncture. For this we have a unique document, produced as early as 2009 and tabled in the Parliament – entitled 'VISION 2020'. This **VISION 2020 can be updated and enriched** keeping with the times and technological development **and implemented earnestly.**
41. **Water Transport Corridors** for rivers need to be developed holistically covering 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. Aside from cargo transportation such a corridor will stimulate tourist cruises and heritage tourism. For this we can draw lessons from global best practices.

42. We have already had some experience with the Public-Private Partnership Policies. Some have not yielded the desired result and a few may have succeeded. **We will study the outcomes of the PPP Policies of the past and then look at an appropriate PPP Policy, if it is found desirable.**
43. The current Indian Penal Code (IPC) and CrPC laws were created in the colonial era with not many changes in modernisation. **We need to revamp and recast the IPC and CrPC laws** such that they will lower criminal activity and particularly atrocities against women.
44. We need to take a **fresh look at the land acquisition policy. One can not use force to acquire agricultural or any other land.** It is important to create **Land Banks by Government.** All departments of the states and the centre should have land in this land bank. These lands may be used for **industrialisation and for creating logistics hubs.** But the **entire process must be transparent and there will be suitable rules to support it.**
45. We need to enact **new Forest Law** where **Rights of Tribal People and Forest Dwellers** need to be protected and restored.
46. Our imperative is to provide **'electricity for all'**. All villages of India must have electricity in a time bound manner keeping in view quality of power as well.
47. We will **steadily shift towards clean energy** with a focus on natural gas coal bed methane, gas fired thermal power, greater reliance on hydel power, shale gas and non conventional sources of energy including renewable energy. For all of this, we need a **new Energy Policy** which will be defined by clean energy sources.
48. Infrastructure in general is the key to modern economic development. This is partly driven by capital expenditure in our budgets (West Bengal has increased its capital expenditure by 8.5 times in 7 years allocated towards a variety of asset creating infrastructure projects). **Highest priority will be given to the development of modern infrastructure in our country using cutting edge technologies.**

49. We are aware that despite having adequate rain in many parts of our country, rain water simply flows into the ocean. **We will formulate a National Plan on Rain Water Harvesting** for domestic use and irrigation.
50. We will devise appropriate mechanisms for **unearthing black money**, wherever it is parked – nationally and internationally.
51. We shall look in to the matter so that all Central Government agencies and institutions can function independently and respectfully.
52. To restore peace in Kashmir, we will take the nation's consent, trust and faith by our side. And we shall proceed towards a brighter future in this respect.
53. As we move towards greater production of foods and processing of foods, **we must have laws against adulteration of foods, fuels, medicines**, etc. to protect the interests of the common people.
54. **Through the GST Council, we will focus on expeditiously correcting the repeated mistakes of the GST system** so that small and medium enterprises are not in the dire condition in which they are today.
55. We will target at **'no unbanked villages in the country'**. The Post Offices, which have a huge reach at the grassroots level in the country, will be restructured to become an instrument of financial inclusion.
56. With the shrinking of growth rate of exports and increase in growth rate of imports, it is imperative that **we create a fresh Foreign Trade Policy**, with a special focus on MSMEs and labour intensive sectors.

We will also focus on strong and clear positions in the interest of our country as well as the developing economies at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

57. **For all-round planning and development of all the states and the country, we shall reinstate the Planning Commission, wrongly dismantled by the Modi Government. This will enable the process of dialogue between the states and the centre on developmental issues, and the country will progress in the right direction.**
58. **We will examine proposals of State Governments on bifurcation of States, if any.**
59. **Our Foreign Policy doctrine would be guided by peaceful coexistence with nations, keeping in focus the self interest of our people.** We must also enhance people to people engagement across the world in areas of social economic, cultural and technological matrices. We will resolve territorial and other disputes through talks and negotiations. Our overarching approach will be to look at the world as one single family.
60. **Upper most in our Defence Policy will be sustainable national security. We must focus on indigenous production of defence equipment with a time bound master plan.** For this, we must implement a **transparent, corruption-free process and policy.** Taking full care of the welfare of the defence personnel and their families is a clear imperative for us. Furthermore, a comprehensive recruitment plan to augment our defence personnel will be put in place.
61. To secure the future of all our Jawaans and their families, we shall introduce a comprehensive plan.

Examples of Good Governance in West Bengal

Development brought by the
Maa-Mati-Manush Government
in the past 7.5 years - A glimpse

- Out of the State's 10 crore people, **nearly 90% of the population has enjoyed various Government schemes**
- **From birth till death**, the present Government has touch every aspect of people's lives
- When a child is born, he or she is gifted a valuable sapling under the **Sabujshree** initiative - after that, one can enjoy the privileges under the **Kanyashree, Shikshashree, Sabuj Shathi, Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship, Khadyasathi, Yuvasree, Rupasree, Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasangsthan Prakashpa, Samajik Suraksha Yojna** and several other schemes. At the end, there is also the **Samabyathi**
- **State ranks no. 1 in the country in:**
 - ◆ **Growth rate of GSDP**
 - ◆ **100 Days' Work, and construction of rural house and roads**
 - ◆ **Skill development**
 - ◆ **Work transparency and e-tendering**
 - ◆ **Credit lending in the MSME sector**
 - ◆ **Ease of doing business**
 - ◆ **Providing scholarships and loans to the minority**
 - ◆ **Increase in farmers' income (3 times increase)**
- **Bengal leads in:**
 - ◆ **Bengal's growth rate of GVA is 65% higher than India's**
 - ◆ **Growth rate of the industrial sector is 194% higher than India's**
 - ◆ **Growth rate of the services sector is 26% higher than India's**
 - ◆ **Growth rate of the agriculture and respective sectors is 247% higher India's**
 - ◆ **State's own tax collection has increased 2.5 times in the past 7.5 years**
 - ◆ **Unemployment rate in the state has decreased by 40%**
 - ◆ **In the past 7.5 years, State Capital Expenditure increased by 7 times, expenditure in the social sector increased by**

4 times, expenditure in agriculture and respective sectors increased by almost 7 times and that in infrastructure increased by 4 times

- ◆ **Bengal is the highest producer of rice, vegetables, honey & fish seeds in the country**
- **Agriculture and respective sectors:**
 - ◆ **Increase in farmers' income by 3 times**
 - ◆ State was awarded Government of India's '**Krishi Karman' Award for five consecutive years** for the record production of crops
 - ◆ The '**Krishak Bandhu' Scheme**, introduced on 30th January, 2019, gives farmers of the State an **annual assistance of Rs. 5000 per acre** in two installments
 - ◆ Those who have **less than an acre's land** also get **financial assistance of a minimum of Rs. 1000**, depending on the land area
 - ◆ A **financial assistance of Rs. 2 lakhs** is given to the **family members of deceased farmers aged between 18 to 60 years**
 - ◆ Nearly **Rs. 5,000 crores will be spent** by the State Government for this purpose
 - ◆ The Scheme will also **benefit nearly 72 lakh farmers** of the State
 - ◆ The State Government will also spend **Rs. 700 crores to pay the complete premium of Crop Insurances** and the farmer does not have to pay any money
 - ◆ To ensure that farmers get the right price for paddy directly, the '**Nijo Dhaan Din, Nijo Cheque Nin**' Scheme has been introduced
 - ◆ **The interest and mutation fee on farmer's land has been waived**
 - ◆ **Minimum financial assistance for paddy in the kharif season was increased** to Rs. 1750 per quintal in 2018-19, from Rs. 1550 per quintal in 2017-18

- ◆ A **special fund** has been created **to stop the poor pricing of the produce and determine the right value of cultivated crops**
- ◆ The State Government has provided a **financial assistance of Rs. 2,815 crores from its own funds to nearly 66 lakh farmers whose crops were destroyed** due to natural calamities, to restart farming
- ◆ The **farmers' old age pension has been increased from Rs. 750 per month to Rs. 1000 per month** and the **number of beneficiaries of this scheme has been increased from 66 thousand to 1 lakh**
- ◆ **963 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs)** have been established to allow **small and marginal farmers access modern and large farm machinery**
- ◆ **More than 50 lakh Soil Health Cards** have been distributed
- ◆ Production of pulses has increased by 2.51 times, oil seeds by 1.6 times, maize by 3.8 times and total food grain by 1.24 times, increasing the farmers' income opportunity manifolds
- ◆ More than **69 lakh Kisan Credit Cards** have been distributed in the State. Prior to 2011, this number was only 27 lakhs
- ◆ **186 Kisan Mandis** have been established in the State
- ◆ **'Mati Utsav'** is held regularly
- ◆ A **monument has been created to commemorate the Singur Protest Movement**. As a tribute to this movement, every year, the **'Singur Diwas' is celebrated on 14th September**
- ◆ To **pay a tribute to the martyrs of the Nandigram Protest Movement, 'Krishka Diwas' is celebrated every year on 14th March**, since 2012. On this day, farmers are awarded the **'Krishakratna Samman'**
- ◆ More than **3.05 lakh pattas have been given out in 2011-17**, as compared to the 1.6 lakh pattas given out in 2005-11
- ◆ For farmers to access different land related information such as **land agreements, mutations, conversions, etc.** while sitting

at home, an **online Electronic Delivery Service System** has been started

- ◆ **The mutation fee charged for the transfer of land between family members has been waived**
- ◆ The **State Government's Co-operative Bank provides banking services** to Panchayats where banking facilities are not available till date
- ◆ **Through the 'Moina Model', 12000 kg per ha. fish is produced annually**, by creating and cultivating spawns of fishes such as Katla, Mrigal, etc. in water bodies
- ◆ Under the '**Jal Dharo Jal Bharo**' initiative, more than **2.62 lakh ponds have been excavated for pisciculture**
- ◆ **The housing grant given to fishermen has been increased from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1 lakh**
- ◆ An amount of **Rs. 1500 has been assured as regular remuneration for nearly 15,000 Pranibandhus, Pranimitras/ Praniseebes** of the State. Also, upon working for more than the target given, there are added allowances for the enthusiasm shown along with 10% increment in every three years
- ◆ A new special scheme has been introduced in 2017, to **encourage the increased production of duck eggs and hen eggs**
- ◆ Under under this scheme, egg producers can **avail grants, subsidy on the interest of limited-period loans, subsidy and waiver on electricity bills, and subsidy on stamp duty and registration fee**, from the State Government, for the setting up a duck or hen poultry
- **Health and Family Welfare:**
 - ◆ **Universal free treatment and diagnosis policy in State-run hospitals**
 - ◆ **Under the 'Swastha Sathi' scheme, free health insurance policy of up to Rs. 5 lakhs is also provided** in private hospitals.

- ◆ **Nearly 7 crore people from 1.5 crore families have been covered** under this scheme. As a result, **75% of the State's population is covered under health insurance.**
- ◆ Self Help Groups/ICDS Workers/ASHA Workers/Civic Volunteers elected members of a Panchayat or municipality/renowned ex-sportsmen/employees of schools, colleges, universities, Sarva Shiksha Mission, State Government offices and different commission-based State Government contracts/part-time teachers, Homeopathic and Ayurvedic doctors associated with the Gram Panchayat/'Samprasarikas' and 'Samprasarikas' of child education centres and madrasah education centres/transferred staff of the Kolkata High Court/pre-registered beneficiaries of RSBY/maids, hawkers, sanitation workers, transport workers, rikshaw pullers, shop workers - all of them along with their families, and all poor families of the State can now reap the benefits of Swastha Sathi
- ◆ The **Swastha Sathi Smart Card is issued in the name of the women of the family**, for women empowerment. **Apart from the members of the family, the privileges of the scheme are available to the woman's parents too**
- ◆ The Government will **spend Rs. 925 crores annually, for the Swastha Sathi scheme**
- ◆ **42 Multi-Super-Speciality Hospitals** have been established in the State to make modern health services available at the district-level
- ◆ **More than 28,000 beds have been added** in the State-run hospitals
- ◆ **10 new medical colleges are being built**
- ◆ Today, there are **307 SNSUs and 69 SNCUs** in the State, as compared to 2011, when there were no SNSUs and only 6 SNCUs
- ◆ **42 Critical Care Units, 26 High Dependency Units, 16 Mother and Child Hubs, 115 Fair Price Medicine Shops and 130 Fair Price Diagnostic Centres have been built**

- ◆ **12 Waiting Huts** are being built in different parts of the State for pregnant women and new mothers
- ◆ **More than 11,000 Health Sub-centres and Primary Health Centres** are being built in the State out of **430 are already operational**
- ◆ **Rate of Institutional Delivery has increased to 97.5%** from 65% in 2011
- ◆ **Infant Mortality Rate has decreased to 25** from 32 in 2011
- ◆ **Maternal Mortality Rate has decreased to 101** from 113 in 2011
- ◆ **Rate of Vaccination has increased to 99%** from 80% in 2011
- **Education and Technical Education:**
 - ◆ School students are provided **free books, dresses, shoes, bags and test-papers**
 - ◆ **Mid-day meal** is provided in all schools
 - ◆ **Drinking water and separate toilets for girls** present in all schools
 - ◆ Nearly **1,000 new primary and 6,000 new upper primary schools have been established** in the last 7.5 years. Nearly **700 upper primary schools have been upgraded to secondary and more than 2,000 secondary schools have been upgraded to higher secondary schools**
 - ◆ **28 new universities and 50 new colleges have been established** in the State. Apart from this, **10 new universities are under construction**
 - ◆ **Two Hindi-medium colleges and one Hindi-medium university is being established**
 - ◆ The new **Harichand-Guruchand University is being built in Thakurnagar** and its **extension campus will be built in Krishnanagar**
 - ◆ **Kanyasree University is being built in Krishnanagar**
 - ◆ Nearly **Rs. 236 crores** are being spent in establishing a **new building of the Aliah University at Rajarhat, New Town**

- ◆ The new **Mahatma Gandhi University is being built in Mahishadal**, Purba-Medinipur
- ◆ **Diamond Harbour Women's University** has been established and in the **first women's university of Eastern India**
- ◆ Currently, the **Presidency University New Town Campus is operational**. The State Government has **donated a 10-acre land for the establishment of a new campus** and nearly **Rs. 185 crores for the creation of a new building**
- ◆ **After UGC withheld the scholarship amount paid to M.Phil and PhD students, the State Government has allocated money for the scholars from its own funds**
- ◆ **State's first Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)** has been established in Kalyani
- ◆ **State's first Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT)** has been established in Phulia
- ◆ **Makaut's (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology) Campus is operational** in Haringhata
- ◆ **188 new ITIs and 88 new Polytechnics** have been established for technical education, compared to the only 80 ITIs and 65 polytechnics in 2011
- ◆ Nearly **6 lakh youths are given skill training** under the '**Utkarsha Bangla**' initiative
- ◆ The '**Utkarsha Bangla**' initiative has been nominated as one of the top 5 schemes out of 1140 similar initiatives, for the **United nations' highest award**
- ◆ The State won the **first prize in the All-India Skill Competition in 2013, 2014 and 2016**
- **Panchayat and Rural Development:**
 - ◆ State is country's best in terms of **rural housing and rural road development**
 - ◆ **State ranks No.1 in 100 Days' Work, total man-days generated, man-days generated per family and total project expenditure**

- ◆ In the past 7.5 years, almost **Rs. 42,126 crores** have been spent for **100 days' work**, leading to the generation of more than **191 crore man-days**
- ◆ **A total of 80 lakh houses** have been built and **26,000 km of roads** have been constructed and renovated in villages and cities, in the past 7.5 years
- ◆ The annual man-days of nearly **25,000 'village resource persons'** associated with **100-Days' work**, Banglar Awas Yojana and other schemes have been increased from **30 days to 50-55 days**. As a result, they can earn up to **Rs. 16,000 per year**
- ◆ Almost **2 lakh people** around the State have been benefitted by the '**Samabyathi**' scheme
- ◆ **Crematoriums and electric 'chullis'** are being developed under the '**Baitarani**' scheme
- **Minority Development:**

The **budget allotted to the Department of Minorities Affairs has been increased by 8 times**, from Rs. 472 crores in 2010-11 to Rs. 3, 258 crores in 2018-19

 - ◆ In the past 7.5 years:
 - **Over 2 crore 3 lakhs Minority scholarships** have been awarded with a financial disbursement of **Rs. 5,257 crores, the highest in India**
 - **Loans worth more than Rs. 1,300 crores** has been sanctioned for more than **8 lakh minority youths – the highest in the country**
 - ◆ In case of higher education, **17% more seats** have been reserved for the **minority/OBC students**, without reducing the number of seats reserved for general students
 - ◆ **528 'Karmatirthas'** are being set up to provide better employment opportunities to the locals
 - ◆ **Rs. 257 crore** have been spent to construct **Aliah University's new campus**, along with separate

hostels for boys and girls, over a 20-acre land in Rajarhat, New Town

- ◆ **Rs. 100 crore** have been spent for the construction of the **12-storeyed special third Hajj tower complex, 'Madina-Tul-Hujjaj'**, spread over an area of 5 acres in Rajarhat. Here, more than 3000 Hajj-pilgrims will be able to stay
- ◆ Boundary walls have been constructed around almost 4,500 graveyards
- **Backward Classes Welfare and Tribal Development:**
 - ◆ **The combined budget allotted to the Department of Backward Classes Welfare and Tribal Development has been increased by 3 times**, from Rs. 566.50 crores in 2010-11 to Rs. 1,785 crores in 2018-19
 - ◆ A separate **Tribal Development Department** has been created that the **Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, oversees herself**
 - ◆ Under the **President-ship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Tribes Advisory Council and Scheduled Caste Advisory Council have been established**, and though regular meetings various development schemes for the progress of the Tribal and Schedule Caste people are discussed
 - ◆ **1 crore cycles are being distributed** amongst students of classes 8 to 12, under the **'Sabuj Sathi'** scheme
 - ◆ The **'Sabuj Sathi'** scheme has been **nominated for United nations' highest award**. It is **one out of the top five schemes selected from amidst 1,180 similar initiatives**
 - ◆ In the past 7.5 years, **70 lakh students** across the State have been **benefitted by the 'Shikshasree'** scheme
 - ◆ Currently, on an average, **9 lakh SC/ST/OBC certificates are given annually**, whereas in 2011, this number was a mere Rs. 2.5 lakhs

- ◆ **For the technical education and skill training of SC/ST students, a maximum loan of Rs. 10 lakhs for studying within the country and a maximum loan of Rs. 20 lakhs for studying abroad is given, with easy installment facility. This has become a model for the country**
- ◆ **36 centres** have been established across the State to **coach SC/ST students for joint entrance**
- ◆ The number of **SC beneficiaries of the Old Age Pension has been increased to nearly 1.5 lakhs**
- ◆ To ensure the social security of poor kendu-leaf collector tribal and other families, the **West Bengal Kendu Leaves Collectors' Social Security Scheme** was implemented in 2015. **More than 35,000 families**, across the State, have been **enrolled under this scheme**
- ◆ Under this programme,
 - **A maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs is given to a beneficiary after becoming 60 years old**
 - **A one-time assistance of Rs. 1.5 lakhs or of Rs. 50,000 is given upon a beneficiary's accidental death or natural death, respectively**
 - **Rs. 25,000 is given to a permanently specially-abled**
 - **Rs. 6,000 is given as maternity allowance**
 - **Rs. 25,000 is given as annual financial aid for illnesses**
 - **Rs. 3,000 is given to the family of a deceased for the final rites**
- ◆ For the development of the people of the **Namasudra and Matua communities, two boards have been created**. With this, **a total of 22 boards** have been formed
- ◆ **Jaher Than pattas are being given, with boundary walls surrounding them**
- ◆ **Rajbanshi and Kamtapuri** have been acknowledged as **official languages**

- ◆ The **Santhali language** has been given special importance and **included in the WBCS exams as an optional subject. School books are being published in the Ol Chiki script**
- ◆ Along with the establishment of the **Rajbanshi Bhasha Academy**, the **Rajbanshi Development and Cultural Board** has also been formed
- **Jangalmahal Development:**
 - ◆ **Peace prevails in Jangalmahal**
 - ◆ **Under the Jangalmahal Action Plan (JAP) programme, financially aided by the State Government**, the development work in Bankura, Jhargram, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur and Birbhum districts is proceeding
 - ◆ Under the '**Jalatirtha**' initiative, **Check Dams and Water Conservation Tanks have been created for irrigation, over 32,000 hectares** of land in the Jangalmahal area, with an **investment of Rs. 500 crores**
 - ◆ **More than 33,000 men and women of the Jangalmahal have acquired different jobs in the police department, through the Employment Bank**
 - ◆ The Department of Pashchimanchal Unnayan Affairs has implemented water conservation, irrigation, farming, education, health, road development, drinking water facility and other initiatives on a priority basis
 - ◆ At the same time, employment opportunities have been increased for the people of these regions by increasing the produce from lacquer cultivation
 - ◆ To reduce the percentage of malnourished children, this department has also undertaken the task of establishing **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres** in the districts of Bankura, Purulia and Pashchim Medinipur
- **Women & Child Development and Social Welfare:**

- ◆ For the **'Kanyasree'** scheme, the **upper limit of the annual income is no longer applicable** – as a result, **everyone is now 'Kanyasree.'** There are **over 60 lakh 'Kanyasrees'** in the State
- ◆ **Under the K-1 initiative, allowance has been increased** from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000
- ◆ Under the K-3 initiative, a **monthly allowance of Rs. 2,500 is given for studying science** in a university and a **monthly allowance of Rs. 2,000 is given for studying arts**
- ◆ **The 'Kanyasree' scheme has won the highest United nations award, leaving behind 552 different initiatives from 62 other nations**
- ◆ Apart from this, the new **'Rupasree'** and **'Manobik'** initiatives have been implemented:
 - Under the **'Rupasree'** scheme, a one-time grant of Rs. 25,000 is given for the marriage of girls aged 18+, belonging to families with annual income of less than Rs. 1.5 lakhs
 - Under the **'Manobik'** scheme for the specially-abled, 2 lakh beneficiaries will be given a monthly allowance of Rs. 1,000
- **Food Security Programme – 'Khadyasathi Scheme':**
 - ◆ Under the **'Khadyasathi'** scheme, nearly **8.5 crore people of the State can avail food grains at only Rs. 2 per kg** (or at half the market price). For this, the Government will spend nearly **Rs. 5000 crores**, annually
 - ◆ The implementation of the **Digital Ration Card**, across the State, is **100% complete**
- **Tea Garden:** The State has **introduced multiple schemes for the benefit of the residents** of the tea gardens –
 - ◆ A **'Group of Ministers'** has been formed to determine short and long limited-period policies
 - ◆ A special **'Task Force', led by District Magistrates**, has

been formed for the districts of **Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar**

- ◆ A **Rs. 1,000 crore welfare fund** has been formed for the benefit of the tea estate workers
- ◆ Under the **FAWLOI (Financial Assistance to the Workers in Locked-Out Industrial Units)** Scheme, **more than 8,000 tea garden workers are given a monthly allowance of Rs. 1,500.** Prior to 2011, this amount was limited to only Rs. 500 per month
- ◆ Some special changes have been incorporated in this scheme, by which, **after a tea garden closes down, benefits are provided within only three months, instead of after a year**
- ◆ A **Minimum Wages Advisory Committee** has been formed to determine and rectify the minimum wage of tea garden workers
- ◆ By the interference of the State Government, **until the minimum wage is rectified and determined, workers of the tea gardens on a monthly pay-roll are given an interim 18% increment**
- ◆ Family members of tea garden workers are entitled to **35 kg of food grains at only Rs. 2 per kg per month per family**
- ◆ For the Financial Year of 2018-19, the Education and Rural Employment Cess has been waived for the tea gardens
- ◆ Electricity and water is supplied free of cost to tea gardens. The connections that had broken off due to the inability to pay electricity bills are being revived
- **Industry:**
 - ◆ The **Bengal Global Business Summit 2019** was recently organised with massive success
 - ◆ **More than 35 countries, as well as a few thousand representatives from India had participated** in the summit
 - ◆ Over **85 MoUs were signed during the conference** which welcomed **investment proposals of more than Rs. 2,84,288 crores**

- ◆ As a result, **8-10 lakh people will secure employment** in the near future
- ◆ **The last 4 summits, prior to this one, saw investment proposals of almost ₹10 lakh crores, 50% of which are currently being implemented**
- ◆ The new **'Bengal Silicon Valley Hub'** has been set up in Rajarhat for employment generation in the IT sector. Owing to high demand, an **additional 100 acres of land has been allocated, following the initial allocation of 100 acres**
- ◆ **8 new industrial parks** have been formed for large scale industries
- ◆ **16 IT parks** have been established
- ◆ The **country's largest convention centre**, the **'Biswa Bangla Convention Centre'**, has been set up in New Town
- ◆ A **new deep sea port** is being constructed at **Tajpur**
- ◆ Under the aegis of the **Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor project**, a **2,600-acre integrated production-cum-industrial cluster is being set up at Raghunathpur**. Once implemented, it will generate employment opportunities for many
- ◆ A **new deep sea port called 'Bhor Sagar'** is being set up at Gangasagar
- ◆ The **Bantala leather complex is being developed as the world's largest leather complex**. In addition to the State's own industrialists, leather industrialists from other States are also visiting the complex. Moreover, **many leather traders from Kanpur and Chennai have been allotted land herein**. Many more will receive their share soon
- ◆ The remarkably successful **Hill Business Summit** was organised in the hills for the first time in 2018
- ◆ **The country's largest coal mine is being set up at the Deucha-Pachami and Dewanganj-Harinsingha regions of the Birbhum district**. This project will generate employment

for many youths in the near future and will contribute greatly to the business scope of not only Birbhum, but of the entire State

- ◆ **Bengal ranks 1st in the country in MSME credit lending**
- **Public Works and Transportation:**
 - ◆ **Apart from the budget already allotted, another Rs. 18,000 crores have been allocated for infrastructural development.** Moreover, the construction work of numerous flyovers, roads and bridges, drinking water supply, and many other projects have also been undertaken
 - ◆ The **Rs. 3,200-crore development project of the 270 km North-South Road Corridor, stretching from Medinipur's Mechogram to Murshidabad's Morgram**, has been taken up. After its completion, it will serve as **an alternative to NH-34 within North and South Bengal**
 - ◆ The **Bhutan-Bangladesh connecting Asian Highway-48** has been constructed
 - ◆ The **Nepal-Bangladesh connecting Asian Highway-2** has been built
 - ◆ **Rs. 170 crores** have been spent for constructing the **'Jangalkanya Bridge', over the Subarnarekha River**, between the Kharagpur-Keshiari route and the Nayagram-Dhumsai route, in the Keshiari and Nayagram blocks
 - ◆ The **'Lalgarh Bridge'** has been constructed **over the Kangsabati River in Amkula**
 - ◆ **An international standard convention centre called 'Soujanya' and an open-air theatre named 'Uttirna'** have opened up in Kolkata. Apart from this, the construction of **'Dhana Dhanya', a 2,400-seater auditorium**, is also in progress
 - ◆ The construction of **Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport at Andal** has been successfully completed and its flights are now operational. This is the **country's first private Greenfield Airport**
 - ◆ A **6-lane bypass** has been constructed **in Panagarh**

- ◆ Almost ₹225 crores is being spent on the construction of a **bridge over the Hatania Doania River, at NH-117 near Namkhana**
- ◆ The **Batanagar-Jinjira Bazar 'Sampriti' Flyover**, the Garden Reach Flyover and the Kamalgazi Flyover have also been constructed
- ◆ The **new Majerhat Flyover** is presently under construction
- ◆ An initiative has been taken for the construction of **an iron bridge over the Muri Ganga River**
- ◆ The **'Safe Drive Save Life'** project has been undertaken by the State Government. This has led to a significant decline in the number of road accidents and the resultant casualties
- ◆ The **'Gatidhara'** scheme has ensured the **self-employment of over 24,000 youths** of the State, by **granting them loans to purchase commercial vehicles**
- ◆ Innumerable **new buses, electric buses, water vessels and female-driven Pink Taxis** have been launched
- **Power and Non-Conventional Energy:**
 - ◆ **Load-shedding is now a thing of the past** in West Bengal
 - ◆ Almost **100% homes now have electricity**
 - ◆ From producing merely 2 megawatts of solar power in 2011, **130 megawatts** of the same are now produced in the State. Within one year, the solar power production will **further increase by approximately 100 megawatts**
 - ◆ Almost **1,500 schools** in the State **generate 10 kilowatt of solar power each**
 - ◆ At Dadanpatrabar near Digha, the **installation of solar trees** with a capacity of producing 200 watts of solar power is in progress
- **Irrigation:**
 - ◆ **A massive project of Rs. 2,768 crores** has been undertaken for the **remodelling of the irrigation and flood control system**

of the Lower Damodar Basin. After its implementation, almost **30 lakh people of the Bankura, Bardhaman, Hooghly and Howrah districts** will be benefitted

- ◆ The **Rs. 40-crore Arambag Master Plan** has been prepared to set up a **flood control system in the Arambag sub-division.** Under this project, almost **64 km of canals will be renovated.** Following its implementation, Arambag, as well as the Khanakul-1 and Khanakul-2 blocks will be benefitted.
- ◆ Close to **Rs. 650 crores** have been spent for the **renovation of the Keleghai-Kapaleswari-Bagai Canal.** As a result, nearly **4 lakh people from 14 blocks in the districts of Paschim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur and Jhargram** have been benefitted
- ◆ The **Rs. 434-crore 'Kandi Master Plan'** has been almost wrapped up. Almost **5 lakh people of the Kandi area and the district will be benefitted** post its completion
- ◆ The **'Ghatal Master Plan' of almost Rs. 2,000 crores** has been prepared for the establishment of a **flood control system in the Ghatal area** of the Paschim Medinipur district. **After its implementation, almost 17 lakh people of the area will get respite from annual flooding issues**
- ◆ Almost **Rs. 114 crores** is being spent on the **renovation of Medinipur's main canal**
- **Public Health Engineering:**
 - ◆ Many projects have been initiated to ensure the **supply of clean drinking water** to every home in the State. In the past 8 years, **projects of almost Rs. 12,000 crores** have been undertaken for this purpose
 - ◆ **60% of the population now has access to piped drinking water,** as opposed to a mere 38% in May 2011. **After the completion of the ongoing projects, almost 75% of the population will be supplied with piped pure drinking water**
 - ◆ The **State's largest drinking water project (West Bengal**

Drinking Water Sector Improvement Project), of Rs. 2,300 crores, has been taken up to ensure the supply of piped safe drinking water to **16 lakh people of Purba Medinipur, Uttar 24 Parganas, Dakshin 24 Parganas and Bankura**, who are affected by arsenic and other pollutants

- Through this scheme, each individual in these areas will be supplied with 70 litres of safe drinking water for 24 hours, every day
- The entire project will be managed using modern technology
- As a result, the drinking water supply infrastructure at the district, block and GP levels will develop significantly
- ◆ **The 'JICA' water project of nearly Rs. 1,200 crores** has been taken up. This is one of the State's largest water supply projects. As a result, **8 lakh people from 9 blocks of the Purulia district** will be benefitted
- ◆ **A mega project of Rs. 1,333 crores** has been undertaken to **facilitate water supply to the Falta-Mathurapur area**
- **Forest and Tourism:**
 - ◆ Under the '**Sabujshree**' scheme, **24 lakh newborn children** of the State have been **given the seedlings of valuable plants**
 - ◆ **Home-stay tourism** has been stressed upon to **create a source of income for locals** all across the State. Moreover, the **State Government has formulated a policy** in this regard and is **providing the home-stays with a special incentive**
 - ◆ **The tourist lodges of the Department of Tourism are being revamped**
 - ◆ From the hills to the seas – the **infrastructural development of different tourist spots and the process of making them all the more attractive**, by way of various new schemes, is in progress
 - ◆ An **eco-tourism project** named '**Bhorer Alo**' has been implemented in **Gajoldoba**
 - ◆ A **wildlife park in North Bengal, namely 'Bengal Safari', has**

been set up only 8 km away from Siliguri, on the way to Darjeeling

- ◆ The **world's first zoo within a mangrove forest, named 'Byaghra Sundari'**, and an **eco-tourism project called 'Jhar'** have been set up in Jharkhali
- ◆ **A marine drive stretching from Kanthi to Digha** is being constructed
- ◆ **10 cottages**, equipped with all amenities, have been constructed at the **'Ranga Bitan Tourist Complex' in Bolpur**
- ◆ **A tourist resort** has been set up in **Bakreshwar**
- ◆ **Tarapith Mandir, Data Baba's (Saheb) Majar in Patharchapuri**, etc. are being developed
- ◆ Nearly **Rs. 18 crores** are being spent to open up **'Baul Bitan' on the banks of Bolpur's Khoai River**
- ◆ **Kankalitala Mandir** and its surrounding areas are being developed
- ◆ The **Sabujdwip Eco-Tourism Project** is being set up in **Balagarh**
- ◆ The **renovation of the Jhargram Rajbari** is being carried out along with the **construction of a few cottages**
- ◆ **Two sea beaches of Sagar** are being developed as world-class tourist destinations by the names of **'Dheu Sagar' and 'Roop Sagar'**
- ◆ With the formation of the **Tarakeshwar, Tarapith-Rampurhat, Bakreshwar, Furfura Sharif and Patharchapuri development authorities**, the development work of the these areas is taking place in full swing
- **Labour:**
 - ◆ The new **'Samajik Suraksha Yojana'** has been launched to provide social security to those working in the State's unorganised industries and the trade sector (such as farming, construction industry, transport, biri production, etc.) and their families

- ◆ If the **labourers enrolled under this scheme pay Rs. 25 per month, the State Government will add another Rs. 30 in their account.** The State Government will also **pay a certain percentage of the annual interest** for the same
- ◆ The beneficiaries enrolled under this scheme and their family members will enjoy many facilities:
 - **The entire savings will be returned, along with interest, when the person turns 60 or if he/she expires before that**
 - **A compensation of Rs. 50,000 will be given in case of natural death and of Rs. 2 lakhs in case of accidental death**
 - **A compensation of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2 lakhs will be given in case of physical damage**
 - **A financial aid of Rs. 20,000 will be provided annually for treatment and Rs. 60,000 will be provided annually for surgery**
 - **A yearly stipend of Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 30,000 will be provided for the higher education of children**
 - **A one-time financial grant of Rs. 25,000 will be given once an unmarried daughter (maximum 2) completes her graduation**
- ◆ Over **92 lakh labours of the State's unorganised sectors have been enrolled** under this scheme. Till now, about **24 lakh beneficiaries** have received a total financial aid of about **Rs. 1,000 crores**
- ◆ Nearly **1 crore jobs have been created in Bengal,** in the past 7.5 years. **144 crore man-days have been generated** during this period. Consequently, **unemployment rate in the State has dropped by almost 40% in the last 3 years**
- ◆ To ensure the job security of the State's contractual/casual/daily wage workers, their retirement age has been fixed at 60 years

- **Information and Cultural Affairs –**
 - ◆ Almost **2 lakh folk artists** of the State have been **registered under the ‘Lokprasar Prakalpa’**
 - ◆ A **health insurance scheme, namely ‘Mabhoi’**, has been launched **for the State’s journalists**
 - ◆ A **new pension scheme** has been initiated **for the veteran journalists** of the State
- **Housing :**
 - ◆ **5 hostels, named ‘Karmanjali’**, have been constructed in Kolkata **for working women**
 - ◆ For the overnight accommodation of friends and relatives of patients, **‘night shelters’** have been set up at **Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Calcutta Medical College and Hospital**, in the district of Kolkata. In addition, the construction of another **‘night shelter’** is in progress at **RG Kar Medical College and Hospital** in Kolkata
 - ◆ **A massive housing project will be implemented in Jamuria**, for the **rehabilitation of 45,000 affected residents of the Raniganj Coal Mine area** in the landslide-prone Durgapur and Asansol sub-divisions
 - ◆ **68 ‘Pathasathis’** have been set up. The construction of two more Pathasathis in Canning 2 and Sagar, is underway
- **Youth Services and Sports:**
 - ◆ Uttar Banga Utsab, ‘Jungle Mahal Cup’, Rangamati Sports Festival, Sunderban Cup and Cooch Behar Cup Sports Competition are being organised regularly
 - ◆ Jalpaiguri’s **‘Biswa Bangla Krirangan’** is being redeveloped
 - ◆ The **Under-17 FIFA World Cup was successfully organised** at the fully renovated **‘Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan’**. Along with its quarter final, semi-final and final matches, 11 other international matches were organised here. This enabled the stadium to leave a mark in the history of sports

- ◆ The **National Centre of Excellence for football** is being developed at Rajarhat, in association with AIFF
- ◆ **Rs. 5 crores have been sanctioned for the renovation of the Barasat Stadium**
- ◆ **Jhargram Stadium** and **Jhargram Sports Academy** have undergone a complete make-over
- **Law & Order and Administrative Reforms:**
 - ◆ **Peace and stability have prevailed across the State, even in the Jungle Mahal and the hills**
 - ◆ An atmosphere of peace, order and communal harmony is being maintained by staying in close contact with the public, through **community policing**
 - ◆ **New police districts of Barasat and Basirhat** have been formed
 - ◆ **New districts of Alipurduar, Jhargram, Kalimpong and Paschim Bardhaman** have been formed
 - ◆ **New divisions of Malda and Medinipur** have been formed
 - ◆ **New sub-divisions of Mirik, Manbazar and Jhalda** have been formed
 - ◆ **New police districts of Kakdwip, Diamond Harbour and Baruipur** have been formed
 - ◆ **Police Commissionerates** have been established in **Bidhannagar, Barrackpore, Chandannagar, Howrah, Siliguri and Asansol-Durgapur**
 - ◆ **25 cyber crime cells have been formed**, all across the State, to prevent of cyber crimes
 - ◆ A new correctional facility has been set up in Baruipur



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Let's pledge to make sure
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