

ELECTION MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA FOR THE 18th LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

PREFACE

GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR THE 18th Lok Sabha are going to be very crucial and critical for our secular democratic republic, its future and to our constitutional ethos.

The BJP-led NDA government with Mr. Narendra Modi as Prime Minister is a proven failure on multiple counts. Their misrule and misgovernance has led to despair for the people. Our Constitution and the foundational principles of our Republic such as Secularism, Socialism, Federalism, Equality, Liberty, Fraternity and Justice are being debased under the influence of RSS' divisive ideology. With the RSS-BJP capturing power, right-wing reactionary forces have become aggressive in pushing their ideology and agenda which are divisive, sectarian and communal. They are trying to redefine Indian nationhood and rewrite history. The RSS, with no participation in our great struggle for freedom, is trying to wipe the inclusive legacy our freedom fighters with their supreme sacrifice left for us.

Guided by the RSS's Manuwadi ideology, attempts are on to deprive the downtrodden of their constitutional claims of reservations and protection under the SC/STs Prevention of Atrocities Act. Similarly, the Forest Rights Act is not being implemented properly depriving Tribals of their rights and livelihood. A sensitive state like Manipur continues to burn while the BJP government looks the other way. The RSS plays the politics of polarisation and alienation of minorities and their efforts intensified in the last decade. Recent announcement by the Union government of implementing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, right before elections is an attempt to polarise elections on communal grounds and points at the RSS' agenda of perpetuating socio-economic inequality and patriarchy. India's integrity is threatened by BJP's monolithic designs.

There is a systematic attack on our constitutional bodies, organs of states and independent institutions. Those who question the government, criticise its policies and ask for accountability are being branded as anti-nationals. Draconian colonial Laws such as sedition are being slapped to suppress dissenting activists, students and intellectuals. Discrimination with Dalits, Tribals and Minorities is rampant and minority discrimination is institutionalised in the form of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Use of ED, CBI, IT and other investigating agencies against opposition leaders to intimidate them is rampant. With all this, BJP is trying to create a fear-psychosis moving the country towards 'Agency-Raj', where non-conformity with the BJP results in raids, arrests and harassment.

The BJP came to power on the promise of a corruption free administration but we have seen the BJP becoming the most corrupt party in India's political landscape in the last decade. Numerous scandals at the Union and BJP-led state governments apart, BJP's true face got exposed in how they legalised corruption through electoral bonds. BJP received thousands of crores of rupees through quid pro quo measures, extortion and bribes. Modi's anti-corruption rhetoric stands thoroughly exposed after inducting several leaders from other parties whom BJP accused of corruption in the BJP. BJP has taken large sums from companies under probe. This dirty money is then used to flex money power in elections. Modi's apathy towards our countrymen is such that Pharma companies with failed drug samples gave money and continued with their business, playing a cruel joke on the helpless masses during the COVID crisis.

INCREASING INEQUALITY & PRO-CORPORATE BJP

Last 10 years have shown that the BJP only works in the interest of corporates. This has led to unprecedented inequality evident from the ever increasing gulf between the rich and the

poor. The massive drive for privatisation of our national assets through disinvestment, outright and strategic sale of the public sector is rampant. Exploitation of national resources like forest and water is promoted in the garb of 'Ease of Doing Business' ignoring the concerns of local communities and environment. Right after the BJP-led NDA government came to power, the Planning Commission was unceremoniously scrapped and replaced with the NITI Aayog. This has led to dearth of critical data, policy formation and proper direction leading to poverty, regional imbalance and a general decline in economic activity for majority of citizens.

UNEMPLOYMENT

BJP came to power promising 2 crore jobs every year but their mismanagement of economy has left the unemployment scenario grim and has destroyed the aspirations of a generation. As per CMIE data the unemployment rate in 2023 was 8.4%. India's youth population is the largest in the world but lack of decent employment has frustrated them. According to a recent report by the ILO, 83% of unemployed in India are youngsters. Our young nation needs a government that can create employment opportunities and the Modi government has failed completely on that account. Demonetisation alone had resulted in huge loss of employment and the GST regime has not only worsened the unemployment situation, by crippling the informal sector. The government is bent on promoting privatisation of education thereby making decent education a distant dream for the underprivileged.

PRICE-RISE

Prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed under current regime. LPG cylinder prices have more than doubled under BJP-rule and the subsidy people used to receive has come down to virtually nothing. The deregulation of petroleum prices has resulted in unprecedented rise in the price of petroleum products despite the drastic fall in international price of crude oil. While Modi trumpets his own horn on distributing free grains to 80 crore people, he has denied people the food grain entitlements available under the Food Security Act for years now. Earlier, BJP and Modi used to link the fall in the value of rupee to national honour but now they are silent when dollar is valued at 84 rupees!

THE RURAL SECTOR

The agricultural sector is in deep crisis. A glaring example of this is abject betrayal of the promises given by BJP to double the farmers' income. Government is not ready to ensure minimum wage and social security to agricultural workers and MGNREGA allocation have been routinely insufficient. The biggest betrayal and deceit is by the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, which has been made an instrument of loot, aiding private insurance companies. The agitating farmers compelled the Union government to withdraw three pro-corporate farm laws but the BJP has not honoured the promise of MSP. The neoliberal policies and the apathy of the centre towards farmers have further deepened the agricultural crisis and alarming increase in farmers' suicide.

WORKERS' ISSUES

Labour laws are being amended to favour corporates and employers, snatching away the hard-earned rights of the workers including eight hours work, minimum wages, social security and the right to organise and collective bargaining. Workers in all sectors are discontented and their issues have not been addressed. The Union government has done away with the almost all the protection available to workers. BJP brought four labour codes which favours employers and are against unions and workers. This has been done unilaterally without consultation with Trade Unions. Social security is fast becoming a thing of the past and the vast majority of our workforce remains outside any safety net. The

demand for the Old Pension Scheme is being raised by workers' organisation but to no avail from the Union government.

WOMEN & CHILDREN

Crimes against women have increased manifold in the preceding years and they include heinous crimes like rape and trafficking. In many occasions, BJP leaders have been involved in such heinous acts, including BJP MP's harassment of female wrestlers. Framing pro-women and pro-children policies should have been a priority but the government's allocation for these remains meagre and insufficient. India is home to the largest number of malnourished children and anaemic women. Gender budgeting and curbing the Gender Pay Gap received scant attention under the patriarchal Modi regime. Despite the presence of many legislations protecting child rights like Right to Education, the will to effectively implement them is thoroughly absent in the present regime resulting in children being employed in hazardous industries like mining and chemicals.

\$5 TRILLION ECONOMY & VIKSIT BHARAT

Multiple and often contradicting claims are regularly made by Union Ministers and senior BJP leaders about the size of India's economy. Several promised dates are available for when India will become a \$5 trillion economy. The Prime Minister leads these misleading claims from the front and has now started talking about 'Viksit Bharat' in 2047. In reality, the per capita income for the majority of our countrymen remains abysmally low and the growth in real wages has remained stagnant for the last 10 years. Foreign debt on our country has grown exponentially under Modi and future generations will have to pay for this gross mismanagement. India's deteriorating ranking in all Human Development Indices is evidence of a steady fall in standard of living under BJP. The COVID-19 crisis exposed the Neo-liberal framework and its inadequacy to meet the challenges of a country like India. Privatisation of healthcare is making the poor, poorer. In this situation, the \$5 trillion economy slogan is just a chimera, the common people of India have nothing to gain from it.

FOREIGN POLICY

India's long standing independent foreign policy and the principle of non-alignment have diluted significantly under BJP. Foreign policy, which a delicate instrument, is reduced to photo-ops, hugs and handshakes. While Government of India had to openly state that they continue to support the just Palestinian cause, Prime Minister Modi's proximity to Israeli leaders sends contradictory signals. Under Modi, India has inclined towards the US & Israel which reflects in major deals and agreements as well. One worsening trend in foreign policy under Modi is the use of foreign policy to influence domestic elections. Modi's open advocacy and campaign for Donald Trump, the use of G-20 summit to drum up support in India and recently, raising the Kachchatheevu island issue with Sri Lanka for vote-bank politics in Tamil Nadu are some of the instances which show that his attitude towards complex geo-political issues is callous. Due to these tendencies and dwindling towards the West, India has lost much of its credibility and goodwill in our neighbourhood and in the Global South.

Against this background of monumental failures of BJP government, the General Elections to elect the 18th Lok Sabha are being held. The CPI places before the people its positions on various vital issues.

Salient demands on which the CPI will mobilise public opinion and commit itself to fight inside and outside of Parliament:

- CPI is strongly committed to our Constitution and the values enshrined in it. Our Constitution is the result of our great inclusive freedom struggle and the **CPI will fight to promote the ideals of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Justice among the people.** The CPI is steadfast in fighting and defeating any attempt to subvert our Constitution.
- CPI is committed to quality public education and public health infrastructure. **CPI will raise the demand for increased funding for health and education to create an health & education infrastructure which is accessible to all.**
- CPI is committed to equality of income and opportunity. Due to the pro-corporate nature of the BJP, inequality has risen sharply with a few at the top amassing immense wealth while the poor gets poorer. **CPI will introduce measures to correct this and expand the resource base of our country with taxation measures like Wealth Tax, Inheritance Tax and increased corporate tax to keep the nature of our economy more equal, just and egalitarian.**
- CPI is committed to social justice, equality of opportunity and removal of all forms of inequality. Dismantling of the public sector not only compromises our economic sovereignty but also defeats the purpose of social justice. **CPI will fight to promote public sector with equality of opportunity along with ensuring reservations in the private sector.**
- CPI is committed to gender justice and defeating patriarchal forces. The BJP has presented a sham in providing reservations for women in Lok Sabha in state assemblies by linking it to delimitation and census. **CPI will implement Women's Reservation in letter and spirit by immediately removing the clause relating to delimitation and census to give reservations to women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.**
- CPI is committed to healthy and steady employment for all. **CPI will continue its struggle for a minimum wages of INR 700 under MGNREGA and increasing the available work days to 200 in a calendar year. CPI will also intensify its fight for an Urban Employment Guarantee Act and social security for gig-workers.**
- CPI is committed to territorial integrity and respectful employment conditions for armed force personnel. **CPI will raise the demand of scrapping the contractual and derogatory Agnipath Scheme with its demeaning service conditions betraying the youth of our country.**
- CPI is committed to honourable livelihoods, including for senior citizens. The New Pension Scheme is an insult to the lifetime of hard-work done by employees as it leaves them with very little means of living a dignified life post-retirement. **The CPI will work towards complete restoration of the Old Pension Scheme.**
- CPI is committed to secularism and separation of religion and state. The CAA, by linking religion with citizenship, is a great threat to our society and secularism. **CPI will work for the abolishment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as it is nothing but a design to into a theocratic state.**

- CPI is committed to the ideal of social justice and adequate representation of the marginalised in all organs of the state. **The CPI will continue to fight politically and legally to remove the arbitrary cap of 50% on reservations.**
- CPI is committed to scientific policy making on the basis of concrete data. **The CPI will strive for the stalled exercise of National Census. In order to formulate appropriate policies for the welfare of socially and educationally backwards sections, caste census must be undertaken.**
- CPI is committed to a free, fair and just society with rule of law. BJP's misuse of central agencies like the ED & CBI is a cause of concern for all democratically minded citizens. **The CPI aims to bring central investigative agencies under the purview of Parliament to ensure impartiality in their probe and to avoid interference and abuse by the Executive.** The powers and mandate of agencies like ED will be reviewed in accordance with democratic norms to avoid misuse.
- CPI is committed to federalism in its complete sense. The office of Governor is a colonial baggage and has become an instrument in the hands of the Union to harass the state governments. **CPI will intensify its struggle for the abolition of Governor's Office.**
- CPI is committed to people's franchise being respected. The Union Government has repeatedly violated the office of Lieutenant Governor to destabilise the elected Governments of Puducherry & NCT of Delhi on the pretext of them being Union Territories. **The CPI will continue its struggle for full statehood to Puducherry and NCT of Delhi to put an end to Union's interference disrespecting the mandate given by the people of Puducherry and Delhi.**
- CPI is committed to a deliberative parliamentary democracy. The authority of the Parliament to hold the government accountable is being diminished and the executive is strong-arming the legislature. Parliament's oversight is needed for governing a vast country like India. **CPI will strive to make parliamentary sitting for at least 120 days mandatory in a year.**
- CPI is committed to free and fair elections with level playing field to all participants. **CPI will mobilise public opinion for bringing comprehensive electoral reforms, including the state funding of elections as recommended by the Indrajit Gupta Committee. CPI will also strive to remove executive interference in the appointments of CEC and ECs to ensure the independence of the Election Commission of India.**
- CPI is committed to progress, prosperity and parity in regional development. India being a welfare state needs such measures that could cater to the masses with a scientific approach. To give effect to this vision, **the NITI Aayog will be dismantled and the Planning Commission will be reinstated to formulate scientific policies for our country.**
- CPI is committed to scientific temper and rationalism. The BJP is attempting to communalise education by bringing irrational and fundamentalist changes to curriculum and text-books. **CPI will scrap all irrational and communal changes brought by the BJP in NCERT and other text-books.**
- The biggest political scam in the forms of Electoral Bonds done by BJP is out in the open now. Similarly, details of the money amassed through the PM-CARES fund when country was struggling with COVID crisis should become transparent. **CPI will fight to make the details of PM-CARES funding public and will utilise the amount to create employment opportunities.**

- CPI is committed to even development of our country in an equitable manner. Emerging challenges and opportunities like the use of Artificial Intelligence and Start-Ups ecosystem should be utilised in a just manner to the benefit of our countrymen. **CPI will address these challenges like changes in employment structure in a scientific manner to harness the power of science in the interest of our people.**

Sector Specific Demands are that CPI will raise in the elections to the 18th Lok Sabha are as follow:

Farmers, Agricultural Labourers & the Rural Sector

- **CPI will implement the recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. MS Swaminathan.**
- Statutory assurance of remunerative prices for all farm produce through expanded and decentralised procurement.
- One-time comprehensive loan-waiver, along with a National Debt Relief Commission and timely and effective relief from disaster related distress.
- Reduce the cost of inputs for farmers either by regulating industry price or offering subsidy directly to farmers.
- Ensure timely, effective and adequate compensation for crop loss due to natural disasters; implement a comprehensive crop insurance that benefits farmers and covers all types of risks for all crops and for all farmers.
- Summon special dedicated sessions of the Parliament to discuss agrarian sector and its problems.
- Provide comprehensive social security for all farm households including pension for farmers above the age of 60.
- Enactment of a central legislation for agricultural workers. Separate budget for agriculture in states and centre.
- Public sector storage and distribution system will be promoted.
- Ban speculative trading in essential commodities.
- Address the menace of stray animals by removing all legal and vigilante-imposed restrictions on cattle trade, compensating farmers for destruction of crops by wild and stray animals and supporting animal shelters.
- Stop land acquisition or land pooling without informed consent of the farmers; no acquisition or diversion of agricultural land for commercial land development or for creation of land banks; prevent the bypassing or dilution of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 at the state level; and evolve land use and agricultural land protection policy.
- Provide land and livelihood rights to the landless, including agricultural and homestead land, water for fishing, mining of minor minerals.
- Ensure remunerative guaranteed prices for milk and its procurement for dairies and to supplement nutritional security through Mid Day Meal Scheme and Integrated Child Development Scheme etc.
- Protect the farmers from corporate plunder in the name of contract farming by reviewing the Contract Farming Act 2018.
- Ensure implementation of land ceiling laws, transfer of surplus land and other available land to landless poor and provide land rights and *pattas* to women.
- We will ensure protection for tenants and will formulate laws in states where tenancy rights are not protected.
- Considering the depletion of cultivable land at alarming speed, exclusive agricultural zones be notified and protected.

Workers' Issues & Demands

- Abolish the anti-labour four labour codes.
- Fix national minimum wages as per the recommendation of 15th Indian Labour Conference.

- Assure minimum pension of Rs. 9,000 per month and indexed pension to all citizens aged 60+, including EPS95 pensioners.
- Abolish contract labour system, strictly implement provisions of minimum wages and benefits to contract workers doing the same job as permanent workers.
- Stop outsourcing of jobs of permanent and perennial nature.
- Strict implementation of equal pay and equal work for men and women as per Equal Remuneration Act.
- “Fixed-Term Employment” will be revoked with immediate effect.
- Benefits of the ESIC scheme shall be extended to workers in the unorganised sector.
- Recognise those employed in the NHM, MDM, Para-teachers, teaching and non-teaching staff of NCLP, Gramin Chowkidars, postal workers etc. as workers and pay minimum wages, social security benefits including pension.
- A High-Level Committee to study the issues of gig-workers and the informal sector and social security, insurance and health benefits to gig and platform workers.
- Labour laws be strictly implemented in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Promotion Zones (EPZs) etc.
- Periodical wage revision in five years on Payment of Minimum Wages Act
- A dedicated central legislation to protect and give social security to domestic workers.
- Ensuring strict enforcement and implementation of the Bonded Labour System Abolition Act 1976 and time-bound rehabilitation. CPI will ensure protection and access to justice for vulnerable children, women and families in the brick kiln sector.
- The issues regarding the security and protection of street vendors and migrant labourers be resolved according to the scheme adopted by Parliament on street vendors.
- De-linking of AADHAAR from all social security benefits to prevent technicalities hindering people from accessing benefits.
- 1st May to be observed as International Workers Day with a paid holiday to all.

Women, Children & Gender Justice

- **The Women’s Reservation Act will be implemented immediately removing the delimitation clause. We will ensure 50% reservation for women at all levels of Panchayati Raj institutions.**
- To promote women empowerment, provisions will be introduced to reserve
- Adequate budgetary allocation for strengthening institutions and strict implementation and monitoring of women friendly legislations and sensitisation of society to prevent crimes against women.
- Strengthening laws to prevent honour killings, derogatory comments against women and curbing the unconstitutional activities of parallel structures like Khaap Panchayats.
- Legal and financial assistance to single women, destitute women, widows and half-widows.
- Legislation for the empowerment of Trans community and adequate economic and social support for the LGBTQ community.
- Ensure autonomy to National and State Women’s Commissions.
- Provision for equal right on inherited and marital property to women.
- Priority to women from SC/ST/OBC communities, female headed households, widows, homeless, aged, destitute, survivors of sexual violence, acid attacks etc. in government housing schemes.
- Comprehensive policy for women from farm suicide affected families to support them.
- Recognising rural women as farmers and ensure all rights to them as farmers.
- Universal Coverage for all women to get benefits of Maternity Entitlement Act and to establish National Maternity Fund to ensure this.
- Ensuring adequate & paid maternity leave for working women.
- Setting up of a National Women’s Bank on NABARD model to ensure uninterrupted flow of fund to SHGs and Women led MSMEs.
- 33% representation of women in all National Commissions.

- 8th March (International Women's Day) be observed as Gender Budget Review Day by Parliament.
- **Creche facilities will be made mandatory at workplaces engaging 20 or more workers to support breast-feeding mothers.**
- Ending all forms of malnutrition and achieving the internationally agreed nutrition targets for children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women.
- Extending the scope of the Right to Education from all children aged 3-18 to bring them into the criteria of free and compulsory education as a right.
- Ensuring that all schools remain free from violence and abuse.
- Stringent provisions to stop human-trafficking, particularly of children.
- Strict penal provisions to be added in the Child Labour (Prevention & Regulation) Act to discourage the use of children as labourers and provisions for healthy rehabilitation of children engaged in child labour.

Youth and Unemployment

- **Right to work will be introduced as a fundamental right by amending the constitution.**
- CPI will fight for the enactment of Urban Employment Guarantee Act with provisions of assured employment for minimum number of days and unemployment allowance.
- CPI will promote labour intensive industries to check unemployment.
- Filling up all vacancies across sectors and restoring all cancelled government jobs.
- Formulation of a comprehensive National Youth Policy and a permanent National Youth Commission to oversee the holistic development of the youth of the country.
- Ensuring equal access to all sections of the youth in sports and games. Development of enhanced infrastructure for sports in rural areas and educational institutes.

SCs, STs & Other Backward Castes

- **Reservations for SCs, STs & Other Backward Castes shall be extended to the private sector to ensure equality of opportunity and non-discrimination across the country in all sectors.**
- All landless Dalit and tribal families will be provided with arable land by strictly implementing land ceilings and creating land pools.
- Adivasi farmers will be protected from usurpation of land in the name of afforestation. The Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act and Forests Rights Act will be implemented strictly to benefit the tribal population.
- Ensure proper implementation of the reservation policy for SCs/STs/OBCs in all categories across sectors and include private sector and institutes of PPP model.
- Restoration of SC/ST sub-plan both at the centre and the state with a guarantee that all allocation made will be used completely for the welfare of SC, ST and OBC community.
- End manual scavenging in all its forms and rehabilitate those engaged in manual scavenging in dignified professions.
- Marginalised sections and tribal children's' education and skill development programme be linked with fund for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Demand of the left out categories of genuinely tribal communities be reviewed for inclusion in the ST category.
- Extending the benefits of reservation to Dalits from all religious denominations.
- Inclusion of tribal languages like Tulu in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Minorities

- Implementation of Justice Rajendra Sachar Committee and Rangnath Mishra Committee recommendations to protect and provide flourishing opportunities to minority communities.
- Amending the Constitution to give constitutional status to National Commission for Minorities (NCM). Immediately filling the Christian vacancy in the National Commission of Minorities.
- Bringing in a dedicated law against lynching by creating criminal culpability of public officials with command responsibility.
- Ensure that allocation made for minority upliftment is used completely.
- **The Maulana Azad Fellowship which was granted to students from minority community will be reinstated.**

Senior Citizens, Differently Abled & Other Vulnerable Sections

- Ensuring pension to all senior citizens except income tax payers.
- Building public old age homes in all districts with community kitchens at subsidised prices.
- Dedicated government health facilities will be made available to all senior citizens at primary and district health centres.
- Restoring concessions granted to senior citizens in railways.
- Effective policies and provisions for inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) to live a dignified life.
- Access to public and private buildings, transport and communication will be made compulsory by bringing suitable amendments to existing laws. Non-compliance with the provisions of unhindered accessibility will be penalised.
- Persons with disabilities should be granted a national-level pension cover to lead a dignified life.
- Promoting and enhancing the coverage of accessible sports and other recreational facilities for persons with disabilities.
- Local hospitals should provide enabling equipments like wheel chairs & hearing aids to persons with disabilities.
- Inclusion of Sign Language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution to accord it legal status and promotion of literature and curriculum in braille and sign language.

Sexual Minorities

- Legislation and awareness campaigns for the empowerment of trans community and adequate support.
- Suitable amendments to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act according to the demands being made by the community for recognition and dignity.
- Sensitisation and anti-discrimination campaigns to be undertaken in educational institutes to end the stigmas attached with the LGBTQ+ community.
- Ensuring reservations for transgendered persons in educational institutes and employment.

Food Security and Public Distribution System

- Entitlements under the Food Security Act must be made available to beneficiaries free of cost immediately, along with the grains being given under the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana.
- Universalise the benefits of the Public Distribution System including cereals and nutria-cereals, pulses, sugar and oils without linking it to AADHAAR or biometric identification.
- Pulses and oils be added in the PDS basket as implemented in Kerala.
- Strengthen consumer protection laws to prevent adulteration.

Education

- New Education Policy (NEP) will be scrapped and replaced with a pro-people model of education for the entire country. All measures taken by the BJP to centralise, commercialise and communalise education will be rolled-back.
- Free and universal education from primary to secondary level be brought under Right to Education (RTE).
- Increased government expenditure on education to at least 10% of the GDP.
- End shortage of teachers by filling vacancies through regular recruitment of teachers at all levels following proper reservation norms.
- All pending scholarships and fellowships amounts will be released immediately. Number and amount of scholarships and fellowships to increased, focusing especially on students from deprived and marginalised backgrounds.
- Ensuring a radical increase in the number of vocational and industrial training institutes.
- Restoring and protecting the autonomy of the education system and universities.
- Mandatory teaching of our Constitution and the values enshrined in it in schools.
- Scrapping all irrational and communal changes brought by the BJP in NCERT and other text-books.
- We will bring changes in syllabus to promote rationalism and scientific temper.
- We will protect the federal character of our education system and discourage centralisation of education.

Healthcare

- Ensuring allocation at least 6% of our GDP to the health sector to cater to needs of our vast country, led by high-quality public health infrastructure.
- Radical improvements in public sector health facilities to cater to the needs of patients without any costs instead of private insurance based systems.
- Private healthcare system is proving to inadequate and exploitative by charging exorbitant fee, out of reach for the common people. Private healthcare system will be reviewed to make it pro-people and affordable.
- We will stop commercialisation of medical education by abolishing capitation fees, reducing tuition fees. Medical colleges and number of seats for doctors and para-medics will be increased.

- We will form a National Commission on Pricing of Drugs to regulate and standardise the prices of medicines, diagnostic tests and other pathological examinations to keep the cost of treatment affordable for the common people.

Environment & Forests

- Conservation of forests, rivers and water bodies according to global standards by suitable amending existing laws to better protect our environment.
- All encroachments on forests, riverbeds and water bodies by mining lobbies be removed.
- Strict implementation of the consensus on climate change and global warming to protect people and livelihoods.
- We will bring suitable legislations and amendments in existing laws to prevent the instances of human-wild life conflicts through scientific approach to management of forests, non-forest land and neighbouring villages.
- Provisions will be made to for generous compensation to farmers in case of crop-loss, injury or death due to wildlife conflict.

Electoral Reforms

- Amending the Representation of People's Act to replace the first past the post system with proportional representation system.
- **Bringing in comprehensive law for election financing and to stop money and muscle power affecting elections. Implementation of state funding of elections as recommended by the Indrajit Gupta Committee.**
- Amending relevant laws to provide free air time to all political parties and equitable access to media and information and electoral rolls.
- The system of donating to political parties through opaque ways and corporate funding must be removed to insulate the elections process from the influence of corporate houses and black money.
- To address any kind of apprehensions and make the electoral process trustworthy, 100% tallying of VVPAT slips with the votes registered in the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) before declaring results.

Judicial and Police Reforms

- Ensuring adequate social representation and maintaining a diverse composition at all levels of judiciary by inclusion of women, SC/STs/OBCs and minority communities.
- Striving to improve access to justice by operationalising local level Nyayalayas. Clearing the backlog of cases and filling all vacancies in judiciary to ensure effective delivery of justice.
- **Draconian and suppressive laws like sedition & Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) will be scrapped. Laws like the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), Criminal Defamation etc. will be suitably amended or scrapped with to stop their misuse in suppressing dissent and claiming impunity.**

- The three new criminal laws must be thoroughly reviewed and rationalised. Language bias in new laws should be done away with and they should be accessible to people from all linguistic regions.

Media Reforms

- Working Journalist Act be amended to include journalists and workers from all media organisations to ensure decent wages, social security and pension etc.
- Ensuring independence of public service broadcasters.
- Create an independent body free from government influence to supervise and regulate over electronic media without curbing freedom of speech but checking the spread of the menace of fake news, inciting news etc.

Urbanisation

- Our Party is committed to develop comprehensive and equitable urban infrastructure of our cities. As India's urban population is increasing fast, a special task force will be formed to prepare special programme to improve living conditions in urban areas and special drive will be undertaken with the help state government, corporations and seek cooperation to construct affordable housing in public sector.

Reforms in Tax Structure

- Our Party is committed to correct the present tax structure so that the rich and the corporate sector pay more for income generation of the nation and to address the question of rising inequality.

Issues concerning the NRIs

- All issues regarding Non-Resident Indians welfare fund, Insurance, Rehabilitation etc. be resolved.
- An Effective system will be made for regular monitoring of the welfare and wellbeing of the Indians living abroad.

Culture

- Preserving and protecting our plural, composite culture and its values from homogenous, monolithic offensive.
- Promotion and preservation of all languages equally.
- Develop scripts and dialects of tribal-languages.
- Promotion of Manipuri language to the classical language status.

Federalism

- Inter-state and Zonal council be made effective.
- Ensure that all financial obligation towards state finances by the Centre be made within a reasonable time period.
- For proper devolution of powers and resources between the union and states Planning Commission should be revived.

- To abolish the Article 356 and the Office of Governor to ensure proper functioning of state government without interference by Union Government.
- The concerned state governments be consulted before the Union government takes any decision on subjects listed in the Concurrent list.
- **The CPI will continue its struggle for full statehood to Puducherry and NCT of Delhi to put an end to Union's interference disrespecting the mandate given by the people of Puducherry and Delhi.**
- Special Category Status for Andhra Pradesh was promised at the time of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana. Special Category Status to AP will be granted as promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant will not be privatised.

Autonomy of Institutions

- The CPI aims to bring central investigative agencies under the purview of Parliament to ensure impartiality in their probe and to avoid interference and abuse by the Executive.
- Statutory powers and status to Central Statistical Commission (CSO).
- The publication of NSSO reports be made mandatory to instil transparency and objective analysis of government's claims.
- The functional autonomy of the EC, CAG, RBI, CVC and other institutions of oversight must be ensured.

North-East Region

- Special category status be restored and greater autonomy be granted to Manipur without compromising the territorial and social integrity of the state.
- Indo-Myanmar boundary be resurveyed and properly protected.
- Indo-Naga framework agreement be made transparent and all the stakeholder states be consulted before finalisation.

Jammu & Kashmir

- The situation in Kashmir continues to be tense because of the muscular-militarist approach of the present government. Kashmir situation is not just a law and order problem. It has to be addressed politically through engagement with all stakeholders to find a political solution. Complete statehood along with special status will be accorded to Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with immediate elections to state assembly.

Science and Technology

- **Formation of a comprehensive National Science Policy and National Science Commission to promote scientific temper and values in the society.**
- Focus on renewable energy with steady and gradual implementation instead of fossil fuels or nuclear power.
- Increase public investment in Research and Development.
- Spread of science education in all languages of our country by means of large-scale translation of text books and scientific material.

- Increased autonomy for educational and scientific institutes.
- Intellectual Property Regime to be modified to protect people's interest, not the interest of large Corporations.
- Safe guards in Public-Private Partnership in technological development to ensure that public funded research is not used for private profit.

Foreign Policy

- To pursue an independent foreign policy without succumbing to the pressures of imperialist powers.
- **To play a proactive role in reforming global bodies like the United Nations, World Bank and IMF. India should be at the forefront of efforts for a more representative United Nations Security Council with participation of India and representatives from Africa and Latin America as full-members. All continents should be represented in the Security Council.**
- To play more proactive role in multilateral forums like BRICS, SCO and others.
- To promote good neighbourly relations through meaningful engagement, promote South-South cooperation with the spirit of Non-alignment.
- To continue our support and solidarity to the people of Palestine.
- To take a stand against US interventionist policies in Latin America particularly in Cuba and Venezuela.

- APPEAL -

The situation in the country calls for a change of government at Centre. The Communist Party of India was at the forefront of the freedom struggle and made supreme sacrifices struggling for the masses. CPI has been consistently fighting against communal, fascist, sectarian, divisive, pro-corporate, anti-people forces to save the Nation, the Constitution, Democracy and to secure education, health, housing and decent livelihood for all, for strengthening the Secular Democratic fabric of our society. CPI has been fighting for Federalism, inclusive economic development and social justice.

The Party appeals to the people – voters of our country to exercise their right to vote for a secular, democratic, pro-people alternative, for strengthening the Left and for strengthening of CPI in the 18th Lok Sabha. People of our country had unitedly defeated the British Raj, now it is time that we unitedly defeat the RSS-BJP Raj!

Therefore, the party appeals to the people -

Vote for CPI

Vote for Left

Vote for Secular-Democratic Parties

Defeat BJP and its NDA allies

Save Nation.

Save the Constitution.

Save Democracy and Secularism

Protect Livelihoods