

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS - 2009
AIADMK ELECTION MANIFESTO
AN AGENDA FOR A BETTER INDIA

INTRODUCTION

The elections to the 15th Lok Sabha are taking place at a time when the entire world is in a state of flux. The global economy has virtually come to a grinding halt. Simultaneously, wanton terrorism and mindless acts of counter-terrorism have claimed thousands of innocent lives. World leaders, Economists and Policy-framers are frantically searching for solutions to these challenges confronting mankind.

In this global scenario, wrong policies, spineless governance, visionless leadership and tardy programme implementation turned out to be the hallmark of the UPA Government in India. The growth bubble of the past few years has burst. Manufacturing is now recording negative growth. The services sector too has suffered collateral damage. Millions have lost their jobs. Suicides by farmers continue unabated. The stock market collapsed. Inflation, notwithstanding the recent proclamations of the Government, has not yet abated, as witnessed by the continued high prices of primary commodities and food items.

Terrorists can strike virtually at any time and anywhere, making every place in India totally unsafe. The Police Force in this country has not been keeping pace with these developments, both in terms of intelligence inputs and in terms of technology. Further, India faces hostile neighbours across all her borders. Yet, the Defence Forces are not in any state of preparedness with the UPA Government having significantly compromised on the Nation's security. Illegal immigrants continue to gnaw at the vitals of our economy, while there is a concerted effort by terrorists to hit at the national economy too.

<p>THE UPA – LONG ON WORDS, SHORT ON PERFORMANCE</p>

The curse on the Nation for the past five years, viz the UPA Government, has virtually allowed all these problems to grow in the shores of India by its irresponsible policies. Instead of foreseeing, planning and then insulating the Nation from the ill effects of globalisation as suggested by many leaders, thinkers and analysts, the UPA Government continued its dogmatic approach to reckless globalisation. The consequence of all this is that rather late in the day, India seeks to insulate, disengage and decouple from the global economy so as to escape the ill effects of globalisation. In the process the common man has suffered heavily.

The net effect is that while the Indian economy was reportedly recording robust growth according to statistics put out by the Government, farmers were committing suicide. While India boasted of healthy foreign exchange reserves, exports were falling. Employment opportunities were dwindling. Huge sums of money were apparently spent on the Social Sector by the UPA Government. Yet, India languishes at the bottom of the Human Development Index at the global level. It is indeed a reflection of the paradoxical state of affairs in the country that while India boasts of some of the world's richest people, some of the districts of the country are comparable to sub-Saharan Africa – one of the poorest and most underdeveloped regions of the world.

In short, the UPA has been long on words and short on performance.

<p>DOUBLE WHAMMY IN TAMIL NADU – THE COMPLETE DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE ELECTED AND THE ELECTORATE</p>
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The people of Tamil Nadu have had to face a double whammy after the DMK – one of the important constituents of the UPA Government at the Centre – formed a minority Government in 2006. With its reckless poll promises, the minority DMK Government has virtually ruined the fiscal position of the State, assiduously built under the previous AIADMK regime. It has marred the industrial climate of the State to such an extent, through frequent power cuts, poor infrastructure and of course

corrupt governance, that Tamil Nadu – the *numero uno*, the pride of India till 2006, is now no longer the preferred destination for both domestic and international investments. Deteriorating law and order, unrest in the legal profession, an aggressive ruling-party-backed sand-smuggling mafia, campuses that have turned into slaughter houses and politically inspired mayhem by the law-enforcing agencies have all only accentuated the already deteriorating situation.

Again, it is a strange paradox that in this depressing scenario, only one particular family – that of Mr Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of the minority DMK Government -- continues to prosper.

Some of the State's prominent industrial clusters in Tamil Nadu are facing imminent closure. Agriculture is in dire straits, especially in the Cauvery delta region, thanks to the inept handling of the Cauvery river water dispute with Karnataka by the minority DMK Government. The Sri Lankan imbroglio is continuing to take its toll of the fishing communities of the State. Law and order is virtually non-existent with even Courts not functioning for months together in the State. Yet, Mr Karunanidhi lives in his own make-believe world, spending time to broker peace amongst the innumerable warring members of his huge family who control various family businesses.

Never in the history of Independent India have we witnessed such complete disconnect between the elected representatives and the electorate, both at the Central as well as the State levels.

<p>REBUILDING: A TOUGH TASK – NEEDED : A STRONG LEADER WITH EXPERIENCE AND VISION</p>
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This supine indifference to overall governance by the UPA Government and its inability to take appropriate steps to tackle critical situations has greatly damaged the social and capital base of the country. The UPA Government by its consistent acts of dividing people on the basis of caste and community, so as to prolong its tenure, has left a fragmented society with several fault lines. The entire country is a tinderbox – ready to explode at the slightest provocation.

Yet, India continues to remain intact and out-perform many economies at the global level. And for this the credit must go to the average Indian -- farmers, teachers, salaried employees, artisans, labourers, workers, government employees, self-employed, students, senior citizens, community leaders and of course the lady of the house. **The AIADMK salutes the Common Man / Woman of India, for his / her perseverance and tenacity in fighting all odds for the past five years. The AIADMK places this manifesto for the forthcoming elections before the people, with a view to leveraging the performance of the ordinary Indian to extraordinary levels.**

The AIADMK takes this opportunity to pledge its complete support to all sections of the population who have been victims of the gross neglect and mis-governance of the UPA Government. The AIADMK assures them that the worst is over and the time for redemption is **NOW**. The AIADMK also seeks the good wishes and support of all sections of the people in the forthcoming Parliamentary Elections in order to have the required strength for the onerous task of **building a better India**.

Tough times call for tough decisions. And tough decisions can be taken only by mentally tough people. What India needs today is a stable Government headed by a strong Prime Minister, who is not only capable of identifying India's specific problems but who is also a leader with a vision who can ensure proper implementation of plans, programmes and policies. India needs a dynamic team that is capable of out-of-the-box thinking and an effective action plan.

The global imperative of the need for a strong Indian leader is equally compelling. Given the emergence of a multi-polar world, India needs to be appropriately represented at the global level. The AIADMK believes that it is India that can lead the world out of the present impasse – both politically and economically. The AIADMK foresees that India has a definite role in the emerging global order.

THE LEADER – MS J JAYALALITHAA – A PERSON WITH EXTRAORDINARY VISION AND EXPERIENCE

It is the proud privilege of the AIADMK party to be guided by Ms Jayalalithaa in the forthcoming general elections. It is widely known

that Ms Jayalalithaa – *Amma*, as she is fondly referred to by her party men – is a multifaceted personality who has dominated the State’s politics for well over two decades – for over 27 years, to be precise. Known for her administrative acumen, she has been the Chief Minister of the State of Tamil Nadu on two occasions – from 1991 to 1996 and again from 2001 to 2006, besides being a member of the Rajya Sabha for a term from 1984.

For her age, Ms Jayalalithaa is perhaps the only Indian politician who has had two successful stints as the Chief Minister of a large Indian state besides being the leader of the opposition for two terms of the State Assembly. Over the past two decades, she has guided the destiny of the State in various capacities, so much so that today she is one of the most towering personalities in the Indian political landscape.

Naturally the aspirations of the people of the State are obvious.

Ms Jayalalithaa, with her vast administrative experience, political acumen, understanding of India, extraordinary vision and of course sagacious leadership is expected to play a dominant role in guiding the destiny of the country in the immediate future. The AIADMK is fully confident of the fact that every vote cast in favour of the AIADMK-led alliance by the people of Tamil Nadu is a vote for a leader from the State to play a pro-active, dominant and decisive role in the formation of the next Government at the Centre.

It is in this connection that it will be the endeavour of the AIADMK led by Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa, to coordinate and cooperate with like-minded forces at the national level to ensure that the aspirations of the State and Nation are fully met.

THE AIADMK PARTY – ITS GLORIOUS HISTORY

Against formidable odds, Perarignar Anna had started and built the DMK Party and in course of time transformed it into an organisation akin to a closely knit affectionate political family. He never aspired for any personal wealth or political power for himself or for his family members. He treated all Tamilians as his kin and utilised every opportunity to ensure political, economic and social development of the Tamil race and

the people of Tamil Nadu. Even when he formed the DMK, following differences with his mentor Periyar, he retained enough respect for Periyar as to reserve for him the post of President of the party. He, himself, preferred to be the General Secretary of the DMK.

Karunanidhi, who succeeded him, on the other hand, anointed himself as party President, throwing to the winds the high norms set by Anna. **Perarignar Anna transformed the DMK party into a family. In direct contrast, Karunanidhi converted his family into the Party.**

The AIADMK is a party founded by Puratchi Thalaivar MGR based on the ideals laid out by his mentor, Perarignar Anna. From its foundation on the 17th October 1972, the AIADMK has a glorious history. Under the leadership of Puratchi Thalaivar MGR, the same pattern of organisational structure was followed as that propounded by Perarignar Anna. Under him, the Party had very many achievements to its credit with the massive support and affectionate attachment of the people.

The ideals of these two visionary leaders have been the guiding beacons for Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalithaa, who has emerged not only as a charismatic mass leader but also as an iron-willed person who can provide the AIADMK party, the State of Tamil Nadu and the Indian Nation with the in-depth guidance and leadership of character that are necessary at this stage.

Given this background, the AIADMK has pleasure in placing before the people **"An Agenda For A Better India"** in the form of its Election Manifesto for the Lok Sabha Elections, 2009.

The AIADMK, through this Manifesto, pledges to provide transparent, responsive, honest, secular and sensitive governance to the people of India.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

The UPA Government has completely messed up the Nation's finances. Today the fiscal situation is alarming. With fiscal deficit estimated to be in excess of 10% for 2008-09 and still higher for 2009-10, the mess created by the UPA Government would take several years to be neutralised.

The AIADMK shall work to bring out a white paper on the finances of the Central Government similar to the one brought out by the Tamil Nadu Government in 2001 under the leadership of Ms Jayalalithaa. While fiscal discipline needs to be maintained, the AIADMK is fully conscious of the fact that these are not times for fiscal orthodoxy. The AIADMK will bring back fiscal discipline in the finances of the Central Government, while the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) targets will be reworked, in the face of the global downturn.

Keeping these objectives uppermost in mind, the AIADMK proposes the following changes on the economic front:

- Ensure that more money is available in the hands of the people.
- **All salaried employees to be exempted from Income Tax.**
- **Income tax exemption limit for all others to be increased to Rs 5 Lakhs per annum.**
- **Repeal Fringe Benefit Tax and Banking Cash Transaction Tax.**
- **FDI in retail, real estate and higher education will not be allowed. Present limits on FDI in insurance sector to continue.**
- **No SEZs on cultivable farmlands.**
- **Market-rate compensation, employment preference and shares in SEZ holdings for those selling lands to SEZ.**

OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

The AIADMK shall:

- Stabilise the precipitous fall in the value of the Rupee and accept the recommendations of the Tarapore Committee on control of gyrations of the Rupee vis-à-vis major currencies of the world. The idea of Capital account convertibility to be given up.
- Address the gyrations in the domestic markets caused by the sudden surge in forex inflows and outflows through appropriate

policy interventions. FDI policy has to be in tune with the overall economic policies and cannot be rooted to neo-liberal dogmas.

- Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for foreign investment to be made on a par with that of Indian investors.
- War on wasteful expenditure of Government.
- Develop modern satellite administrative townships for our metros - facilities in these townships to be on a par with other Asian countries with a view to decongesting cities.
- Public sector banks to be sufficiently capitalised. The Raghuram Rajan report on financial sector liberalisation shall be referred to a committee, and contentious issues as well as developments in the world of finance shall be factored before implementation.
- Big integrated plan for infrastructure with thrust on modernisation of railways including the introduction of new freight corridors, improvement of water bodies, irrigation, North-South and East-West road corridors, power and of course ports.
- Modernisation of existing major and minor airports to be expedited. North-East to have a new modern airport to facilitate tourism.
- Ensure a Golden Quadrilateral as well as North-South and East-West corridors for upgrading the Indian Railways to international levels. The AIADMK shall usher in Bullet Trains linking all important metros that would travel at international speeds, backed up with international safety norms and comforts.
- Institutionalising adequate credit flows to both Agriculture and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sectors.
- Evolve consensus on the on-going Doha Round Negotiations within the WTO agenda. Ensure we roll back any autonomous policy liberalization. If necessary, negotiate from a clean slate rather than from a position of weakness.
- Not to allow foreign law firms as well as accounting firms to function in India ahead of General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations within the WTO regime. These sectors will be

liberalised only after prior consultation with the Bar Council of India and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

- Coordinate with various Governments and multilateral agencies on the issue of tackling the global financial crisis and providing appropriate leadership to the global economy.
- Elimination of power shortages in the next 5 years. Major thrust for all wind, solar and other non-conventional power projects.
- Review of coal, oil & gas as well as well as telecom policy of the Central Government. The controversial Spectrum allocations made by the UPA regime will be reviewed and the allocation will be made again to ensure that the revenue due to the Indian Government is realized in full.
- Bring about a new energy policy for the country that would include hydro carbons and coal, as well as other conventional and non-conventional sources of energy - seek to improve power generation by 1,00,000 MW in the next five years. The Transmission & Distribution (T&D) losses in India are far above the international norm while the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of some of our power plants is far below economic levels of operations. The AIADMK shall ensure a reduction of T&D losses while improving the PLF. The AIADMK shall repose confidence in our scientists in harnessing safe and sufficient Nuclear Technology for the country by exploiting the abundant natural resources available in India.
- Revive the Indo-Iran oil pipeline, if necessary routing it through the sea.
- Review the role of the Planning Commission and ensure that it is made into an advisory body on all economic issues faced by the Government.
- **Come down heavily on Banks charging usurious rates of interest from credit card holders.**
- No privatisation of pension funds and not allowing their entry into the stock market.

CORRUPTION

A major issue that is eating into the vitals of the Indian Society as well as its economy is corruption. Corruption in the Government stems from poor governance, lack of accountability and bad legislations.

- The AIADMK shall address these issues both at macro and micro levels by reviewing unwanted legislations, toning up governance and by strengthening grassroots democracy.
- **Immediate action to bring back Indian money (estimated at anywhere between Rs 7.5 lakh crores to Rs 75 lakh crores) lying unproductively in International tax havens.**
- **Review the practice of issuing Participatory Notes, which was substantially responsible for the melt-down of the Indian economy.**
- Review all treaties facilitating money laundering.
- Issue of fake currency to be tackled on a war-footing.
- No more divesting of shares of sensitive or profit-making PSUs and nationalized banks.
- Total independence for all market regulators like SEBI, RBI, PFRDA (Provident Fund Regulation & Development Authority), IRDA (Insurance Regulation & Development Authority) and TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India).
- Review specific Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties, especially the one with Mauritius, based on the observations of the Supreme Court in the Azadi Bachao Andolan case.
- Come down heavily on tax evaders, black marketeers, hoarders and speculators
- The AIADMK also shall come down heavily on those Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), especially those funded from abroad, which under the garb of doing service for our poor are carrying out anti-national activities.

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in his reports, has squarely blamed the UPA Government for tardy programme implementation. The report has stated that the UPA Government had met expenditure targets for several schemes by simply transferring sums aggregating to Rs. 51,259.85 crores for 2007-08 to the accounts of several NGOs, autonomous bodies and societies. The CAG admitted that he was unable to verify the same. The AIADMK shall investigate this matter and take it to a logical conclusion.
- The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) is now without any legal teeth and proper infrastructure to investigate sophisticated frauds. The AIADMK shall ensure that it gets both.

The AIADMK realises that the present UPA dispensation was one of the most corrupt regimes ever to occupy office in India. There are allegations of corruption against most cabinet ministers in the UPA Government, the most notable one being the scandal in allocating Spectrum for mobile telephone operations.

The Union Minister for Communications is charged with having adopted wrong procedures to hand over 2-G Spectrum licences to unknown players for a song. The loss to the Nation due to this scam is reportedly well over Rs. 1,00,000 Crores. This sort of consideration has obviously been given to the beneficiaries only on receipt of substantial amounts of money as illegal gratification. The AIADMK will institute an inquiry into this multi-crore scam and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book.

EMPLOYMENT

India, for the past decade or so, has been witnessing jobless growth. What is more alarming is the fact that, according to some estimates in the past few years, more than 55 million people have been pushed below the poverty line. Employment generation, both by the Government and in the private sector, poses a serious challenge to future Governments. By providing an impetus to both Industry and Agriculture, the AIADMK is certain that considerable job opportunities will be opened up in the private sector, which will more than adequately compensate for the loss of jobs caused by the present recession. The AIADMK is confident that

increased social sector and infrastructure spending, in the next few years, will provide a new impetus for employment generation. Secondly, by reducing taxes, the AIADMK seeks to leverage the multiplier effect as more spending would lead to more consumption, which would spur demand and thereby job opportunities.

Plans:

- **Filling up of 6 lakh existing vacancies in Defence and Central services.**
- **5 lakh casual workers in Central Services to be regularised.**
- **3 lakh Extra Departmental workers in Postal Services to be regularised.**
- **100 million jobs to be provided in the next five years.**

SOCIAL SECTOR

For three successive decades beginning from 1980, India has been witnessing a robust growth in excess of six percent. Nevertheless, India continues to languish at the bottom of the Human Development Index (HDI) at the international level. The ignominy is best captured by the fact that India is ranked 132 amongst about 180 countries, while several of our war-torn, tiny neighbours are ranked above us. Once again, this piece of statistics cruelly exposes the claim of the UPA Government about its concern for the common man (*aam aadmi*). India ranks poorly in food consumption, fresh water consumption, literacy, nutrition levels, sanitation, education and low in primary healthcare and high in infant mortality and death during child birth. These need to be tackled by a combination of increased allocations, proper governance and devolution of powers.

Towards this, the AIADMK proposes the following :

- **NREGS to be revamped and renamed as National Rural Upliftment Scheme – 75% of disbursements under NRUS to be in kind and the balance in cash. This will ensure family security**

and prevent wasteful expenditure on liquor. PRIs will be involved in implementation of NRUS.

- **Ensure at least 150 days of work for those enrolled under NRUS.**
- **Launch a Household Essentials Scheme linked to NRUS, which is designed to banish hunger from poor families. This will provide every worker, who works for five days in a month under the NRUS, a package of 25 kgs of rice or wheat, 1 kg pulses, 1 kg edible oil and 5 litres of kerosene to meet a family's basic food requirements for a whole month.**
- **A person who has registered 100 days of work under NRUS shall also be entitled to 2 dhothis and 2 sarees in a year.**
- Improve credit-deposit in rural India.
- Transfer Rs 20,000 crores to Panchayats directly in consultation with the States to maintain local infrastructure, health and education.
- Water bodies including estuaries to be deepened and repaired.
- Aim for double digit manufacturing growth and 15% services sector growth.
- **Exclusive bank on the lines of Grameen Bank for small and petty traders.**
- **Comprehensive rehabilitation package for all borrowers from banks suffering from global recession.**
- Use Defence Budget to leverage domestic employment especially with the Small and Medium Enterprises.
- **Expert committee to look into the efficacy of futures trading and implement necessary and immediate corrections.**
- **Annadhaanam Scheme, on the lines of the scheme launched in Tamil Nadu by the AIADMK Government headed by Ms. J Jayalalithaa, to banish hunger by providing food daily for all who want it through 10,000 places of worship nationwide. This number will be increased progressively.**

- **Donations towards this scheme can be deposited in nationalised banks. Such donations will be eligible for tax benefits.**
- Thrust on HDI – rather than on growth
- Physical targets along with Budgets
- Massive thrust on rural infrastructure & irrigation
- **Eliminate power shortages in the next five years – Thrust on conventional as well as non-conventional sources.**
- **20,000 Kms of State Highways to be adopted by the Central Government.**
- Modernization of cities, including decongestion and building of elevated expressways.
- Health, education and rural infrastructure spending to be hiked to 10% of GDP (Present : 6.5%).
- All Central poverty alleviation schemes to be merged into a single scheme for better administration.
- Target-based approach for improving literacy and education levels.
- **Retirement benefits for the un-organized sector.**
- A permanent Backward Castes Commission.
- A package for traditional export clusters – promotion of brand India
- Palm products to be encouraged for exports.
- Women Self Help Groups to be re-vitalised. The scheme to be extended to men as well.
- NRI investment to be encouraged.
- E-governance to be increased.

SECURITY AND TERRORISM

The biggest scourge confronting India today is terrorism. Despite repeated incidents of senseless terrorism targeting the hapless public, which have claimed several thousand innocent lives, the UPA Government singularly neglected to do anything to control it. Except for “stern

warnings” and vague assurances, the Central Government did precious little. Much time was wasted in the blame game.

Even while horrific terrorism continued unabated, the Indian Government took the unusual step of repealing POTA, overlooking the well-intended advice of political leaders from all over the country. While developed countries like the USA and UK enacted stringent anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering laws to tackle the problem of terrorism in their own countries, the Indian Government inexplicably chose to repeal even the existing law, thereby opening up the country's flanks to repeated terrorist attacks from inside the country and abroad. No wonder, since the Government rendered itself toothless to effectively tackle terrorism, and made the entire population vulnerable to terrorist attacks at any moment.

The AIADMK realises that the primary role of the Government is to protect its citizens. It recognises that every act of terrorism is an undeclared war on the Nation. Realising its constitutional obligations, societal aspirations and moral requirements, the AIADMK will work for the following:

- **A stringent anti-terrorism law with adequate safeguards to prevent misuse**
- A major problem India has been facing with regard to its neighbours is the porous Indo-Bangladesh border, which has encouraged the infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into the North-Eastern region, particularly West Bengal and Assam. The UPA Government has not been able to complete the much expected border fencing and roads. As a result, infiltration by Bangladeshis has been continuing unabated and in such volumes that the infiltrators out-number the locals in many districts of several States. This has understandably caused tremendous strain on the job market and resources in these areas, resulting in considerable tension and unrest. Even the electoral and religious dynamics in these areas have changed considerably. **The AIADMK undertakes to complete the border fencing between India and Bangladesh on a priority basis to ensure its completion within one year. Foreigners found to be overstaying in India or illegally enjoying the**

hospitality of the Indian shores will be identified after proper enumeration, and will be deported honourably.

- Commando units including Women Commando outfits to be established in every State.
- Dialogue to be initiated and a special political package to be developed to address the genuine demands of Naxalites, **provided they lay down arms.**
- Defence budget to be increased to 3.5% of GDP against the present 2.5%.
- The AIADMK will ensure that India's antiquated war machinery is modernised on a war footing.
- The emoluments of Armed Service Personnel will be increased and their living conditions improved. Their concerns relating to anomalies in the wage structure arising out of the VI Pay Commission will be addressed and sorted out.
- The long standing demand of Defence Personnel with regard to pay, retirement benefits and employment conditions will be favourably considered after appropriate consultations. Retirement benefits and family security measures will be improved to such an extent that the Armed Services will become a favoured employment destination of the talented youth of this country. All the three Defence Services will be geared up to such an extent that they will be ready to take on anyone at any time.
- A special package will be created to suitably rehabilitate the family of defence personnel who lay down their lives in the service of the Motherland.
- All existing vacancies to be filled. New ones to be created.
- **Chip-embedded National Citizen Identity Cards to be issued to every Indian citizen.** These cards will contain all relevant information about the holder and can be accessed on scanning by authorized officials of different Government bodies such as the Police, the Income Tax Department, Passport and Immigration authorities, Election Commission, Regional Transport authorities, State Revenue Departments, Banks, etc.

The embedded micro-chip/barcode will store data regarding the person's name, date of birth, address, credit details, vehicle details, criminal record, etc. For security purposes, the coding will be done in such a way that authorities of a particular department can access information that is relevant or necessary for that department only.

- The task of enumerating every individual and issuing such ID cards is huge. **It will open up new vistas for employment in the Government, in addition to reviving the IT sector that has been virtually crippled in the wake of the global recession.**
- The AIADMK will also seek to solve the vexatious Ram Temple issue through negotiations and discussions involving all the parties concerned. If such an initiative fails -- the decision of the Apex Court on the matter shall be deemed final and respected.
- **The AIADMK will address the political as well as economic concerns of the North Eastern States & Minority communities.**
- **Get to the roots of both economic terrorism and the economy of terrorism and put in place the necessary safeguards to ensure that terrorism does not get funded internally or from abroad.**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A tough line in relation to terrorism does not mean unfriendly international relations, especially with our neighbours. The AIADMK shall strive for an independent foreign policy. It shall not be a camp follower of any superpower as the UPA Government reduced this proud Nation into being.

The AIADMK will work for ironing out longstanding border disputes with neighbouring countries, without jeopardizing the Nation's security or integrity. Every effort will be taken to ensure that India's interests are not compromised or sacrificed in any way.

The AIADMK will work to ensure that pending border issues with China and Pakistan including Arunachal Pradesh and Kashmir are settled through bilateral talks. The whole of Kashmir will be treated as an integral part of India.

India will play a responsible role at the SAARC and ASEAN as well as at the global level in coordinating with various countries in resolving the global financial crisis. The AIADMK will strive for a permanent seat for India in the Security Council of the UN. At the same time, the AIADMK shall ensure that India has more than token representation at all international forums, especially in the IMF and World Bank.

The AIADMK's international agenda:

- **The AIADMK will call for immediate cessation of war in Sri Lanka and demand an immediate stop to genocide against the civilian Tamil population.**
- Tamils should be accorded equal status with the Sinhala majority, with devolution of administrative power in the Tamil-dominated provinces of Sri Lanka.
- **If these moves fail, then the AIADMK will press for a separate State of Eelam to ensure that Tamils in the Island live a life of dignity.**
- **A grant of Rs 10,000 crores will be provided for the restoration and development of the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka and for the rehabilitation of displaced Tamils after the devolution is completed.**
- The UPA Government has disturbed the time-honoured convention of evolving a national consensus on foreign policy. Despite strong opposition both in Parliament and outside to the Indo-American Nuclear Deal, the UPA Government went ahead with it. The AIADMK calls for the scrapping of the deal provided there is a national consensus on the same. In the alternative the AIADMK shall work for renegotiating the Nuclear Deal to ensure that none of India's long-term or short-term interests are compromised.

- The AIADMK shall be committed to minimal nuclear deterrence. If need be, and based on the advice of the scientific community, the AIADMK shall keep the options of further nuclear testing open.

KACHCHATHEEVU

The gifting away of Kachchatheevu to Sri Lanka by a former Congress Central Government headed by Smt. Indira Gandhi, courtesy Karunanidhi, under the Agreement of 26th June 1974, was not only flawed under Constitutional law, but also created myriad problems for Indian fishermen operating from the Rameswaram coast. As a result of the ceding of Kachchatheevu, India's territorial waters have shrunk. Our Tamil Fishermen, inadvertently crossing the international boundary, are being unnecessarily harassed by the Sri Lankan navy. Many have lost their lives in firing incidents while several hundreds have been arrested and taken away to languish in Sri Lankan jails. Several lakh rupees worth of fishing boats, nets and equipment have been lost. Both the UPA regime at the Centre and the minority DMK dispensation in Tamil Nadu, have remained insensitive and impervious to the plight of these hapless fishermen.

Secession of Katchatheevu was unconstitutional. In the Berubari case of 1960, the Supreme Court decided that an agreement involving the ceding of a part of the territory of India in favour of a foreign State can be effected only through **an amendment to the Constitution of India** which has to be ratified by Parliament. This has not been done in the case of Katchatheevu.

Further, in its agreement with Sri Lanka, the Union Government put the boundary line 1 nautical mile west of the Katchatheevu Island. As per Article 3 of the Constitution, any alteration of the boundary of the State should have been first referred to the State Legislature concerned for expressing its views.

The DMK Government in power at that time under Karunanidhi, never took efforts to prevent the Kachchatheevu Island from being ceded unconstitutionally to Sri Lanka. Whereas in the transfer of Berubari, West Bengal's then Congress Government went to the Supreme Court against the decision of the Nehru Government at the Centre.

The AIADMK General Secretary Ms. Jayalalithaa has already moved the Supreme Court to rescind the agreement with Sri Lanka relating to Kachchatheevu. The AIADMK Party will do everything necessary to retrieve Kachchatheevu from Sri Lanka and alleviate the problems of the fishing community in South India.

AGRICULTURE

The record of the UPA Government in the Agriculture Sector has been abysmal. It had the mortification of witnessing large scale suicides by farmers across the country. Farmer suicides are primarily the by-products of a losing economy. A country of 1 billion plus people has to be self sufficient in agriculture. No country in the world has such surpluses as are needed to feed us, if we slip on our farm production even partially.

Subsidies that were available for farming were arbitrarily cut citing conditions allegedly imposed by the WTO treaty. This neglect has turned agriculture into a non-remunerative, financially unviable proposition. This in turn has driven the modern generation away from this vital field. Further, those who were looking for big profits were lured into using genetically modified (GM) seeds, most of which are unsuitable for Indian conditions.

The AIADMK believes that increased food grains production, coupled with improved rural infrastructure, is the route to addressing India's employment and agricultural crisis and improving HDI while concurrently addressing the challenges of economic recession.

To ensure an agricultural renaissance in India, the AIADMK plans the following:

- **All existing farm loans, including those with non-nationalized commercial banks to be waived.**
- Interest subvention scheme (loans at lower rates of interest) for food crops – including zero interest loans for critical crops.
- 30 Million Hectares to be brought under irrigation.
- Water table in the country to be raised systematically through rain-water harvesting and proper channelling of flood waters.

- **Subsidy for seeds and fertilizers to be resumed.**
- **No more promotion of Genetically Modified seeds.**
- Promote use of bio-fertilizers.
- **Free electricity to run motors and pump sets for farmers in distressed districts under a special scheme.**
- **Farmers' Commission to be set up to fix Remunerative Procurement Prices.**
- Food grains production to be increased to 300-350 MT by 2014 (existing : 200 million tons).
- Average per capita consumption level of food grains to be raised to a minimum of 600 gms per day (existing : less than 400 gms)- this will address the issue of socio-economic index comprehensively.
- **Fodder bank in each panchayat.**
- **Food processing unit in each taluk.**
- **Cold storage for perishables in each taluk.**
- **Gangetic and Cauvery belt to be food baskets of India.**
- **Time-bound action plan for interlinking of all inter-state rivers.**
- **Intra-linking of rivers within States.**
- **Inter-state water-sharing disputes to be solved by initiating mutual dialogue and by ensuring the implementation of Supreme Court directives as in the case of Cauvery and Mullai Periyar.**
- Dredging and deepening of all water bodies, rivers, estuaries and waterways.
- **Cleaning and treatment of all water bodies to make the water drinking grade.**
- Rainwater harvesting on the Tamil Nadu model to be implemented nationally.
- Use of technology for monsoon predicting at the district level.

- **Farmers insurance and security package (*Uzhavar Paathukappu Thittam*) implemented by the AIADMK Government under J Jayalalithaa in Tamil Nadu to be introduced at the national level.**
- Create a branding for organically farmed produce for international and domestic sales.
- **NABARD to be converted into a direct financing institution for farmers with 250 district level branches.**
- Linkages between Farm Sector and Agricultural University to be ensured.

FISHERIES

India has a long coastline of nearly 7600 kilometres. Several communities in the coastal States are traditionally involved in fishing for their livelihood. Most of them have remained marginal and impoverished fishermen, depending on catamarans and simple craft to cast their nets over very small areas for their catch. There is tremendous potential for fishing beyond the present areas, which are largely untapped. The AIADMK plans to train and equip the traditional Indian fishermen to involve themselves in deep-sea fishing on a large scale. This will be backed up with proper storage and packing facilities to cater to a huge export market. This new dimension to fishing in India will open up new vistas in the lives of the fishing community as a whole.

- Traditional fishermen to be trained and equipped for deep sea fishing.
- Cleaning, preservation and packaging centres to be set up in all coastal districts to give an impetus to fish exports.
- Bank loans incurred by fishermen following the Tsunami disaster to be written off.
- NCDC loans for purchase of boats, nets and other infrastructure.
- Increase in subsidy for kerosene and diesel for outboard and inboard motors.
- Increase in allocation of kerosene for fishing boat motors.

- Insurance scheme to secure the lives of fishermen and their families on lines similar to farmers as implemented in Tamil Nadu, by the AIADMK Government under J Jayalalithaa.

SPORTS

- It has taken India ages to produce its first Olympic champions, while smaller and lesser nations have dominated the world sporting arena. The AIADMK will establish fully equipped National Sports Institutes in every State. Each of these institutes will focus on sports disciplines specific to the area. For example, an institute set up in a coastal district of Tamil Nadu will lay emphasis on swimming and will identify and pick up for intensive training talented swimmers from amongst the fishermen community, provide them with adequate nutrition, a congenial ambience and specialized all-round training, while also ensuring their regular school education. These institutes will focus on producing winners in the international sports arena in practically every sporting event by providing holistic international class training absolutely free under a **“go for gold scheme”**.

EDUCATION

The AIADMK firmly believes that any expenditure incurred in the field of education is a national investment for tomorrow. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens and leaders. The AIADMK believes in nurturing strong, honest, educated, efficient citizens for the long-term development of the Nation. It was the founder of the AIADMK, Puratchi Thalaivar M. G. Ramachandran, who, as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, introduced the Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme in the State to usher in the era of hunger-free, happy children who look forward to going to school. The AIADMK shall initiate the following steps in the field of education to ensure a better India:

- **A National Education Commission to be set up to thoroughly revamp education systems, syllabus and teaching methods to produce not mere clerks but global leaders.**

- Nutritious midday meals in all Government run schools in all States to be strengthened with additional allocations.
- **A Laptop computer for every SC/ST student taking up professional studies. Scheme to be extended progressively to cover BC, MBC and DNCs.**
- **Bicycles for all SC, ST, BC, MBC and DNC students pursuing secondary school studies.**
- **An IIT and IIM in every State.**
- **Centres of excellence in Law, Science & Technology, on the lines of Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Stanford to be established.**
- Establishment of a National Centre of Vedic Sciences.
- Establishment of a National Centre for Inventions Promotion.
- **Setting up of a World Tamils Centre in Tamil Nadu, which will provide crash courses as well as degree programs in Tamil on the lines of Alliance Francaise (French) and Max Muller Bhavan (German), where Tamils from all over the world can stay in modern, well-equipped hostels and learn the classical Tamil language so that its richness is spread the world over.**
- **This Centre will also take up issues relating to displaced, suppressed or oppressed Tamil people in countries like Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, South Africa, etc.**
- This Centre will also conduct cultural exchange programmes with countries with a large Tamil diaspora, thereby enriching their knowledge and exposure to Tamil Nadu's diverse culture and heritage.
- Depending on the success of the World Tamils Centre, similar Centres will be set up for Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab and other States, which have a large non-resident diaspora.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE POLICY

Perarignar Anna and Puratchi Thalaivar MGR did not, and Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalithaa does not have any personal animosity to the Hindi language as such and the development and democratic rights of the Hindi speaking people in the country. They have only been apprehensive of the frantic efforts in the past of some overzealous leaders from Hindi speaking regions to impose Hindi as the only official language of India. India is a multi-lingual country with a long history of several developed rich languages and cultures and ethnic groups.

Realising the danger that would be caused to the unity of India if there was any imposition of Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gave a solemn assurance in the Lok Sabha on August 7, 1959, while intervening in a debate on the language issue:

"There must be no imposition. For an indefinite period -- I do not know how long -- I should have English as an associate additional language which can be used not because of facilities and all that, but because I do not wish the people of non-Hindi areas to feel that certain doors of advancement are closed to them. So I would have it (English) as an alternative language as long as people require it and the decision for that I would leave not to the Hindi-knowing people, but to the non-Hindi knowing people."

The AIADMK will urge the Government to be formed at the Centre to bring in the necessary amendment **to declare all the languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution including Tamil, as official languages of the country along with English as the alternative language, as long as the non-Hindi speaking people require it, as per Nehru's Assurance.**

HEALTH

"Health for all" is something that the AIADMK wishes to achieve. For this purpose, it is proposed to venture into areas of medical science that are considered futuristic.

- AIIMS-style medical colleges and hospitals in every State to produce quality doctors and para medics to provide affordable & quality health care for the masses.
- Institutes in every State for alternative medicine.
- **Stem cell banks & Dialysis centres in every district.**
- Ambulance and air ambulance services to attend to emergencies.

MINORITIES

India's uniqueness in the world polity is its secular fabric that has withstood the ravages of time. Today, several forces are working overtime to tear that fabric asunder and lower India's image in the eyes of the world. To prevent such a situation, the AIADMK proposes the following:

- Top priority for addressing some of the long-standing problems of Dalit Christians for reservation.
- Subsidy for Christians undertaking pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
- All Souls' Day to be made a Restricted Holiday.
- Hostels with all facilities at nominal charges at towns of religious significance to Christian, Buddhist and Muslim communities in order to attract pilgrims from India and abroad.
- All genuine security concerns of the minorities to be addressed and resolve to knit a homogenous, tension-free, truly secular social fabric.

SOCIALLY BACKWARD AND OSTRACISED COMMUNITIES

A package of attractive schemes will be developed for these socially and financially deprived groups. Developmental infrastructure will be provided in villages and hamlets exclusively housing these groups, including toilets and bathrooms for women, basic amenities like drinking water, roads and sewerage. They will also be trained in self-employment and personality development, with suitable guidance on employment opportunities. Loans and subsidies will be provided for entrepreneurship.

- Entrepreneurs and industrialists putting up units in SC/ST hamlets and providing employment opportunities exclusively for these communities will be given additional subsidies and infrastructural aid. To make every person equal and to ensure that every one is able to stand on their own legs is the ideal of the AIADMK party and its visionary leader, Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa.
- The AIADMK realises that the scourge of untouchability continues to exist in several parts of India. This is a blot on the modern face of India. The legislations passed till date to address this social ill has been ineffective. The AIADMK vows to look at this issue afresh. The AIADMK shall address this issue by involving social leaders, reformers and NGOs.
- The abhorrent practice of men and women carrying nightsoil continues to this day in several parts of India. This practice leads to the scourge of untouchability. And those who are considered untouchable, in the absence of any other job opportunity, take to this practice. While the Government has passed some legislations to address this issue, the fact of the matter is that unless these victims of social oppression are rehabilitated by providing appropriate skill and training, the practice of manual scavenging and untouchability will continue to co-exist. The AIADMK shall do everything to redress this particular issue.
- Further, the reservation demand of the Arundhathiyar community will be addressed as a priority.
- All loans extended to the depressed classes of Society for self employment will be written off.
- The AIADMK also proposes to do away with tuition fees for SC/ST students pursuing education in private educational institutions.

BACKWARD CASTES

The AIADMK shall do everything under the Constitution to protect the interest of the Backward Castes. A permanent Backward Castes Commission created on the basis of a statute shall look into all the grievances of these castes. The AIADMK shall ensure that all the

vacancies at all levels, including educational levels, are filled up. This Commission shall closely work with other organisations so as to ensure that traditional skills of the Backward Classes are appropriately recognised, codified and adapted to modern day life.

The AIADMK realises that the technical and entrepreneurial abilities of the backward classes are particularly high in several places in India. The desire of these castes to take to entrepreneurship is significantly high. Nevertheless, most of these entrepreneurs are unable to grow beyond a particular stage due to unavailability of capital. One of the primary factors that inhibits the flow of funds from banks is that these borrowers are unable to provide collateral. **Nationalised banks shall be directed to ensure smooth credit flows to such deserving borrowers with a reasonable track record, without insisting on collaterals.**

WOMEN

The AIADMK party founded by Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G. Ramachandran has always stood for the empowerment of women. This ideal only gained in strength under his successor and the present General Secretary, Ms. J Jayalalithaa. Realising the need for gender equality in politics, the AIADMK under Ms Jayalalithaa played a pioneering role as early as in the early 1990s by becoming the first political party in the world to announce that 33 per cent of all party posts would go to women. It was while she was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu that the "cradle-baby scheme" to prevent female infanticide was launched, under which the State adopted abandoned female infants. The scheme virtually brought a halt to the pernicious practice of female infanticide.

It was under Ms. Jayalalithaa that "All-Women Police Stations" were introduced in Tamil Nadu in 1992 to exclusively handle cases relating to offences against women, including domestic violence. It was she who constituted an exclusive Commando Battalion comprised of only women. She also has the honour of having accorded the maternal role of women due legal recognition by legitimising the use of one's mother's name as one's initials instead of, or in addition to, the father's. Again, it was Ms Jayalalithaa who provided the impetus for the growth of Women Self-help

Groups in Tamil Nadu, which encouraged woman-entrepreneurship, empowering them sufficiently to come on a par with, if not excel, men in attaining economic freedom.

While women are equalling or even surpassing men in various spheres of activity, one area which is still substantially male-dominated is politics. The representation of women in Parliament and the State Legislatures does not reflect their demographic representation. In the May 2004 General Election, for example, 539 candidates were elected to the 14th Lok Sabha. Only 44 of them were women - a mere 8 percent!

To ensure gender equality and to promote the empowerment of women, the AIADMK proposes the following:

- **Legislate the Women's Reservation bill.**
- **Death penalty for rapists.**
- **Introduction of All Women Police Stations & Mahila Courts in every State.**
- **Cradle baby scheme to be extended to all States to eliminate female infanticide.**
- **Generate more opportunities for women entrepreneurship.**

TOURISM

Tourism has made tremendous headway in many countries of the world. It promotes international understanding and gives support to local handicrafts and cultural activities. It is an important contributor to the country's economy, especially in terms of its contribution towards foreign exchange earnings, generation of additional income and creation of employment opportunities. According to the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), India's share in world tourism arrivals is only 0.38 per cent. Efforts will be initiated to study the shortcomings in different areas of tourism like Leisure Tourism, Pilgrim Tourism, Heritage Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Business Tourism, Medical Tourism, Culture Tourism, Academic Tourism, Beach Tourism, Hill tourism, etc. Tourism is an area where private sector involvement will be encouraged in a big way. In five

years, India will emerge as a bigger tourist destination than Switzerland or the French Riviera.

SETHUSAMUDRAM PROJECT

The Sethusamudram Shipping Channel Project was a dream project of the people of Tamil Nadu for over 150 years. The British first conceived the project but dropped it. Later, eminent personalities like Perarignar Anna and Puratchi Thalaivar MGR also felt that this scheme would meet a long-standing need of Tamil Nadu. It is this that the DMK and the UPA keep quoting to show that by implementing the project they are only fulfilling what Anna and Puratchi Thalaivar MGR had dreamt of. What is conveniently sidelined is the fact that the scheme is outdated in today's era of high-speed, high-capacity ocean liners and cargo vessels.

By implementing the scheme, lakhs of fishermen living in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu will be deprived of their livelihood, while precious marine flora and fauna unique to the region will be destroyed forever. Moreover, the scheme as it is envisaged today, involves blasting through Rama's Bridge, a rocky ridge connecting India with Sri Lanka, believed to have been built for Lord Rama to cross over to Lanka. In short, the scheme in its present format does not assure any substantial economic benefits for the Nation. It will cause irretrievable damage to the environment, throw lakhs of people out of employment and also hit at the faith of millions of people nationwide. The only beneficiaries of the project will be the Union Minister of Shipping, Mr T R Balu of the DMK and Karunanidhi's family. The AIADMK will not back any scheme that is meant to benefit a single person or a single family, neglecting the larger good of the citizens of the country. **The AIADMK will scrap the project.**

In its stead the AIADMK shall bring about alternative freight corridors from Tuticorin in South Tamil Nadu to either Chennai or Bangalore. Also, the AIADMK shall ensure that Thoothukudi port is upgraded into a freight transit port.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT ZONE

The Constitution of India guarantees protection and enjoyment of the right to life and personal liberty, to live in dignity in a safe, clean and green environment. It also guarantees the right to equality, protection against discrimination and exploitation and a rich bundle of freedoms. The Environment Protection Act 1986, was legislated to enable the fulfilment and constitutionality of the right to life and livelihood with a clean and safe environment. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991, is a subordinate legislation under the Environment Protection Act.

This Notification violates the essential features of the Constitution, especially the semi federal nature of the distribution of power between the Centre and States as laid down in the Constitution. Several activities implied in this Notification which fall within the realm of State power are now sought to be directly taken over by the Central Government. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing with whom the lives of lakhs of fisherman are linked, has never been consulted and the CMZ Notification is made out to be one permitting the activities of big Industries and the hospitality and service sector at the cost of lives of the fishing communities and those involved in allied sectors including the coastal poor.

The AIADMK will review this notification and ensure that nothing is done that would jeopardise the livelihood or living conditions of the millions of fisherfolk along India's long coastline.

FINAL APPEAL

The primary duties of a Government worth its name are to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the Country and to maintain law and order, to guarantee financial stability, to ensure human development and make sure that facilities in Society are available to all people in the country. The UPA Government at the Centre, of which the DMK is an integral part, has failed on all counts.

The State of Tamil Nadu has also witnessed the progressive deterioration of the rule of law. Corruption is rampant in every sphere.

Every department that enjoyed the *numero uno* status under the earlier AIADMK Government headed by Puratchi Thalaivi J Jayalalithaa, today lies in a shambles.

The elections to the local bodies in 2006, the cooperative elections thereafter and the by-elections to the Madurai Central, Madurai West and Tirumangalam Assembly Constituencies all saw the DMK blatantly indulging in violence and illegal acts that vitiated the spirit of elections and even earned rebukes from the Election Commission and the courts of law. In Tamil Nadu today, under the minority DMK Government, which is sustained in power by the support of the Congress, democracy has been murdered and lies buried fathoms deep.

The manipulations of the share market, which raised the Sensex to unnatural levels giving investors a false sense of security until the final crash, the sale of telecommunications spectrum for a song, the huge diversion of funds earmarked for the Sethusamudram Scheme, nepotism in the allocation of natural gas etc. are all black marks in the record of the UPA Government.

This situation has to change. The people of Tamil Nadu deserve better. The people of India deserve better. **This is the time to act - the time to save Indian Democracy**

To achieve this, the AIADMK puts forth its agenda.

**To save India and to ensure a BETTER INDIA,
VOTE AIADMK!**

POLITICAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS
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Political issues that will be taken up on a priority basis within the first 100 days in office:

- ❖ Legislate new laws to effectively control terrorism, with adequate safeguards to prevent their misuse.

- ❖ Special political package to redress the Naxal demands - provided they give up arms and promise to talk within the broad parameters of the Constitution.
- ❖ Address the political as well as economic issues of the North-East by constituting a committee and carry out a composite dialogue with our estranged NE brothers. NE will be declared a special area for concerted development.
- ❖ Appoint a States Re-organisation Commission to look into the demands for smaller States. Create Telangana.
- ❖ Call for a special session of Parliament and strive for a consensus for scrapping the Indo-US Nuclear Deal. In the alternative re-negotiate with the US and ensure that all clauses required to guarantee that Indian interests are fully safeguarded are incorporated in the agreement.
- ❖ Immediately intervene in Sri Lanka and stop the genocide of Tamils.
- ❖ Review relations with Pakistan on a comprehensive basis and only after internal consensus is arrived at, proceed to conduct talks with Pakistan.
- ❖ Create a permanent mechanism for sharing of river water between riparian states.
- ❖ Table the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament.
- ❖ Initiate steps to declare the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement on ceding of Kachchatheevu null and void and retrieve Kachchatheevu to ensure protection for the lives and belongings of the fishermen of the southern coast of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Indo-Iran oil pipeline project will be revived. In the alternative, we will seek oil purchase by payment through farm product exports from India.
- ❖ Significant administrative reforms to be pushed to ensure proper governance especially in case of health and education.
- ❖ Sethusamudram Project shall be scrapped.

ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS

- ❖ Initiate appropriate action for bringing back Indian money from tax havens - estimated to be several hundred billions USD.
- ❖ Review the obnoxious practice of issuing Participatory Notes.
- ❖ Constitute a committee to look into the entire issue of currency management including fake notes in circulation.
- ❖ Ensure complete independence of market regulators viz., SEBI, IRDA, RBI, TRAI, & others.
- ❖ Bring about plan for railways, roads and infrastructure.
- ❖ Liberate salaried middle class from income taxes.
- ❖ Increase Income-Tax exemption limit to Rs 500,000 for others.
- ❖ Repeal FBT & BCTT.
- ❖ Tax exemption on Interest income if banked in for not less than five years for senior citizens.
- ❖ CBDT to review the Indo-Mauritian double taxation treaty as well as others that tacitly encourage money laundering.
- ❖ Special economic package for all industrial clusters impacted by global recession.
- ❖ Comprehensive rehabilitation package for all borrowers from banks suffering from global recession in consultation with the RBI.
- ❖ Commence discussions with the Chief Justice of India for a Supreme Court Bench in Chennai.
- ❖ Refer the spectrum scam to an appropriate investigating agency and ensure that the guilty are brought to book at the earliest.
- ❖ Expert committee to be constituted to look into efficacy of futures markets on currency and commodity.

- ❖ Government to start a bank exclusively for petty vendors, small traders, retail traders and micro-manufacturing sector on the Grameen bank model with appropriate changes for Indian conditions.
- ❖ Competition law to be fully notified after consultations with trade and industry.
- ❖ Seek to transfer Rs 20,000 crores to village panchayats directly, provided they are elected - money to be used by panchayats for specific local requirements.
- ❖ Credit deposit ratio in hundred poor districts to be significantly improved.
- ❖ Detailed Programme for commencing IIT, IIM and AIIMS like institutes in every State.
- ❖ The Joint Consultative Machinery (of Central Government and Employee Unions) does not function effectively. This will be rejuvenated. All decisions relating to Government employees will be taken after mutual discussions only.
- ❖ The UPA Government is working to remove all Class IV posts in Central Government service. This will hit at the basic livelihood of marginal class of employees such as sepoy, peons, drivers, messengers, etc. This decision will be immediately reversed.

AGRICULTURAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS

Issues relating to agriculture that will be taken up on a priority basis within the first 100 days in office:

- ❖ List out pending irrigation projects that can be completed within one year and ensure timely completion.
- ❖ Constitute a committee to look into making fertiliser subsidy more effective and meaningful.
- ❖ Special policy to boost oil seeds and pulses production.

- ❖ Launch a comprehensive green revolution to include - food grains, fruits, dairy products, poultry, horticulture farms and fisheries - aim for 300 -350 MT by 2014.
- ❖ Master plan to recharge ground water across arid districts of the country.
- ❖ List out the areas to be brought under irrigation in the next five years.
