Aao Milke Desh Banaye

Nationalist Congress Party

Hamara Aapka Hum Sabka Bharat

Lok Sabha Election Manifesto 2019

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Indian democracy is in a deep crisis due to efforts by a section of polity to divide society on the basis of caste, creed and religion and to cash in on the same and prosper in the elections. Ironically, nationalism is being used to divide people. Voicing ones opinion has become fraught with danger and those who question the Government’s decisions and polices are sought to be branded anti-national and they are blamed for treachery. The present Government is intolerant of any criticism.

The country is at a crossroads. Our hallowed institutions are under a serious threat. The pluralism and secular nature of our polity are under strain like never before. There is growing anxiety and frustration and a heightened sense of deep despair over five years of colossal waste of opportunities.

The environment in the country is uncertain, unstable and complex. After seven decades of freedom, people are being divided on religious lines. The Northeast is in turmoil with the present Government’s move to actively press for passage of Citizenship Amendment Bill.

NDA Government has brought upon the Nation unforeseen calamities like
1. Severe agricultural and farmer distress
2. Slowdown in Economy
3. Drastic increase in Unemployment
4. Doubling of the National Debt
5. Rising Prices and Inflation
6. Derailed foreign policy threatening national security
Under the NDA’s watch, there have been three major terrorist attacks on the army and paramilitary. It is shocking that no accountability has been taken nor responsibility fixed. The last terror attack in Mumbai in 2008 was acknowledged by the UPA Government as their failure, accountability was fixed, responsible leaders were sacked, surgical strikes (without populist propaganda) were carried out- and there were no more terrorist strikes till the UPA Government was at the Centre.

Economically, citizens have been severely disadvantaged by the misadventure of demonetisation coupled with poor attention to agriculture and other industry. Unemployment has surged to its worst in 45 years. Agricultural income, at constant and current prices, have substantially decreased to the worst in 14 years. This has resulted in 40 crores youth being unemployed and huge demotivation and depression among farmers.

Politically, institutions have been undermined.

Corruption, instead of being eradicated as claimed by NDA in their election manifesto, has taken on a new form of crony capitalism. The corruption ridden Rafael defence deal has shaken the conscience of the country.

Jai Hind
The Need of the Hour

We need to defeat the forces that are trying to sabotage the spirit of the Constitution of India. In such complex and precarious situation, India needs a strong and stable Government, with experienced and decisive political leaders, to once again steer us out of this quagmire and make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead of us.

Lok Sabha General Elections 2019 will define India’s future, indeed our place in the world, and be our roadmap to economic security and prosperity. We are at a delicate cusp.

This is a crucial moment of national change that will determine our future. We will need to rebuild on many years of solid work done by the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) jointly with our coalition partners. We will have to take the challenges of our time head on and take big, difficult decisions that are right for the country in the long run. It will require a strong unity of purpose.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government has betrayed the nation, misused institutions and constitutional bodies, and has failed on all fronts. NCP with all coalition partners is therefore resolved to protect the nation.

NCP is the party which can tackle the present difficult and complex challenges as we have experienced and visionary leadership. We can do it together and turn vulnerabilities into strengths.

We are committed to rebuild and transform our economy. We would like to foster a model of growth that works for everyone.

AAO MILKE DESH BANAYE,
HAMARA AAPKA HUM SABKA BHARAT!
AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is passing through a major crisis. There are no ache din as promised by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Instead, the farmers are in distress and they are faced with mere jumlebaji. The NDA Government’s record in agriculture is disastrous.

The growth of Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices from the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector is expected to drop to 2.7 per cent in 2018-19 — as against 5 per cent in 2017-18. This is a massive drop of 46 per cent which is the worst in 14 years.

The country’s farm sector output has grown by paltry 2.7 per cent year on year in October-December 2018, the lowest in 11 quarters. What is worrying is the growth in nominal terms (at current prices unadjusted for inflation) rather than the low increase in real terms (at constant prices).

The average annual agriculture GDP growth in the first four years of the present NDA Government is just 2.5 per cent against 5.2 per cent in the last four years of UPA.

Indebtedness, growing suicides and lack of adequate price for agriculture produce have wreaked havoc on the farming community. The NDA Government’s decision to provide ₹6,000 annually is not only too little but also quite inadequate to even recover the cost of production. This comes to a meagre ₹17 per day and ₹3.50 per farmer.

The Nationalist Congress Party will continue to provide adequate attention to promote agricultural growth, productivity, income and access to the market.

We will carry out structural reforms to drive sustainable agriculture.

We will provide a complete loan waiver to all farmers.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) will be complimented through a system of incentives and commission payments. Every attempt will be made to assure remunerative returns to farmers by adopting a holistic approach.

We will further strengthen the rural infrastructure for sorting, grading, packing, cold storage and ware housing. This will help farmers get a much higher value for produce as well as reduce losses due to wastage.

We will step up efforts to promote public private partnerships (PPP) to increase agriculture productivity and to boost exports.

In order to cover losses due to smaller individual farm holdings, we will encourage group farming which will maximise produce and reduce expenses.

Some part of the wages for farm labour will be provided from NAREGA funds to reduce the cost of production.

We will provide financial incentive and physical infrastructure to promote horticulture and floriculture.

We will encourage poultry, dairy, fisheries, goat farming, bee cultivation, etc. to augment and boost the farmer’s revenue.
We will encourage organic farming and create a market for the same.

We will provide relief in GST applicable on farming equipment.

In view of a dire need to export minimum quantities of surplus sugar stock, we will provide assistance for transport and handling at ₹5 per kg to be offered jointly by the Central and State Government.

We will extend the current scheme of financial assistance on crushed cane with an increased amount of ₹9 per quintal of crushed cane during 2018-19 season.

In order to reduce over reliance on crude oil imports, the Government will further promote domestic ethanol production and increase the rates of B Heavy and cane juice to a realistic level.

We will introduce agriculture based sections in school curriculum to create awareness and promote agriculture throughout the country.

We will create an ecosystem where farmers, scientists, professors, students, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders work together to take agriculture and allied sciences to new amazing heights based on innovations in continuation of the stellar growth of the 2004-2014 period of agricultural renaissance. We will give financial and other support to revive the ailing Agricultural Universities across the country.

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**ECONOMIC GROWTH**

India’s GDP has slipped to 6.6 per cent in the third quarter of FY 19. The economy had grown 8.2 per cent in the first quarter and 7.1 per cent in the second quarter, logging 7.6 per cent for the first half.

Growth of eight core sectors dipped to 2.6 per cent in December 2018 due to negative growth in expansion of crude oil, refinery products and fertilisers.

The slackness in capital expenditure is expected to have a laggard effect which will hamper growth in the coming quarters.

India is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2019 and 7.7 per cent in 2020. At this rate, it will be impossible to expect a double digit growth.

Demonetisation has drastically slowed down economic growth and impacted GDP significantly. Demonetisation led to a loss of 1 crore 80 lakh jobs. We will bring out a white paper on this issue.

The faulty implementation of Goods & Services Tax (GST) also contributed to lower economic growth.

In the face of these disastrous decisions, a real challenge is to revive the faltering economy and to usher the Indian economy into a high growth path, revive investment cycle and restore the confidence of domestic and foreign investors.
We will give due priority to achieve macro stability and adequate attention will be paid on the revival of all sectors which are in distress.

We will provide impetus on growth in private investment and strengthen private consumption to spur growth.

Stronger growth will be achieved in construction with building infrastructure that India needs. This will open up employment opportunities for more people and also create jobs for those leaving agriculture.

We will achieve the fiscal deficit target of 3 per cent of GDP.

We will push an aggressive agenda to energise and reinvigorate the economy in order to achieve a double digit growth.

We will focus on an urgent revival of Khadi and village industry with the allocation of adequate funds and market access. It will be our endeavour to explore new avenues for this industry which has tremendous potential to generate jobs.

The Textile industry is passing through a difficult phase. Our Government will promote more textile parks, strengthen existing ones and open up new avenues of financial support.

The Handloom and power loom industry provides employment to a large section of the population, but is distressed currently. Special focus on these sectors will be provided to support opportunities in this sector.

**JOB CREATION**

The unemployment rate in India rose to 7.2 per cent in February 2019 from 5.9 per cent in February 2018 as shown by the recent data by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

This increase in unemployment rate is despite the fall in number of job seekers. The number of employed persons fell to 40 crores in February 2019 from 40.6 crore a year ago.

The National Statistical Sample Organisation (NSSO), in its draft report had estimated that unemployment in India had hit a 40-year-high of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18. However, the NDA Government refrained from releasing the official data, which led to resignation of concerned righteous officers from the Organisation in protest.

Almost 1 crore 80 lakhs people lost their jobs in the country in 2018. According to the CMIE report, the loss of jobs and the number of unemployed people in the country have been steadily rising.

This fast spiralling job loss is attributed to the absence of new projects and miserably poor employment elasticity precipitated by the Government’s poorly implemented efforts to build a cashless economy. The cash in circulation in 2016, estimated at ₹15.3 lakh crores has, rather than being replaced with cashless economy, increased by 22.2 per cent; thus making a mockery of the NDA Government’s so called serious efforts to promote cashless society. In circulation one estimates that this is currently about ₹22 lakh crores.
To make it worse, it has led to severe erosion of investor confidence and decreased spending in the market.

Private investment is a key driver of economic growth and job creation. In this regard, we resolve to remove Policy and Tax uncertainty to make India competitive again.

We will boost skill development through active engagement of private and public sector, academia, domestic and international organisations of repute. We will introduce adequate skilling programme to suit and benefit from the changing environment.

Considering huge potential of job creation, financial assistance to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) will be increased and restructuring of their loans will be done.

In India, traditional industry is based around certain regional hubs and district centres like Jamnagar, Morbi, Moradabad, etc. where handloom, power loom, handicrafts, and other industries abound. These regions will be identified and supported by providing financial and infrastructure support. Their products will be ensured a national market. This will boost local employment as well as reduce migration and eventually enhance area development.

**FOCUS ON MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs)**

In a developing economy, MSMEs are reservoirs of jobs. The MSME sector forms the backbone of the Indian economy and accounts for 45 per cent of total industrial output, and 40 per cent of total exports. Nearly 95 per cent of MSMEs are in the informal sector. A vibrant robust MSME sector is the need of the hour to create enough jobs for a young population.

The International Finance Corporation estimates that MSMEs need $370 billion of finance while banks currently provide $230 billion. In view of this gap, MSMEs have to depend on expensive informal loans to meet their funding needs.

The disaster of demonetisation has hit MSMEs the hardest and most of them are struggling to stay afloat.

We will provide special facilities that will revive and help the MSME sector to grow rapidly by identifying special clusters that require infrastructure upgrades. Higher budgetary allocation will be done.

Formalisation of MSMEs will make it less risky for banks to lend to MSMEs because there will be better documentation. Digital lending platforms will be used for lending purpose as it will drive down the cost of funds. More specialised small finance banks will be licensed.

In order to improve the entrepreneurial skills and trained labour force, special training programmes in local colleges will be attempted. An entrepreneur support system at every district will be created. Skill vouchers will be provided to young Indians that can be encashed in either Government or private sector training institutes.

The regulatory burden will be eased, especially in terms of permits, inspections and regulatory filings.
The Government will develop marketing campaigns that will help promote products of specific clusters and thereby remove constraints in access to national and international markets.

Market access will also be improved through e-commerce platforms and also by linking MSMEs to global value chains through compulsory local sourcing rules.

**LABOUR REFORMS**

Labour reform is a tedious process but it benefits industries to grow and thereby create jobs.

Nationalist Congress Party is committed to provide social security to the labour class from both organised and unorganised sectors.

We will pursue meaningful labour reforms to further promote ease of doing business and attract new investments while protecting the interests of labour.

We will ensure implementation of Fair Wages at par to Government employees.

ESIS Hospitals have been very badly managed and those contributing to the fund from their employment do not benefit from them. These will be improved and linked to private hospitals to ensure better medical services.

There will be strict implementation of the Provident Fund Act.

Separate Boards will be set up for Unorganised Sector to provide them Social Security and assure them fair wages.

A separate Board will be established for Labourers in Television and Film industry to give them security and wages. Strict enforcement of the rights of children in the film and television industry will be enforced.

We are committed to eradication of child labour and a proper rehabilitation policy will be ensured.

Despite the abolishment of bonded labour, it is prevalent in various parts of the country. We are committed to abolish the same.

We are committed to “Equal Work, Equal Pay” to all employees to ensure gender equality.
TAX REFORMS

Getting our tax system right will be the most crucial factor in driving the economy back to prosperity. We will rationalise and simplify the tax regime and remove distortions in Goods and Services Tax (GST). Even though GST was touted as the biggest tax reform, it did not unfold as planned by the NDA Government as it was done with very little homework, both at the operational and technical ends. The Government has been missing its monthly GST collection of ₹1 lakh crore. Tax evasion is soaring.

The tax principles will revolve around fair and simple taxes for growth as simplicity and clarity will be the hallmark of our tax regime. Tax laws will be made simpler to understand.

There will be no retroactive taxation.

We will promote a Pro-growth tax code.

We will implement a single rate GST, or maximum of two rates, as modest rates are expected to improve better compliance.

We will attempt the 28 per cent slab only for demerit goods which are generally considered as luxury goods.

The intention of GST was to achieve One Nation - One Tax format. However, in certain industries, especially hotel and construction industry, currently there is a double taxation which is unfair. We will do away with this double taxation practice.

More benefits will be offered to MSMEs in GST regime.

CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL MARKETS

Indian capital markets are witnessing a change due to host of regulatory measures. SEBI, the market regulator, gave its seal on amendments to the Stock Exchange and Clearing Corporation Regulations, thus finally paving the way for Universal Exchanges from October 1st, 2018. It was part of SEBI’s reform agenda in primary market, commodities and foreign investors.

The regulator has come out with measures for deepening the securities market, improving governance standards in some of the crucial industry verticals and general “tightening of the nuts and bolts” within the entire system.

The reform push also paved way for further policy changes in the financial markets industry.

Reforms will be aggressively pushed for the financial markets to continue serving their purpose as engines of growth.

There will be a relook at the existing laws and regulations to remove constraints on the governance of public sector banks and put in place resolution framework for financial firms.
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

We will follow the philosophy of ‘Jitne Haath Utna Kaam; Jitna Kaam utna Vikas’.

Though the world suffers from a lack of trained skilled work force, our country has a huge population in the working age group that can meet this increased demand for work force. Hence, the priority will be to train this age group to meet the demand.

India is a nation of young people; efforts will be made to meet their aspirations by introducing new changes in the education system.

We will bring out a comprehensive plan to achieve total literacy linked to employment, with the active involvement of all stakeholders including students and non-Government organisations.

Alike social empowerment, it will be NCP’s sincere effort to pursue education empowerment which will play a crucial role in job creation and thereby help the economy scale new highs.

A consortium of Universities will be formed by inter linking them digitally, where knowledge and teaching will be shared and universalised. Expertise of resources and faculty available at any one University will be made available to a student from any other university digitally. Training material will be dubbed or translated to transcend language barriers.

We will pay attention to increasing investment in general as well as technical education and research.

To enhance applicability to the job market, education will be made activity-based rather than only providing information. Education for all kind of life skills will be ensured.

In Technical Education, more credible courses will be added and also courses will be prepared for shop floor work industries.

New emerging professions have adapted to suit the changing life styles and environment in this country. These can be focused on to provide educational courses to create more such non-traditional professions like designing, physical training, nutrition (dietician), counsellors, para health care workers, etc.

There will be focus on pre-primary education, which has been ignored so far. The policy on Early Childhood Education (ECE) will be implemented in all States. There will be a defined 10-month Teacher Training Program.

Right to Education (RTE) will be reinforced to see that no child is left behind without education. Each child will be supported to benefit from education - in actual fact rather than just words- as was the original vision of the RTE Act. The age limit will be increased upto 18 years.

All resource material will be digitalised and will be made available to all students across the country. The necessary material will be made available in local languages too.
DIGITAL INDIA

The Indian IT industry employs nearly 4.1 million people of which 1,70,000 were added in fiscal year 2018-19.

India has come out on top with the highest proportion of digital talent at 76 per cent compared to the global average of 56 per cent. India ranks third among global start up ecosystems with more than 2200 start-ups. IT industry has led the economic transformation of the country.

We will implement a comprehensive strategy to build skills and re skills Indian youth for digital economy.

We will build global partnerships for futuristic tech areas with institutions of repute.

We will redefine curriculum to align with future skill requirements.

We will support research and academics in new tech areas.

In order to further improve ease of doing business, we will redefine and realign Government procurement for new technologies and verticals.

We will implement a well-articulated data strategy to support innovation and inclusion.

A modern direct tax code will be introduced to support economic growth, simplify compliances and promote transparency.

RIGHT TO HEALTH

The latest round of National Family Health Survey 2015-16 which had a sample of 5.7 lakh households, shows that the most common reasons for non-availing of services at Government health centres are poor quality of services, no nearby health facility, and long waiting lines.

India’s current health infrastructure consists of 1.5 lakh Sub Centres (SC), 25,000 Primary Health Centres (PHC), 5,600 Community Health Centres (CHC) and 760 district hospitals (DH). In terms of a burgeoning population, these are inadequate numbers.

We will focus on improvement in health care service delivery by strengthening the first point of contact centres.

Public Private Partnership (PPP) model will be encouraged for the establishment of hospitals, and thereby remove rural - urban inequality.

Modernisation of Government hospitals will be done where free medicines will be provided.

Every District will have a medical college with super specialities, especially Oncology (Cancer). This will increase the reach of qualified super speciality care to the rural masses.

Innovation, tele medicine and Digital Interventions will be encouraged to increase benefits to patients across the country.
We will enact a law ensuring Right to Health which will provide better health services to the common man of the country.

We will encourage and promote Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy as scientific disciplines and practice.

**WOMAN AND CHILD WELFARE**

Woman and Child Welfare are two major pillars of India’s future development.

Women and Children constitute 64 per cent of the population.

A rethink in tune with latest medical and public health research and international evidence based practices about ante natal care, natal care (during delivery), post-natal care, breast feeding, immunization and nutrition will be ensured. All aspects of maternal and child health will be strengthened.

Malnutrition, especially in children, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women will be made a focus area of the Government.

Anemia alleviation among women will be taken up as a priority.

**CHILD PROTECTION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Retrograde cultural practices, sexual violence, and trafficking continue to make lives of women miserable.

The current Government’s track record is dismal. Rise of violence against young girls is a matter of serious concern. This is despite the present Government’s loud claims over the implementation of its flagship - *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* (Save daughters, educate daughters) scheme which seeks to protect them.

Furthermore, there has been substantial increase in crimes against women including dowry harassment, assault, rape and kidnapping.

Equal opportunities for women is another issue as large number of women carry out traditional gender roles which confine them to their homes.

Empowerment of women can be achieved through a bouquet of measures.

Nationalist Congress Party will ensure 33 per cent reservation to women in parliament.

We will open the door to education for young girls. Girls and women will be equipped with necessary skill sets. An atmosphere will be created for enabling women.

In addition to social empowerment, political empowerment will be achieved by ensuring women’s fair access to political spheres.
The Government will support protection of children and a violence-free childhood. Additional manpower and resources will be provided to strengthen the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POCSO). Adequate budgetary allocation will be done for child welfare and for children with special needs and children in need of care and protection.

**YOUTH AND SPORTS**

About 600 million people, more than half of India’s population, are under 25 years old. However, only about 2.3 per cent of the country’s workforce gets formal training in skills and less than a fifth of graduates get employment after completion of their studies.

Currently, there is a feeling among students in the country that they are totally sidelinied as they are not given due priority by the Government. They are confronted with host of issues such as delay in declaration of results, high probability of dropping out of college due to non-payment of fees and a feeling of helplessness due to lack of understanding of the system.

All efforts will be made to provide equal opportunity for education.

We will implement 100-day guaranteed jobs for Graduate youths in urban areas.

We will implement free education for girls from kindergarten to post-graduation.

After holding due consultations with student and youth organisations, we will put in place a Students Rights Commission to resolve issues like delay in conducting examinations or declaration of results.

Assured representation of youths in local bodies will be given.

A world class Sports University will be set up.

There will be a higher budgetary allocation for sports.

Winners at the International level will be paid a monthly allowance till they are active players.

**SENIOR CITIZENS**

India is a young country in terms of demography, but is ageing gradually. By 2050, every fifth Indian will be a sexagenarian compared with every twelfth now, putting the country in a position similar to today’s developed world in terms of the share of the elderly in population.

In addition to tax benefits, we will attempt to provide banking services at home to those who have completed 70 years of age, physically handicapped and physically weak.

Free medical tests and medicines will be carried out once a year for members of senior citizen federations and inmates of old age homes.
Registered senior citizen organisations will be given ₹25,000 annually to purchase various instruments and gadgets needed for health support.

**DEFENCE**

Rapid modernisation and upgradation of armed forces will be the first priority.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and other Ordnance Factories will be modernised with latest technology to produce indigenous modern arms and ammunition domestically.

We will ensure greater transparency for all defence procurement.

We will ensure OROP and address complaints and deficiencies therein.

Sacrifices of CRPF and other para military forces will be considered at par with regular military forces.

An Ex Servicemen Commission will be set up.

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

India is currently sandwiched between home grown challenges and threats from across international borders including ethnic insurgency, militancy or terrorism. Besides, communal terrorism poses yet another grave threat to India’s sovereignty and integrity.

The cross-border infiltration and illegal immigration have emerged as serious security threats to both internal and external security.

In Kashmir, involvement of a large number of local youth in terrorism is a matter of great concern. The recent Pulwama attack has brought to notice how terrorists are luring the local youth to disrupt law and order in Jammu and Kashmir. Our endeavour will be to bring youth into the mainstream, and thereby prevent them from falling prey to radicalisation. Stern action will be taken against those engaged in radicalising youth.

The NDA Government, in five years, has failed miserably to contain terrorism. In these five years of NDA rule, there have been three terror attacks on military and para military forces under its nose. There has been a criminal failure of intelligence in preventing such attacks. No responsibility has been fixed. No one is held accountable.

During the last five years, ceasefire violations have occurred six times and terrorist attacks have doubled as compared to the UPA I & II period. Unfortunately, twice the number of our soldiers have been martyred in the last five years as compared to the previous five years.

We are committed for national security.

In UPA regime, the atmosphere was peaceful and there was less loss of life.

In interest of their personal political agenda, this was wrecked by the NDA Government.
FOREIGN POLICY

The domestic and foreign policy of India with numerous neighbouring countries is totally intertwined. Since a country’s policy is deeply impacted by the nature of relations with neighbours, it is important to continue, at a minimum, working relations as we have with Nepal, good relations as with Bhutan and improving relations with Bangladesh and Maldives, but we have a breakdown in respect with Pakistan.

The reason for the crisis in foreign policy is due to the current Government moving away from the principles set up by our founding Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We will follow the Panchsheel philosophy which has worked for us well.

A working relationship has to be maintained with China. India’s relationship with Middle East countries are at their best to the extent that UAE has repatriated terrorists and white collar criminals. It is necessary to retrieve relationship with Russia which remains critical for continued arms supplies and maintenance of existing equipment.

We will open talks with Pakistan during which we will insist on discussing terrorism.

We will continue to be responsive to the newly elected Sheikh Hasina Government in Bangladesh.

We will work to move Russia away from getting too close to China and Pakistan by frequent high level exchanges.

We will keep all channels open to China but demand that it opens its market to exports of Indian pharmaceuticals, agriculture products and IT services.

We will continue to expand relations with the United States of America, including for import of defence equipment.

TRADE POLICIES

Amidst trade war globally, we will pursue a winning trade policy, one that has parity in trade. Attention will be paid to broaden our trade treaties with countries which share our values and commitment to fairness with transparency in our commercial and business practices.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Cities will be developed with a holistic vision that will encompass aspects of sustainability, inclusiveness, use of technology and good governance so as to ensure to citizens an atmosphere that will provide a healthy environment and ease of living for its citizens.

We will promote participatory governance.

Cities are engines of growth and people living here have aspirations in respect of job
opportunities and other entrepreneurial activities. We will strive to identify areas for every such city and will try to meet the same.

Our party assures affordable housing, infrastructure and strengthening of civic amenities, promotion of efficient and good public transportation network, children friendly cities, safe cities for women and dignity to its seniors.

We will also ensure clean cities and also give impetus to aesthetics, art, culture and sports.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ

Health and Education and providing basic infrastructure will be given due priority.

Efforts will be stepped up for empowerment of manpower in Panchayat Raj System.

A Special Program will be prepared for quality improvement in primary education.

Malnutrition eradication will be implemented in mission mode.

Adequate attention will be paid to total sanitation and providing safe drinking water to safeguard rural lives.

Rural connectivity and electrification will be done in a planned manner.

TRANSPORT

We are committed to modernising of Indian Railways, strengthening old infrastructure and eradication of railway crossing.

New technology will be applied to increase speed.

We will upgrade railway stations.

Inland water transport will be promoted.

Major cities will be connected by frequent air services. All districts will be networked by roads and rail to the airports.

Motor Vehicle Act will be amended to include insurance for the driver and cleaners.

Registration numbers of vehicles will be given number portability.
ENVIRONMENT

Rivers are the life line of the country. We will ensure keeping the river water free of pollution.

We will attempt to use river water for irrigation and drinking rather than letting it go waste.

We are committed to protection of forests and natural resources.

We will bring about awareness and foster reduction in carbon footprint.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The NDA Government has been pursuing a hidden agenda of disturbing the constitutionally protected reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

We will foil any attempt to do so.

Under the guise of “mainstreaming” Scheduled Tribes, an attempt has been made to destroy their indigenous culture. We abide by our commitment to ensure their development without destroying their indigenous culture.

There have been numerous instances of maltreatment of Dalit students including Rohith Vemula. We are committed to the creation of an ecosystem to foster the education and development of Dalits.

We had supported the implementation of Mandal Commission Report and are committed to the development of Other Backward Classes.

Budgetary allocation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be made in proportion with their population as has been implemented in Maharashtra by UPA Government. This budget will be entirely used for the same and will not be diverted.

Tribal Dominated Districts will be given preference by allocating additional funds.

Tribals will be given legislative protection over their land holdings. Proper implementation of The Forest Act will be done ensuring non displacement of local Tribals.

MINORITIES

Attacks by fringe elements on religious minorities have substantially surged. Religious-based hate-crimes - mainly targeting Dalits, Muslims and Christians- have increased significantly since 2014. There has been little action to curb such instances; nothing has been done to tackle the growing religious polarisation. In fact, such forces have been emboldened by giving a free hand to such elements with the tacit support of Government machinery.

We are committed to protect the interests of minorities. Special attention will be paid to curb violence and punish culprits. Cases of violence will be investigated in a time bound manner and disposal will be targeted in special courts.
The UPA Government had set up the Sacchhar Committee and is bound to follow its recommendations. Equal Opportunities Commission will be set up. Primary and Secondary Education will be focus areas of our Government.

Since distance is one of the deterents for education, the Government will boost education at the local level and provide financial assistance for local education.

In order to boost education of every girl child from minorities, specific incentives will be given to the families of girls who complete Grade Tenth, Grade Twelveth and Graduation, respectively.

A special program will be designed to create Hostels in small and large cities for minorities, especially girls, to promote their education.

Special assistance will be given to set up institutions for minorities.

Judicial powers will be given to Wakf Board as well as impetus given to special residential schools and Government hospitals to cater to these weakest section of society.

Efforts will be made to improve the standard of living in minority dominated areas; focus will be made on improving the infrastructure for changing their lifestyle.

NCP will initiate a process to arrive at a consensus on issues related to Personal Law, including Triple Talaq, by facilitating interaction between different schools of thought in the Community including religious heads, reformists, and other sections of the Community.

Triple Talaq Bill, in its current form without taking the Community into confidence, will be scrapped. Many more issues related to minority women including education and security, some mentioned above, will be focussed on.

Finance corporations will be set up to give financial assistance to boost self-employment, entrepreneurship and occupation for Muslims, Christians, and Linguistic & Other Minorities.

Minority students will be aided with 50 per cent of their fees for higher education in private institutions by the Government.

Students with extra ordinary ability selected for education courses abroad will be given funding to enable them to do so.

Long pending matters in the judicial system will be reviewed and justice will be delivered expeditiously.

Special attention will be paid on securing a proper channel for education, sports, vocational training and employment for minority youth. Similar facilities will be provided to women. Meritorious autonomous institutions will be supported.
STRENGTHENING THE FRAMEWORK OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Under the Present Government, key institutions like the Supreme Court, RBI, Election Commission, CBI and CIC have witnessed frequent interference. This has resulted in sweeping discontent. Institutional independence faces serious threat. There has been institutional regression.

There have been instances where the EC has been accused of accommodating the Prime Ministers’ wish-list, at the cost of democratic principles. It has buckled under the Government’s pressure.

Four Supreme Court judges took the never-before step of holding a press conference to voice their protest against arbitrary allocation of cases to benches by the then Chief Justice of India. It was alleged that then CJI was distributing cases to suit the present Government. Despite the elevation of Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who was one of the four judges, as CJI, the struggle between the court and the Government on appointments continue. Two junior judges were appointed in the Supreme Court while neglecting two senior others.

In case of RBI, the feud came to surface when the Government was believed to have desired to tap into the RBI’s excess capital reserves. Moreover, it also wanted the central bank to relax lending norms to smaller businesses. The Government also raised objections to some of RBI’s tighter regulations introduced to tackle toxic loans. The resignation by Mr. Urjit Patel as Governor before his term expired raised several questions. RBI’s autonomy is in danger as the Governor is being dictated to by politicians and other bureaucrats. This autonomy will be restored.

CBI, which was dubbed as a “caged parrot,” by the Supreme Court witnessed war between the top two officers but the removal of the then director, Mr. Alok Verma, in a night coup raised questions over the Government’s intentions. The appointment of an interim director and removal of Mr. Verma a day after his reinstatement has dented the image of CBI which was meant to be at the frontline of the fight against corruption in high places.

CVC’s role in the recent CBI case has come under attack.

With regards to the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners and Right to Information Act, the Government has made attempts to subvert the earlier provisions.

Stability of institutions will be given due attention as India has spent decades building these institutions.

Utmost priority will be accorded to uphold the autonomy, the integrity and credibility of these Institutions and the protection of pluralist way of life.

Effective steps will be taken to curb attempts to demonise and criminalise dissent, which is being construed as harming the nation by the present Government.
REBOOTING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

India will need a whopping $4.5 trillion till 2040 for development of infrastructure sector. However, there is an urgent need to restructure entire existing public private partnership (PPP) framework as the inordinate delays largely due to disputes have hampered the timely completion of infrastructure projects.

PPP mechanism is plagued with policy and regulatory gaps, lack of availability of long-term finance, inadequate capacity in public institutions and public officials to manage PPP processes, absence of adequate technical manpower and lack of adequate bankable infra projects on the shelf.

The recent episode involving IL&FS has revealed that lack of adequate risk mitigation and faulty project design was the major cause of its collapse. Incidentally, IL&FS has been the major investor in the PPP projects.

The country needs to focus on building quality infrastructure.

Multiple instruments need to be explored to explore newer source of financing of infrastructure projects. Besides, there is a pressing need of leveraging alternate sources.

Adequate focus will be given on pursuing structured capacity building programmes for various stakeholders including implementing agencies and customized programmes for banks and financial institutions and the private sector.

MGNREGA

Our aim is to provide employment and eradicate poverty, especially in rural areas.

We will undertake and complete public works related to water conservation, public health (toilets) and providing adequate infrastructure including roads, anganwadi buildings and public buildings.

Digging and deepening of irrigation wells will be implemented in a time bound manner. Farm ponds will be promoted.

Program for horticulture plantation and production under NAREGA will be planned and implemented on a priority basis.

WATER AND IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT

We will popularize in situ moisture conservation methods in rainfed areas.

Water conservation work and lift irrigation water will be used appropriately to maximise irrigation potential.

A special program will be launched to develop cropping pattern for maximisation of efficient use of water and increase in production.
Our endeavour will be to create decentralised water bodies to provide protective irrigation to save crops.

Priority will be given to complete the incomplete irrigation projects and maximise use of water from them. We will develop farming system (crop plus allied activities) in different agro climatic zones for sustainable agriculture.

**HOUSING**

We are committed to fulfil the dream of every Indian to have her/his own house. Migration is a serious concern in the metros. Adequate housing stock will be created at affordable rates for economically weaker sections, Lower Income Group, Middle Income Group to prevent slums from coming up.

Housing Stock will be created in tier two and tier three cities.

The criteria of minimum 30 metres for housing is inadequate for Indian families and will be increased to 50 metres to allow the entire family to stay together and prevent migration.

**INCOME INEQUALITY**

Inequality slows economic growth, undermines the fight against poverty and increases social tensions.

According to Oxfam Report for 2018, more and more of the country’s income is going “to the top 10 per cent and top 1 per cent of the population.” Overall, inequality has grown. The gap between the rich and the poor needs to be addressed urgently.

NDA had promised in the Lok Sabha 2014 elections that the Government will bring back every rupee allegedly stored away in foreign banks and ensure that it is used for the rehabilitation of the poor. There has been hardly any development on this front.

India is one of the most unequal countries in the world with the top 10 per cent population controlling 55 per cent of the total wealth, against 31 per cent in 1980, according to the 2018 World Inequality Report. The bottom 50 per cent population control only 15.3 per cent of the total wealth. The Report shows that while the wealth of top 1 per cent has been increasing since 1980s, the wealth of bottom 50 per cent has been sliding.

Adequate attention will be paid on making more investments in health and education.

An inclusive growth agenda will be adopted and implemented to effectively tackle the rising inequality problem.

Improvement in agriculture growth, boost to job oriented growth, improvement in tax efficiency are some of the key initiatives which will be implemented to bring down income inequality.