

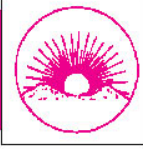
LOK SABHA ELECTION MANIFESTO - 2009

DRAVIDA MUNNETRA KAZHAGAM

The world marches on by consolidating the progressive achievements of science and technological revolutions in the 21st century. In India, DMK, a vibrant socio-economic and political reformation movement under the able leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi has been attaining achievements by implementing unique schemes and programmes and enacting rare legislations for the welfare of all sections of the society.

The Tamils have been led to understand their then state of affairs due to the Justice Party, which was founded in 1917, ruled the Madras Presidency during 1920-1937 and led by its selfless pioneering leaders Dr.C.Natesanar, Sir. Pitty. Theagarayar and Dr.T.M. Nair. Tamil Nadu was the first state in India to witness the social justice movement. To protect the self-respect of the Dravidians to remove the social injustices and inequalities in Tamil Nadu, a social revolution had begun by the resolution brought forward by Arignar Anna in 1944, hence the emergence of Dravidar Kazhagam (DK) under the leadership of Thanthai Periyar EVR.

To protect unique language of Tamils, to retrieve Tamil legacy and Tamils' rights and welfare, emerged Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in 1949 under the leadership of Arignar Anna. It is a light to every Tamil household, a servant to the nation and a political party with a new political agenda. The party stood for the principles of equality, social justice, socialism and uphold the shining political values – duty, dignity and discipline enunciated by Anna. The movement has emerged as a glistening golden tower after crossing several hurdles, braved typhoon like crisis and taken victories and defeats with equanimity in the last 60 years. The DMK successfully strides its way as a people's movement in Tamil Nadu due to the untiring work and varied contributions of its unparalleled leader Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi. It marches



ahead in Tamil Nadu as a socio-economic and reformative political movement with vitality and vigour.

In a rare coincidence that the birth centenary celebration of its founder leader Anna and the 60th birth anniversary of the DMK party fall in 2009 along with the Lok Sabha election. On this occasion the DMK proudly presents its manifesto for the 15th Lok Sabha election 2009 under the sagacious stewardship of the DMK President Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi by saluting leaders and cadres of the party, who have done supreme sacrifices for the growth of the movement.

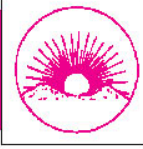
Arignar Anna had averred “good society and social system are essential to establish good governance.”

Thanthai Periyar had once declared that “under the present circumstances, none other than Kalaingar would have efficiently faced the challenges and overcome the hurdles and governed the state. People should realize that it is their good fortune to have such a Chief Minister. People should support the government which have executed big and rare schemes for their welfare.”

Arignar Anna had proclaimed that “no one has any doubt about my brother Karunanidhi's abilities, about the victories he obtained due to his multifarious talents, and about the usefulness of his resourcefulness and victories to the nation.”

History will acknowledge the celebrated Kalaingar, who has been working for creating quality politics in every election, for promoting healthy democracy and social development and taking decisions on electoral alliance and welfare schemes for the upliftment of the people.

Every alliance that Kalaingar chose to support – National Front, United Front, National Democratic Alliance and United Progressive Alliance, has resulted in rich contributions to the pride of Tamil language and to well-being and prosperity of Tamils.



In 1989, the DMK participated in the National Front government formed under the Prime Ministership of V.P Singh, a crusader of social justice. On the insistence of DMK, 27 % reservation for OBCs in the services of the Government of India was implemented as per the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. The Cauvery River Tribunal was constituted to resolve the Cauvery water dispute. In Chennai airport, the domestic terminal was named after Perunthalaivar Kamaraj, and the international terminal was named after Arignar Anna.

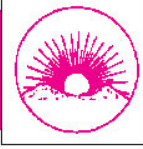
Thiru. Murasoli Maran, intellectual back-up of the Dravidian Movement and the conscience-keeper of Kalaingar, as Cabinet Minister for Industries, chose nine well-functioning public sector undertakings and named them as 'Nine Jewels' and facilitated faster growth of public sector in India.

DMK's participation in NDA, paved the way for the establishment of secular state and embedding of religious harmony and economic development in India.

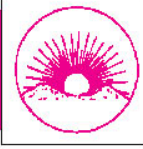
“Welcome to Indira's daughter-in-law and victory to India's impeccable daughter” – Kalaingar's slogan reverberated in all eight directions in 2004 Lok Sabha elections. The UPA under the guidance of Mrs.Sonia Gandhi formed the government to establish secularism and religious harmony. The world acclaimed the feat of UPA winning all the 40 seats in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

In the last five years, UPA inclusive of DMK has attained historical achievements.

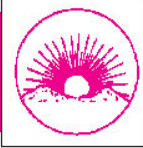
- The declaration of Tamil as a Classical Language; and establishment of Central Institute of Classical Tamil.
- In the Shipping and National Highways ministry - at the cost of Rs.56,664.21 crores, 4,678 k.m. long national highways was constructed of which 3,267 k.m. are 4 lane and many mammoth fly overs, bridges, port expansions, container terminals and inland water ways were established.



- In Orgadam, near Chennai city at an investment of Rs.470 crore National Automobile Testing R & D Centre and other infrastructural facilities were developed.
- Salem Rolling Mill is upgraded to international standards including cold rolling at the cost of Rs.1553 crores.
- 100 man days of employment is guaranteed to every rural household through National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- National Siddha Medicine Research Centre at Tambaram.
- Railway Divisional Office at Salem.
- Mohan Kumaramangalam Government Medical College Hospital, Salem is upgraded to super specialty hospital at a cost of Rs.120 crores.
- Elevated corridor between Chennai Port and Maduravayal.
- Sethusamudra Canal Project at a cost of Rs.2427 crores.
- Removal of CENVAT for handloom weavers.
- Sea water desalination plant at Nemmeli at a cost of Rs.908 crores.
- Withdrawal of POTA.
- 3G technology in mobile phones on par with developed countries.
- Introduction of National e-governance programme in all villages. A novel scheme to talk at the rate of 50 paise to any destination in India.
- 1.20 crore new telephone connections every month.
- Reduction in tariff for mobile phones.



- Permission to convert all meter gauge railway lines to broad gauge lines in Tamil Nadu.
- 90 railway over bridges at a cost of Rs.1828 crore.
- Metro Rail in Chennai.
- Hogenakal drinking water scheme.
- 27% reservation in Union government higher education institutions.
- Expansion of airports in Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore.
- National Maritime University at international standard.
- Central University at Thiruvarur.
- World-class Central University at Coimbatore.
- Indian Institute of Management at Trichy.
- National Institute for empowering persons with multiple disabilities in Chennai – first in Asia
- N.S.G. at Chennai.
- Loans obtained by the farmers in all states along with interest to the tune of Rs.60,000 crores were waived by the Union Government.
- Waiver of loan and interest amount due to commercial banks and cooperative credit institutions for farmers of all states to the tune of Rs.72,000 crores by union government.
- Extension of education loans to the tune of several hundreds of crores of rupees by nationalised commercial banks.



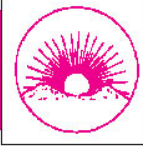
The 13 Union Ministers from Tamil Nadu have implemented a number of schemes for the development of Tamil Nadu and India. Tamil Nadu obtained 11 % of total plan expenditure of Union government amounting to nearly Rs.3,70,000 crore over the last five years. This unprecedented financial transfer facilitated implementation of 69 union plan schemes in Tamil Nadu.

The UPA government brought into force the Right to Information Act and strengthened the democratic and human rights of the people. Like this, in the last 5 years, the UPA government, with DMK's support implemented innumerable schemes for the development of the nation.

The pioneering socio-economic schemes implemented during the DMK regime, have set examples for many other states in India to implement similar schemes. The DMK has been insisting for 'state autonomy' to get more powers for states in order to better serve the people of the state. Since 1989, the national parties have lost the majority to form the government on their own in Delhi, and coalition governments with the support of regional parties have come to stay. The DMK under the unparalleled leadership of Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi has participated in the coalition governments in Delhi and played a constructive role to maintain political stability and uphold democracy.

Federalism

Since 1990, several progressive changes have taken place in Indian federalism. A conducive political development has emerged facilitating coalition governance at federal level with the support of regional parties. In fact, the Indian economy witnessed the higher growth rate of 7 to 9 percent only during these periods. Political federalism has been emerging through the formation of coalition governments at federal level as pointed out by many experts. The time has now ripened for the constitutional federalism to blossom out of the existing political federalism.



The DMK President Kalaingar had the foresight to visualize this development as early as in 1969 and constituted for the first time in India, a commission under of the chairmanship of Justice Rajamannar to go deep into the Union-State relations in India. Based on the recommendations of Rajamannar Committee, the Honourable Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi proposed a far-reaching resolution for 'State Autonomy' in Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1974.

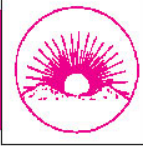
Following this development the Union government had appointed Justice Sarkaria Commission (1983) and Justice Venkatachalaiah Commission (2000) to analyse the Union-State relations. These commissions have recommended measures for rearrangement of Union-State relations in India. Once again, the Union government has constituted a commission on Centre-State relations under the chairmanship of Justice Punchhi in 2008.

The DMK has placed its considered views to the above - said commissions for the establishment of state autonomy based on the principles of wholesome and genuine federalism. The DMK has insisted on appropriate changes in the present Constitution for autonomy at the state level and federal governance at the union level to strengthen federalism in India.

Secularism

Secularism in India is the only cementing force integrating the people of diverse religions and different faiths. The DMK always believes that every individual, as enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution of India, has the right to follow and independently propagate the religion of his/her choice and to promote peace and harmony as reflected in Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India.

The DMK firmly opposes any amendment to the Indian Constitution for a uniform civil code that usurps the religious and human rights of minorities in India.



Social Justice

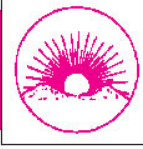
The Dravidian Movement was formed to abolish caste-based discrimination and to implement reservation policy in order to ensure access to education and employment for weaker sections of the society according to their population proportionate to the total population.

The DMK will take all necessary steps at all levels to implement this basic principle. The continued insistence of the DMK has resulted in the announcement of 27 % reservation for OBCs in union government's higher educational institutions after the formation of UPA government in 2004. After crossing several legal hurdles it is being implemented in stages since 2007. The DMK opposes the application of 'creamy layer' criteria in the 27 % OBCs quota in higher educational institutions, which will deprive the OBCs of the full benefits of reservation policy.

The DMK fought and succeeded to increase the annual income ceiling to Rs.4.5 lakh so as to enable OBCs to enjoy the reservation in the first stage. The DMK considers this as a temporary arrangement, but it will fight to remove 'creamy layer' clause in the reservation policy in future.

The DMK will insist on the Union Government to accept the Sudarsana Nachiappan Committee's recommendation of giving statutory status for the government orders regarding reservation to SCs, STs, and OBCs. The DMK will demand an appropriate and suitable bill on this issue in Parliament.

Necessary constitutional amendments should be brought to establish National Backward Classes Commission. As in Tamil Nadu, there should be separate ministries and departments in Union government for OBCs and minorities to promote the socio-economic welfare of the depressed communities.



Judgment is awaited in the Supreme Court of India regarding 69% of reservation act (30 % for BCs, 20 % for MBCs, 18 % for SCs and 1 % for STs) passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

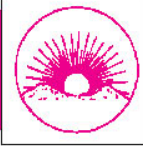
Article 46 of the Constitution of India envisages the government to implement programmes for educational and economic development of the BCs, SCs and STs and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation. The State government enacted the act for sustaining 69 % reservation to BCs, MBCs, SCs and STs. The said act was framed in accordance with the Articles 31(B) and 31(C) of the Constitution. Once this act has been given consent by the President of India and kept under the 9th schedule of the Constitution, the court cannot take up review on such legislations. The constitutional experts are of the opinion that the interference by the courts to review these acts, in violation of this provision, has created hurdles for implementing socio-economic welfare programmes for the depressed and weaker sections of the society.

Therefore, the DMK will insist that suitable amendments to the Constitution of India be passed in the parliament, so that the legislation relating to reservation will not be reviewed by the courts and the programmes can be implemented without any interruption.

Further the DMK will demand that the reservation policy in each state should be left to be decided by the respective states in accordance with the size of the BC, MBC, SC and ST population and insist to implement the respective states' reservation rules in the higher education institutions and central universities of the Union government located in the state. The suitable constitutional amendments in this regard will be sought by the DMK.

Language Policy

The DMK has been continuously demanding to honour the assurance given by former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that Hindi will not be imposed on the non-Hindi speaking people as long as they desire it, and English will be continued as official language.



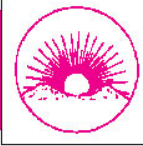
Though DMK insists that Nehru's assurance on language should always be honoured, it also insists that all national languages should be made official languages of the Union government. The DMK will also insist that the written tests and interviews for selection of candidates for all Union government jobs should be conducted in all official languages of India apart from English and Hindi.

As per the provisions 348 and sub-class 2 of the Constitution and section 7 of the 1963 Official Languages Act, the DMK government decided to request the Union government to introduce Tamil as the language in Madras High court so that it conducts all its proceedings and delivers its judgments and decrees in Tamil. The government has completed all the pre-requisites and has submitted the proposal for the consent of the President of India. The DMK will take all necessary steps so that Tamil becomes the language in Madras High Court.

Srilankan Tamils Issue

Since 1956, the DMK has made several sacrifices which includes the dissolution of DMK government twice and organized struggles to find a solution to the continued racial problems in Srilanka. After the DMK assumed power in Tamil Nadu in 2006, the state government has passed resolutions in the state assembly and made representations to the Union government to pursue diplomatic efforts for ensuring equal rights to Srilankan Tamils and to stop the war. The Tamils across the world are well aware about the initiatives of Honourable Chief Minister who led the delegation of all parties of Tamil Nadu and impressed upon the Union government to take necessary steps in this regard. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has been emphasizing for a unanimous approach of all the parties in Tamil Nadu to find a political solution in Srilanka. Further, DMK is of the opinion that the issue should not be used for electoral politics and sincere efforts should be made for a permanent political solution for the ethnic crisis and to stop the war in Srilanka.

To stop the massacre of Tamils and to stop the war, the ruling DMK and other parties' agitations on this issue, meetings with President, Prime Minister and UPA's Chairperson at New



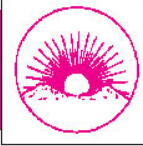
Delhi and in continuation of all these efforts, the Prime Minister has written a letter to Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar on 19.3.2009. The letter as follows:

Dear Dr.Karunanidhi ji,

Your letter of February 22, making a mention of the evolving human tragedy in Sri Lanka, affected me deeply. The plight of the thousands of innocent Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka who have become unfortunate victims of the on-going conflict is indeed pitiable. There are, in addition, thousands of others outside the war zone who live in makeshift camps where conditions are hardly any better.

We are in constant touch with the authorities in Sri Lanka. Contacts are being maintained at several levels, including at the very highest level. Our Foreign Secretary was recently in Colombo where he had another round of discussions with his counterpart, the Defence Secretary, the Secretary to the President. He also met President Rajapakse. Our concerns regarding the plight of the Tamils were explicitly reiterated. Certain suggestions to ameliorate their conditions were proposed, the most important being an offer to set up a Field Medical Unit/Hospital to cater to the civilians and Internally Displaced Persons evacuated from the war zone. The Sri Lankan side has responded enthusiastically to our offer. The Field Hospital has been set up and is functioning well.

During our discussions with the Sri Lankan side, we have consistently proposed a temporary cessation of hostilities, which could be utilized to facilitate movement of the Tamil population out of the war affected areas to safety zones. In the safety zones, proper rehabilitation facilities could be arranged. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, our Minister for External Affairs, has also issued a statement on February 28, on these lines.



We have also urged the Sri Lankan Government to fulfill their commitments to the Tamil population in Sri Lanka, and come up with a proper devolution of powers to the Provinces. We have indicated that this should also include assurances of equality and equal rights for Tamils, as is the case for other citizens of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan President has very recently reaffirmed his commitment to a devolution package, which he said would fully satisfy the Tamils. He has also said that steps in this direction are being initiated immediately. We may wait and see what steps are actually taken.”

As per the Prime Minister's letter, DMK will continue to press that an early way should be found for peaceful existence of Tamils with equal rights in Srilanka.

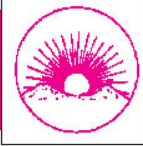
Economic Policy

Indian economy has grown at the rate of 8 % per annum over the last five years. The world financial crisis has adversely affected the industrial sector, resulting in a decline in our country's growth rate. In spite of these challenges, due to the unrelenting efforts of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu attracts new investments in industrial and IT sectors.

Nevertheless, the Union Government should implement special schemes to mitigate the adverse impact of recession on agriculture, industry and service sectors of the economy. If these schemes are implemented through the state governments, then India can achieve higher growth rate in future, and can achieve the targets for various sectors as stipulated in the Eleventh Plan.

Agriculture

When the DMK assumed power in Tamil Nadu in 2006, it waived cooperative farm loans and interest to the tune of Rs.7,000 crore. The state government also reduced interest rate on cooperative farm loans from 7% to 4%. If the farmers repay the loans on time, interest is not all charged. The land revenue in Tamil Nadu is collected only notionally and therefore the state



government has decided to reduce the land tax from Rs.15 to Rs.2 per acre on an average for dry land and from Rs.50 to Rs.5 for wetland per acre and abolished all other taxes on land including cess. In order to encourage agricultural production, the Union government should disburse farm loans at the interest rate of 2% per annum in both cooperative institutions and commercial banks. The DMK insists the Union government to extend interest free loans to farmers in all states who repay the loan regularly as already being followed in Tamil Nadu.

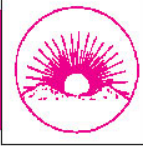
The workers in palm sector have placed certain demands before this government such as increasing the procurement price for Neera to Rs.10 per litre, capital subsidy for palm product units of palm industries development board, increase in the procurement price of jaggery from Rs.40 to Rs.50 per kg. and training centres for palm workers in Ramanathapuram or Thuthukudi and Coimbatore or Salem. While other demands of this sector will be taken into Consideration Sympathetically the DMK will insist on higher financial devolution through Khadi and Village Industries Commission of the Union government for meeting these demands.

Irrigation - Inter-linking rivers

During the flood season, the excess water in Cauvery is to be diverted to water-starved districts through the following schemes being implemented by the state government – Cauvery-Kunduru linking scheme including construction of barrage across Cauvery in Kattalai and Thamirabarani-Karumeniaru-Nambiyaru linking scheme in order to divert excess water from Thamirabarani to water starved regions of Thuthukkudi and Tirunelveli district.

In the last three years, the Tamil Nadu government has been implementing several schemes for improving water resources, such as inter-linking rivers, water harvesting during monsoon and recharging ground water. Similar attempts are also made by other states.

The inter-linking of Ganga-Cauvery rivers is getting delayed due to the apprehensions regarding availability of adequate finance, suitable technology and environmental problems.



Since Tamil Nadu government's initiative in inter-linking rivers in the state is an worthy example for the efforts to inter-link the rivers in South India, the Union government has to extend full financial support for the state's initiatives. The westward flowing rivers in South India should be diverted to the East, so that, the surplus waters shall be used for drinking purposes, instead of being wasted by letting it into Arabian Sea.

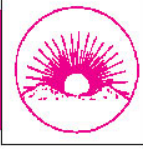
Minimum support Prices for Paddy, Sugarcane and agriculture produce should be increased

The Union Government has announced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs.811.80 per M.T. of sugarcane with 9% recovery. The Tamil Nadu government on its part increased the SAP by Rs.288.20 per tonne, and also an additional support of Rs.30 per tonne and Rs.90 per tonne for transport. Thus altogether, the Tamil Nadu sugarcane cultivators get Rs.1220 per tonne as SAP.

The sugarcane growers demand that the SAP for sugarcane should be increased from Rs.1220 to Rs.1500 per tonne. The DMK will make efforts to constitute a tripartite committee consisting of government officials, sugarcane growers and sugar industry representatives to study this demand and to make suitable suggestions to the government. Based on such a suggestion, the support price will be decided on such a level so as to make all sugarcane growers happy.

The state government responding to the long term demands of the farmers, has increased the price for paddy to Rs.1000 and Rs.1050 per quintal. The DMK will insist that the Union government should declare the MSP for paddy on par with MSP for wheat and further increase the MSP for paddy.

The Union Government announces the MSPs for paddy, wheat, sugarcane and other agricultural produce based on the recommendations of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission. The fertility of soil and agro-climatic conditions vary between states, and hence states have to add to the MSP announced by the Union Government, taking into consideration



the ground realities prevailing in the state. Therefore, the Union government should take into consideration the MSP announced by each state while revising the MSP for the next season.

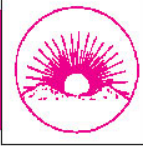
Since 2006, the Tamil Nadu government has been implementing a crop insurance scheme and disbursed nearly Rs.300 crore so far to the farmers affected by natural calamities like drought and floods. The Union government should bring all farmers into the crop insurance scheme and the premium should be borne by the Union and State governments in the ratio 50:50.

The Tamil Nadu government has been implementing Agricultural Labourers - Farmers (social security and welfare) Act since 2.9.2006. So far 1,70,38,112 members have joined the scheme and Rs.247,49,00,360 have been disbursed as financial assistance to benefit 3,75,390 households under this act. The DMK insists that the Union government should bring forth a similar act to the benefit of farmers and agricultural workers in all the states.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

In 30 districts, except Chennai, the NREGP is being successfully implemented in Tamil Nadu. The states should be given freedom to make changes in the scheme for effective implementation in accordance with the ground-realities prevailing in the states. It is essential that this scheme should be implemented for an additional 50 days, that is, a total of 150 days, and necessary funds should be transferred to the states.

The labourers who face retrenchment due to the economic downturn should be given six months salary as a grant. An 'Unemployment Labour Relief Fund' should be created for this purpose.



Minorities Welfare

The Justice Sachar Committee, Constituted by the Union Government has given several recommendations for educational, employment and economic development of Muslims .

In 2007, the DMK government constituted a committee to recommend measures for implementing reservation for Muslim, under the chairmanship of Justice Janarthanan. On the recommendation of this commission, the state government issued orders reserving 3.5% of seats in education and employment for Muslims. The state government has established the Minorities Economic Development Corporation, which is implementing welfare schemes and extending financial assistance and loans to Muslims and Christians. The Union government should follow the example of Tamil Nadu government in this regard and implement immediately the recommendations of the Sachar Committee.

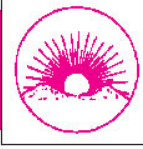
The SCs in Christian community should be included in the Scheduled Caste category on par with SCs in Hindu religion and Buddhism; accepting the recommendations of National Commission on Minorities headed by Justice Ranganath Mishra, the Union government should make appropriate announcements.

Backward Classes Welfare

Though there are Parliamentary Standing Committees for BCs and SCs and separate reservation is given to them, the students belonging to poor families are not able to enjoy the full benefits. The Union government should increase the number of scholarships and expand hostel facilities for the students of these communities in the coming academic year itself.

Free Education to SCs and STs

The DMK will insist that the Union government should extend full scholarships to the students of SC and ST communities to meet out the tuition fee, examination fee and other fees so as to make it free education to SCs and STs.



3% Reservation to Arunthathiyar within SC quota

There are several minor divisions within the Scheduled Caste in every state in India. Among them a few sections have been very backward. In order to uplift these most depressed communities Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar Karunanidhi issued a Government Order reserving 3% within the SC reservation for Arunthathiyar in Tamil Nadu. This is a good example set by DMK and therefore this should be emulated by both Union government and other states in India for making reservation more effective and purposeful.

SC/ST

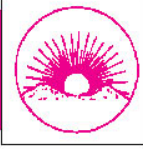
The DMK government under the Chief Ministership of Kalaignar, has constructed thousands of concrete houses for the SCs, STs and BCs since 1971.

In 1996, the DMK government, under the Periyar Samathuvapuram Scheme, constructed houses wherein people of different communities live together in a cordial atmosphere.

SC and ST households, who have not been benefitted from the above mentioned schemes, will be given a house during the next five years from out of the financial contribution of Union and state governments. By 2014 the demand for housing for SC community will be fully met through this scheme.

In the next five years, we will create hutless villages and slumless towns in Tamil Nadu. Without any difference of caste and creed all the hut dwellers will be provided with concrete houses. These houses will be constructed with the finance provided by government subsidy, loans and beneficiaries' contribution.

Since 2006, the DMK government has issued free house site pattas to 6 lakh 56 thousand poor families and these families will be given priority under the 'Hutless Village Scheme'.

**Reservation Policy should be properly followed in Health and Family Welfare Department**

The Diploma in National Board under the Department of Health and Family Welfare, has not implemented reservation policy in degree and diploma courses. The DMK will insist to extend the present reservation system (SC-15%, ST-7.5%, OBC-27%) of the Union government to this Board from the coming academic year.

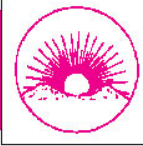
Special Medical Treatment for Women

Carcinoma Cervix is spreading faster among women in rural areas. The Union government should provide 100% financial assistance for HPV DNA testing and colposcopy so that the disease is detected early and cured.

Medicines Prescribed for the Diseases Affecting the Common man to be included in Essential Drug List

The prices of medicines have been increasing rapidly in recent times. The poor sections are the most affected by this price rise. Diabetes affects the kidney, heart and blood vessels. The polydrug (Aspirin+Statin+Aceinhibitor) in a form of single tablet for treating the above said multiple diseases is priced prohibitively high. People are not able to purchase it. Therefore, the DMK insists that this drug should be brought under the Essential Drug list, so that the drug is made available at a reasonable price.

Rural women, manual labourers, agricultural workers and textile workers are mostly affected by respiratory diseases. New medicines and respiratory inhalers prescribed for treating the above diseases should be deleted from commercial list to avoid exploitation and to benefit the poorer sections of the society. Therefore the DMK will insist to include these medicines in the essential drug list.

**Vaccine producing public sector units should continue to produce vaccines**

The efforts to privatize the Pastuer Institute in Coonoor should be abandoned. The DMK will insist that this institute should continue to be in public sector and should produce vaccines adopting international technology. The public sector units should produce anti-dote for snake bites.

Research and Development Laboratories in Medical Drugs

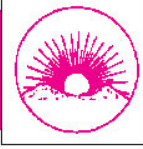
Research and development laboratories in medical drugs should be started in public sector in all the four regions of the country. This would improve the quality of medicines and the medicines will be within the affordable reach of the common man.

The existing examination system for MBBS students should be removed

The existing first year MBBS examination system adversely affects the academic promotion of students from backward and other depressed communities. Out of 6 papers, if a student fails even in one paper, he/she cannot proceed to the second year. The students who have studied in Tamil medium are the most affected in this system of examination. The DMK will make efforts for the reintroduction of the examination system as prevailed before 1998, by which the students should be allowed to appear for the first year exams while studying the 2nd year MBBS.

100% seats in Post-Graduate Medical Courses should be given to States

The post-graduate medical courses offered by state-run medical colleges, reserve 50% seats for allocation by Union government. Through this, the students of other states get admission into the state-run medical colleges. This has adversely affected the students in the states like Tamil Nadu. But students of other states, living in Tamil Nadu are treated on par with Tamils, in the state quota and hence, there is no need for a central quota and it should be given to the state government.



Education

Education should be restored to State List

Education has been included in the State List as per the Constitution of India, 1950. The Kothari Commission (1966) appointed by the Government of India recommended that the education should be kept in the State List in view of the ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversities prevailing in India.

In 1976, education was shifted from the State List to the Concurrent List. As a result, the development of education is retarded due to the existence of dual authorities. Hence, the DMK will insist to bring education from the concurrent list to the state list again.

Increase in Public Expenditure for Education and Health Sectors

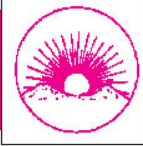
In the Lok Sabha election manifesto 2004, DMK insisted that expenditure on education and health as proportion to GDP should be increased to 6% and 2% respectively.

The UPA Government accepted this suggestion and included it in the Common Minimum Programme. Subsequently the expenditure on education has been increased to 4% of GDP, however expenditure on health is still 1% of GDP. In the next 5 years, the expenditure on education and health should be increased to 7% and 3% respectively. As the states play a direct role in providing education and healthcare to the poor, it is only appropriate for the Union government to transfer the increased financial resources to the states.

Infrastructure

Sethu Samudhram Project to be completed at the earliest

Consequent to the continuous insistence of Kalignar M.Karunanidhi, the Sethu Samudhram scheme was inaugurated on 2.7.2005. While the project was in the final stage of completion, the remaining work was stopped by citing religious reasons. Since the case is pending in the Supreme Court, the Union government should expedite the legal process to



implement the Sethu Samudhram project early for the economic development of southern districts of Tamil Nadu and security of India.

Railways

Super fast Bullet Train services between Chennai – Madurai, Chennai-Coimbatore should be introduced. Dedicated freight corridor is to be implemented by providing connectivity between Chennai and New Delhi.

The DMK will insist to introduce new broad gauge lines in the following five routes - Dindigul to Bodinayakkanur via Kumuli; Thiruvannamalai to Jolarpet; Needamangalam to Pattukottai via Mannargudi; Morappur to Dharmapuri; and Ariyalur to Thiruvaiyaru via Thanjore.

The present Mass Rapid Transit System now operated from Chennai Beach to Velachery should be extended up to Mamallapuram.

In addition to existing express trains from Tamil Nadu to various other states, new super fast trains with modern facilities should be operated in these routes.

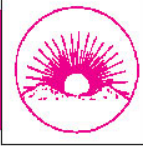
Extension of ICF

The DMK will insist to set up a second unit of the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Tamil Nadu.

Industries

Protection of Industries

The economic recession in America has adversely affected the industrial growth in all the developing countries. Even in India, industries particularly small and micro industries have been facing the adverse effects. Both small scale industries and public sector enterprises should be protected and developed in order to increase employment opportunities in the



country. DMK will insist to bring appropriate changes in import/export policies, tax policies and other industrial policies to safeguard the Indian industries from crisis.

The DMK will demand to upgrade the present Colachel port into a modern deep water container port in order to create connectivity between the western and eastern ports.

A pioneering scheme to produce Solar Energy in Tamil Nadu

National Planning Commission's Eleventh Plan document insists that we should develop non-conventional energy sources in order to protect environment. Tamil Nadu is the first among the states in India in the production of non-conventional wind energy. The solar insolation is found high in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan in India. Hence the DMK will insist that a 250 MW solar energy scheme should be implemented in Tamil Nadu as a pioneering scheme.

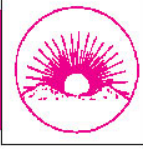
Fishermen Welfare

The DMK will demand establishment of a National Commission for Fishermen Welfare and implementation of the following programmes and schemes :

- (1) Wherever possible fishing ports should be established.
- (2) Infrastructure facilities should be improved in existing fishing ports.
- (3) Improve social and economic welfare of fishermen community.

Protection of Tamil Fishermen

The DMK has strongly registered its protest against the killing of innocent Tamil fishermen by Srilankan Navy. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi has brought this to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister many a time in person and through letters demanding strong measures to stop such atrocities. Hence, the Union government should strengthen coastal guard and enable the Tamil fishermen to exercise their fishing rights without fear in Indian territorial waters. The DMK insists that until the fishermen community



appreciates and accepts, no action should be taken on Coastal Management Zone Notification.

The Right to Fishing near Katchatheevu should be Restored

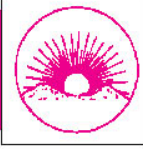
Since 1974, the DMK party has been emphasizing the need to restore the fishing and other rights of Tamil Nadu's fishermen over Katchatheevu. When the agreement signed between India and Srilanka during the Presidential rule in Tamil Nadu in 1976, the rights of the fishermen such as drying the fish, fishnets and worship in churches were withdrawn. Therefore, the DMK insists that the Government of India should take appropriate legal steps to restore the rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen over Katchatheevu and fishing in the adjoining areas.

Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management (FRBM) Act should be reconsidered

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management Acts were enacted and implemented by the Union and State governments so as to achieve the fiscal targets recommended by the 12th Finance Commission. In accordance with this recommendation, Tamil Nadu has passed Fiscal Responsibility Legislation in 2003. The Union government has got exemption from this act to raise public debt so as to meet the increasing commitments in public expenditure due to the downturn in the economy. Hence, the DMK will insist that similar exemption should be extended to the states to protect the fiscal rights of the states.

Devolution of Funds to States

The Union Government should devolve 60% of its tax revenue to the states. The revenue from cess and surcharges are not shared with the states. Hence, the cess and surcharges should be added to the existing tax rates and the increased tax revenue should be devolved to the states as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.



The Terms of Reference and the constitution of the Finance Commission should be decided only in the Inter-State Council. The DMK will insist that the above demands should be accepted.

Southern Gas Grid

For the last 45 years, the DMK has been emphasizing on the establishment of Southern Gas Grid in Tamil Nadu. DMK will insist to lay pipelines for liquid gas transportation and distribution throughout Tamil Nadu.

ONGC – Research and Development Wing to be set up in Tamil Nadu

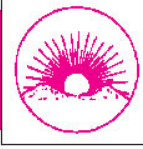
Enormous reserves of natural gas and oil have been identified in Cauvery delta and coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. Hence, a R&D division of ONGC should be set up in Tamil Nadu, in consonance with the Union Government's vision to develop energy resources in the country, as stated in the Eleventh Plan document. The DMK will urge the Union government to establish the ONGC's R&D wing immediately.

Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) to be setup in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has the largest number of Arts and Science Colleges, and a large number of students pursue higher studies in various science disciplines. It is important that scientific research has to be promoted in the state through setting up of a Indian Institute of Sciences in Tamil Nadu. The DMK will urge the Union government to establish the IISc in Tamil Nadu.

Income Tax Exemption

In order to benefit the middle income families, pensioners, salaried people, and government employees, income tax exemption limit should be increased from Rs.1.5 lakh to Rs.2.5 lakh.

**Migrants Welfare**

The DMK will insist to protect the welfare and rights of Indians who migrate to other countries for employment. At the same time, efforts should be taken to protect the democratic, economic and human rights of the people of Tamil origin of India living abroad.

Women's Welfare**Equal Property Rights for Women**

As in Tamil Nadu, equal property rights for women will be ensured all over India. The DMK will insist to enact a law in this regard applicable for the entire country.

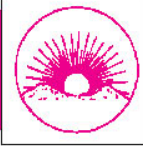
33% Reservation for Women in Parliament and State Assemblies

Since there is no unanimity among the political parties, the Bill providing 33% reservation for women though introduced in Lok Sabha did not see the light of the day. The DMK will fight for passing this bill in the ensuing Parliament.

Priority for Women in Employment

Tamil Nadu had announced reserving 100 % jobs for women in the appointment of the teachers in the primary schools during the DMK regime. After the Court verdict on this issue, 75% jobs are given to women. The state also implemented 33% reservation for women in employment in state government offices and in Panchayat institutions. The DMK will emphasize that the schemes and legislations which have been successfully implemented for the empowerment of women should be extended all over India.

Under Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy memorial maternity benefit scheme, Rs.6000 is provided for pregnant women to ensure proper nutrition level during the pre-natal and post-natal periods. Under this scheme 10 lakh mothers have been benefited so far in Tamil Nadu. The DMK insists that the unique scheme which benefits pregnant women should be extended throughout India.



Similarly, Rs.400 financial assistance per month for widows without fixing any criteria has been implemented successfully in Tamil Nadu. The DMK emphasizes that the scheme should also be extended at all India level.

Trans-Genders

In recognition of the human rights of trans-genders, Tamil Nadu is the first state in India to give ration cards for them during the present DMK regime. Facilities have been extended to them to undergo necessary surgeries at free of cost. Further, Trans-Gender Welfare Board has also been established. In continuation of our initiatives, the DMK will demand the same kind of recognition for trans-genders throughout India .

Self-Respect Marriage Act

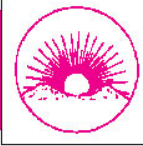
The Dravidian movement, known for its steadfast commitment for social reforms, has convinced the people of Tamil Nadu to accept the agenda of social reforms and implemented many progressive legislations in this regard. The state has been successfully implementing the Self-Respect Marriage Act of 1968, to uphold secular, non-ritual and reformative values while conducting the marriages. This marriage system is welcomed and appreciated by many social scientists and political leaders of the country. Hence the DMK insists that an all India Self-Respect Marriage Act should be enacted.

Civil Aviation

Since the airports in Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Coimbatore have been upgraded as international airports, the Thuthukudi airport should be upgraded as international airport. The existing air base of Indian Air Force in Salem, Thanjavur, Vellore and Ramanathapuram should be converted into passenger airports.

Environmental Protection

Due to global warming, both the United Nations and Union government have been emphasizing the need to give priority for environmental protection and afforestation measures.



In this context, a Centre for Climate Changes has already been established at Anna University to do research on global warming and climate change. Many programmes and schemes are being implemented at a cost of several crores of rupees by both Union and state governments. Since 'environment and forest' is kept in the concurrent list, the state governments could not enact appropriate laws for environmental protection. The right to enter into international agreements is vested with the Union government as per Article 253 of Indian Constitution. Hence, to avoid constraints faced by the states, the Union government should consult the states before implementing such schemes of international importance. The DMK will insist on the Union government to take cognizance of these facts and introduce remedial measures in this regard.

Pollution Control and Effluent Treatment Schemes

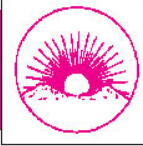
The dying and bleaching units in Tirupur, Erode, Vellore and Karur discharge lots of polluted water. A proper treatment of effluents has to be done and later let into the sea. The DMK will demand that a new scheme should be implemented with the financial help of the Union government for this purpose.

Disaster Management

The Union government should establish a Calamity Relief Commission at regional level to implement relief and rehabilitation measures immediately at times of cyclone and flood and to avoid delay in getting the financial assistance for this purpose. The DMK will urge to establish a Regional Commission at Chennai.

Changes in the Parliamentary Procedures to conduct the proceedings smoothly

It is the genuine expectation of electorate that the proceedings and debates in Parliament should be conducted usefully and regularly in a conducive atmosphere for the benefit of the people. Any attempt to stall the proceedings will undermine the objectives of the Parliamentary system and result in loss of time and financial resources. The DMK will



emphasize that without infringing upon the rights of the members of the Parliament, all party consultation should be conducted to suitably change the rules of procedure for the effective conduct of the proceedings of Parliament.

As far as this Lok Sabha election is concerned, at the national level three party-alliance and in Tamil Nadu four party-alliance have emerged. DMK is in the UPA led by Mrs.Sonia Gandhi, widely known and appreciated for her sacrifice and for upholding unique golden values in politics. The UPA has got good experience in national governance; the security and the growth of the nation are its two eyes; and it has an excellent track record of performance and achievements. This is not an opportunistic or cunning alliance to enact political drama seeking to achieve short-sighted political gains. Hence, we strongly believe that the electorate would solidly support the UPA and shower victories on it, as it has unswerving commitment to fulfill the electoral promises and it has a definite approach to take the country to glorious heights.

Secular and good governance!

Uphold religious harmony!

Defend social justice!

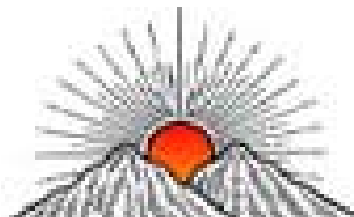
Nurture equality!

Promote democracy!

With these slogans,

We resolve to untiringly work on the path of Anna.

Please vote for



'Rising Sun'!