

CHARTER FOR CHANGE

KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2018

**A Manifesto of the
Communist Part of India
(Marxist – Leninist)
Liberation**

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Candidates Contesting from CPI(ML) Liberation

Bengaluru

Com. Nirmala – Yeshwantpur

Com. Appanna – K.R. Puram

Koppal

Com. Bharadwaj – Gangavathi

Com. Kenchappa – Kanakagiri

Bellary

Com. Santhosha – Hagara Bommanahalli

Com. Ajjappa - Jagaluru

Davanagere

Com. Idli Ramappa – Harappanahalli

Com. Beerappa – Harihara

CPI(ML)(Liberation)

Manifesto for Karnataka Assembly Elections 2018

Preamble

India freed itself from the clutches of the British 70 years ago, after a valiant freedom struggle led by the working classes. Today, however, freedom remains an illusion for the majority of Indians. High cost of living, increased poverty, stark gap between the rich and the poor, lack of jobs and job security, lack of housing, education and health is the reality. A country free of oppression of women and equal rights for women remains a dream. The caste system is entrenched in society and politics, even as atrocities against Dalits gets more brutal, and their exploitation continues. Youth today have no guarantee of a future with education being prohibitively expensive and privatized, and no creation of jobs. This is the India that BJP and Congress have built in their names!

As we approach the Karnataka Assembly Elections in May 2018, the facades of these parties and their leaders have to be revealed. The falsehood of Modi's promises of 'acche din' and Siddaramaiah's 'Bhagyas' stand exposed in light of the open communal offensive against Dalits and minorities. While the CPI(ML) Liberation wants to build an alternative in Karnataka, it is in opposition to the dominant paradigm followed by the BJP, Congress and the JD(S). Therefore, we have contextualized both the national and regional issues and prepared a 'Charter for Change' for an alternative discourse to be built in the State.

Defeat the Corporate, Brahminical, Communal Fascism!

While the BJP, a front of the Sangh Parivar, unleashes its fascist wrath against people, the Congress is playing its soft Hindutva game to appease its Hindu voter base and plays the dominant caste politics to offset its effect. Accompanying this aggressive pursuit of pro-corporate economic agenda is a shrill rhetoric of hyper-nationalism. Every dissenting voice, every inconvenient question is sought to be silenced by dubbing it anti-national and pitting it against the sacrifices made by the soldiers guarding the borders of the country. And this hyper-nationalism is just a shield for virulent anti-Muslim hate and violence. From consumption of beef and cattle-trade to inter-community marriage termed "love jihad" by the Sangh Parivar, any rumour or wild allegation can trigger lynching of Muslims anywhere, anytime. Even an 8-year-old girl born in the Muslim community is not spared and is abducted, drugged, gang-raped and murdered in Kathua, Jammu and when the issue becomes public, BJP MLAs take to the streets to defend the murderers!

Karnataka has not remained insulated from this communal vigilantism either. There have been at least 70 incidents pertaining to the attacks on transportation of cattle and eating of beef by vigilante elements over the past few years. We all remember the attack on the Koragas for eating beef in their village Hosadu, Kundapur Taluk, Udupi district. Also, the ghastly incident in July 2016, where seven Bajrang Dal vigilantes attacked a Dalit family's house in Chikmagalur district alleging that they had stolen and slaughtered a cow.

We have seen Mohammad Akhlaq being dragged out of his home and killed in the middle of the night, we have seen Imtiyaz and Majlum being killed and strung on a tree in Jharkhand, Pehlu

Khan pulled out of his truck and killed in broad daylight on a Rajasthan road, young Junaid stabbed to death right inside a crowded train compartment and Mohammad Afrazul hacked to death, the hacking videographed and posted on social media with a sermon against "love jihad".

The hate and violence directed against Muslims, Dalits, Adivasis as well as women extends in the Sangh ideological framework to communists and the entire range of Left/Liberal intelligentsia or activists by calling them 'librarians' or 'sickulars'. From perpetration and celebration of the serial killings of rationalists and social justice campaigners like Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, MM Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh to the slapping of sedition charges or National Security Act on student leaders or youth activists, hounding out of journalists seeking to expose the truth and ask inconvenient questions of accountability and the veritable raising of a troll army to abuse and intimidate every dissenting voice on the social media as well as mainstream electronic and print media and increasing attacks on offices, activists and icons/symbols of communist parties in different parts of the country – examples of cases of brutal suppression of dissent through systematic propagation of hateful lies and a combination of state repression and state-sanctioned privatised violence are galore in every corner of Modi's India.

It is this combination of heightened corporate plunder, unmitigated communal aggression and caste oppression, systematic suppression of dissent and communist-bashing that has emerged as the defining core of the Modi regime.

While Modi and his senior colleagues from the BJP and RSS maintain a deafening silence in the face of ghastly crimes committed and instigated by the Sangh brigade, others extend open

justification and even indulge in gleeful celebration as witnessed after the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh and most recently in the videographed hacking of Mohammad Afrazul in Rajsamand of Rajasthan, which quite strikingly marked the 25th anniversary of the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

The global economic crisis has provided an impetus for the RSS to push its fascist agenda at the current conjuncture. But the RSS' fascist project is not confined only to turning anger at unemployment and deprivation against the 'Others.' The RSS is seeking to use this juncture to replace India's historic and political imagination with its own. At the time of India's independence, the RSS tried but failed to push the Manusmriti as the basis for India's Constitution: in spite of the fact of caste, patriarchy, and communal prejudices being a part of the widespread social 'common sense' in India, the dominant political consensus did not endorse these prejudices and instead embraced – at least nominally – the goal of political and social equality.

The politics of communal hate in Karnataka is replete with instances of killings and various degrees of attacks not only against religious minorities but also against the voices of dissent. The killing of M. M. Kalburgi and recently in the case of Gauri Lankesh indicates the alarming level of intolerance of fascist forces.

Pushing all real issues under carpet, corporate, communal fascist forces led by Sangh Parivar is trying its level best to cash in on each and every commissions and omissions of the Congress government. The Sangh Parivar including RSS, BJP, Bajrang Dal and its various other mischievous avatars, is hell bent on creating a communal hate and divide along the lines of Hindutva fanaticism, concealing caste hierarchy and caste based repression on Dalits and

other oppressed castes, sanctioned and upheld by the Hindutva Brahminical ideology.

Unfortunately, Dalits and other oppressed castes, who are mainly labouring castes, who are supposed to be in the frontlines of the fight against communal fascist forces are falling prey to it. The BJP does not want to even use the word Dalit, coined by Babasaheb Ambedkar, and has directed its cadre to use the phrase SC/ST. When the Supreme Court passed its judgment diluting the Atrocities Act, BJP MLAs in Maharashtra wrote editorials in support of the same and the Modi government was compelled by the all-India strike to file a review petition against the judgment. 9 Dalits were killed in this all-India strike and to date no one is arrested. Anantkumar Hedge, Central BJP Minister publicly stated that the Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution should be thrown out and replaced by the manusmriti! Can the Dalit community turn a blind eye to the fascist brahminical agenda of the BJP which will keep them entrenched at the bottom of the caste ladder and reduce them to second class citizens with no Constitution also to protect them.

Neither the BJP at the Centre, nor the Congress in the State have any differences over following pro-corporate, anti-people, neo-liberal economic policies. JD(S) is on the margins and has become a party of opportunism that has no definite vision for the growth of Karnataka and development of the people. They have coalesced with the BJP despite having "secular" in their party's agenda. It is apparent in the profanation of the syncretic nature of the Bababudangiri shrine that both the Congress and the JD(S) wears the facade of secularism.

Karnataka has been witnessing an increase in communalization over the past few years, despite the Congress

being the ruling party in the State. Coastal Karnataka has been a hotbed of communal clashes that is increasing by the day.

The State witnessed the influence of the Bhakti Movement during the 12th century through Basavanna, which resulted in the formation of the Lingayats as a separate sect. A section of followers of Basavanna who had raised their voice against the brahminical pontification of Lingayatism, have once again demanded a separate religion tag in their desire to be identified as non-Hindus and to shun the varna system.

Economic Disaster

Demonetisation resulted in a complete economic slowdown and aggravated and further widened the disparity between the poor and the rich. Jay Shah, Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya and their likes made away with lakhs of crores of public money that they took as loans! No halt on corruption or black money and it continues unabated with the new currency. GST further robbed the poor and the middle class too and all taxes which were to be paid by corporates and riches were forced to be paid by the end consumers, the common people. Thus, a meal that cost Rs. 100 has post-GST jumped to Rs. 150! Not even the basic necessities are spared; a sanitary pad is costlier than liquor. On the other hand, Congress-led governments have welcomed global investment into Karnataka which has led to oppression of workers.

The plight of the poor, the downtrodden and the powerless is worsening every day. Minimum wages are not being paid and no punishment for the violators. The Modi led BJP government wants to withdraw all existing labour laws and wants to implement 'Fixed Term Employment', which will only worsen the conditions of all workers. Hitherto mandatory ESI and PF is becoming optional.

Congress is not far behind in relaxing labour law implementation in the name of making business easy. The State Government has fixed a meager minimum wage in the state across all industries, and, shockingly has withdrawn the minimum wages to the Garment Workers succumbing to the pressure of the owners of the garment industries.

Workers' trade union rights are shrinking and Rs. 25,000 per month as minimum wages are required for a decent standard of living in any city in Karnataka remains an unfilled promise of the successive governments. In April 2016, lakhs of garment workers took to the streets in protest against the proposed amendments to the provident scheme which compelled the BJP Government at the Centre to recall their notification. Thousands of pourakarmikas protested for an increase in their wages and for regularization of their jobs, for which the Congress Government had to relent. Thirdly, thousands of anganwadi teachers descended upon Bangalore demanding decent wages, for which the Congress has made half-hearted assurances.

Lopsided Development

On the other hand, we see a sharp increase in the rate of urbanisation, especially of Bangalore, which is depleting manpower of other districts. While Metro Rail, flyovers, highways to ease commute for city-dwellers happen, other districts in Karnataka are given off-handed treatment. For instance, the budget for just the Metro Phase II is Rs. 26,000 crores to be spent over four years, whereas, even large cities like Mysore have entire annual municipal budgets of a few hundred crores. The smart cities project of the Central Government has its roots in four districts of Karnataka. In the name of smart cities, street vendors and slum residents who

constitute the urban poor are being evicted and thrown to the peripheries. Districts like Yadgir, Bidar, Raichur of North Karnataka are lagging behind even in terms of Human Development Index. Malnutrition and literacy rates are abysmal in these districts. The State Government does not focus on overall development of the State, and instead gives all its resources unduly to its capital city, which is increasing migration and poverty ratio.

Question of Land and Agriculture

Land has become out of reach for the poor and land for housing is a burning issue today. Real estate mafia is burgeoning, while land acquisition is being made simpler for them by the State Government. Lakhs of hectares of agricultural land was usurped by the Congress Government to build the Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore, which they wear as a badge of honour!

Agrarian crisis is a big issue in Karnataka, with its Chief Ministers announcing loan waivers to only gain votes during election year! Thousands of farmers have committed suicide for being unable to repay their loans. Climate change and drought has further oppressed the crises-ridden farmers in the State. The Minimum Support Price declared for select crops is not being paid while for several other crops, MSP is not even declared. Farmers are finding it difficult to even do animal husbandry as gomala land and other commons available have been reduced. The whole politics around the cow has also meant that people are afraid to rear cattle, further depleting their income. This has also hurt people in the leather industry as well. To add salt to injury is the water crisis that the State is reeling under. Be it Kaveri, Mahadayi, Kalasa-Banduri or Tungabhadra rivers, farmers and rural labourers suffer due to political conflicts.

Violence Against Women

Women continue to be forced with a reality where the constitutional guarantees of equality are denied to them in every step. From their home, to their place of work to their public life. Women of the working class belonging primarily to the oppressed castes face the triple oppression of caste, class and gender. The nature of work being performed by women, predominantly of cleaning and housekeeping places them in a sphere where their work and labour is invisibilised, and they are denied the basic rights of equality and security. The largest number of unorganised workers in India today are Dalit women who are denied minimum wages, safe working conditions and security of tenure, bringing with it a complete denial of upward mobility and equality of opportunity to not only the women, but to their children, thereby forcing generations into a system of servility and forced labour.

The patriarchal system and the neo-liberal policies of the State have come together to deprive women of autonomy and independence. From the denial of education, which is supported by the state policies of privatisation to the oppressive contractual systems in which women are deprived of equal wages and forcing them into harsh working conditions or the denial of the rights of women to property.

The large increase in crimes against women which requires a questioning of the existing systems of patriarchy has only resulted in state policies that further deprive women of their freedoms. The threat of sexual violence is used to impose and reassert the patriarchal 'lakshman rekhas' over women, and is used to deny them education, employment and any form of freedom.

Crimes against women have increased in Karnataka, with rapes and gang-rapes of minors and Dalit women being reported

every other day. The mass molestation of women who were celebrating New Year in 2017 in Bangalore proved the lack of inaction of the Congress-led State Government. Moreover, no government in the State – be it the BJP, Congress or the JD(S) – has ensured the effective implementation of the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982. The practice of dedication of women, and therefore their oppression continues unabated even to this day. Upholding the Manusmriti to retain patriarchy and caste oppression has become the norm.

Atrocities against Dalits

Atrocities against the Dalit community have increased as well. The practice of manual scavenging is rampant in Karnataka with about eight deaths alone in 2018. Over the past few years, about 75 Dalits have lost their lives to this inhuman practice, in 34 incidents. The State Government has failed to implement the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. Let alone rehabilitation, the State Government has not even identified the thousands of people performing manual scavenging. Moreover, atrocities against Dalits in light of the assertion of the Hindu goons has increased. Last year, people belonging to the Koraga community identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups were beaten up on the pretext that they ate beef in a family function. “Gaurakshaks” have unleashed their terror on both the Dalit and minority communities in the name of “cow protection”. Untouchability is rampant and morphed into new forms in cities. Double-tumbler system and other forms of discrimination are perpetrated on Dalits. In cities too, cleaning jobs are reserved only for Dalits. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s dream of annihilation of caste becomes even more important in this context.

Moreover, the report of the Justice A.J. Sadashiva Commission on internal reservation has not been made public, and is instead being kept a secret. By not making the report public, the Congress is brushing under the carpet the severe struggles of the Madiga caste and sub-castes. When these Dalit communities are taking to the streets to voice their concerns on reservations, it must be taken into consideration with utmost seriousness. The Dalit community is making democratic demands. In addition, the Dalit community should also wage class struggles, and not make reservation their only agenda.

Privatising Institutions of Education and Health

As the Congress Government gives perks to the IT companies like Infosys and Wipro, it is also making education unaffordable in the State. International schools are encouraged as several government and municipal schools are being shut down proactively. School dropout rates are high and literacy rates low. Higher Education has gone out of reach with the State Government readily setting up more than a dozen private Universities like Azim Premji University and the controversy-tainted Alliance University. On the other hand, government universities like Kuvempu University and Karnataka State Open University has bitten dust after getting caught in scams.

As for health, the government made a half-hearted attempt to regulate the private sector and brought out a watered-down legislation. While there is a marginal increase in expenditure on public health, the vision of the government is to still use insurance to protect people's health instead of focusing on expanded public health facilities and preventive health policies.

CPI(ML) Liberation in Karnataka

The CPI(ML) Liberation is the highest political organization of the Indian toiling masses fighting to realize its supreme class mission. It supports the struggles of workers and oppressed people. CPI(ML) is emerging as the only revolutionary political alternative to the people of Karnataka.

The CPI(ML) Liberation came to be identified as a fighting organization around the issues of land, wages and social dignity. We introduced the culture of red shawls in contrast to green shawls. Red shawls became the symbol of our identity of agricultural labour movement and their political assertion against rich farmers. We were seen as the party which consistently fights for rural poor in rural areas of Karnataka, including Davanagere, Bellary, Koppal and Mysore.

We were also able to intervene in political developments. Many political demonstrations were organized by the party on various political issues concerning the people. The major initiative was the *Vidhana Soudha Chalo* programme in 2012 in which workers participated with full enthusiasm. We also had successful protests against demonetization and cattle-slaughter.

Our trade union work further expanded among thousands of contract sanitation workers of BBMP, contract workers of BWSSB, syces of Race Course, and among contract workers of many public-sector companies as well as street vendors.

We have a well committed team dedicated to the work of upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden. One of the major struggles of working class witnessed in Bangalore was the one by BBMP Guttiye Pourakarmikara Sangha affiliated to AICCTU. The valiant struggles by the Pourakarmikas have resulted in the

payment of wages over Rs. 14,000 per month which is among the highest for contract workers. The same was extended to BWSSB workers too while STP workers are on the path of struggle to get the same. In Gangavati town of Koppal district, through their struggles for wages and social security, the pourakarmikas have received revised wages, and PF benefits after the City Municipal Council was fined about Rs. 1 crore for non-compliance and their bank accounts seized. Their struggle is serving as a model for working class from other sectors. We had a valiant 9-days long strike by Mangalore Port workers engaged by shipping companies. We are leading struggles of various other sections of workers including ready-mix concrete workers, hospital workers and various others.

In political and ideological terms our party line is established through our practice in Karnataka. Our party has got an all India character and is engaged in political initiatives, and has retained its independence vis-à-vis the bourgeoisie parties such as Congress and JD(S). In a definitive way, we have also strived to develop class struggle and assert class line in rural areas through red-shawls representing agrarian laborers in contrast to green-shawls representing the rich and the powerful. While some ML groups are focusing on non-class issues, we continue to lay emphasis on organizing rural and urban poor in class organizations. Even while organizing Trade Unions, we lay emphasis on politicization of working class and democratization of the trade unions. In the electoral arena, though our participation is very limited, we are the only voice for independent left assertion. We have started taking roots and spreading our wings to different areas.

CPI(ML) Liberation's Charter for Change

CPI(ML)Liberation has a glorious record of people's struggles for transformation, and we reiterate our commitment that every MLA elected from CPI(ML) will carry forward the people's movement for the following *Charter of Change*.

1. Agriculture:

- Bring policies that encourage traditional, region specific agriculture, and take steps against commercialisation and corporatisation of agriculture
- Change government policies that make agriculture non-profitable and that pushes small peasants owning less than 5 acres to ranks of agricultural labour
- Provision of MSP that is 1.5 times the total cost of production as per formula devised by All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, subsidies for fertilizers, etc. and new legislation on comprehensive debt relief
- Supply of electricity to agricultural pumpsets in rural areas
- Encourage organic farming, agro forestry and zero cost agriculture as in Andhra Pradesh to reduce dependency on chemical fertilisers
- One-time full waiver of all farm loans from all sources
- Strict action will be taken under the Money-lenders' Act against unlicensed private money-lenders imposing usurious rates of interest on farmers and such farmers released from such debts under the Debt Relief Act.

- Special production incentives including state procurement will be given for pulses and millets.
- Milk, eggs, fruits and vegetables will be procured locally from farmers' cooperatives and supplied to anganwadis and schools for preparing fresh midday-meals.
- No agricultural land, even single-cropped land will be acquired for any industrial projects, SEZs, industries, GIM, etc.
- Only lands not used for agriculture or grazing will be given to industries and infrastructure projects such as airports. Any diversion of land must be done after a strict socio-economic impact assessment is done and measures taken in line with wishes of affected people
- A 'Land Use Commission' will be established.
- Bagair Hukum lands on which the landless have been cultivating will be immediately regularized. An inquiry committee will be set up to identify all non-cultivators who were given land and said lands will be taken back
- All common lands - Gomala, Gunduthopu, Devarakaadu and others will be protected. Where no common lands exist anymore, state will if necessary acquire private lands and ensure commons are provided
- Tank network will be rejuvenated, while lakes, tanks, and other water bodies will be conserved and protected as commons
- All hand-makers: Potters, carpenters, metal workers, etc. to be encouraged through loans, provision of santhes and tools. Marketing support to be provided to them as well.
- Government will set-up a committee to explore how caste wise housing and other practices that strengthen caste in villages can be stopped

2. Workers and their rights:

- Workers employed in work of perennial nature (contract, daily-wage, non-regular and other workers of such nomenclature) will be regularised, the principle of equal pay for equal work must be upheld in every field, women workers will get equal wages as their male counterparts
- ASHA, Anganwadi, mid-day meal workers will be treated as regular employees with proper pay scales
- Minimum wages will be raised to Rs. 25,000/- per month
- Reversal of proposed reforms in labour laws
- Contract labour and other informal systems that exploit labour will be scrapped
- Equal pay and service conditions to workers of whatever category, including contract and casual workers but employed in same similar kind of work
- Special housing scheme for workers along the lines of Ashraya Mane Scheme
- Enacting a law to confer permanent status to workers who completed 240 days of work in a year along the lines of Tamil Nadu
- Compulsory recognition of union enjoying the support of majority of workers in each company
- Special law to stop unfair labour practices along the lines of Maharashtra
- Mandatory payment of increase in DA over and above existing wages
- Mandatory social security benefits like ESI, PF, Gratuity
- Removal of ceiling on Bonus and making minimum bonus as 20 percent

- Expedite the process of registration of trade union within 45 days of making the application and allow registration of general workers' union
- Representation for central trade unions in various boards and committees related to the labour
- The Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board shall ensure that all construction workers are registered and comprehensive welfare schemes will be developed for the benefit of these workers
- There are over 60 lakh workers in the hotel industry. A legislation to protect their needs and a separate welfare board will be setup, along with looking into issues pertaining to their wages and application of labour laws
- Needs of unorganized workers in small industries like petrol bunks and shopping malls will be looked into
- Ensure effective protection to all contract workers in factories, especially safety and social security
- Street vending and the vendors will be protected and the rights realised under the procedure and process mandated in the Street Vendors Act, 2014
- Strict enforcement of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen's Act
- Strengthening of the Labour Department by creation of new posts for inspectors, labour officers, DLCs and ALCs, and filling up of all vacant posts

3. Women's Rights and Freedom:

- Ensuring women's autonomy and freedom
- Secure, dignified, remunerative employment will be ensured for women

- Education for the girl child, including higher education, will be encouraged
- Sexual harassment redressal system will be made accessible to all women workers
- Marital rape will be criminalised
- Police harassment against sex workers, and ensure access to remunerative alternative livelihoods for them will be ensured
- Access to clean toilets for all genders, in homes as well as in public spaces, and access to regular, safe public transport will be ensured
- One-stop, 24-hour crisis centres and safe shelters will be instituted in each police district for women survivors of violence
- Compensation and rehabilitation will be ensured for survivors of rape and acid attacks
- Gender-sensitive police and prosecutorial procedures will be strictly followed, and the number of judges and courts expanded to ensure speedy justice in every case
- 50% Women Reservation in all arenas including in local bodies
- Strengthening of women police station and extension of the system
- Enhancement of monthly pension of Widows, Physically Challenged citizens, senior citizens and Devadasis
- To ensure the implementation of the Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982
- Free stamp duty for site and home registration for women. Government houses to be registered in women's name only.
- State should take active measures to prevent moral policing and violence against girls and women

4. Child Welfare

- Higher budgetary allocation for welfare of children
- All children hostels, homes, state homes, etc.will be provided with full infrastructure and facilities
- The functioning of the Anganwadis will be improved and the recommendations of the Jst. N.K. Patil report will be implemented
- Special care will be given to malnourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers by provision of eggs, milk, fruits, vegetables, etc.
- The Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board will introduce mobile crèches for children of migrant and other construction workers
- A new policy will be introduced for the comprehensive protection of the rights of children of migrant labour
- Stringent implementation of the law and action to prevent sex determination, infanticide, child marriage, forcing children into the devadasi system, etc.
- Child labour will be tackled comprehensively and eradicated from the State.
- MakkalaPanchayats will be introduced to encourage participation of children in urban and rural governance

5. Youth:

- Comprehensive employment policy and employment generation for providing jobs to unemployed youth and to fill all vacant posts in railways, banking, workers, schools, colleges and offices
- Improving sport facilities in all universities, colleges and schools

- To bring out a white paper on the present situation of employment and vacancies
- To guarantee regular employment in the private sector also
- To penalise companies which do not give employment in proportion to profits. To ensure reservations in private sector jobs
- Adequate facilities for vocational training that combine formal education with skill and entrepreneurship training need to be established for adolescents between 15 to 18 years
- The participation of youth in governance and functioning of the Youth will also be involved in assisting the elected members of Gram Panchayats to collect information related to issues of concern to the Gram Sabhas, conduct surveys and spread information and awareness on important topics of democratic principles that will encourage people's participation and responsible citizenship
- Urban Employment Guaranteed Act, on the lines of MGNREGA, for provision of employment to unemployed urban youth, will be enacted.
- Payment to unemployed youth a minimum monthly allowance of Rs. 5,000 till they get proper employment
- Student Unions and elections will be made mandatory in all colleges
- Set-up more ITIs, art-schools, music schools and theatre schools

6. Welfare of Dalits:

- The A.J. Sadashiva Commission report will be made public immediately

- Inclusion of teachings of Ambedkar and Phule in school curriculum
- A separate authority will be constituted for the effective implementation of the SC/ST Sub-Plan Act
- There will be no diversion of funds and budgets earmarked for the development of SC/STs (22.75%)
- A Committee will be constituted to review the functioning of all law pertaining to SC/STs and for recommending steps to improve means of reaching all benefits to these communities
- Full and time-bound implementation of the Manual Scavengers Act, 2013 so as to ensure eradication of the scourge of manual scavenging
- All landless and houseless SC/STs will be provided with agricultural land and sites/houses without any delay and all unauthorised cultivations will be regularised immediately

7. Education:

- Spending on education to be increased from 1% of GDP to 6% of GDP
- Free education from KG to PG will be provided
- All private universities will be taken over by the state
- Government schools will be provided with all infrastructure and facilities and all vacant posts of teachers and other staff shall be filled
- The recommendations of the Kothari Commission in regard to common school system will be implemented
- Free uniforms, textbooks, stationery, school bags, transportation, etc., will be provided to all government school children

- Syllabus will be reviewed to reflect constitutional values and regional history, culture and language
- Improve the mid-day meal scheme and provide better and nutritious food including eggs, fruits and vegetables
- Effective measures to reduce school dropout ratio to zero and manage it
- All entrance exams in addition to regular school/ college exams will be scrapped. If required, and an entrance test that provides level playing field to all students will be devised
- Make education scientific and for an all-round development of students' intellectual faculty
- Ensure all universities have statutory committees to handle sexual harassment
- An anti-discrimination policy that will address issues of discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, sexuality, colour, class will be devised especially for educational institutions. Each educational institution will become a discrimination free institution.
- Special Support in language, coaching will be provided to students of all disadvantaged backgrounds in universities and schools
- Mental Health support centres and eco-systems to be created in all universities

8. Housing:

- Adoption of the programme of Home for All by providing sites and homes at free of cost
- Waving off loans to poor beneficiaries of housing schemes such as VAMBAY, Ashraya, Indira AwasYojana, RAY, etc.
- Upgrade all houses with thatched roof to tiled/concrete roofs

- Title deeds to land will be given to the slum-dwellers and easy interest-free loans shall be provided for building their houses
- Complete stop on any forced evictions of persons in unauthorised houses or unauthorised colonies or slums
- Government rental housing will be provided
- Develop housing colonies for construction labour, industrial and other informal workers
- All rural households without own house will be provided land and support to construct house

9. Water and Sanitation:

- Free clean drinking water of 20,000 litres per family, per month, after which commercial charges will be applicable
- Drinking water and toilet facilities in all government schools and public places
- All urban local bodies shall be provided with 100% underground drainage systems and all necessary machinery for its maintenance.

10. Health:

- No privatisation of health services
- Universalising of health care in the State through expansion of public health facilities
- Take stringent actions against corporate hospitals that cheats people and charge exorbitant fees
- Introduction of free health care for all citizens of the State
- Up-gradation of all district hospitals into specialty/super-specialty hospitals and PHCs in all Gram Panchayats
- Special program to bring down Infant/Maternal Mortality Rate

- Dialysis, diabetic and heart related service centres in all taluka head-quarters
- All vacant posts in the Government hospitals, PHCs, etc. shall be filled up and all contract nurses and workers shall be regularised
- Increase in spending on public health to atleast 4% of its GDP
- Free, essential, generic medicines to be provided to all citizens in all public health institutions
- The collection of user fees/charges/service payments in any form in all public health institutions including those which are autonomous institutions will be stopped with immediate effect
- All government hospitals/Primary Health Centres (PHCs)/Community Health Centres (CHCs) to have separate children's sections where all services to children are free
- Focus on preventive healthcare for non-communicable diseases rather than expensive tertiary healthcare
- Strict monitoring of surrogacy, clinical trials, stem cell research, invitro-fertilization, etc.
- Bring about changes in regulation system of government hospitals to ensure that common citizens have a say in its functioning
- Responsive grievance redressal system for all private and public health institutions
- Alternative and native health systems will be encouraged
- Mental Health Policy to ensure adequate access to care and support for all will be brought out

11. Transport:

- No privatisation of the State public transport organisations and service

- Provision of intra-city and inter-city buses at affordable cost to improve and enhance connectivity
- State subsidies for RTCs to increase to ensure affordable fares and quality service
- RTCs to be made answerable to ULBs/MPCs. Workers will be provided a voice in the running of RTCs. Widely representative commuter forums will be set-up in each RTC
- Proper, offline and online grievance redressal system for commuters and workers
- Transport will be designed in consultation with commuters and workers in a manner that every person can use state transport to meet their rights of education, livelihood, leisure and free movement
- In regard to urban transport sole emphasis will be on providing accessible, affordable, frequent, reliable, and prioritized bus transport system in cities and rural areas. No more flyovers, underpasses. Metro project to be halted and reviewed for cost-benefit analysis before proceeding
- Free cycles to be provided to all BPL families and cycle mechanics to be provided kiosks like cobbler kiosks
- TenderSURE project to be stopped

12. Urban Development:

- Reversal of all corporate oriented and anti-people urban reforms and evolution of a framework for pro-people reforms
- 70% budget will be set aside for the provision of housing and basic amenities to the urban poor
- Complete stop on any demolition of slums and land titles will be granted to the existing slum dwellers

- New Slum Act for comprehensive protection of the rights of slum dwellers and provision of land titles, housing and basic facilities
- Free houses for all houseless and migrant workers
- Free water supply for all and free electricity supply to slum areas
- Urban Land Ceiling Act will be brought in to restrict the amount of land owned, while land will be redistributed for shelter
- Rent Control Act will be brought in
- Individual and public latrines to cover the entire population in the urban areas and also to ensure that that maintenance of these are done through machines and do not promote manual scavenging
- Stop privatization of governance and promote democratization of governance as per 74th amendment. All ULBs to have ward committee and area sabhas and governance will be bottom up. Ward committees will have worker representatives, and the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act will be amended accordingly. Metropolitan Planning Committees will be set up as per the law and planning will be done through the same. All planning authorities like BDA, MUDA will be disbanded
- Strict compliance with solid waste management laws and workers' rights will be guaranteed by effectively putting an end to the contract system and observing occupational safety standards and providing social security
- Waste problem will also be tackled by targeting excessive consumption and ban on all forms of plastic
- Ensuring balance between rural and urban development and focus on and development of all urban local bodies with the emphasis on providing houses, basic services

- Construction of a modern public toilets
- Development of pedestrian ways and footpaths in all areas, in a manner that the physically challenged can also use them comfortably
- Construction of parks, open spaces, playgrounds and stadiums.
- Against pushing slum dwellers to the periphery of the cities and reclaiming cities as that of toiling masses
- Promotion of public transport, cycling and pedestrianisation and discouraging private motor vehicles, by substantially increasing the fleet of buses, and by considerably reducing the ticket fares
- Vehicular parking fees will be levied to discourage use of private transport
- Prevention of harassment of autorickshaw drivers by the police
- Tank system in all cities to be rejuvenated
- Encourage traditional santhes in all urban areas and discourage malls so as to ensure more livelihoods and also goods at lower cost are made available

13. Forest, Ecology and the Environment:

- Protection of the environment, forests, green cover in rural and urban Karnataka
- Making Karnataka a plastic-free state
- Focus on decentralised renewable energy and stop mega solar parks
- Massive efforts at protection of all lakes, tanks, etc. and rejuvenation of Water sources and restoration
- Ban use of endosulfan and other harmful pesticides
- Protection and development of Western Ghats and other eco sensitive zones in the state while protecting the rights of the Adivasis

- Ensure strict compliance of all forest, environmental and pollution control laws and regulations by all industries and polluting activities.
- Putting a complete stop to all illegal mining activities while protecting the rights of the workers and ensuring alternative employment for them and reparation of the environment
- Pursuing of the policy of small dams and integrated water development schemes while laying focus of developing local sources of water including by rain water harvesting
- Each district to have its own environmental policy with focus on strong links between people and environment

14. Revenue:

- Provision of land for allotment of sites to persons without their own houses in villages and construction of houses for them
- Timely measure to update revenue records
- Full and complete implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006 and legalising forest land cultivations and community rights of these communities

15. Corruption:

- Zero tolerance to corruption
- No insistence on Aadhaar for any benefits and schemes and corruption in these schemes shall be weeded out by other stringent measures
- No convicted persons will be allowed to stand for any elections
- Convicted officials will be dealt with strictly
- EVMs will be replaced with ballot papers to curb tampering during elections

16. Social Welfare:

- Separate development boards will be constituted for the down-trodden communities
- The running of hotels will be reviewed and streamlined
- Effective mechanism to ensure that transgender community will avail of their constitutional rights will be undertaken in consultation with the community
- Empowerment of Minorities through education, skill development, employment generation, housing schemes; construction of community halls
- Suitable representation to Christian community in Minority Development Board and Minority commission
- A separate Board will be constituted for the comprehensive development of the nomadic communities in Karnataka
- Payment of scholarships in advance to students
- Implement the recommendations of Sachar Committee and RanganathMisra Commission to improve the conditions of Muslims and other minority communities
- An Action Plan will be prepared and executed to wipe out bonded labour from Karnataka within the next three years
- An anti-discrimination policy will be brought out to address discrimination in private and public sphere
- Inter-caste marriages will be encouraged
- Dis-honour killings will be dealt with strictly
- All measures will be taken to annihilate caste

17. Effect a pro-people shift in economic policies:

- Ensuring protection of all farmlands and stop all private acquisition of forest land, coastal areas and traditional fishing zones

- Increased public investment in agriculture and all kinds of institutional support to the crisis-ridden peasantry
- Greater emphasis on small and medium enterprises to strengthen domestic manufacturing
- No FDI in retail and strategic sectors, protection of all labour-intensive sectors from adverse foreign competition
- Stop privatisation of key infrastructure and financial sectors and bring key resources like oil and gas and minerals under public control
- Increase tax revenue by strengthening the system of corporate taxes and levying inheritance tax on the rich. All unreasonable subsidies, tax waivers and tax exemptions to corporates and businesses shall be withdrawn
- Increased public investment on health, education and scientific research
- Skill development programs and consolidation of employment generation for youth
- Good wage jobs to be created across sectors to ensure 'zero-unemployment' and 'zero-underemployment'
- Organising monthly job fairs in all districts every month
- Comprehensive packages for balanced regional development in the state including enforcement of Article 371J, provision of suitable grants for area developmental works and special developmental packages for Hyderabad-Karnataka region.

18. Curbing price rise and improving the conditions of the toiling masses:

- Universalisation of PDS
- Prices of essential commodities and services will not be allowed to escalate beyond the reach of the common people

- Food Security Act will be strengthened to ensure monthly supply of at least 50 kg foodgrains for a family of five along with sugar, milk, pulses and edible oil
- HOPCOMS will also supply fruits, vegetables, eggs at subsidised rates). Basic textile material for salwar/saree/dhoti/shirt/pant will also be provided in PDS and procured from small weavers
- Provisions of MNREGA will be expanded to guarantee at least 200 days of work at a minimum daily wage of Rs. 300, municipal areas will also be brought within the purview of the Act
- BPL irregularities will be stopped – non-tax-payers and landowners owning less than 5 acres of land will all be considered BPL for benefits meant for the poor
- Complete redistribution of land for agriculture and shelter will be made through land reform programme
- Pension for senior citizens, widows and the disabled will be in consonance with the prescribed Minimum Wages and linked with Dearness Allowance

19. Reorient Development Strategy to Guarantee People's Rights and Protect Environment:

- Full and complete implementation of the Forests Rights Act in its spirit and will reorient all forest policies with forest dwelling communities at the centre
- Reorient the strategy of development, making distributive justice, people's rights and environmental sustainability its three core principles
- Stop forcible acquisition of land and return all acquired land that is lying unused to the original owners
- Stop all projects that violate environmental norms

- Stop nuclear projects and GM crops that pose a threat to public health and safety
- Ensure 24x7 supply of electricity at subsidised rates for rural and urban poor and for small enterprises, shops and agriculture
- Rural electrification to be complete
- Ensure quality education and healthcare for all, education from KG to PG will be free and imparted through the common school system and in a choice of mother tongue or English

20. Legal and Police Reforms:

- Will strengthen RTI, enact Jan Lokpal legislation to provide for a powerful and autonomous anti-corruption watchdog, bringing all levels of the state including ministers, bureaucrats, the armed forces and the judiciary, corporate houses, media organisations and NGOs within its ambit
- Will withdraw the controversial 'Aadhar' scheme and 'cash transfer' plans
- Policing will be thoroughly overhauled to stop human rights violations and atrocities on peaceful democratic activities and struggles
- The jail manual will be updated and strictly enforced
- Bails will be made the norm to stop overcrowding in jails and persons caught in socio-economic offences will be released on bail on personal bond

21. Rural Development and Governance:

- Sufficient budgetary allocations for ensuring that all villages are accessible by motorable roads
- Increasing the funds to Gram Panchayats substantially

- All necessary steps to ensure proper implementation of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993
- Provision of basic infrastructure and manpower to Gram Panchayats immediately
- Selection of beneficiaries for any programmes/schemes involving Gram Sabha members, including those for housing schemes, will be made compulsory by the Gram Sabha
- Efforts shall be made to remove caste biases in governance
- Training shall be provided to women, SC, ST, BC, Minority GP members.

Friends,

We appeal to you to vote for CPI(ML)(Liberation) candidates in the 2018 elections, to ensure that the voices of people's resistance can resound in Vidhana Soudha, and challenge the regime of plunder and corruption. Resist the devious design of the forces of corporate and communal fascism, and strengthen the democratic unity and struggles of the people by all means for a better tomorrow. In this election, defeating corporate, *manuvadi*, communal fascism has emerged as the primary task of every democracy-loving citizen.

Let us dream of a new Karnataka without exploitation, without inequality, without untouchability, without caste domination, without religious hate and communalism, without any forms of domination. A Karnataka where we can lead a decent life, where there are no hands without jobs, no stomachs without food, no people without a roof, where people get justice and everyone is happy. But dreaming is not enough; we should also work towards fulfilling our dream of a New Karnataka. Please join hands and build the party of the working class; the party of the poor; party of the oppressed classes. Let us seize the moment, expose these corrupt pro-rich political parties and build a new egalitarian society. Jai Bheem, Lal Salaam! InquilabZindabad!

**Defeat anti-people, corporate, communal fascist
rightwing BJP!**

Vote for the Left!

Vote for a Revolutionary Political Alternative!

Vote for CPIML Liberation!

CHARTER FOR CHANGE

A Manifesto of the Communist Part of India (Marxist – Leninist) Liberation

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