

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ELECTION 2010 MANIFESTO

Dear Citizens,

This is our beloved Kolkata – the city whose heart still throbs with the mystic words of the inspired poet Rabindranath Tagore. This year happens to be the hundred-and-fiftieth birth anniversary of the poet-laureate. Very significantly, this is the year when the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Election is going to take place. Hence, by remembering a harbinger and visionary like him, the Trinamool Congress announces its manifesto for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Election 2010.

Surveying through the legacy of Kolkata Corporation, it remembers pioneers like *Deshbandhu* Chittaranjan Das and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose – without whom it is hard to imagine the institution itself. Great names like Raja Ram Mohan, Sri Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda, Vidyasagar and Michael Madhusudan, *Rashtraguru* Surendranath, Najrul, Acharya Jagadish Bose, Parafulla Chandra Roy and several others adorn the history of the city Kolkata. Even an angel from foreign lands, who chose this city for her life's work – the very Mother Teresa pervades our hearts to this day.

The pioneers and visionaries of the national freedom movement bring to Her name a singular reverence. Kolkata defines her character of being through her revolt against injustice and despotism. This is our Kolkata – abuzz with meetings, processions and movements – our beloved Kolkata.

The capital of West Bengal, Kolkata, still takes a firm stand against all forms of injustice, for democracy and the rule of law to prevail.

It is a shameful thought that those who have been at the helm of affairs in this great city of ours, occupying the Writers' Building for over three decades, those very people have led us into an almost eternal night of misery and suffering. Abandoning the wise ways of our ancestors, slighting the pioneers who played an instrumental role in the reawakening our country from its age long slumber, the present regime has managed to make us backward in every possible way.

Terrorism and CPI(M) go hand in hand. It has engaged itself in wiping out any protesting voice by murdering Trinamool workers everyday. They possess illegal arms and ammunitions. They have skilled bomb makers. From the time of the Lok Sabha elections more than 250 Trinamool workers have been killed. They do not care about the rule of law and are intent on establishing anarchy. We want peace, progress and development.

During the past 35 years, the regime has converted people into slaves of the party through rampant terrorism. Murder, rape and loot have been the order of the day. They are ready to go to any extent to remain in power. Hence people spontaneously rose in rebellion from the Singur-Nandigram to Rizwanur issue. Bengal is reawakening. The historic 26 day Satyagraha by the leader Mamata Banerjee on the issue of Singur was a land mark event. The civil society has played an important role in the present uprisings. The rebellion has brought back life to the villages of Bengal. The winds of change are blowing everywhere.

We are indebted to *Ma-Mati-Manush*

No deliberation on the present elections will be complete without putting the same into the context of the above events. Hence, it should be remembered that the present election is important on many accounts. On May 30, elections will be held for 82 municipalities including the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Trinamool Congress is there for the people with all the good wishes and is ready to carry out the mandate of the people. It intends give a new direction to the process of development all over. In spite of all the impediments and obstacles raised by the CPI(M), the will of the people shall prevail. We believe that there cannot be a political awakening without a cultural awakening. We also believe that the coming elections will play an instrumental role in determining such a reawakening.

Our Commitment

Before going into the details of the manifesto lets understand the level of commitment that is binding upon the Kolkata Corporation.

- **Pure and clean drinking water:** With the heat of the summer on, the citizens of Kolkata are deprived. During monsoons there is hardly any difference between drinking and dirty water. Given the mandate Trinamool will make sure that clean and pure water reaches the citizens.
- **Drainage:** Nothing has been done for years. Trinamool had initiated the effort. CPI(M) has failed to hasten the work. If Trinamool makes it again to the office, the work on proper drainage of water will be taken care of in a scientific way.
- **Waste disposal:** The city will be kept clean by Trinamool. In the past, Trinamool had planned in detail how to recycle waste at a distant location. It will start the work again. The piling of waste will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Arrangements will be made and new technologies resorted to in order to effectuate the work.
- **Toxic waste management:** Trinamool is planning to resolve this problem with advanced scientific technology.
- **Roads:** Roads have been in very poor condition under the regime of CPI(M). Trinamool had shown before how to maintain roads with the help of new technologies. By the use of that very procedure in a more effective way, roads will be constructed to connect the remotest of areas.
- **Electricity:** The CPI(M) has destroyed the Corporation infrastructure. At present, funds are being arranged from the MP-MLA treasury for electricity. The Trinamool board will take measures to recover the entire infrastructure for the supply of electricity.
- **Health:** The CPI(M) has restored fatal diseases that were relegated to the past. As a result a great number have been affected or have died during the past few years. The Corporation board has failed to deliver as far as medical treatment is concerned. Trinamool will resurrect the health service infrastructure in a practicable manner. It will keep a keen eye so that even the

poorest of the poor can take advantage of medical facilities.

- **Gardens, Ponds and Environment:** CPI(M) has caused great damage to the natural environment. The Trinamool initiative (launched during the last term) has been given the stamp of CPI(M) and used to gain political advantages, but it has failed to keep it green and make it greener. On the other hand, Trinamool is ready to put in to use the latest technologies to create a beautiful Kolkata. More than a lakh of trees will be planted. We want a '**Green and Clean City**'. Besides, many other measures will be taken to beautify the city. Apart from that, special attention will be given to the cleansing of the river Ganga, and tourism on the adjacent areas will be promoted. However, that will be a time consuming affair.
- **Education:** The Corporation schools and education infrastructure is in complete disarray and is used principally for the work of the party. Trinamool will bring back the Corporation education system into mainstream. Measures will be taken to ensure that the children of the poorest of the poor get a chance to take advantage of the education system.
- **Slum development:** CPI(M) has done no work as far as the development of slums is concerned. It has engaged itself in petty politicking and has deceived the people in the name of development. Trinamool will resurrect the slum infrastructure and create conditions for clean and decent living.
- **Emergency service and fire extinguishing infrastructure:** Nobody believes that there is a system in place for these things. Occurrences like the one at Stephen Court or natural disasters like 'Aila' are becoming frequent by the day. Hence it is absolutely necessary to keep these services running. The CPI(M) has failed utterly in this regard. Trinamool will go for a complete overhaul of the system.
- **Preservation of heritage structures and town planning:** In Kolkata, there are many such heritage buildings. There is much scope of work on that regard.
- Besides Trinamool will chart a detailed plan with regard to the old markets and try to effectuate a practicable solution with the consensus of all the middle-scale and small-scale entrepreneurs. It will reform the infrastructure with the help of specialists.
- It should be mentioned along with it that the maintenance and reform of crematoriums and graveyards will also be taken care of.
- The CPI(M) Corporation board has turned a blind eye to all these. However, we want a humane and modern development and reform of the entire infrastructure. The CPI(M) has played an instrumental role in the backwardness of this city in every respect. Whatever little has been done in the name of flyovers should have been done 15-20 years ago. As far as development is concerned, we will give a priority to building roads and focus on its urgent execution. Arrangement of construction, from flyovers to ring-roads, will be done on an urgent basis. All this will be done keeping in mind, the question of rehabilitation.
- **Revenue and tax realisation:** In its previous term, Trinamool had taken steps to simplify the board tax. But the CPI(M), in the last five years, have managed to complicate it once again. If and when Trinamool comes to power, it will simplify taxation on all levels and will look into it

that no unjust tax is levied on the common man.

- **Transparent and efficient administration:** It should be borne in mind that in its previous term Trinamool had found out that the preceding CPI(M) board had skipped auditing for ages. The entire arrangement had to be made by Trinamool. The last five years have again been a reversal of the conditions of corruption. Gariahat Treasury scam and the likes of it are revealing more such instances of unabated corruption on all levels. Trinamool wants to setup an administration that is transparent, skilful, humane, sympathetic and efficient at the same time.
- **Tourism programmes:** Kolkata is a historic city. There are places which has the potential to attract tourists from all over the world. But in order to make that a reality, effective planning is imperative – and should have two broad lines of development. Firstly, Kolkata must be presented and promoted as an exotic tourist-spot on the world stage. Second, and more importantly, modern infrastructures and state-of-the-art services and tourism packages should be prepared for the visiting tourists. In this day, we understand these aspects to be of paramount importance and hence will concentrate and direct our energies towards its realisation.
- **Miscellaneous programmes:** There are a few more things which can be done efficiently if Trinamool gets an opportunity to serve the Corporation Board. The kind of petty, narrow and indecent mentality manifest, when it comes to the MP-MLA treasury fund is a great cause of impediment for the common man. We will be more transparent on this regard. Besides, it is worth mentioning that if the Kolkata Corporation Board under Trinamool's supervision can join hands with Mamata Banerjee's endeavours as Rail Minister, evident in the form of new trains, reservation counters, extension and development of the Metro railway, work may proceed with greater urgency. In this light, it is important for Trinamool to be in the Board.

Overview of Trinamool's work in the previous term

Supply of clean drinking water

- After coming to power in 2000, Trinamool observed that the Garden Reach water treatment plant (built in 1973), which is supposed to supply 60 million gallons of water is supplying only 40 gallons. Within 3 years, under Trinamool's initiative and supervision, the Board could administer 120 million gallons of clean drinking water.
- Five years ago, the Trinamool directed Board made plans to provide clean drinking water to the citizens of Kolkata till 2025. Provisions were being made to provide millions of litres of water from Palta, Garden Reach, Watgunj, Jodabagan facilities to as many houses as possible. Boosting-pump stations were installed in Kalighat, Kasba and Bansdroni. In order to solve water-supply related problems in Maniktala (Bagmari), programmes which were as good as dead were reactivated to provide service to the citizens. By installing a Boosting-pump station in Kasba, thousands and thousands of families benefited in areas like Tiljala, Kasba, Rajdanga, Rubi, Ajaynagar, Kalikapur etc. Pipes worth 27 crore of rupees were bought to link Garden Reach with Ranikuthi, Godfa and Kalighat for steady supply of water. Though the programmes were supposed to be financed by the West Bengal Government, they intentionally refused to co-

operate to put the Trinamool board in a fix. Hence the Board was forced to complete the programmes from its own tax-fund.

- Not only water-supply programmes, but provisions for distribution lines were made from the boosting-pump stations by the Trinamool Board. Was it conceivable that the filter-station in Watgunj will become a plant? The Trinamool Board had accomplished that very feat. The plant was prepared and work was started before the 2005 elections. In the same way plans were being made by the Trinamool Board only, to create a plant in Jodabagan and provide eight million gallons of water on a daily basis. The plan was being made keeping in mind the requirements in Barabazar and the Office-Para of Kolkata. A master plan was created to solve water requirement problems in E.M Bypass and Garia-Jadavpur complex.
- In spite of tremendous non-cooperation from the West Bengal Government, the water-supply programmes were being completed by the Trinamool Board one after another. What was required was arrangement for proper distribution. But the CPI(M) failed to meet the minimum requirements of the citizens, let alone proper distribution.
- The problem is there during the summers, but even during winters there is scarcity of water supply in North, South and East Kolkata. In many localities, the pressure of water is so little, that people have to stand literally for hours on end to fill their vessels. The target, made by the Trinamool board, of supplying 40 litres of water per head for citizens, was abandoned almost immediately after CPI(M) came to power.
- Not only that, during the term of the Trinamool Board, the construction of big-daya tube wells were stopped after ensuring supply of clean water in most of the areas, the reason being a decrease in the underground water level of the city apart from warnings from geologists for several other reasons. However, the Left-front led Board has renewed the policy of giving permission for the construction of such tube wells in spite of it being detrimental to town-planning.
- We are resolute about solving the problem of supplying clean drinking water to as many houses as possible. The entire city will be brought under the scope of modern and scientific ways of water distribution within a very brief time. Like the more developed countries of the world, '**Rain water Harvesting**' will be made more popular.

Drainage-system

- During the 33 year rule of the Left-front, they have been in power in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation for 20 years, whereas the Trinamool Congress was in power for only five years. But in spite of that there was major water logging in the previous monsoon in Behala, Thakurpukur, Thanthania and Amherst Street. Such is the condition that even novices can predict the same predicament this time around.
- Whether it is North, South or Central or even the Bodyguard line, whenever there is heavy rain a rescue team is needed. Even a little rain in many areas in wards in Kolkata leads to water logging up till one's knees. The office-complex in Dalhousie and B.B.D Bag is logged with water right across. A large area in Behala, and places like Jadavpur, Rajdanga, Maniktala, Ultodanga, Bagbazar, Barabazar are in crisis whenever there is a little rainfall.
- It is really very shameful that even after a reign of over 20 years immediate measures cannot be taken for the speedy removal of fallen trees because of lack of proper instruments like saws. Whenever a tree falls and blocks the road, it takes 3 to 4 days for the work to be done. Shameful indeed for the entire Bengal!

- Yet during the term of the Trinamool board, the process of modernising the Southern Avenue pumping station and the Mominpur pumping station and construction of the Dhapa lock gate and Ballygunje-Dhapa was initiated by the then Mayor and Councillors.
- During the time of the Trinamool Board, the sewage water of Kolkata used to be drained before the monsoons through Bantala via Vidyadhari canal. In order to carry out that work, discussions were being held with the local farmers and cooperative societies. But the CPI(M), in its extreme arrogance, refused to make any arrangements for drainage after coming to power. Hence the water has remained in the wards.
- **During the last five years Kolkata has been turned into a stagnant water-reservoir by the CPI(M).**
- It is a promise on behalf of Trinamool that arrangements will be made for underground drains wherever it is required. All the localities falling between wards 1 and 6 and 91 and 141 will be brought under the scope of underground drainage system. In order to clear off the logged water, arrangements will be made within a year to install pumping stations in all the affected areas.

Waste disposal

- During the last five years the waste disposal system in the city has been in crisis, without any administration whatsoever. The one who was given the responsibility by CPI(M) was so busy protecting his political interests in the village assemblies that the city's wastage disposal system has been down in dumps. As a result, almost the entire city has become unhealthy.
- The programme of cleansing the main roads with water, initiated during the term of Trinamool, was stopped entirely during the succeeding term of CPI(M).
- Apart from the morning programme, the afternoon and evening programme of waste disposal has been stopped during the rule of the Left.
- The residents of flats are extremely inconvenienced because of a lack of regular service. No alternative arrangements are being made whenever there is personnel-absenteeism.
- If Trinamool comes to office, apart from regularising the waste-disposal system, arrangements will be made for a separate collection of the bio-medical waste. The waste material will be used for power generation and recycling. Alternative arrangements will be made during the seasons of festival when the regular personnel are unavailable.

Disposal of toxic waste

- Arrangement for the disposal of only 65% of the city's waste is made by the concerned departments of the Municipal Corporation. No measures have been taken till this day regarding the separation of dangerous toxic waste and recyclable waste. NGOs and other personal initiatives have tried to ameliorate the situation, but it has been insufficient on the whole. On a comparative scale, our city has been part of the backward ones. One may see open VATs on important places like the Camac Street.
- After a careful consideration of the various measures taken in other parts of our country with regard to waste disposal, we will take immediate steps to carry out the work.

Roads

- A majority of the recent development on roads have been possible because of the initiatives and work done by the Trinamool Board in its previous term. The important roads have been worked

upon with asphalt, the fruits of which are being enjoyed by the citizens to this day. Unfortunately, lack of initiatives like the Urban Arts Commission has resulted in a degradation of the roads throughout.

- The wires needed for cable television and internet have covered up the sky space of almost the entire city, which otherwise could have run beneath the tiles of the footpath. The rearrangement of these wires and their proper supervision could have been done by the concerned authorities after careful consideration and discussion about the logistics involved.
- The railings constructed on various places beside the footpaths and in the middle of the road lack aesthetic vision, which is ironical for a city known for its sensitivity in the finer arts. No initiative has been taken with regard to development of this aspect, which could have been done in partnership with the corporate organisations. The only exception has been Dalhousie Square.
- Measures will be taken in order to increase transportability of important roads after taking the hawkers into confidence regarding their rehabilitation. Efforts will be made to increase efficiency in traffic management. The required plans will be made to prevent **road accidents**.
- The Trinamool Board, if it wins the election, will take steps to beautify the city and make the footpaths suitable for use.
- During the term of the Trinamool directed Board, three new storm water pumping stations were on the verge of completion. In the succeeding stages, the work was not followed up. The Trinamool Congress will continue with the programme and will install such pumping stations, according to the needs and necessities of the citizens. The work of increasing transportability and widening of roads will be taken up with due consensus. No initiatives were taken by the CPI(M) Board members regarding the programmes taken up by KIP, which was to be executed by KIP in conjunction with Kolkata Municipal Corporation. In many places the roads are still unfit for transportation. Trinamool will take immediate and urgent steps to do the work.
- In spite of a rule of 4 years in the beginning and 33 years at a stretch later, many roads have remained unbaked and unfit. An increase in transportation on the main roads, without proper construction of lanes and by lanes has caused much suffering to pedestrians and two-wheeler owners. In its previous term, the Trinamool Congress had placed much importance with the above issues. However the Left led Board has shown great disregard for such programmes. The Trinamool Congress will make arrangements to construct such lanes and by lanes with pitch and connect them with the main roads.

Health Services

- There is no proper system for removal of garbage in Kolkata. Water stagnates here, there and everywhere, which along with the open drains is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can cause fatal diseases like malignant malaria, dengue etc. The reason is that drains are not cleared regularly and the mosquito oil not applied. There are no preventives for malaria. On top of that, the water pipes in well populated areas frequently leak and create conditions for cholera. Lack of awareness leads to so many unwanted losses of lives.
- The poor condition of the Municipal Corporation with regard to the health services and facilities are a common knowledge now. But a greater crime is the hiding of facts and figures regarding the affected. All the Corporation health centres throughout the city remain closed most of the times. The present Municipal Board has failed to such an extent as far as distribution of medicines for TB is concerned that the Government itself has had to take charge.
- Had there been the least commitment towards the welfare of people, this would not have happened.

- The Trinamool Congress is committed to the welfare of the people. Hence, if it comes to power, it will try to bring the health services in every ward under proper care and administration. The local government hospitals will be built in cooperation with the medical colleges. We think that people will not be relieved if the causes are not cured. For this, the will and intention to launch scientifically designed programmes is essential.
- The failure of Municipal Corporation and the global warming has caused malaria to spread throughout the city. The present municipal infrastructure is insufficient for the treatment of minor diseases. On this regard, health units were to be setup in every ward with central government funding. But the present rule has failed to ensure such setups in every ward. Besides, even if there is a system for diagnosis of blood infected with malaria, there is no such thing for dengue. Private laboratories are there but they charge so high that the poor people cannot afford them. Our work will be to ensure a neat setup of such health units in the wards.
- The health offices are filled with inefficient and corrupt personnel. There is unabated corruption in the offices of the mayor and the councillors. In 2005, when the Trinamool board took its leave the total malaria figures stood at 56167 (out of which 3721 were falciparum) and in 2009 the total figure stood at 87423 (with 15926 falciparum cases). However the number of blood tests has remained the same. There are no programmes to ameliorate the prevailing conditions.

The present Board has abandoned programmes for malaria hospital or general hospitals in Kalighat. Yet people are dying because of lack of a sufficient number of beds in hospitals. The maternity wards are in worse of conditions and those who seek treatment are constantly pushed to other hospitals.

The programme for control of leprosy has failed. The quality and efficiency of work with regard to control of TB has taken a downward trend because of corruption of laboratory technicians. Yet a lot of financial help is received from WHO and central government.

The system to check the quality of food is absent because of corruption. Every year, during the budget a certain amount is fixed for Corporation 'Food Laboratory' which is not used later. Funds could not be obtained from the centre because of lack of intention. Recently cholera causing germs have been found in ward no. 29.

A lot of 'tapes have been cut' in health units, but no work has been done.

What We Want –

1. Taking the issue of mosquito-carriers causing fatal diseases like malaria and dengue with urgency and immediacy.
2. Treatment according to the directives of WHO.
3. A general hospital, where provisions will be there for general bed.
4. A laboratory to test adulterated food.

5. Investigation on implementation of 'terms'.
6. Provision of regular dosage for polio for children.
7. Control of water-borne diseases in conjunction with the Water department.
8. Reform of maternity wards and its modernisation. If necessary MP LAD funds or public-private partnerships should be brought into consideration.
9. A corruption free (birth-death) certificate department.

Environment and Pollution Control

- Like the roads, the supervision of parks, gardens, ponds and open spaces have been neglected by the present Board. They have rejected proposals to work in partnership with various business organizations and have refused to work independently as well. Yet this is the time when reforms should be brought in, so that the citizens are able to breathe in clear air. The Trinamool Congress will take proper measures to control pollution.

Education

- Education is as bad as the health services – where corporation schools are there in name only. A thorough consideration is required. Importance has to be given to increase the quality of education.
- The corporation schools are in effect party offices for CPI(M). The conditions in some of the other schools are so bad that no proper education can take place. Corruption is rampant in the name of Mid-Day meal.
- A promise goes forth on our behalf – we intend to create proper infrastructures and conditions so that students feel encouraged to go to schools. Mid-Day meals will be arranged in a better way and efforts will be made to keep the programme transparent and corruption-free.

Slum Development

- In spite of a number of plans from the central government, little work has been done. At present, one-third of the entire population of Kolkata live in slums. Whatever has been done in terms of drainage, water supply and electricity is the bare minimum in this age of the 21st century and nothing compared to what has been done in cities like Mumbai. Fund is not an issue, but a sincere intention to create decent living conditions for the people. There are 5511 slums in Kolkata and in spite of crores of rupees coming from the central government, no change is evident. Yet, the CPI(M) had come to power with the promise of transforming slums into heavens.
- The services introduced during the previous term of the Trinamool remains the ultimate achievement. On the other hand, the slum lands have been handed over to a certain class of promoters to increment party fund..

- The CPI(M) had proposed that contractual papers related to land will be handed over to people living in colonies. But not even one has received such a thing. On the other hand illegal constructions have been made with the help of party affiliated promoters. Yet with the help of the State Government and relief-office the papers could have been handed over to all the colonies. But time and again the CPI(M) is proving that they have no intention of formulating any programme for the colony and slum-dwellers.
- We can say one thing for sure that given the responsibility the Trinamool Congress Board will work on the development of infrastructure of slums and colonies with regard to roads-drainage-electricity-water supply etc. The dwellers of slums and colonies will be a part of the development of the entire city.

Fire Brigade and Emergency Services

- On the one hand when the entire Bengal is burning because of state sponsored terrorism, there is an outbreak of fire in Kolkata almost every other day. Either slums are being destroyed or markets are being burned down with the help of CPI(M) promoters. 43 innocent lives have been taken in the fire outbreak in Stephen Court, 56 injured and 3 others missing. No one from the State Government or the Corporation came forward to help in due time. Relatives of the dead were harassed to end during the time of identification and such was the level of inefficiency that the dead bodies got exchanged. It is clearly evident from the fire in Park Street that the present administration is worthless, while on the other hand, the city has become a breeding ground for a certain group of corrupt promoters. In spite of the fire brigade or the emergency service department the administration is worthless indeed.
- There is no proper supply of water or foam, neither are there any modern instruments. In spite of the central office of the fire brigade being at a stone-throw distance, the worthless CPI(M) had to run to Behala to get hold of the ladders. By that time the people inside the building had burned to death crying out – “Save us!” The inhuman, worthless CPI(M) Board is beyond forgiveness.
- The CPM led Municipal Board could not disclose information on the ownership of the Stephen Court Building, neither could it provide any light regarding which legal department the same belonged to. An eyewash is given by setting up an investigation committee. It has been observed from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Administrator General of Trustees document that the owner of the building is the State Government. Will it carry an investigation against itself? Nothing is more absurd than this!!
- It is worthwhile remembering the sad condition of administration during the deadly ‘Aila’ storm. Normal life came to a stand still because of that deadly storm. Many trees fell on the road. The entire city was out of power supply. No supply of water and electricity and the roads were blocked. People came out in revolt. And what did we hear – that there were no saws or such instruments with the Corporation and hence the roads could not be cleared. The citizens had to wait for 72 hours for conditions to be restored to normal. People got evidence of how weak and poor intentions were to fight an emergency situation in a modern city.
- It is being proved time and again how helpless we are, during times of emergency. Dangerous constructions get permit from the Corporation for the benefit of a few people. However, no plans are there in case of accidents in these buildings. No training is provided to personnel from the concerned departments of police or fire brigade. In case of such mishaps the local people come forward to do the relief work. By creating proper inter-departmental communication system, we will have to fight such emergency situations.

- On the other hand, investigations will be launched to discover the truth behind the setting up of inefficient investigative-committees, by the Trinamool Congress. Effort will be put towards a corruption-free and consensus based work.

Preservation of Heritage Structures and Town Planning

- There are many such heritage buildings in Kolkata which are neglected on the whole. There are no programmes for the proper preservation of such complexes. Such places in other developed countries are used as centres of tourism to earn healthy revenue. The Heritage Commission should be given authority to maintain such sites with the help of police, fire brigade and other concerned departments.
- The house construction laws should be modified in such a way that buildings in heritage places like Chittaranjan Avenue, Dalhousie Square or Chouringhee are properly maintained. Apart from that, the buildings that are very old and in need of repair should be taken care of after meeting questions of rehabilitation with proper consensus. In that way a lot of lives can be saved from premature death. Due to a lack of maintenance and supervision, our Corporation markets are becoming irrelevant. A careful consideration should be made regarding all such markets. By involving specialists from the national level, programmes can be made for the development of such market.

Revenue and Taxes

- It is difficult to do a business in Kolkata – the reason being difficulty in obtaining license or lack of transparency in taxation.

Unnecessary tax will not be levied on the common man.

On that regard Trinamool Congress will ensure simplification of taxation. There will be no water tax.

Scams and scandals during the previous term of CPI(M)

- What is the present status of the scam related to the **Water Supply Value** scam?
- Were laws related to finance obeyed when Mr. Prasanta picked bonds worth Rs. 6 crore without proper permission?
- What has happened to the Glass Reinforcement Pipes worth 3.4 crores which were never used but because the Tala Pumping station was damaged? Was proper punishment meted out to those who were responsible?

Gariahat Treasury Scam p;

The scam came to public eye because of the vigilance of the justice system in 2005. Since the issue was related to the house tax of the High-court judge, the concerned authorities were moved and things came out in the open.

Trinamool Congress' Pledge

- Importance will be given primarily to include slum dwellers awaiting development into schemes of development.
- 1) They will be provided with their own places of residence.
 - 2) Proper sanitation facilities and drinking water will be provided.
 - 3) We aim at giving proper supply of electricity to the slum dwellers and save them from the hazards of obtaining electricity in unscientific ways.
 - There are few mud roads in Kolkata municipality areas. They will be properly constructed this year. The roads along which trams run are in deplorable condition. The central government will be pressurized to rebuild those roads. The municipality will bear half of the expense for reconstruction of the tram line roads.
 - Trinamool board committee will arrange for the water that will be required for the projected population of Kolkata in 2025 from Garden Reach, Watgunj Jorabagan and other such schemes. The Left Front failed in proper distribution of water. We promise to implement proper distribution of water in a short while and bring an end to all the problems that arise due to lack of water.
 - We will stress upon making the book 'Puro Barta' more popular on behalf of the Municipal Committee.

We had stopped the use of big daya tube wells in many places of Kolkata by providing for the promised drinking water. By failing to distribute enough water the Left Front has brought back the use of big daya tube wells that is regressive for the city..

The solution for this is our challengee

- Strict measures will be adopted to stop unlawful construction.
- The Heritage Protection Committees of the municipal corporation will be strengthened and the measures will be taken to safeguard the heritage buildings.
- In 141 wards marketing complexes will be built to provide employment for the unemployed youth.
- Trinamool Congress will stress the most upon the overall development of the 5511 slums. The central schemes that is the nation scheme of development (NSDP) , BMS , Swarnajawanti sahari Rojagr Yojana(SJSIY) , valmiki Ambedhkar Molin Basati Abash Yojanan (VAMBAY) Swalpo Mulye Souchaloy Prokalpo (ILCS) will be realized. Model slums will be developed in every ward with the help of Asian Development Bank and DFID. Beautiful model slums will be created in all the places under the same name.
- Many wards still do not have health centres of the municipal corporation.. Within 3 years Health centres will be built under Municipal Corporation in 141 wards. Within 5 years Malaria will be eradicated from Kolkata.
- Along with SC/ST and minority students, meritorious students of economically backward classes will be provided with a new category of reservation.
- All the ponds and water bodies of the city will be surveyed and proper measures will be adopted for their preservation.

- 239 primary schools will be enlisted under the municipal corporation. A few primary schools will be converted to high schools. Few Urdu primary schools will be started. Students will be provided with more regularized mid day meals.
- Strict measures will be taken to overcome the bad conditions of the municipal Corporation. The lands under Municipal Corporation will be identified and a transparency will be brought about in the distribution of these lands.
- Many bus stands and rest houses will be built in Kolkata for senior citizens, women and children.
- The way left Front has tried to preserve rain water proves that they are not well conversant with this scheme.

Our pledge remains towards the preservation and proper distribution of rainwater.

- By a re-organization of the tax structure the tax will be reduced and stress will be laid upon realizing the tax that has not been collected as yet.
- Proper measures will be adopted to prohibit the misuse of drinking water and electricity in Kolkata and measures will be taken to search for alternative sources of electricity.
- The residents of Kolkata show a tendency to relocate due to the extreme increase of pressure of tax levied upon them.
- After Trinamool congress takes up responsibility they will try to break the pressure of tax imposed on residents of Kolkata.
- The use of middle men in tax collection process will be stopped. There must not be scope for compromises within this structure.
- Our assurance to the people of this city – “No new tax for water”. Steps to be taken in this matter.
- **Far from giving importance construction of proper houses in the slums under BSUP scheme, Left Front has completely failed in it. Trinamool Congress will construct proper houses look after the sanitation and will provide for proper toilets as laid out by the scheme.**
- The process of getting trade license will be simplified completely.
- Proper roads will be constructed in Kolkata to facilitate transport.
- According to the dimension of the roads, to make them useable is our prime responsibility.
- Underground drainage system needs to be re-organized.

Since Drainage Pumping System is not regularly assessed and taken care of and pipes are not regularly cleaned, the residents of Kolkata become waterlogged in a short spell of rain.

A proper regulation of the same can give relief from this hazard. Trinamool Congress will take up the responsibility.

- In Kolkata there are around 5511 slums. Central government has rolled out many schemes. The Allocated fund could not implement in any change in the lifestyle of the slum dwellers. Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes or the minority communities are still not entitled to the facilities provided by the Kolkata municipal corporation. We will bring about development of this section of the society.
- Since the garbage cleaning measures of the city is not monitored, many places in Kolkata have become unhygienic with garbage dumped hither and thither.

- We will collect wastes from houses at a particular time to make this city garbage-free. Bio medical waste can prohibit pollution and we will adopt measures to derive electricity, gas and other sources of energy from renewable wastes.
- The health units of Municipal Corporation will be made trustworthy by rendering good service. He wards which do not have health units will be provided with doctors and all other health related facilities.
- Initiatives should be taken to facilitate the registered BPL families and other weaker sections of the society with the Bima scheme. Such initiatives have been implemented in Bangalore and other cities.
- An error free list of BPL registered families need to be made.
- In the last few years many people were afflicted with contagious diseases like malaria, dengue and others. People were helpless and government records were manipulated. Though Municipal Corporation is associated with Central government's administrative policies in regards of health issues, but we will definitely try to prevent these diseases by using the independent means of Municipal Corporation.
- Reforms will be implemented in the schools under Municipal Corporation so that students become inclined to go to school.
- We will design a special framework in the minority populated areas where Urdu schools will be started and the people of the minority classes will be included in the dissemination of education. The development of the minority population will be specially looked after.
- **The system of mid-day meals will be put to effect in real terms.**
- Rest houses and waiting rooms will be constructed at various places in Kolkata to facilitate women, children and senior citizens. Kolkata acutely needs motels. We will make necessary arrangements in this issue.
- We will make the cemeteries and graveyards in Kolkata more clean and peaceful so that the last rites of near ones can be performed without obstructions.
- Environment programme do not simply inhere the beautification of walls. We will join hands with local club committees to help the municipal corporation in preserving parks and gardens.
- Our objective is also to prepare playgrounds for children and such related facilities for old people.
- Municipal Corporation will ask for separate fund from the Centre for modernization and preservation of the heritage cultural centres and auditoriums.
- The success of an organization depends on its personnel. The employers will have their demands from the organization and similarly will have equal responsibility to reach out to the citizens of Kolkata in designated time with their due services. Trinamool Congress will take up the responsibility of imparting proper training and work culture for employees. If required they we will implement administrative reforms.
- Trinamool Congress will improve the municipal services on the basis of public opinion. Public opinion with help to waive off the obstructions that comes in the way of development.
- Trinamool Congress will not tread the path that the Left Front has adopted governed by their 'Amra Ora' philosophy.
- Kolkata is the perfect meeting place of world tourists and the people of this country who love to travel. Trinamool Congress will make this city more attractive and will make tourism a viable international commercial enterprise. Besides providing for facilities and comfort for tourists, the municipal corporation will itself take initiative and ask the government to frame a good administrative structure for the same.

The Great Alliance

Observing the political situation on the verge of the Municipal elections, it can be said confidently but with humility that people are with Mamata Banerjee, blessing her and praying for her. The government at the centre is being cooperated in every possible way by Ms. Banerjee. However, unfortunately, there is a tendency in a certain section of the local Congress party to help the cause of the CPI(M). But in spite of everything, the Trinamool Congress is firm in its position, which is defeat the Marxists in every possible way. It is a humble request to the respected citizens – those who ardently wish to see the end of CPI(M) must not be misled by any form of campaigning by anyone that goes against this cause. There is but one symbol of change – the symbol of Trinamool.

If you want to defeat the Marxists vote for Trinamool alone. If you vote for anyone else, not only does the vote become meaningless in itself, it adds to the strength of the cause for the CPI(M). Therefore, you must remember that the real battle is between these two symbols only.

On the one side is the CPI(M) and the Left Front. And on the other is Trinamool. There is nothing in between. If you really believe that change is after all possible, then the right symbol is ‘the twin flowers on green grass’.

For the sake of our motherland, for the sake of the people, Mamata Banerjee is fighting the battle.

Through the office of the Railways, a many-sided development is being initiated by her.

However, those who are not in favour of this entire process, those who want to create conditions of chaos and anarchy in the opposition and help the CPI(M), **defeat their cause by any and all means.**

Awareness is growing and spreading fast. And that is why a united front is being created those who truly aspire for development and progress, the people of Bengal. This front is led by Mamata Banerjee – the symbol being ‘the twin flowers on green grass’.

Not vague and empty promises, but practical people-oriented and scientifically designed development is what we aim and aspire to accomplish.

It is a matter of perspective that separates Trinamool from CPI(M).

Hence we lay emphasis on – ‘Food for all and work for all’.

We want the well being of the citizens. Therefore we want to bring an all round development through a proper education system, health services and regular supply of clean drinking water.

We do not want development for a specific group of people. We do not differentiate between us and them. We want development for one and all.

Hence we appeal to all sections of the society, to each and every one – defeat the CPI(M). Defeat those who directly or indirectly support the cause of the CPI(M). To build a new Bengal and hasten the process of development, be with Mamata Banerjee and vote the Trinamool Congress.

We pray for your blessings.

Yours humbly

**West Bengal State Trinamool Congress
12 May 2010
Kolkata**