

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

MEGHALAYA STATE

ELECTION MANIFESTO 2008.

Meghalaya in its 35 years existence as a State had never been governed by such a more rudderless, morally deprecation and finally corrupt regime as the present Congress-led Meghalaya Democratic alliance (MDA). The absence of clear and transparent agenda for satisfactory governance has tarnished the image of the State. The mandate of the electorates of the 2003 election has been betrayed by the Congress-led (MDA) government. The plight of the Aam Admi or the common people has worsened. Instead of obtaining political, social and economic relief, everything was denied to them and they were compelled to pay sky rocketing prices for food, clothing, dwellings, medicines construction materials and educational materials which are beyond his purchasing capability. Considering all these problems faced by them, the BJP is convinced that their prior need in the ensuing election of 2008 is, to bring a **CHANGE** of the government with a Non-Congress Rule in the State.

In the midst of such gloomy situation in the State, the BJP emerges as alternative forces to contest the ensuing Legislative Assembly Election of 2008, with its clear cut agenda on social, economic and political as manifested herein under:-

1. On Social:

a. HEALTH:

- To see that health services in all the Civil Hospitals, Community Health Centers, Primary Health Centers and dispensaries in bath urban and rural areas are well equipped with adequate staff and ensure free supply of medicines to patients;
- To check and control the excessive charges against medical treatments/services of patients by private hospitals/health care's;
- To intensify health awareness programmes as preventive measures against diseases and infections;
- To enhance the mother-cum-child care programmes including providing incentive facilities to disable children in the State.
- To set up **State Research Centre** for cultivation-cum-production of herbal medicines and facilitate the local physicians for beneficial service to various patients;
- To provide safe drinking water and sanitation to Rural Health Centers;
- To complete the unfinished works in **NEIGRIHMS**.

b. EDUCATION:

- To see that Operation Black Board Programme for removal of illiteracy be implemented under a time bound Programme.

- To effectively implement the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) or Education for all and to ensure **Free and Compulsory Education** to all children below 14 years of age as a Fundamental Right with regular mid-day meal programmes for all the school going children.
- To establish schools within a walking distance of every child with rationalize, and standardize curricular and syllabi in schools with low cost books and one Central School in every rural Constituency.
- To ensure adequate infrastructures, decent pay structures and social security to all Schools to attract quality teachers.
- To provide facilities for Sports, Music, Arts and Cultural activities for the benefit of the youths in the State.

2. ON FOREST & ENVIRONMENT:

- **To ensure green coverage of land by intensifying scientific Tree Plantation preferably of indigenous edible fruit trees up to 5km radius from the village/residential area to prevent Global Warming, and to entrust all the tree plantations done by the Social Forestry to the land-owners themselves.**
- **To introduce and implement the “Tree Bank” scheme for the poor and marginal farmers/forest owners and to popularize scientific exploitation of measured trees.**
- **To effectively maintain the rich bio-diversity available in the State in medicinal herbs, Flora and Fauna which are in abundance and considered by experts as contain cures for dreaded diseases like Cancer, AIDs etc.**
- **To ensure blanket ban on use of plastic bags which are non-bio-degradable and hazardous.**

3. ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The Party will up-hold that economic development should be compatible with the Global Changes without sacrificing the national and indigenous interests.

- **To see to the creation, augmentation and maintenance of infrastructure in order to capitalize on all our Human, Mineral, Forest, Agriculture, Climate, Environment and other resources for the benefit of the State and made the people equal shareholders and stakeholders in the wealth generated.**
- **To restructure and revamp the State Planning Board as contemplated by the Planning Commission and the Central Government.**
- **As roads constitute the lifeline of the State, the Party is committed to implement Road Connectivity Schemes for linking rural with urban Areas and of enabling the farmers to find markets for their products. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) The first centrally sponsored Scheme for all-weather rural roads Construction which has been sanctioned by the NDA Government in 2000 should**

fully be implemented. The much awaited Shillong by-pass and other by-passes will be given top priority. To solve the present traffic congestion in and around the capital city, construction of fly-overs, over-bridges and underpasses at all feasible point will be taken up on a priority basis. A four-lane Plateau Highway to run west to east along the Central ridge of the Meghalaya Plateau is the top most priority of the Party.

- To maintain all the existing national highways as all-weathered roads to ease communication hardships faced by all.
- To upgrade and modernize the existing two Airports in the State at Shillong & at Tura to attract adequate passengers and make it economically viable. To press for early implementation of the railheads to ensure cheaper cost of transportation of goods and commodities to the State.
- To encourage more private transport services for better revenue earning with extended terms to complete repayment of the loans availed from the banks and other financial institutions.
- To press the government for providing strong rope-way network to all the gorgeous places in the Border areas facing Bangladesh as an alternative transport to those places which cannot be made accessible due to high ravines and deep terrains.
- MeSEB should be strengthened and its financial mobilization INCLUDING BORROWING FACILITY be widened for handling pioneer projects in the State to enable it to exploit fully the hydel-power potentials of the State with an aim to provide low cost supply of electricity for domestic consumption. Non-conventional energy sources would also be explored and exploited.
- To press the government to provide Fund and other essential infrastructures, for generating additional (electric) power through Wind Mill generating system, in all the feasible places where the wind is constantly blowing.
- To creates congenial atmosphere to attract inflow of capital from outside the state for setting up of job-oriented industries, so that jobless youth may get gainfull employment.
- To help secure easy loans from the government and other financial institutions for local entrepreneurs for starting small-scale and cottage industries.
- Since agriculture is the mainstay/occupation of the majority of the people, BJP is determined to improve the productivity and quality of enumerable crops grown and to make the State become self sufficient as far as agriculture production is concerned. The farmers should be given government assistance for scientific cultivation of crops and usage of suitable fertilizers for better harvesting. This

facility will be applicable to horticulture farmers as well as to livestock husbandry. To ensure setting up of Cold Storage facilities in every district.

- Marketing facilities would be explored to assist the farmers to market their produce.
- The Agriculture Research Station at Upper Shillong has to be strengthened to serve its purposed for which it was established hundred years ago by the British agriculture experts.
- The Party will like to see that floriculture, poultry, apiasculture and leather tainning are developed as part of the cottage industry in the state.
- The Party is determined to encourage fishery for both domestic and commercial consumption.
- To encourage small-scale agro-based, forest-based and mineral-based industries to the educated unemployed youth with adequate support from the Government.
- To abolish the Single Window System in the industrial policy to prevent the violation and contravention of the Land Transfer Act and instead encourage Medium and small scale industries. In a hilly small State like Meghalaya, thorough reviewing of the present industrial policy of the State is essential with a view to motivating local and indigenous businessmen and young industrialists in order to increase employment and revenue-earning.
- To establish I.T. related industries in Meghalaya for employment of the educated unemployed youths and I.T. Parks for the purpose.
- All the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the State should be properly and fully implemented. The Party is determined to ensure economic upliftment-cum-employment generated to both the educated and uneducated youths by allocating reasonable amount out of the total fund provision against each economic department in all sectors.
- To expedite implementation of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and also take stock of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in the State being important programmes for poverty alleviation.
- The party would take steps for early establishment of regulated market/ border haats at all suitable points along the International boundary with Bangladesh and along the Inter State boundary.
- The party would strictly ensure better quality, proper distribution and cheaper price of food grains under PDS to the deserving BPL, ALP and AAY families.

- To see that prices of all commodities are within the reach of the common man.

4. ON POLITICAL:

- To see that an able **clean and efficient government** with like-minded parties, groups and individuals is in place, so that the derailed administration of MDA regime is brought back on rails.
- To help **root out corruption** at all, levels of the Administration as the first step towards securing a transparent government. To hand over cases to the **CBI** in appropriate cases for expeditious investigation and ensure functioning of the **Chief Vigilance Commissioner** and other Branches of the Government to investigate corruption charges. To establish an **Economic Offence** Cell to deal all types of white – collared crimes including cyber crimes and to regulate functioning of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), which are duping the gullible members of the public in the state by collecting deposits and vanishing thereafter.
- To make it compulsory for all functionaries in the Government and the Legislative Assembly **to declare their assets**; instill in Government servants a sense of responsibility; to inculcate the spirit to fight graft and corruption at all levels of administration; and to secure **probity** in public life.
- To help rationalize and simplify tax structures and Royalty collection. Ensure payment of taxes by all Taxpayers through **low but reasonable** rates of all taxable goods and services.

5. STREAMLINING THE ADMINISTRATION AND ITS VARIOUS ARMS:

- To modernize and strengthen a **pro-people** Bureaucracy, Police and Judiciary.
- To commit itself to a **caring, just and accountable** Administration in order to give to the citizens their dues. The party will set clear performance standards for each department and monitor adherence to those standards. It will fix minimum tenure for key post and take an account of their functioning from time to time.
- To implement the recommendations of the **Administration Reforms Commission** and introduce policy for transfer and posting acceptable to all concerned.
- To ensure an efficient, zero corruption, people-friendly and **responsive** Administration.

- Relief:

To see that Disaster Management cells are strengthened to enable them to take instantaneous response for public relief in the event of natural and man-made

calamities.

- **Foreigner's Infiltration:**

The Party is committed to preserve the demographic contours of the State indigenous people. For this purpose a separate Anti-Inflation Department headed by a competent authority with specific functions should be created to fight illegal influx of foreigners in collaboration with village headmen.

- Issuance of multi-purpose citizenship cards to all genuine citizens of the State and work permits to all outside migrate labourers.
 - Maintenance of proper census and registration of genuine citizens.
 - Vigorous implementation of the **Foreigners Act 1946** and strict surveillance along the borders.
 - Registration of all marriages, births and deaths is a must.
-
- Employment assurance in both government and private establishments should be maintained to erase the gap between unemployment and job opportunities.
 - To provide protection to entrepreneurs and businessmen from harassment, corruption and unnecessary government control. Further, to frame a Mining Policy which is conducive, environment –friendly and revenue earning.
 - To make clear-cut and coherent policy by which rights of genuine non-tribals in respect of trade and profession is a safeguarded without affecting the rights of the indigenous tribal people.
 - To pilot the MP/MLA LAD Schemes for promoting income generation for the poor and the unemployed and for creation of durable assets. The schemes are to be utilized in a transparent and meaningful manner. List of schemes taken up with amount spent on each scheme to be public representatives and the district magistrates.
 - To move and press for early enactment of own Meghalaya Land Laws particularly for Land Registration Act in order to remove problems faced by the people of the State in paying unreasonable high rates of registration fees under the Land Laws borrowed from Assam State.

6. TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN MEGHALAYA:

- To provide adequate funds for immediate appointment of a competent Commission for essential codification of traditional laws, customs, and practice in all aspects of tribal life and usages for the beneficial use of the same in the administration of the indigenous people viz, land holding pattern, traditional grass-roots administration, etc.

- To see that grassroots democracy is introduced and made workable in the State by legislating laws in line with the provisions in Part IX and Part IX-A of the Constitution for good governance in consultation with the indigenous institutions at different levels eligible for direct funding from the Central budget.
- Indigenous sports, cultural activities such as music, traditional dance and the like will get special attention in order to uplift the State in the national/international cultural firmament.