

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS,
NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY
&
RPI (G) ALLIANCE

JOINT MANIFESTO

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2009





**INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY,
NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY
AND
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF INDIA**

JOINT MANIFESTO



PREAMBLE

Concern for common man or “Aam Aadmi” or “Samanya Manus” is the objective of this manifesto.

The Democratic Front is going to work for the total progress & development of this man and therefore, will take care of his primary needs, namely, “Roti, Kapada aur Makan”. We stand committed for extending better health facilities, security of individuals, their property and stability of their day to day life. The Democratic Front Government will ruthlessly tackle terrorism, naxalism or those who create incidents to disturb communal harmony. For this purpose, we will make police more effective, professional and fully equipped with modern weapons and equipments.

The Democratic Front will draw a plan and will give it a momentum for implementing schemes and projects related to roads, water and electricity.

While taking all these effective steps for development, norms both for urban and rural areas would be the same.

We propose to take effective steps in increasing employment in agriculture, industry and service sectors. Through NREGP, EGS and infrastructure developments, massive employment would be created in rural areas. The efforts will be to see that the current per capita income of Rs. 47,051/- gets enhanced to Rs.1, 00,000 /- p.a. at the end of 5 years from now, creating so many “Lakhpatis”.

To achieve what has been said in the foregoing paras, we are aware that many changes will have to be effected in the State Administration. We will ensure that the administration becomes sensitive, people oriented and transparent.

We will also undertake a process of simplification of Government working and decentralisation of powers down to the Local Bodies.

We promise that in next five years we give to the people of India and the world what is called as “**A GLOBAL MAHARASHTRA**” which the Democratic Front will strive to achieve in the Golden Jubilee year of the formation of Maharashtra State.



Achievements of the DF Government

During the last 10 years the DF Government has succeeded in increasing the total revenue of the Government significantly. During the 10th Five Year Plan period the allocation for Maharashtra State was 59122 Crore and during the 11th Five Year Plan the allocation for Maharashtra has arisen to 127538 Crore registering an increase of 115%. Similarly the annual plan for the year 2008-09 was 25000 Crore and for the current financial year 2009-10 the annual plan is 37951 Crore registering an increase of 51%. On the other hand during the last 10 years the DF Government has been able to reduce the administrative expenditure drastically. This achievement has enabled the DF Government to undertake large number of welfare schemes and has laid the foundation for rapid development of the State.

Some of the important achievements of the DF Government include the loan waivers scheme for the farmers which benefited more than 70 Lacs farmers, special packages for backward areas, removal of regional imbalances, setting up of separate minority welfare department, separate an exclusive budget for the welfare of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, housing for the economically weaker sections of society and creation of infrastructure in the urban areas. During the last 5 years Maharashtra State consistently stood first in the performance under JNNURM and has received highest releases amongst all other states. For industrial development during the last 5 years 147 mega projects with estimated investment of 128890 Crore have been approved. 146 SEZ have been approved in which 188783 Crore investment is expected. Maharashtra continues to be the most favoured destination for investment. We will make all efforts to ensure that Maharashtra retains its premier position.



LAKHAPATI

As per the recently done economical survey of Maharashtra State the per-capita income is Rs.47051/-. We have decided to encourage and increase employment generation in agriculture, industries and service sectors of the State. Employment generation to the greatest extent will be possible due to implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Employment Guarantee Scheme of Maharashtra and various schemes of infrastructural growth in rural areas. The per-capita income of an 'Aam Admi' i.e. a 'Common Man' will certainly go upto Rs.1 lakh. In short in a period of next 5 years there will be so many Lakhpatis in Maharashtra.

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PUBLIC ORDER, COMMUNAL HARMONY **,INTERNAL SECURITY & POLICE**

Parliamentary elections-2009 concluded about 5 months ago indicating that the people of India have tremendous belief and faith in Democratic Front Government.

LAW & ORDER:-

Maharashtra has been home to Great Saints and social reformers since ages. Their teachings of equity, mutual tolerance and peaceful co-existence have become the hallmark of Marathi culture. For centuries, people professing diverse faith and speaking different languages have lived in Perfect Harmony with the local people.

Migrants to the state have played important role in developing the State and bringing about prosperity.

Any attempt to disturb this social equilibrium on the grounds of caste, creed or language runs contrary to the values which are the defining characters of Marathi Culture. The State Government under the Democratic Front will take all necessary steps to preserve the glorious tradition of Maharashtra and protect every one living and working in the State. While making sure that the interest of Local People in matters of education, employment and business opportunities is well protected, the State administration will take firm measures against the divisive forces trying to disturb the national fabric for narrow political gain.

COMMUNAL HARMONY:- The Democratic Front believes in inclusive growth and makes no distinction between people on the basis of caste, creed or language. It believes that the country can progress better if there is peace and amity in the society.

The Democratic Front government will take effective steps to combat communalism and sectarianism. Appropriate steps to enact Law will be taken containing relevant provisions to combat communalism.

NAXALISM & TERRORISM:- These are the two most serious challenges facing the country and Maharashtra is no exception. Democratic Front Government plans to take effective measures to counter the Naxalite and Terrorist menace. The Government has already established squads called Force 1 equipped with modern weapons to counter Naxalism and Terrorism.



Crisis Management in Mumbai:- Besides being the country's financial capital, Mumbai also has the country's biggest Airport, Public Sector Undertakings and Defense and Research installations along the Sea coast, making Mumbai sensitive and an ideal target for terrorists insurgency.

Primary Crisis Management in Mumbai City is the responsibility of the Police and B.M.C. Police handle manmade disasters whereas BMC handles natural disasters. However, there is no watertight compartmentalisation, as both have common areas of responsibilities, particularly in the field of rescue, relief and rehabilitation work.

For the best management of an emergency, government will set up a Crisis Management Group (CMG) under the Police Commissioner. A similar Emergency Response Group (ERG) will be set up under the Municipal Commissioner.

Both the Group will plan, prepare and update their resource position in their respective areas of responsibilities on a 24x7 basis to be able to maintain high degree of preparedness. CMG is meant to handle EMERGENCIES and not day to day problems of policing. It will oversee the functioning of the entire security apparatus of the city police. CMG and ERG, headed by senior officers, will function as separate wings of the city police and Municipal Corporation respectively. They will report to the State's Crisis Management Committee (CMC), under the Chief Secretary, who will coordinate the efforts of both. Together, the three will constitute the Crisis Management Team (CMT) for the city of Mumbai.

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FOOD SECURITY

The Democratic Front is committed to provide 25 Kgs. of rice or wheat or jowar at the rate of Rs.3/- per Kgs. per month to BPL families.

Our emphasis would be to ensure that the foodgrains actually reach the intended beneficiaries.

- a) It will be ensured that each BPL family which is entitled to this scheme gets a proper ration card and simultaneously steps will be taken to eliminate bogus ration cards.
- b) It will be ensured that the foodgrains supplied would be of good quality.
- c) It will be ensured that food grains actually reach the beneficiaries.

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MAKAN - HOUSING

Democratic Front believes that a common man should be given legal right to have a house of his own. By house, we mean "affordable house". In order to implement this concept 10 lakh houses will be constructed within a period of next 5 years.

Urban Area

Most of those belonging to economically weaker group, Low income group, middle income group and slum dwellers would be provided affordable houses in next 5 years. We will plan various schemes for urban areas and try to extend maximum advantage of the Government of India schemes in this regard.



Rural Area

The target is to provide Pacca house to every houseless person and also to convert his 'kacha house' into 'Pacca house' in the next 5 years. While doing this, we will insist on providing individual toilet to every house.

The following schemes will also be implemented in the Urban and Rural areas of the State.

1. Redevelopment of old and dilapidated buildings.

Redevelopment of old and dilapidated buildings will be encouraged. Incentive FSI will be provided so that every tenant is provided minimum 300 sq.ft. of constructed carpet area on ownership basis. This scheme will be applicable for all municipal areas.

2. Cluster approach.

For the redevelopment of old and dilapidated buildings the option of Cluster approach will be encouraged. The Cluster approach will enable proper planning and infrastructure facilities to be provided along with redevelopment. Larger the area of the Cluster, higher would be the incentive for the redevelopment scheme.

3. Redevelopment of old MHADA Colonies.

A scheme will be implemented to facilitate the redevelopment of MHADA Colonies in the State. Maximum 2.5 FSI will be provided under the scheme so that present occupants can have a bigger house and additional housing stock is also generated. MHADA will play the role of facilitator.

4. Dharavi Redevelopment Project

Dharavi Redevelopment Project will be implemented to create a World Class beautiful township. All eligible families presently residing in Dharavi shall be rehabilitated in-situ. Care will be taken to protect their source of livelihood to the extent possible and permissible.

5. Redevelopment of BDD Chawls.

The BDD Chawls were constructed more than 90 years ago and consists of 160 sq.ft. It is proposed to undertake a total redevelopment of the BDD Chawls and such other old colonies so that the present occupants can be provided better housing and additional housing stock is also created. This scheme will be implemented through MHADA.

6. Housing for Textile Workers

A major programme will be undertaken to provide affordable housing to the textile workers in the State who have lost their employment due to the closure of Textile Mills,

7. Housing for policemen

Major programme for providing housing for the policemen and officers will be undertaken through Maharashtra State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation.



8. Rental Housing

Rental Housing is to be encouraged. 5 lakhs rental tenements will be constructed through MMRDA. Government Undertakings as well as private developers will be provided incentives for undertaking rental housing schemes in the State.

9. Housing for Journalists

A scheme for providing affordable housing for the Journalists will be implemented at District Head Quarters through MHADA.

Slum Rehabilitation

The slum population in Mumbai is 58 lakhs and in rest of the urban area of the State of Maharashtra, 75 lakhs live in slums. A policy will be drawn so that in next 10 years, we create 'slum free' Maharashtra by providing houses of at least 269 sq.ft. with a toilet for each of the slum dwellers.

To begin with, we will plan a scheme on above lines in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad and Nagpur.



AGRICULTURE

About 60% of the population of the State is depending on agriculture. However, emphasis would now be on improving the income of the agriculturists. Steps taken by Government of India and State Government for preventing farmers' suicides will be strictly implemented. Various programs of all inclusive progress and development of the affected families will be undertaken. The cultivators who have no irrigation facilities will be encouraged to take up supplementary professions like milk production, poultry development, sheep rearing, silk production, handloom and cottage industries.

Various Processing units will be encouraged in the cotton growing areas and steps to that effect will be taken within a given time frame.

To get remunerative price for his agricultural products, the main theme on which Democratic Front will work, would be to remove the 'middle man' and therefore, instead of cultivator going to market to sell his product, we will draw schemes under which market will come up to the cultivator.

- Crop insurance for the farmers will be implemented.
- Small and minimum agro processing units will be started in rural areas.
- 'Water For All' policy will be implemented.
- □ In addition to the subsidy granted by Government of India for schemes such as sprinklers, drip irrigation etc. Government of Maharashtra will further subsidise the schemes appropriately for the farmers in droughtprone areas of the State.



Following steps will be taken to improve agricultural production.

- Wells under EGS and Jawaharlal Well Scheme which are complete and have not been provided pumps and electricity will be taken up for activation.
- The work of canals for such dams which are ready will be completed so that more irrigation areas come under use.
- a) To advance loan to the farmers upto the limit of Rs. 3 Lacs at the interest rate of 3% p.a. through Co-operative Banks.
- b) To ensure that the marketing system comes into being for ensuring appropriate rates to agricultural produce of the farmers and to further ensure that the final consumer also gets the produce at the most reasonable prices.
- c) To establish Regulatory Council for co. op. Banks for protecting the deposits and for refunding the same to the depositors.
- Changing of crops is most important and the farmers will be encouraged to take up production of vegetables, cereals, ground nut etc.
- Horticulture scheme under EGS have received tremendous response in merchandise. This will be extended and encouraged and efforts will be made to take up export zones for the following horticulture products by providing all facilities to enable exporters to export their products.

- i) Pomegranates,
- ii) Bananas,
- iii) Oranges,
- iv) Grapes
- v) Mango &
- vi) Mosambi or Sweet lime.

Infrastructure for horticulture export would be provided.

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LABOUR

Out of a total of 4.12 Crore labour force in Maharashtra, about 90% are working in unorganized sector. In 38000 Establishments under the Factory Act, 17.26 lakhs labourers are employed and in 19.93 lakhs establishments registered under the Shops and Establishment Act, about 27.41 lakhs are employed. It is most important that the employers concentrate on producing more so that they can face the world recession problem. At the same time, they have to strictly implement the labour laws. It is therefore, necessary to simplify the procedures for implementation of the labour laws and also to make provision so that labourers in unorganized sector get more protection and benefits.



6. It is necessary to promote and support co-generation and also promote production and use of energy, efficient equipments and appliances. The policies in this regard will be reviewed and monetary and fiscal support will be extended to promote the above objectives by improving the production of energy with the latest technology.

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DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Since the Year 2000, planning for supply of drinking water and facilities for sanitation are being carried out through the Gram Panchayats. Similarly from October 2000, the programme of Sant Gadgebaba Cleanliness Campaign is being implemented in the rural areas.

By the Year 2008-2009, we have achieved the target of making available drinking water to the residents of all villages and habitats at the rate of 40 liters per head. Similarly, 65% of the families living in the rural areas have got their own toilet facilities. By coordinating the various schemes of the State Government and the Bharat Nirman Yojana of Government of India, objectives will be achieved during the next three years.

In the urban areas, where more than 40% of the population live, only around 60% population have got individual toilet facilities. The Government will undertake a campaign in the next 3 to 5 years to see that every household has got toilet facilities together with household water supply connection through piped water supply scheme.

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ROAD DEVELOPMENT

1. Mumbai–Nasik Express way on the lines of Mumbai Pune Express way will be got completed by PPP model in next 5 years.
2. The present Mumbai–Pune Express Highway will be extended upto Sion in next 3 years.
3. All roads joining the major cities in the state will be converted into 4 lanes and new roads will be got constructed with a condition that the contractor maintains it for next 10 years.
4. Through the 'Prime Minister Road Development Scheme' and the schemes of Government of Maharashtra, roads connecting villages (including Vadya, Pada, Tandas, Gude etc.) upto 500 population and above will be asphalted.
5. All incomplete roads will be completed within a definite time frame.

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REVENUE

Anybody who owns agricultural land or is connected with any type of NA land in the State has to deal with this department.

Share of Women in the agricultural land

Any woman who applies to the Revenue Department requesting her name to be entered in the land records will be allowed to do so. However, under the law, if the husband objects to this, it would not be possible to certify the same. In such event, higher officers, not below the rank of Tehsildar will be requested to intervene and encourage the husband to allow his wife's name to be entered in the land record.

NA permission for rural area

All construction for residential houses in rural areas including Gaothan do not need NA permission. This will be extended to other residential NA use like small shops, Atta chakki etc.

To acquire land for NA purpose like industrial use or construction of projects

1. No land which is irrigated or likely to come under irrigation will be allowed to be acquired at any cost .
2. Land under mangroves will be completely exempted from acquisition.
3. As far as possible, the developer will be encouraged to take land by mutual negotiation and intervention of Land Acquisition Act will be discouraged.
4. First rehabilitation and then implementation of the project will be the policy of Government and will be totally followed.

Computerisation of land records.

Computerisation of land records under Government of India scheme is in progress.

This will be expedited in order to get the following benefits to the agriculturists:-

- Computerised land record copies will be distributed with 7/12 Agriculture tax receipts whenever demanded.
- Digital maps
- The office of the Sub-Registrar and Tehsildar will be connected by computer so that mutation entry in the village record will be automatically taken up.

Formation of new districts and Talukas

Efforts will be done to settle all issues for formation of districts and talukas within the next two years

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URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Maharashtra is one of the most urbanised States of the country. Under the JNNURM and UIDSSMT scheme, we get financial assistance for transport system, drinking water supply scheme, sewerage and solid waste disposal. We would ensure that all the corporations in the State take advance steps to get maximum assistance under this scheme.



Accommodation reservation : Provision of Accommodation reservation will be made in the DC rules of all Municipal Corporations.

D Class Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Nagar Panchayats have been found wanting in providing basic infrastructure facilities. The Government will try to help them in getting the project funding and also think of providing viability gap funding, if necessary.

Octroi

- Octroi is a very complicated issue. Internationally, the system of octroi is not prevalent in Municipal Corporations. Efforts will be taken to examine whether it is possible to improve municipal services by taking the help of private sector participation and abolish Octroi.

- The burial and cremation grounds in the city will be increased as required.

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VISION MUMBAI

Mumbai is not only the financial capital but is also a symbol of India's new confidence, prowess and progress. Although this city has given a lot to everyone, it is a fact that we have not been able to repay its debt. It is therefore, that the Democratic Front for the first time has drafted an ambitious plan for Mumbai's development and has also embarked on its implementation.

The Democratic Front made a resolution to make Mumbai a world-class city. What does a world-class city mean? For us it means raising the standard of living of the citizens of Mumbai by providing them with drinking water, reducing pollution, reducing traffic congestion, etc. thereby making traveling easier for the people, creating new employment opportunities, providing enhanced and better environment to the slum dwellers, removing fear from the minds of the people living in old and dilapidated buildings and radically improving the infrastructure facilities in the city.

A. Improvement in the city infrastructure:

In local trains where the capacity is to carry 1,700 passengers, almost three times the number travel during peak times.

We have been able to complete the first phase of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP). This will reduce the peak time congestion from 5,000 to 3,500 per train. We have also installed new ventilation systems in trains which will improve air circulation and reduce stress while traveling. Our ultimate goal is to further reduce congestion to 1,700 travelers per train. It is therefore important for us to complete the second phase of MUTP. Under this phase, additional 100 new trains would be added to the Suburban Rail System. This means additional 1,200 compartments will be made available for commuters, thereby reducing crowding in local trains. It would also be possible for providing additional services to the Borivali-Virar and Thane-Kalyan stretches through MUTP-II.



Due to less or no investments made over the years, it would be necessary to make additional investments in our suburban railway system. We would therefore try under the third phase of MUTP to get the local train services extended to Dahanu. We will also construct additional railway lines between Vasai and Panvel to improve east-west connectivity. In addition, we would commence fast train services between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

(i) **Construction of Metro Rail System:**

A metropolitan city needs a Metro Rail System. In spite of being late in this effort, we have undertaken the construction of Metro Rail System in Mumbai and we expect that the first phase between Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar would be complete by 2011. The second phase between Charkop and Mankhurd would also be completed in the coming next five years. Simultaneously we would undertake the third phase between, Colaba and Bandra and try to complete the work in next 5 years.

(ii) **Bandra-Worli Sea Link:**

Mumbai city has to its credit a world-class infrastructure facility through this bridge. We would undertake the next phase between Worli and Haji Ali and complete this work over the next 2½ years. Simultaneously, the further stretch between Haji Ali and Marine Drive would be undertaken and complete over the next three years. This would virtually eliminate road congestion in the city of Mumbai to a large extent.

(iii) **Completion of the Nhava-Seva Trans Harbour Link:**

Mumbai City is an island covered with the Arabian Sea on three sides. To reach the progress and development made by this City into the remotest places of Maharashtra this bridge of 26 Kms. over the sea is a necessity with PPP. We would complete the project in the next five years.

(iv) **Creation of a modern road network in MMR:**

We had engaged an expert firm to carry out a survey and recommend which critical roads need to be constructed for the overall development of Mumbai. Based on this study and as recommended therein, we undertake to construct 200 kms 6-lane roads in the next five years in the MMR. This will help spread the population in the larger MMR.

(v) **Creation of additional growth engines in the MMR:**

The Bandra-Kurla Complex has already become an important commercial centre. On the lines of this, we will create additional five growth centres in MMR so as to generate additional employment opportunities.

(vi) **Development of Airports:**

The Existing airport would not have the capacity to handle future traffic. It is therefore, necessary that we undertake the construction of a new international airport at Navi Mumbai through Public Private Partnership. In order to connect the new airport to the old, the proposed Metro Rail System from Charkop to Mankhurd will be extended to Navi Mumbai.



(vii) **Construction of Monorail system:**

The Congress Party undertook the construction of the Monorail System in Mumbai. We would undertake the construction of an additional 30 kms of Monorail corridor during the next three years.

(viii) **Modernization of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus:**

We will persuade the Rail Ministry to create a new and world class railway terminus adjoining the existing terminus.

(ix) **Development of Mithi River and its surrounding areas:**

It will be our endeavor in the next five years to clean up the Mithi River and develop the surrounding areas from a tourism point of view.

(x) **Construction of toilets:**

A large number of commuters in Mumbai travel long distances to their offices. It will be our endeavor to create clean and adequate facilities in the city.

(xi) **Pothole free roads:**

Potholes after every monsoon are a regular headache for all citizens of Mumbai. We will undertake the maintenance of roads by inviting all leading private companies through long term maintenance contracts.



Mumbai Tourism:

(i) Mumbai has a number of important tourists' spots. However, the same are either not maintained or tourists are not made aware of them. We will therefore create a Mumbai Tourism Development Board through Public Private Partnership whose object will be to develop and showcase Mumbai's tourism potential.

(ii) There are a large number of old structures under the control of the state Archeology Department. Through the Tourism Promotion Board, we will undertake the maintenance of these structures.

(iii) **Creation of a Bollywood museum:**

Mumbai is an international centre for film production. People from all over India visit Mumbai but cannot have a glimpse of the film industry when they visit Mumbai. We would therefore create a worldclass Museum that will showcase the strength of Mumbai's film industry.

(iv) Mumbai will be raised to be a tourist purchase hub. It will be made a centre of purchase for tourist. Certain areas will be earmarked to be only shopping areas free of vehicular traffic to enable the tourists to move about and shop freely. A project will be created with the help of vendors and shop-keepers.

(v) The Band-stand area in Bandra will again be revived into a tourist spot and shopping area.

(vi) The Elephanta Caves would be developed and improved to be an international tourist centre.



- (vii) At least Three Night Bazaars would be established for tourists to shop.
- (viii) The Heritage Structures would be exempt from property Tax.
- (ix) The Opera House and The Watson Hotels will be acquired by the State Government.

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ENVIRONMENT

Following essentials will be done:-

1. Most of the Rivers and nallas in Maharashtra are full of industrial and chemical waste. On the lines of cleaning Ganga, Yamuna and Mithi in Mumbai, the State Government would take steps to see that these rivers and nallas are restored to their original conditions of flow.
2. Vehicles in urban areas are creating immense pollution. At least, public transport would be converted to CNG as soon as possible.
3. Although the State is promoting industrialization, there would be no compromise on principles of environment. However, taking into consideration the environment protection, the State would promote industrialisation by bringing about smoothness in the functioning of various concerned departments.

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Climate Change

The State is aware of the likely risk of global warming. We are also aware in view of the large coastal area, we have the greater possibility of damage and city like Mumbai is also threatened with damage consequences.

In order to avoid such risk, the State Government will prepare an action plan as early as possible. The action plan will list such issues which act to climate change and also list such issues which have to be implemented in order to mitigate the effect of climate change.

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FORESTS

The Democratic Front will make efforts to increase land under forests in the State. We are already implementing ambitious schemes for plantation of trees in urban areas. Efforts will be made to intensify these efforts within next 5 years so that urban areas will be brought under forests under intensified NREGP scheme.

Without affecting the forests, we will make efforts to improve forest tourism. Because of this, the common man will develop affection for forests and wild life. They will therefore, only work for their protection.



WATER CONSERVATION

52% of the land mass of Maharashtra is drought prone. About 39% of the total land is from light to very light soil area. Salinity has degraded another 10% of the land mass. Irrigation, both flow and well, put together covers around 16% of the cultivable land. Even after the development of the entire irrigation potential, 70% will continue to remain dependant on rain. The most important programme for this is to take up watershed development along with various water conservation measures on a massive scale.

In the next 5 years, the Government will give a big push to this programme by providing the needed administrative and policy directives besides providing funds.

One problem with the water conservation works was absence of satisfactory arrangement for maintenance. Government will create a corpus and give the management of the corpus to the concerned villagers so that maintenance of these watershed structures are ensured.

Similarly, a massive programme for restoration of the saline lands estimated to be about 14 lakh hectares will be taken up in the next 5 years and all impediments in speedy implementation will be removed.

Along with water conservation and watershed development programmes necessary inputs, both in terms of funds, credits, training, technical inputs, will be provided to make the dry land farming more productive and more viable.

Feasibility of a project joining rivers within the state will be examined.



EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME

The area under horticulture has eased by almost 500% since introduction of EGS linked horticulture. The potential to increase income and generate employment under this programme is enormous. The Government will further intensify this programme particularly in the dry land areas having marginal soil and will strive to see that the area under horticulture crops is double in the next 3 years.

During the next 5 years, at least 3 lakh new wells would be taken up under the Jawahar Wells Programme. By ensuring that the completed wells under this programme get access to loan at reasonable rates, supported by government assistance, wherever necessary, all the successful Jawahar Wells would be provided with pump sets.



HEALTH

“HEALTH FOR ALL” is our Motto. In the Government Hospital, people under BPL get free medical aid. This scheme would be extended to cover free medical aid for serious diseases and major surgeries in phases.



Under the “Jeevan dai” scheme of Government of Maharashtra, many patients have got relief free of charge for bypass operation of heart. There is a need to increase the allocation under this scheme so that more people get the benefit.

We will consider providing health insurance to BPL families for treatment in hospitals for critical disease and major surgeries.

Maharashtra is the most urbanised State and the places are interconnected with National and State Highways. However, in spite of road safety measures being under taken, accidents do take place and people lose their precious life. This happens because medical aid could not reach on time. We propose, therefore, to develop “Trauma Centres” at various locations on all National and State Highways in a phased manner.

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ADMINISTRATION

The people expect good governance from the Government. With this in view, they elect the political representatives and they form the Government. It is therefore, necessary for the Government to give an administration which will fulfill the aspirations of people. Various measures will be undertaken for this. A few of them are as follows:-

1. There will be 24 hour help line and help centres at Civil Hospitals, Police stations and departments which provide services to the people.
2. Computerisation will be resorted to for all departments. Hence scheme on the lines of ‘Setu’ working at the Collector level will be extended to many more departments.
3. Implementation of RTI will be intensified and the appeals will be decided in limited period.
4. The scheme of ‘Lok Shahi Din’ and ‘Palak Sachiv’ will be strengthened. The ‘Palak Mantri’ is expected to supervise the developmental works in these districts. A separate ‘Lokshahi Din’ once in a month will be prescribed to cover applications of the following type:-
 - a. Applications for employment
 - b. Personal difficulties of Government and Semi Government employees.

This will reduce the number of applications that are received on ‘Lokshahi Din’ and the Collector and his other colleagues will be able to concentrate on such applications which come for development needs of the district /applicant.

The Palak Mantri will be requested to take a monthly meeting at district. In that meeting, he will take a review of all such applications and with the help of Palak Sachiv and Collectors, most of the applications will be disposed off at the district level. If this is done, in short time, people would develop the confidence that things can be settled at district level.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Steps will be taken to provide equal opportunities and implement the schemes of Professional and Technical Education for the weaker sections of the society.

1. Facility of free education will be provided to the below mentioned categories of the society upto Graduation:-
 - a. Students from Below Poverty Line families.
 - b. Students belonging to all backward classes and
 - c. Students belonging to the weaker sections of the society as per the norms of the State Government.
2. A scheme for preparing examinees belonging all sections of society for the competitive examinations taken by State Government, Central Government, Banks etc. will be implemented.

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SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE

- Professional guidance will be given to the youths for self employment. Loan facility and a market connectivity will also be given to their products.
- Industrial Zones will be established for technically and professionally qualified youths for their gainful employment.
- Incentive schemes will be effectively implemented for the students and youth exhibiting an outstanding performance in different kinds of games and sports

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SCHOOL EDUCATION

Education is the key to the development of personality of an individual and also is the main instrument of progress in all the fields.

In order that the entire society progresses and has a very bright future, more emphasis has been given on 100% enrolment of the School going children, increase their attendance in class considerably and also to contain the percentage of drop-outs and stagnation in the class.

Maharashtra has always nurtured the progressive philosophy of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Dr. B. R. (alias Babasaheb) Ambedkar. Therefore, the Democratic Front feels it imperative to impart free education to boys and girls from the weaker Strata of the Society.

1. To provide free education to girls up to Graduation Level and to boys up to XII Std.
2. Free supply of School Uniforms and writing material to students of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Vimukta Jati, Nomadic Tribes, below poverty line and Economically



Backward Class studying upto standard VIII, instead of students of all these weaker sections, studying upto standard IV.

3. Free supply of bi-cycles to all the girl students (including girl students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes), studying in standard VIII to XII from rural areas.
4. Opening of hostels for girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jati, Nomadic Tribes, Special Backward Class, and Economically Backward Class and studying in standard V to XII at all the Taluka Headquarters in the State of Maharashtra.
5. To invest a certain amount in a fixed deposit for every female child born in Maharashtra and to make available to her an amount of Rs.1.25 Lakh, for her education and marriage when she becomes major under a scheme called 'Maheer'

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WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Democratic Front is of the opinion that where women get equal opportunities for their physical and psychological growth and respect from the society, that society will be a healthy society. The Democratic Front led Government in Maharashtra has been taking all possible care to ensure that the intellectual, physical and mental growth of the children take place properly through the vigorous and successful implementation of various schemes for the children. Not only this, but there are also many other schemes which concentrate on the health and hygiene of the adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

1) Taking care of an infant, a New Born Child:-

- Infants will be looked after by the Medical Staff and the Anganwadi Sevika concerned. The Medical Officer will personally monitor each and every case of a child delivery.

2) Malnutrition

- Comprehensive measures, to combat malnutrition among the children and mothers will be taken. The employees of Health Department and ICDS will be imparted training and they would be responsible for taking remedial measures.
- "ASHA" (Accredited Social Health Activist) will assist Anganwadi Sevikas in paying door-to-door visits and extending appropriate guidance to the mothers and members of the family on a daily diet and things pertaining to health.

3) Remedial measures for children below the age of six years.

- a) To follow the norms prescribed by WHO as regards the weight and height of a child.

The WHO has already prescribed a time frame for implementing the norms of the weight and height of a child.



b) ***To overcome an acute problem of malnutrition.***

The children identified as malnourished and likely to be malnourished, as per the norms finalised by WHO will be referred to and admitted to the child development centres along with their mothers for undergoing remedial treatment for a period extending from 15 to 21 days. Mothers will be given guidance and training regarding nutritious / balanced diet.

c) ***A project called "Save the Girl Child" will be implemented effectively.***

d) A project of constructing "Savitribai Fule Mahila Sanskrutik Bhavan" at each of the Taluka Headquarters will be undertaken



SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Democratic Front Government has put in best of its efforts nearly for a decade for the welfare and well being of the SC, ST, VJNT, SBC, EBC, BPL families and all the constituents of the weaker sections of the society.

All possible help to the farmers of the weaker sections of the society will be extended by the State Government. An intensive and effective effort will be put in to bring about social security, incentive to the Inter-Caste Marriages for creating a casteless society and all other schemes.

Similarly, land for an International monument of Dr. Babasaheb Aambedkar will be made available and "Chaitya Bhoomi Development Authority" will be establish to ensure speedy implementation of the project.

- 1) All possible financial help and guidance will be given to the SC, ST and all other backward classes for the Civil Services Examination and the like.
- 2) Residential schools will be opened and grant-in-aid given to the managements of such residential schools in the home districts of the sugarcane labourers and other labourers who are required to migrate to other districts/states for their livelihood.
- 3) The scope of financial assistance will be increased for the beneficiaries covered under the various schemes, such as –
 - a) The scope of financial assistance will be increased to Rs.600/- per month for the beneficiaries covered under the various schemes, such as Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Indira Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and landless agricultural female labourers, Shraavan Bal Yojana etc.
 - b) Subsistence allowance at a fixed rate will be given to the widows of BPL families for the rest of their life.



- 4) The female self-help groups having more than 50% SC members will be given interest free loans as an incentive for promoting them to start small scale enterprises.
- 5) A financial limit for improvement of Dalit Vasti will be raised to 10 lakhs.
- 6) The newly wed couples belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes will be given an incentive amount of Rs.20000/- under the schemes called Inter-caste marriage and Kanyadan Yojana respectively.
- 7) To invest a certain amount in a fixed deposit for every female child born in Maharashtra and to make available to her an amount of Rs.1.25 Lakh, for her education & marriage when she becomes major under a scheme called 'Maher'.



TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

The Tribal population is about 9% of the population of Maharashtra. The Prime intention of making a Population Proportionate Budgetary Provision and flow of funds is to ensure all round development of the Tribal Population in the state and try to bring them into the mainstream of development.

A special attention has been paid to the schemes on education and health. There are as many as 1200 residential Ashram schools in the State with strength of about 4.5 lac students.

- 1) All the residential Ashram Schools will be upgraded into Junior colleges with standard XI and XII.
- 2) The amount of stipend being given presently to the Tribal students studying from standard V to X will be doubled.
- 3) Residential Ashram Schools presently located in the hilly and remote Tribal Areas will be shifted to the Revenue Circle Headquarters / Taluka H.Q in phases.
- 4) State Academy of Sports exclusively for tribal boys and girls will be established.
- 5) Creche centers will be opened and attached to the Anganwadis in tribal areas.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO MINORITIES

The Democratic Front led government in Maharashtra is committed to give equal opportunity to the minorities.

For empowering the minorities our government will implement below mentioned schemes and will further monitor them vigorously:

- All possible efforts will be made by the government to ensure job opportunities in various service sectors. Students belonging to the weaker sections of the minorities and also those who are drop outs will be given an opportunity to avail of the facility of technical education and acquire skills enabling them for self employment.



- A network of a Distance Education will be created for strengthening the process of bringing Madrasas into the main stream of education.
- The introduction of new package of education will prove to be of great help to the students studying in Madrasas and will give a positive turn to their life.
- For an effective teaching-learning process the role of a teacher is most important. The Madrasa teachers will be given professional training. Challenge of training the Madrasa teachers, can be met with, by establishing a Central Institute for this purpose. This Institute will also look into the problems of the minorities and create an awareness to face the challenges of any kind.
- Hostels for minority girls will be established at each of the district Headquarters in Maharashtra.
- Recommendations of 'Sachchar Committee' pertaining to State Government will be implemented.

ENSURING EQUITABLE SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR MINORITIES.

- Our government will extend the scheme of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) for the minority communities and those who particularly belong to the weaker sections.
- The boys and girls coming from minority communities will also be given financial aid and assistance for pursuing the Professional Courses, such as MBBS, B. Tech., MBA, MCA, B.Ed., B.Lib. etc.

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REMOVAL OF REGIONAL IMBALANCE

Regional Imbalance of development pertaining to Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra will be removed within a prescribed time frame. Backlog in terms of physical infrastructure in various regions of Maharashtra will be reworked and a timebound programme of removal of the same will be declared. The removal of backlog of physical infrastructure like roads, irrigation, education and health will form a key component of the commitment for removal of regional imbalance. However, objectives of development cannot be confined to only creation of physical infrastructure, but should also include betterment of human development indicators. In addition to removal of backlog of physical infrastructure human development backlog removal programme will also be launched for removing backlog for the attainment of targets in social sectors like education (literacy, school education, professional education and equality of education), health (longevity, infant mortality, morbidity, maternal mortality and incidences of preventive diseases), gender inequalities, etc.



Programme having financial and non-financial components will be drawn up to bring parity in human development indicators among the districts of Maharashtra.

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LAW AND JUDICIARY

Many laws drafted during the British regime are still being continued. The laws in Revenue and Forests Department also need modifications considering the need of today. The Government had appointed Law Commission and Committees under various departments which have suggested amendments for outdated provisions of these laws.

Such amendments which are within the powers of the State Government will be taken up immediately. For those which are central establishments, proposals will be pursued with Government of India.

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WAKF

It is an inseparable and important way of life of the Islamic Community. The Wakf property and its resources are utilised for the religious purposes. Maharashtra has substantial Wakf property and the Democratic Front Government will conduct a systematic and time bound survey for assessing the Wakf property at various places.

In order to remove encroachments made on the Wakf properties and to protect them from the antisocial elements, the provisions of Public Premises Eviction Act have been extended and made applicable to them.

The provisions of The Maharashtra Rent Control Act will be suitably amended and made applicable for the income accrued as arrears of rent to be recovered from the tenants of the Wakf property.

We pledge to free the Wakf land/ property from the land mafias.

The income which will accrue from different sources of Wakf property will be used for the following purposes:

- Starting educational institutions imparting higher education and quality education.
- Repairs and Maintenance of Masjid, Durgah and Graveyards.
- Running of hospitals, health care centers and Community Welfare centers.
- Financial help will be rendered to the orphaned children, the Below Poverty Line families and self help groups of women.

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A PROUD CULTURAL HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra has a glorious history and strong cultural foundations. It therefore, inherits a culture which unites people, brings them together, preaches secularism and holds every member of a society in high esteem, no matter to what religion, faith, sect or caste he/she belongs.

Maharashtra has rightly been termed as the Land of Saints whose preachings have become an inseparable part of the Maharashtrian culture. The saints like, Saint Gyaneshwar, Saint Tukaram Maharaj, Saint Gora Kumbhar, Saint Namdev, Saint Savta Mali, Saint Sena, Saint Jana Bai, Saint Narhari Sonar, Saint Rohidas, Saint Choka Mela, Saint Kanhu Patra, Saint Banka, Mukta Bai etc. are the ones to name a few.

As mentioned above they are the ones who represented almost all sections of the society in Maharashtra. It is needless to say that it is only because of the preachings of these saints, the social fabric in Maharashtra has always remained intact. Not only this, but, the unity and harmony based on the strong foundation of secularism has also remained undisturbed.

Democratic Front can take pride in saying that the progressive thinking of the social, cultural and political leaders such as Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Maharshi Vithal Ramji Shinde, Prof. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar etc. moulded Maharashtra and its culture in an unique social model, depicting high values of human culture, mutual respect between the individuals and thereby maintaining high degree of social health and hygiene.

Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is the most loved, respected and revered warrior leader and king of Maharashtra who is worshipped for his ideal governance of the state. He taught us to respect women and every citizen irrespective of his caste and creed. The administrative reforms required as the demand of that time still serve as the guidelines.

We, therefore, inherit the best principles of state governance, integrity between all sections of society and conservation of the cultural heritage from the Ideal Model of State Governance of Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The Democratic Front would like to strongly reiterate that any act of insult to the political, social and cultural leaders referred to above, on a representative basis, will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely and with determination.

The preachings and progressive thoughts of the above mentioned saints, social reformers and progressive thinkers will be included in the syllabi of primary and secondary school education suitably.

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MARATHI -THE PRIDE OF MAHARASHTRA

Marathi is the official language of governance in Maharashtra, as it is spoken by the majority of the people in the state.

Democratic Front reiterates and clarifies that it respects all the scheduled and un-scheduled languages and has due respect for all the languages.

However, Democratic Front Government will take every step possible to spread and strengthen Marathi, it being the mother tongue of larger number of citizens of the state and is therefore, the strong instrument and medium of communication.

As the medium of instruction it plays an important role for the all round development (intellectual, mental and physical development) of the children and the youth of Maharashtra. It also has a lion's share in producing well cultured citizens of our country.

The Democratic Front Government, is therefore, committed to ensure that Marathi language spreads and prospers and reaches everyone resorting to it. The government will leave no stone unturned to nurture and protect the prestige and honour of Marathi.

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OUR COMMITMENTS

21 POINT PROGRAMME OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY, NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY AND RPI etc. PARTIES IN MAHARASHTRA TO BE PERFORMED IN THE 50th YEAR OF THE FORMATION OF THE STATE IN 21st CENTURY.

1. To raise per-capita income to Rs.1 lakh per annum through various developmental programmes in five years and create so many “lakhpatis.”
2. To make Maharashtra fully secured for a common man and to take effective measures to counter the Naxalite and Terrorists menace.
3. To make available 25 Kg ,of food grains like wheat, rice, Jawar etc. per month at the rate of Rs.3/- per Kg. to the BPL families.
4. To make Maharashtra free of Loadshedding by 2012 in a phased manner and to give momentum to the programmes taken to achieve the above objective.
5. To construct 10 lakh affordable houses for the economically weaker sections of the society, in a period of 5 years.
6.
 - a) To advance loan to the farmers upto the limit of Rs. 3 Lacs at the interest rate of 3% p.a. through Co-operative Banks.
 - b) To ensure that the marketing system comes into being for ensuring appropriate rates to agricultural produce of the farmers and to further ensure that the final consumer also gets the produce at the most reasonable prices.
 - c) To establish Regulatory Council for co. op. Banks for protecting the deposits and for refunding the same to the depositors.
7. To provide individual water connections to families in rural and urban areas and to provide toilets to each of the households.
8.
 - a) Mumbai –Nashik Express way will be constructed and completed within a 5 years. Pune-Mumbai Express way will be extended upto Sion.
 - b) To connect the major cities in the State by Four Lane Roads
 - c) To asphalt connecting roads to villages including Vadya, Tande, Pade, Gude, etc. upto the population of 500 and above.
9. To make available land for an International Monument of Dr. Babasaheb alias B.R.Ambedkar and to establish “Chaitya Bhoomi Development Authority” to ensure speedy implementation of the project.
10.
 - a) To formulate and implement effectively a policy for meeting the enhanced basic infrastructural needs in urban areas.



- b) To prepare a Master Plan for the project called “Vision Mumbai” and to develop Mumbai as an International Financial Centre and a Global City in a timebound manner within a period of 5 years.
11. a) To legislate to reserve 50% seats for women to be filled by direct elections in the Panchayat Institutions at all levels.
- b) To invest a certain amount in a fixed deposit for every female child born in Maharashtra and to make available to her an amount of Rs.1.25 Lakh, for her education & marriage when she becomes major under a scheme called ‘Maheer’.
- c) To grant interest free loans as an incentive to self help groups of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe women for promoting them to start small scale enterprises.
12. a) To prepare an action plan for the next 5 years to mitigate the damages that are possible due to climate change and also take effective steps to improve the balance of environment.
- b) To ensure that the concept of “Green Maharashtra” comes into being with determined efforts to plant by undertaking a statewide programme of tree plantation.
13. a) To improve and increase area under irrigation using new technology and also to complete the canals lying incomplete.
- b) To desilt all the waterbodies including major, medium and small irrigation projects and also percolation tanks in the state and help farmers to carry silt to their fields.
14. a) Various Processing Units will be encouraged in the cotton growing areas and steps to that effect will be taken within a given time frame.
- b) To accelerate the process of industrialisation through Single Window System in the state to make sure that more employment is generated.
- c) To open a separate and independent department for medium and small scale enterprises and to encourage them.
- d) To provide ‘smart card’ to labourers in organized and unorganized sectors to ensure their rights.
- e) To cultivate and nurture skills in agricultural labourers and encourage them to form self help groups and further to grant loans to such groups at a rate of 4% per annum for undertaking skilled professions.
- f) To grant loans to the self help groups of rural artisans at a rate of 4% per annum.
15. a) To improve the Human Development Index (HDI) of Maharashtra through massive educational health programmes and measures to improve percapita income.
- b) At least one Government Hospital in each of the Revenue Divisions in the State will be upgraded with modern medical facilities.
16. a) To provide free education to girls up to Graduation Level and to boys up to XII Std.
- b) To give free and compulsory primary education to the children belonging to the age group of 6 to 14 years and all efforts will be made to improve the quality of education.
- c) To formulate schemes for an all round development of youth and provide incentives to those exhibiting outstanding qualities in different kinds of games and sports.



17. a) To implement a time bound programme for the progress and development of all backward classes for fulfilling the dream of progressive Maharashtra seen by Rajarshee Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.
- b) To ensure that the sections of backward classes such as SC, ST, all the rest of the categories of backward classes and minorities, participate in the process of development of Maharashtra State, for which programs of Education, Health and Basic infrastructure will be implemented.
- c) To implement the recommendations of “Krantiveer Lahuji Salve Commission” in a time bound manner.
- d) To provide free of cost, all the facilities relating to Health & Education, to all types of handicapped persons in the State and to implement welfare schemes for them.
- e) To undertake an implement special programmes for the welfare and wellbeing of Other Backward Classes.
- f) The scope of financial assistance will be increased to Rs.600/- per month for the beneficiaries covered under the various schemes, such as Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Indira Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and landless agricultural female labourers, Shraavan Bal Yojana etc.
18. To provide free of cost all types of surgeries and medical treatment to the patients who are below poverty line and suffering from Heart Diseases, Cancer, Kidney, Brain Tumour etc. .
19. a) Regional Imbalance of development pertaining to Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra will be removed within a prescribed time frame.
- b) Various programs of all inclusive progress and development of the affected families due to farmers suicide will be undertaken.
20. To provide sensitive, transparent and responsive administration to the people of Maharashtra.
21. a) To implement below mentioned programmes for preserving the glory and insuring prosperity of Marathi language.
- To celebrate Marathi Language Fortnight from 1st of May to 15th May every year.
 - To appoint a legislative committee to supervise and insure that Marathi is being used in all the offices under the State Government.
- b) Following programmes will be implemented for preserving the glory of Cultural Heritage of Maharashtra.
- The State declared archeological monuments such as the Forts etc. will be repaired and improvements brought about for an encouragement to tourism.
 - Sufficient open land will be made available in Pandharpur, a place of pilgrimage for constructing ‘Varkari Bhavans’ for each of the districts in Maharashtra.

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VOTE FOR
INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY
RPI ALLIANCE

VOTE FOR PROGRESS



Voting Date Tuesday 13th October 2009
7.00 am to 5.00 pm