

## PRESS RELEASE

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In the context of the forthcoming Tamil Nadu General Election-2021, Dalit and Adivasis Election Manifesto was released in Chennai Press Club by National Dalit Movement For Justice - NDMJ and Dalit Collective for Justice-TN on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021, followed by the submission of the Manifesto to Political Party Leaders, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and President of VCK Dr.Thol. Thirumavalavan; Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Treasurer of DMK T.R.Balu; Tamil Nadu state President of CPI Mr.Mutharasan and Environment Activist Mr.Udayakumar. Along with the Manifesto SCP/TSP model Draft Bill was also released.

Rights of Dalits and Adivasi's, welfare schemes that are enshrined by the Indian Constitution and various laws enacted in alignment with the Constitution; very often doesn't reach the targeted population and thus they fail to reclaimed their right for social and economic needs. In this context, various organisations in Tamil Nadu primarily engaged in working for the rights and development of Dalits, Tribals, Women and Children jointly released the election manifesto to appeal all the political parties in Tamil Nadu to include and incorporate the demands and concerns of Dalits and Adivasi's in their Election Manifesto and ensure their support to the Dalit and Adivasi Communities.

**Dalit & Adivasi Manifesto reclaims 'Dalit/Adivasi rights, dignity and rightful' place as Tamil Nadu is heading for General Election 2021. "Manifesto" covers following thematic demands. The Key demands are:**

- Legislations namely NEET Entrance Exam for Medical Education, National Education Policy, Citizenship Amendment Act, Agricultural Laws, Environmental Impact Assessment Notification should be completely withheld
- Ensuring land entitlements, housing pattas, community certificates, housing schemes.
- Robustly, implementation of the SCs and STs (PoA) Act 1989
- Ensuring that perception towards Kuravar and Irular community people as Habitual Offenders is changed. Ensure justice to Dalit and Adivasi people who are subjected to police torture and custodial deaths.

- Government should ensure implementation of Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013, and provide special allocations to the manual scavengers including men, women towards their development & rehabilitation.
- Government should ensure that the allocation of funds should be utilized only for the development and upliftment of Dalit and Adivasi communities and not to be diverted to other general schemes and programs, with special focus on 3 % reservation for Arunthathiyars within the reservation for Scheduled Caste.
- Ensure Dalit and Adivasis should be given their due rights in Education and Employment Spheres
- Extending reservation to Private Sectors.
- Extending reservation to converted Dalit and Adivasi Christians and Muslims.
- Ensuring people's participation at the maximum level in the Gram Saba Meetings .Dalit & Tribal Panchayat Villages should be approached with Social Perspective.
- Special Focus should be on Dalit and Adivasis – in rendering Relief, Rehabilitation, Addressing Caste Based Discriminations during Disasters
- Ensure Nutritious Food, Pure & Portable Drinking Water, Health & Hygiene to children and Educational Opportunity from Elementary to Higher Education level.
- Caste and Patriarchal atrocities against Dalit and Adivasi women should be prevented and actions should be taken to ensure independent functioning, of Dalit and Adivasi women panchayat presidents / representatives to execute their powers, responsibilities in panchayat administration.
- Recognize & Protect the Rights of Human Rights Defenders

This Manifesto will act as a reminder to all political parties of their obligation to be steadfast in implementing and fulfilling promises to bridge the increasing gap between the Tamil Nadu government and the Dalit communities on one hand and between the dominant caste groups and the Dalit community as a whole on the other. The Election Manifesto is: a collective affirmation of Dalit identity and dignity; a collective assertion of the Dalit community's power, strength and resilience; the one voice of 20 crore Dalits in India clamouring for their rights and entitlements.

We demand that party, which forms the next Government should not fail to make use of all the knowledge that has been placed at their disposal in the present Dalit Manifesto. This is sine-qua-non for the strengthening of the nation and for securing the optimal and sustained growth of India's economy.

With Warm Regards,



Dr. V. A. Ramesh Nathan  
 General Secretary  
 National Dalit Movement for Justice(NDMJ)- NCDHR  
 National Convener  
 National Coalition for Strengthening the POA Act and Its Implementation  
 +91 9560028068