

# The new deal



PM Lee, referring to the need for Singaporeans to improve their social graces, demonstrated how China did it through civility campaigns before the Beijing Olympics. The 11th of every month was chosen to coax people to queue because visually, the number 11 looks like two persons lining up one behind the other.

Extra cash and rebates, greater political liberalisation and more incentives to coax people to get married and have babies.

## Cost-of-living help

- **Growth dividends:** 50 per cent more in second payout in October. HDB families to get between \$75 and \$150 more.
- **Utility rebates:** 50 per cent more in U-Save rebates. Extra amount given ranges from \$40 to \$110.

## Liberalising political landscape

- Ban on party political films eased.
- More liberal new media rules during general elections.
- Outdoor demonstrations allowed, at Speakers' Corner in Hong Lim.

## Parenthood and marriage perks

- **Maternity leave:** Four months, up by one month.
- **Infant-care leave:** One week of unpaid leave a year, until child turns two.
- **Child-care leave:** Extended to six days a year, for child younger than seven.
- **Baby bonus:** Bigger cash grant for new mums.
- **Every child matters:** Tax relief and child-care subsidy for fifth child.
- **Child-care boost:** More centres to be built. More subsidy for centres.
- **Quality kindergartens:** Better-trained teachers, better syllabuses.
- **Test-tube babies:** Financial aid for in-vitro fertilisation treatment.
- **Incentive to work:** Better tax incentives to encourage mums to work.
- **Joining forces:** Government match-making agencies SDU and SDS to be merged.
- **SDU seal of approval:** Accreditation scheme for dating agencies.
- **Family-friendly companies:** Public recognition for these companies.