

Unite to Oust BJP from Power at Centre: CPI

Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja said that the coming closer of regional parties including Bharath Rashtra Samithi, formerly known as Telangana Rashtra Samiti towards left parties is good for national politics and for the brighter future of the country and states as well. The main opposition party, however, is not taking into consideration the actual situation on the ground and strength of alliance parties. This has become a deterrent in facing the challenge to our country's unity, security, secularism. In this background it is difficult to face BJP. Congress party is ignoring even policies adopted by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of the nation, he observed.

The general secretary was addressing the meeting of Telangana state council of the party on November 17, 2022 at Makhdoom Bhavan in Hyderabad. Takkalapally Srinivas Rao, state secretariat member, presided over the meeting. Dr K Narayana and Syed Azeez Pasha, national secretariat members and Chada Venkata Reddy, national executive committee member and Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, party's Telangana state council secretary were on the dais.

D Raja in his address explained in detail the national and international political situation in general and the way left parties and their alliance parties are coming to power in many countries in particular. He also appealed to the left parties, national parties and regional parties which are for democracy and secularism to unite and fight against the BJP which is selling assets and natural resources of the nation to Adanis and

Ambanis at throw away prices. These parties should utilise all opportunities in this regard.

The Congress party has lost that opportunity in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.

The CPI which is going to complete hundred years of its foundation in 2025, should strengthen its organisation by evolving future programme of action with several agitations taking up people's day-to-day issues. He also reminded that the just concluded 24th Party Congress has given a call to enroll 10 lakh party members. This can be achieved only if every party member is having lively contact with the people at the grass roots level in rural and urban areas.

Bhagam Hemanth Rao moved a condolence resolution at the sad demise of many communist veterans and many other eminent personalities including famous cine actor and former MP G



CPI general secretary D. Raja addressing Telangana state council meeting

Ram Narsimha Rao

Krishna. The meeting observed one minute silence in their honour.

Addressing a press conference on November 17, D Raja said that electoral reforms are the need of the hour and elections should be conducted on the basis of people's representation method. Along with him were present at the press meet Dr K Narayana, Syed Azeez Pasha, Chada Venkata Reddy, Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao and Palla Venkata Reddy, party national council member.

The general secretary also criticised the Modi government which is terrorising state governments through GST and governors. The RSS-BJP combine government is imposing new education policy forcibly on states. He also expressed anger that the Modi government is snatching away the rights of state governments, which are ruled by opposition parties.

Why the governors should interfere in the day-to-day governance of democratically elected state governments, he asked.

Certain governors are taking forward ideology of BJP and RSS. He recalled that recently the governor of Tamil Nadu has said that for thousands of years India has been following Sanatan Dharma. The BJP government is utilising the system of governors for its selfish ends in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and even in Telangana. BJP in order to come to power in various states is spending money in exorbitant amounts and also using administrative machinery. It is misusing the power and as part of this, it has made an attempt for horse trading of legislators in Telangana.

He further said that the BJP is adopting same methods in other states as well. In Telangana state investigation is going on in this regard. Elections must be conducted on proportional representation method and the government should bear entire election expenses. He also observed that the government has appointed a committee headed by Indrajit Gupta for election reforms. Finally Raja reiterated that election reforms are need of

the hour. He has also asked what has happened to the promise of Modi that he would create two crores of jobs every year. Prices of essential commodities are shooting up. The economic crisis is deepening. He also suggested that the Congress party must change its policy and go along with other democratic and secular parties in order to defeat the BJP.

Dr K Narayana, in his address pointed out that Hawala money, black money and gold are being transported to foreign banks through private airlines. Hence these flights be checked meticulously and controlled by the central government.

Syed Azeez Pasha reminded that five justices of apex court of the nation have directed not to give speeches which insult ministers, people's representatives and others. He also stated that if left parties, democratic parties, secular parties, national parties and regional parties are united then BJP can be defeated.

Earlier, D Raja was felicitated on his re-election as general secretary. The meeting also felicitated Dr K Narayana on his re-election as national secretariat member and Azeez Pasha on his election as national secretariat member.



D Raja, Dr. K Narayana and Azeez Pasha being felicitated

Editorial

That Savarkar had appealed to the British colonialists several times to get released and spared after he was sent for life transportation has been proved true through all the Maafinamas that are now in public domain, but that was not all. In these letters, he had not only pleaded for mercy, but clearly stated that if released, he would be loyal to the British government, which he did, all his life. The carpet had been full of skeletons underneath as was reflected in the letter Linlithgow, the longest serving viceroy (1936-1943), had written to the secretary of state for India. The letter is dated October 7, 1939, two days before viceroy met Savarkar. The report of the meeting with Savarkar was placed in the postscript on October 9, immediately after the meeting which obviously viceroy considered significant from the point of view of the British vested interest in India. According to the letter, Savarkar had said, "Our interests were now the same, we must therefore work together." As if that was not enough, the letter reveals further, "The Hindu Mahasabha, he (Savarkar) went on to say, favoured an unambiguous undertaking of dominion status at the end of the war." (India Office (IO), MSEURF 125/8 1939, Letters to the Secretary of State for India). It was exactly the moment when the rest of the country, including the Left and the Congress demanded complete freedom from the British colonialists. They argued that if the country was set free, it could strive more to halt the Fascist forces, and this would be a great help to the Allied forces. In contrast to it, among the many mercy petitions Savarkar wrote, (the first one had come on August 30, 1911, which was less than two months when he was

Savarkar and his Misplaced Loyalties

taken to Cellular jail), in one of them, he had written, "I am ready to serve the government in any capacity they like, for as my conversion is conscientious so I hope my future conduct would be. By keeping me in jail, nothing can be got in what would be otherwise. The mighty alone can afford to be merciful and therefore where else the prodigal son can return but to the parental door of the government?" This promise was never violated, either in spirit or in practice. For his book, "Hindutva, Who is a Hindu", was written just when the British government had witnessed the first great countrywide upsurge at the call of non-cooperation movement and was getting desperate to divide the Indians. Savarkar's theory of Hindutva against the so called enemies, the Muslims, did not only promise to hold back a section of Hindus from joining the anti-colonial nationalist struggle, but it also promised to help the British in promoting its "divide and rule" policy in India. The promise of togetherness with colonial interest was not only kept alive but it blossomed further when the restrictions on his movements outside Ratnagiri were removed.

Savarkar started constantly moving towards shaping a battlefield so strategically that it could easily host a war between the two communities of Hindus and Muslims. Soon after becoming Hindu Mahasabha president in December 1937, he opted for the horrid political line that led to further fall in the earlier pervading sense of love and brotherhood. "There are two antagonistic nations living side by side in India," he said at the nineteenth annual session of Hindu Mahasabha in Ahmedabad. "Several infantile politicians commit the serious mistake in supposing that India is already welded into a harmonious nation or that it

could be welded thus for the mere wish to do so. [...] India cannot be assumed today to be a Unitarian and homogenous nation. On the contrary, there are two nations in the main: the Hindus and the Muslims, in India."

The threat was ominous and the path that Savarkar had undertaken was to be soaked in blood and death. Muslim League also followed the suit in early 1940, only months after Savarkar met the viceroy.

The demand of partition at the most crucial juncture in the history of Indian national movement signified a complete success of British government's divide and rule policy. At the time, nationalists were in the mode of complete boycott of the British government ever since Linlithgo declared India's participation in the second world war on September 3, 1939, without even consulting them. In protest the Congress ministries resigned within a month. In October, 1940, Gandhi and Congress, in order to counter the British propaganda that India was supporting the war of its own free will, launched individual Satyagraha campaign. The nationalists pointed out the hypocrisy in Britain's decision – to support the democratic forces in the war that were fighting against the Fascist forces, while still keeping India under their rule.

By contrast, Savarkar not only agreed for a promise of dominion status after war, but also declared his intention to take part in viceroy's executive council and the war office in 1940. When the nationalists launched Quit India movement in 1942, Savarkar and all the Hindutva outfits stood with the imperialists.

Supreme Court Accepts NFIW Petition on Women's Reservation

The Supreme Court has accepted the petition moved by Annie Raja, general secretary of National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) on reservation for women and posted the case for hearing on March 3, 2023. The apex court has sent notices to the central government and ten political parties including Communist Party of India (CPI). Counsel for the petitioner is Advocate Prashant Bhushan.

It must be recalled here that the Bill for 33 per cent Reservation for Women in Parliament and legislatures was moved by the CPI MP Geeta Mukherjee in Lok Sabha in 1996. Since then CPI and NFIW have been consistently struggling to get the Bill adopted by Parliament. Though Rajya Sabha had passed the Bill, Lok Sabha is yet to take it up.

CPI to Contest from Three Wards in Delhi

The Delhi state council of the Communist Party of India has fielded three candidates for Delhi Municipal Corporation elections which will be held on December 4, 2022. The details are as follows:

Bawana: *Sajda Begam*

Keshav Puram: *Sanjeev Kumar Rana*

Madhu Vihar: *Rinku Devi*

COP27 Must Take up Nuke Weapons Abolition Issue

Humanity is on a “highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator”, the UN secretary general has warned, saying ‘the fight for a liveable planet will be won or lost in this decade.’ He told world leaders at the opening of the Cop27 UN climate summit in Egypt, “We are in the fight of our lives and we are losing ... And our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible”. He warned the world faced a stark choice over the next fortnight of talks: either developed and developing countries working together to make a “historic pact” that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and set the world on a low-carbon path – or failure, which would bring climate breakdown and catastrophe.

Governmental representatives and civil society organisations from around the globe are meeting at the Conference of Parties - COP 27 in Egypt. According to the provisional list published by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 33,449 participants have registered for COP27.

The issue has gained importance because the world is witnessing repeated natural calamities as a result of rise in temperature of the earth and melting of glaciers causing rise in the sea level. This summit is in continuation of several such meets held earlier to discuss and impress upon the governments to take steps to mitigate the factors responsible for climate change. Half-hearted measures by the governments, particularly the developed or fast developing econo-

mies in taking steps to control climate crisis have added to the crises.

Increase in military activity is one among the major causes for the production of gases responsible for climate crises. Production of arms, their maintenance, their transport and use, all involve energy. Extensive use of munitions in the war between Russia and Ukraine is adding to climate crisis. There is no sign of war coming to an end in the near future. Threat of use of nuclear

Dr Arun Mitra

out that the present nuclear weapons numbering about 17000 on earth pose a serious risk to climate and thus risk to all life forms.

According to the study a nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan using 100 Hiroshima sized nuclear bombs will put over two billion people at risk. Such a war would kill up to 20 million people outright as major cities of the

The study further cautions that in such situations, there will be reduction in crop yields. The food shortage will lead to increases in food prices further affecting the already malnourished poor people across the globe. There are more than one billion people in the world whose daily caloric intake falls below the minimum requirements. Even a modest, sudden decline in agricultural production could trigger massive famine. If fam-

Russia cannot be ruled out. Hugeswaths of both countries would be blanketed by radioactive fallout and their industrial, transportation, and communication infrastructures would be destroyed. Most Americans and Russians would die in the succeeding months from radiation sickness, epidemic disease, exposure and starvation.

The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) have highlighted this issue and tried to impress upon the participating parties in the Egypt summit to take serious cognizance of nuclear weapons and ask all nuclear weapons possessing countries to join the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and abolish these weapons for good.

Persistent increase in the expenditure on the nuclear arms, despite the UNOs passing Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which has declared the nuclear weapons illegal and has called for their complete abolition is a cause of concern. This is in our hand. Huge expenditure on nuclear weapons is costing several welfare needs of our people. It is unfortunate that the narrative to the effect is not being given due importance including in our country. This should have been one of the main focus of the debate, but is not seen on the top of the list. It is the duty of all peace loving citizens to raise the voice. The participating parties at the COP-27 should debate this issue seriously as a priority.



weapons has not completely ended despite assurance from Russia. Nuclear power plants are in persistent danger.

It is therefore important that the countries should debate on reducing tensions in different parts of the world so that production, sale and use of the armaments is put under check.

A study, “Climate Consequences of Regional Nuclear War” conducted by Ira Helfand former Co-President International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Alan Robock from the Department of Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University, USA has pointed

subcontinent would be destroyed and it would blanket much of South Asia with radioactive fallout. But the global consequences are even more alarming. Soot and debris injected into the atmosphere from the explosions and resulting fires would block sunlight from reaching the Earth, producing an average surface cooling of -1.25°C that would last for several years. Even 10 years out, there would be a persistent average surface cooling of -0.5°C. This will reduce rainfall globally by 10 percent.

ine conditions persisted for a year or more, it seems reasonable to fear that the total global death toll in the Global South could exceed one billion from starvation alone.

There is a very high likelihood that famine on this scale would lead to major epidemics of infectious diseases. Illnesses such as plague, which have not been prevalent in recent years, might again become major health threats.

According to the estimates in the study the food crisis is likely to trigger internal and external conflicts. In such situation the use of nuclear weapons between the two nuclear super powers, the United States and

All India Security, Allied Workers' Federation Formed

Subodh Datta

KOLKATA: A new history is made in Kolkata. "All India Security and Allied Workers' Federation" is born here at Bhupesh Bhawan auditorium on November 13, 2022. It is an organization of the contractual workers in unorganized sectors in India. It is born under the banner of the oldest, ever-fighting and prestigious trade union - All India Trade Union Congress.

At the end of the two-day conference (November 12-13, 2022) a 51 members' National Council was formed. K Vijayan Pillai was elected General Secretary and Lina Chatterjee was elected President. Mahammad Yusuf was elected Working president and K B Harit,

treasurer. Other office bearers are Sukumar Damle, MLakshmibai, K Ajit and Biplab Bhatta - Vice Presidents, Subrata Das and Hasina Begum - Jt. General Secretaries, Raju Das and Raja Ram.

250 delegates participated in this inaugural conference. The units of this organization have already been functioning in West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Sikkim. It is resolved in this conference that in all other states its units should be formed as soon as possible.

It is in its preamble that every contractual worker, regardless of language, religion, caste, region, believes in the ideals of labour-movement, working in the unorganized or organized sectors can become



a member of this organization. Uniting unorganized and contractual workers of our country and organize an all India protest is the future programme. Presently in our country 'contractual workers' are the main force among the working masses. And this force is neglected and deprived in all respects. It is also proposed that the head office of this organization will be set up in Delhi.

On the first day, that is November 12, an orga-

nized, colourful and well decorated rally started marching from Esplanade near Lenin statue passing through Lenin Sarani, Maulali Crossing reached Entally Market. Here the open session was organized. This session was chaired by Lina Chatterjee, Jt. General Secretary of state AITUC. Sukumar Damle, National Secretary, AITUC addressed the gathering. He said that almost 80 percent of work force in our country is working in the unorganized sectors

as contractual workers. They have no working hours, they do not enjoy any social security, no PF, no Gratuity. AITUC wants to organize this force so that they can enjoy facilities of all social securities. Others who addressed the open session were Ujjwal Chaudhuri, State General Secretary, AITUC, Md. Yusuf, Biplab Bhatta, Subrata Das and others.

After hoisting the flag and offering floral trib-
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What the Others Say...

Walk the talk

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud's observations on trial courts being reluctant to grant bail to accused are significant. Speaking at an event organised by the Bar Council of India, the CJI said the reason the higher judiciary is flooded with bail cases is because of a certain reluctance from trial courts to grant bail. The CJI spoke about a "sense of fear" in judges in district courts in granting bail, especially in cases involving heinous crime. "This sense of fear nobody talks about but, which we must confront because unless we do that, we are going to render our district courts toothless and our higher courts dysfunctional," he said. When there are over four crore cases currently pending in district courts and 76 per cent of the prisoners in jails are undertrials, the CJI's assessment of the issue has great significance to safeguarding personal liberty of individuals.

Chandrachud's predecessor, U U Lalit, had acknowledged that trial courts have very little discretion because laws are increasingly stacked against granting bail. Special laws such as Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Atrocities Act or NDPS law are designed to ensure that bail can be granted only when strict statutory conditions are satisfied. The language of these laws leaves trial judges with very little room to grant bail. To add to the issue, the higher courts too on occasion interpret bail provisions strictly, virtually tying the hands of trial courts. For instance, when it comes to UAPA, a 2019 ruling of the Supreme Court states that trial courts must accept the state's case without examining its merits while considering grant of bail.

The CJI spoke of instilling a sense of confidence in the district courts, starting from doing away with the nomenclature of subordinate or lower judiciary. While the acknowledgement of the judicial culture driven by fear by the CJI himself is an encouraging first step, the challenge is to find solutions. It is not as if all district court judges are afraid of being targeted. Backing the radical

orders of trial courts will inspire confidence in standing up to pressures of the day. The onus is on the judiciary.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

Boys can't be boys

What's happening with young men in India, as more women move out of the allotted gender roles, bears deep examination. Men, who feel entitled to these services, act out their entitlement. It often takes the familiar form of retributive violence - in Aurangabad, a male graduate student set himself and his fellow student ablaze in their professor's office, because she rejected his proposal. More often, it is simply the inability to see women as people with wills and desires of their own, who exist for themselves and not to serve men's needs. In Karnataka, young farmers are requesting a ban on inter-district marriage, because the women around them are seeking better prospects and wider horizons. Those who fight inter-faith or inter-caste relationships assume that women are docile dupes, property to be safeguarded by 'their' men.

This thinking is bone-deep in our society, expressed by some women too. Violence against women is also processed through this lens. Attacks like intimate partner rape or abuse that are far more widespread but less socially 'shameful' than street and stranger crime provoke less outrage. Our institutions mirror this mentality. Police investigations turn their glare on the woman who is victimised, judges ask women to marry their rapists or make assumptions about what is expected of a wife, or discipline them for not being 'pure' and compliant fem-bots.

It's alarmingly evident what harm this kind of thinking has wrought. Most men are schooled into power and dominance, taught to be ashamed of ordinary vulnerability. They pretend otherwise and displace their inability to live up to these norms of manliness into contempt and cruelty - the targets can be women or other different people or those socially worse-off than them. An increasing number of women are questioning this order, seeking their own freedom in education, employment and life. Men, who don't see that a system set up to serve them is harming them, lash out in confusion and rage at women. The future will change only when boys do.

Courtesy: The Times of India

Need to Combat RSS-BJP Ideological Vision

Ideas of 'Samrasata' and 'Balshali Bharat' are cornerstones of RSS-BJP ideology and practice. Both these concepts are against the idea of equality, socialism, democracy and secularism or what is usually called as 'Idea of India'.

It is pertinent to note that Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 unleashed a new wave of ideas in the world. The concepts of power to the people, the toiling masses, workers and peasants were brought to centre stage and so was 'democracy'. Huge mass mobilisation witnessed during formation of AITUC in 1920, Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement during 1921, and the call issued by Hasrat Mohani, a communist leader for complete independence threatened the existing vested interests in the country and hence RSS was formed in September, 1925 to protect the vested interests and to misguide the people.

However, it is necessary to note that it is difficult and impossible to stop the influence and wide acceptance of new ideas like 'equality, democracy, socialism' which have empowered people and hence it is a strategy of vested interests to confuse people. One must note that since inception, RSS has not supported any progressive issues like entry of Dalits in temples, against caste discriminations and untouchability, empowering women as desired by Dr B R Ambedkar through his 'Hindu Code Bill' or even Indian Constitution, etc. All these initiatives were directly or indirectly opposed by RSS to protect upper caste privileges and projected as interference in 'Hindu religion'.

At present when ter-

rorism is being equated with Islamic fundamentalism and demise of Soviet Union as victory of capitalism, it is no wonder that RSS ideology based on hate, intolerance and fear and supremacy of upper caste and upper class are finding fertile grounds. To make this a reality, distorted reports are being used and propaganda is unleashed to create confusion. Hence, it is necessary to understand why 'Samrasata' and 'Balshali Bharat' are central concepts of RSS ideology. Pandit Nehru in his most famous speech 'Tryst with destiny' had emphasised making India great by empowering common Indian people and for this he had emphasised on concepts like unity in diversity, democracy, socialism, justice, secularism, etc.

Dr B K Kango

These were principal issues for which common Indians became a part of Indian freedom movement and RSS kept away from it. For Indian freedom movement and its leaders, greatness of India would be a peaceful democratic, socialist India, which would believe in unity in diversity and world peace.

However, the idea of 'Balshali Bharat' is just opposite to this idea. It is an idea where vision is militant India and of an economy dominated by big corporate or capitalist houses and idea of Samrasata is of people surrendering their rights and accepting hegemony of vested interest and existing on their mercy or well wishes without bothering about dignity or equality. Toiling masses are expected to

toil for the greatness of nation and profit of big capitalists without any expectations. It is an idea where people exist for great nation and not 'great nation for people' as envisaged by 'Idea of India'.

The progressive forces fighting for equality, justice and democracy have to fight the hegemonistic world view propounded by RSS-BJP through ideas like 'Samarasta' and 'Balshali Bharat'.

It is also necessary to understand that after the general crisis of capitalism unfolded in 1929-30, the existing capitalist system adopted in Anglo-Saxon (US, England, etc.) world the idea of welfare economics under the influence of then existing Soviet Union and strong trade union movement to come out of crisis. However, Italy, Germany,

Spain, etc, followed the fascist model of suppressing trade union movement, democracy and giving all out support to the capitalists. The RSS is influenced by this fascist model and the concepts of Balshali Bharat and Samarasta are the models to achieve the hegemony in India. Hence, they are emphasising on cultural nationalism and hyper nationalism to avoid any meaningful discussion on rising inequality, unemployment and price rise, etc.

The method of passing three black farm laws or four labour codes without any discussion with stakeholders is reflection of this fascist trend.

It is necessary to oppose the sinister design of RSS-BJP and protect democracy, socialism and secularism.

Three Days Dharna Staged at UGC Office: AIFUCTO

Dr. Arun Kumar

AIFUCTO organized three day dharna at UGC from November 16-18, 2022. Teachers from all over the country came to Delhi to take part in the agitation under the banner of All India Federation of University and College Teachers Organization (AIFUCTO). The dharna concluded on November 18 as it achieved grand success.

Thousands of participants gathered at the UGC which was the venue of the dharna right from the day it started. They had placards in their sweaty hands with demands written all over.



They were also shouting slogans as their discontent had risen to its zenith. The dharna was attended by leaders of many Political Parties namely. Dr Bhalchandra Kango, secretary, Communist Party of India, Nilotpal Basu, Member, Polit Bureau, CPIM and leaders of Lokdal attended the dharna in

solidarity. Dinesh Varshney from DUTA and Prof J.S. Sukla, General Secretary, All India Federation of Retired University and college teachers also attended to express their support. It may also be remembered that the UGC did not promise time to AIFUCTO, the apex body of University and College

teachers for dialogue despite repeated submission of representations. AIFUCTO condemns the undemocratic attitude of UGC Chairman and authorities of Government of India for not inviting AIFUCTO leaders for talks to settle the issues. Now, the teachers are to intensify their movement in coming days.

Unite Left Democratic Forces to Dethrone BJP-RSS

Subodh Datta

KOLKATA: At the first newly elected West Bengal State Council meeting of CPI on November 18, D Raja, general secretary of the Communist Party of India, re-elected in 24th Congress of the CPI in Vijaywada from October 14-18, 2022, called upon the members to make the party a militant, strong and united one to fight out corporate backed fascist RSS-BJP combined force from the power in the coming Parliament election of 2024. He also said while addressing the state council members in its two-day meeting that the aim should be to unite left, democratic and secular forces to oust this anti people BJP government. In his opening address D. Raja said that after the fall of Soviet Union the impe-

rialist forces thought that the world has become unipolar. Now those countries are suffering from not only financial crisis but deep financial recession. Left forces are coming to power in countries of Latin America. Neo-liberal policy has failed. In these circumstances, the BJP has come to power for the second time with the help of corporate and they are trying to come to power for the third time. They are selling out the public properties and privatizing public sector units. Unemployment is increasing, inflation is rising. This government is attacking our democracy and the Constitution. They want to turn our country into a Hindu Rashtra. We are going to celebrate 100 years of the foundation of CPI in 2025. It should be our aim to increase the strength of our party to fight against all odds.



In the state council meeting at Bhupesh Bhawan he explained the resolutions adopted in the 24th Party Congress held in Vijayawada. He explained the socio-political condition of our state and suggested how to fight the ruling TMC. He also said that party should prepare itself for the coming rural local

body elections.

Swapan Banerjee placed a work report and future programme to be discussed in the state council meeting. The two days meeting was chaired by Asok Sen, a secretariat member and district secretary of Paschim Medinipur.

Members of the state council began discussing

on the report placed by the state secretary. Leaders from each district and from mass organizations discussed on the report. The discussion continued next day also, on November 19.

Swapan Banerjee, state secretary, replied. After his reply the report along with the programme was accepted unanimously.

Remove BJP, Save the Country, Build New India: CPI

Kirnesh Kumar

PATNA: A massive public meeting was organized in Patna to celebrate the first visit of D Raja, after he was again elected general secretary of the Communist Party of India in the 24th Party Congress held in Vijayawada, in Andhra Pradesh, from October 14-18, 2022. The function was presided over by CPI state secretary Ram Naresh Pandey while national council member Om Prakash Narayan conducted the function. Tributes were paid to late CPI MLC Comrade Kedarnath Pandey on the occasion.

New Age Weekly



Congratulating the party general secretary, CPI leader Ram Naresh Pandey spoke about the early life of the leader. He said that CPI general secretary D Raja joined All India Students Federation in his student life and became a member of the party. He then became the national general secretary of AIYF and

led the youth of the country. Later, he became the member of Parliament and soon was elected as general secretary of the party.

"D Raja was born in a poor, Dalit labourer family in Tamil Nadu. He was unanimously elected general secretary for the second time in the 24th Congress of the

party," said Ram Naresh Pandey and added, "We are proud of our general secretary, who is taking over the reins of the party in the grave situation prevailing all over the country."

Presenting the report of the party plenary, Comrade Raja said that the United States and its military alliance NATO

have brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. For market expansion, the neo-imperialist countries want to make the world unipolar. The situation is getting increasingly worrisome. But along with these nagging issues, the capitalist system itself has failed in the entire world to gen-

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Thousands of Govt Schools Shut Down in India

The BJP-RSS government at the Union level and its governments at the level are less concerned about the education of future generation. The All India Students Federation (AISF), All India Youth Federation (AIYF) should lead the struggle for restoration these schools at every district level.

It is crystal clear as per a new report from the Ministry of Education states that more than 20,000 schools shut down in India in 2020-21.

The decline in total schools is mainly due to the closure of schools under private and other management, said the report. To support the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 efforts, the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report 2021-22 for the first time collects additional data on critical indicators, including peer learning, hard spot identification, the number of books available in school libraries, etc. The UDISE+ report on school education for 2021-2022 revealed several other important data points:

- Only 44.85 per cent of schools in India have access to computers

- Nearly 34 per cent of schools have internet connection

- The total number of schools in 2021-22 stood at 14.89 lakhs as compared to 15.09 lakhs in 2020-21

- More than 49 per cent of schools have ramps with handrails even though only 27 per cent of them have dedicated restrooms for students with special needs (CSWN)

- The number of teachers decreased by 1.95 per cent from the previous year

Although the impact of Covid is cross-cutting, this is particularly noticed in the enrolment of young and vulnerable kids like pre-primary classes, according to the report on how Covid-19 affected the enrolment of students and that this decline may be attributed to postponement of admissions due to Covid-19. Around 25.57 crore pupils were enrolled in schooling from primary to higher secondary in 2021-22. According to the report, this is an increase of 19.36 lakh above the enrolment of students in 2020-21.

The research states

percent fewer in other institutions. In India, the pandemic has widened the gaps in learning outcomes among school children with those from disenfranchised and vulnerable families falling furthest behind, according to a 2022 report by the World Economic Forum. Even where schools tried to keep teaching using remote learning, the socio-economic divide was perpetuated.

And elsewhere globally in the capitalist world, particularly in the United States, a study found children's achievement in maths fell by 50 per cent more in

lockdowns continue to shut schools, it's clear the most vulnerable have suffered the most.

Recovering the months of lost education must be a priority for all nations.

Researchers in Japan found a similar pattern, with disadvantaged children and the youngest suffering most from school closures. They said the adverse effects of being forced to study at home lasted longest for those with poorest living conditions.

However, in Sweden, where schools stayed open during the pandemic, there was no



that when comparing 2020-21 to 2021-22, the overall number of teachers decreased by 1.95 per cent. It stated that the overall number of teachers fell from 97.87 lakh in 2020-21 to 95.07 lakh in 2021-22. The report further states that the percentage of teachers teaching only primary (34.4 pc in 2021-22 from 35.4m pc in 2020-21) and only upper primary (18.9 pc in 2021-22 from 21.5 pc in 2020-21) has reduced.

As per the report, there were 0.9 per cent fewer teachers in government schools in 2021-2022 than the previous year, 1.45 percent less in government-aided schools, 2.94 percent fewer in private schools, and 8.3

less well-off areas, compared to those in more affluent neighbourhoods. Consultancy firm McKinsey says that US students were on average five months behind in mathematics and four months behind in reading by the end of the 2020-21 school year. Disadvantaged students were hit hardest, with Black students losing six months of learning on average.

As well as its health impacts, COVID-19 had a huge effect on the education of children – but the full scale is only just starting to emerge.

As pandemic

decline in reading comprehension scores among children from all socio-economic groups, leading researchers to conclude that the shock of the pandemic alone did not affect students' performance.

Analysis of the crisis by UNESCO, published in November 2022, found that the most vulnerable learners have been hardest hit by the lack of schooling. It added that progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal for Education had been set back. In Latin America and the Caribbean – a region that suffered one of the longest periods of school



STUDY & STRUGGLE

C Adhikesavan



closures – average primary education scores in reading and maths could have slipped back to a level last seen 10 years ago, the World Bank says. Four out of five sixth graders may not be able to adequately understand and interpret a text of moderate length, the bank says. As a result, these students are likely to earn 12 per cent less over their lifetime than if their education had not been curtailed by the pandemic, it estimates.

Catch-up education and measures to ensure that children don't drop out of school will be essential, it says. These could include changing the school calendar, and amending the curriculum to focus on foundational skills.

There's also a need to enhance learning opportunities at home, such as by distributing books and digital devices if possible. Supporting parents in this role is also critical, the bank says.

Teachers will also need extra help to avoid burnout, the bank notes. It highlights a "need to invest aggressively in teachers' professional development and use technology to enhance their work".

DSMM to Observe All India Protest Day on Feb 28

Rise of Dalits Against Caste Based System

National Convention on increasing atrocities against Dalits was jointly organized by Dalit Shoshan Mukti Munch (DSMM), All India Agriculture Workers Union (AIAWU), All India Dalits Rights Moment (AIDRM), Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union (BKMU), All India Agriculture and Rural Labour Association (AIARLA) on November 5, 2022 at Surjeet Bhawan New Delhi. Convention was presided by Ram Chander Dome, A Ramamurthi, B. Venkat, Devi Kumari and Shri Ram Chaudhary.

More than 600 active leaders across the country attended this convention giving a call to organise state level convention in the month of January 2023 and decided to observe all India protest day on February 28, 2023. Before issuing the call, tributes were paid to the Dalits killed during the recent period by the so-called Anti-Dalit forces.

National convener of Safai Karamchari Andolan Bezwada Wilson inaugurated the convention and said that our society should be equal. No caste discrimination should be here. He further said that the Dalits are not beggars but they are demanding their rights only and fighting against untouchability, poverty and discrimination. We should forget our differences and come forward for the defense of our Constitution.

Main draft resolution was put forward by Subhashini Ali and said that since the BJP and RSS came to power in 2014 the graph of atrocities are increasing day-by-day. Policy of BJP is rejection of the Constitution and

commitment to the Manusimriti. They are attacking our democratic rights and using communal attitude. Mob lynching, rape, torture of women are becoming the order of the day and average 10 cases are registered every day. There are many cases not even recorded, then there are those where the culprits are protected by BJP leaders. Subhashini said that there is a need for united and consistent struggle against atrocities.

Prof Laxmaiah said that in last 26 years, 18000 Dalits were murdered and 45000 Dalits women were raped and 85000 cases were registered. It is a reality and cannot be ignored. Meetings are necessary but more than that actions are needed. Wherever left forces are coming into power the graph of atrocities have come down. There is imperative need to launch struggle against such barbaric atrocities and only through such actions the communal and fascist agenda of the

Gulzar Singh Gorla

reforms and also take initiatives to make the masses aware of their rights. Suicide is no solution of the problem, it is struggle against the injustice that has to be kept alive. Our Constitution has given us rights for self defense and also to learn how to fight against injustice. Secularism is the soul of our Constitution and if we dilute it, the state would turn theocratic.

Gulzar Singh Gorla, general secretary, BKMU, said that atrocities against Dalits have become a reality and every day we are facing them. Root cause of the atrocities against Dalits are the result of more than 3000 years old Varna Vyavastha and Manusmriti is responsible for division of man and man on the basis of his birth. Nowhere in the world we can see such type of unique division in society. Reality is that it has become a dark spot on the face of Indian civilized

Human Rights. It creates inequality in our society which claims unaccountable price for caste division. Our Indian democracy is the largest

they are landless, un-employed and dependent on the land lord for their livelihood. Their social awareness stands at a very low level, and they



democracy in the world and such type of social evil is unbearable for us. Our caste based system also promoted since thousands of years slavery and exploitation in the country but they were not ready to disobey such type of caste menace. Even today, at many places so-called upper caste people are not ready to change their mind-set toward the lower caste. In return, the lower caste people also keep following old divi-

belong to unorganized section of the society. On the other hand, among the ruling classes too, there is no political will to fight back such type of atrocities. They are patronizing the criminals at many places. Our fight is for social and economic emancipation of the oppressed people of the society and give a new life on the basis of social justice without any caste discrimination.

Broad based platform for all Dalit movements



government can be resisted.

Prof Rattan Lal said that we are passing through very adverse situation. We have to work out steps for social

society and proved as a social evil and crime against human history. It is gross violation of human rights in which India is signatory on the Universal Declaration of

sion of caste system despite the fact that they are the sufferers under it. Reason behind atrocities is that Dalits are economically weaker sections of the society as

is very much necessary and simultaneously all democratic, secular and left forces and trade unions too support these

On Page 14

PM Crop Insurance Benefits Private Firms at Farmers' Cost

Not a single day passes without media reporting suicides committed by farmers in rural India. Crop failure due to drought, untimely and excessive rains and other weather calamities along with the acute deprivation and unpaid debts are some of the major causes forcing farmers to end their life. There is long history of kisan organizations waging struggles demanding payment of compensation for crop damages. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), it was widely welcomed. However, the implementation of the crop insurance scheme, instead of providing succour to the distressed farmers, benefited private insurance companies hugely.

Binoy Viswam, member of Parliament in his recent letter to the prime minister described how the claims of insured farmers for crop damage were ignored and various private insurance companies pocketed huge profits. He cited a letter written by Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan to Union minister for agriculture and farmers' welfare where he described his sordid experience in detailing how farmers in Odisha were denied by private insurance firms the just compensation during Kharif 2021. The CPI MP requested the prime minister to conduct CAG investigation on this scam.

What happened in Odisha is just a tip of an iceberg. In fact, all over the country implementation of PMFBY is so opaque and became un-

popular with farmers across the country. In 2016, at the beginning of the scheme, nearly 30 per cent of farmers subscribed to the scheme by paying a hefty Rs 9,000 crores from 21 states. However, by 2021 a mere 18 per cent of farmers subscribed, despite the fact that it is mandatory for all crop loan borrowers from banks to get insured under private insurance companies. Not satisfied with its performance, Telangana, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra and some other states refused to contribute towards premium and withdrew from the central scheme.

Private firms Pocketed huge Profits

What Dharmendra Yadav has cited in the case of Odisha represents only the tip of the iceberg of large scale diversion of public funds under PMFBY to private insurance companies across all the states. The total premium paid under PMFBY by the Centre, the states and the farmers to insurance companies during the last five years was Rs 1,26,521 crores, whereas the insurance companies in turn paid only Rs 87,320 crores to the farmers towards settlement of claims. In other words, the insurance companies have benefited from PMFBY by Rs 39,201 crores.

Over the last five years, as a result of procedural hurdles in settlement of claims, the coverage of the scheme has declined. For example, over the five-year time span, the number of farmers covered has come down by 29 per cent during Kharif

Dr Soma Marla

and 33 per cent during Rabi.

The insurance companies paid only Rs 87,320 crores to the farmers against the latter's claims totaling Rs 92,954 crores whereas 90 per cent of the public sector insurance firms have settled most of the claims, often incurring losses. It is the private insurance companies that have fallen short of settling claims, profiting from the scheme by 60-70 per cent. For example, Bharti AXA profited to the extent of 72 per cent, Reliance 59 per cent and Future 61 per cent.

Delayed Payments

Often the insurance companies after receiving claims from farmers take several months and crop seasons to assess the crop loss and pay compensation. Although it is mandatory to use drones and other technological help to complete crop cutting trials for loss assessments, companies delay for months to clear the submitted claims. Having no capital to invest on cultivation, small farmers are pushed into a never-ending debt cycle. Besides, tenant farmers are not eligible to receive bank crop loans, PM Samman aid or insurance compensation. In states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana,

West Bengal and Maharashtra tenant farmers constitute nearly 40 per cent of cultivators.

The farmer claims should be cleared within two weeks after their submission. Union agricultural ministry should immediately constitute a committee with participation of farmer unions to process the farmers' claims and monitor the irregularities of insurance firms. As the performance of private insurance companies is flawed, the total business should be entrusted to public sector insurance companies. Government should refer to CAG to audit the financial irregularities in payment of compensation to farmers.

CPI MP Demands Probe into PMFBY Scam

The following is the text of the letter written by CPI national council secretary Binoy Viswam on November 21, 2022, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on how Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana helps private insurance firms:

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), launched as the flagship farm insurance scheme in 2016, was initiated to provide insurance protection to farmers against crop losses due to natural calamities. But in recent years, there have been several reports of irregularities of grave nature committed by private insurance companies in settling insurance claims with farmers. This leads to the conversion of the scheme into a bonanza by the private companies to reap huge profits. Naturally, the farmers are denied their rightful protection under the scheme.

Over the past five years, both the central government and state governments have contributed almost Rs 1.265 lakh crores to the scheme to benefit our farmers. It is shocking that, as per the available reports, only Rs 87,320 crores have been paid to the

farmers. This staggering data throws light on the handling of the funds of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. While public sector insurance companies settled 90 per cent of farmers' claims, private sector companies such as Bharti AXA, Reliance General Insurance and Future General India Insurance pocketed enormous profits of nearly Rs 39,201 crores without paying farmers their rightful dues. This is a scam of wider magnitude heralded by the corporates. It is learned that Union minister of education Dharmendra Pradhanji has already written to Union minister of agriculture and farmers' welfare Narendra Singh Tomarji regarding the same issue in Odisha.

Given these circumstances, I urge you to look into this grievous matter and initiate a CAG audit on how farmers are being deprived by the corporates. I also request that all those private companies that have defaulted on insurance payments to the farmers be blacklisted. I further request that the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana be entrusted only with the public insurance companies.

Fossil Fuel behind Major Wars in World

Nilanjan Banik, Guido Cozzi

By the end of this century, planet earth may not be a liveable place, with the average temperature rising at least 2.5 Celsius higher than what it is now. This is according to the latest published UN Climate Change Report. With the climate change set to become worse, the world which is already experiencing a regular bout of deadly heat waves, floods and drought, hurricanes, may have to brace for potentially irreversible natural calamities, impacting the lives of at least 3.3 billion people. And all of these have to do with the dependence on fossil fuel and the resultant greenhouse emissions. In fact, there is another darker side. Control over fossil fuel is a reason for major wars, with a negative spill-over effect on the economies.

But why war? World energy depends on geographically localized resources, with large quantities of fossil fuels concentrated in tiny areas of the planet. Hence, control over the coal, oil, and natural gas regions is highly valued. The bordering countries try all excuses – different religions, languages, alliances, etc., to grab them. Conflicts suddenly start as soon there is a temporary change in balance of power, breaking the previous peace deal.

History has shown time and again that control over fossil fuel has been a reason for some of the biggest wars. Consider this. Next year is the centennial of the occupation of the Ruhr (1923-1925). The Ruhr region spreads around the Rhine River, which borders France and Germany. The French and Belgian troops occupied the mineral and industrially rich Ruhr region, as Germany was not sending coal to France as part of the reparation deal struck during World War I. This occupation led to the crash of the German currency and the economy, which eventually led to the start of World War II.

Almost 45 years after the end of World War II, ownership of fossil fuel (petroleum) became the

Black Sea of Azov is a rich source of natural gas, an important input for manufacturing fertilizers. Earlier during 2014, Russian invasion of Crimea is related to control over oil and natural gas reserves in the Black Sea region. Like the Ruhr region which had a considerable German population but was occupied by the French and Belgian, this time around the Donbas, Dnieper, Donetsk and the Luhansk regions had a considerable number of Russian speaking population; with both the parties

with the start of the Iran-Iraq war. To tame the inflation, Paul Volcker, who was in charge of the FED, pursued a consistent hawkish policy. Between 1979 and 1981, the FED increased policy rates from 13.6 percent to 20 percent. It took about a decade to tame inflation reaching 14.5 percent in the US during the early part of 1980s.

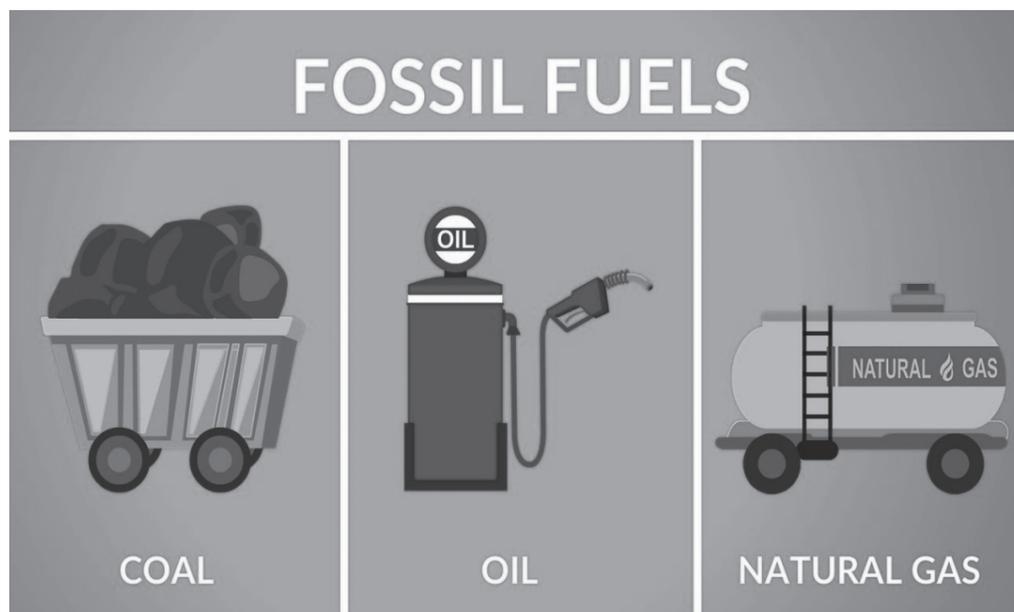
However, such monetary tightening came with a cost of recession (famously touted as Volcker's recession), with the US unemployment rate climbing to a 10

The 2022 inflation is not as bad as what the US witnessed during the late 1970s, but it is the worst inflation in decades. A more aggressive monetary tightening, with the Fed increasing the policy rate by 300 basis points since March 2022, has led to an increase in the yield on one-year US treasury security. Yield on the US treasury increased from 1.86 percent in March 1, 2022 to 4.80 percent on November 4, 2022. More such bouts of quantitative tightening may follow, and that may spell bad news for emerging and developing economies. The good news, however, as during the 70s, central banks around the world, are now reluctant to raise rates on par with inflation, possibly leaving inflation the time to spread and engrain into expectations and wage contracts.

The inflation volatility is the outcome of our excessive dependence on fossil fuels, and so as are many conflicts, dictatorships, and climate change. An uncertain economic environment instigates fear and induces high defence spending that could otherwise be spent on social welfare measures and to arrest a degrading environment. A move towards renewable energy may come as a saviour. Unlike fossil fuels, sources of green energy – sunlight, water, wind – are much less localized, and that would eliminate the reason for many territorial conflicts.

**** Nilanjan Banik** is with School of Management, Mahindra University

**** Guido Cozzi** is with Institute of Economics, University of St. Gallen



focus of another global conflict when Saddam Hussein invaded the neighbouring Kuwait. A win over Kuwait would have made Iraq world's leading energy power, dominating both the Arab and the Persian Gulf regions, home to the bulk of the planet's oil reserves. The US and its allies could not accept this dramatic shift in balance of power if Iraq were let to win.

Fast forward to the present day conflict involving Russia and Ukraine. The Donbas region has a rich coal reserve. The other parts including the Dnieper-Donetsk region, and the

claiming the territories.

What is worrisome, the apparent randomness of these conflicts and their duration had led to a highly volatile energy price and its resultant negative impact on the economy. Take for instance, the Yom-Kippur war of 1973 and the subsequent Saudi embargo, leading to worldwide stagflation. During 1974, to fight the raging inflation that skyrocketed to 11 percent, the then FED chairman, Arthur Burns raised the funds rate to 12 percent, before reducing it back to about five percent in 1975. But that did not help as there was a second oil crisis in 1979

percent. There was other collateral damage. Countries like Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico which borrowed heavily in dollars to sustain infrastructure investment defaulted as an appreciating dollar increased the cost of borrowing.

One can notice some eerie similarity with the current set of events. Many countries in Asia (Pakistan and Sri Lanka), Europe (UK) and in Latin America (Argentina) are suffering because of an appreciating dollar, an outcome of a hawkish monetary policy undertaken by the FED Chairman Jay Powell.

World Peace Council's 22nd Assembly Opens in Hanoi



Vice Chairman of the National Assembly, Tran Thanh Man, addressing WPC Assembly

The 22nd Assembly of the World Peace Council opened in Hanoi on November 22, 2022 focusing on global development and challenges facing peace, security, and stability.

Vice Chairman of the National Assembly, Tran Thanh Man, warmly welcomed international delegates attending the WPC Assembly. This is the first time Viet Nam has been chosen to host the conference.

"Peace, independence and freedom have always been the burning aspiration of the Vietnamese people," Man said.

"For that goal, many generations of the Vietnamese people have sacrificed themselves, fighting tirelessly for genuine peace, national independence, democracy and social progress," he said.

He also expressed his thanks to international friends who always supported the Vietnamese people in the cause of the national liberation struggle in the past and today's national construction and defence.

"The Vietnamese people will forever remember with deep gratitude the solidarity and precious support of the World Peace Council and international friends from all over the world for Viet Nam," he said.

He hoped the Assembly would offer practical

solutions to renew and further improve the operational efficiency of the World Peace Council, making active contributions to preventing conflicts and arms races, eliminating weapons of mass destruction and promoting respect for the principles of interna-



Harchand Singh Bhatt Dy, general secretary of AIPSO addressing the assembly

tional law and the United Nations Charter.

The event was attended by 200 participants, including nearly 100 foreign delegates from 49 countries and 100 domestic delegates.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Uong Chu Luu, chairman of the Viet Nam Peace Committee, thanked the World Peace

Council and its member organisations for their support and trust in choosing Viet Nam as the country to host the 22nd Assembly of the World Peace Council.

Luu also said that the international situation was undergoing huge, rapid and complicated changes.

The Assembly was expected to discuss and build strategic orientations and practical action programmes to gather more organisations, individuals and peace movements in the common struggle for a world of peaceful, fair and sustainable development, he said.

Vice President and Secretary General of the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organisations (VUFO) Phan Anh Sơn told local media at a press briefing on the sidelines of the Assembly that Viet Nam's hosting of the

World Peace Council's 22nd Assembly was to demonstrate the country's active contributions to the council's activities and the world peace movement.

It would also help improve the role of Viet Nam, including VUFO and the Viet Nam Peace Committee, in the world peace movement, as well as show Viet Nam



Women's International Democratic Federation vice-president and NFIW general secretary Annie Raja addressing Assembly

as a responsible and active member of the international community, he said.

The Assembly was also an occasion for VUFO and the Viet Nam Peace Committee to enhance friendship and cooperation with the World Peace Council and other members, popularise Viet Nam and its peace movement, and capitalise on the World Peace Council and its members' support for the issues related to Viet Nam, he said.

Viet Nam's positive contributions

On the sidelines of the 22nd Assembly, World Peace Council's General Secretary Athanasios Pafilis said to local media that Viet Nam had made many positive contributions to the World Peace Council, not only via congresses and seminars but also in many other forums over the past time.

"Viet Nam is a peaceful and stable country despite many uncertainties in the region," he said.

Viet Nam was always moving forward on the path of peace and stability and strictly abides by international law, he remarked.

Corazon Valdez Fabros, who is in charge of the peace and security group of the Eurasian People's Forum, a member of the World Peace Council, said that the

selection of Viet Nam to host the Assembly was very appropriate based on the history of fighting for peace, as well as the current development direction of Viet Nam.

Assessing the contribution of the Viet Nam Peace Committee to the World Peace Council, she said that the Viet Nam Peace Committee had always been a very active member of the World Peace Council.

Special relationship

The World Peace Council, founded in 1949, is the leading body of the world peace movement, bringing together representatives of 135 peace keeping organisations in more than 100 countries.

After more than 70 years of development, the council has become part of the world peace movement, closely cooperating with international movements and countries to promote peace around the globe.

Viet Nam is one of the founding members of the World Peace Council, and the council and Viet Nam have a special historical relationship.

Over the past seven decades, through 21 Congresses, the World Peace Council has always accompanied and supported Viet Nam in every historical period.

Unite Left Democratic Forces...

From Page 06

erate employment, provide welfare and restrain inflation. This has been more evident in South Asian and Latin American countries, where people are moving away from capitalist governments that are based on exploitation and coming towards a communist and leftist system. The alternative to capitalism is socialism. Everyone is looking with expectations at socialism. In the countries of Latin America, the Left has come out victorious. This is a sign of the end of capitalism.

D Raja said that there is a corporate communal government in the country today. The hard earned money of the public is being placed in the coffers of a few dishonest corporate friends by laws like GST, demonetisation etc. They have to be removed at all costs. We have taken it as a challenge and taking initiatives to strengthen our organization to defeat such forces. The call given by the 24th

Congress to form a Left, secular, democratic government depends on the level of strength that our organization would be able to muster, he said.

"The strongest party in north India is in Bihar. It is also the single largest party in Bihar, but we have only two members inside the Legislative Assembly, it is a matter of great concern. He also called for strengthening the party inside the House. He said the Left democratic parties will have to unite to oust the BJP from power at the Centre. In Tamil Nadu, all left and democratic forces are united except the BJP. The same has happened in Bihar. JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar has left the BJP and joined the grand alliance. Such an alliance will be formed all over the country. The party general secretary said the party deliberated on the current political situation in the Congress and decided the future course of action to be taken by the party. It was decided in the Congress to remove the BJP-RSS alliance from

power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP-RSS alliance is posing a serious threat to secularism and democracy. The Constitution of the country is also in danger. The Narendra Modi-led BJP government is taking the country in a destructive direction. It is implementing the policies that has pushed the country into a deep crisis. The economy is in shambles. The value of the Indian rupee has fallen to such levels that it is hurting the honor of the nation. Unemployment has reached unprecedented heights. This has led to unrest among the youth. India has been placed at the bottom of the World Hunger Index. Corporates and big business houses have been allowed to loot the nation's wealth. The government is hell bent on dismantling and privatising the public sector. The BJP-RSS government at the centre is committed to doing away with the basic principles of the country's Constitution. The government is out to change

the Constitution. They are also keen to change the secular, welfare and federal character of the Indian state as is defined in the Constitution. Atrocities on Dalits, tribals and minorities are on the rise. Constitutional and democratic rights of citizens are being trampled upon. Capitalism is emerging as the main enemy in the country. Modi government wants the country to follow a communal and fascist path.

The CPI general secretary said the party has decided to give first priority to the task of removing the BJP-RSS alliance from power and save people from destruction. The Party Congress has called upon secular, democratic parties, regional parties, Left forces and social forces to unite and intensify the struggle against the BJP so that the rule of the right reaction can be removed from power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Basic essentials of livelihood, such as education, healthcare, employment, housing, food and land should be provided to ensure the

basic rights of people to live with dignity. For all these steps, CPI has to be strengthened.

The party should implement its welfare policies by applying Marxism-Leninism in the Indian context. It was decided to intensify the struggle against class exploitation, abolition of caste and an end to patriarchy.

The party is going to celebrate its centenary in 2025 and emerge stronger. On one million membership, the centenary would be celebrated. The party's position in Parliament, state assemblies and local bodies will be strengthened, Left unity and Communist unity will be strengthened. The Congress has appealed to all left parties to strengthen left unity. The unity of the communist movement is crucial for a strong fight against the BJP. The 24th Congress of the CPI has reiterated its commitment to intensify the struggle against corporate-communal fascist forces.

Presiding over the program, state secretary Ram Naresh Pandey called for strengthening the party in Bihar. He said that the departure of the BJP from the Center in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections has been already decided. The function was addressed by national secretary Nagendra Nath Ojha, council member Rajendra Prasad Singh, national council member Awadhesh Kumar Rai, AIYF national general secretary Thirumalai and others. National executive member Janaki Paswan, national council members Sanjay Kumar, Mithilesh Jha, Pramod Prabhakar, Rajshree Kiran, Nivedita and a large number of party leaders and colleagues were present on the occasion.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations...

From Last Page

detrimental to the interest of the working class, all the employees in the financial sector must come under a joint platform to put an end to the motives of the Central government. LIC is an institution which provides security and financial stability to the policy holders, we as custodians, need to protect the industry at any cost. We have a duty to save LIC and the public sector, he concluded.

T K Parameswaran, Working President, LICEU, Bangalore Divi-

sion, congratulated the comrades for the Golden Jubilee of their beloved organization which has taken giant strides in the last five decades and procuring the best benefits for them and protecting them at every stage. He highlighted the foundation laid by Anantha Subba Rao, late N Narayana, late N Sundaramurthy and late R S Srinath, for the growth of Federation in Bangalore and their contributions constitute a major portion in the steady sailing of Federation in Bangalore. Enormous benefits have

been brought in by struggles for its members by Federation, periodical Wage hike, bonus, medical benefits, Pension, to name a few, he added. He thanked each and every comrade and retired employees, who were the pillars of Federation for having made it to be a part of the celebrations. He cited the rich compliments paid by several comrades to the banner displayed "Evolution in 50 years" which portrayed several leaders who were responsible for the successful journey of AILICEF.

Various leaders from fraternal trade unions and associations spoke on the occasion.

Later, Binoy Viswam, HV Anantha Subba Rao, T K Parameswaran, R Shashikala, G B Ananda, BS Sadhana and Mrs Sundaramurthy planted saplings in the complex of DO-1.

It was a memorable, eventful, colorful function which was attended in large numbers by comrades and retired employees in both the Divisions and we sincerely thank them for their active participation.

Billionaire Club Widening the Gap Between Haves, Have-Nots

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

It is universal truth that the rich always widen the gap between the haves and have-nots in a capitalist system, but meanwhile they also create cut throat competition that each capitalist is against the another. The most striking instance is that of Elon Musk, the only member of 200-billion-dollar club, was recently ejected following the fall in the market value of Tesla. It is arguably the most elite club in the world. One of those clubs whose entrance looks like the labors of Hercules.

Very, very few managed to get in. It is rare to find more than two members at the same time. At the beginning of the year, only one person was in the club. That person is Elon Musk, the visionary and whimsical CEO of Tesla (TSLA) - Get Free Report, SpaceX, Twitter (TWTR) - Get Free Report, and two other companies.

This particular club is for billionaires whose fortune reaches at least 200 billion dollars. Until a few days ago, Musk was the only member of this prestigious club but much criticized by liberals who see it as the symbol of the continuous widening of the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Musk's fortune has shrunk by 80.4 billion dollar since January and stands at 190.0 billion dollar as of November 5, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index. However, he remains the richest man in the world.

Since January, Tesla has seen its market value melt by more than 450 billion dollar, certainly affected by the zero-covid policy in China, the continuous disruptions to supply chains and the soaring prices of raw materials. But the company is also impacted by

concerns surrounding the entire tech sector as the economic slowdown could turn into a recession.

This macroeconomic environment has important consequences in the ranking of the world's largest fortunes since the Top 10 is dominated by Silicon Valley tycoons.

The French businessman Bernard Arnault is the second richest man in the world but the fortune of the CEO of the luxury company VMH (LVMHF) has decreased by 34.4 billion



dollar to 144 billion dollar since January.

Indian businessman Gautam Adani is the third richest man on the planet with a fortune estimated at 133 billion dollar. Adani, who is the head of an industrial conglomerate, is the only personality in the Top 10 to have seen his fortune increase since January. It's up 56.2 billion dollar.

Jeff Bezos is fourth with a fortune valued at 114 billion dollar. The fall of the Amazon founder is the consequence of the sharp drop in the market value of the e-commerce giant, which has been ejected from the club of companies with a market value of

more than 1 trillion dollar. Amazon (AMZN) - Get Free Report warned that the next few months were going to be very difficult. Bezos has lost 78.4 billion dollar since January.

Bill Gates, co-founder of software giant Microsoft (MSFT) - Get Free Report is the fifth richest man in the world with an estimated fortune of 107 billion dollar, down 31.4 billion dollar since January.

Legendary investor Warren Buffet comes in

sixth, as he is worth 100 billion dollar. Buffett, often hailed for his sound investments, has seen his fortune melt by 8.64 billion dollar since January.

There are no other billionaires above 100 billion dollar. The other four members of the Top 10 have wealth ranging from 90 billion dollar to 80 billion dollar.

Larry Ellison is ranked seventh with a fortune estimated at 90.9 billion dollar. The co-founder of Oracle (ORCL) - Get Free Report lost 16.3 billion dollar this year.

Indian businessman Mukesh Ambani is eighth with an estimated wealth of 89 billion dol-

lar, down 986 million dollar in 2022.

Larry Page, co-founder of Alphabet (GOOGL) - Get Free Report, parent company of Google, is ninth with a net wealth of 81.4 billion dollar, down 47 billion dollar since January. The internet juggernaut recently warned that tough times are ahead.

Steve Ballmer, the former CEO of Microsoft, is 10th with a fortune valued at 79.7 billion dollar. His net wealth has decreased by 26 billion

dollar since January.

It is important to note the downfall of Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of the social media empire Meta Platforms (META) - Get Free Report whose disputed bets on the metaverse contributed to the stock market plunge of the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

Zuckerberg is only the 29th richest person in the world with a fortune valued at 35.2 billion dollar, down 90.3 billion dollar since January.

World population hits 8 billion

In a milestone for humanity, the global population hit 8 billion after having added a bil-

lion people in the last 12 years, with India on the cusp of overtaking China as the world's most populous country next year. Our planet is now home to 8 billion people," the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) tweeted. "Unless we bridge the yawning chasm between the global haves and have-nots, we are setting ourselves up for an 8-billion-strong world filled with tensions and mistrust, crisis and conflict," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023. The population prospects report said that India's population stands at 1.412 billion in 2022, compared with China's 1.426 billion. India is projected to have a population of 1.668 billion in 2050, way ahead of China's 1.317 billion people by the middle of the century. The population clock flashed 8,000,000,000 on November 15, with the world having added one billion people in the last 12 years. The UN described the global population reaching 8 billion as a "remarkable milestone" given that the human population numbered under 1 billion for millennia until around 1800, and that it took more than 100 years to grow from 1 to 2 billion. By comparison, the increase of the world's population over the last century has been quite rapid and despite a gradual slowing in the pace of growth, the global population is projected to surpass 9 billion around 2037 and 10 billion around 2058, according to UN estimates.

All India Security...

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utes to the martyrs' altar, the delegate session started, after Sukumar Damle, National Secretary, AITUC inaugurated it. He said that even after 75 years of independence the rights of the working class have been ignored. He said, "We have to fight hard.

Swapan Banerjee, State Secretary, CPI, wishing every success to the first National Conference of the All India Security and Allied Workers, said that this conference will create a new history for the working class. The unorganized contractual part time workers of our country are the most deprived, unprivileged and exploited class of the society. He was confident that this newly formed organization will organize them and fight hard to get their rights met.

Welcome address was given by Ujjwal Chaudhuri, State General Secretary, AITUC. Subrata Das, State Secretary of West Bengal Security and Allied Workers, placed the secretary's report on the table for discussion. Ranajit Guha, veteran trade union leader and former State General Secretary of AITUC was present to encourage the delegates. Saumi Halder and other artists of the IPCA sang to greet the delegates. All the sessions were conducted nicely by Lina Chatterjee.

Rise of Dalits Against Caste...

From Page 08

urgent issues as they emerge as huge challenges. Question of upliftment of Dalits is not the question of Dalits only but it is needed by the entire civilized society. Struggle from below at village to national level has become imperative.

Resistance is growing among the younger generation. They are not prepared to tolerate such more inhuman atrocities. It is not birthright of so-called upper caste people to rape their girls and women. Social awareness is increasing day by day. We have been witness to it on the occasion of Bharat Band on April 2, 2018. We should be united to resist back and wherever and whenever such types of atrocities take place, we all must together immediately intervene and fight for justice. It is our duty and also our need. We cannot leave unresolved the issues of same injustice for the younger generation to face that we had to undergo. We should put our full energy to give voice to the voiceless people and give hope to those who have lost hope.

Delhi national convention is a good beginning.

VS Nirmal, general secretary of AIDRM, also addressed the convention and said that national level broad based platform should be made to fight for the rights. Vikram Singh, AIAWU, Krishan Chauhan, BKMU and Bhagwant Samao offered some viable suggestions. B. Venkat, AIAWU, said that in the coming month national level platform would be organized with other organizations especially those that are working among Dalits should be assembled in it. All states should organize their joint convention in the month of January 2023 and include their state level demands also. Convention also decided that state level protest demonstration should be organized at respective state capitals on February 28, 2023. Lastly A Ramamuthi, president of the AIDRM thanked the participants and concluded the national convention.

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Telangana State Conference of Mid-Day Meal Workers

Meeting Demands Hike in Wages without Delay

Dr BV Vijayalakshmi, national secretary, AITUC, demanded immediate rise in wages of government Mid-Day Meal scheme workers of Telangana state, affiliated to AITUC. She was addressing the meeting at Amrutha Gardens, Hanamkonda where the conference was taking place presided over by P Prem Pavani, state president and Jampala Ravinder state working president of the union.

Dr Vijayalakshmi addressed the conference as the chief guest. Earlier Kamala Reddy, national vice president of the union hoisted the union flag.

Vijayalakshmi in her address stated that Mid-Day Meal Scheme was introduced both by the central and state governments in order to feed nutritious food to the stu-



dents of government schools. Despite the hard work assigned to workers under this scheme, they are not paid with statutory minimum wages. They are becoming victims of exploitation of the system. Mid-Day Meal scheme workers with their own money are at times purchasing necessary ingredients. But bills are not being paid by the concerned authorities on time.

As a result of relentless struggles for their cause by AITUC, K

Chandrashekara Rao, chief minister of Telangana promised to pay honorarium of Rs 3,000 per month. But till now that promise made in the state assembly is not being implemented. The government should implement hiked wages and supply free utensils and gas, Vijayalakshmi demanded.

S Balraj, president of state AITUC, in a message reiterated that Mid-Day Meal workers have become victims of exploitation. He assured full support

from AITUC to workers in their future struggles.

Korimi Suguna, state general secretary, Mid-Day Meal Scheme Workers Union proposed secretary's report while Nedunoori Jyothi state general secretary, NFIW, Karre Bixapathi, Hanamkonda district secretary, CPI, Thota Bixapathi, district president, AITUC, Ram Rajesh Khanna, state general secretary, National Health Mission Employees Union sent their messages supporting the scheme workers.

the leaders of workers union also spoke.

Among the leaders of the workers union, Poodala Ramesh, S Vijayalakshmi, Kuntala Ramulu, Boina Prasad, A Laxman addressed the conference.

The newly elected body has D Kamala Reddy, as president, D Prem Pavani, working president, P Ramesh, general secretary, J Ravinder as deputy general secretary and as general secretary, S Vijayalakshmi. - Ram Narsimha Rao

On Record ...

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to submit files relating to the recent appointment of Retired Punjab cadre IAS officer Arun Goel as the new Election Commissioner, as it wanted to see if everything was "hunky-dory", Live Law reported.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Justice KM Joseph, which is hearing petitions seeking an independent mechanism to appoint Election Commissioners, observed that it would have been appropriate had the appointment not been made when the matter was being heard.

The court asked the Attorney General to bring the files related to the appointment of Goel on Thursday. "Because this appointment was made after we began hearing this case...", the Court said as quoted by Live Law. - *The Indian Express*, November 23.

'CUET Could Have Been Done Next Year': Why science seats are last to be filled up in?

After the first edition of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) was implemented this year in central universi-

ties, admissions to science courses across the Delhi University (DU) have seen a drop compared to previous years.

The delayed admission process under the new seat allotment system, which has clashed with the preparations for medical and engineering entrance examinations, has kept students opting out of science courses, according to faculty members.

Even those who have secured admission in these courses are low on attendance due coaching and preparation for the upcoming JEE and NEET exams. - *news18.com*, November 21.

The JNUTA condemns in the strongest possible terms the decision of the Jamia Vice-Chancellor to: (1) declare the ongoing Jamia Teachers Association elections null and void (2) place the Returning Officer, an esteemed and long-serving faculty member of the University, under suspension 3) dissolve the present Jamia Teachers Association with immediate effect, (4) constitute a committee to look into the alleged imperfections of the bye-laws/Constitution of the JTA. - *jnutaonline.com*, November 17.



The BJP's near-monopoly on political funding. Parties have obtained anonymous donations of more than Rs 10,000 crore through EBs of which BJP received over two-thirds - that is, around Rs 7,000 crore. More than 95% of these donations have been made in the Rs 1-crore denomination. Obviously, it is not individuals like you and me donating such money, it is corporates and rich individuals pumping in the moolah. The donor enjoys tax exemption for their donation and the political party enjoys tax exemption on its receipt, but the donor does not have to reveal who he gave the money to and how much, and the party does not have to say who gave it the money. - *Deccan Herald*, October 8.

- Compiled by C. Adhikesavan

Golden Jubilee Celebrations of AILICEF

T K Parameswaran

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of AILICEF at Bengaluru in both the divisions was off to a flying start.

The program started at DO-2, Bengaluru at 10.30 am with the welcome address by R Shashikala, general secretary, DO-2 giving a brief history of AILICEF. The Flag of AILICEF was unfurled by T K Parameswaran, Working President, LICEU, Bangalore. In his address, T K Parameswaran congratulated members for their commitment to AILICEF in every sphere of its activity all these years. The path traversed by AILICEF during these 50 years with many struggles faced and success achieved in its long journey and the contribution of yester year leaders in guiding and giving a shape to Federation was the highlight of his speech.

Celebrations at DO-1, JC Road, Bengaluru

The celebrations at DO-1 wore a festive look with a huge gathering soaked in "Maroon" color attire, as it was a "Maroon day" at both DO-1 and DO-2.

The arrival of Binoy Viswam, MP, President of AILICEF at the venue in the back drop of slogans gave a thundering opening to the celebrations. It was a great privilege to have amidst us the President of AILICEF on this memorable day.

H V Anantha Subba

Rao, President of LICEU, Bengaluru Division and the tallest leader of the working class in the state of Karnataka was given a rousing welcome surrounding him and cheering him up with the Slogans. The celebrations commenced with Binoy Viswam and H V Ananthasubba Rao unfurling the "Federation Flag" amidst thunderous cheers.

Key-note address was delivered by Binoy Viswam, who congratulated the Bangalore Comrades for the grand manner in which they are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of AILICEF which organization is playing a key role in the financial sector. He told that AILICEF should observe this programme for one year all over the country mobilizing and involving employees all over the country with an intention to defeat the "anti-working class" policies pursued by the Central government and to protect the entire financial sector and more so "LIC" from the financial sharks.

He complimented the LIC for its fantastic contribution to our country's growth and the duty of everyone of us is to safe guard and protect this great institution. There is a need for all the employees in the Financial Sector to come on a single platform to diffuse and defeat the moves of the central government, whose role has now become to eliminate the public sector and entertain private sector in every field, he added. He



Binoy Viswam MP, president of AILICEF, addressing the participants

also cautioned that the central government has totally surrendered to the Tatas, Birlas, Ambanis and Adanis and this is not a good sign for



the country and the working class and needs to be stopped. He paid rich tributes to late comrades S M Bannerjee, PP Patil, Gurudas Dasgupta, AV Nachane and N Sundaramurthy for their contribution to the growth of Federation in

LIC and its stature in the financial sector. He assured the gathering of his attention and support at all times in and outside Parliament for the cause of the financial sector employees including Banks, LIC and GIC.

H V Ananthasubba Rao, President of LICEU and the tall leader of the working class in Karnataka, in his Presidential address congratulated the comrades all over India for observing the Golden Jubilee of AILICEF. He explained the scenario which was prevailing at the time of formation of Federation in 1972 and the path traversed by the "Federation" during these 50 years. He briefly

highlighted the benefits brought in by Federation since its formation while he observed that the growth of Federation is substantial, the dubious role of the Central Government which is all out to destroy the LIC is really painful. Every financial sector employee has to be cautious since this Central Government is mentally prepared to bring down the Banks, LIC and GIC. Since the threat of privatization is looming large, Corporates are given a free hand and pampered, trade unions are not allowed to function democratically and raise their voice in opposing issues which are

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Editor: BINOY VISWAM, Deputy Editor: KRISHNA JHA *E-mail: newagemukti@gmail.com - Layout: JANARDANAN.R