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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: FIGHT SHOULD GO ON

As people all over the world observe and celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, the CPI extends its solidarity to all who remain committed to the fight against patriarchy and steadfastly uphold gender equality. The International Women's Day celebration started officially in Soviet Russia in 1917 itself after women gained suffrage. On that occasion, leader of the Russian Revolution Vladimir Lenin categorically stated that "under capitalism the female half of the human race is doubly oppressed."

Our struggle is against this double oppression and International Women's Day is one solemn occasion to remember the sacrifices made by our comrades to rid our country from the plague of patriarchal oppression and violence. The questions of education, access to resources, equal opportunities, healthcare and recognition as workers for women remain unresolved. In our country, forces that are opposed to women's liberation and equality have captured power. Those who reduce

D Raja

women to being mere gateways of caste system are ruling. This is opposed to the values and demands of the women's movement with its insistence on gaining gender equality and freedom.



Sometime back, the city of Seattle voted to ban caste discrimination. Only on March 7, Spain's government has approved a draft law that aims to bolster the presence of women in decision-making spheres by setting out quotas for women in politics,

business and professional associations. All over the world, a need is being felt to enact progressive legislations to ensure equality and social justice. However, in our country, the bill to ensure 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies has not come out of the cold storage under the BJP-RSS regime.

Legendary leader of the CPI and women's movement, Comrade Geeta Mukherjee dedicated her life to win women's reservation in legislative bodies. We are observing the centenary of her birth this year and it would be befitting for us to fight and get the bill passed. That will be truly honouring her memory and gaining for our women their just due. Ensuring women representation will truly underline the hard work women have put in building our country, whether it be a tribal women collecting forest produce in a remote area or a young woman giving her best in a technology company.

The prime architect of the Indian constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar said that he "measures the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved." We have to stand true to this standard set by Babasaheb Ambedkar and strive for equality among genders and put an end to domination. We salute all the fellow travellers of this path to equality and harmony on the occasion of women's day and appeal to defeat the forces that are undoing the progress and achievements of the women's movement.

Historic Order on EC by Supreme Court

For Elections to be Fair, Democracy to be Saved



Dr Ambedkar addressing Constituent Assembly

Constitutional Bench of Supreme Court order coming on March 2, 2023, has ruled that a committee

Dr Soma Marla

inclusive of prime minister, leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha (or leader of the

largest opposition party) and chief justice of India would henceforth select persons for appointment by the President of India as election commissioners and the chief election commissioner (CEC). The order is historic and will have subtle implications. Also it is crucial as it takes away the right to decide about the appointment of election commissioners and CEC from the exclusive domain of the ruling establishment.

Of late, especially

beginning 2014 elections, it is widely observed that Supreme Court has been made subordinate to the dictates of the ruling BJP and allegedly compromising in the context of taking independent decisions in implementation of election code impartially. It became very common for the ruling regime to openly violate election rules and conduct the polls while bringing baseless allegations and abuses directed to minorities,

and contesting opposition parties. Our PM is often seen leading huge public rallies even on polling day, misusing government machinery and making scathing comments against opposition parties. While opposition candidates are often picked up immediately and punished during the campaigning itself, the ruling BJP leaders escape and are rarely seen prosecuted despite countless complaints lodged against them.

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Editorial

Tripura is once again thrown into the pool of disarray. The innocent people of the north-eastern state are experiencing what the BJP has in store for them, once back in power. For a short span of time during the election campaign the people there hoped to breathe peacefully. They expected the BJP to bid at least a temporary farewell to the politics of violence, as part of their electoral strategy. Along with their pseudo claims of achievements, BJP leaders promised peace for Tripura. It was only to hoodwink the people. Vandalism was the BJP hallmark all along the poll process. Once the results are out, RSS-BJP unleashed unprecedented violence on the people with a vengeance.

Their heavy weights led by Modi-Shah combine initiated a second inning with imposing majority. Muscle and

Tripura in Disarray

money power were lavishly spent only with that goal in mind. Central ministers were roaming across the state. Still, they could garner only a narrow victory with a wafer thin majority. BJP lost 10 percent of vote share and their opportunistic alliance lost 11 seats in the sixty member assembly. The RSS philosophy at such occasions has tutored their cadre to jump up on the people to punish them. In constituencies where they lost, RSS-BJP combine attacks the people to teach them a lesson. In places where they won people are at the receiving end. For a party trained in the fascist ideology, democracy and its proclaimed values are always targets of attack. The democratic forces in Tripura today are passing through that experience.

The BJP approached the north-east election as a dress rehearsal for the decisive battle in 2024. All their arms and

ammunitions, ruthlessness and cunningness were applied in abundance. Their one and only agenda was to capture power. In Meghalaya where BJP won only two seats, what Modi did shows the real face of that party. Conrad K Sangma, the man who was termed as the embodiment of corruption, became their alliance leader overnight and Modi himself flew down to Shillong to solemnize his swearing in. The story in Nagaland was also not different. The BJP's greed for even the smallest power share is unmasked everywhere. For them power is not for the wellbeing of the people. It is for supporting the loot of Adani that they are so keen to capture power by hook or crook. To pave that path clear RSS-BJP suppresses the people and strangles their democratic right to live peacefully. Tripura is going through that turmoil. This is the time for all secular democratic forces in the country to stand united with the sisters and brothers of Tripura.

For Elections to be Fair...

From Front Page

Poll dates are delayed, adjusted to make space at the convenience of the ruling party. It became normal to EC to ignore rampant misuse of money, muscle power on part of the ruling party but no tolerance towards allegations against opposition parties.

The order, issued on March 2, unanimous and delivered by the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice KM Joseph and consisting of Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, includes a separate concurring order by Justice Rastogi, that raises additional points about the security of tenure of election commissioners and the CEC. The judges have decided that their order would be operational

until Parliament passes a law as per Article 324(2) of the Constitution, according to which the CEC and election commissioners shall be appointed by the President "subject to the provisions of any law" passed by the Parliament. The order is historic as it takes away appointment of election commissioners and CECs away from the exclusive domain of the ruling party. Also, it safeguards the independence of the Election Commission of India (ECI) as per article 324(1), that vests the ECI with the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to Parliament, state legislatures and the President and Vice President.

Thus the current order

of Supreme court holds much significance as it fills the void caused by the Parliament for not having passed a law under Article 324(2) in fulfilment of constitutional obligation. Every political party in power wants to have absolute say in appointments of members of EC to suit its political ambitions and future re-elections. For this reason even after 73 years of our republic no political party in power wanted to introduce a law to make appointment of EC members absolutely democratic and transparent and no law was brought despite the existing constitutional obligations.

We must not forget that several Constituent Assembly members and the Drafting Committee Chairman, Dr BR Ambedkar, had raised

this very concern. During a discussion on June 16, 1949 on Article 289 of the draft Constitution (which corresponds to Article 324 of the Constitution) about the Election Commission, Dr Ambedkar had said there was no provision "against the nomination of an unfit person to the post of the Chief Election Commissioner or the Election Commissioner".

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is intended to be an autonomous body. But its independence has been on the wane, especially since the 2019 Lok Sabha election when it appeared to be under the influence of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In 2022, PMO even summoned the members of EC for discussions, where PM Narendra Modi directed the members to take decisions in accordance with government's briefings. Ashok Lavasa

was the sole member of the Commission who refused to give a clean chit to prime minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah in electoral process violations. Just a few months after the formation of the new government, the Commissioner and his family was severely harassed, making them pay the price for his dissent.

Union government should immediately respond to the Supreme Court's order and pass a law in the Parliament enabling appointment of CEC, members democratic and transparent. This is a positive step forward in the direction of strengthening the independence and democratic functioning of the Election Commission which is necessary to conduct a free and fair elections in democratic India.

Historic 15th National Conference of IPTA

Glimpses of Our Composite Culture in One and Many

Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) will reach another milestone in the history of working class art and culture between March 17 and 19, 2023 at Medinagar, Daltonganj by

conducting its three-day 15th National Conference. Founded more than 80 years ago it is still marching ahead with its revolutionary zeal and spirits carrying on the torch of art and culture of working class to create awareness among the downtrodden masses and instil revolutionary spirits, displaying their own issues through various forms of arts and the ways and means to come out of their problems. IPTA is the movement for the people, by the people and of the people – comprising workers, peasants and artisans.

The IPTA conference is taking place at a time when the country is passing through difficult times with the secular values and principles of our Constitution under attack from the Hindutva fascist elements. The individual's liberty is at stake and the politics of hatred is being spread to divide the masses.

IPTA state secretary Upendra Mishra informed that in the evening of March 16 Indore IPTA will stage Dharendra Mazumdar's 'Maa' and on 17, the drum beats 15 nagaras will be echoing in Jharkhand. Cultural troupes from different states will be taking out march that will culminate at Shivaji Maidan. The mega event

will be attended by more than 600 delegates, who are artists – poets, musicians, scriptwriters, dramatists, dancers, film personalities and intellectuals from 22 states, according to IPTA



Ritwik Ghatak, doyen of Indian cinema

national vice president Tanwir Akhtar.

The decision for the plenary session was taken at a meeting on October 9, 2022. The Jharkhand state tourism, arts, culture, sports and youth affairs department is lending all support and cooperation in the cultural programme



bonanza of the IPTA. The themes of IPTA are equality, liberty, justice, fraternity and national integration through culture and language and strengthening of the 'unity in diversity'.

Historical Glimpses of IPTA, PWA

May 22-25, 1943, in Bombay is a remarkable

C Adhikesavan

date in the history of IPTA. The fourth India conference of the Progressive Writers' Association (PWA) that

took place in the Marwari Vidyalaya, an association came into being – the Indian People's Theatre Association – with its motto of 'People's Theatre Stars the People'. IPTA was one of the products of the political ferment of the 1940s. India's struggle for freedom was not

waged for merely economic or political gains, it was also to reassert India's cultural identity.

IPTA initiated people's theatre movement comprising intellectuals, scientists and artists, that was christened by Homi Jahangir Bhabha. The

foundings stalwarts were KA Abbas, Dr Bhabha, Anil de Silva, Ali Sardar Jafri and Dada Sharmalkar.

The theatre group was a movement which gave expression to the agony of the Bengal famine in the heart-rending song 'Bhukha Hain Bengal' led by Harindranath Chattopadhyay. Uday Shankar's troupe of dancers and musicians, including the sisters Zohra and Uzra collected donations for famine relief. Very shortly, 500 units of IPTA sprang up all over the country combining the dynamism of Punjab, the lyricism of Bengal, and the pain of rural Assam and Andhra Pradesh, and welded all these on to a common platform.

Dr Sarojini Naidu, known as the nightingale of India also played her role in IPTA. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was greatly impressed by IPTA's approach, had this to say: "I am greatly interested in the development of a people's theatre in India. I think there is a great room for it provided it is based on the people and on their traditions. Otherwise it is likely to function in the air."

In the Golden Jubilee year it has organised a unique march, 'Yatra' from Varanasi to Meghar. The Union government on this occasion came out with a commemorative postal stamp to mark IPTA's Golden Jubilee in 1993. The history of IPTA runs parallel to the people's cultural movement in the country and relates to the



independence and the anti-fascist movements.

Anil De Silva of Sri Lanka established Youth Cultural Institute at Calcutta in 1940 and set up the People's Theatre at Bangalore in 1941. He has also assisted in the formation of IPTA and became the first general secretary and NM Joshi, the trade union leader was its first president. Various progressive cultural troupes, theatre groups and other progressive cultural activists came together spontaneously to form IPTA. The renowned scientist Homi Jahagir Bhabha coined the name 'People's Theatre', who was inspired by Romain Rolland's book on the concepts of People's Theatre.

Gender justice was IPTA's main attention portraying the plight of women. Kaifi Azmi's poem Aurat, a play based on the life of Soviet heroine Tanya, the Kathakali dance of Kerala, the songs of Nuzrul Islam and Rabindranath Tagore combine traditional and modern styles and formats.

Khwaja Ahmad Abbas's film Dharti Ke Lal ('Children of the Earth'), written exclusively for IPTA by

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Telangana CPI Protests Hike in Cooking Gas Prices

CPI Telangana State Secretary Kunamneni Sambashiva Rao strongly condemned the hike in cooking gas cylinder prices. He was addressing a protest meeting at Hyderabad. The central government which has increased the price once again, has put a burden on the common man, especially women. He expressed deep anger and anguish over steep increase of Rs 50 on people who are worried that the price of gas has already gone up.

After the BJP government came to power at the Centre, the prices of essential commodities have gone up tremendously. Apart from petrol and diesel prices, gas prices have also gone up.

On March 2, 2023

throughout Telangana state, CPI cadres led the agitation against price hike. CPI State Secretary Kunamneni Sambashiva Rao, CPI national secretary

**Srinivas Rao
Takkalapally**

Delhi CPI condemns:
The Delhi state council of

state council, the party demanded immediate withdrawal of the hike. It pointed out that people are already finding it almost impossible to meet the cost

The state council also strongly condemned the increase of Rs 3 a litre of Amul milk prices. It is an attack on poor people and middle class because they are already the worst sufferers of biggest and highest ever price rise in the Modi era. This increase is also an attack on children's stomach.

People are not able to get two square of meals a day and this huge increase is an attack on their stomach in the worst ever unemployment age at present in India, the statement said. Hence Delhi state council of party demands the Modi government to immediately withdraw this hike in the prices of milk.



Protest against gas price hike

Aziz Pasha, national executive member Chada Venat Reddy participated at protest in Hyderabad.

CPI strongly condemns the steep hike in the price of cooking gas cylinders. In a statement issued by the

of the daily household needs. The prices of all essential items are rising on a daily basis.

What the Others Say...

The heat is on

The Indian economy, especially agriculture, is a "gamble on the monsoon". That famous early-20th century statement by then viceroy, George Curzon, perhaps, needs rephrasing today. More than the monsoon, it is temperatures that are emerging as a greater source of uncertainty for farmers. Access to irrigation can, to some extent, compensate for a failed monsoon or two. The fact that the country produces more foodgrains now during the rabi (winter-spring) than in the kharif (post-monsoon) season is testimony to the role of irrigation in drought-proofing. But what can farmers do with mercury spikes in February and March? These threaten rabi harvests, which were hitherto considered assured and immune from rainfall vagaries.

The impact of temperature surge was seen in March 2022, when the wheat crop had just entered its final grain formation and filling stage. The heat stress led to early grain ripening and reduced yields. This year, February recorded the highest-ever maximum temperatures, thanks to the absence of active western disturbances that bring rain and snowfall over the Himalayas, whose cooling effect percolates into the plains. Currently, both minimum and maximum temperatures are ruling 3-5 degrees Celsius above normal in most wheat-growing areas. The next couple of weeks or more are going to be crucial.

Climate isn't the only risk farmers are confronting. Even as the prospects for wheat are uncertain, prices of onion and potato have crashed. Mustard, too, is trading below its MSP with the arrival of the new crop. The dual risks from climate and prices may not be new; the difference lies in their frequency, volatility and intensity. Farmers, scientists and policymakers have to adapt to this reality. Green Revolution 2.0 has to be about varieties that can withstand extreme temperature and rainfall variations, while yielding more, using less water and nutrients. Agriculture for today and tomorrow cannot be the same as it was yesterday.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

Beating fake news

How to handle the disruptive and dangerous impact of fake news on social media? Take a leaf out of Tamil Nadu. Reacting to rumour-mongering that migrants from north India in TN had faced "attacks" – the video message first dropped in Bihar feeds – the state machinery wasted no time. The CM, ministers, police and the governor along with industry mounted a swift and decisive response to quell the rumours and assure Hindi-speaking migrants of their safety in TN, through direct meetings with migrants and also on social media. To Bihar CM's tweet expressing concern about news reports on the matter, TN police clarified both video messages were fake. Chennai spoke to Patna, which flew down a delegation from Bihar that thoughtfully included a Tamil-speaking officer to ensure no messaging was lost in translation.

Employers know that migrants in TN would head to hometowns in Bihar for Holi but feared that this particular fake news could influence many to not return to work. Migrant workers are the centre and heart of India's economy, comprising nearly 40% of India's population as per Census 2011. A state government survey in 2016 estimated that TN is home to over 10.6 lakh migrant workers, a majority unskilled, 27% in manufacturing, 14% in textile and 11.4% in the construction sector. Migration experts and unorganised workers' groups felt the numbers were an underestimate. While the migrant exodus triggered by Covid lockdown in March 2020 exposed the vulnerabilities of India's migrant population, they consider the facilities in destination states such as Kerala and TN, however limited, better than the conditions they leave behind in home states such as Bihar, Bengal, UP and Jharkhand.

When perpetrators of fake news attempt to manipulate vulnerable groups who can't fact-check what they consume on their smartphones – even better off classes often don't fact-check – it becomes incumbent on the state machinery to step in. In this particular case, social media did its thing as it is wont to – spread the fire – and the flames were fanned by a section of politicians and irresponsible media. That the police and governments in TN and Bihar collaborated and responded immediately is a rare piece of good news – and action worthy of emulation.

Courtesy: The Times of India

CPI National Council Resolutions

The following are the resolutions adopted at the three-day meeting of the CPI national council held at Puducherry on February 26, 27 and 28, 2023:

On Support to SKM Chalo

Parliament on March 20

The national council meeting held in Puducherry on February 26, 27 and 28, 2023 has declared its active support to the call given by SKM. The party condemns the betrayal by Narendra Modi government in honouring the assurances signed with farmers' organization. The same has been violated by the prime minister and his government.

The SKM has been demanding the following:

* *MSP for the agricultural products*

* *Loan relief measures*

* *Withdrawal of false case against farmers*

* *Compensation to the Kisan martyrs*

* Central Budget has cut down the allocation for agricultural sectors. It is very harmful for the farmers and must be restored.

For these demands, SKM has given a call 'Chalo Parliament. Our party and mass organizations fully support the farmers' programme and the national council appeals to all cadres to make it a success.

On Elections to Cantonment Boards based on Universal Adult Franchise

Cantonment Boards are local bodies under the administrative control of the ministry of defence. The representatives to the Cantonment Boards are elected once in five years. There are 62 Cantonment Boards in India. The elections are scheduled to be held on April 30, 2023 throughout India.

However, this time voting rights of certain people dwelling on defence land have been withdrawn in the election citing a Supreme Court judgment. Several thousands of people who have been residing on defence land areas even before independence period are excluded from the voters' list enumerated by the Cantonment Boards. If anybody encroached defence lands there are sufficient provisions in the Acts to deal with them. But denying their voting right is against the principles of Constitution.

The freedom movement passed the resolution of 'Universal Adult Franchise' in the year 1931 in Karachi Congress. By negating the principles, the ministry is

contemplating to hold election ignoring sizable section of downtrodden people who are the voters to assemblies and Parliament. The workers who are employees of Cantonment Boards residing in cantonments for several decades are also excluded. The Cantonment election rule may be amended in tune with the spirit of democracy and Constitution.

The Communist Party of India calls upon the government of India to hold elections to Cantonment Boards based on Universal Adult Franchise.

On Bio-fuel Policy

The national council expresses its views on bio-fuel policy that the ethanol blended petrol policy promoted by the government of India is not a solution for energy security. It is neither a solution for climate nor air pollution. In fact it increases carbon emissions as shown by reputed scientists. With the emphasis on promoting the automobile industry continuing with internal combustion engine-based cars, our oil import bills will only increase and not decrease. More realistic solution is to shift to electric vehicles at the earliest and end the outdated oil run automobiles before 2030 as was once announced by the government.

Pressure to divert land from food to fuel, harms farmers and people and does not benefit them. Basic democratic right of people to participate in developmental decision making accrued from Rio declaration has been taken away in favour of ethanol manufacturers resulting in conflicts for local resources of water and land. India having committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2070, present promotion of ethanol blended petrol will make that goal out of reach. The ethanol promotion programme generates about a crore ton of additional carbon dioxide emissions from the fermentation process which cannot be eliminated.

The national council demands an end to the ethanol blended petrol.

On condemning Tamil Nadu governor RN Ravi for his derogatory statement on Marxist philosophy and demanding his removal from the governor's post

The national council of the Communist Party of India in very strong terms

condemns the unnecessary, uncalled for and derogatory remarks made by Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi on Marxist philosophy. The council urges upon the President of India to recall Ravi from his position of the governor of Tamil Nadu.

In a function to release the Tamil Translation of the works of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Ravi said that Marxist ideology has damaged the growth of India. He went on to criticise Darwin's theory of evolution as unscientific.

The national council takes a strong objection to such irrational, unscientific and unwarranted statement of Ravi. The national council is aware that these are deliberate propaganda material orchestrated by RSS-BJP combine to attack the communists and undermine scientific perception and advancement.

The council takes serious note of such unconstrained behaviour of Ravi in disgrace of the gubernatorial position he holds. He has not been discharging his responsibility as a governor. There are 15 bills passed by the state assembly, still waiting to be sent for the assent of the President. Instead, he acts as nothing short of a RSS pracharak propagating Hindutva ideology. BJP consistently indulges in abuse of powers of governors to spread Hindutva ideology on the one side and misuse of powers to disturb the elected governments in the states. In this instance, particularly since Tamil Nadu state has very strong credentials of progressive Dravidian culture, BJP is desperate to sow its seeds of irrationality and obscurantism.

The council, while reiterating its resolute demand to abolish the posts of governor, castigates the governor for his remarks on Marxism and urges upon the President to immediately remove him from the post of governor of Tamil Nadu.

On Students' Suicide in Higher Education and Professional Institutions

Just two days ago, Preethi, a post graduate medical student of Kakatiya Medical College in Telangana committed suicide due to ragging.

Ragging has become a menace of harassment of the junior students based on caste, region among other types of discrimination. Earlier eighteen-year old

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CPI National Council Resolutions

From Page 05

student of IIT, Mumbai, Darshan Solanki committed suicide because of torturous ragging. Similar types of ragging cases are reported from some other educational and professional institutions also. Such ragging happens because of the absence of effective steps to stop illegal ragging.

The national council is of the view that all efforts should be made to avoid such unfortunate incidents. The guilty must be punished and special courses to sensitise students about injustice must be held.

The national council also demands an immediate impartial high level enquiry into the incidents and award deterrent punishments to the suicide abettors of Preethi as well as Darshan Solanki. The CPI is of the opinion that effective counselling mechanism must be made mandatory in all the educational institutions to stop such unfortunate suicides.

On Statehood for Puducherry

The demand for statehood for Puducherry was raised first by the Communist Party of India, in its Puducherry district conference in the year 1972. The demand has now gained momentum with all political parties and social organisations rallying together in realisation of the political and administrative necessity of statehood.

The government of Union Territories Act says that there shall be a council of ministers with the chief minister as the head to aid and advice the administrator in the exercise of his/her functions. The Act also empowers legislative assembly of union territories to make laws. Yet the elected legislative assembly and the council of ministers are in a helpless state as the Lt Governor of Puducherry is wholly vested with all the powers in the capacity of administrator.

Between the years 1981 and 2021, sixteen resolutions demanding statehood have been passed in the legislative assembly and sent to the Union government, but of no avail so far. The recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Rajya Sabha headed by Sushma Swaraj presented on June 2, 2006 for providing statehood to Puducherry has been thrown to cold storage.

Consequent to the shift in the financial management policy of the Union government, Puducherry suffers a financial crisis due to opening of separate public account. The 90 percent of expenditure of Puducherry granted by the Union

government was gradually reduced to 23 percent now.

After 70 years since its liberation, Puducherry is developed in multifarious spheres. Its state revenue income has gone through several changes and development stages. But the democratically elected government has to wait for the approval of the Lt Governor and the Union government to carry out and implement welfare schemes.

Even though Puducherry is the only UT with legislative assembly, it was not included in the 15th Finance Commission for not being a state (Jammu and Kashmir, recently declared as Union Territory is included in the Finance Commission). On the contrary, it is enlisted in the GST council sharing with other states, a status of a state.

This national council of the Communist Party of India demands the Union government to honour the aspirations of the people of Puducherry and provide statehood to the UT of Puducherry. The meeting also exhorts all political parties and all social organisations to extend support to the Communist Party of India in all its endeavours to accomplish this task in the interests of the rights of the people of Puducherry.

On Support to Action Plan Adopted by Workers' Convention in Delhi

The national council meeting takes note of the Workers' Convention held in Delhi on January 30, 2023 under the Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and the action plan adopted there to ultimately dethrone the BJP government.

The sense of unity as expressed there by workers belonging to various central trade unions should serve as an example to democratic secular forces in India to work toward the common goal of dethroning the present BJP-RSS government at the Centre.

The national council directs all the party members to take part in the actions planned by the Workers' Convention to the best of their ability.

On Natural Disasters, Crop Insurance and COP27

There is a sharp rise in the natural disasters such as droughts and floods, hailstorms, pest attack on grain and vegetables, earthquake, etc. The corporate greed for profit is neglecting the sustainability and farmers and rural labourers along with toiling masses are the worst sufferers.

BJP-RSS led Narendra Modi government

with neoliberal agenda has advocated crop insurance scheme under PMFBY. Before launching of PMFBY scheme, the Modi government has amended Drought Manual and abolished Calamity Relief Fund. PMFBY is a 'outsourcing' of relief work. Thirteen private and multinational insurance giants along with the government have harnessed huge profits. Since 2017 under this PMFBY scheme these companies had turnover of 2.25 lakh crores resulting in net income of 1.25 lakh crores. Crores of farmers affected by disasters have received very little compensation and hence more suicides are seen.

The happenings at Joshi Math (Uttarakhand) are examples of unscientific and anti-people development pursued by Modi government for corporate greed.

Modi government has weakened many environmental norms under the pretext of facilitating ease of business. It is to be noted that Land Acquisition Act passed by the Parliament in 2013 is bypassed in many cases.

The COP27 convention by United Nations has passed the resolution to send the clear message that 'Polluter must pay.' It is the principle accepted universally. Hence there is need to amend the policy about relief in natural disaster situation and cases.

Hence CPI national council demands:

- The polluter must pay and the issues involved must be addressed. The norms of environmental compensation should also be changed accordingly.

- A law has to be enacted to give rightful relief to farmers and other sections of rural population.

- Dismantle the anti-farmer PMFBY crop insurance scheme and use funds to reorganize a newscheme at state government level.

- Despite many court orders the pending insurance claims to the farmers since 2017 are not paid and that should be paid immediately.

- A judicial commission to be established for disbursement of penalty crop insurance claims of the farmers.

- Government of India should revisit the development schemes in echo-sensitive zones.

On Joint Parliamentary

Committee to Probe Adani Misdeeds

The national council urges the government to form Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe serious allegations made by Hindenburg report regarding the

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Under NEP School Textbooks to Cost 48 per cent More

The Right to Education Act 2009 provides free and compulsory education to all the children upto the age of 14 years. The Union government's National Education Policy (NEP) seems to have undoing purpose of this Act. Already, the government has brought CUET which has denied admission to colleges and universities. The schools are being shutdown due to low attendance in schools spread throughout the country. In these circumstances, the NEP has enabled the prices of school textbooks. Therefore, the NEP is not helping the students belonging to the poor community particularly the economically weaker sections.

The costs of the textbooks bearing stickers of NEP have been increased by 48 per cent adding to the financial burden of parents, school textbooks to be taught as a part of the new education policy from classes 1 to 8 from the upcoming academic session. The books – which are to be made eligible for public schools – would also have their content changed in comparison to previous years.

The schools have received the specimen from publishers, who have increased the prices by 16-48 per cent. The publishers have cited exponential rise in the cost of paper due to availability crisis behind the steep hike. Publishers from Bengaluru, Kolkata along with the local ones have increased the costs heavily.

For context, a social science book for class 1 may cost 339 in comparison to the earlier 229. Similarly, class 8th books would be available for 579 against the earlier 499. The class 1 Mathematics book that used to cost 339 would now be available for 439. The same for class 8 would cost 679 instead of the previous 479.

The publishers cited the paper crisis while pointing out that current prices are unprecedented. They have no option but to



increase the prices. For parents, this hike may cause trouble. As the syllabus is new, students would also not be able to use old books. Not everyone can buy such costly books, the government should allow the children to continue with old books and control the publishers and schools.

The cost will go up. As the cost of paper and printing has gone up, there will be an increase in the cost. In this context, the NEP itself is in question that how it would avail free and compulsory education to all?

To hide one lie, one has to repeatedly tell hundreds of lies, which is old habits of the RSS or Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Old habits die

hard. The practice is being carried on by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, who has said the Britishers implemented their education model in India and implemented India's education model in their country. Bhagwat claimed more than half of the population in India was educated before the British rule. The RSS is the organisation which has been spreading rumours through repeatedly telling lies after lies, which presumably assumed by the people as truth.

been increasing manifold.

Education was cheap and accessible to everyone. How could it be cheaper and accessible to all when the government going on increasing the examination fees for the class 10th and 12th CBSE? How it could cheaper if the government increase cost of even the NCERT textbooks? Therefore, the society has undertaken all the expenses of education and the scholars, artists and artisans who came out of this education were recognised all over the world, whereas, the RSS-BJP government putting more burden on the parents to bear the cost of education.

Bhagwat claims that health and education for all is the biggest need of our country as both medical and education are getting costlier, and there is a need to ensure easy access to medical and education for the ordinary man at cheaper rates, is completely a farce than the truth. The education and health is not for Sarvjan Hitay-Sarvjan Sukhay (welfare of all-happiness for all) but it is the welfare of a handful of people.

Nearly 300 schools in HP denotified with zero enrolment

Irrational deployment of teachers has affected the quality of education and Himachal has slipped from the fifth position to eleventh position in the performance grading index, according to the state education ministry. This situation is not only limited to Himachal Pradesh but it is a reality



STUDY & STRUGGLE

C Adhikesavan



elsewhere in other states of the country except the Kerala state.

Himachal Pradesh government has announced that 286 primary and middle schools with zero enrolment of students have been de-notified, and the teaching and non-teaching staff in these facilities would be shifted to schools facing a staff crunch.

About 3,000 schools in the state are running with one teacher, while 455 schools are running (with teachers) on deputation basis while 12,000 posts of teachers are vacant. There are 15,313 government-run schools in the state.

A set format would be followed for schools and colleges – at least 10 students for primary, 15 for middle, 20 for high, 25 for senior secondary schools and 65 for colleges and the schools and colleges not matching the parameters would be closed. The parameters set are less than the national parameters as Himachal is a hilly state with difficult terrain.

The next step would be to rationalise deployment of teachers and a transfer policy would be brought soon.

Hero of Communist Movement in Central India:

Shakir Ali Khan was widely respected leader of the princely state of Bhopal and a builder of Communist movement in Central India before and after freedom. Nehru even offered him seat in the union cabinet. According to his own autobiographical notes, Shakir Ali was born in a family with poor financial resources, and therefore had a rebellious streak from an early age. He was forced to work in a 'karkhana' or book-binding workshop as a teenager to sustain his family.

He was born in 1904 in Ashta, Sehore, then part of the erstwhile princely state of Bhopal.

Political awakening in Bhopal

Bhopal was founded as a principality at the beginning of 18th century by the Afghan Moghal noble Dost Muhammad Khan. It was a '19-gun salute state' in subsidiary alliance with British India (1818-1947). Persian was the official language, while Hindustani was common language. Its area was 6902 sq miles and population in 1901 was 665961. Between 1819 and 1926, rule of four women nawabs gave Bhopal modern works like railways, waterworks, postal system and a municipality. The Begums, beginning with Qudasia Begum (1819), refused to follow purdah system.

Prof Barkatullah Khan was a prominent nationalist leader from Bhopal, who went to England in 1887, and worked with Shyamji Krishna Verma, Lala Hardayal, Virendranath Chattopadhyaya and others. He was the prime minister of the Provisional Indian government established in Kabul in 1915, of which Raja Mahendra Pratap was the president. He met Lenin on May 7, 1919 and was interviewed by 'Pravda'. He was close to the Communists.

These events left a deep

imprint upon the mind of Shakir Ali.

As journalist

Shakir Ali joined Urdu 'Riyasat' from Delhi in 1926-27, and later in 'Hind', Calcutta.

He worked as a 'Naik' in Sultania Infantry of Bhopal, and later worked as ryotwari moharrir in the state administration.

Shakir Ali was associated with the 'Educated People's Association'. There erupted a powerful movement of the journalists between 1928 and 1931. Shakir was terminated from his job in the revenue department.

Nationalist wave in Bhopal

During 1933-37, Servants of Bhopal League (Anjuman Khuddame Vatan) was established by Shakir Ali and others. It published 'Subah Vatan' (rise of the nation), in which Shakir played an active role, later becoming its editor.

Thousands attended the mass meetings organized near Bhopal Fort. People used to gather near the office of 'Subah Vatan' to buy its copies, which were sometimes even bought for Rs 10. It was read even by the members of bureaucracy and royal family secretly.

Sattar Jamal won

elections to Legislative Council in 1934, defeating the official candidate. 'Subah Vatan' printed a cartoon in his favour. This enraged the rulers. Shakir Ali Khan, Ahmed Makki, Saiyyad Hafiz Ali and Bhagwan Dayal were arrested on August 22, 1934 from the office of the paper. Thousands of people gathered in support. A huge meeting took place at the Purana Quila. Later they all were released.

The paper was again under fire in September



1934 in an official Gazette, which criticized it sharply. A new round of arrests began.

Youth came out in thousands in a big uprising against unemployment. Even the Sultania Infantry B Company rose in revolt and demonstrated before the Palace. The unit was disbanded and the soldiers expelled from the state.

Shakir Ali Khan was again arrested in April 1935 along with some others, being accused of fomenting 'ghadar', sentenced to more than two years.

After release from jail, Shakir and colleagues published a new journal:

'Subha Vatan Sani'. Published in Agra, it was smuggled in clandestinely.

States People's Conference

A movement for the establishment of 'people's conferences' (Praja Mandal) spread throughout the princely states during the 1930s. Bhopal State People's Conference galvanized the workers of workshops and factories, and a Mazdoor Sabha was also formed. A conference of All India States People's Conference was held in Ludhiana in 1939, presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru. Bhopal Praja Mandal got affiliated to it.

Bhopal Praja Mandal was formed in a secret meeting held on February 14, 1938 at the house of Bazmi Saheb, attended by Shakir Ali Khan, Syed Abu Said Bazmi, Tarzi Mashriki, Akhlaq Mohammad Khan, Noor Baz Khan, Syed Zahoor Azmi, Pt Chatur Narayan Malaviya and others. Its aim was to fight for the establishment of a responsible government, and to gain democratic rights to fight for the demand.

Shakir Ali raises questions

In his statement published in Hindustan Times (Delhi) of August 27, 1938, Shakir Ali pointed out that in Bhopal state, it was very difficult to hold political meetings, even within the walls of private dwellings. More than 90 per cent applications for permission to hold meetings were rejected.

Under Bhopal Customs Act, a policeman used to accompany every postman, and the items delivered were seized immediately. Even British residents found it as brazen acts, and suggested changes.

Under public pressure, the state government announced permission for five newspapers from outside the state, in late 1938.

Shakir Ali participated in the Dohad conference of Madhya Bharat States Peoples Conference in June 1939.

First session of Bhopal Praja Mandal

It was held on October 18 and 19, 1938, attended by thousands. Shakir Ali delivered an impassioned and effective welcome speech. The conference passed resolutions on unemployment, lack of education etc. Shakir Ali summed up discussions and criticisms, and the resolution on unemployment was passed unanimously. Some pro-establishment people tried to disrupt the proceedings, but Shakir Ali dealt with them very firmly, and the conference was saved.

It also regularised Obeidullah Khan Scholarship Trust.

Bhopal Praja Mandal held several big public meetings all over the state, in which Shakir Ali Khan, Chatur Narayan Malaviya, Zahoor Hashmi and others spoke.

Meeting of Shakir Ali with Bhopal Nawab

Nawab of Bhopal got scared by the growing movement, and requested a meeting with Shakir Ali

'Sher-e-Bhopal' Shakir Ali Khan

Khan through Mirza Abid Hussain Kahn, MLC. They met in Chandpura, which was announced in a public poster by the Nawab, in which details of the meeting were conveyed to the public. It was an important event.

Shakir Ali expressed satisfaction at the talks in a public meeting on April 12, 1939. The Nawab

the same year. Praja Mandal set up a camp for them in the Maidan.

Shakir Ali was the president and SM Kamil the general secretary of Mazdoor Sabha.

Against communalism of Muslim League

Shakir Ali Khan spoke out sharply against the 'Islamic State of Bhopal' in

Ali were arrested on June 16, 1940 and kept in worst possible conditions in jails. They started hunger strikes and satyagrahas in protest. Shakir Ali lost some 23 pounds in his weight.

He and some others were released in July 1942. They reorganized the Praja Mandal and new phase of movement began. Students had organized widespread strikes in the state. Shakir Ali and others were again arrested in September 1942.

A number of activities was organized during 1941-46 by Bhopal Praja Mandal. It also held its state conference in 1945. Several important all India leaders visited Bhopal in this connection.

Praja Mandal also fought elections to Bhopal Corporation and won 9 out of 15 seats despite communal campaigns by Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha.

Serious communal situation

Communal riots of 1946-47 had its impact in Bhopal too. Muslim League, the Khaksars, Muslim National Guards and other communal forces tried to create communal disturbances and disrupt Praja Mandal. Muslim National Guards brought out mounted forces, hundreds in numbers, with drawn swords. Shakir Ali sharply attacked Muslim League in his speeches and writings, and Praja Mandal countered the attempts to communal riots. He was even physically attacked, but on the whole, Bhopal could be saved due to the alertness of the democratic and secular forces.

Shakir Ali and Praja Mandal did lot of relief

work, as a large number of refugees kept arriving the neighbouring areas like Gwalior.

Shakir Ali unfurls Indian Tricolour

When India became independent on August 15, 1947, Bhopal did not join it nor did it recognise Indian freedom. Shakir Ali, under warrant, held a meeting in Khandwa and unfurled Indian Tricolour on the day. Praja Mandal in Bhopal organised several meetings and processions in support of freedom.

Bhopal declared its own 'freedom' in 1947. It could be merged into India only on June 1, 1949. Agitations against Bhopal Nawab broke out in 1948 demanding merger with India. The new Bhopal state was declared a 'Part C' category state ruled by a chief commissioner.

In the meantime, interim governments were formed in Bhopal with the participation of the Praja Mandal, which now became Bhopal Congress. The demand now shifted to full merger with India. Shakir Ali, Balkrishna Gupta and others played a crucial role in the merger movement.

In the interregnum, Shakir Ali resigned from Praja Mandal because of internal divisions. The Nawab had included the representatives of Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha and Bhopal Congress in his cabinet, with which Shakir Ali did not agree.

After independence, two states were formed in 1948: Vindhya Pradesh and Madhya Bharat after merger of several princely states. Bhopal joined after

the two merged together to form Madhya Pradesh in 1956. Shakir Ali emerged as a prominent leader in the new state.

Joining Communist Party

Shakir Ali contested 1952 elections as Kisan Mazdoor Mandal (KMM) candidate from Jahangirabad, and emerged second, contesting against Tarzi Mashriqi, his former colleague in Bhopal Praja Mandal. Formation of Communist Party of India was announced in Bhopal on August 15, 1952 in a public meeting. It included those who disassociated themselves from Praja Mandal, Congress and some other organizations, Shakir Ali being prominent.

Writes Shakir Ali: "I had leanings towards Communism and the association with Comrade Sajjad Zaheer, PC Joshi, Dr Ashraf gave a further push. In 1952, I formally joined Communist Party".

He was arrested in 1953. CPI became a strong force in MP. Shakir Ali won the assembly seat in 1957 from Bhopal, defeating Uddhodas Mehta of HMS, and contesting Congress and Hindu Mahasabha. He again won in 1962, 1967 and 1972. CPI won 15 out of 30 seats in Bhopal Municipality in 1959, against 12 for Congress.

Shakir Ali later on became state CPI secretary of MP, emerging as the tallest and the most widely accepted leader.

Shakir Ali died on March 14, 1978.

The entire city shutdown on its own, tens of thousands took part in the last rites and later a memorial was built in his memory.

Biographies of Communist Leaders-83

— Anil Rajimwale —

announced formation of Anti-unemployment Committee, which also included Shakir Ali as people's representatives along with four others, besides the Nawab's men. The Nawab announced several steps towards solution of the problem.

'Bhopal Times' began to be published as Urdu weekly from November 26, 1938 as the organ of Bhopal Praja Mandal.

Several affiliated organizations were also formed: youth, women's, others. Youngmen People's Association was formed, which played a crucial role in the 1942 movement. Shakir Ali Khan became the secretary of Mazdoor Sabha. Four workers were arrested and kept in Sehore Jail.

Mazdoor Sabha became an effective organization by 1946. It then included unions like those of electricity, match workers, PWD, coolie, state transport, stone workers, etc. They began a widespread movement in

the conference of All India States People's Conference in Ludhiana and presented a resolution on April 17, 1939. He described the history of collaboration of the state with the British rule and its opposition to Indian freedom movement. The Muslims were the most oppressed. He pointed out how drunken goondas were sent to break up the meetings.

Bhopal Muslim League sharply attacked the positions of Shakir Ali Khan, and he had to face up to an abusive communal campaign.

Due to machinations of the Nawab and the communal politics of Muslim League, Bhopal Praja Mandal got split in the end of 1939. Shakir Ali resigned from the presidency. Later the Mandal was reorganized, and Shakir Ali was in full control of the new Praja Mandal, with a clear secular program.

Arrests

A large number of leaders including Shakir

Private Consumption to Remain Subdued

The revision in the previous years' data has had a marginal impact on the third quarter GDP estimates, but higher inflation as well as a fall in incomes and employment along with continued uncertainty over the economic climate has dented private consumption in the October to December 2022 quarter, many economists feel. They expect private consumption to remain muted even in the fourth quarter as the base effect wears off and pent-up demand fades away.

"The revision of the data of previous years has some effect on the third quarter figures but not a very strong effect. When incomes fell due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the precautionary motives of households increases and they started holding on to

savings. That effect has continued beyond the pandemic due to the continued uncertainty," said DK Srivastava, chief policy adviser, EY India, adding that private consumption would increase once employment and incomes take off in small scale businesses and MSMEs.

According to the NSO data released on February 28, real GDP is estimated to have grown by 4.4 per cent in the October to December 2022 quarter of the fiscal from 6.3 per cent in the second quarter and 13.2 per cent in the first quarter. More worryingly, indicating a dampening of private demand, private consumption expenditure is seen to have grown by a mere 2.1 per cent in the quarter under review in real terms. In nominal terms, it increased by 8.1 per cent to '43.9 trillion in

the third quarter compared to '40.5 trillion in the second quarter of the current fiscal.

However, the finance ministry has pointed out that the revision of GDP data for previous year has made the third quarter growth seem understated.

Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda said the consumption growth is slow due to high inflation. "Are people buying more? Probably not! Consumption is likely to remain under pressure in the fourth quarter as well as the pent-up demand in services will also go away. Auto sales could continue to remain high as the supply side issues are normalising," he said.

Data such as that on industrial output also shows that consumer durables have shown negative growth in many months. Industrial output

grew by 4.3 per cent in December 2022 from a year ago with consumer durables contracting by 10.4 per cent in the month while consumer non-durables grew by 7.2 per cent. With retail inflation rising to a higher than expected 6.52 per cent in January, there is heightened expectation of a further hike in the repo rate, which is already at 6.5 per cent, in the April policy review.

Analysts also point out that while consumer demand in higher income levels is still resilient, it remains subdued in mid and low income groups. "The pandemic and inflationary pressures have hurt a lot of people at the bottom of the pyramid and they are yet to recover," said an analyst. According to a report by Emkay Global Financial Services, the implied real

GDP growth rate for the fourth quarter of the fiscal is 5.1 per cent with PFCE seen to be rising by just 1.5 per cent.

Sachchidanand Shukla, chief economist, Mahindra Group said, "We expect private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) to remain under a spot of bother and manifesting in the form of prolonged K-shaped recovery due to the lagged effect of interest rate hikes, subdued export demand, which will impact incomes in export intensive sectors like IT and textiles etc; and lastly the contraction in the centre's revenue expenditure this year at about four per cent YoY." While there is some expectation of a pickup in rural demand, but the current heat wave as well as concerns of El Nino are beginning to raise questions.

CPI National Council Resolutions

From Page 06

misdeeds of Adani group of companies.

The entire country and parliament were shaken by the serious allegations made by Hindenburg report released in US on January 24 2023.

The BJP government at the Centre including the prime minister and finance minister is silent on serious allegations made in the report and exposure of crony capitalism. It appears that huge investment made by the LIC and SBI and other public institutions from public money in Adani group is at risk and people are demanding answers. However, the government is silent. On this background one is reminded that when merely an investment of Rs1 crore made by LIC in a private company led to the resignation of then finance minister TTKrishnamachari when the matter was exposed in the Parliament (Mundhra Scam).

Close relations with Adani and our prime minister who used Adani planes during elections is known to all. Hence one expects clarification about the allegation made in Hindenburg report.

Our party had organized all India protest

day on February 13, 2023 all over India, demanding formation of JPC to probe the allegations.

This council demands that JPC be formed and appeals to the party cadre and people to intensify this agitation and expose the cozy and anti-people relationship of foreign and Indian monopoly capital with Modi government and also the anti-people functioning of tax havens and shell companies about which most media and government are silent.

On Demanding Old Pension Scheme

The national council notes that demand for pension is rightly becoming universal. Those in government sector are demanding scrapping of National Pension System (NPS) and to bring back Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Those covered by EPS-95 are demanding revision of EPS-95 minimum pension to Rs7,500 per month with DA linkage while Kisans are demanding pension too. The NPS or PM Shramyogi Mandhan Yojana, in effect takes money from the intended beneficiaries for the financial corporates to play with it in the share markets, thus subjecting their old age pension to market risks.

The government and prime minister argue that these demands if granted, will make the government bankrupt. This is baseless and devoid of any figures. The pension (OPS), as of now takes up about five per cent of the government kitty, while servicing the interest on the loan taken by the government takes up about 27 per cent of the government kitty. Further, OPS or any form of pension, in the hands of the beneficiaries, only goes back into market circulation, generating demand, which is badly needed to invigorate our sagging economy. Many non-BJP states have promised to bring back the old pension scheme for government employees. Hence, CPI appeals to all concerned to organize and agitate for this just demand.

Many state governments announced return to OPS. But the central government is not ready to return contribution made by employees in NPS. So the national council of CPI demands central government to return the contributions to state government for initiating OPS.

The national council supports the demand for pension and demand that it be given universally by the government. It is proposed that funds for the pension be generated by progressive taxation of the rich and corporates.

Remembering Rosa Luxemburg on Women's Day, March 8

An Ideologue and Inspiration for Our Time

Celebrating 152nd Birthday of Rosa Luxemburg, the revolutionary socialist, Marxist philosopher, and anti-war activist, and remembering her on Women's Day (March 8), it inspires us to act as she had said in her book 'Reform or Revolution,' that true change could only be achieved through a complete overthrow of the capitalist system. Luxemburg's vision of a better world is still within reach, and her example should inspire us all to work towards its realization.

Rosa was born on March 5, 1871, in Zamosc, Poland. She was raised in a Jewish family and showed her intellectual capabilities from a very young age. She went on to become one of the most influential thinkers and activists of her time and has continued to inspire people around the world to this day.

Luxemburg began studying in Warsaw in 1887 and later moved to Switzerland to continue her education. It was there that she was introduced to the works of Karl Marx and became a socialist activist. In 1898, Luxemburg moved to Germany and soon joined the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). She quickly rose to prominence in the party and became a leading voice in the socialist

movement.

Luxemburg was a passionate advocate for workers' rights and social justice. She believed that the capitalist system was inherently exploitative and that true democracy could only be achieved through the collective ownership of the means of production.



Luxemburg was also a fierce opponent of war and militarism. She was a vocal critic of World War I and was arrested and imprisoned for her anti-war activism in 1915. While in prison, she continued to write and organize, and her work became even more influential.

Rosa Luxemburg left an indelible mark on the political and intellectual landscape of the early 20th century. She went on to become one of the most influential thinkers and activists of her time, inspiring movements for social change around the world.

Luxemburg's life and

Dr. BV Vijayalakshmi

work were deeply influenced by the political and social conditions of the times in which she lived. She was a witness to the rise of capitalism and imperialism, the onset of World War I, and the tumultuous aftermath of

the Russian Revolution. These experiences shaped her ideological standpoints and the struggles and movements she led.

Luxemburg was deeply committed to the principles of Marxism and socialism, and she believed that the working class held the key to true democracy and social justice. She was a passionate advocate for workers' rights and believed that the capitalist system was inherently exploitative.

Luxemburg was also a fierce opponent of war and militarism. She believed that war is a product of the capitalist

system and that only an international revolution could bring about lasting peace. In her famous article 'The Junius Pamphlet,' she wrote: "The most revolutionary thing to do is to always proclaim loudly what is happening." This sentiment reflected her belief that it was essential to speak out against the injustices of war and to work towards a more just and peaceful world.

Throughout her life, Luxemburg was involved in numerous struggles and movements for social change. She was a leader in the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), where she advocated for revolutionary socialism and workers' rights. She was also a founding member of the Spartacus League, a socialist organization that played a key role in the German Revolution of 1918-1919.

Luxemburg's literary contributions were also significant. She was a prolific writer, and her work on Marxist theory, economics, and politics remains influential to this day. In 'The Accumulation of Capital,' she analyzed the contradictions of capitalism and the exploitation of labour. In 'The Russian Revolution,' she critiqued the Bolsheviks' approach to socialism and argued for a more democratic and participatory approach

to revolution.

Despite her many achievements, Luxemburg's life was cut tragically short when she was murdered by right-wing para-militarists during the German Revolution of 1919. She was just 47 years old at the time of her death.

Today, Luxemburg's legacy continues to inspire social justice movements around the world. Her commitment to workers' rights, anti-war activism, and revolutionary socialism is as relevant today as it was a century ago. As she wrote in 'Reform or Revolution,' "The future is within us, and it depends on our actions today."

Luxemburg's influence can be seen in the many movements for social change that have emerged since her death. Her ideas have been embraced by socialists, feminists, and anti-racist activists around the world. Her call for a revolution that would establish a more just and equitable society continues to resonate with people who are working to build a better world.

On the 152nd anniversary of Rosa Luxemburg's birth, we should remember her life and her legacy. We should also honour her memory by continuing the struggle for social justice and workers' rights that she devoted her life to.

Glimpses of Our Composite...

From Page 03

the progressive writer Krishan Chandar and Bijon Bhattacharya with lyrics by Sardar Jafri, Nemi Chandra Jain, Wamiq Jaunpuri and Prem Dhawan, was widely distributed in the USSR.

As the movement grew, IPTA spawned a host of cultural squads (separate ones for dance, drama, songs). Even routine PWA meetings became lively with songs and dances interspersed with academic discussions and poetry readings. The progressives wrote plays and songs that were shown to peasant and working class as well as middle-class audiences in different parts of the country. For example, Dhaani Bankein ('Green Bangles'), a play on communal riots written by the Urdu fiction writer Ismat Chughtai and Yeh Kiska Khoon Hai ('Whose Blood is This?'), a play by Ali Sardar Jafri set in Chittagong during the first Japanese bombing, were staged alongside films and documentaries from the Soviet Union.

While the plays, skits, ballets, shadow-plays dance dramas, and local forms such as the tamasha and pawachar, inspired by Marathi theatre, the jhumur from Assam and the Bengali jatra were indeed popular, it was the songs that gained the troupes instant popularity.

Saali Chowdhury joined the 'Bharotiya Ganonatiya Sangha' (as the IPTA was known in Bengal) and penned many a rousing song including Uru taka

takataghinataghina (based on a folk song sung by Bengali peasants during sowing and harvesting), Aalordesh t h e k e e y aandhaarpaarhoyee (about sacrifice and hard work for the nation), Dheuthch hey karaatutchhey (in support of the Naval uprising), and later, Hindi songs such as Aagey chalo,

The tenure of PC Joshi as general secretary of the CPI from 1935 to 1947 saw the fullest possible utilisation of culture, literature and the performing arts. Joshi had already started the practice of gathering the country's prominent writers, journalists, artists, economists, historians, film and stage actors to rally around the party organ, the National

translations into Urdu of the revolutionary Kazakh poet Jambul Jabir, who wrote 'Stalin Calls', the centuries-old ballads from Punjab called the Heer, were refashioned to weave in motifs of communal harmony.

The IPTA, the PWA and the Bombay film industry were like three interlinked circles, with overlapping memberships and a host

Chowdhury, Shailendra, AK Hangal, Balraj and Damyanti Sahni, Chetan and Uma Anand, Shaukat Azmi, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, Ismat Chughtai and others. Their most visible and immediate effect was the introduction of a non-sectarian ethos, one that rose above the narrow confines of caste, creed and religion and worked like a balm on a national psyche that had been traumatised by the communal outrages before, after and during the partition.

The glorious days of the IPTA also spanned the most tumultuous period of modern Indian history - Gandhi's call to satyagraha, India's response to the rise of fascism, Nehru's Muslim mass contact programme, Gandhi's second civil disobedience movement, the second World War and its impact on India, chronic food shortages, the rise of trade union movements and kisan sabhas, strikes, lockouts, communal disturbances that scarred the nation in the years leading up to independence and then partition.

IPTA and PWA reflected each of these momentous events that shaped the nation's destiny. At the same time, they drew the nation's attention to events outside the country such as the Rosenberg Trial, the decolonisation of Africa, the need for Afro-Asian unity, and the emergence of a new world order in which India must take its rightful place.

In short, nothing was beyond the ken. no issue was too big or too small for the PWA and the IPTA as long as art was put to the service of humanity.



aagey chalo.

Some Hindustani songs such as Suno Hind kerehnewalonsunosuno, sung by Reba Roychoudhary, Shailendra's Tuzindahai to zindagike jeet mein yaqeenkar, or Jaane

Front, and later, People's War and People's Age. Joshi understood and capitalised on the need to use culture as a living tool and believed that the revival of folk traditions was vital if people of one language group were to know the

of common concerns. Foremost among these common concerns was a socially transformative agenda that would fulfil the needs of a fledgling nation. For this, they sought inspiration not only from Marxist tomes and ideologues but also from a Congress-inspired version of socialism, and, in post-Independence India, an increasingly Nehruvian 'idea of India' that hailed schools, colleges, dams and factories as the 'temples of modern India'.

Members of the IPTA and the PWA - some of whom worked in the film industry as actors, directors, scriptwriters, lyricists, technicians, etc, such as Prem Dhawan, Prithviraj Kapoor, Salil



wale siphai se pucho written by Urdu poet Makdoom Mohiuddin, became extremely popular with the masses.

folk tradition of other language groups.

Songs on Lenin, ballads on the defence of Stalingrad, heroism of the Red Army,

US Wilfully Suppresses with Coersive Oppression

The United States of America has been manufacturing weapons to fight war earlier now it is manufacturing wars with help of the NATO countries for selling weapons.

China in a scathing attack on the American foreign policy listed the US crimes abroad using imperialist tactics. China has given a counterpoint to the US led Western narrative. The flashpoint is already costing the world catastrophically. The attack is in form of a long essay titled "U.S. Hegemony and Its Perils".

The essay contains the US recent and current wars in the Middle East which resulted into the killings of thousands of people. It also exposes the US action of bullying sanctions against Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and now Russia which had great impact on the people of these countries.

According to the article the US had or has imposed economic sanctions on 40 countries globally including China, DPRK which had or has affected nearly half of the global population.

The American hypocrisy has been exposed completely which has gone against its own very principles of liberal market economy which it has long espoused, claimed to represent and boasted. The United States of America has become the United States of sanctions. Its long arm jurisdiction has been limited to be a tool for the it. It used its state power to suppress economic competitors and interfere in normal international business.

It is notable that China has unveiled a peace plan that was intended to play down the Russia-Ukraine war, which the US and Europe took it unwelcome.

The US with its political hegemony wants to throw its weight around the world to put in its own values and political system in the name of promoting its so called democracy and human rights. The US interference in the internal affairs of Latin American countries, instigated colour revolutions in Eurasia and ill-designed Arab spring in West Asia and North America, which brought chaos and destruction to numerable countries. There are many more examples.

The US history has the characteristic of violence and imperialistic expansion by using force.



Through its military hegemony the US and its allies willing to use its mighty military force against anyone willing to question the US. It slaughtered Indians, invaded Canada, did war against Mexico, instigated the American and Spanish war and annexed Hawaii.

The Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Gulf war, the Kosovo war, the Afghanistan war, the Iraq war, the Libyan war and the Syrian war all are the result of abuse of US military hegemony with expansionist aim. For successful wars, the US has multiplied its military spending 700 billion US dollar. Its force comprises about 800 overseas military bases, with

1,73,000 troops deployed in 159 countries.

The US has fought or been militarily involved with almost all the 190-odd countries which are recognised by the UNO. The US has undertaken more than 400 military interventions worldwide between 1779 to 2019, it is 34 percent in Latin American and Caribbean nations, 23 percent in East Asia and the Pacific, 14 percent in the Middle East and North Africa and 13 percent in Europe. Presently it has intensified its intervention in the Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

with economic coercion. Its economic hegemony flashpoint is to loot and exploit the developing and under-developing countries.

The US is using its technological hegemony just to thrust its monopoly and suppress the technological and scientific development in other countries. Its cultural hegemony is to spread false narratives on one pretext or the other. The US monopolises intellectual property in the name of protection.

It has to be noted that the US has emerged most powerful nation after the two world wars and

particularly after the cold war. It has intensified its bold interference in the internal affairs of other independent and sovereign nations by abusing all the above mentioned hegemonic powers to advance its subversion and infiltration, willingly waging unequal wars harming the international harmony and peace.

The US has often used cultural tools to strengthen and maintain its hegemony in the world. American values and lifestyle are a tied product to its movies and TV shows, publications, media content, and programs by the government-funded non-profit cultural institutions.

Diary of International Events

C. Adhikesavan

Latin America praises Chávez's ideals of social struggle

In concluding ceremony of the world meeting for the validity of the Bolivarian thought of Commander Chávez in the XXI century, the former president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, highlighted that despite the onslaught of imperialism to harm the Venezuelan people, the presidents, ministers and political leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean have met to pay homage to the leader of the Bolivarian Revolution, Hugo Chávez, ten years after his passing.

Zelaya proudly said that the to those who celebrated the death of Hugo Chávez, believing that this would make the Venezuelan people easy prey for the empire; to those who use NGOs and finance them from Europe and the United States to destabilise the revolutionary process and assassinate leaders of the Bolivarian Revolution; to those who have carried out political trials against Latin American leaders and who have carried out coups d'état in Honduras, Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil and cruel, infamous genocides, the blockade of Venezuela, to all the birds of ill omen, Zelaya said to all the birds of ill omen that they were absolutely wrong. After ten years of Chávez's passing, here those leaders are again in Venezuela with Nicolás Maduro, with Correa, Evo, with Lula da Silva, Cristina, Raúl, Daniel, with the presidents and ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean; we are giving honour where honour is due.

They emphasised that the best homage to Chávez is to be revolutionary, and to be revolutionary is to be anti-imperialist. The best tribute to Chávez is not to betray the people's struggle because although the empire tried to defeat his ideals, it only succeeded in immortalising him.

On Record ...

Google India has begun firing people as part of the 12,000 layoffs announced at the beginning of the year by CEO Sundar Pichai. The layoffs were announced in a surprise announcement by Google on January 20 this year and has impacted over 450 people in India. One such employee impacted by the layoffs is Deepak Jain, who had been working for Google for nearly two years. - *India Today*, March 7.

Before being arrested in a bribery case earlier this month, Prashanth Madal - the son of BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa and Chief Accounts Officer of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board - was suspended in 2017 after crores of rupees belonging to a government agency were allegedly diverted.

Prashanth was arrested on March 2 while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40 lakh on behalf of his father who was serving as the chairman of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd (KSDL). Officials also conducted raids on the residences of

Prashanth and Virupakshappa and recovered cash. Virupakshappa resigned as KSDL chairman following the raids. He is yet to be arrested and the Lokayukta police have issued a lookout notice against him. - *The Indian*



Express, March 2.

A case has been registered in Tamil Nadu against the right wing news portal CEO of OpIndia.com and its editor in Chief Nupur J Sharma for fake news about migrants from

Bihar being attacked in Tamil Nadu under IPC under 153A and 505. The Avadi Police said a functionary of the DMK IT wing has filed a complaint alleging that Opindia.com has carried fake news that migrants from other states are being attacked, which could create panic among them. It all began with people in north India tweeting unrelated videos of people being beaten up and killed with a caption that at least a dozen migrant labourers from Bihar were beheaded in Tamil Nadu, triggering panic. - *The Deccan Herald*, March 7.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief MK Stalin said that some are opposed to his party because they have been raising their voice against the oppressed sections of society.

"They are opposing us for the reason that we are uplifting those who have been oppressed for years. They are opposing us because we are providing a free bus scheme for women, whom they think must be confined to homes. They are opposing us because we are giving Rs 1000 to girl students for their education. They don't like the fact that all of us are moving forward. That's why they are opposing us," he said. - *India Today*, March 7.

- *Compiled by C. Adhikesavan*

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To Strengthen Peace...

From Last Page

spectrum dominance in every sphere;

- A policy of regime change in the name of 'US-mark democracy';

- Indulging terrorist outfits in different countries;

- Aggressive military exercises individually and along with various countries in different regions of the world;

- Stoking incessant hostility among neighbourly countries;

- Unleashing war either overtly or covertly through NATO;

- Trampling of human rights, violation of UN charter.

All these features are results of International Finance Capital's thirst for global dominance, endangering the values of non-interference, human rights, peaceful co-existence, and global harmony, etc.

In our country, to our deep concern, we find:

- Aggressive pursuance of neo-liberal policies, encouraging crony capitalism and the forces bent on imposing Hindutva ideology overriding the syncretic characteristics of our society in respect of religion, caste, culture, language and ethnicity;

- Attack on our constitutional values;

- A shift in our foreign policy, away from the non-aligned, independent path;

- Attack on our federal structure, paving way for centralisation;

- Rising fissiparous and divisive tendencies and

- An unmitigated attack on the rights of our workers, farmers, women, youth, students, artists, intellectuals, and various other progressive, patriotic, secular and democratic forces.

3. AIPSO is a pan-Indian organisation, as well as a contingent of the World Peace Council. It has a commitment towards ensuring peace



among the people of our country and with the people of other countries. It has a commitment towards forging solidarity against the growing onslaught of imperialism. Fascist forces are once again rising their heads and are trying to penetrate deep into the very roots of our society. Global peace is in jeopardy. Principles of social justice are at stake. While on the bleak side we see a rise in the of right-wing governments in most of the European Countries, on the brighter side we also find signs of optimism, particularly in Latin America, where Left and Centre-left governments are in power in at least ten countries.

To-day in nearly 50 conflict zones around the world, almost one and half billion people live under the threat of

violence. By 2030, 50-64 percent of the global poor will live in countries affected by fragility, conflicts and high levels of violence. This situation is caused mainly by US, the citadel of imperialism, which is deeply influenced by the military-industrial complex whose only greed is to amass profits and super profits by means like armament

sale. Unleashing wars, creating an atmosphere of socio-political and economic unrest, aiding and abetting violence, terrorism and war psychosis become the pervading features. War is disastrous to the entire people, but to US-imperialism, it is terribly profitable. So, the movement for peace and solidarity is a movement for pro-people policies, development, and planning in each country.

4. Israel had declared itself as a Jewish state. It has occupied and continues to occupy Palestinian land, curtails the democratic rights of Palestinians and kills them every day. Even their religious freedom is under attack. It is a shame that with such a country, India has entered into an alliance called I2U2 – India, Israel, UAE and US. On the other hand, our relations

with our neighbours like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China and now even Bhutan have got deteriorated.

5. This national conference expresses its concern at the inaction of imperialist powers to curtail climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental issues like climate change are matters of concern for the existence of life – both of humankind and plants.

6. The ongoing Ukraine-Russian war is actually a war between Russia and NATO countries, since the latter are helping Ukraine to prolong and extend the war. This war has a devastating effect on people and a crippling effect on the economy of many countries, causing disturbances and even stoppages of the natural movement. AIPSO believes that war is no solution for any problem, rather it accentuates the problems.

7. We are deeply perturbed over the policies of our government as it is trying to turn back the wheels of progress with following steps:

- Dismantling the state sector making disinvestment the order of the day;

- Hindutva distortions are imposed

upon our glorious freedom struggle;

- Mythology is replacing history and

- Superstition is replacing science

Thus the country is taken backwards towards religious sectarianism, cultural nationalism, obscurantism, backwardness, superstition etc. This only means to drag people of the country away from scientific temper to strengthen the base of fascist forces. This helps the fascist forces to create an environment where freedom of thought and expression are throttled, democratic set-up is shattered, division and dissension among different sections of people on the basis of caste, religion, food, dress are encouraged. Hatred and violence become pervasive decimating the federal structure of the country.

In this present context, from the city of Chandigarh, we call upon the people of India to join and strengthen struggles:

- To defend Constitutional values;

- For a secular and democratic policy;

- For India's long standing non-aligned, independent foreign policy;

- For achieving peace, democracy, social justice,

- For strengthening solidarity with the people of Cuba, Palestine, Syria, Venezuela, and other countries struggling for their just causes

- For an equitable global order.

Chandigarh AIPSO National Conference Call

To STRENGTHEN PEACE, SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT



World Peace Council President Pallab Sengupta addressing the conference

CHANDIGARH: The national conference of All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation was held in Chandigarh on March 4-5, 2023. The conference was held under the theme of "In defence of Constitutional Values, World Peace and for Anti-imperialist Solidarity". The conference was attended by 287 delegates elected from 21 states, few observers and fraternal delegations from World Peace Council (Greece), Vietnam Peace Council, Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), Bangladesh Peace Council, Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council and Sri Lanka Peace Council.

On March 4, at 11am, conference started after hoisting of the national and AIPSO flag. Members of the AIPSO presidium Nilotpal Basu, Yadav Reddy along with

the general secretaries of AIPSO, respected guests from Punjab and fraternal delegates were in the dais for the inaugural session of the conference.

Prof Harbans Singh Sidhu, chairman of the reception committee, welcomed all delegates and guests of the conference. While welcoming the delegates he reminded about the glorious past of AIPSO. He was optimistic about the conference and its deliberations and hoped it would further strengthen the process of rebuilding the AIPSO.

RS Cheema, senior Advocate of Punjab and Haryana High Court inaugurated the conference. In his speech he explained present international and national political situation in detail and urged AIPSO leadership to transform the present organisation into 'people's organisation'

by bringing masses from all sections to meet any challenges of reactionary forces.

All the fraternal delegates also spoke at the inaugural session.

In delegate session Political and Organizational reports were placed by R Arun Kumar and Pallab Sengupta respectively. More than 30 delegates took part in the discussions. On March 5, Resolutions on solidarity with the people of Cuba and Palestine, war in Ukraine and for good neighbourly relations were adopted unanimously.

Harchand Singh Bhatt explained the political content of Chandigarh declaration and that was also passed unanimously. In last session 11 members advisory council and 31 members office bearers got elected. Pallab Sengupta, Nilotpal Basu,

Rambabu Kumar and Didi Sudhakar became members of the presidium while Harchand Singh Bhatt and R Arun Kumar became the general secretaries. P Sandosh Kumar, MP and Anjan Bera became assistant general secretaries of AIPSO.

Delegates were highly appreciative, and expressed their sincere gratitude and thanks to the reception committee and Punjab comrades for organising the national conference in Chandigarh so successfully.

Chandigarh Declaration

1. AIPSO national conference being held at Chandigarh in its concluding session places before you the 'Chandigarh Declaration' which is for adoption after giving due consideration to the deliberations and discussions by the

delegates, and the distinguished guests on the political and organisational reports. Thus the 'Chandigarh Declaration' is the summarized version of the accumulated thoughts embracing the perspective, perception and program of our organization for the coming years. This document is an expression of the theme of this national conference which is 'In defence of Constitution, values, world peace and for anti-imperialist solidarity'.

2. This national conference is being held against the backdrop of some serious and ominous features witnessed both internationally and nationally.

Internationally we witness:

An aggressive US imperialism which is launching a full

On Page 15