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Massive Response to CPI Call for Satyagraha

More than One Lakh People Join Agitation in Bihar

PATNA: The two-day mass satyagraha and 'Jail Bharo' movement of the Bihar state council of the Communist Party of India on June 8 and 9, 2023 successfully concluded at the district headquarters with the slogan 'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao'. Despite the scorching heat, more than one lakh workers and sympathizers participated in the agitation and courted arrest. Through the movement, the party could expose the anti-people policies of the BJP government at the Centre. It was resolved to do everything possible to remove the Bharatiya Janata Party government from power at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The preparation for the movement started on April 14 itself, the day of birth anniversary of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar. Village-to-village march was taken out. Street meetings were organized. Publicity was spread through jeep jathas. The strategy of the movement was chalked out by the

meetings of the party branch, zonal and zillaparishad committees. For the preparation of the movement, party state council secretary Ramnaresh Pandey visited the districts repeatedly, took part in the zillaparishad meetings and prepared the outline of the movement.

This type of movement is seen in Bihar after a long



time. With this movement, the influence of the Communist Party of India has increased a lot among the general public. This movement has become a topic of discussion among the common people in Bihar.

In the first phase, on June 8 and 9, the programme was organized in 30 out of 38 districts of Bihar, in which

Kirnesh Kumar

the movement was successfully completed in 29 districts. In eight districts — Begusarai, Madhubani, Saharsa, Banka, Darbhanga, Gaya, Nawada and Shivhar — satyagraha will be held in the second phase on June 20. Due to municipal elections in these districts on June 8 and 9, it was decided to postpone the movement to June 20.

A large number of women, farm labourers and youth participated in the agitation amidst the scorching sun and 44-45 degree temperature. Work has come to a standstill in most of the district collectorates of the state for two days. The agitators had jammed the gate of the collectorates from ten in the morning. In many districts, the police had to struggle a lot in arresting the agitators.

On June 8, the Communist Party of India organized a two-day mass satyagraha and jail bharo with the slogan 'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao' at the district headquarters as part of a state-wide programme against the Central government's anti-people policies, privatisation, democracy and the attack on the Constitution by the BJP government. On the first day

of the movement, demonstrations were held at more than two dozen district headquarters of the state, the gate of the district collectorates was jammed and thousands of party workers and supporters protested in various districts including Saran, Gopalganj, Sheikhpura. In Sheikhpura district, agitators were arrested under the leadership of Superintendent of Police and agitators were kept under arrest in three police stations.

On the first day of the movement, on June 8, court arrest programme was held at more than two dozen district headquarters of the state. In Patna, state secretariat member Ramlala Singh, executive members Gajanfar Nabab, Ajay Kumar, district secretary Vishwajit Kumar led the agitation. In East Champaran, state secretariat member Rambabu Kumar, district secretary Vishwanath Yadav, Sambhu Sharan Singh led the protesters. In Samastipur state secretariat member Ramchandra Mahto and district secretary Surendra Kumar Singh Munna led the agitation. In Muzaffarpur, state secretariat member Ajay Kumar Singh and district secretary Ramkishore Jha led the movement.

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Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja assured Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal that the party would oppose the anti-people Delhi Ordinance of the Central government both inside and outside Parliament when the latter called on him at CPI central headquarters, Ajoy Bhavan, in New Delhi on June 14, 2023. D Raja made it clear that the Ordinance undermines the principles of federalism and such things happening in Delhi today can happen tomorrow in any state.

Along with D Raja, party national council secretaries Dr K Narayana, Dr B K Kango, Ramkrushna Panda, Delhi state council secretary Dinesh Varshney and national council member Shankarlal were present at the meeting. Kejriwal was accompanied by AAP MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha.

Kerala on Verge of Digital Revolution

There had been tall promises made by the RSS-BJP government as early as in 2019 to offer online infrastructure and Internet connectivity through the 'Digital India' programme with a vision to transform the country into a digitally-empowered society with a rich knowledge economy. It was to be ready for public access by 2022. More than half of 2023 is over, but country is yet to see the fulfillment of the ambitious goal.

Kerala has turned the dreams into reality and has become the first state in the country to enter the process of fourth revolution, next to electronic, the transition to digitalization, which ensures the universal digital access. Universal internet connections would be provided through Fiber Optic Network project. An estimated 20 lakh below poverty line families will get it free. It is to narrow down the digital divide. Three years back, United Nations had passed a resolution recognizing internet access as basic human right. The very fact that through productive forces, socio economic formations come to existence, ensures that the basic right to internet is the right to enter the digital world which knows no limits. It opens up the world based not on production, but knowledge. The electronic movement is more brain like and almost similar to consciousness than to the physical labour process. Machines are getting identified with the processes in the brain. It is not the means of the individual labour. It is labour itself, of the worker, who is a mediating factor. The significance of this fact is far reaching, with implications influencing present and future both. Karl Marx had said more than two centuries back that the fixed capital in its use value goes beyond the definition of capital. It is not only that. Under the impact of electronic revolution which Kerala is undergoing, new horizons are opening and they are yet to be

defined. It is in fact quantum revolution under which fundamental transformations are going on, where commodity and capital as also the labour are getting transformed since signals, rays, signs and images are not the part of modern world, which is stepping out of it.

The setting up of the vast infrastructural context, that would be providing internet, even to the far off parts of the state like tribal areas in Wayanad and other places, away from the mainstream information flow has been already accomplished. The responsibility of cabling, stretching to 34,961 kms, has been rendered to the infrastructure of Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB). KFON is joint venture of the KSEB and Kerala State Information Technol-

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ogy Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL). KFON has been granted an infrastructure provider (IP) license by DoT which approved it as an internet service provider. The blue print says that 14000 BPL families spread over 140 assembly constituencies are targeted presently with hundred families in each of them. Along with all this the government has also launched a digital literacy programme from the lowest levels in the society through local bodies to ascertain that every member of the society is equipped to access basic services through the internet. Each of the household would be entitled to 1.5 GB data every day at 15 Mbps speed. In the second phase, internet services would be available at affordable prices. All these steps ensure that Kerala will initiate the change from below, at the ground level, in the context of access and opportunities. Free internet connections for BPL families and government institutions are just a share of Rs 1548 crore KFON project,

the rest would be monetized. In 2022, the LDF government had formed a committee to look into the possibilities of monetization of the network. KFON has a total of 48 fibers out of which 22 would be used by the network itself, and KSEB also using some. Rest can be leased out.

In fact the state of Kerala has been the only one among those few who dared to opt for higher connectivity. Slowly it has evolved and now plans are there to equip even those from the lower depths.

The digital access is to be made available universally. In Kerala, the government offices have already introduced digital services and single window portals. Internet use varies considerably by education level, which can accentuate socio-economic inequalities. Differences in education also affect online activities. Remote work and education are the main purposes of Internet use among households whose heads have at least tertiary education. Meanwhile, instant messaging is the most prevalent use among households with a respondent with only primary education.

There are also those slow mobility regions where only internet can provide communication like in the COVID days. It was only digital technology that came to assist in those remote areas.

It has been shown that higher connectivity to the Internet is related to higher labour force participation, employment mobility, job creation, and then the overall job growth. Internet access also enables access to critical public services like education, hospitals and other medical facilities, and finally the basic essential like strengthening economic and social resilience.

CPI Demands Early Elections in J&K

JAMMU: Communist Party of India national council secretary and former Rajya Sabha member Azeez Pasha expressed deep concern over the delay in restoring the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the party's Jammu and Kashmir state council meeting in Jammu on June 8, Pasha said that the entire area has been reeling under bureaucratic rule since 2018 and the government is still in no mood to hold the long overdue assembly elections.

Pasha said that in the absence of an elected

representative government, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been suffering immensely. He said that the restoration of democratic process and statehood for the region are among the top priorities of CPI.

Pasha pointed out that unemployment in the region has reached unprecedented levels.

He said that the tall claims of the government about the big corporate houses making investments in the region are farce.

Party state council secretary G M Mizrab said that the secular forces must put up a united show

to defeat the communal and divisive agenda of BJP. He wanted the party's national leadership to mobilise the secular and like-minded parties to mount pressure on the Central dispensation for holding the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was presided over by senior party leader and national council member Rakesh Sharma.

Prominent among others who attended the meeting included Amar Jeet Singh, Ashwani Kapoor, G M Bhat, Manzoor Daikoo and Abdul Aziz. ■

History is not for Erasing, It is to Belong

Every generation has the right to interpret history. German philosopher, author, social theorist and economist Karl Marx also reminded us, “History repeats itself: first as a tragedy, second as a farce.” Hence, lessons of history guide us to avoid the pitfalls of the past.

Historiography has undergone many transformations. Western historians saw history in a linear fashion—in which man went from being a caveman to a post-modern one. Thus, according to Western historians, history is a progressive journey from one stage to another.

Others have doubted this narrative: they have pointed out the fall of mighty empires, like the Egyptian and the Roman, the Mayan and the Aztec ones. Some have noted the ups and downs of history, from the mighty Roman Empire to the Dark Ages. Many have seen history as a string of dynasties, kings, queens and emperors. This is the most popular form of teaching history—full of individuals, dates and events.

Marxist historians did not see history from top-down, but from bottom-up. To them, individuals don't change the course of history; movements do. They began seeing history from the point of view of the common man. They tried to discover the voice of the voiceless, the face of the faceless. In such histories, the Great Pyramids of Egypt and the Pharaohs were not important. What was important were the people who built the pyramids; the technology, the science and the mathematical precision which was used to build a wonder of the ancient world.

However, it is one thing to interpret history, another to erase it from textbooks.

The National Council of Educational Research and

Training (NCERT) has recently released a new set of textbooks for middle and high school students. The new ‘edition’ of textbooks has deleted chapters on Mughal history; this has raised a storm.

The issue is not about the competency of the NCERT to change the contents of the syllabus. The issue is about the consequences of such deletion of our history—a history which is not only glorious, but also continuous.

Before masking parts of our history, the NCERT

essential to know where we come from. Mankind is not only forward looking, but also backward looking. Jamaican political activist Marcus Garvey said, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and cultures is like a tree without roots.”

It is imperative for children to know about the trials and tribulations, and the triumphs of our past. Where did we come from? How did we develop as a people, as a society and as a nation? Where are we going? British statesman, soldier, and

*Justice R.S. Chauhan
(Rtd)*

Christians come from? How and when did Jainism and Sikhism emerge? What are the different customs in the country? What prompted these customs to be created? History runs into sociology and anthropology, philosophy and the arts, literature and linguistics. It tells us who we are and why we are the way we are.

Thirdly, history teaches us about the mistakes and mishaps of the past. We learn

emphasis on rhetoric and scientific temper, about their tragic plays and democratic city-States. We see how different sets of people have tried to solve the problem of widows in their society. While the Christian world assigned their widows to the nunneries, the Islamic world permitted them to re-marry; we assigned them to the flames, or to the temple towns. Human problems form a common denominator in different times and places. Instead of reinventing the wheel, we learn from others' solutions.

Fifthly, history opens our world vision; we become more accepting of other cultures, of their value systems, of their lifestyle. Once we remember that Islam was born in the harsh desert of Arabia, we can appreciate certain Islamic traditions: of eating together—lack of water did not permit them to have utensils for each individual; their love for the green colour—green in the desert symbolised life; their love for fountains and flowing water in their gardens—water was life, water was paradise.

Sixthly, the study of history cultivates the habit of looking at a fact from multiple points of views. The same fact may have different interpretations: the events of 1857 in Northern India are called a “mutiny” by the English. Yet, for us, it is the “first war of independence”. Mutineers suddenly turn into freedom fighters. Similarly, the Japanese–American conflict during the Second World War has two different and opposite interpretations, depending on whether one is reading

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should have asked a few important questions: why do we study history? What would be the consequences of erasing parts of our history? Would such deliberate gaps enlighten our citizens? Would the elimination of a certain period of history strengthen or weaken our nation? If the goal of the government is to strengthen the nation, to ensure “sabkasaath, sabkavikaas”, then the deleting of our history is a self-defeating proposition.

History is taught not to burden students, but to enlighten them. Firstly, it is

writer Sir Winston Churchill was not wrong when he said, “The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.” Thus, the knowledge of history places us in a time capsule.

Secondly, it teaches us about our own country and culture. Where did the caste system come from? How did the Sanatan Dharma grow? When did the Bhakti movement begin? Why are North and South India so different? What are the origins of the different languages in India?

Where did different communities, such as the Muslims, the Parsis, and the

about the horrors of the Holocaust, about the catastrophe of the atomic bomb. As Spanish–American philosopher, essayist, poet and novelist George Santayana said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

Fourthly, history reveals the plurality of the world around us. It tells us about different cultures and civilisations, different concerns and solutions; it reveals the reasons for the way the people are. We learn about the Greek and Roman civilisations, about their

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Central Party School for Women in Delhi

A six-day central party school for women cadres in Hindi medium was held in Ajoy Bhavan, New Delhi, from June 5 to 10 (2023). It was attended by 27 comrades from Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, West Bengal among others. They were drawn from various levels of mass organisations of the party like the AITUC, BKMU, NFIW and others. It was held after a long gap, and as such was an important effort.

The school was inaugurated by Azeez Pasha, member of national secretariat of CPI. Emphasizing the urgent need for political and ideological training of women cadres and of cadres in general, he described the general and critical political situation in the country and underlined the need to fight the rightwing communal propaganda. Karnataka has taught the communal

forces a lesson. India is among the lowest in living standards index. Daily, some 350 persons are giving up Indian citizenship. Hate feelings are being generated under BJP regime. A false propaganda is being carried on around the G20 conference. He called upon the participants to study Marxism-Leninism, CPI's program and policies and alternatives for the future.

Those present included Krishna Jha, Yugal Rayalu and Anil Rajimwale.

Subjects

The participants were taught a wide variety of subjects, such as: What is Marxism, by Krishna Jha; Political Economy of Capitalism, by Yugal Rayalu; World Communist Movement, by Amit Kumar; Varna, Caste and Class in Indian Society, by R Dayal; Threat from Communal-fascism, by Ashwani Bakshi; CPI History, by Anil Rajimwale; CPI Program and Policies, by Dr

Anil Rajimwale

Kango; History of NFIW, by Supriya Chotani; CPI and Gender Question, by Annie Raja.

There were enthusiastic and animated discussions throughout the school, and comrades took great amount of interest. A large number of books were sold. Notes for the lectures were circulated and discussed.

Comrades took part in the morning walks to keep themselves fit.

A five-member school committee was elected by the participants, with Shyamasree Das as monitor.

Review session

CPI general secretary D Raja addressed the participants of the school in its review session and congratulated them for working hard to make the school a success. He said that the party is now paying more attention to political/ideological education.

The slogan of 'Inquilab Zindabad' (long live revolution) should be followed in real sense by putting into practice education and other work.

D Raja pointed out that the 24th CPI congress had identified at least three features: class, caste and patriarchy, to be dealt with and resolved. The BJP government has been taking the country back to the days of 'Manusmriti'. They want that the girls should marry early and become mothers early, which is the philosophy of the RSS that follows the ideology of patriarchy.

It reflects the plight women are facing. We need to promote as many women as possible at all levels of the party and mass organizations. It is good that the participants asked a large number of questions and took interest in the proceedings. More such schools are necessary to inculcate the communist consciousness.

He called upon them to convey their experiences to their children and others. Women cannot be deprived of their due role as they share half of the population. They are like the inspiration for the masses to move forward. Marx had Jenny, his wife, as inspiration, and Lenin had Krupskaya.

In the meeting were also present Dr Kango, RK Panda, and Azeez Pasha, national secretariat members and Annie Raja, Yugal Rayalu and Anil Rajimwale.

The school had a very encouraging and enthusiastic review session. Each one of the participants spoke out, describing her experiences. They said they learnt a lot. Now they want to take it forward. They will organize schools in their areas. They also gave many suggestions. Some of the states, which did not send any, should take note.

The next women cadres' school will be held in English in Hyderabad from 17 to 22 June (2023). ■

What the Others Say...

Miles to go

India's economy is firmly out of the throes of the pandemic blues, the higher-than-expected 7.2 per cent GDP growth last year could actually be an 'underestimate', and the country is now poised for a decade, if not more, of uninterrupted 6.5-7 per cent growth, even if no further reforms are undertaken. This was the key message from Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran's prognosis of the state of the economy, conveyed to industry leaders last week. The CEA's elaborate elucidation on the economy's bright prospects can well be seen as a fresh official nudge to the private sector to stop worrying and restart investing. At the same time, his comment that the economy could be on 'auto-pilot' mode, may be a hint that the appetite for important pending reforms such as rationalising the GST structure or fixing archaic factor market laws is low, at least till the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

With sectors such as steel and cement seeing higher capacities in action, sections of industry may well start loosening the purse strings soon but a broad-based revival may take longer and needs more actions to buttress the confidence-building. That India has now recovered from the Covid-19 hit on the economy, marked by a 5.8 per cent GDP contraction in 2020-21, is good. But returning to the pre-pandemic trajectory is not enough — remember that growth had slid for seven successive quarters even before the pandemic lockdowns. The economy grew just 3.9 per cent in 2019-20 from 6.5 per cent in the year before, and the quality of the recovery thus far remains uneven. Unless private investment recovers firmly and revs up job creation for millions of youth, demand growth shall not sustain enough to create the virtuous cycle the government is betting on. If India wants to encash the world's China-plus-one supply chain quest, that intent is not often matched by actions. Misadventures such as high import tariffs and the complex 'angel tax' on inbound investments apart, even failing to fix an online service to register a new company does not engender invest-

tor confidence. Before the economic engine can be truly on 'auto pilot' mode, the government must desist from unnecessary tinkering with its calibrations and create conducive conditions for a smooth and swift, hurdle-free passage for value and job creators.

Courtesy: The Hindu

Sons of the soil

Dog whistles in Indian politics are common. Yet, Assam's CM Himanta Biswa Sarma managed to draw attention with a new variety, "fertiliser jihad". In his public speeches, he has linked this attack to the adverse impact of fertilisers on soil quality and human health. The key point here is that there's a difference between fertiliser use, which is one of the pillars on which India's food security rests, and fertiliser overuse. The overuse or irrational use has less to do with the community identity of farmers. Instead, it has a lot to do with the subsidy policy.

India subsidises fertilisers to improve yields. Fertiliser subsidy in the budget estimates for 2023-24 was ₹ 1.75 lakh crore, about 43% of the overall subsidy bill of about ₹ 4 lakh crore. Subsidies for food and fertilisers, which are linked, make up almost 90% of the subsidy bill. Therefore, Sarma's position on fertilisers is inconsistent with GOI's encouragement of their use. Indeed, we have a problem with a lopsided approach to fertiliser use. However, that's the result of the subsidy policy that has resulted in excessive urea use. The answer to it is subsidy reform. Blaming farmers is meaningless.

Sarma's stand, if followed widely, can undermine food security as alternatives to fertilisers cannot be unveiled at short notice. Everyone needs to learn from Sri Lanka's experience. In 2021, their government banned import of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides. It was followed by a sharp fall in agricultural output and food shortages. It may not be possible to end dog whistles in Indian politics, but it's in everyone's interest to ensure that nothing compromises India's food security that's been built over decades. There's a strong case to rationalise fertiliser use. Let that be guided by science.

Courtesy: The Times of India

The global jobs gap in 2023 would be 453 million, which amounts to 11.7 per cent, more than double the level of current gap. It would be much higher among women at 14.5 per cent than men at 9.8 per cent. This level of global unemployment is certainly below the pandemic level, but it would reflect stronger-than-expected resilience in high-income countries rather than a generalized recovery in the labour market.

While providing this data encapsulated by the ILO's jobs gap indicator, the latest ILO Monitor on the World of Work, has said that various global shocks and risks are holding back labour market recovery, especially in low- and middle-income countries. In developing countries, responding to the current multiple crises is constrained by a combination of high inflation and high interest rates, along with a growing risk of debt distress.

The global jobs gap of 453 million includes both the 191 million unemployed people and an additional 262 million who want employment but do not qualify as unemployed. Those without a job but not classified as unemployed include, for instance, people who are discouraged from searching and those currently unable to take up employment at short notice, such as persons with care responsibilities.

On the other hand, progress has been slow in improving access to social protection, the report says. A decade has passed since the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), was adopted, yet still more than half of the world's popula-

tion lacks access to any form of social protection.

Precipitated by the war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing cost-of-living crisis has hurt incomes and livelihoods around the world, especially in developing countries, the report underscored. Moreover, the global GDP growth is expected to decelerate to 2.8 per cent this year, down from 3.4 per cent in 2022. This slowdown masks a significant divergence between advanced and developing economies.



Without action on jobs and social protection, low-income countries will be left further behind, the report has warned referring to low-income countries in Africa and Arab States which are in very bad shape even now, and are unlikely to recover to pre-pandemic levels of unemployment this year.

Low-income countries will be facing the largest jobs gap rate at 21.5 per cent, while the rate in middle-income countries, the category in which India falls, would be slightly above 11 per cent. High income countries to register the lowest rates, at

Labour Market Recovery Faces Multiple Crisis

Dr Gyan Pathak

8.2 per cent. Low-income countries are the only country income group that has seen a long-term rise in jobs gap rate, from 19.1 per cent in 2005 to 21.5 per cent in 2023.

Low-income countries in debt distress face a jobs gap of 25.7 per cent in 2023, compared with 11 per cent in the developing countries, indicating that financial and fiscal constraints are ham-

Significant social protection policy gaps remain in developing countries, especially in low-income countries, including in regard to old-age pensions. Only 38.6 per cent of older persons in lower-middle-income and 23.2 per cent in low-income countries receive an old-age

Such basic old-age pensions in developing countries would also reduce the share of the population living below the US\$2.15 PPP poverty line by 6 percentage points and increase the income share of the bottom 40 per cent of the income distribution by 2.5 percentage points. Furthermore, the induced effects of basic pensions would reduce the gender gap in labour income by 3.6 percentage points, equivalent to the global progress registered in the last 15 years.

The report pointed out that the required financial resources for expanding basic old-age pensions are large but not insurmountable. For developing countries, the annual cost of providing basic old-age pensions at the level of national poverty lines is equivalent to 1.6 per cent of GDP (2.3 per cent and 1.5 per cent of GDP for low-income and lower-middle-income countries, respectively). For sub-Saharan Africa, the cost would be US\$23.3 billion, or 1.4 per cent of GDP and approximately 12.5 per cent of global annual official development assistance.

The UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection, and the Global Coalition for Social Justice, can build global resources to achieve basic old-age pensions, as one part of a reform of the international financial architecture to better address the needs of lower-income countries, the ILO monitor concluded. ■

pension. Investing in national social protection systems based on equitable and sustainable financing from taxes and social contributions and complemented by international support where needed, is necessary and will bring economic, social and employment benefits.

The ILO's new estimates confirm that building a national social protection floor, for example, through expanding basic old-age pensions in developing countries would increase GDP per capita in low- and lower-middle-income countries by 14.8 per cent within 10 years.

pering their policy responses, further worsening labour market conditions.

Some countries are facing particularly complex and cascading crises, which interact with broader global challenges and exacerbate labour market impacts. They range from natural disasters (e.g. the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syrian Arab Republic) to multiple economic shocks (e.g. in Sri Lanka), which have come on top of the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global cost-of-living crisis.

India's Growth to Decline to 6.3 per cent

World Bank expects growth in India to slowdown further to 6.3 per cent in the financial year 2023-24 (April to March). This is a 0.3 percentage point downward revision from the previous estimates of 6.6 per cent. The international financial institution attributes constrained private consumption due to high inflation as the main reason for slowdown. Nevertheless, it expects India to continue to

be among the fastest-growing economy.

In its Global Economic Prospects report, World Bank explained that the slowdown is attributed to private consumption being constrained by high inflation and rising borrowing costs, while government consumption is impacted by fiscal consolidation.

Nevertheless, World Bank expects India's growth to pick up slightly through

2025-26 as inflation moves back toward the midpoint of the tolerance range and reforms payoff.

India will remain the fastest-growing economy in terms of both aggregate and per capita GDP of the largest EMDEs, it added.

According to the World Bank, unexpected resilience in private consumption and investment, and robust growth in the services sector in India underlie an

upward revision to growth in 2023.

World Bank's report said, in India, which accounts for three-quarters of output in the South Asia region, growth in early 2023 remained below what it achieved in the decade before the pandemic as higher prices and rising borrowing costs weighed on private consumption. However, manufacturing rebounded into 2023 after contracting in the second half of 2022, and investment growth remained buoyant as the government ramped up capital expenditure. Private investment was also likely

boosted by increasing corporate profits.

Further, the report added, unemployment declined to 6.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2023, the lowest since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and labor force participation increased. India's headline consumer price inflation has returned to within the central bank's 2-6 per cent tolerance band.

For the fiscal year 2024-25, World Bank expects GDP growth rate at 6.4 per cent. While in 2025 fiscal, the growth rate is expected at 6.5 per cent.

More than One Lakh People...

From Front Page

In Khagaria, state secretariat member Prabhakar Singh, district secretary Prabhakar Singh and Puneet Mukhiya gave the leadership to the programme. In Gopalganj district secretary Ganesh Singh and in Jehanabad state executive member Akhilesh Kumar, district secretary Suresh Singh and Ambika Prasad led the agitators. In Kaimur state executive member Ravindra Nath Rai, district secretary Prof Kamla Sinha, in Bhojpur district secretary Uttam Prasad, former Buxar MP Tejnarayan Singh, former MLA Ramashray Singh, Madhepura district secretary Jyoteshwar Singh, state secretariat member Mandal Pramod Prabhakar, Saran district secretary Rambabu Singh, Chulhan Prasad Singh, state executive member Irfan Ahmed, district secretary Ramchandra Yadav, Siwand district secretary Tarkeshwar Yadav, Purni district secretary Vikash Chandra Mandal, Nalanda district secretary

Rajkishore Prasad, Sheikhpura district secretary Prabhat Kumar Pandey, state executive member Jitendra Kumar and district secretary Harshit Yadav, in Katihar Vinodanand Sah, Vaishali district secretary

Among senior party leaders arrested include Communist Party of India national executive member Janki Paswan, national council members Pramod Prabhakar, Rajshree Kiran, state sec-

retariat member, Ajay Kumar, Gajanfar Nawab and Vishwajit Kumar, members of the state executive. The participation of more than one lakh people in the satyagraha even in adverse weather is indicative of the fact that the people of the country are fed up with the BJP government at the Cen-

Constitution. In order to benefit corporate and big capitalists, common people are being pushed into problems like inflation, unemployment, malnutrition. It is selling public sector units to private hands. Regarding all these questions, the Communist Party of India is appealing to the public to remove the BJP government at the Centre. The people of Bihar joined the satyagraha and supported the removal of the BJP from the Centre. Joining the satyagraha of the CPI, women and youth strongly supported the slogan 'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao'. There was good participation of rural women and youth in the satyagraha programme.

Party's state council secretary Ramnaresh Pandey congratulated the party leaders, workers and people of the state for making the satyagraha programme of CPI a success. He said that the struggle will be further intensified to remove the BJP government from the Centre. This movement has given the assurance that in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, it is certain that BJP will be ousted from power at the Centre. ■



Amrit Giri, Ashok Thakur, in Arari state secretariat member Vijay Narayan Mishra, district secretary Dr SR Jha, Naushad Alam and others led the movement.

On the second day of the movement, on June 9, thousands of people participated in different districts of Bihar. During the satyagraha programme, thousands of satyagrahis including senior leaders and activists of the Communist Party of India were arrested.

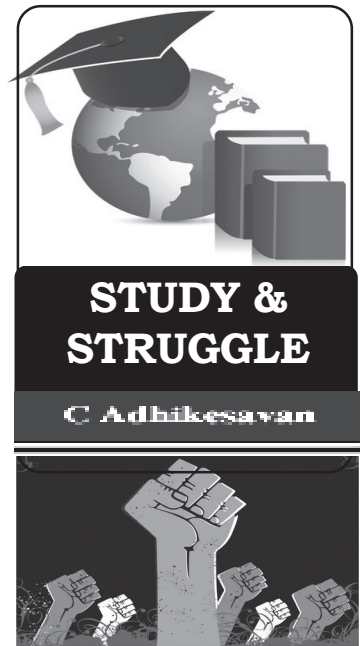
retariat members Ramchandra Mahto, Rambabu Kumar, Ajay Kumar Singh and Prabha Shankar Singh, state executive members Vijay Shankar Singh, Omprakash Kranti, Prabhat Pandey Prabhakar Singh etc.

Thousands of people participated in satyagraha on June 8 and 9 in front of the district collectorate in Patna. Here the satyagraha was led by Ramlala Singh, member of the party's state secre-

tre led by Narendra Modi and do not want to see it in power for more days.

In Bihar, the Communist Party of India organized a padyatra across the state to inform the people that the BJP government at the Centre was harming the national interest with its misdeeds and policies. The government is openly violating the Constitution, suppressing the voice of the opposition and is conspiring to change the ideals and values of the

Axing Modern Scientific Education Paving Way For Unscientific Ideology of RSS



The Delhi University Standing Committee, Academics and Academic Council have been degenerated into shouting matches. The DU Administration and NDTF Academic council members are forcing un-academic revisions of syllabi tabled by DU departments. The Philosophy Department was told that they cannot have a standalone paper on Dr. B R Ambedkar. Departments are being told not to use words like gender, feminism, patriarchy. They want us to drop debates on surrogacy. The History department was asked to change their paper on inequalities. Iqbal cannot be read and now Economics. How DU created scholarship? How it became a sought after University?

Dumping down of courses paving way for RSS-BJP sentiments can only create lukewarm unscientific courses, which will have no significance and appreciation beyond the hatred ideology of RSS. Example of most of the Value Addition Courses (VAC) is before us today being abruptly implemented by the RSS-BJP Union government. It is for the concern of the students, teachers and parents regarding the attack on a public funded University which has been committed to modern scientific education. Gender and unequal burden of work; inequalities in access to land; intersecting discrimination, ranging from race, caste, class and disability are among the topics that were proposed to be taught in a new component in the BA Economics (Honours) course but it finds itself in rough weather now. The recommendations were taken

up for consideration in the Standing Committee meeting on Academic affairs.

It is among the three elective papers that the varsity's Academic Council on May 26 suggested be removed from the Economics syllabus — which several teachers have opposed — in view of the ongoing syllabi revision under the National Education Policy (NEP). A letter by faculty members to the V-C had said the three components

Relations and Globalisation — into one and recommended that the third be deleted altogether.

It talks about behavioural responses of different stakeholders of society like the rich and the poor, male, female, people who belong to higher and marginalised sections, the queer communities. This is a paper that is taught in almost all the best universities in the world. Students should be taught a paper like this, par-

Teachers said it is impractical to merge the two papers. The first paper is explaining the basis of capitalism and how it works, the second is about contemporary capitalism, so both thematically in terms of content can't be merged.

Delhi University's Department of Philosophy has strongly opposed a suggestion from the university's Standing Committee on Academic Matters to drop an elective course on



have no overlaps between them or other papers in the course.

Economics of Discrimination is a new paper covering crucial aspects of discrimination such as caste, race, and gender. This is very topical and has a contemporary reading list. It is ironic that in the same Academic Council meeting in which the Vice Chancellor has taken interest in a course on the economics of Ambedkar, a course on economics of discrimination, which includes writings of Ambedkar, along with contemporary academic writings, is being eliminated.

The committee which was set up by V-C to review the syllabus has probably recommended merging two of three components — Economy, State and Society, and Production

particularly from the lens of the marginalised.

Discrimination is not being taught and that this is not a case of repetition. The director of South Campus and standing committee member is not aware of discussions on merging two papers and removing one.

Economy, State and Society has been taught for about 40 years. It deals with trying to understand how societies have changed and why. It is also an analysis of capitalism which includes study about monopoly, production. In this paper, students study economic historians, Marxist theory, Schumpeter. All other papers in economics, except for these two, take capitalism for granted; these try to explain how capitalism came about, which is certainly not a repetition.

Ambedkar's philosophy from an undergraduate programme.

According to sources, the suggestion to drop the course from BA Programme (Philosophy) — first made on May 8 — was discussed in the meeting of the department's postgraduate and undergraduate curriculum committee held on May 12.

The department's curriculum committee expressed "strong reservation" on the proposal on the ground that "Ambedkar is an indigenous thinker representative of the social aspirations of a majority of people in the country" and that research on Ambedkar is on the rise.

The Standing Committee's suggestion came as part of the curriculum review being undertaken, based on the

National Education Policy 2020. The Standing Committee Chairperson says that (the Ambedkar course) is not being dropped and this suggestion was not given by the committee.

The Director of South Campus and a member of the Standing Committee says that nothing has been dropped. The next Standing Committee meeting is scheduled and the final decision will be taken by the Academic Council. It is always the collective advice to the department by the committee on certain issues.

In what is being seen as a climb-down following the philosophy department's opposition, a sub-committee, which was constituted by the Standing Committee to discuss the syllabus revision, suggested that the paper on Ambedkar's philosophy be retained and a few other electives of other thinkers can be added for the students to choose.

Sources said papers on Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda and Periyar were a few of the other philosophical thinkers being considered in the new curriculum. These suggestions will be placed in front of the Standing Committee and later before the Academic Council for final approval.

The course on Ambedkar philosophy was introduced in 2015. It includes the life and essential writings of Ambedkar, his concepts and his research methodology. ■

Bankim Mukherjee was born in May, 1897 in Belur in Howrah district at his maternal grandfather's, who was a big contractor and who lost heavily in a railway contract. His father Yogendranath Mukherjee used to help in household affairs, but suddenly left family when Bankim was just two years old. Thereafter, Bankim's mother looked after him, and did his initial education. He was admitted at the age of seven in Belur Middle School.

In Calcutta

He shifted to Calcutta along with his maternal uncle in 1906 and got admitted in Shyam Bazar Middle English School. He was a very good student, and literature and mathematics were to his liking. He widely read Bengali literature, and also did drawing. He passed his Matric from Hindu School at the age of 17.

He began to read lot of extra-curricular literature and books, and began to lose faith in God. He took up Sanskrit in Matric. He got admission in the Presidency College in sciences. At the same time, he studied philosophy including Schopenhauer, Bentham and Kant. He was wrongly expelled from the college on false charges connected with bombings. He got admitted in City College and passed his BSc and got admission in MSc.

In national movement

Bankim was shaped by the non-cooperation movement of Gandhiji, and joined it while studying for his post graduation. Bankim left

Bankim Mukherjee: Builder of TU,

his studies in 1919 and became a volunteer for three months. Radharaman Mitra was Bankim's childhood friend, and they used to study and work together. Radharaman went to Etawah in UP as a master in a High School. Bankim followed him to Etawah and they both did nationalist work. Students were trained to use khadi and charkha. Bankim even was jailed in Etawah.

Soon Radharaman and Bankim joined the Congress and did lot of organizational work. Bankim became a Municipal Commissioner of the town, and came in contact with Motilal Nehru. Bankim was arrested during the Congress session and sentenced to one and half years. After release he was for sometime with the Swaraj Party, having been sent to Bengal to organize the party. He toured all over Bengal, working among the workers and peasants. He got to know about Communist literature and was attracted to Marxism. Later he became a member of Bengal PCC.

Earlier, Bankim was for sometime involved in a revolutionary group called New Light Group of Central Calcutta, led by Santosh Mitra.

He got acquainted with Gopen Chakravarty, Dr BN Dutta, Muzaffar Ahmed, Dharani Goswami, Philip Spratt and others. He joined the People's Progressive Party in Congress, led by JM Sengupta.

In workers' movement

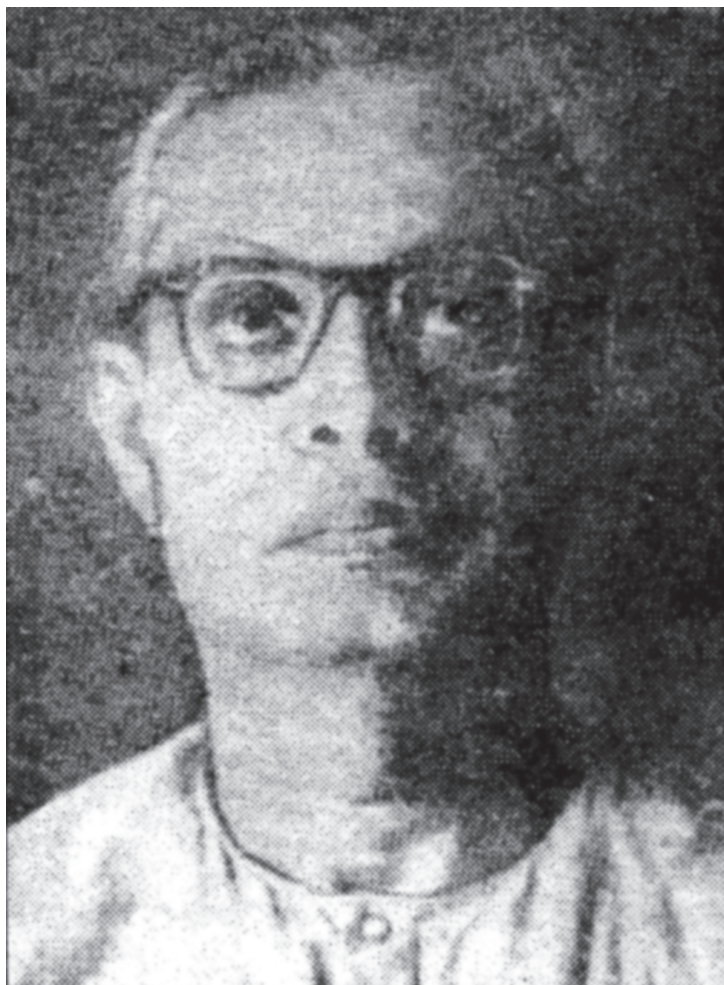
The first strike in jute mills took place in 1928

in Ludlow Jute Mills in Chengali, Bengal. A protracted strike by 12 thousand workers took place in Fort Gloucester Mills, Bauria in 1928. It lasted for six months, and was led by Bankim, Radhamohan, Dharani Goswami, Kishori Lal Ghosh, Gopen Chakravarty, Philip Spratt etc.

Bengal Jute Workers' Union led by Prabhavati Dasgupta, along with Abdul Momin,

held in Calcutta in December 1928, and became well-known as a Communist. He was elected to the AICC in 1928 and remained its member till 1929. He simultaneously began organizing the Communist Party when most of the leaders got arrested in the Meerut Conspiracy Case.

More than 30 thousand (according to some 50 thousand) workers from



Kali Sen, Bankim Mukherjee, Abdul Rezzak Khan, etc protested against the moves to retrench 60 000 workers. This was the first major struggle in jute industry, and the owners had to retreat.

In Workers and Peasants Party (WPP)

Bankim became the vice-president of Bengal PCC. He joined Bengal Jute Workers' Union along with Abdul Rezzak Khan, leading over 3 lakh jute workers.

He attended the all In-

various factories and mills demonstrated before the Congress pandal demanding adoption of certain demands, including assistance for Bauria workers; grant of Rs 25 thousand to labour organisations in each of the provinces; equal seat for labour leader in the Congress Working Committee, etc.

The demonstration was led by Bankim along with Gopen Chakravarty, Radharaman Mitra, Kali Sen, KC Mitra and others.

It was organized by Calcutta Port Trust Union, East India Railway Labour Union, Bengal Jute Workers' Union and Calcutta Tramwaymen's Union.

They first held an open meeting outside, addressed by Jawaharlal Nehru. Later they demanded entry into the pandal, and after much discussions, were granted two hours inside. Jawaharlal Nehru presided over and Bankim also took part. A resolution for complete independence was passed in the meeting.

There were huge workers' protest against the Meerut arrests. A big public meeting was held in Calcutta on April 21, 1929 under the banner of Calcutta Tramways Workers' Union. Resolutions were passed expressing support for the Meerut prisoners. Bankim Mukherjee called upon the workers to protest against the Trades Disputes Bill by organizing a one-day strike throughout India. During May 1929, Bankim and Kali Sen worked for a general strike of jute workers.

In 1929, he led one of the biggest strikes of the jute workers. After the Meerut arrests, the new leadership of the union included Bankim, who was made the organising secretary. Massive strikes broke out between July 1 and September 30, 1929, participated in by 2,72 000 workers, shutting down 42,700 looms.

In 1930, he participated in and led the massive movement of

Communist Movement in Bengal and India

carters which was fired upon. Bankim and Abdul Momin were arrested. He was repeatedly arrested in 1930, '31 and '32 in various movements, and was kept in Dum Dum Jail.

He was jailed for four years during the civil disobedience movement.

Bankim was elected general secretary of AITUC in its Calcutta session, and general sec-

with this group. Most of this group later joined the CPI.

At the Karachi Congress, Bhupen Dutta, along with Bankim Mukherjee and Dr Kanai Lal Ganguli, submitted a draft of Fundamental Rights. Nehru agreed with it.

As MLA

He was a member of the Congress election committee between 1937 and

and others signed an appeal to this effect.

But the Haq ministry did not keep its words and violated the agreement. To protest, a rally of 30 thousand workers was held in Calcutta Maidan on July 29, 1937 in which Bankim and other prominent leaders spoke.

Foundation Day of AITUC was observed on October 30, 1938, with flags of Congress and red flags. Bankim Mukherjee also spoke. Ranigunj Paper Mill strike took place on November 13, 1938. While picketing in front of the factory gate, Sukumar Banerjee was run over deliberately by a truck carrying the strike breakers, and died on the spot. Bankim and others led a huge procession of workers with his body. Ranigunj town observed a hartal.

On April 8, 1937, an adjournment motion on jute mill strike was discussed in Bengal assembly. The ban imposed by the government on the labour leaders was sharply criticized. On April 9 Bankim Mukherjee MLA, along with a number of other MLAs and leaders like Niharendu Dutt Mazumdar, Sibnath Banerjee, Muzaffar Ahmed etc met Suharawardy, the labour minister, presenting him a charter of demands.

In Kisan Movement

Bankim was among the founders of All India Kisan Sabha in 1936. He was elected AIKS president in 1943 in its Bhakna conference and general secretary in Netrakona conference in 1945.

Bankim was elected to

the provincial committee of CPI in 1938.

His mother had left the family and lived in Kashi, and was not happy with his activities initially. But later she got to know of his great achievements and was really very happy.

Post-independence India

Bankim Mukherjee became a prominent and well-known leader of CPI of West Bengal and all over India. He attended the second congress of CPI in Calcutta, where he spoke on defending workers' rights. His speech was greatly applauded.

Marriage

He married a prominent Communist Shanta Bhalerao in 1953. She was a secretary of the AITUC since 1942, though had begun her career with the Servants of India Society. Later on, she edited the Trade Union Bulletin of AITUC.

Shanta Bhalerao was also a member of the Bombay Legislative Assembly. She proposed creating an institution for women for training in social and state welfare. In 1936, Bhalerao and Godavari Gokhale established the Women's Fellowship of Service. Bhalerao simultaneously continued her work of organizing the All India Women's Conference, traveling extensively throughout India. In its 11th session, Shantabai advocated and moved the resolution of the 'All India Maternity Benefit Act'. After personally visiting the mines and investigating their conditions, Bhalerao moved another resolution condemning the government of India for lifting the ban on women working underground in coal mines

on February 21, 1945, which was observed as "Mine Day." On November 9, 1936, a resolution was passed in the Congress Working Committee with the active support of Shantabai demanding proper housing facilities and social insurance for the working class. Bhalerao was elected as one of the office bearers of the Bombay Civil Liberties Union in 1940.

In 1942, she called for the bus and tram strike on May 28, caused by the B.E.S.T authorities' downward revision of emoluments of the employees. Meanwhile, Bhalerao also presided over another Surat District Workers conference on the same day of the strike, which was devoted to the plight of thousands of workers in the gold industry and silk goods industries, left jobless. Shanta Bhalerao remained a Servant of India Society member after independence, teaching women in their homes, hallways, or social settlement houses.

Bankim Mukherjee was elected to the legislative assembly of West Bengal from Budge Budge in 1952 as CPI candidate in 1952. He got 13171 votes, and defeated Kalipada Mookherjee of Congress. He again won in 1957.

He was elected to the National Council of CPI in 1961 in Vijayawada congress.

Bankim Mukherjee died of cancer of kidney in December 1961. Daily 'Jugantar' wrote in the obituary for him that he blended in him the best traditions of Congress, workers'-peasants' and the Communist movement. ■

Biographies of Communist Leaders-88

Anil Rajimwale

retary of Bengal Provincial AIKS in 1936. Soon he joined the Communist Party.

Bankim Mukherjee also got involved in the formation of the Red Trade Union Congress (RTUC) in 1931 in Calcutta. He was elected one of its three general secretaries, along with SV Deshpande and SG Sardesai.

Indian Proletarian Revolutionary Party

In the 1930s, a party was formed by the above-mentioned name in Bengal by a section of young revolutionaries. It was also known as the 'Atma Shakti Group'. It aimed to achieve independence from British colonialists through a proletarian revolution. It was formed after the Karachi Congress (1931). Bankim Mukherjee and Dr Bhupen Dutta were in close touch

1939. He was elected MLA in 1937 from Asansol workers' constituency as an independent candidate supported by the CPI. He was very active as an MLA.

Subhash Bose was earlier released and had come back to Bengal. At the time there was a coalition government in Bengal under Fazlul Haq. The Joint Strike Committee welcomed Subhash Bose in Shradhanand Park and tried to move in a procession to the CM's house, but were not allowed. They remained in the park. Bankim Mukherjee (MLA) and other MLAs and leaders contacted the CM and urged him to address the workers. He ultimately relented and assured them of consideration.

The Strike Committee called off the strike on his assurance. Bankim

History is not for Erasing...

From Page 03

Japanese history, or the American one. History, thus, builds analytical and interpretive skills in students.

Seventhly, history reveals human character. It unveils the good, the bad and the ugly; the brave, and the cowards; the tenacious and the laidback. We meet the wandering ascetic and religious teacher, Gautama Buddha, who founded Buddhism; the 24th tirthankara of Jainism, Mahavira; the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak; and Hindu monk, philosopher, author and religious teacher, Swami Vivekananda. We also learn about Austrian-born German dictator Adolf Hitler; and Soviet politician, political theorist and revolutionary V I Lenin. We admire the wisdom of the Ottoman emperor Suleiman the Magnificent, the bravery of the Kamikaze pilots, and the cowardice of the military general Mir Jaffar, the first dependent Nawab of Bengal of the British East India Company. As Athenian historian and general Thucydides said, "History is philosophy teaching by examples."

Eighthly, indeed, history provides us with a philosophy of life. Despite the wars and mayhem, despite the famine and pandemics, the natural calamities and harshness, mankind has survived for over two millennia. It gives us hope and experience, wisdom and vision. We learn about life from the myriad characters we meet in history. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There

have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall—think of it—always."

Ninthly, history imbibes a confidence in the individual and in the society. Knowing about our past achievements and triumphs strengthens our

we as people bemoan our achievements. We don't appreciate the great strides India has made in the last seventy-five years. We have, thus, become a country of cynics and pessimists. Like an individual, if a nation loses hope and vision, it can never rise above the ordi-



Students protest against changes in NCERT books

sense of self-identity. In Japan, children are taught that they are descendants of the Sun God, the inheritors of the Samurai culture. When the Japanese lost the Second World War, a correspondent asked a Japanese person how it felt to be defeated by the Americans. He said, "Give us twenty years, and we will defeat the Americans." Within twenty years, the Japanese economy was ahead of the American one. Unfortunately, we don't teach our children that we may be a young nation, but we are the oldest civilisation on Earth.

Lastly, confident persons become good citizens. They take pride in their nation, in its institutions, in its culture and heritage. Since a sense of national pride is lacking,

nary.

Unfortunately, the deletion of history, even of its parts, robs our kids of all the benefits of studying the subject. Moreover, if the history of a particular community is deleted, it leads to dangerous consequences. The community becomes rudderless—without a sense of belonging, without a sense of mooring. It would feel that it is being reduced to being second-class citizens.

Further, by erasing the history of a particular community, its identity is whipped out. The majority community can easily be led to believe that the particular community is insignificant. While it would lead to the tyranny of the majority, it would equally lead to the ghettoisation of the minority. In such a scenario, the minority

community feels insecure and frightened. Such a divide leads to clashes between the two communities. Instead of strengthening the country, such disturbance and disruption would weaken us.

Furthermore, we end up repeating the mistakes of our history.

It is a misnomer that the English followed a policy of 'divide and rule'. In fact,

After all, we can boast of the Chalukyan, Pallava and Chola Kings.

But why have we called only Ashok and Akbar great? Because they faced the same problem of sectarian division in their times as we do today. During Ashok's period, the country was divided between the Hindus and the Buddhists. Both communities were at loggerheads. During Akbar's reign, a minority community was trying to rule over a vast majority. The problem before both the emperors was the same: how do I unite my people? Both spoke of fusion. The former spoke of "dharma", the moral duty of the people towards each other. The latter promoted "Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb"—the fusion of the Hindu and the Muslim civilisations.

Assimilation is the hallmark of our civilisation. Unlike the Western civilisation, we never believed in extermination. We believe in the confluence, and not the clash of, civilisations. Thus, we readily accepted different cultures and communities, religions and philosophies as our own. This is the foundational principle for our survival and progress as a lasting civilisation on Earth.

Those who think otherwise should remember, "United we stand, divided we fall." Our history as a nation has proven this saying ad infinitum and ad nauseam. Yet, tragically, we fail to comprehend and understand this simple historical truth.

We are refusing to learn from the great teachers of the past. Curiously, in a history of five thousand years, we have given the title of "the Great" to only two emperors: Ashok and Akbar. Surely, there was no dearth of great kings and queens.

History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from. And if it offends you, even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not there to be erased. It belongs to all of us. ■

The news item published in the media on June 12th, 2023 that an NGO affiliated with the RSS women's wing, the 'Rashtriya Sevika Samiti' has launched a documentary and guidance titled "Garbha Sanskar" to help the women bear customized "Cultured and Patriotic Children" is highly alarming. This is total negation of science and a move to push the society into utter backwardness and obscurantism. Tamilisai Soundararajan, the Governor of Telangana participated in the meeting of Rashtriya Sevika Samiti on June 11, 2023 giving it an official colour. The guidance prepared by the organization highlights that the chanting of mantras, shlokas, excerpts from Ramayana and Mahabharata will create positive vibration and connect with the baby in the womb. This connect will produce Sanskari and Patriotic babies. Such approach of the RSS is not new but the aggressive nature with which such myths are being propagated is dangerous and a matter of grave concern.

Commenting on this, Dr Param Saini, a leading clinical psychologist, said that "positive feelings and thoughts during pregnancy or listening to soothing music be it Ragas have always been promoted to help relieve stress and stay calm during pregnancy as this results in producing endorphins in the body and a happy mom connects well with her baby. A higher level of endorphins also helps in relieving pain during labor". We all know that the pregnant woman impacts her baby with her diet, oxygen saturation, stress, anxiety, mental and physical activities. Indian women have always been listening to all kind of Garbh Sanskar mantras and still fail to produce "Most Sanskari and Patriotic Children".

It is the nature influenced by genetic inheritance and other biological and external factors such as what kind of exposure, experience and learning play a crucial role in influencing child development. This is another attempt by RSS to promote their agenda.

Dr Narjit Kaur, a leading gynaecologist at Ludhiana

superior babies. According to them recitation of religious hymns helps in production of healthier babies. By doing this they claim that generations to come will improve.

As per a report published in India Times on May 8, 2017, the claim that through this exercise, Arogya Bharti has been able to produce 450 such babies so far, has to be followed up in time to



said that the documentary and guidance designed by the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti is not supported by any scientific evidence. It is only promoting the myths which do not stand anywhere in the modern scientific world.

The "Arogya Bharti", another RSS outfit established in November 2002 has been holding workshops to prepare women to deliver "Uttam Santati"—a perfect, "Customised Child" with the purpose of making strong India.

Arogya Bharti claims that through giving good food and advice about the time of sexual intercourse based on planetary configurations they do "Shuddhikaran" (purification) which leads to transformation of genes and production of healthier su-

perior babies. According to them recitation of religious hymns helps in production of healthier babies. By doing this they claim that generations to come will improve. As per a report published in India Times on May 8, 2017, the claim that through this exercise, Arogya Bharti has been able to produce 450 such babies so far, has to be followed up in time to find out whether the children produced in such a manner are superior to other children! There has to be an epidemiological study on the claims by comparing the results with control groups. That all this is being done under the shield of Ayurveda is exploiting people's faith in our traditional system of medicine.

The RSS patronised Arogya Bharti claim that they got this knowledge from Nazi Germany which preached the concept of superiority of German race. This they claim is through the production of strong babies which was done by mother of Germany. One of leading surgeons from Germany and leading member of the German affiliate of International

Dr Arun Mitra

Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Dr Christopher Kreamer whom I contacted to substantiate this claim said that there is nothing like mother of Germany. "Though I have never heard of this 'Mother of Germany' -but it was so interesting for me

stitutional obligations of equality among genders, now even trans-genders. Then, how and why, such a campaign is being allowed? Among the 450 super babies which the proponents of this exercise claim to have produced, how many are male and how many females must be made public. Since many of these babies have grown by now their comparison with other average children must be done.

However such an exercise to talk of Garbha Sanskar meets several objectives of some outfits to spread obscurantism, medieval ideas & myths and hate campaigns against other religious groups. It is for the medical bodies, rationalist societies and right thinking people with scientific outlook to question such absurdities.

Modernity cannot be achieved through medieval ideas. Health of our people, particularly of the women and children cannot be left to be exploited by the people with irrational ideas. There has to be a concerted effort to develop a healthy India through scientific outlook. We cannot let our country be again looked as a country of serpents but be seen globally as a nation marching forward in post independent period as a modern industrially, agriculturally educationally fast growing country with the efforts of scientists, technocrats, workers, peasants, professionals and other sections of intelligentsia with achievements in medicine, space and nuclear science. The health of women and children must be a priority with special emphasis on their nutrition, education, empowerment and socio-economic security. ■

Customised Babies Through Garbh Sanskar

Say Goodbye to Scientific Thoughts!

CPI Demands Promises Made....

From Last Page

Telangana region would have come out of India. Telangana state would not have been possible without the support of CPI. KCR is intelligent political leader but he might face difficult situation, Narayana warned. He also spoke with a touch of sarcasm that Dalit Bandhu program is being converted into just like “One chicken to each village and one feather to each house”. State government has completely forgotten about the promise of three acres of cultivable land to each Dalit family. Government has to give pattas to 11 Lakh acres of Podu lands. But it is quite strange that government has changed its own policy and declared that it is going to sanction pattas for merely four thousand acres.

There are people commenting that meeting is being conducted in view of elections. Definitely CPI as a political party will contest elections and we have not become saints. Dr Narayana made it clear that asking for seats is political right. In Karnataka elections, leaders of BJP moved each lane and bye lane but it all went in vain. At present Modi, Amit Shah and Nadda are moving around Telangana, but BJP does not have that capacity to capture power in the state. BJP has converted constitutional bodies like CBI, ED etc into pocket organizations and resorting to blackmail politics.

Dr Narayanain his address stated that Modi has made an appeal to women to vote for BJP, but how they would support him if the basic essentials like gas cylinder prices, that was Rs 400 in 2014, and reached up to

Rs 1150 and go beyond their reach? Modi has to answer for this exorbitant hike. Prices of essential commodities like cereals, salt, chillies have soared up. It is a failure which would destroy lives of the common citizen, and has to be counted as a biggest reason for the misery of people. Narayan was anguished when he stated that taxes are being reduced from 32 percent to 21 percent for

glorious Telangana armed struggle and the vital role played by the CPI in the movement for the statehood for Telangana. The fact is that the communal forces had no role for them here and the BJP has no moral right to ask people for votes.

Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, Telangana state secretary, CPI, said in his presidential remarks that it was the communists who taught how to struggle against



wealthier sections.

Chada Venkata Reddy, central executive committee member, CPI, while addressing, stated that BJP is inciting communalism and polarizing people on communal lines. It is making all preparations to destroy the nation. In this background it is the task of every communist to fight against communalism and spread message of secularism. This can be done better if communists are elected to the important positions. In the past CPI had successfully protected Bayyaram steel plant as they were the elected representative from the area. Many communists in this area had sacrificed their lives for the well being of people. Present Telangana state could come into existence only because of

injustice and succeed. No issue in the country is solved without communists and without their militant struggles. Land of Telangana has become pious with the great sacrifices of communists. This huge public meeting has proved the capacity of communists. People have gathered voluntarily without taking single rupee from party. They have improved the image of the party by joining the meeting braving the sizzling heat and sun stroke. Criticism against communists is not new. But did they think that the Telangana state became a reality without communists and sacrifices of four and half thousands of communists martyrs? Asked Sambasiva Rao. He also revealed that communists have inculcated people in the

spirit of equality even before independence. This was included by Dr BR Ambedkar in the Constitution. Communists have formed Kisan organizations and trade unions demanding land to the tiller and remuneration according to labor invested by each individual. Communists also arranged common dining at one place for all castes including Dalits and tribals. Though hundred years have passed over, communists are still struggling with equal zeal without

It is the responsibility of the state government to solve all pending problems. Sambasiva Rao also demanded that every podu farmer be given patta to their land. Services of contract and outsourcing workers and employees be regularised, privatization be stopped. Loans of farmers be waived, Rs 10 Lakh be sanctioned for each house construction who own the land, unemployment relief be given immediately. If pending problems are not solved

getting exhausted. Kothagudem public meeting is good example for that. We are leading struggles for the sake of all classes. To fight against injustice is inherent among communists. Struggles will go on as long as poorer sections exist in the society. With the inspiration of Bhagat Singh, Sheshagiri, Komaraiah, we will advance forward. BJP is propagating that Muslims are first enemies, communists are enemy number two and Christian's are enemy number three. But CPI always says that BJP is their enemy. From beginning to end. It has become a fashion to criticize communists. Dharma had emerged earlier than BJP. BJP is posing as it is protecting Hindu dharma and cheating people.

communists will continue struggles and intensify them.

Meeting was addressed by Manish Kunjam, tribal leader, Palla Venkata Reddy, Bhagam Hemanth Rao, Pasya Padma, Takkalapalli Srinivasa Rao, ET Narsimha, Kalaveni Shankar, N Balamallesh, M Balnarsimha, all state secretariat members, CPI, Potu Prasad & Samir Pasha, district secretaries of Khammam and Kothagudem Seetharamaiah, state leader, AITUC, Ayodhya, Ravulapalli Ram Prasad, Monday's Moulana and Dandi Suresh etc have participated.

IPTA squads under the leadership of Palle Narsimha with their folk dances and revolutionary songs enthused the audience. ■

US Curbs Workers' Right to Strike

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

The rightist governments throughout the world has started curbing the very striking rights of workers. The creators and producers of wealth and property for the capitalists are on the defence everywhere. Workers are losing their bargaining power for which the right to strike was their main weapon. In India it has been done in different ways and means. Whenever the rightist governments are, their character is the same and it is against the workers and working class. The latest is an instance in United States, which has been done through the right-wing dominated US Supreme Court, which has curbed the workers right to strike by an 8:1 vote taking a pro-capitalist stand. The action of the Supreme Court has allowed the companies to sue unions in state courts whenever they wish for alleged "damage" strikers cause, overruling the National Labour Relations Board (NLRB) even if it is already investigating and handling the dispute.

It is no surprise to the labour movement and its allies that a court that, for the first time in history, took away a constitutional right by killing *Roe v Wade*, would continue its right-wing crusade by beginning to chip away at the sacred right of all US citizens to withhold their labour to make gains or to protect themselves at work.

The only dissenting justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, warned that the ruling moved in the direction of ushering in indentured servitude across the nation. The Lady Judge declared that her colleagues misread

the primacy of US labour law and that the ruling indeed would allow turning workers into indentured servants.

Somehow, lawmakers and judges act as if labour law is not "real" law, allowing themselves to deny, for example, that the encouragement of collective bargaining is the legal, lawful policy of the US government under the terms of the National Labour Relations Act.

Justice Jackson is ap-



parently the only judge on the Supreme Court who recognises that adhering to US labour law is as much a requirement as adhering to any other law. The judge made her opposition to the ruling known in blunt remarks after the court released its decision: The ruling places a significant burden on the employees' exercise of their statutory right to strike, unjustifiably undermining Congress's intent. Workers are not indentured servants, bound to continue labouring until any planned work stoppage would be as painless as possible for their master, the judge observed.

The decision in *Glacier* Northwest

Teamsters Local 174 outraged Teamsters president Sean O'Brien and Association of Flight Attendants-CWA president Sarah Nelson. AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler predicted that when the case will be tried over again in Washington state, the union will win.

Under current law, strikes are legal under the National Labour Relations Act unless there is deliberate property damage, violence, or both. In plain speaking,

the justices in the majority took away the word "deliberate," letting bosses sue unions for any alleged damage strikes cause. It would open the door to company agents themselves causing damage and then blaming it on workers or their unions.

It's like putting a tax on the right to strike. In the six-year-old case, *Glacier*, a cement company, sued Local 174 for striking and letting cement in trucks dry in *Glacier's* yard, costing it 100,000 dollar in damage to the trucks, plus lost business.

Local 174 denied the charges, saying the workers ensured the cement truck drums were still

spinning, keeping cement wet, when they left. The NLRB general counsel agreed and took over the case, but *Glacier* went to Washington State Supreme Court to argue it could sue the local for damages. That court threw that case out, saying federal law pre-empted *Glacier's* damages case. The US Supreme Court majority didn't.

"By reporting for duty and pretending as if they would deliver the concrete, the drivers

prompted the creation of the perishable product," Trump-named Justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote, swallowing the company's line." Then, they waited to walk off the job until the concrete was mixed and poured in the trucks. In so doing, they not only destroyed the concrete but also put *Glacier's* trucks in harm's way."

Because they did so, in her lengthy retelling of the dispute, *Glacier* could sue the union for damages. The ruling reverses precedents and opens the floodgates to similar expensive lawsuits by firms against striking unions. AFA-CWA's Nelson said the decision could lead to

more militancy. If the Supreme Court interferes with the already limited right to strike, it's going to create even more instability in the workplace. They have to respect this human right or workers will take it into their own hands. There will simply be a breakdown in the law. There will be a lot more strikes.

The ruling showed the court's tilt towards the corporate class and the billionaires "they socialise with at cocktail parties and who they owe their jobs to in the first place." The justices "are not upholding the law". American workers must remember their right to strike has not been taken away. All workers, union and non-union alike, will forever have the right to withhold their labour. The Teamsters will strike any employer, when necessary, no matter their size or the depth of their pockets.

Unions will never be broken by this court or any other. Today's shameful ruling is simply one more reminder the people cannot rely on their government or their courts to protect them. They cannot rely on their employers. We must rely on each other. The Supreme Court unnecessarily gave the employer another bite at the apple by relying on "unfounded allegations in the employer's complaint that the union intended to damage the cement trucks when it called the strike. ■

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CTUs, SKM Decide to Intensify Joint Struggles

The following is the text of the joint communique issued on June 9, 2023 from the platform of Central Trade Unions (CTUs) — AITUC, INTUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF, UTUC — and Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM):

The meeting of the Joint platform of Central Trade Unions and Samyukt Kisan Morcha was held on June 8, 2023 in Delhi which expressed its satisfaction of the continued mutual solidarity support to the programmes and actions on the demands of workers and farmers.

They reiterated not only

to continue the ongoing support to the respective programmes of actions chalked out in the respective platforms but went further in taking decision to plan nationwide joint activities against the anti-farmer, anti-worker and anti-national policies of the central government.

They took note of the ongoing struggle of farmers and trade unions in Noida, the struggle of citizens in Varanasi and other places for democratic rights and extended support. They condemned the lathi charge and arrest of farmers in Kurukshetra who were agitating for the demand of

Minimum Support Price of their produce.

They reiterated the support to the cause of justice to the women wrestlers and demanded the arrest of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh alleged for sexual harassment in the FIRs against him.

The meeting felt the urgent need to strengthen the unity of the workers and farmers against the disastrous policies of the NDA government and resolved to meet again next month and plan a joint National Convention of Workers and Farmers for chalking out common charter of demands and agitation programmes.

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Services Sector Growth Declines in May

Growth in India's dominant services sector declined in May as inflationary pressures intensified in both input costs and output charges, said a recent private survey. The headline figure in the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey by credit rating agency S&P Global declined marginally to 61.2 in May from its 13-year high of 62 in April.

The May services PMI is the second-highest print in 13 years. A print above 50 in the survey denotes expansion of services activity and below that suggests contraction.

The headline figure has been in the expansion zone for 22 months since August 2021. The PMI is based on

the responses of around 400 service companies covering non-retail consumer services, transport, information, communication, finance, insurance, real estate, and business services.

"Output rose at the second-quickest pace since July 2010, supported by sustained growth of new business in the face of positive demand trends. Favourable demand conditions, new client wins and positive market dynamics reportedly supported output," the survey noted.

The companies the survey monitors reported that external demand for Indian services continued to improve in May, highlighted by a fourth successive rise in

new export business and to accommodate for sustained increases in new business, services companies sought to expand operating capacities by hiring extra workers. Employment rose at a slight rate that was nonetheless the fastest in 2023 so far, the survey said.

Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said the PMI data for May stand as a compelling testament to prevailing demand resilience, impressive output growth and job creation within India's dynamic service sector, despite inflationary pressures arising due to rising costs for food, inputs, labour and transportation posing a chal-

lenge for service providers.

"Faced with the delicate task of balancing these increases and maintaining affordable prices for consumers, firms opted to lift selling prices again in May. Worryingly, the survey showed the joint-fastest upturn in output charges for nearly six years," she added.

The survey notes that amid rising cost burdens, firms charged more for their services in May, and a sub-sector split showed the quickest increase in input costs at consumer services companies, whereas transport, information and communication topped the rankings for charge inflation.

"Services companies maintained an upbeat view

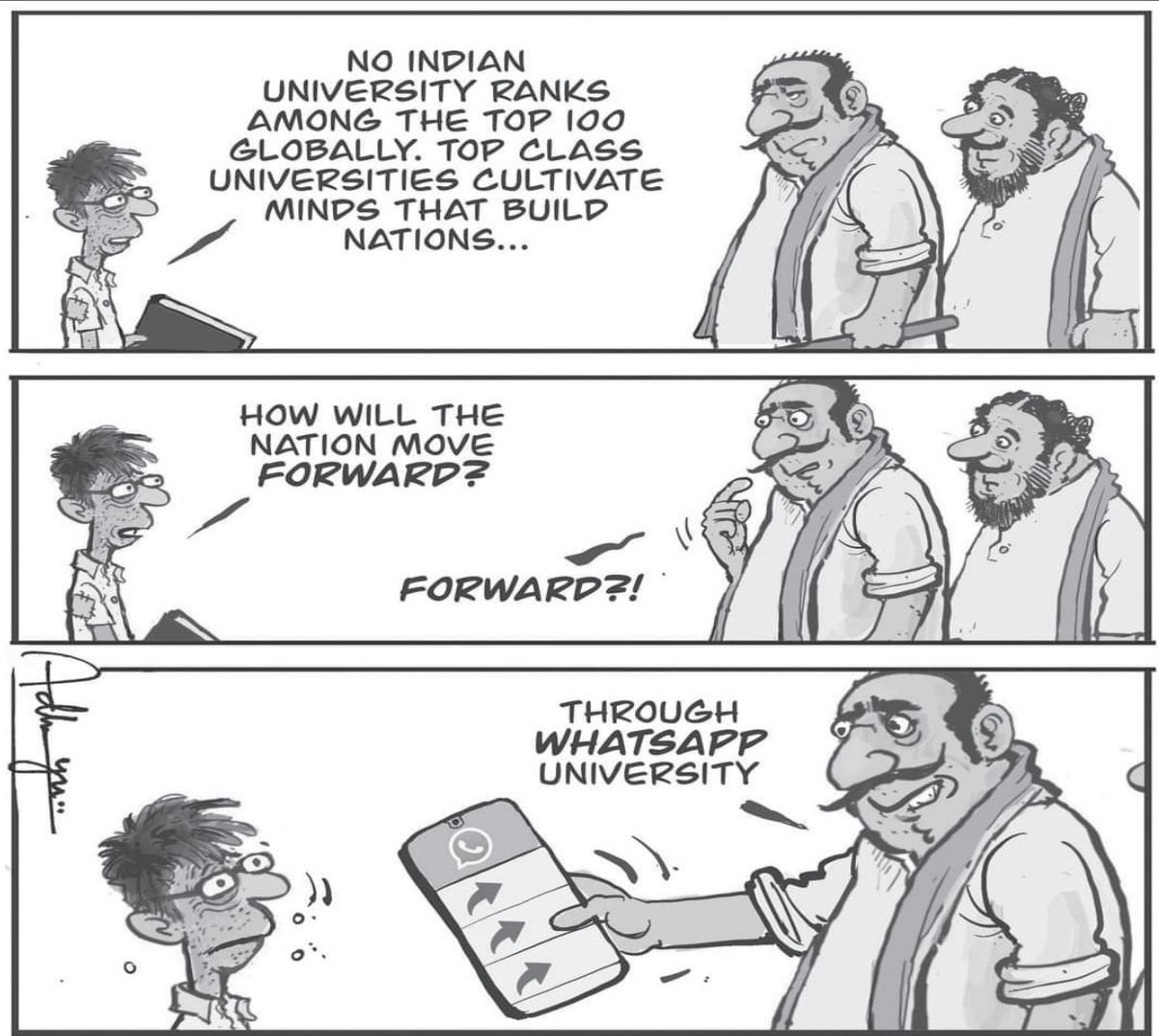
that business activity would increase over the coming 12 months. Advertising, demand strength and favourable market conditions were among the reasons cited for optimistic forecasts. The overall level of confidence fell slightly from April, however, amid some concerns around competitive pressures," the survey noted.

"While ongoing increases in output charges could erode purchasing power, affect the affordability of services and potentially dampen economic growth, companies could be seeking operational efficiencies and exploring alternative sourcing options to navigate through these challenges," added De Lima.

On Record ...

Meanwhile, some BJP workers allegedly threw ink on the face of the DEO, SK Mishra, accusing him of giving a clean chit to the school administration after the controversy Madhya Pradesh school education minister Inder Singh Parmar ordered the removal of the district education officer (DEO) of Damoh accusing him of favouring a private school administration, which allegedly forced girls to wear headscarves. The minister also alleged that the role of the district collector was "questionable" after the incident. The controversy erupted last week after a poster of the school congratulating students for their performance in the board examination showed girl students, irrespective of their religion, wearing headscarves. — *The Hindustan Times*, June 7.

While acquitting a Muslim man in a 2020 North-East Delhi riots case, a Delhi Court pulled up the Delhi Police for "falsely" citing the complainant as a witness who could identify accused as the offender. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shirish Aggarwal of Karkardooma Courts also disbelieved the testimony of an alleged Police witness observing, "It appears that his statement was procured and prepared falsely and belatedly to solve this case." he court acquitted Noor Mohammad of the offences of rioting and unlawful assembly punishable under Sections 147, 148, 188, 323, 394, 427 and 149 of Indian Penal Code, 1860. "The fact that the State falsely cited the complainant as a witness who can identify the accused as the offender, indicates that the case of the pros-



ecution that the offence was committed by the accused Noor Mohammad is false," the court said. — *livelaw.in*, June 10.

Baba Ramdev's friend with Rs 29,680 crore wealth who works 15 hours without salary according to Forbes Magazine. Acharya Balkrishna was born in Haridwar in 1972. His parents were Nepalese immigrants who hailed from Nepal's Syangja. Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Foods is aiming to hit the Rs 50,000 crore turnover mark in the next five years. The company also has a profit

goal of Rs 5,000 crore. The company made a profit of Rs 886.44 crore last financial year. The company posted a turnover of 56 million dollars in 2012. It grew to 630 million dollars in 2015. In 2019-2020, the company's revenue was Rs 9022 crore. Balkrishna holds a 94 percent stake in the company but doesn't take any salary. He works for 15 hours every day. — *dnaindia.com*, June 13.

Compiled by: C Adhikesavan

One Lakh People Join 'People's Roar' CPI Demands Promises Made by Govt to be Kept



KOTHAGUDEM (Telangana): A massive public meeting was organised by the Communist Party of India on June 11, 2023 in Kothagudem named "People's Roar". Ten thousand Red Guards of Janaseva Dal were on the streets of Kothagudem coal belt, with men in red shirts and women in red sarees, clutching red flags in hands. There were fluttering red flags everywhere like a great river flowing quietly. People joined in as they came in hundreds of vehicles. Coal belt was reverberating with

enthusiastic slogans written by CPI cadres. People from almost all villages with their banners had joined the march. All roads were leading to Prakasham stadium. Hot summer with 45 degrees Celsius temperature could not stop the people's determination. It was one more mile stone in the history of Kothagudem. The participation of people was mainly from erstwhile Khammam district and they had joined massively. There were Adivasis, with several tribes, who came in large numbers. But the CPI cad-

Ramanarasimha Rao

res came from all corners of Telangana, like from Khammam, Adilabad, Karimnagar and Warangal districts. As was generally observed, in the history of Kothagudem, it was counted as the fourth biggest public meeting. First big meeting was while NTR had visited Kothagudem. Second was while Rajiv Gandhi was on a visit here. Third one was when police had instituted TADA and Sambasiva Rao, then MLA, was taken to jail.

Huge protest meeting was organised by the CPI against the case. Finally the fourth one was this public meeting. As elections are fast approaching, enthusiasm has spread among the party ranks. According to certain political analysts, this huge meeting has played a guiding role for the CPI leading to future struggles. The speeches of leaders have inspired cadres to proceed towards struggles. With this public meeting, vision of the leaders of other parties has turned towards CPI. This meeting has opened the de-

bate towards the role of CPI. In the previous elections, the front of CPI-TDP-Congress had managed to bag eight seats out of ten.

Kothagudem meeting has acquired a significance of its own and would always be remembered in the history of CPI. Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, Telangana state secretary, CPI, presided over the meeting.

Dr K Narayana, National secretary, CPI, while addressing, stated that political unity cannot be achieved with mere statistics, political understanding also is imperative. Narayana also asserted that in the process of opposing BJP, CPI has given support to BRS, in this back ground onus lies on KCR to protect the unity among both the parties.

As red was spread all over the streets of Kothagudem, meeting arena was reverberating with slogans of "CPI Zindabad". Dr Narayana further stated that CPI has played heroic role in achieving Telangana as separate state. If there would have not been Telangana armed struggle, the entire

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