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Opposition leaders including CPI general secretary D. Raja [extreme right] at Patna meet

Opposition Parties Meet in Patna

CALLS TO DEFEAT BJP IN 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS

PATNA: The historic meeting of opposition parties issued a call to overthrow the BJP-led Narendra Modi government from power at the Centre in the 18th Lok Sabha elections in 2024. The opposition conclave was held here on June 23, 2023. Present were twenty seven representatives of fifteen parties taking active part in the meeting. It was agreed that the Lok Sabha elections would be contested together in 2024. All the leaders showed their anger against anti-people policies of BJP and declared to unite and fight the right reactionary forces led by the BJP government.

The meeting was attended by leaders of Communist Party of India, CPI(M), CPI(ML), Congress, RJD, JDU, Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, NCP, Shiv Sena, Aam Aadmi Party, DMK, National Conference, PDP and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. These parties have governments in 11 major states of the country namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Chief ministers of six states including Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Punjab, Delhi and Tamil

Nadu took part in the opposition meet.

The leaders of 15 parties who attended the meeting are CPI general secretary D Raja, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI (ML Liberation) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, JDU leader and chief minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar, JDU national president Rajeev Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, JDU general secretary Sanjay Jha, RJD national president Lalu Prasad Yadav, Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, RJD spokesperson Manoj Jha, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, former Congress president Rahul

Kirnesh Kumar

Gandhi, NCP national president Sharad Pawar, Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, DMK leader and Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin, Aam Aadmi Party convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha working president and state chief minister Hemant Soren, Shiv Sena chief and former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, national president of Samajwadi Party and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Singh Yadav, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, leader of National Conference and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah, president of PDP and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti, working president of NCP

Supriya Sule, Praful Patel, AAP leaders Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh.

The leaders of all the opposition parties who participated in the meeting declared their strong resolve to contest the elections together to oust the Bharatiya Janata Party from power at the Centre in the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 2024.

In a joint press conference of the opposition parties after the meeting, Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja said that powers of the states are being snatched away to give benefits to select corporate houses. Defeating the BJP in the next year's Lok Sabha elections is the only way to save democracy and the Constitution. "We all are united and will fight together. We will fight together against the decisions being taken by the Union government in many matters like unemployment, plight of the economy," he said.

The CPI general secretary said that democracy, Constitution and fundamental rights have been thrown to winds during the nine years of BJP rule. Constitutional institutions have been destroyed. The Union government is working at the behest of the capitalists. Capitalist and communal forces have united in the country. The battle of 2024 will be fought to save democracy, Constitution and people and to build a new India. The Central government is dismantling the federal structure. The BJP will have to be removed from the Centre by uniting in the Lok Sabha elections. The Union government is creating communal frenzy and moving on the path of fascism. The BJP government sitting at the Centre is anti-poor and anti-labour. Atrocities on Dalits, tribals, women and minorities have increased under this government. In order to save the country, Constitution and democracy, BJP has to be

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Operation Barbarossa

It was more than eight decades back, when on June 22, 1941, Hitler launched his fascist attack on Soviet Union. The onslaught was called Operation Barbarossa.

Six years before the Operation Barbarossa, Georgi Dimitrov, the general secretary of the Communist International, in his famous address to its seventh world congress on August 2, 1935, had reminded those present that since the 6th congress itself, it was getting clear that "...in a more developed form, fascist tendencies and the germs of a fascist movement are to be found everywhere." It is true that fascism takes different cover for each of the country where it takes roots. There are countries where there had been a great following for the fascist forces among the masses of petty bourgeoisie. There are also countries where fascism has hardly any mass base and within the fascist forces too there are contradictions. In such a situation, fascism does not immediately dare to abolish the Parliament. It allows for some time the bourgeois parties and social democratic parties to have at least a pretence of democratic status. Slowly it unleashes its reign of terror against the groups and the rival parties.

Fascism is not a form of state power, "standing above both classes, bourgeoisie and the proletariat. It is not a power of the petty bourgeoisie over finance capital," said Dimitrov.

It is the dictatorship of the extreme rightwing reactionary sections of finance capital itself. It acts in the interest of those imperialists that command the richest sections of the country and also the world. But it presents itself as the promoter of the suffering nations. It approaches the masses with an alluring appeal. In Germany, it said, "Our stand is not the welfare of the individual, but of the masses." In Italy, it said, "Our

state is not for the capitalists. It is for the corporate". In Japan it was "For Japan, without exploitation."

It was a world struck by severe depression as a consequence of deep imperialist crisis. A section among them opted for fascist onslaught to come out of the recession and the glut. Hitler had come to power in Germany in 1933. His main onslaught was against Soviet Union. He moved ahead to take control of the economic, military infrastructure and establish his puppet regimes in European countries, such as in Austria, Hungary, Poland, Holland, Denmark, Finland, France among others. It was in fact spread in almost entire

Editorial

western and eastern parts of Europe that he had bombed into debris. The Second World War started on September 1, 1939, and by this time Hitler had taken over many countries as he moved forward. He had surrounded Soviet Union with all these military bases and after only with the preparations thus made, he attacked Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, along with support from Mussolini in Italy and the forces of occupied countries. It was the largest military invasion in history spreading over more than four thousand kms of 'war front' with 5.5 million troops, supported by aircraft and tanks. Aim was to crush Soviet Union within weeks. They had captured its Western part by October but came to a screeching halt in the region of Leningrad in north, Moscow at the centre, and Stalingrad in south, where the war front was established as the Nazi troops had to halt there. They failed to advance further. So much so that the Soviet troops moved

to war front from the Red Square itself in Moscow while taking part in the Seventh November parade. The siege of Leningrad had lasted for nine hundred days. Moscow Front was held during the entire period of war as Nazi forces failed to enter. The decisive battle was actually fought in Stalingrad and Kursk, and also those where the battle of tanks etc was most intense, like in Kharkov, Minsk, Kiev, Donbas and Leningrad to name a few. By 1944, Soviet troops arrived at Russo-European borders and started defeating troops of Nazi Hitler and Fascist Mussolini in eastern Europe. Soviet troops entered Germany. Hitler committed suicide, on April 30, 1945, and German troops surrendered to Soviet troops on May 8, 1945, and to the Allied forces, on May 9, the next day, thus ending the Second World War, in which five crore people died including two crore of the Soviet Union.

After more than half a century, India too is drifting towards a system ruled by finance capital. It appears to be losing its democratic indices on several grounds. The phase of enticing the masses has started showing chinks, and the brutal reality is coming in its form.

According to Watchdog Access Now, India leads the world in network shutdowns. India browbeats telecom and social media companies to take down content and threatens them with police action if they refuse to comply. The treatment of Muslims, with a share of 14 percent in the country's population, has been bitterly biased. According to 2019 report of the Human Rights Watch, 44 murders (36 of them being Muslim) were committed by lynch mobs mostly on suspicion of possessing beef, consuming it, or trading cows. In the divisive strategy, majoritarianism is promoted at the cost of minorities. Finance capital needs as its ingredients the debris of a welfare society and complying masses.

CPI on US-India Pacts During PM's Visit to US

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on June 27, 2023 on US-India agreements:

During his recent state visit to US, prime minister of India Narendra Modi and President of US Joe Biden have issued a joint declaration on June 22, 2023 to strengthen the India-US Comprehensive

Global and Strategic Partnership.

In continuation of the three important defence agreements with US namely the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016, Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018, and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) in 2020, the recent agreements between

the two countries are to further enhance the defence cooperation to promote the strategic interests of USA.

Though there are deals about co-productions of many armaments in India which may strengthen our military capacities but allowing creation of logistics, maintenance and repairing for forward deployment of US navy and air forces by using our naval bases and mili-

tary airports, it has definitely compromised our strategic autonomy. It will provoke other big powers to do the same in littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean thus increasing arms race in Indian Ocean region.

The joint statement discusses all issues from war in Ukraine to the restoration of democracy in Myanmar but remains silent about the ongoing assaults by Israel on Pal-

estinian people on a daily basis. Unfortunately, here the supporter of Zionist Israel and the fundamentalist clan of Hindutva converge.

The CPI calls upon the government of India to follow independent foreign policy without being a band wagon of US imperialist power which wants India to be the best bet to implement their hegemonic policy in Asia-Pacific region.

Shreenivas Khandewale

Plunder of People's Money Through Banking System

In 2019 the RBI took a clear position that there will not be any compromise with the willful defaulters. It is not known as to on whose orders was this position changed.

The Reserve Bank of India issued a notification on June 8, 2023 allowing the commercial banks to negotiate compromise settlements with willful defaulters. These willful defaulters are those who take loans from banks, but do not repay them in spite of having the capacity to do so, and to settle their outstanding loans once and for all. The notification further said that any criminal process that may have been initiated against such defaulters would continue; the concerned bank was to take precautions that while negotiating such a settlement, it will not burden itself with further litigation and other expenses. After a cooling period of five years, such defaulters may be considered eligible for any fresh loans!

This is a hot topic for discussion for the whole nation.

The important issues are: the safety of the money of the depositors and the bank account holders, the process followed by the Board of Directors of the banks while sanctioning loans, the nexus between the Directors and big loan seekers, the aim of the loan seekers not to repay the loans, the responsibility of the RBI towards the depositors and the bank account holders, the overall responsibility of the government towards all the institutions and citizens.

The reliability of the government depends on how all these issues are dealt with. The voters elect candidates from various political parties on their perception of the

reliability of their government. Therefore, though these issues appear as separate issues, they are a part of the chain mentioned above.

What has happened so far

Prior to Independence, and even afterwards for some time, the governance of the banks was not very systematic and was run more on the needs and interests of the respective banks' promoters. They would use up the deposits and money available in the banks for their own commercial/ industrial purpose. Many times, they would not return the loan taken from their banks. Many banks failed because of such willful defaults. Today, in 2023, the situation appears similar. In 1969 the main private banks were nationalized to avoid the looming bank crisis. That prevented the banks from becoming bankrupt and also saved the employees from sudden unemployment.

That also made funds available, in addition to trade, for developmental purposes such as school buildings, roads, water, electricity supply etc. But with the advent of the policy of privatization and liberalization since 1992, planning was dropped, leading to reduction of the role of banks in rural development. Trade and industry gained primacy again in banks' operations. Even here, since big loans were more profitable, small industry was neglected. Money with the banks which almost exclusively started flowing to the big corporates, with liberalization of 1992, the interest rates went

down. Rules to give loans to the corporates were made more accommodative. If there were defaults in repayment of loans, the loss accrued on interest and principal amount were made good from profits of other deposits (provisioning); if any big ticket loans were not likely to be recovered, they were written off from the books of the banks, making the banks' balance sheets appear clean and profitable, to look attractive for depositors and account holders.

The banks do take position of taking over the property of big loan defaulters and try to recover the outstanding loan and interest. But since there are not many buyers for such huge properties, they make very low bids or form syndicates that prevent any bidding, which leads to further difficulties in recovering the loans. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) has not helped much in recovery of loans either. In May 2023 Report of the Code, recovery though IBC, tells us that out of 678 cases that were taken to IBC, 177 big defaulters accounted for Rs 8.09 lakh crores loan. (The Central government's budget for 2023-24 is Rs 45.03 lakh crores). The IBC process could recover only Rs 1.51 lakh crores, that is only 17 percent of the total dues or a whopping 73 percent (Rs 6.58 lakh crores) loss to the banks. This is termed as "haircut" of the banks in capital market terminology. It must be kept in mind that this is Peoples' Money. This is an example of only a few big companies. There are thousands of small defaulters, whose total dues also

run into lakhs of crores of rupees. It is a question of honoring the word, morality. During the six years from January 2017 to December 2022, the banks wrote off Rs 11.17 lakh crores, which means they were removed from the banks account book. (Almost as much as the government's market borrowing shown in budget 2023-24 of Rs 12.19 lakh crores).

One can turn and twist the laws anyway you want and justify your wrong actions also as lawful. But when these actions are viewed from the lens of morality, many issues are thrown up, which we as a nation cannot avoid. When one violates financial agreement made in one's dealings, one is doing injustice to the crores of bank depositors and therefore, it is not acceptable either in law or in social morality. In view of this, the notification issued by the RBI to settle the unpaid loans by compromising with willful defaulters, has taken whole nation by surprise. Because, as said earlier, the very same RBI, in 2019, had taken a clear position that there will not be compromise with the willful defaulters who have ability to repay the loans.

In the light of the changed situation, some questions have cropped up, which are as follows:

■ On whose opinion or at whose instance has this position been changed?

■ If those not honoring the loan agreements are being let off, then those who repay the loans may look like fools.

■ Will anybody run a business where you invest

Rs 100 crores and get back Rs 17 crores in return? Are the banks not business companies?

■ Every bank is a separate business and its Board of Directors knows the details of each and every business entity in the market. Then why did these Boards squander account holders' money?

■ Did any of the Boards of Directors, independent directors etc. make the account holders, depositors, aware of the goings on?

■ Would it not be fair to make the appointment of directors conditional that if the banks suffer losses on account of wrong decisions, the directors in the first place, would bear the losses?

(To elaborate on the issue, the following is an example from Vidarbha: one person, experienced in cotton trade, became the Marketing Manager of Cotton Cooperative Marketing Federation. He told the Federation, "Allow me to take my decisions and pay me salary only if I make profit for you").

These matters are neither meaningless nor utopian. If the hard-earned money of lakhs of account holders is being handled so nonchalantly, can we call that system efficient, responsible, taking care of peoples' money? There are queries from friends, who are senior citizens, whether their money is safe in the banks and what is going to happen to the banks. They can be told that only if the banks make safe transactions, the banks and peoples' money, both will remain safe.

(Courtesy Loksatta, Marathi)

‘Modi Hatao, Desh Bachao’ Unite to Defeat Rightist Regime

PUDUCHERRY: The month long campaign of ‘ ‘ M o d i H a t a o , DeshBachao’ was concluded in an event with the participation of leaders of democratic, secular and left parties in a public meeting on June 13, 2023 near the New Bus stand.

The meeting was presided over by A.M.Saleem, state secretary in the presence of I.DineshPonniah, national council member, CPI and K.SedhuSelvam, state assistant secretary of CPI.

Prior to the public meeting, between May 25 and June 12, the call of the national council to oust Modi and save country was observed at public meetings at constituency level in 15 centres throughout Puducherry and

I.DineshPonniah

Karaikal districts.

CPI national secretary



Dr.K.Narayana who attended the concluding event said that the slogan

“ModiHataoDeshBachao” is not only the slogan of CPI, but the slogan of the entire people and should be hailed by all those who are fight-

ing against the misrule of the BJP government.

He said that under the

pernicious rule of the BJP government all the statutory Institutions including election commission, CBI and the Judiciary which are

bound to act independently are controlled by the BJP.

DrNarayana accused the

Centre for misusing the Governor’s posts by filling up with their loyalists to usurp the rights of the state governments. He charged Modi for not honouring the verdict of the Supreme Court and choosing for bringing in an Ordinance to nullify the verdict. The Governors are not elected by the people.

They are only nominated by the president of India and that they should not act against the popular Governments and indulge in political activities, he added.

Dr.Narayana charged the BJP Govt. for doling out budgetary subsidies and tax concessions to corporate close to Modi but has got no money to meet the justful demands of the Farmers who are in warpath.

Ports, Airports and the people’s money in LIC are offered to Adani in a clan-

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What the Others Say...

Spring cleaning

About 25 years have passed since the existing Regulations on Graduate Medical Education (GMER) were notified in 1997, and the time was ripe to take a relook at all aspects of the system, and adapt them to changing requirements, including demography, socio-economic contexts, and advancements in science and technology. The National Medical Commission’s (NMC) new GMER, which was withdrawn without any explanation, attempted to catch up, and correct course, wherever necessary. The medical world is a changed place since the regulations were last drawn up, with emerging diseases, changing demands and expectations of stakeholders also altering the game dramatically. The new regulations aimed at making medical education more learner-centric, patient-centric, gender-sensitive, outcome-oriented and environment-appropriate, while continuing to anchor on the basic principles of teaching medicine. The regulations were progressive in introducing a longitudinal programme based on attitude, ethics, and communication competencies for young medical students, to lay stress on ethical values, being responsive to patient needs, and improved communication, early clinical experience. It had specified that didactic lectures would not exceed a third of the schedule; while the bulk of the course would include interactive sessions, practicals, clinical experience, and case studies. Also introduced anew was a family adoption programme through village outreach, for each MBBS student, and a ‘pandemic module’. Other significant changes included reduction of the overall time period for students to complete the MBBS course to nine years (from 10), fixed number of attempts to clear papers, and common counselling for admission from 2024. If a student failed to clear any exam, he/ she could have appeared in the supplementary examination, the results of which were to be processed within three-six weeks. The students, if successful, could have proceeded with the same batch.

A spring-cleaning of medical education in India is no doubt necessary to clear the cobweb remnants from the past. While a new GMER will enable the country’s medical students to be future-ready, the question needs to be asked if the system will be ready to handle the requirements of students who breach odds to climb up to a medical seat.

Courtesy: The Hindu

Keep judging

When a Delhi HC judge on her last working day pronounces 65 judgments, the message goes beyond the cases. It is not about the judge ensuring rapid disposal of cases alone. It is as much about swinging the spotlight back on issues of retirement age for judges and the filling of vacancies, both long recommended to reduce pendency. SC judges retire at 65, HC judges at 62. Matters pending in SC are over 68,000; in the 25 HCs backlog is over 59 lakh cases. Yes, flawed probes, shoddy prosecution and bad lower court rulings contribute to the pile-up in HCs and appeals in SC. Quality matters, but vacancies only make it worse. HCs till six months ago functioned with 778 judges against a sanctioned strength of 1,108.

The justice department December last told a house panel that increasing judges’ retirement age may have a “cascading effect”, with government officers demanding the same; that the move risked extending service years of non-performing judges, and that there will be a shortage of judges for tribunals. This is surely making too much of too little. The US Supreme Court for instance appoints judges for life. By setting aside a simple workable solution, GoI, which needs to amend the Constitution to implement the age tweak, slows disposal of cases. Filling of vacancies also continues to be a long-drawn prickly process, a quagmire of power and politics, and a GoI-SC tug-of-war we witness all too often.

It is admirable the retiring judge took the unusual step of delivering verdicts during court’s vacation, ensuring the cases would not have to be heard afresh by new benches. This judge, like most others before her, will continue to work. No retired judge ever retires. It begs the question, would it not serve litigants better if they continued to be court judges for some more years?

Courtesy: The Times of India

UCC: Decision Need Not be Hasty

The recent announcement of PM Modi arguing for Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is bound to boomerang, as RSS- BJP wants a slogan which can give them rich dividends before parliamentary elections of 2024. As the present government failed miserably on all fronts to fulfil the aspirations of the people who voted and gave them tyrannical majority. After the shameful defeat in the recent Karnataka elections, the BJP-RSS are hectically searching a device or slogan to deviate the attention of middle class especially for the forthcoming elections to five states and 2024 Lok Sabha elections specifically.

The recent constitution of 22nd Law Commission is therefore another nefarious attempt to get a suitable verdict while orchestrating one sided opinion by their WhatsApp university. As a matter of fact, there is no need to appoint with the same subject to the 22nd Commission as the previous commissions' report was submitted in the year 2018 after getting overwhelming response from the civil society. It concluded emphatically that the formation of UCC is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage and further noted that the presence of disparities does not necessarily indicate discriminatory practice but rather serve as an indication of a strong and vibrant democratic system.

The commission further adds that several countries are shifting their focus towards acknowledging and accommodating differences instead of relying on legal frameworks that promote uniformity among culturally diverse population. The uniform provisions tend to be unjust towards marginalised and vulnerable groups. Celebration of diversity does not lead to any form of disadvantage for groups. Twenty first law commission exhibited a strong inclination towards prioritising gender equality

within communities.

Hence a short period of five years from 21 law commission to 22nd has not created a solid base to reconsider the decision except diverting the attention of the people. Dr Ambedkar during his address to the constituent assembly emphasised that the State

Eventhough, patriarchal society is dominant in India, we find matriarchal society in some places in NE states. The tribals/Adivasi are having different rituals of



would not hastily employ its authority in a manner that could be deemed objectionable by various religious communities including Muslims, Christians, or any other community. In my opinion, the implementation of such a policy by the governments would be highly irrational.

Experts argue that if there is plurality in already codified civil and criminal law, how can the concept of "One Nation, One Law" be applied into diverse personal laws of various communities. Any society that has tried to become homogeneous has eventually experienced stagnation and decline. A unified country does not necessarily need uniformity. Secularism does not contradict the plurality in the country. The diversity in our country is unique and we are having 19,500 mother tongues, as per the census.

The cultural heritage is rich and diversified. In most of the north-eastern states, the property is owned by community but not the individuals.

marriage and deaths. In 2016, the Rastriya Adivasi Ekta Parishad representing 110 million tribal individuals initiated legal proceedings in Supreme Court arguing for

Syed Azeez Pasha

preservation of their polygamy rights, marriage and death rituals which are different from Hindu religion.

The main purpose of highlighting UCC is to project a false notion towards the Muslim community who can keep four wives. The latest census says that there are only 9,22 women for 1,000 men. So where does the question of marrying more than one arise? The erratic slogan "Hum Char, Hamare Chalis" can be found thoroughly invalid if one peruse the census about polygamy in different religious communities. The 1961 Census is the last census to record polygamy which says that it is prevalent in Adivasi to the tune of

15.25 percent, Buddhists: 7.9 percent, Jains: 6.72 percent, Hindus: 5.80 percent and Muslims: 5.70 percent. So, the mischievous slogan is meant to spread a false canard and divide the society to achieve their nefarious goal.

Instead of harping on UCC, the Union government should tackle Devadasi system, Khap Panchayat, honour killing, dowry deaths, trafficking, and other evils in the society. Let them tackle unemployment, poverty and inflation which is the need of the hour. Let the fabric of secularism and democracy to be strengthened further with wider consultations by all the stakeholders while keeping the integrity of the country as a topmost priority.

CTUs to Hold Dharna on August 9 in States

All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said that 'Mahapadav' (maha dharna) will be organized on August 9, 2023 in all states under the auspices of central trade unions (CTUs) protesting against the anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-people policies of the BJP government at the Centre led by Narendra Modi. She was addressing a meeting of the Telangana state council of AITUC on June 14, 2023 at state headquarters of AITUC in Satyanarayana Reddy Bhavan in Hyderabad. The maha dharnas will be organized on the Quit India day

Ram Narsimha Rao

all over the country with the slogan 'Save Nation, save People' she said.

Amarjeet Kaur stated that later after August 15, a joint meeting of the central trade unions and agricultural workers' unions will be held and the future programme of joint action will be decided on issues pertaining to agricultural labour and in the month of December a united movement will be launched in a grand scale at the national level. She recalled that the national convention of 14 central trade unions held on January 30, 2023 had

decided to hold maha dharnas all over the country in order to expose at the ground level as well as at shop floor level the anti-worker, anti-farmer, anti-people and pro corporate policies of the BJP government at the Centre, which is handing over national wealth to corporate forces.

As a part of preparation of maha dharnas, district level conventions will be organized. In order to take the slogan of 'Save Nation, Save People' to every house and every industry, demonstrations and cycle jathas will be organized. CTU Leaders

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In the initial days of June, the Indian agriculture sector witnessed three important events. Farmers in Kurukshetra waged a two-week agitation as the state government refused to procure Sunflower seeds at the minimum support price (MSP) announced by the government. Second incident the union government announced support prices for the current Kharif season and thirdly the announcement on the current instalment of PM Kisan funds to farmers.

Farmer's agitation was started in Kapurthala when the Haryana government repudiated buying sunflower seeds from farmers as per the MSP of Rs 6,400 per quintal, while the market price per quintal hovered around Rs 4,000 to 4,800. Perturbed by a huge loss of nearly Rs. 2,000, sunflower farmers from Kapurthala, Ambala, and neighbouring Punjab resorted to blocking the Chandigarh highway and demanded the state government to compensate the price loss and purchase the harvest for Rs. 6,400. However, after nearly two weeks of agitation led by the united Farmer's body SKMU, the state government asked farmers to sell their produce at the prevailing private market rates, promising to compensate them with an additional Rs 1000 per quintal as bhavantar (the difference between the market rate and MSP/SSP).

India is facing a severe scarcity of vegetable oils. Mustard farmers in Haryana have incurred a staggering loss of Rs 20,000 crore in this season alone due to unfair prices. The monoculture of rice and wheat cultivation, excessive use of groundwater, and farm fires should be discouraged by the government. The farmers should be to substitute these crops with the cultivation of oil seed, millets, and pulses. Not only sunflower but the price of other crops like mustard, soybean, red gram, and mangoes, are flattened forcing farmers to resort to distress sales at a cost lesser than the expense of cultivation.

The underestimation of

the cost of production by the CACP (Commission on Central Agricultural Costs and Prices functioning under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare) is forcing the farmers to run on a loss of huge sum. While the farmer is pushed to distress, all other players in the market, the middlemen, wholesale & export traders, and supermarket corporate agribusiness value chains are ironically earning super profits. It is even suspected that the announced prices in the market are kept deliberately low to benefit all other players in the market at the expense of the farmer.

Huge losses

The recent announcements of MSPs for various crops for the current Kharif season are very meagre. From Rice, wheat to Jowar, and cotton the average increase of announced MSPs hovers between 4 to 8%. Despite the present government's loud promises of profitable crop procurement prices and doubling of farmers' income during the period 2014-22, the average annual increase of different crop MSPs oscillated between 4 to 8.1%. While during the former UPA regime (between 2004 to 2013) the annual increase ranged between 7.2 to 11.3%. The increase announced for Kharif in 2023 is Rs 2183 per quintal (7.4% against Rs 2040 of the previous season), and wheat Rs 2,260.

Government procurement is limited to paddy and wheat. (Mostly from states of Punjab, M.P, Haryana, UP, Karnataka, Telangana, A.P, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh). Crop MSPs

announced by the Union government ensure to rise the slab and fetch relatively higher prices in open markets. A vast majority of small, tenant farmers sell at harvest time desperately sell their produce at low rates much below the govt MSPs to millers and middlemen, as they cannot pay for transport to reach far-off market yards.

Although the Union government says its announced prices cover all costs of cultivation, the A + F2 formula (crop cultivation cost plus family labour), conveniently ignores all other expenses incurred by the farmer. M.S. Swaminathan Commission had recommended a formula 'C2 + 50%', that covers a comprehensive total of cultivation costs with added 50 percent of C2.

In two ways the government announced MSPs are miscalculated. Firstly, CACP considers the prices from the financial year 2012-13 as the basis of calculation not the price from the previous season. The prices of fertilizers (especially DAP and Potash), diesel, pesticides, transport, and land preparation costs have increased by 2.5 times during the last 10 years. But the Commission still holds on to old prices thus artificially lowering the cost of cultivation.

Gap Between 'A + FL' And Swaminathan's 'C2 + 50' Percent

Among the Kharif MSP announced for 14 crops by the union cabinet this month the average increase for rice, wheat, and other crops is around only 7.4 percent. Only sesame and green gram touched a 10 percent increase. This year CACP calculated

Crop MSP Guarantee Relieves Distress Sale

Dr Soma Marla

and recommended the MSPs using the formula A + FL (crop cultivation expenses plus family labour). But Dr. Swaminathan's commission suggested the formula C2 + 50 percent of (C2, the total or comprehensive costs of cultivation) includes the cost of all crop cultivation expenses, tenancy rent, interest on the capital cost of land, tractors, and other investments. While CACP suggested 'A' was calculated based on immediate prices of fertilizers, diesel, and others from the immediate last season but the base remains in the prices of 2012-13. During the ten-year period, prices have increased nearly 2.5 times. Also, the whole family (an average of 4 members) toil in the crop season, post-harvest operations, and working days for two members during the crop season should be considered.

The gap between A + FL and C2 + 50% makes a huge difference. For rice (at 2022 input prices) per quintal MSP should be Rs. 3,340 instead of Rs 2,183 as announced by the government. While Subodh Varma & Peeyush Sharma in their article used 2012 input prices calculated using C2 + 50% at nearly Rs. 2,700 per quintal of rice. Thus, the total loss incurred by farmers due to faulty calculation of MSP by CACP for rice during the last 5 years alone amounts to Rs 2.40 lakh crores. For wheat, the loss amounts to nearly 58.5 thousand crore rupees. Calculations using crop input costs from the immediate previous season the loss alone for rice and wheat totals would be around 4.0 lakh crore rupees per year.

The estimated losses from

the gap in computation amounts are cotton (Rs 2,089), Bajra (Rs. 206), Jowar (1969), Mong (Rs 2,269) per quintal and not including other crops like mango, groundnut, soybean, maize, and others. All this margin amounting to lakhs of crores arising from price imbalance, which is denied to farmers in the market is pocketed by middlemen, wholesale grain traders, supermarkets, and export corporate agribusiness syndicates. This is the reason why every component in the Agro sector except the farmer makes profits.

To mask the above-described loss, present and previous governments doll out regularly nominal and colourful incentives to farmers from time to time. For example, the recently released instalment of Rs 6,000 to 11 crore farmers under the PM Kisan scheme is yet another "Jumla". This dole and low MSPs only cover a fraction of the huge losses incurred by farmers in every crop season. By giving PM Kisan money, the government has totally withdrawn all subsidies on fertilizers, irrigation, electricity, crop insurance, relief upon crop losses from natural disasters, etc.

Legal Guarantee Of Announced MSP Rescues Farmers

All India Kisan Sabha, SKMU, and other farmer organizations have been demanding legal guarantees for announced MSPs to relieve farmers up to a certain extent. As 70 percent of the population lives in villages, attaining five trillion-dollar economy will be possible only by raising rural incomes and expansion of demand.

NCERT Books: Source of Pride Becomes Embarrassment

Dozens of academicians and political scientists in a letter to the NCERT had said a rational exercise has “mutilated” the books beyond recognition and rendered those “academically dysfunctional” and the textbooks that were a source of pride for them earlier have now become a “source of embarrassment”. They also asserted that the NCERT “cannot hide behind their names” as it continues to revise textbooks. They further added that the changes are “arbitrary” “irrational” cuts.

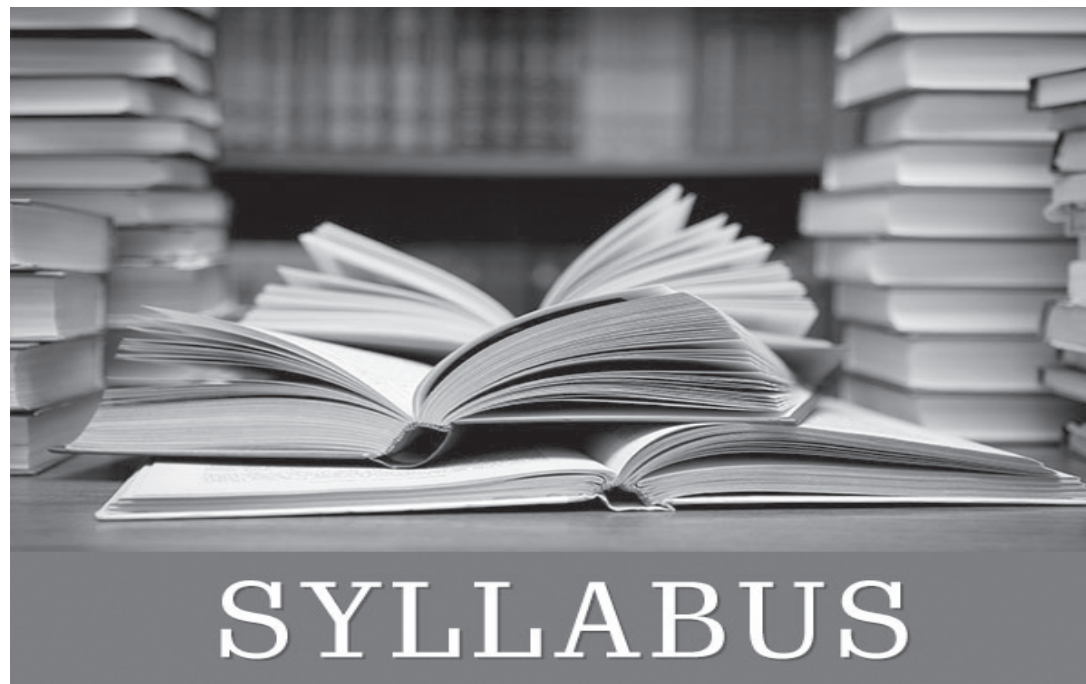
A few days before, political scientists Yogendra Yadav and Suhas Palshikar wrote to the NCERT, who were part of the textbook Development Committee, have written to the council, saying their “collective creative effort is in jeopardy”. The academicians have also demanded that their names be “dropped” from the textbooks.

In response to NCERT, the academicians said that the NCERT’s reply was a “ridiculously technical defence to pre-empt other academics or chief advisors from making similar demands. The academicians have not raised the issues of authorship, copyrights and NCERT’s legal authority to modify these textbooks. Their point is very simple: if they can use their legal right to distort and mutilate the text, the academicians may be able to exercise their moral and legal right to disassociate their names from textbooks that they do not endorse. If the name of the Textbook Development Committee is there to acknowledge their contribution, as the NCERT claims, then they must be free to decline this generosity. If the name this committee

are reported as a matter of record, as claimed, then it must also recorded that they don’t approve of the present version. The continuation their names inside the present version of the book creates a false impression of endorsement and they have every right to dissociate with this insinuation. Besides, the two them are clearly the “authors” of the signed letter that introduces each book. How can they be

that have occurred over time.

The signatories to a letter sent to NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani include Kanti Prasad Bajpai, a former JNU professor who currently serves as the vice dean at the National University, Singapore, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a former vice-chancellor of the Ashoka University, Rajeev Bhargava, a former director of CSDS, Niraja Gopal Jayal, a former JNU profes-



forced to introduce a textbook that they no longer recognise.

If the NCERT can get experts to make changes as desired, it can publish their names. The NCERT cannot hide behind their names as chief advisors. Hence the academicians reiterate their limited demand to the NCERT.

The academicians are of the opinion that any text has an internal logic and such arbitrary cuts and deletions violate the spirit of the text. The frequent and serial deletions do not seem to have any logic accept to please the powers that be. These textbooks as they stand now do not serve the purpose of training students of political science both the principles of politics and the broad patterns of political dynamics

forced to introduce a textbook that they no longer recognise. The signatories to a letter sent to NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani include Kanti Prasad Bajpai, a former JNU professor who currently serves as the vice dean at the National University, Singapore, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a former vice-chancellor of the Ashoka University, Rajeev Bhargava, a former director of CSDS, Niraja Gopal Jayal, a former JNU profes-

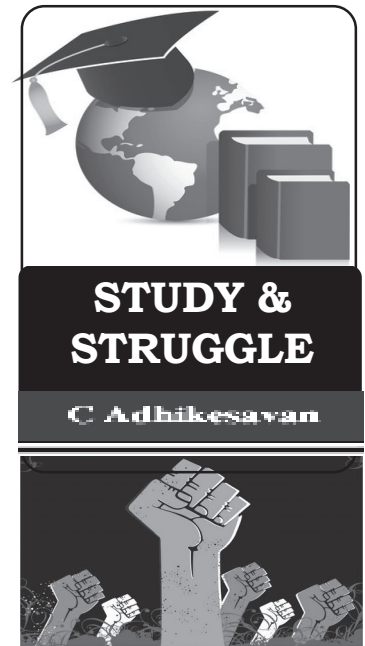
son, Nivedita Menon, a JNU professor, Vipul Mudgal, the head of civil society watchdog Common Cause, KC Suri, a former professor at the University of Hyderabad who is now associated with the Gitam University, and Peter Ronald de Souza, a former director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies.

framework, the functioning of democracy and key aspects of Indian politics, while also integrating global developments and theoretical principles of political science.

The dropping of several topics and portions from NCERT textbooks last month triggered a controversy, with the Opposition blaming the BJP-led Centre for “whitewashing with vengeance”. The NCERT had described the omissions as a possible oversight but refused to undo the deletions, saying they were based

on the recommendations of experts. The experts are non-others than from the RSS camp of ideology which has been aiming to divide the Indian religious community into majority Hindus versus minorities—Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists to establish Hindutva Rashtra.

It had also said the textbooks were anyway headed for a revision in 2024, when the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) kicks in. However, it subsequently changed its stand and said “minor changes need not be notified”. Some of the controversial deletions were not mentioned. This led to allegations about a bid to delete these portions surreptitiously.



DU to Establish East Campus

The students belonging to East Delhi has been demanding for the establishment of East Campus for a longer period of time will be a reality soon. Since the establishment of the DU the students have to undergo tremendous strains of social and economic problems. For every small administrative works they have to travel long distances, spending hours and hours and also have to spend money to reach the North and South campuses.

Delhi University currently has two campuses - North and South - had announced expansion plans a few years back. The plans envisaged the construction of East and West campuses to introduce more courses and a centre for law. It will provide more opportunities for higher education but also help manage administrative work. The construction of DU East Campus will begin next year which would be ready by 2026 according to DU authorities, which have sent a proposal to the Central government for funding for the campus. The aim is to develop the East campus on the lines of the North and South campuses. The DU has also planned for the West campus in Roshanpura near Najafgarh. It will cater to students hailing from rural areas of Delhi and Haryana.

Parvatibai Bhor: A Fighter to the Core

Her real name was Parvati Balaji Gaekwad. Whenever her birth was mentioned, some important incidents used to be mentioned: "when Lokmanya Tilak was sentenced to six years imprisonment on charges of sedition"; "After Lokmanya was arrested, Mumbai witnessed the first political strike. All millworkers came on to the streets for six days. The government ordered the police to fire without warning. In some places, among those standing in the balconies were shot and killed." These incidents marked the year of her birth.

They were barbers by caste, and Appa, her father, had four hair cutting saloons in Mumbai. They were residents of Umrej, shifting to Bombay by the end of 19th century. Parvati was greatly pampered, as Appa did not have a son. She developed stubborn characteristics. She was married at the age of nine only, "just like in cinema"! They stayed in Chawl number 2 in Elphinstone area, near Parel. Babasaheb Ambedkar also stayed nearby.

In politics

Bal Gangadhar Tilak died in 1920. Parvati saw Tilak's funeral from one of the balconies of her father's shop in Lamington Road. That was the first time she saw Tilak and did namaskar with folded hands. Later on, whenever she went to Chowpatty and looked at Tilak's statue, this memory came back to her.

Her brother came under the influence of Gandhiji, which had an impact on Parvati also. She began reading the paper Nava Kaal, as also other books.

She heard the names of Ushatai Dange and SA Dange.

Contact with workers

Parvati had heard about the strike of Girni Kamgar Union-led workers and also about SA Dange, Patkar, Tambitkar, Ben Bradley and others.

Parel was workers' battleground. Dange was released from Kanpur Conspiracy Case on May 23, 1928, and was given a warm welcome. Women millworkers came out in big numbers during the strike. Ushatai Dange became a popular name.

Parvati was witness to the events related with Pappan Miyan and Babu Maruti. They were workers in Moti Mills; Pappan Miyan was the president and Babu Maruti was the secretary. They were charged with stoking riots and murdering their supervisor. The charges were totally false. But police told them if they mention Dange's name and say that he had asked them to get rid of the supervisor, which was again a lie, they would be set free. They refused point blank. The result was both were sentenced to death. In Thane jail, on May 15, 1929, they were hanged. Papa Miyan's wife was at home on the day with Ushatai attending to her. She was pregnant completing her time. Just at the stroke of the hour, when Pappan Miyan was hanged, she shrieked in shock and gave birth to her child on the spot.

Fourteen years later, they collected some money for the 'Babu Maruti Fund' and she went among the workers for this collection. A Konkani woman worker went towards the idol of a deity and brought a

small paper packet to her. In it were a pinch of rice grains from 14 years ago which she had preserved since.

The funds collected were handed over to Babu

traced to the Tarun Kamkari Sangh. She became a 'desh sevika' (at the service of the country), and wore their uniform, taking part in picketing and raised slogans for boycott of foreign cloth. They picketed the venue where farewell function was going on.

She found it hard to sit at home and kept taking

worker grabbed the belt of a policeman.

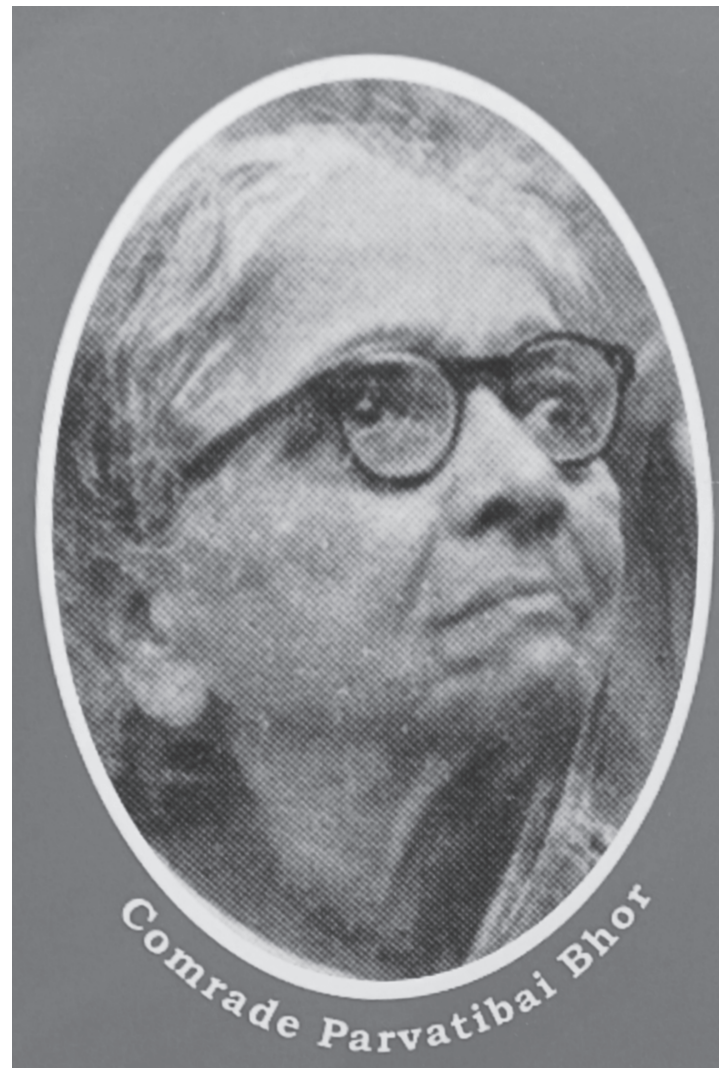
At home, she argued with her husband and brother about working in the union and announced that she was not sitting at home. She announced that if she was not given permission, she would go on hunger strike! They made fun of her. But she actually went on hunger strike. After two days of hunger strike, the family members got scared, and gave her permission on the condition that she would go only after doing household chores and return before sun set.

Parvati began to spin on a takli and later on charkha. Every day they spun on charkha for at least one hour before Gandhiji's picture. Her brother had joined swadeshi movement. She refused to go to Umrej for her child's delivery and went to a maternity home in the face of everybody's opposition.

She began selling khadi house to house. One worker explained to her why the textile mill product was cheaper and how the worker was exploited.

The Swadeshi movement spread. Once, she was in a meeting at Madhav Bagh and got an opportunity to listen to the speech made by Kamala Nehru there. The entire Nehru family had come to Mumbai. At that time Indira Gandhi must have been 12 or 13 years old. She was the captain of the 'monkey brigade'. It was also called Vanar Sena.

One day, Parvati sent her young son out with two annas to buy a new biography of Lenin she had seen advertised from Bhau Sawlaram Patkar,



Maruti's aged mother at a function in front of Moti Mills by Parvati. She held both her hands and was at a loss for words. Tears streamed down her face.

Youth and women came out in large numbers during the strike in 1928. The young people formed Tarun Kamkari Sangh ('young workers' league').

Parvati became gradually self-aware and decided to go outside and work in the union and for the country. She was at-

permission to go out for every little thing. She was informed that a meeting was to take place and just sped to it.

It was a huge meeting, and Parvati listened with rapt attention to Ushatai Dange. This was her first attendance in a public meeting. A riot broke out after Ushatai had spoken for sometime. Police began a severe lathicharge. In reply, the workers took up wooden pieces from a timber yard nearby and began wielding them. A mill woman

one of the prominent communists. Patkar stayed in the chawl opposite. Parvati, with Patkar and S. G. Tambitkar, attended classes run by the comrades. She also started acting as a courier for them, swallowing the letters if she was followed.

The conflicts at home escalated. She recognized that she had grown up, and had matured. So painful was the difficulty of moving from home to the political world that she once tried to commit suicide.

Patkar made her swear an oath on Lenin's biography never to try to take

have funds. I could now get a sense of community. My 'self' had dissolved and my scope had broadened." She collected funds by passing a plate around, thus getting 250 rupees for the union.

The Party newspaper reported her speech and described Parvatibai as 'the first woman Party member in Bombay'.

When she was arrested and taken to the police station, she fought bitterly against the rule that assigned prisoners of different backgrounds to different classes of cells. Parvatibai refused to go into her cell, demanding that she be kept in the same place as Ahilya

Mother. Tambitkar prepared two handwritten copies of the translation. Gorky's literary works helped Communist movement to grow roots in Mumbai. Gajanan Haldankar's mother mortgaged her jewellery and handed over the money to have the translation printed.

Strike of 1940

The Socialist League and Congress held a joint meeting in the People's Jinnah Hall to help workers' strike. Section 144 came into force and machine guns placed. The police were stopping people midway. Finally, it was decided that five

TU work during War

In 1941, a meeting of the mill workers' union was held at the Kamgar Maidan. Parvatibai's panel won and she was elected a secretary. N. M. Joshi was chief secretary and Parvatibai assistant secretary.

They collected funds for Bengal famine too and staged plays, helped by Balraj Sahani. Shankar Shailendra also helped to collect money in Parel and other places.

Due to the ongoing war, Party organised a camp for self-defence. There were 50 people in the Marathi division. Parvati was the lone woman in the fortnight-long camp.

Those were the days of struggle for her, and a little appreciation would encourage her. In a meeting at Dalvi Building, Parvatibai asked RPD (Rajani Palme Dutt) questions about women workers in Britain and he liked that. While leaving, he praised her and shook hands with her. Says Parvatibai: "He is no more but his pat of appreciation is with me"!

Post-independence period

During the 'BTR Period', the party was in a serious crisis. Parvatibai's house was searched.

The party told her to go underground. She was underground for 45 days. At times she knocked on the doors of mill workers to seek refuge. For a few days, she stayed with Tara Reddy's uncle in Shivaji Park. She reappeared after 45 days.

A women's conference took place at Calcutta, and she was elected as the represen-

tative of women workers. They held discussions on the life of the women workers.

She was also elected as the representative of women workers by the World Federation of International Women. She was invited to Denmark and later, to Vienna. But the police report was an obstacle and she could not go.

She was arrested for the first time from the GKU office along with three other women comrades. She was in Arthur Road Jail for 15 months under the Defence of India Act. She also fasted for 18 days.

Later she represented the GKU in all India TU conference in the Golden Rock, Tamilnadu. She got an opportunity to travel from Trichy to Madras by plane, courtesy SA Dange!

She reminisces: "This was the first time I had sat in an aeroplane and it was natural that I would be overjoyed. The plane took off; I began swimming in the air. The region that we had seen a few days ago became a dot as I looked outside with great curiosity. Dange understood my excitement and gave up his window seat to me. I will never forget that journey."

Samyukta Maharashtra Movement

Parvatibai took an active part in this movement in late 1950s. She participated in individual satyagraha. There was tear-gassing and firings as she fell unconscious. When she woke up, she was lying between two dead bodies. She was badly affected by the gas.

She remained steadfast to the party and its ideals till the last.

Biographies of Communist Leaders-89

Anil Rajimwale

her own life again!

During the famous Bitia mill strike in 1929, Parvatibai started working with Ushabai. She narrated with relish how Ushabai used female pickets to shame male strike-breakers.

She attended Lalji Pendse's political classes.

When Ushabai was arrested, Parvatibai was asked to replace her on the union executive, she thought they might be joking about this. NM Joshi was the leader of this union. Once she took charge, she had no hesitation in providing different kinds of labour for the union: "I would reach the worker's union office by 7 am, tuck my saree around my waist and clean the office space. The union didn't

Rangnekar.

She read the history of Soviet Union seven times, sitting under a tree!

Great honour

"Parvatibai Bhor Zindabad!" "Bai Bhor Lal Salaam (Red Salute)!"

The slogans resounded in Shivaji Park. She felt some hesitation on hearing her name hailed. This was a function to felicitate S A Dange who had turned 75. Dange, former President Shri V V Giri and Foreign Affairs Minister Yeshwantrao Chavan were sitting on the stage.

This was a great honour for her.

Translation of Gorky's 'Mother'

Party arranged the translation of Gorky's

women would gather in a group and go there, with Parvati in it.

She worked hard in the Bitiya Mill strike and became prominent. She got the Party membership, which was very difficult in those days. She used to sell Party weekly Lok Yuddha (People's War) during the WW II.

Attending All India trade union conference

An all India trade union conference was held at Kanpur and N M Joshi presided over it. Parvatibai went out of Mumbai for the first time. Lalji Pendse was there, and several discussions on Marxism took place with Ashok Mehta, S M Joshi and others. Parvati also spoke in broken Hindi.

Impact of October Revolution on India

The book "Impact of October Revolution on India", is a collection of articles written by prominent political leaders and intellectuals, at different points of time related to achievements of the revolution world over and impact on Indian Freedom Movement. It was published by 'Joshi Adhikari Institute of Social Studies' on the occasion of hundred years of October Revolution.

The great October Revolution or the Russian revolution in 1917 was a world-shaking event in history. In order to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the great revolution, the 'Joshi Adhikari Institute of Social Studies' has brought out a book which is a collection of articles written by prominent political leaders and intellectuals, at different points of time related to achievements of the revolution world over and impact on Indian Freedom Movement. The book has been divided into three parts, the first part gives a theoretical framework to the understanding of the Russian revolution while the second part covers the relationship between the Russian Revolution and Indian freedom struggle and finally, the third part deals with the relationship between the Soviet Union and independent India.

The first part contains four articles, the first one being, 'The Revolution of All Revolutions' written by Rajni Palm Dutt in 1967, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the Revolution

and published in New Age, the Communist Party of India's (CPI) central organ. The sum and substance of his article is about the specific characteristics of the proletariat of Russia and Revolutionary Party which was dynamic and focused. The second article, 'The theoretical significance of the October Revolution' was written by Prabhat

Tika Ram Sharma

movement of India and the effect of Russian revolution on this movement. The first World War ended in 1918 and Russian revolution took place in 1917. Most of the freedom fighters and politicians like Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru and up to some extent Mahatma

Russian Revolution had influenced a number of freedom fighters and leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi. This revolution had made a great impact on India, China and other Asian countries. The Communist Party of India was formed in 1925. The British Government tried to crush the communists in India and many were



Patnayak. The article was published in People's Democracy, the central organ of Communist Party of India (Marxist) on November 6, 2016. The writer takes at length about worker-peasants alliance and importance in revolutionary agenda. The third chapter of the book focuses on a draft thesis on National and International question prepared by Lenin and discussion held in third international, while the fourth article is a supplementary thesis on the national and colonial question suggested by MN Roy.

The second part of the book deals with articles related to the freedom

Gandhi and intellectual poets like Rabindranath Tagore and others were highly influenced by Russian Revolution. Young men like SA Dange, Muzaffar Ahmed who were acquainted with Marxist philosophy were working among industrial and mill workers and were later on influential in forming the Communist party of India in 1925.

The first article in this section is, "October Socialist Revolution and Its Impact on India and Asia" by C. Rajeshwar Rao. This article was written on the eve of the 70th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The writer has pointed out that the

sentenced to jail for several years on false pretext, however, the freedom movement continued. After India's freedom, the then Soviet Union helped India to consolidate its freedom and to build a powerful public sector.

The article by Dr G. Adhikari takes a broad view of the link between the October revolution and Indian national movement dividing it into three phases. The first phase covers (1918-35) our independence movement entering the rise of the organised working-class movement and communist party of India with adoption of the programme of complete independence. The

second phase was of the formation of united and anti-imperialist democratic movement. The freedom struggle reached its climax in the years of post war upswing and the country got its freedom. In the third phase the development of the country on the basis of five-year plans on the pattern of the USSR and its financial and technical help in building Public Sector.

C. Achutha Menon in his article, "Indian freedom Struggle and the October Revolution" says that the people in India could derive encouragement from the success of the Russian Revolution because it was of victims against Czarist autocracy, the same kind of enemy which we in India have to fight. He gives references of various movements in India to achieve the freedom and forty years of its achievements in various fields.

Vijay Kumar Sinha in his article 'Bhagat Singh and HSRA heard the call of October Revolution' explains that prior to the October Revolution, the revolutionaries believed that revolution will not only express itself in the form of an armed conflict between the foreign government and its supporters and the people, but will ring the death knell of capitalism and class, distinctions and privileges. There were rapid developments in the country after the October Revolution. Labour was coming into its own as a number of dedicated communists were mobilising them. Now they had found a new path of struggle on the basis of scientific socialism and they changed the name of their party to HSRA (Hindustan Socialist Republic Association).

In her article, "Revolution of 1917 and Impact on Indian Women", Hazra

Begum, writes that till 1927-28, ordinary Indian women were unaware of historic events that took place in 1917 in Russia. Later on, inspired by this, Indian women and young girls even teenagers such as Kalpanadutt were active with secret revolutionary organisations. Bengal was a hot-bed of revolutionary fervour. Those who joined the communist party of India (CPI) from Bengal were Suhasini Ganguli, Kamala Chatterjee, Indu Sudha Ghosh, Shanti Ghosh, Vimal Pratibha Devi, Kalyani Bhattacharya, Indumati Sinha etc. Some of the women within CPI like Ushatai Dange, Suhasini Nambiar, Meenakshi Sardesai actively took part in Trade Union Movement. Others who were outside the CPI such as Sudha Roy, Maitreyee Bose, Ambutai Bahere, Prabhavati Dasgupta were also attached with the Trade Union Movement. The third group of women who were Socialists demarcated from the CPI were Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Maniben Kara, Satyavati Devi and Poornima Banerjee, etc. Apart from this, Pioneers of the movement for women's rights were Rameshwari Nehru, Sarojini Naidu, Aruna Asif Ali and others.

The third part post-independence period contains six articles, the first one is "Long Live October Revolution" by Ajoy Ghosh. Ajoy Ghosh in this article says that the victory of Russian Revolution gave a powerful impetus to the socialist ideas all over the world and in India too. It strengthened the Communist and working-class movement and also influenced the advanced section of the Congress. besides this, it goes over many aspects of the post-

colonial period, including the peace movement, the non-aligned movement, economic planning and political scene.

The article by BTR is much more detailed and goes into the economic aspect of India's post-independence period. It elaborates which statistics the economic dependence of postcolonial countries on the imperialist world and how the imperialist world exploited this dependent relationship. Similarly, he uses elaborate statistics to illustrate positive support given by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to help the postcolonial countries to stand on their own feet.

How Russian Revolution brought about a change in Indian literature, a brief account of which has been by Rajiv Saxena, a well-known Hindi poet and writer in his article, "Great October brought a Cultural Renaissance." Rabindranath Tagore called the great October "Dawn of a new age" and Munshi Premchand as "The sun of a new civilisation". Writers and poets like Sanchi, Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, Makhanlal Chaturvedi, Naveen, Dinkar, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, Rahul Sankritiyan and many others, inspired by the great October revolution attacked the exploiter and filled the hope among the masses that one day political power would be in the hand of the working class. In Urdu literature, also revealed tendencies appears powerfully in short stories. Marxist writers like Sajjad Zaheer, Ahmed Ali, Dr. Rasid Jahan and others later on formed Progressive Writers' Movement under the chairmanship of Munshi Premchand in which the best of writers from many languages got

associated with it.

A supplementary note on progressive cultural movement explains, that the October Revolution brought a paradigm shift to all forms of art be it paintings, sculptures, dance or photography. The Indian people theatre association was under the chairmanship of Prof. Hiren Mukherjee and it was none other than scientist Homi Jehangir Bhabha, who gave this name to the organisation. During this period, there was a famine in Bengal and lakhs of people died of hunger. The artists of this organisation toured stage plays throughout the country, explaining the nexus of Indian capitalists and British rulers for this manmade famine. They collected donations through theatre shows and started kitchens to feed the common man and the organisation received immense popularity. The effect of Russian Revolution could be seen in films like Dharti ke Lal and others.

AB Bardhan in his article 'Message of October Revolution Cannot be Blurred' explains how the great October Revolution heralded a new era in world history. Prior to it, revolutions have replaced one exploiting class by another, but this revolution had thrown exploiting classes out once and for all. Despite facing all kind of hurdles and consequences of World War, Soviet Union made tremendous advancements in every field be it Science and Technology, Health and Education or Social and Economy. It was the first to conquer Space. However due to several mistakes, distortions and conspiracies, the Soviet Union disintegrated in the beginning of last decade of twentieth century. After the initial setback, communists of different parts of the world



are regrouping and carrying on their activities.

D. Raja, in his article "Revolution that lit a great flame" mentions that the Russian Revolution paved the way for toiling masses to achieve political power for the first time. It heralded the epoch of absolution of every kind of exploitation and oppression. The message of the revolution moved millions of people across the world, including in the colonial countries. It gave an impetus to the freedom struggles and national liberation movements. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union disintegrated and the socialist regrouping collapsed in eastern European countries in the 1990s.

Shameen Faize in his article 'October Revolution-Few Lessons' says that the revolution which was epoch-making gave a new impetus and direction to the freedom struggle in India. The ideals of the October Revolution became the primary source of inspiration for a large segment for our national freedom movement including the dominant leadership of the Indian National Congress. India was among countries which received maximum moral and material assistance from USSR and other countries of Europe to build our own industries and core sector. Unfortunately, the USSR collapsed and at present the rule of financial capital is there to impose its economic and political hegemony world over.

The book is a compilation of articles published in New Age, the central organ of Communist Party of India from time to time except Lenin and MN Roy's theses and the article by Prabhat Patnaik. The book was released in the honour of the hundredth anniversary of Russian Revolution. According to the editor Jaya Mehta, articles in this book are reflections of the thinking and practice of the leadership of the CPI, how it was influenced by the ideas of the Russian Revolution and at the same time, had to adapt to local conditions in its struggle against British rule in India. Many of the figures or photos of historical events which were available and valuable information related to the subject are added in the boxes. At the end of the book, introduction of the writer has been given for the knowledge of the reader.

The book has been brought out by Joshi Adhikari Institute of Social Studies, a registered institution under Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1985. It has published several books and booklets on social, political and economic issues. It has also conducted field surveys to study the problems faced by poor and marginal farmers in eight states of the country apart from organising workshops, meetings and seminars on relevant subjects. It is named after two great leaders of the Communist Party of India, PC Joshi and Dr. G Adhikari.

Calls to Defeat BJP...

From Front Page

removed from the Centre.

In the press conference, JDU leader and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar thanked those who attended the meeting and said that all the opposition parties have agreed to contest together against the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. It was quite fruitful meeting and there will be one more meeting, in which everything will be finalized, he said and added, "All of us will walk together. It is in the interest of the country. Those who are in the government now, they are not working in the interest of the country. They are changing the history of the country."

CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said that agitations will be held at the national level against the anti-people policies of the Union government. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi said that today the foundation of India is under attack. Along with national

institutions, BJP is attacking the voice of the people. "This is a battle of ideology," he

with flexibility. This is a process of opposition unity, which is going to move for-



D Raja along with Rahul Gandhi and Lalu Prasad Yadav

said, "in which we all stand together. We all may have our differences, but we are determined to work together and will defend our ideology

ward."

National President of Rashtriya Janata Dal Lalu Prasad said, "Now I am completely fit. Now

Narendra Modi and BJP have to be fit." He also took a jibe at inflation, banning Rs 2,000 notes and BJP's defeat in the Karnataka elections.

NCP president Sharad Pawar said that all parties have shown solidarity. "We will fight the Lok Sabha elections together," he said. Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren said that efforts are made to destroy our composite culture. The meeting held in Patna regarding opposition unity has been completely successful. This meeting has fixed BJP's departure from power at the Centre in 2024, he said.

CPI general secretary D Raja who came to Patna on June 23 to attend the opposition conclave on unity of opposition parties, was warmly welcomed at Patna airport on June 22. Party's state secretary Ramnaresh Pandey, Bihar government's finance minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, public health engineering minister Lalit Kumar Yadav, other party leaders and workers wel-

comed D Raja. After this, chief minister Nitish Kumar also reached the guest house and welcomed the CPI general secretary offering him a shawl.

Talking to reporters on reaching Patna, the CPI general secretary said that the country's democracy and Constitution are in danger. Solidarity and unity of the opposition parties is necessary to remove the Modi government from the Centre. It is clear from the solidarity of the opposition parties on the invitation of chief minister Nitish Kumar that the BJP-led coalition is going to face a crushing defeat in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. D Raja told that the way the Modi government is destroying constitutional institutions, the Constitution itself is facing danger. The government at the Centre is working only for the capitalists. In the last nine years, the Modi government did nothing for the workers, farmers, unemployed and youth.

State Bleeds as ...

From Last Page

NFIW Premil, leader, RK Amusana, CPI Manipur state executive member, Noor, district council member, Ksh Shanta, secretary Manipur state CPI (M).

It was addressed by Prof. Dinesh Varshney, secretary, CPI, Delhi state council, Sukhinder Mahesari, president, AIYF, Gulzar Singh Gori, general secretary, BKMU, N Tombichamu, CPI (M), among others.

In all their speeches, deep concern was visible about the present crisis in Manipur. They said that crisis was a political issue and hence,

solution also should be political. An immediate cessation of violence and restoration of peace was demanded. They said ethnic violence was led by petty politics of ruling BJP government in Manipur and demanded that the Central government should call an immediate meeting of all political parties in Manipur. Special packages should be sanctioned for displaced people, removal of the blockade on NH2, stopping of narco terrorism in Manipur among others were the immediate demands. Speakers said the ongoing turmoil in Manipur

is a direct result of the divisive policies pursued by the so-called double engine government of the BJP. Trying to widen the division among people in the small state like Manipur which is already aflame with violence have a single aim and that is electoral gains. The all-encompassing violence has a background of divisive policies and it cannot be restrained enduringly especially with the steps taken by the Union home ministry and state government.

Everyday people are dying. Those living have lost their homes. Their houses are turned to ashes, and shops are looted and burnt.

It has become the most usual sight. Miscreants

thrive on the tragedies people are suffering with. It has become very common to witness the houses set in flames and shops looted. Conflict reaching alarming levels of violence is disheartening and shows that the people of Manipur have lost their confidence in the state apparatus.

CPI understands the destruction as a result of political and social conflict and not merely a law and order issue. The party demands that the Union home ministry and the state government itself of Manipur must reach out to all stakeholders and political parties for the immediate cessation of hostilities.

A political solution to the

crisis should be reached by taking all opinions and people into confidence and restoring normalcy and peace in Manipur. CPI appeals to all sections of the people of Manipur to maintain peace and normalcy.

This Dharna was also joined by CPI Delhi State leaders Kehar Singh, Ram Raj, Ajay Malik, all Secretariat Members of CPI Delhi state council and R P Attri, Sanjeev Kumar Rana, Niraj Kumar, Baban Kumar Singh, all CPI Delhi state council members, Haider Ali, central district assistant secretary and state council member and Muslim Mohammad, member of district council of south Delhi.

Trump's Rhetorics against Communists Continue

The capitalists and imperialist countries are still against the communists and Marxists, though they claim that they have finished the communist ideology from the earth, but still they are afraid of communists. The recent rhetoric against the communists is from non-other than the defeated Donald Trump the ex-US president who is convicted by the US court. Trump has announced a new campaign proposal on United States immigration—barring “communists” and “Marxists” from entering the country. Trump is making another bid in 2024, said he would use “Section 212 (f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act” to “order my government to deny entry to all communists and all Marxists.”

The announcement was reminiscent of Trump's ban on travellers from several predominantly Muslim countries during his first term, which was heavily criticized as anti-Muslim and ultimately revoked by President Joe Biden. If he wins he will be keeping foreign, Christian-hating communists, Marxists and socialists out of America. Trump's proposal also raised questions about whether a decades-old law could actually be used to ban all communist and Marxist immigrants to the U.S., how it would work, and why Trump is so focused on these political theories in a country where few residents support them.

U.S. immigration law already bars people who are members of a Communist Party from becoming naturalized citizens or green card holders. The draconian law says that who is or has been

a member of or affiliated with the Communist or any other totalitarian party (or subdivision or affiliate thereof), domestic or foreign, is inadmissible.”

The origins of that rule date back to 1918 when the U.S. government became concerned about “external threats of anarchism and communism. At that time, it

ist visa or as a student. During his speech Trump said he would use a particular section of U.S. immigration law—Section 212 (f)—to bar “all communists and all Marxists.” That section gives broad authority to bar people who aren't U.S. citizens entering the country if their entry would be “detrimental to the interests of the

justices weren't weighing in on whether it was good policy but that it was well within U.S. presidents' considerable authority over immigration.

Trump wasn't the first president to use this specific power of immigration law to limit who can come into the U.S. A 2020 Congressional Research Service report noted instances where it had been used by various presidents, but the report noted that Trump used the authority to impose broader restrictions than his predecessors.

Western powers deem Russia alien to their 'civilisation'

Recent events have highlighted that Russia can only communicate with the West from a position of power, as the latter are bent on embarking on a “path of fierce confrontation” with it, top Russian lawmaker Valentina Matvienko.

Moscow does not see Western nations as its traditional enemies but the US and its allies will only listen to the language of force, Matvienko, the Chairperson of the Russian Federation Council - the upper house of the national parliament, said in a statement on the eve of Russia Day - the national holiday marking the establishment of the modern Russian state.

The West has always treated Russia as “something alien to its civilization” and “such a sentiment is deeply rooted in European society,” she said, adding that it cannot be just cast away. The Western nations have embarked on a path of “fierce confrontation” with Moscow as they follow

Diary of International Events

C. Adhikesavan

Washington in its attempts to preserve its global hegemony - a prospect where Russia has always been a major obstacle, Matvienko said.

Moscow has done “everything in its power and even more” to ensure its security and defend its legitimate national interests through peaceful means, but its “only mistake” was that it trusted the West too much and was not “tough” enough in its dealings with Washington and its allies, she added. Modern Western leaders are obsessed with the idea of their civilization being chosen for some higher purpose and are adamant that they can make no mistake, Matvienko said. Such people are only capable of talking to their counterparts from a position of power and they understand only the language of force, she added.

“Most modern Western politicians and government officials do not even try to understand that the world is going through a major transformation and is nothing like it was some 20-25 years ago,” the Russian Senator said, citing a “deep crisis of the liberal ideology” that has hit both Western nations and the world as a whole.

Western governments are the ones violating the democratic principles in their own nations and beyond their borders, Matvienko said, adding that the US and its allies continue to falsely claim to be the major defenders of democracy in the world. Russia needs to become stronger in the fields of security, economy and technology, she continued, warning that it will face some “major challenges” in the future.

Bell Curves ■ R Prasad



was also the end of World War I, communism was taking root in the Soviet Union, and the country would soon impose strict immigration quotas in the U.S. But, it does have some exceptions. For example, people who had to join the Communist Party in order to get a job or if their membership was issued when under age 16, according to immigration code.

The prohibition also doesn't currently apply to someone who wants to visit the U.S., such as on a tour-

United States.”

Trump's comments on barring communists and Marxists harken back to one of the more controversial actions of his administration—often referred to by critics as a travel ban on Muslims. Opponents cited Trump's own tweets and rhetoric in arguing that the travel ban discriminated against Muslims. But the high court ruled 5-4 in Trump's favour. Chief Justice John Roberts said in the majority opinion at the time that the

Unite to Defeat....

From Page 04

destine manner. One may say that Modi hasn't got a family and that there is no need for him to indulge in corruption. But under his Governance, 30 businessmen had looted public money, who where all let to leave the country scot free. 29th them are from Gujarat, said Dr.Narayana.

During the 9 years of BJP rule, prices of all essential commodities have sky rocketed. The price of cooking gas has increased from Rs.410 to Rs.1210 per cyl-

inder. The prices of petrol and Diesel had increased many fold during this period, he said.

Dr.Narayana said that the Country is at cross roads. In the Modi regime, the democratic and Secular values of our Nation is under attack. The federal set up of the Country is at stake.

Even the President of India was not spared. By choosing not to allow her, the premiere of the Parliament, to inaugurate the new building Modi has acted against the constitution of India,

women and the Adivasis.

He said that BJP may have a political agenda to make Modi as the President of India and establish an American model rule here

While concluding his speech Dr.Narayana exhorted to all the Secular and Democratic forces opposed to the retrograde polices of Modi to stand united to bring down the BJP Government in the ensuing election to save the Secular, Democratic values and the Nation.

A.M.Saleem, State Secretary in his presiding

address told the gathering that the Modi Government had failed to deliver. The NR Congress BJP ally Government in Puducherry is least bothered about the development or the rights of the State. While closing down the Government run textile mills which were the haven of employment, it has opened doors for hundreds of pubs and resto bars.

CPI in Puducherry had well utilised this campaign to expose the anti national BJP rule to the people by a novel way of propaganda, he said

Former Chief Minister of Puducherry from

Congress Party V. N a r a y a n a s a m y, Puducherry Opposition leader and DMK organizer R.Siva, CPI(M) State Secretary R.Rajangam, VCK Principal Secretary D e v a . P o z h i l a n , R.Viswanathan, Former Minister CPI ,Nara.Kalainathan, SEC Members, CPI, Mothilal from CPI(ML), A.Gabriel from MDMK, Siva.Veeramani from DK, Umar Farook from IUML, Y.Mushtag Deen from MMk spoke at the public meeting

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From Page 05

will explain to the people about the attacks on the working class and other toiling sections and above all about the attacks by the BJP government on trade union leaders who are fighting on behalf of toiling sections. Leaders will also explain how the BJP government is implementing the British policies. She also pointed out that the national working committee meeting of AITUC which was held in Lucknow had also decided to organize protest demonstrations against the anti-worker policies of Central and state governments.

Referring to the programme of framers' unions on November 27, 29 and 29, 2023 the AITUC general secretary said that

central trade unions also will take part in programme. In view of 2024 general elections agitation programme will be decided in order to awake the people. Concrete programme will be evolved in order to dethrone the BJP government from power. In the same way as was done in Karnataka, trade union leaders and kisan leaders will go to every village, every house, every industry and explain how the central government is not implementing the assurances given by it at the time of withdrawal of kisan movement.

The government has not yet given any relief to the families of the deceased in the kisan movement. Also till date the cases instituted during the kisan movement are not withdrawn. She

CTUs to Hold Dharna ...



AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur addressing the meeting

urged upon the state governments including the Telangana state government not to implement the labour codes which are anti-worker. She concluded by criticizing the Central government which did not invite the President of the country

Droupadi Murma to the inaugural function of the new building of Parliament. S Balraj, state general secretary of AITUC assured that district level conventions will be organized as preparation for maha padav. The meeting was also attended

by Vidya Sagar Giri, AITUC national vice president, Chandraiah B, state vice president, M Narsimha state deputy general secretary, Karuna Nanduri and B Venkatesh, state secretaries, Boddupalli Kushan, council member.

On Record ...

A 32-year-old Muslim man named Affan Abdul Ansari was brutally beaten to death on Saturday night by a Hindutva mob in Nashik. Ansari, who hailed from Mumbai's Kurla area, was accompanied by his friend Nasir Ghulam Hussain Qureshi and was travelling in a car when they were intercepted and attacked by the self-proclaimed cow vigilantes. The police have taken ten people into custody thus far in connection with the incident. Bhamre mentioned, "Based on the complaint filed by the injured person, we have registered a case of murder and rioting and are currently investigating the matter." Meanwhile, Bhamre added that the meat in the car of two Muslim men has been sent for a forensic test "to find out if it was buffalo meat or beef." — *maktoobmedia.com*, June 29.

The people of Kerala are capable of understanding the underlying motivations behind the calls for the removal of the state's autonomy. Kerala will steadfastly defend pro-people policies and resist communal forces in India, as it has always done. Since assuming power in 2014, the Narendra Modi-led BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) government has systematically challenged the foundation of India's constitutionally recognised federal values and democratic principles. Through various actions, such as the abrogation of Article 370, introducing an ordinance to nullify



a Supreme Court order granting administrative autonomy to the Delhi government, and weaponising central agencies like ED and CBI against opposition leaders, the government has displayed a clear intent to consolidate power at the Centre, disregarding the essence of India as a Union of states.

Furthermore, encroachment upon subjects under states' jurisdiction, demonstrated through the agricultural laws, Labor Codes, and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), are further evidence of the ruling party's concerted effort to undermine provincial states' autonomy. — *newsclick.in*, June 27.

While campaigning for the U.S. presidency, Joe Biden sharply criticized the Modi government's human rights record, writing how two of its landmark laws are "inconsistent with the country's long tradition of secularism and with

sustaining a multi-ethnic and multi-religious democracy." Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads a country that is suddenly at the center of U.S. strategy in Asia. And Biden has changed his tune, inviting the prime minister to a state visit this week.

It's widely understood that when U.S. elites refer to India having a functional free press, judiciary, and democracy, they are either dishonest or in denial about how the country's political system has developed under Modi. But the same is true when they praise India's economy. The U.S. government seems to be operating under the assumption that Modi's India can sustain the country as it decouples from Chinese manufacturing. There is little reason to believe that is true. — *foreignpolicy.com*, June 23.

Compiled by: **C Adhikesavan**



CPI general secretary D Raja addressing the gathering

Manipur Suffers Sharp Division among People

STATE BLEEDS AS RULERS REMAIN APATHETIC

“The ongoing turmoil in Manipur is a direct result of the policy of dividing the people pursued by the ‘double engine’ government of BJP. A political solution to the burning problem has to be arrived at taking all hues and opinions of the masses in the state,” said D Raja, general secretary, Communist Party of India while addressing the gathering attending “National Convention on Peace in Manipur”, on June 25, 2023, in Delhi. He said, “Normalcy and peace must be established in this state. CPI appeals to all sections of the people of Manipur.” The dharnas were organized by ten likeminded parties in Manipur that are CPI, CPIM, Congress, AITUC, AIFB, RSP, JDU, NCP, SS (UBT) and AAP.

From Manipur, other than the state CPI leadership, it was also attended by national council secretaries Dr K. Narayana, Pallab Sengupta, national council member Prof Dinesh Varshney, secretary, Delhi state council. Among others on the dais were Jairam Ramesh, Ibobi Singh, former chief minister of Manipur,

Nilotpall Basu, politbureau member of CPI(M), G Devrajan, general secretary, AIFB, RS Dagar, RSP, L. Thoren, Hoiren, secretary, Joy Kumar, assistant secretary, CPI Manipur.

Joy Kumar conducted the proceedings of the convention.

Manipur State council of the Communist Party of In-

dia and Delhi CPI State Council held a massive protest Dharna at Jantar Mantar in Delhi against

by the prime minister. Sotin Singh presided over the proceedings. Among those who addressed the

Sandosh Kumar, Manipur state secretary L Thoiren, NSinghajit, Joy Kumar, both assistant secretaries of CPI



unabated violence continuing for last 50 days in the state and also against the stony silence over the issue

dharna were CPI national secretaries, K Narayana, Ramakrishna Panda, and member of Parliament P

Manipur state council, AITUC leader Shamungou Singh, state secretary of

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