

Defeat BJP in Coming Parliamentary Polls: CPI

PROTECT SECULARISM, DEMOCRACY, CONSTITUTION

PATNA: An extended meeting of the Bihar state executive of the Communist Party of India was held on June 24, 2023 at Janashakti Bhavan. Mithilesh Kumar Jha presided over the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja spoke in detail on the present political situation, prevailing in the country. National council secretary Nagendra Nath Ojha who also addressed the meeting spoke on the current political developments in the state.

Party state council secretary Ramnaresh Pandey addressing the executive meeting gave a detailed picture of the future action plans. According to the plan, the party will organize a rally on November 2, 2023, host the national conference of Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union (BKMU), the national conference of the AISF and conferences of all the CPI branches and area committees of the party by September.

Addressing the state executive meeting, CPI general secretary D Raja called upon the party comrades and supporters to play a leading role in protecting the Constitution and democracy by defeating the ruling BJP government at the Centre in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024. He termed the meeting of major opposition parties held in Patna on June 23 as a welcome step in this direction. Democracy,



CPI general secretary D Raja addressing the meeting

Constitution and fundamental rights have been destroyed during the nine years of BJP rule.

He pointed out that constitutional institutions were made puppets of the ruling regime. The Union government is working at the behest of the corporates. Atrocities on Dalits, tribals, women and minorities have increased under this government. BJP has to be removed from the Centre to save the country, its Constitution and democracy.

Welcoming the historic meeting of the opposition parties held in Patna, the capital of Bihar, D Raja 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

Kirens Kumar



is to face a crushing defeat in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

Addressing the meeting, Nagendra Nath Ojha called upon the state party leaders to start preparing for the 'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao' rally to be held in Patna on November 2. He asked the leaders

to visit villages and towns and hold meetings as part of the preparations.

The executive meeting held a detailed review of the padayatra and mass satyagraha organized in the state. As part of the party's nationwide political campaign, a short report was placed at the meeting on the Padayatra from April 14, on Ambedkar Jayanti day, till May 31, 2023, and the Jan Satyagraha convened at the district headquarters on June 08-09, 2023, as per the decision of the party's state council. According to the decision of the state council, a target was fixed to complete the branch and regional conferences by the month of September. A concrete plan will be made in this regard by calling a meeting of the zilla parishads soon. Also it was decided to make the

'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao' rally to be organized by the party on November 02, 2023 at Gandhi Maidan in Patna a historic one. Preparations will be started by organizing meetings from district to branch level.

Later addressing press conference organized after the conclusion of the state executive meeting on June 24, the CPI general secretary said that 15 political parties present in the meeting of major opposition parties of the country called on the invitation of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on June 23 unitedly pledged to participate in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections and build a BJP-Sangh Mukta Bharat, which is a welcome starting point for safeguarding democracy

On Page 10

Napoleon had once said, "...Money has no motherland; Financiers are without patriotism and also without decency. Their sole object is gain". Though not visible, it is the creed on which the finance capital takes roots. India is slowly stumbling towards the higher state of capitalism which does not have a face but in essence is merger of industrial capital and banking capital. The notification by the RBI on

June 8, 2023 allows the commercial banks to negotiate compromise settlements with willful defaulters who refuse to settle the outstanding loans despite having capacity to repay and to settle their outstanding debts once and for all. The notification further said, any criminal process that might have been initiated against such defaulters would continue; the concerned bank was to take precautions that while negotiating such a statement, it will not burden itself with litigation and other expenses. After five years, such defaulters may be considered eligible for any fresh loan! It is quite consistent with the rationale of finance capital. Finance is usually an 'excellent servant', but 'cruel master'.

The world is in fact witnessing today crevices getting wider and deeper, leading to an inequitable order promoted in the process of globalization. Attempts are made to destroy not only the federalism, there is also horror of fundamentalist terrorism growing against everything that is secular, democratic, and also socialist. In order to discredit the bedrock of our democracy, our Constitution, is also facing the knife from the Right Reaction. Its unitary and the federal structure that represent its composite character are also going to fade. Any regional initiative or even aspiration is not to be permitted. For example, in 2017, the GST was imposed on states. But the rate of tax on different commodities was not to be decided by them. It was given to them earlier as their

Democracy in Peril

constitutional right, but was usurped by the Centre.

The states have to follow whatever amount the centre decides, despite the GST council established with the state representatives. It makes the states further dependent on the Centre, that maintains its hegemony over the entire country. Thus not only federalism gets wiped out, but small and middle industrialists also face a grim future.

The Centre also keeps depriving the states of their constitutional rights. The four Labour Codes and the now repealed three agriculture related laws, passed by the Parliament are the glaring proofs of the same. Now the entire Labour

Editorial

Act that working class and the entire toiling masses had got passed in the Parliament after constant struggle stand abolished. Instead there are the four labor codes that subsume 29 existing labour laws. Labour is in the concurrent list, with rights to legislate given both to state and the centre by the Constitution. But the government at the Centre was keen to support the corporate sector and introduced the right to hire and fire policies, fixed term employment, increased working hours and reduced minimum wage norms. The states were forced to formulate complying rules under these Codes to get them implemented. The three farm laws under state list were repealed only under immense pressure of the farmers' movement.

There is no endorsing or financing the helpless masses in the states in times of crisis. The welfare funds allotted for the purpose and to be released by the Centre are not only delayed but also refused to the states in need. The schemes implementation are delayed, less paid, and get indebted despite the funds lying either idle or channeled in other streams. The rural job guar-

antee scheme (MGNREGS) scheme has been the worst victim for which Central funds are never enough making the states always accumulating huge debts. Several other central schemes like education programs, scholarships for SC/ST, child and mother nutrition programmes, minority development schemes are several such examples that have been axed without any qualms. Depriving the states of their welfare funds has been destroying the state's financial situation. As a result they are rendered weaker and more dependent on Central largesse.

There is also the intervention of Hindutva ideas, an ultra-nationalistic stream, with particular stress on fragmentation through communalism. The purpose is to change the connotation of both unity and diversity. There are the sham patriotic sentiments uttered and imposed with glorification of war. In the same breath, there are initiatives taken to weaken the country's sovereignty and security by privatizing defense production, inviting foreign capital in it, and completely aligning with the US in all defense matters. There was also abrogation of Art 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as the state was cruelly divided. The divisive attempts, made brutally, were exclusively made against the Muslim hegemony. The divisive agenda was followed against the democratic institutions as well. The democratic structure of the institutions were crushed and replaced by select group of people loyal to regime and its ideology. People armed with staunch RSS ideology were appointed as heads and as important decision makers. It is true not only about appointing vice chancellors and directors of universities or research bodies, but also about the heads of various commissions and councils, statutory bodies like police forces and wings of government like the CBI, ED, etc. Everywhere, their ideological onslaught is visible, taking away not only our present, but also the entire historicity.

CPI Decries Israeli Air Strikes on Palestinian Refugee Camp

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on July 5, 2023:

Communist Party of India condemns the military and air strikes by Israel on the Palestinian refugee camp of Jenin, part of occupied West Bank for the last few days in the name of fighting terrorism. Already 12 Palestinians have been killed, more than 200 injured and thousands displaced.

CPI demands immediate end to air strikes and other repressive measures by the IDF on the Palestinian people in Jenin refugee camp.

CPI calls upon the international community to take necessary measures to stop Israel to continue its aggressions and illegal occupation of Palestinian land.

CPI has expressed its concern as India has been silent over the Israeli actions which goes against our long standing support to the Palestinian cause. US, UK and EU have also condemned it.

CPI calls upon Indian people to intensify its solidarity with the Palestinian people so that they can achieve an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Priorities are Markets and Corporates, not People

National Research Foundation: Another Myth?

The Union Cabinet last week approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill 2023 to promote Research and Development in the country. The program which is budgeted with Rs 50,000 crore for five years (2023-28) is aimed at fostering research and development in various national institutes, IITs, Universities, and local colleges with an emphasis on innovation. As part of the controversial National Educational Policy (NEP 2020) the task is to reorganize the foundations of Indian science with a big emphasis on markets and corporates instead of serving the immediate needs of the people. The bill is proposed to be introduced in the forthcoming monsoon session of Parliament.

NRF is a single-window research funding body. Several earlier government funding agencies such as CSIR, DST, DBT, and others stand dissolved now. NRF is established to centralize approval of funding and filter them to suit the objectives of saffron ideas of the NEP. The bill repeals the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by Parliament in 2008 and subsumes it into the NRF.

NRF is being established at a critical time when the Indian science sector is plagued with a funding crisis and dilution of social objectives entrusted to it at the dawn of Indian independence. Rarely does one come across within national research institutes a basic research project aimed at the improvement of fuel efficiency of engines in either aircraft or automobiles, nuclear fusion, alternative fuels, climate change, silicon chips, and sequencing of pathogenic genomes. Many of the IITs and national institutes which in the recent

past were known to conduct some world-class research and have successfully developed turbine engines, heavy boilers, animal, and human vaccines (against TB, leprosy, and others) are now encouraged by government funding agencies to address either insignificant research projects aimed at “unearthing” miracles of Vimana related ancient aircraft or Panchgavya, cow urine or dung insect repellent capsules.

Sadly, important research projects addressing water-borne, endemic diseases like Tuberculosis, and malnutrition, fundamental research in electronics, microchip development, alternative sources of energy, environment, safe drinking water, and others are grossly neglected through the austerity in funding. The aspirations for a truly functional research ecosystem are being sacrificed for myths and pseudo-science. Today the world is led by scientific innovation and knowledge. Four of the five major companies in the world (Apple, Google, Facebook, Microsoft) are knowledge-based. Unless India rushes to conduct research in new knowledge areas like AI, genome sequencing, or clean green hydrogen we will miss the technology bus and continue to remain a huge consumer space for western multinational companies.

India's investment in research and innovation (R&I), as a percentage of GDP, has steadily dropped from 0.86 percent in 2008 to about 0.66 percent in 2018; whereas it was 2.9 percent in the USA, 2.14 percent in China,

4.8 percent in Israel and 0.69 percent in South Africa. The number of researchers per lakh of the population is only 15 in India, compared with 111 in China, 423 in the US, and 825 in Israel. As a direct consequence, India lags in the number of patents and publications generated. The challenges include an inconsistent funding stream (uncertainty of regular salaries to project-employed young scientists and their low salaries and a multi-layered hierarchical administrative approval system. I personally experienced, funding agencies like the Department of Biotechnology or DST releasing the bulk of the funds at the very tail end of the financial year.

According to World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), China submitted 1.59 million patents, USA 591,743, while India made a mere 61,573. We pride ourselves that today we emerged as the fifth largest publisher of scientific articles. However, nearly 80 percent of them are not from peer-reviewed major scientific journals. At the beginning of the recent COVID epidemic, the Union government initially ignored all warnings of the scientific community, encouraged huge mass gatherings (like Kumbh melas), and promoted unscientific and pseudo-science practices like banging utensils, lighting diyas, use of cow urine or clinically untested country medicines. Only after huge resistance, and public statements by the scientific community government finally woke up and took measures to

Dr Soma Marla

import COVID medication and vaccines and their indigenous production. INSACOG, a genome body under the Department of Science and Technology with branches across the country established RT-PCR testing for genome sequence, identifying, and monitoring viral variants to control the spread of the epidemic. The huge contribution by scientists of INSACOG in speedy sequencing and identification of variants from time to time in controlling the epidemic deserves appreciation.

With the meagre allocation of funds in ratio to GDP and in NRF, the exclusion of crucial scientific themes like Darwinism, the periodic table, pollution, and climate change from the syllabus in the school curriculum it is unlikely to promote enthusiasm to research in classrooms under recent NEP. It may not cultivate the right environment among young students and attract them to science. In this scenario, NRF would not be able to transform the research ecosystem in regional universities and colleges and generate crores of jobs in the knowledge economy as promised.

For overall industrialization and agricultural development, self-reliance in science and technology (S&T) assisted by scientific temper is crucial. In independent India, till the middle of the 1980s (till the beginning of neoliberalism) it was believed that science and technology are very much needed for independent

development and they cannot be borrowed or bought from the West. We need to develop these capabilities ourselves indigenously. Consequently, indigenously developed science and technology in strategic sectors, like space, nuclear energy, and defense, agriculture was supported by national research labs of CSIR, ICAR IITs, and major universities.

Manufacturing goods under “MAKE IN INDIA” by importing knowledge and machinery does not help to build a self-reliant country. India is a big and good market. Naturally, western multinational corporations are quite interested in influencing our policies in scientific research. Hence western nations denied assisting India in the first decades after independence. Only USSR helped us to build our public sector and strengthen our economy in sectors like steel, energy, pharmaceuticals, space, and atomic energy. Reliance, Mittal, and other industries owe their origins to ONGC, the Steel Authority of India, and BHEL.

Prime Minister Modi is pushing the RSS agenda through National Research Foundation to replace self-reliant science with reliant research. NRF intends to hand over public-funded research, to the private sector to serve corporate business interests. Of Rs 50,000 crores (for a period of 5 years), only Rs 10,000 crores will come from government coffers, and the rest Rs 40,000 crores will be from the private sector. Interestingly, the private sector is not interested in

On Page 12

AP Left Rallies against Electricity Reforms

In response to the call given by 10 left parties, protest demonstrations took place throughout Andhra Pradesh in front of electricity offices against the so-called electricity reforms of Modi government and as part of it chief minister Jaganmohan Reddy's introduction of smart meters and hiking exorbitantly electricity charges in the state.

In Vizag a huge procession was taken out to the CMD office of Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd (APEPDCL), located at Seethammadhara, on June 30, 2023 under the auspices of CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) New Democracy, MCPI and others.

Ram Narasimha Rao

Addressing the protesters, CPI AP state council secretary K Ramakrishna alleged that Jaganmohan Reddy, chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, is snatching away people's money by hiking electricity charges in the name of surcharges. He also asked whether anybody had asked chief minister to introduce smart meters. The chief minister should make it clear whether legislators of ruling YSRCPhad asked him to introduce smart meters as well as the reason behind introduction of smart meters which are not useful to any

section of people of the state.

K Ramakrishna pointed out that while Jaganmohan Reddy was in the opposition, he had criticized the then TDP government as it

had burdened the common man by hiking electricity charges. The present YSRCP government headed by Jaganmohan Reddy has hiked electricity charges many times. With

such frequent hikes in electricity charges, many families are being hit and they are suffering a lot. CPI has stood by the suffering people. That is the reason why all ten left parties got united and are agitating in every corner of the state against hike in electricity charges.

He also pointed out that in Rajasthan the price of each smart meter is Rs 9,600.

On Page 12



What the Others Say...

Nothing fishy

India's 8,000-km coastline — nine states, four UTs — is a fish lover's paradise. On offer is fresh catch of variety, curried and grilled, dried and fried, as much cultural heritage as a rich, longstanding, sustainable source of protein. It is thus encouraging to find in a first-of-its-kind small study by the Central Marine Fisheries Institute that 91 per cent of 70 species evaluated (135 including subpopulations) had healthy numbers. India has over 1,500 marine species and 900 freshwater ones, which together with 'exotic' and brackish water varieties total over 2,800 species on record.

The study is especially heartening since rise in sea-levels, increased intensity of cyclones even on the west coast, and warming of the Indian Ocean have drastically altered marine ecosystems. Add to this the economic pains of fishing communities who face the brunt of disruptions caused by trawler overfishing, juvenile fishing, water pollution, fishing bans over weather events, and it is clear the study is a much-needed fillip for the 2.8 crore people for whom fishing is livelihood.

Government of India is invested in improving the sector, with a proposed investment of Rs 30,572 crore (2015-2025). But much needs to be done by way of infrastructure, regulation, oversight, insurance and policies by both state governments and the Centre — not least settle court cases on issues such as purse seine fishing that's divided the community. The fact is India's position as world's third largest fish producer and fourth largest exporter makes it evident this is the solution to the country's nutritional needs — a fact noted by fisheries ministry too.

Not only is fish healthier, but the climate impact of fish production is also a fraction of meat production — by some estimates six times lower carbon per kilo than meat. But first, India must ensure sustain-

able fishing practices for preserving biodiversity. More and more detailed annual surveys can better inform policy and techniques. Livelihood, exports, nutrition levels — there's plenty at stake, and of course, there are those delectable fish preparations.

Courtesy: The Times of India

Focus on fixing rail's nuts-and-bolts issues

Human error and signalling lapses may have been responsible for the worst railway accident in three decades that killed 293 people in Odisha last month, the main Railways investigation of the crash has said. The report prepared by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), AM Chowdhary, flagged three main findings. The first was two botched repair works, one in 2018 and another just hours before the accident, which compromised the signalling system. Two, it said the accident could potentially have been avoided had the repeated glitches been flagged. The botched repair work in 2018 included cable faults that were fixed but were not marked on a crucial circuit board. And three, it noted the problems of wrong wiring and cable fault were seen in a previous instance in West Bengal last year but no corrective actions were taken.

The report will be part of inputs to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is carrying out the main criminal investigation. It underlines what is already known — that the improvement of railway infrastructure is an unglamorous, painstaking and gradual process that requires enormous political will and huge financial investment, both of which have been found to be in short supply under successive administrations. Fixing the nuts-and-bolts that hold together one of the world's largest rail networks is difficult but necessary and urgent. So even as the CBI probes if sabotage caused the accident, Railways should re-double its focus on this aspect.

A character in American science fiction writer Robert A Heinlein's 1941 novella *Logic of Empire* famously said: "You have attributed conditions to villainy that simply result from stupidity.(...)"The authorities would be well served to remember that.

Courtesy: The Hindustan Times

Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja, party national council secretaries Dr K Narayana, Dr Bhalchandra Kango and Nagendranath Ojha, also former member of Parliament, were given a warm welcome by the Jharkhand state leaders of the party under the leadership of the state council secretary Mahendra Pathak at Ranchi airport on June 16, 2023. The leaders arrived there to take part in the state council meeting of the party.

From the airport they were taken in a convoy of dozens of vehicles to the state party office situated at Albert Ekka junction where party executive and state council members garlanded the leaders amidst shouting slogans, 'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao'. The leaders were also presented shawls.

Then from the party office, along with a convoy of dozens of vehicles, the general secretary was taken to the samadhi place of the tribal leader and freedom fighter Dharti Aba Bhagwan Birsa Munda. After garlanding the statue, D Raja took the pledge to organize mass struggles to make the dreams of Bhagwan Birsa Munda come true. Addressing the people assembled there on the occasion, D Raja said that while fighting the battle for land, water and forest, Birsa and others sacrificed their lives. We are in the land of martyrs, and Jharkhand has given birth to many brave sons, who fought the British.

Along with a convoy of 50 vehicles state council and state executive members, raising 'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao' under the leadership of state council secretary Mahendra Pathak, district council secretary Vishnu Kumar, state council member Niyaman Yadav, city secretary Sanjay Goyal under the leadership of BN Poddar marched to Subhash Chowk and garlanded the statues of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in front of Subhash Chowk. The leaders told the people assembled there that during the Con-

gress session on the land of Ramgarh, Subhash Chandra Bose, along with Mahatma Gandhi, all the well-known revolutionary heroes of the country had given slogans from Ramgarh to the British to Quit India. Today the entire Ramgarh is resounding with the slogan 'Remove BJP, Save the Country'. With the convoy from Subhash Chowk, with deafening slogans, 'Remove BJP, Save the country; Remove BJP, Save Democracy.'

In Kshatriya Dharamshala, Ramgarh, the comrades of Ramgarh warmly welcomed their leaders by wearing garlands of 51 kg. Lakhan Lal Mahto presided over the meeting that followed. In a jam-packed meeting hall, CPI general secretary D Raja national council secretaries Nagendra Nath Ojha, Bhalchandra Congo, K Narayana former state secretary Bhubaneswar Prasad Mehta, state secretary Mahendra Pathak district secretary Vishnu Kumar, national council member Pramod Kumar Pandey and others addressed the party comrades.

D Raja said that the country is passing through a serious problem. There is a situation of undeclared emergency in the country. Sitting on the throne, a dictator is wreaking havoc on the whole country. His ministers are on a tour of the whole country to tell the good governance and achievement of the Modi government at the Centre. But instead of good governance, nine years of rule were full of bad governance.

In nine years, the general secretary pointed out hunger, unemployment, helplessness, economic crisis, communal riots and mob lynching have increased. In this so called good governance of demonetisation, GST, lock-out in the country, the country's industries and businesses were troubled and

destroyed. Farmers, labourers and students were on trouble. Young women are visible on the streets in their own way. All the public institutions of the country are being handed over to Adanis and Ambanis. Profit making companies are being sold at throwaway prices. Today, Modi government has borrowed three times loans from foreign countries than what was not done in 70 years. That's why the CPI has taken a decision in the Party Congress at Vijayawada to work towards removing BJP to save the country, Constitution and democracy. A nationwide campaign is going on in the whole country. The party appeals to all the parties of the country to unite to oust BJP from power.

Addressing the meeting, Dr B K Kango and Dr K Narayana said that the central government is attacking the labourers. All the rights of the labourers have been taken away by bringing in four codes. The farmers taught a lesson to Modi by forcing him to withdraw the three black laws. But the Modi government betrayed them. He had promised the farmers that he would make laws for the minimum support price, but till date he has not done that.

In Chatra, Hazaribagh, Koderma, Ramgarh, Palamu, Gadhwa, Jamtara, Deoghar, Gonda, the party is fighting for displacement. Due to the huge problems of the displacement, the previous government in the state has definitely stopped the handing over of land in 2,300,000 hectares to benefit the corporate houses. The government is continuously working for the implementation of the land acquisition law in the state, setting up of displacement commission, etc.

In the meetings of state executive and council, political and organizational report of the state was presented by Mahendra Pathak. Presenting the political report,

Mahendra Pathak

Mahendra Pathak said that there is a tussle between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in the state. Both are accusing each other of corruption, one is land scam and the other is mineral wealth scam. ED and CBI have surrounded the state's opposition parties. In the election BJP tried to intimidate the Hemant Soren government on the pretext of commission envelope, but Hemant Soren won the BJP in the political field by bringing the Khatian of 1932 on the question of local planning. Today the Bharatiya Janata Party has gone on the backfoot.

In the meeting of the State Council, it was unanimously decided to prepare for elections in seven Lok Sabha and 22 assembly constituencies. From August 15 to August 30,

in all the blocks, demonstrations with the slogan of BJP Bhagao Desh Bachao will be held.

Demonstrations will be held in all district headquarters on the occasion of Farmer's Demand Day on September 1.

In the month of October-November, village-to-village campaign, small and big nook and corner meetings, jeep jathas will be organized in the entire state.

A huge rally will be held in Ranchi in the month of November.

CPI will intensify the fight for the protection of water, forest and land.

CPI leaders under the leadership of D Raja also met chief minister Hemant Soren to solve the problems of the state and create unity at the national level.



Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja and national council secretary Pallab Sengupta met on July 3, 2023 chairman of the South African Communist Party Dr Blade Nzimande, who is also the minister of higher education, science and innovation. The leaders of both parties exchanged their views on the challenges the world is facing at present. They also decided to strengthen the bilateral ties.

Removing Darwin's Theory Dampens Scientific Spirit: AIPF

Negating Darwin Causes Harm to Future Generations

The Tirupati district unit of AIPF organized a seminar on the subject 'Removal of Darwin Theory is Anti-Science'. AIPF national vice president Dr. Yugal Rayalu was the key speaker. In charge of Peoples Publishing House, Dr. Bhalchandra Kango and AIPF general secretary Anil Rajimwale were guest speakers.

The keynote address of Dr. Rayalu had an introduction to the great historic contribution of three scientists; Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, and Karl Marx to the development of scientific understanding of the world. Newton explained with his laws of motion how the stars and the planets do not need any heavenly control for their motion. This moved the human understanding of the world away from faith to analytical.

By Our Correspondent

Similarly, Darwin explained that human beings are not special beings on Earth. He decisively explained that human beings are part of the animal world, being at the fag-end of the chain of evolution. He said Darwin's discovery negated the very idea of one race (of human beings) being superior to the other. His theses categorically proved that all human beings are interrelated and belong to a common family that originated from a common ancestor five million years ago.

This revelation came as a shock to the proponents of the theory of Adam and Eve, who want us to believe that

some human beings are the chosen darlings of the heavenly father. Darwin was excommunicated. But to the dismay of the opponents of Darwin's theory, scientific understanding spread all over the world and Darwin's theory was accepted all over the world. The institutions that excommunicated Darwin tendered apology saying they had erred and done injustice to the great scientist.

By removing Darwin from the syllabus, our rulers are taking society backward. The new generation will find itself at a disadvantage as compared to the world community. The progressive-minded citizens should stand against such a retrograde step so that the future of our young generation is protected. Rayalu said.

In his address, Dr. B K

Kango said the constitution of India bestows upon the government a big responsibility to develop scientific temperament amongst the citizens. He said by taking this retrograde step the BJP government has insulted the constitution. People who think in the right way must raise their voices against this, otherwise, future generations will not forgive us. He congratulated the Tirupati unit for organizing the seminar at the right time.

AIPF general secretary Anil Rajimwale said that Marx and Darwin were contemporary and exchanged a lot of opinions that are visible in their works. In fact, Marx wanted to dedicate the first volume of his historic work, 'The Capital' to Dar-

win. Thanking Marx for the gesture, Darwin declined saying that he feels too small to be dedicated to such a great book.

He further said that together Darwin and Marx changed the way the world looked at history. Henceforth study of history was to be studied on material proof, thanks to Darwin and Marx, he concluded.

The welcome address was delivered by AIPF Andhra Pradesh state president Prof. Venkata Ramana. The seminar proceedings were moderated by AIPF Tirupati secretary Dr M.D. Prasad. Tirupati unit president Guruviyah presided over the session. Vote of thanks was conveyed by Mahila convener Renuka Devi. Katti Narasimha Reddy former MLC, A Rama Naidu, P Murali, K Shiva Reddy, Gajula Nageswara Rao, and others made efforts to make the seminar a grand success.

SAU Admin Violates Academic Freedom: AIFUCTO

The campus of South Asian University (SAU) is now in turmoil. The academic environment is seriously vitiated posing serious question marks on the governance structure. Students are suspended and expelled without reason and rhyme. On June 16, 2023 situation was made more complicated as orders were issued placing the four faculty members under suspension. They have been met with humiliating treatment with orders like not to leave the university premises without permission, vacate their offices, return their office computer and identity cards, and register their attendance on all working days in the office of their respective deans.

All India Federation of University and College

Teachers' Organisations (AIFUCTO) is shocked and surprised by this unfortunate incident. AIFUCTO strongly condemns the action of the authority of South Asian University as undemocratic and detrimental to the academic freedom of the university, community. AIFUCTO demands immediate reinstatement of faculty members framing rules and regulations to protect academic freedom and restore normalcy on the campus.

The inquiry conducted by the fact-finding committee was motivated and a mere camouflage of the hidden undemocratic agenda of governance to stifle all vestiges of democratic voice that demand for rules and regulations to protect the academic interests of the

university community.

AIFUCTO requests the SAU authority to respond to the democratic voices of the entire nation realizing the gravity of the situation, failing which we will be constrained to go for an India protest.

This undemocratic action by the authority is an alarming indicator of the functioning of private universities and the proposal of inviting foreign universities to India by the central government.

Further, AIFUCTO also solicits the urgent intervention of the SAARC Secretary and the Ministry of External Affairs of India to intervene in the situation and direct the authorities of South Asian University for the immediate reinstatement of faculties.

AIYF Karnataka Demands Unemployment Stipend

BENGALURU: Demonstrations demanding unemployment stipends were organized by the All-India Youth Federation (AIYF) in various parts of Karnataka. AIYF Karnataka state council had given a call to organize demonstrations demanding the promised unemployment stipend for all the unemployed youth in the state.

The Congress party gave five guarantees to the people of Karnataka in the recently concluded assembly elections. One of the guarantees is providing an unemployment stipend. It was promised that Rs. 3000 and 1500 per month will be given to the unemployed graduates and diploma holders respectively. Youth in large numbers voted for the Congress party in the elections. Now, it is said that an unemployment stipend will be given to the graduates and diploma holders who have completed their respective courses in 2022.

The state council demanded to consider unemployed youth from 2018 be eligible for the same. AIYF also demanded the creation of more employment opportunities and a change of the state youth policy drafted years ago under the then BJP government.

The demonstration held at Hassan was led by AIYF state secretary H.M Santosh. AIYF state president Harish Bala led the demonstration at Bengaluru. Other leaders including Amit Kumar, Shantraj Jain, Vanishree, and Girish also participated in demonstrations.

Demonstrations were held in various places including Davanagere, Bellary, Mangalore, Harpanahalli, Molakalmuru, and Huvinahadugali. Huge numbers of participants were visible throughout the demonstrations across the state.

Inequalities Continue to Plague Indian Educational System

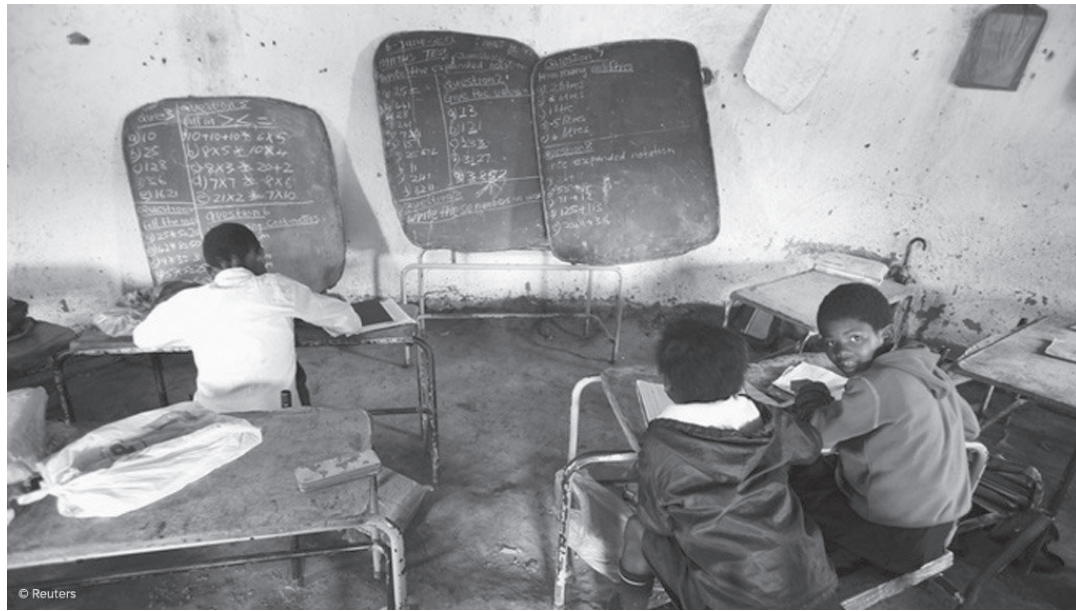
The introduction of National Education Policy (NEP) will not be able to reduce the inequality gap in the Indian education system. RSS-BJP government at the Union level has in fact has communalising the Indian education system, it has nothing to do with the inequalities which has plagued the education system.

When it comes to our very own country, unfortunately, the disparity in education has no bounds even in this day and age. India's education landscape is highly uneven. Differences based on caste, class, and gender are examples of how these inequities show up and end up in our very own society. Children in India, especially rural India, have substantially lower chances of having access to schooling in English. Geographical differences can make these disparities worse. It also has to do with the incapacity to instil a passion for learning in the younger generation. Lastly, the purpose of education for most children is carrying forward one's family legacy, getting a secure job and supporting their family until one reaches retirement. There obviously can be so much more value added to this purpose.

Not one but various factors have led to educational inequality in India. Factors such as lack of infrastructure, class, linguistic exclusion, geography, gender inequality, caste discrimination and soon are collectively responsible for educational inequality. Additionally, in contrast to attempting to make the kids like learning and let them take it from there, the majority of teachers believe they simply need to teach children in order to achieve good test scores.

Due to income inequality in our nation, many young people have no choice but to work in order to support their families and cannot devote all of their time to studying. Given below is a detailed analysis of the various factors leading to inequality in education in India.

According to data conducted by Oxfam in 2020, the richest 10 per cent of Indians controlled approximately 74 per cent of the nation's wealth. The disparity between the rich and the poor has always played a



huge role in inequalities in education in India. India is a developing nation, with most of its opportunities cushioned in the urban cities. On the other hand, children from rural areas and socially disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, and OBC do not receive fair chances or an equal number of opportunities in the educational system to succeed at the top of their abilities. Numerous governmental programmes have been developed throughout the years to reduce the gap between various socioeconomic categories.

India's education system, despite notable progress in recent years, continues to face significant inequalities.

These disparities are rooted in various factors such as socio-economic status, gender, caste, and geographic location. The consequences of these inequalities are far-reaching and hinder the country's efforts towards achieving inclusive and equitable education for all.

One of the key disparities is seen in access to education. While urban areas boast well-equipped schools and educational institutions, rural and remote regions suffer from a severe lack of educational infrastructure and resources. This

disparity not only affects the quality of education but also limits educational opportunities for children in marginalized communities.

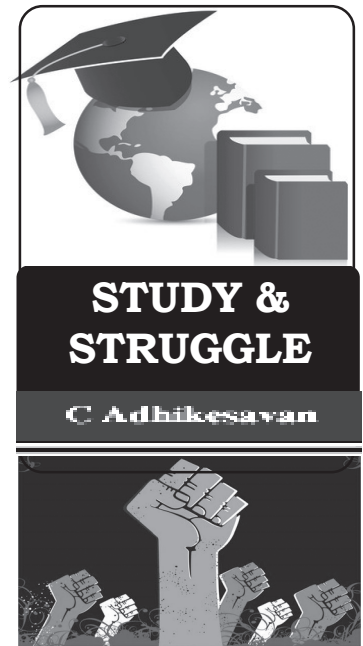
Another dimension of inequality lies in the gender gap prevalent in the education system. Despite significant progress, girls still face barriers to education, especially in rural areas. Factors like societal norms, early marriage, and safety concerns contribute to the lower enrolment and higher dropout rates among girls. This perpetuates a cycle of gender inequality and limits the potential of millions of young girls.

Furthermore, economic disparities play a crucial role in educational inequalities.

High tuition fees, costly textbooks, and other expenses pose significant challenges for families with limited financial resources. This further widens the gap between the privileged and the underprivileged, preventing equal access to educational opportunities. Addressing these inequalities requires multi-pronged strategies. The government must prioritize and allocate sufficient resources to uplift disadvantaged regions, improve infrastructure, and ensure access to quality education for all. Special attention

should be given to empowering girls through initiatives that promote gender equality in education.

Collaborative efforts involving government, civil society organizations, and communities are crucial in bridging the educational divide. Emphasizing teacher training, promoting inclusive curricula, and leveraging technology can also contribute to reducing inequalities in the education system. Achieving a more equitable education system in India is not an easy task, but it is an essential one. By addressing the root causes of inequalities and implementing comprehensive reforms, India can move towards a future where every child has



equal access to quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances.

The government policies have had and will always have a huge role to play in overcoming educational inequality in India. Government policies could change the course of infrastructure, facilities, and job opportunities as well as educate the citizens of India about the importance of quality education. A few suggested solutions to bring about a positive change and improvement in the condition of families with lower levels of income include making public transportation easily accessible, improving sanitation facilities, providing clean water and surroundings, and giving special consideration to educational institutions.

It's safe to conclude that economic, social, technical, geographical, and ownership factors all contribute to the disparity in education. The signs and the root reasons for India's uneven educational system are well known and comprehended. Some of the actions that must be taken to address educational equity include concrete modifications to legal provisions, initiatives to educate and train teachers, improvements to government implementation, monitoring, and enforcement capacities and increased funding for education.

Livelihood Crisis Deepens Without Hope for Recovery

All expectations of recovery in labour market conditions are shattered. Unemployment rate has risen to 8.4 per cent as the CMIE dashboard shows on July 1, 2023, calculated on the basis of 30 days moving average, and with it deepens the livelihood crisis. There are little jobs in the market, a large share of working population has even stopped searching for employment.

In 2013-14, the unemployment rate in India was only 4.9 per cent, according to the Labour Bureau, a wing of the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, which rose to 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 as per the NSSO data, and now it has reached 8.4 per cent as per the latest CMIE data on July 1, 2023.

The Fourth Annual Employment and Unemployment Survey 2013-14 of the Union Ministry of the Labour and Employment had estimated Labour Force Participation Rate (LPR) to be 52.5 per cent for the fiscal 2012-13 with Worker Population Ratio at 49.9 per cent. LPR in India has been declining at faster rate from 2016-17, the year when PM Modi announced demonetization on November 8, 2016. In that year LPR suffered a sharp decline to 46.2 per cent, due to closure of large number of MSMEs and millions of the units becoming sick, since they depended heavily on cash flow. Further blow to them was rendered next year by the implementation of the GST on July 1, 2017 without preparation.

Now, CMIE has come with fresh data that suggests

that LPR declined to 40.1 per cent in 2021-22, and further declined to 39.5 per cent in 2022-23, reaching one of the lowest in the world. The global LPR is estimated to an average 60 per cent. LPR in Indonesia is 67 per cent while in the countries like South Korea and Brazil are around 63-64 per cent, CMIE analysis has

Dr Gyan Pathak

has recently claimed that in the last nine years under PM Narendra Modi since 2014, India has generated massive number of jobs. In reality, they have been able to create only 1.25 crore jobs during last 9 years, as claimed

out of work are about 90 per cent. Workers in informal jobs have no social security coverage.

Long back in 2015, in Indian Labour Conference, the highest tripartite body in the country on labour policies had recommended formulating National Employment Policy (NEP), which the Modi government had



mentioned.

A sharp decline in Indian workforce was seen during the pandemic when the workforce declined from 442 million in 2019-20 to 424 million in 2020-21. This recovered to 439 million in 2022-23 but was still lower than the pre-pandemic level. One of the largest decline has been of female workers whose share has fallen from 15 per cent in 2016-17 to 8.8 per cent in 2022-23. The data cited by the CMIE analysis suggested that around 90 per cent of women in their working age are out of India's labour force.

On the face of it, the Union Minister of Labour and Employment Bhupendra Yadav

by himself, which was much below the requirement of 2 crore jobs every year, since that much number of people enter every year in the job market in the country.

It is clear that PM Modi has backtracked from his own promises made during the election campaigns before Lok Sabha poll 2014, of giving "jobs with dignity to all hands". However, informal low-quality jobs remain above 90 per cent, while majority of the working age population are out of work. Around 60.5 per cent of the workforce are out of work at present. The male working population out of work are about 31 per cent while female working population

agreed to, but has backtracked on it. Centre has neither worked for NEP nor has any plan to do so, according to information furnished by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment in the Parliament of India.

The ILO and the UN has been urging the governments all over the world to make development policies human centred. Adopting such policies was necessary to reduce human predicaments as well as avoiding public unrest as per the ILO and UN warning. However, PM Modi seems to be ignoring the advice in favour of profit-oriented development policies that is nothing but crony capitalism

if the profit of 20 top companies of India is of any indication that are bagging 70 per cent of the entire profit of the country, according to a recent report.

India's economy is being projected with a tag claiming it as fastest growing economy, while there is also another, as the fifth largest economy. All these labels have nothing to do with common people and their sufferings. The country is pursuing jobless growth under BJP regime is evident, with no feeling for the suffering majority. India had 134 million people under International Poverty line in 2019, surviving with earning under 2.15 dollar a day, according to the latest SDG Atlas of the World Bank, and the number has considerably increased since then due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which added another 70 million into extreme poverty level, globally. India is home to largest number of poor in the world. India seems to miss no poverty target by 2030. The Atlas also shows that 973 million people in the country were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021, which was over 68.5 per cent of the present population. Situation has worsened since then due to further increase in joblessness, price rise, and inflation.

It is in this backdrop, the unemployment rate is rising sharply in the country and there is the consequent drying up of sources of livelihood. All this presents a frightening picture that should attract the attention of all who are sensitive enough about human sufferings. Modi government must change its economic policies to save people by making them human centred rather than pursuing jobless growth strategy for accumulation of wealth into few hands.

G20 Health Agenda; India's Concerns

The G20 Presidency to India has given ample opportunities to highlight the health problems facing the developing world in general and India in particular. This is also time to set the direction for global equity in health care. The Third Health Working Group (HWG) meeting of the G20 was held in Hyderabad in the first week of June 2023. Dr Ranga Reddy, president of Infection Control Academy and Honorary Professor, University of Hyderabad, who was deeply involved in organizing this meeting pointed out that the Third Health Working Group meeting had its focus on health emergencies, prevention, preparedness and response. Also under serious debate is strengthening cooperation in pharmaceutical sector with focus on access and availability to safe, effective, quality and affordable medical counter measures.

Ms S Aparna, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals, government of India addressing the HWG highlighted the role of initiatives like the Global R&D Network that we can collectively build a future where no one is left behind and access to life-saving medical counter measures becomes a universal reality. She also talked about collaboration among nations, institutions, and stakeholders through a global R&D network that fosters innovation and accelerates research.

This is important because the world witnessed serious inequities and pressures during the pandemic. As per the WHO, we witnessed 6,943,390 deaths globally till June 14, 2023. Unofficial figures could be even higher! The problem of unavailability of drugs, equipment and vaccines has been very acute. Smaller countries which lacked resources and knowhow to make vaccines

or drugs suffered the most. Vaccine producing companies made huge profits during this period.

There are reports of blackmail of the small countries by these companies. Many of the contracts between the companies and governments of these countries had confidentiality clauses according to which the company was exempted "from any civil liability for serious side effects arising from the use of the vaccine, indefinitely". The affected countries had to accept several clauses which would favour only the vaccine manufacturer, to the extent that the properties of the countries including their embassy buildings and cultural centres were mortgaged to these companies as a guarantee.

Developing countries which have so far been faced with burden of communicable diseases, are now feeling the burden of the non-communicable diseases as well. India is hub to both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

At a rank of 107 out of 120 countries in the Hunger Index it is easy to understand the health situation of our people. India is the largest contributor of undernourished people in the world (Worldometer), with around 194.4 million people, or 14.37 per cent of its population not receiving enough nutrition. India has one of the worst rates of child malnutrition in the world, with one third of malnourished children globally being Indian. As per the government of India's National Family Health Survey 5 (NFHS 5), '36 per cent of children un-

der age five years are stunted; 19 per cent are wasted; 32 per cent are underweight; and three per cent are overweight'.

Anemia, also referred to as low Hemoglobin; a condition that can make you feel tired and weak as you lack enough healthy red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen to your body's tissues, affects a staggering 67 per cent of children below the age of five years, higher than the 59 per cent in the NFHS 4 survey.

As per the International Vaccine Access Center at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Pneumonia & Diarrhea Progress Report 2022, under-5 pneumonia and diarrhea burden number of deaths in India is 146,558.

Unclean drinking water is the main cause for this. A new WHO report published in the media on June 10, 2023 says that in 2018, women in India spent an average of 45.5 minutes daily collecting water to meet household needs. Overall, households without on-premises water spent a staggering 666 lakh hours each day collecting water, with the majority 558 lakh hours occurring in rural areas. The report has estimated that India's on-going 'HarGharJal' (water in every home) can avert nearly 400,000 diarrheal deaths and prevent loss of productive days caused due to unclean drinking water. "This achievement alone would result in estimated cost savings of up to 101 billion dollars".

Tuberculosis, as a communicable disease, is an on-going global epidemic

Dr Arun Mitra

that accounts for high burden of global mortality and morbidity. Globally, with an estimated 10 million new cases and around 1.4 million deaths, TB has emerged as one of the top 10 causes of morbidity and mortality in 2019. India accounts for 28 per cent of all TB cases in the world, according to the Global TB Report 2022. There were 21.3 lakh cases detected in 2021. Despite an increase in the budget to tackle Tuberculosis (TB) the interim estimated number of deaths due to the infectious disease in India rose by 10 per cent, from 500,000 in 2020 to 505,000 in 2021, noted the Global TB Report 2022 released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This comes to 1,383 deaths due to TB per day.

The Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) too are on the rise in our country to alarming level and their rate of increase is very high.

The Indian Council of Medical Research, India, Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study, found prevalence of diabetes among 11.4 per cent population, which comes to 101 million. This is 1.68 times higher than the previously estimated 60 million diabetics in India and a previously known 7.84 per cent national prevalence rate of diabetes.

The new study published in The Lancet puts the prevalence of hypertension at 35.5 per cent; general obesity at 39.5 per cent and dyslipidemia (lipid imbalance which can cause heart

diseases) at 81.2 per cent. One in every three Indians has hypertension and two in five are obese.

Based on the above points it is important to envisage the steps required to bring down the disease burden particularly among the lower strata. It is important that each citizen of the country gets nutritious food which will help in developing immunity to fight back the disease. Most important is to ensure nutritious diet to pregnant women. 'Progress towards universal maternity benefits, sluggish as it was in the first place, has gone into reverse gear in the last few years' point out Jeane Drez and Ritika Khera in an article published on June 14, 2023 in The India Forum. They further point out that the National Food Security Act passed 10 years back gave all pregnant women a right to maternity benefits.

Initially the benefits were Rs 6,000 per child. Had the benefits been raised in tandem with nominal GDP, Indian women today would be receiving cash benefits of about Rs 20,000 in the event of pregnancy, as they do in Tamil Nadu. This would help to ensure that they are not deprived of adequate nutrition, rest and healthcare at this difficult time. According to them 'the root of this fiasco is that pregnant women count for very little in public policy and electoral politics'. Situation of food security is so pathetic that 80 crore people were given five kg of grain and one kilo of daal to fill their stomach.

It is important to design disease prevention and con-

On Page 12

Manipur in Flames...

From Back Page

ing government jobs. This mobility of the Kukis has generated general anger and dissatisfaction amongst the majority Meitei community.

• Instead of taking steps to safeguard the lives and livelihood of the people of Manipur, the government continues its provocative actions which further deepens the anger and rift between two major communities. While going into the context, it was found that there were several had incidents that hurt the communities deeply.

■ One was demolition of three churches by the government in New Chekon on the pretext of being built on encroached land.

■ The other one was eviction of Kuki villagers from Kangpopki and Tengoupal areas and the demolition of their houses in the name of Forest Preservation and Wildlife protection.

■ The order of the Manipur High Court regarding ST status to the Meiteis; and

■ Attempt of the state government to put an end to Suspension of Operation.

■ • The All Tribal Student's Union Manipur

took out a Peace Rally on May 3 against these incidents in Churachandpur district at around mid day, at 12pm and the violence started around 3pm.

■ It has been alleged by the Kukis that Meiteis were angry with the peace march, therefore, they tried burning the sacred Anglo-Kuki War centenary Memorial. Meiteis had come in large numbers to Churachandpur. They had also marked the houses of Meiteis and Kukis in advance.

■ Both communities allege each other of attempting to raze down the sacred Anglo-Kuki War centenary Memorial.

■ Militants, fanatics and miscreants took advantage of the troubled situation.

■ On May 3 and 4, majority of the houses were burned. It was shared blaze on. The security forces including the state police were lax and lethargic in controlling the violence. The chief minister was busy hosting the vice president and uploading pictures on twitter till 7 pm, while the state kept burning.

■ The general feelings that prevail in both the communities is unhappiness and

anger against the chief minister over his mishandling of the situation.

Relief Camps

The Relief Camps are mostly being run with the efforts of well-meaning citizens and civil society organizations with very limited support from the government. The condition of the relief camps is reflective of the state government's apathy towards the wellbeing of the displaced and victimized citizenry. This clearly amounts to disrespect to the dignity of the victims of violence. Most of the people in the camps are daily wage workers and ordinary people.

Children and young people are worried about the uncertain future as they are unable to continue their studies or pursue any employment opportunities.

The populace of the relief camp who suffered violence are not aware of any registering of FIRs or any compensation being offered by the state government. It also came to light that no Compensation Claims Commission was set up by the state government.

The age of the residents of camps begins from one month old to those who are

80 and above. Many pregnant women are also there in the camps. Persons with various health conditions are struggling without proper medical attention.

Food provided by the government is insufficient, especially for infants, elderly, pregnant, and lactating women. There is also a massive shortage of clean water, sanitation, and sanitary pads.

Conclusion

The State government and its machinery remain defunct despite the ongoing crisis. The criminal apathy of the Union government exacerbates the prevailing grim situation. Their current inaction and the preceding selective actions are what is sustaining the unabated violence. The worst victims are the women and children of Manipur. The grotesque present of Manipur is one that has been curated by the state and its private agenda. The citizens of Manipur desire peace and normalcy to be restored. They remain wary of the dubious role played by the governments and the various security forces. Safety and security have become the responsibility of the people. They also remain keenly vigilant against violent fringe groups. While there is massive trust deficit between the communities,

there also stands an overwhelming desire to reclaim and restore dignified life for all.

The circumstances must be normalized without delay and for that the following steps are imperative:

1. Disarming all groups and individuals
2. All efforts to restore peace and harmony must be strongly initiated.
3. Initiate confidence-building measures involving all stakeholders, particularly women organizations.
4. Immediate Resignation of chief minister Biren Singh.
5. High-powered/ Supreme Court monitored inquiry and justice process.
6. Registration of FIRs.
7. Constitute Compensation Claims Commission immediately and give compensation to the victims.
8. Urgent improvement of the conditions in the relief camps.
9. Time-bound relief and meaningful rehabilitation with livelihood opportunities.
10. Urgent steps to ensure regularization of education for students.
11. Set-up buffer zone with same security force on both sides.

Protect Secularism...

From Front Page

and the Constitution in the larger national interest.

DRaja congratulated the entire Bihar party and its leadership for undertaking a state-wide padyatra campaign with the slogan 'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao, Naya Bharat Banao' before the said opposition gathering and in the last 8, 9 and 10 days at all district headquarters. On June 20, 'Jan Satyagraha, Jail Bharo' campaign was launched in front of all the district headquarters of the state to prepare a favorable ground for change, in which about

1.5 to 2 lakh people participated and thousands of people courted arrest at various places.

Continuing the campaign to remove the BJP, Save the country, the state executive of the CPI made a comprehensive plan, under which conferences of the branches and block units of the party will be organized in the coming months of August-September. A large number of preparatory meetings will be held in all the districts. And on November 02, a huge public rally will be organized by the party in the state capital, Patna. The CPI general secretary

thanked the party's state executive and all the district secretaries present and wished for a better future for the party in Bihar.

Coming back to the opposition meet, the CPI general secretary said that the Left democratic and secular parties have united to remove the fascist forces from the country's power. Left-democratic and secular parties will run a joint political campaign across the country and the policies of the BJP government will be exposed. The BJP government wants to impose the agenda of RSS on the country. In the 2024 Lok Sabha

elections, the Constitution, democracy and country have to be saved by removing the BJP from power at the Centre.

The CPI general secretary said that the distribution of seats in the Lok Sabha elections will be done keeping in mind the political situation of the states. RJD, JDU, CPI, CPI(M), MLC and Congress will fight together in Bihar and DMK, CPI, CPI(M) and Congress will fight together in Tamil Nadu. Similar strategy will be made in other states. He said that West Bengal and Kerala will have a different strategy.

CPI state council secretary Ramnaresh Pandey said that under the 'BJP Hatao,

Desh Bachao' programme, Jan Satyagraha and Jail Bharo campaign were conducted at district headquarters of the state on June 8, 9 and 20. In the campaign, more than one and a half lakh people, party colleagues and sympathizers participated. BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao campaign will be intensified, he said. The BJP Hatao Desh Bachao rally in Patna on November 2 will prove to be historic.

State secretariat members Rambabu Kumar and Pramod Prabhakar and MLA Suryakant Paswan were also present in the press conference.

UCC: Another Step Towards Polarising Society

The provision for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) falls under the Directive Principles of State Policies and has been enshrined in Article 44 of the Constitution of India. The contestations surrounding the uniform civil code are not new. It is to be mentioned here that the other branch of law, namely the criminal law code and procedural part of civil law (Civil Procedure Code, 1908) in India, are uniformly applied to all citizens of India irrespective of their religious identity and denominations. However, this uniformity of law does not operate in some aspects of civil law—a system of law concerned with private relations between community members dealing chiefly—in the areas of property, marriage, inheritance, custody of the child, and divorce. These areas are, in legal parlance, known as personal law which are guided by these customs and practices. These customs and practices are also recognized as law when someone reads Articles 13 and 372 of the Constitution of India.

The personal law of communities forms an integral part of the religious rights of communities and minorities which are fundamental rights themselves. It is also to be mentioned here that for the sake of interpretation, the apex court has created the binary of purely religious and non-religious (secular function) of a religion invoking the 'essential practice test.'

During the drafting of the Constitution, the uniform civil code was fiercely debated, either in support or against it. However, when consensus was not built up, the provision was contained in the Directive Principles of the State Policy so that the upcoming generations would decide the time and conditions either to make law for the

implementation of a uniform civil code or not. This provision was contained in the Constitution for secular purposes and with good intention that matters of property, inheritance, marriage, adoption, and divorce should be governed by secular law.

These areas will be considered as secular areas where the state can interfere. It cannot be denied that there is an urgent need to reform personal laws relating to these areas in all religious communities



and denominations, but 'how and when questions' become significant in a democratic, secular, and justice-based society.

But this pure legalistic perspective to look at the legal provisions without looking at the broad interplay of electoral politics and political mobilization will be intriguing and misleading. The politics of polarization was started by the Hindu Mahasabha and, later, Jan Sangh surrounded the communal lines. After independence, Jan Sangh was the leading frontrunner in opposing the Hindu Code Bill and supporting the same reform for the other religious groups. The politics of polarization and mobilization became the central plank of a new version of Jan Sangh, Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), after the famous Shah Bano (1985) case and events subsequent to that

case.

After the 1980s, the uniform civil code became one of the main agenda of the BJP, along with other agendas of Hindutva, but now become a last resort for two main reasons. The agendas of Article 370 and Ram Temple are incapable of polarizing and mobilizing votes along communal lines, and the failures of the ruling government can be hushed up by polarizing and mobilizing the voices along communal lines.

Coming to the why

and when questions are very significant because the issue of a uniform civil code has been referred to the Law Commission of India, and the Prime Minister of India is advocating the uniform civil code for the so-called protection of rights when the opposition is consciously trying to unite against the communal forces, and raising the issues of deteriorating economic conditions, unemployment, dilution of labor laws, discrimination of deprived sections, the severe undermining of constitutional provisions, political vendetta by misusing central agencies, unabated communal violence in Manipur and serious encroachment of powers of states through the office of governor. These circumstances give the answers to these when and why.

The spokespersons of the ruling dispensations argue that the uniform civil code is

Amit Kumar

prevalent in many countries, which is not disputed, but this is an oversimplification and faulty comparison. These countries prominently are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Turkey, Indonesia, Sudan, Egypt, the USA, and Ireland. This fallacious comparison is such that, on the one hand, they oppose these countries on multiple issues. However, for convenience, they refer to these countries' uniform civil codes, which are materially and historically different from India.

Policy formulation on significant issues like the uniform civil code affects the core of the constitutional foundation of democracy, equality, justice, secularism, diversity, unity, and integrity. The consensus building and participation of stakeholders in this process are desirable before deciding whether our country and the communities are ready to adopt such changes. The way the Modi-led government pursues this issue, like an election agenda and one-sided truth-holding protagonists, undermine the democratic process. Democracy is not merely getting elected with limited votes. However, it is more than that in terms of substantive democracy, where the voices of all sections of people are heard, and decision-making reflects their participation. The way democratic institutions function in India by mending them in ideological projects will severely impact people's constitutional rights.

If the central government is interested in the welfare of people and reducing the legalism in a matter of

personal law issues like property disputes, marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption, the better way could have to invite all stakeholders (tribal communities, minorities, religious organizations, and all political parties) for discussion on this issue before referring to the Law Commission of India and making a political statement before the public for mobilization and polarization. Every aware citizen of India knows that numerous issues in India need serious attention from the government but the government is focusing on issues that could be addressed later.

The urgent issues are the looming economic crisis, unemployment, increasing violence against lower classes of society, communal clashes, targets of rationalists and activists, and misuse of public institutions. However, the government is picking up issues that could create a communal divide across the country. It seriously will impinge upon the very foundation of democracy, diversity, unity, and integrity of the nation by making the minorities and tribal communities second-class citizens where constitutionally and legally, there are equal citizens.

Thus, the ruling government wants to be seated in power at any cost by invoking such issues which have the potential to undermine democracy and constitutionalism. The need is to build a social-democratic alliance to oppose this move in a democratic way to save democracy and other constitutional values.

AP Left Rallies...

From Page 4

Why then the AP government is spending Rs 36,976 on each meter, he asked. It seems that the purchase is being done through some benami companies and huge amount of lakhs of crores of rupees are being shifted to Tadepalli Palace to fill up Jagan's personal treasury. On one side the

TRS government in Telanganais stating that it will not implement electricity reforms in Telangana. He concluded by saying that the left parties will not stop the agitation but will intensify the agitation with many militant forms of people's struggles.

The procession was led by JV Satyanarayana Murthy, CPI state council assistant secretary, B Ganga

Rao, district secretariat member, CPI(M), M Laxmi, district secretary, CPI(ML) New Democracy, M Paidi Raju CPI district secretary, A Vimala, M Krishna Rao, G Ram Babu, G Appala Raju, M Subba Rao, P Chandrashekar, K u m a r i CN, Kshetrapal. Leaders of left parties and cadres participated in large numbers.

Demanding withdrawal of central amendment Bill of Electricity Act 2020, put an end to privatisation of electricity sector, no to hike in electricity charges through surcharges, withdrawal of smart meters, etc, rallies took place throughout the state. The response was very good in Vijayawada, Guntur, NTR district, Tirupathi, Kurnool, Nandyal, Eluru, Challapalli, Nuziveedu, K o y y a l a g u d r m , Konduru, Machilipatnam,

V i j a y a n a g a r a m , Shrungavarapu Kota, B h e e m a v a r a m , T a d e p a l l i g u d e m , Chintalapudi.

Processions were led by J a n g a l a A j o y Kumar, Ramachandraiah, Dega Prabhakar Rao, CPI state secretariat members, Bandi Venkateshwar Rao secretary, CPI state control commission, Donepudi Shankar Kameshwar Rao, Ramanaidu, state executive members and others.

G20 Heath Agenda...

From Page 09

control programmes based on the needs of lower strata of the society. The state should directly own the responsibility for health of the citizens. The PPP (Public Private Partnership) model amounts to passing on the benefits to the private sector from the public exchequer.

It is important to develop policies for inclusive growth which ensure jobs with proper remuneration and means of livelihood to all. This will help citizens to purchase food and not depend

on the state for freebies. Clean drinking water, sanitation services and housing must be available to all.

There is need to revive the manufacture of drugs, vaccines and medical equipment in the public sector to produce them at lower cost. It would be pertinent to remember the statement by our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru while inaugurating the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) in 1961. He had said: "The drug industry must be in the public sector..... I

think an industry of the nature of the drug industry should not be in the private sector anyhow. There is far too much exploitation of the public in this industry".

To end the exploitation of the developing countries under the garb of various clauses of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) it is important to make necessary changes in the WTO. The intellectual property rights and the patent laws under the WTO at present benefit the big companies. This has to be

changed. The founder of ORS, Dr Dilip Mahalanabis never patented his product saying that this is for public good and not for making profits. Will the companies and the governments follow suit?

Finance allocation to health has to be substantially increased. It has been hovering around 1.2 per cent of the GDP. It should be increased to minimum of five per cent of the GDP. Likewise allocation to R&D in health has to be increased.

Health and education of the people on scientific grounds is important so that

they do not fall prey to the unscientific, non-evidence based treatment modalities like the use of GauMutra or Cow Dung.

Even though the G20 is dominated by the developed countries and the corporate sector, a forceful voice by India together with others can help change the situation. The outcome of the G20 meet on health has to be seen in that background. India can play a big role if our approach is not limited to mere electoral gimmickry.

CPI-CPI(M) MPs' Delegation to Visit Manipur

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on July 5, 2023:

The CPI and CPI(M) have decided to send a delegation of five MPs to Manipur from July 6 to 8 to express solidarity with the people of Manipur, to study the situation on the ground, and talk to the authorities for restoring peace and normalcy. The delegation will meet people from all ethnic communities, both in Churachandpur and the Imphal valley. The delegation will meet the governor on July 7 at 5 pm and will meet the media on July 8 to share the experience.

The delegation will comprise of Binoy Viswam, P Sandosh Kumar (CPI Rajya Sabha members), K Subbarayan (CPI Lok Sabha member) and Bikashranjan Bhattacharya and John Brittas (CPI-M) Rajya Sabha members.

National Research...

From Page 03

R&D or in developing significant indigenous capability and the share of the private sector in scientific research conducted in the country is very minimal. The private sector prefers to import ready-made technology from Western multinational companies to manufacture cars, mobile phones, and other goods. But it readily uses the outcomes of public sector-sponsored research in petroleum technology, drug production, energy, agriculture, and telecommunications.

RSS's Philosophy

From the very beginning, RSS openly opposed self-reliance and planning for the nation's development. Import of machinery, and spare parts with transferred technology from Western multinationals in the production of automobiles, mobile

phones, and all other goods cannot be defined as self-reliance. Self-reliance means the use of indigenously developed technology, machinery, and goods production should be local, generating millions of jobs for our youth. Savarkar's Punyabhoomi and the aim of Sangh's philosophy is to suppress questioning, reason, and science by subjugating people to the myth of ancient scientific, cultural, and scientific glory by denying the development of indigenous science and technology. The Sangh also aims to sell out the vast Indian markets to Indian and Western multinational corporations.

National Research Foundation cannot improve the research ecosystem but attempts to push self-reliant scientific research to rely on domestic and foreign corporations with an objective to arrest the country's independent development and welfare of people.

Surge in Seats For Communist Party of Greece

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

The CC of the KKE hails the thousands of people who strengthened the KKE with their vote and the people with whom the party fought the battle for the its electoral growth in the June 2023 election in that country. The KKE or the Communist Party of Greece formed the process of a new correlation of forces in Parliament and a new government has come into force in May.

The KKE, both in the May and June election, achieved a discernible rise in votes and percentage compared to the 2019 election. In particular, it recorded a rise of 100,000 votes and 2.5 per cent. It is telling that the number of the KKE's votes was less affected by the increased voter abstention recorded in June compared to the other parties. The KKE elected 21 MPs, 6 more than in 2019, while the decrease in the number of MPs compared to the May election is due to the rigged law of New Democracy that steals our seats.

The Communist Party of Greece (KKE) has vowed to fight the "extreme right and fascist forces that gained seats in Parliament" after right-wing parties won 35 seats.

General Secretary Dimitris Koutsoubas after the election results gave his party 7.67% of the vote and 20 seats in Parliament that The deputies chosen by KKE will be at the forefront of struggles the day after, where they promised they would be, at labour and popular issues, standing by workers, popular forces, and youth.

The second round of Greek elections established a clear victory for New De-

mocracy, with 40.56% of the votes and 158 seats in the 300-seat Parliament.

Of the right-wing:

■ Spartans, 4.68% and 13 seats,

■ Greek Solution, 4.45% and 12 seats, and

■ Niki, 3.70% and 10 seats.

■ Collectively, the three parties topped 12% of the popular vote.

■ How did the other parties shape up?

■ New Democracy, 40.55% and 158 seats

■ SYRIZA, 17.84% and 47 seats

■ PASOK-KINAL,

for the KKE en masse, giving the Party sometimes 1st place, as in Ikaria, sometimes 2nd place, as in Aspropyrgos and Lesvos, where the party regained the parliamentary seat that were lost in May, and sometimes 3rd place, as in Attica, the largest region in the country.

The electoral reinforcement of the KKE is an indicator of the rise of the Party's prestige among the working class and the entire people.

The KKE was at the forefront of all the critical moments during 2019–2023, when New Democracy was in govern-

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.



ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

ment, consistently in opposition from the point of view of the people's interests both when struggles were waged and in Parliament, highlighting the class political choices of the government and the consensus of the other parties. This was the case with the pandemic, the imperialist war in Ukraine, but also the train crash in Tempe, where the KKE highlighted the responsibility of the policy of privatization and liberalization of transport promoted by all governments serving the profitability of business groups.

CPI Greet Communist Party...



From Page 15

The US imperialism wants to establish an Asian NATO to dominate and create instability in Asia-Pacific region through AUKUS, QUAD and many other military treaties with different countries of this area. Thus it is provoking other big powers to do the same in this region particularly in the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean thus increasing arms race in Indian Ocean region. The new alignment of Gulf and Arab rulers with racist Israel is also threatening the already volatile situation in the Middle-East and endangering the life of the Palestine people, stability of that area as well as jeopardising the life of common people world over.

In such emerging situation the unity and cooperation among the communist, left and other democratic parties is paramount. We should increase our activities aiming at fighting against imperialist mechanizations, against foreign military bases, against terrorism of all shades and for deepening democratic values and for democratic and human rights. We should demand that 'Indian Ocean should be zone of Peace'.

Dear comrades, I do believe that the 80th anniversary celebration will further strengthen the resolve of the entire party membership to carry forward their ongoing struggles for revolutionary social transformation of Sri Lanka.

Long Live the fraternal relations between Communist Party of India and Communist Party of Sri Lanka!

P. P. H. PUBLICATIONS

1	A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CPI THROUGH PARTY CONGRESSES	AUTHOUR - ANIL RAJIMWALE	RS.85.00
2	CRIME AND PUNISHMENT	AUTH.. - FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY	RS.250.00
3	DEFENDING DEMOCRACY	D . RAJA	RS.500.00
4	INDIAN THOUGHT A CRITICAL SURVEY	K. DAMODRAN	RS.250.00
5	STUDIES IN A DYING CULTURE	CHRISTOPHER CAUDWELL	RS.100.00
6	FURTHER STUDIES IN A DYING CULTURE	CHRISTOPHER CAUDWELL	RS.75.00
7	COMMUNISTS IN INDIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT	RENU CHAKRAVARTTY	RS.300.00
8	VICTIMS OF THE WORLD UNITE AGAINST - EXOGENOUS PANDEMICS	AUTHOUR - K.S.CHALAM	RS.100.00
9	WHAT IS TO BE DONE ?	VI LENIN	RS.195.00
10	INDIAN SOCIETY HISTORICAL PROBINGS IN MEMORY OF D D KOSAMBI	Edt. R S SHARMA	RS. 250.00
11	LIVING THOSE TIMES Memoirs & Writings of BURGULA NARSING RAO	Edited-Rama Melkote and others	RS.250.00
12	UNDERSTNDING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION	ALBERT SOBOUL	RS.400.00
13	COMRADE CHANDRAPPAN (MEMOIRS)	BINOY VISWAM	RS.150.00
14	LOKAYATA A STUDY IN ANCIENT INDIAN MATERIALISM	DEBI PRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA	RS.720.00
15	THE RISE AND GROWTH OF ECONOMIC NATIONALISM IN INDIA	BIPAN CHANDRA	RS.600.00
16	EMERGENCE OF A SLAVE CASTE - PULAYAS OF KERALA	K SARADAMONI	RS.450.00
17	CLASS CASTE RESERVATIONS & STRUGGLE	A B BARDHAN	RS.50.00
18	THE MOPLAH REBELLION AND ITS GENESIS	CONRAD WOOD	RS.250.00
19	HUMANISM A SLOGAN OF LIFE MAANAVA VAADAM - JEEVANA NINAADAM	Prof.DEVARAJU MAHARAJU	RS.340.00
20	ANCIENT INDIA AN INTRODUCTORY OUTLINE	D N JHA	RS.300.00
21	PESHAWAR CONSPIRACY CASES	R S YADAV	RS.135.00
22	THE STUDENT'S MARX AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF KARL MARX'S CAPITAL	Auth.EDWARD AVELING	RS.200.00
23	INDIAN PHILOSOPHY A POPULAR INTRODUCTION	DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA	RS.150.00
24	FIDEL AND RELIGION CONVERSATION WITH FREI BETTO		RS.150.00
25	THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE PURANAS	S MUZAFER ALI	RS.325.00
26	RAMAYANA MYTH OR REALITY ?	H D SANKALIA	RS.230.00
27	MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE	VIJAY KUMAR MARLA	RS.350.00
28	KANPUR BOLSHEVIK CONSPIRACY CASE	R S YADAV	RS.400.00

Please send your order to:

People's Publishing House (P) Limited
5-E, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi -110 055
Phone: 011-23523349, 23529823
Email: pph5e1947@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.pphbooks.net>

CPIHQ Showroom: Ajoy Bhavan
15 Com. Indrajit Gupta Road
New Delhi-110 002

PPH Showroom JNU
Near Central Library
JNU, New Delhi-110 067

PPH Showroom
22, Qaiser Bagh
Lucknow (UP)

PPH Showroom, 18 Marina Arcade,
G-Block, Connaught Place, New
Delhi-110 001

BANK DETAILS:
FOR ORDER BOOKS
State Bank of India
A/c. No. 320 746 74 284

In favour of:
People's Publishing House (P) Ltd

CPI Greet Communist Party of Sri Lanka

A two-member Communist Party of India (CPI) delegation led by party national council secretary Dr K Narayana participated in the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CPSL). The other member of the delegation is CPI national executive member T M Murthi.

The following is the text of the CPI greetings to the celebrations:

On behalf of the national council of the Communist Party of India please allow me to extend our warm fraternal greetings to the leadership and all participants attending the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka.

We are well aware of the revolutionary history of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CPSL) from its inception. It played a historical role in mobilizing people for full independence and for all democratic and human rights. In this regard general strike of 1945, 1946 and 1947 organised by CPSL will be recorded in the history of working class movement in Sri Lanka. We also remember the role of CPSL in the introduction of Tamil language as an official language and to find a political solution of national issues, the issues of human and other social rights of the Tamil people and other minorities in Sri Lanka.

Dear comrades, your anniversary celebration is



CPI national council secretary Dr K Narayana with leaders of Sri Lankan Communist Party

taking place, when the aggressive role of finance capital and the policy of threats, sanctions and intimi-

dation by the US, EU and NATO are continuing and at present encircling Russia using Russia-Ukraine con-

flicts as pretext thus endangering the peace and stability in Europe and world at large.

On Page 12

Ram Narsimha Rao

Communist Party of India national council secretary and national president of All India Tanzeem-e-Insaf Syed Aziz Pasha urged the people to get ready to fight against the BJP's conspiracy to polarise Indian society on communal lines by using common civil code as its weapon. The former member of Rajya Sabha was addressing the third Telangana state conference of INSAF on June 26, 2023 after inaugurating the same. Telangana state council secretary of CPI and former MLA Kunamneni Sambasivarao, also addressed the conference.

Azeez Pasha in his address stated that the BJP and Sangh Parivar are maliciously propagating against Muslims saying polygamy is more prevalent in Muslim community. That is not the case. People of the country should go through the statistics of census and Law Commission report. According to the note issued by Law Commission based

on census of Indian government, polygamy prevailing in different communities is as follows:

- Among tribals polygamy is 15.25 percent.
- Among Buddhists it is 7.9 percent.
- Among Jains it is 6.72 percent.
- Among Hindus it is 5.8 percent.
- Among Muslims it is only 5.7 percent.

The propaganda of Sangh Parivar making Muslim minorities as target — 'Hum Panch and hamarapachaas' — is with malicious intention and there is no truth in that. This propaganda is nothing but to divert the people from truth and facts, said Azeez Pasha.

Kunamneni Sambasivarao, Telangana CPI state council secretary and former MLA, while addressing made it clear that if BJP comes to power in the forthcoming elections in 2024, it will either scrap the present Constitution or bring pro-Hindu amendments to the Constitution. Those amendments will serve the interests

Stop Polarising Our Composite Culture: Insaf



Insaf president Azeez Pasha presiding over the meeting

of Hindutva. CPI in Telangana is concerned and will extend its maximum support to the welfare of Muslim community. He added that democratically minded opposition parties will teach appropriate lesson to BJP and its allies in the forthcoming elections in 2024.

The state conference resolved to intensify agitation for 12 percent reservation

for Muslim minorities and safeguarding of wakf lands from the clutches of land grabbers and real estate sharks.

Syed Jalaluddin was elected as honorary president, Muneer Patel as president and Mohd Fayaz as general secretary of the state unit.

In another resolution

Insaf pointed out that several Muslim lands are being grabbed by many land grabbers. It has demanded judicial powers to Wakf boards as promised by chief minister K Chandrashekara Rao.

Many Muslim poets along with large number men and women attended the Mushaira held in the beginning.

NFIW Team Visit Findings

MANIPUR IN FLAMES, GOVT STILL UNCONCERNED



NFIW general secretary Annie Raja briefing the press in Delhi

A three-member fact finding team, comprising NFIW (National Federation of Indian Women) General Secretary Annie Raja, National Secretary, Nisha Siddhu, and independent Delhi based lawyer Deeksha Dwivedi, visited Manipur from June 28 to July 1, 2023. The gross breakdown of constitutional bodies, apparent suspension of the right to life, and the absolute state apathy towards the crisis in Manipur prompted NFIW to take the initiative for democratic intervention in the situation.

Prior to the visit, NFIW had series of meetings in Delhi with women from Kuki and Meiteic communities, who had to flee Manipur owing to violence. These meetings with the uprooted women gave a sense of urgency to the NFIW and accelerated our resolve to initiate democratic intervention in the ongoing situation in order to begin to bring back peace

Annie Raja

and stability in the state, especially for women and children. It was through these extensive consultations and outreach, that our 3-member team could visit Manipur. The team met people from different communities.

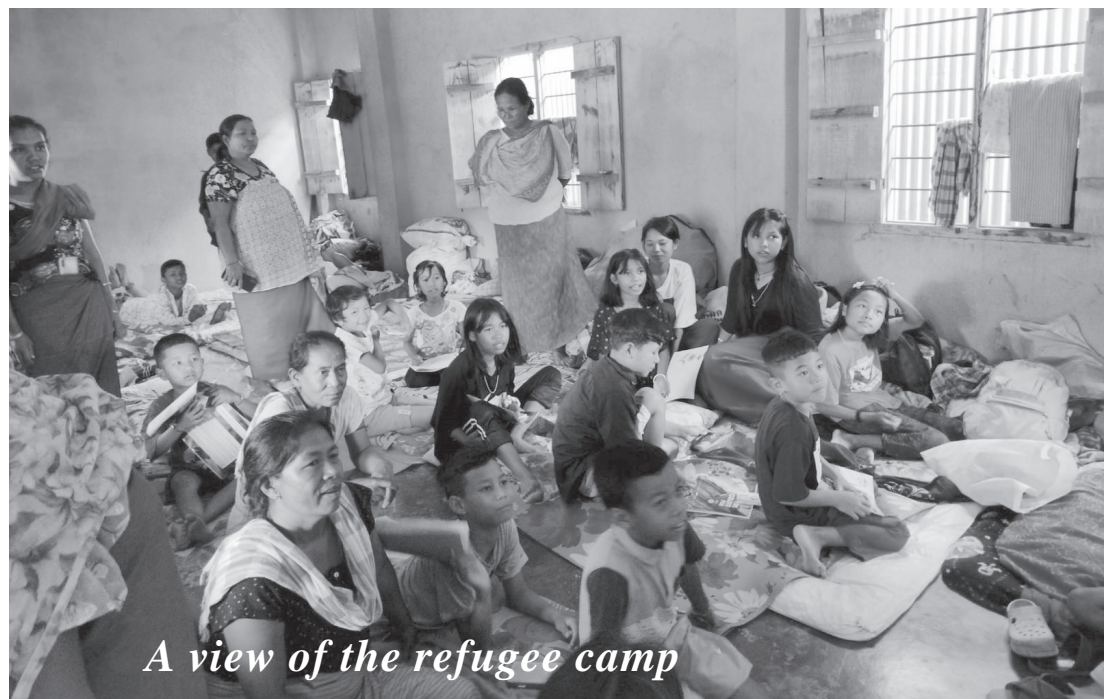
On June 28, the team visited three relief camps in Imphal East and one government hospital that was (Regional Institute of Medical Sciences).

On June 29, the team visited two relief camps in Moirang of Bishnupur district and the district collector's office. Later in the evening, the team also visited IMA Market and spoke with Meira Paibis.

On June 30, the team visited Churachandpur district and met many victims of the violence in Relief camps including two young girls who were brutally assaulted by a mob of Meithei youth.

The team also met the

district collector of Churachandpur district and assistant collector of Bishnupur district and gave them suggestions about improving the condition of relief camps.



A view of the refugee camp

On the last day of the visit, that was on July 1, the team visited Manipur Baptist Convention Centre Church and Catholic Bishop House in Imphal West District.

General Observations

The first and foremost thing that engulfed our team as we began our journey was the sheer devastation of all sense of peace and life itself. Life as was known and held dear by the people of Manipur, navigating through the socio-economic issues of everyday life, remains unavailable to them currently.

What is occurring currently in Manipur is not communal violence nor is it merely a fight between two communities. It involves the questions of land, resources, and the presence of fanatics and militants. The fascist government shrewdly carried out strategies to materialize its hidden corporate agenda, which has

buildup. There was a clear backdrop of mistrust and anxiety that was being stoked amidst both the communities by the ruling dispensation at the state and Center in order to precipitate a full-blown civil war-like situation. Many incidents took place in the months of March and April, 2023 which clearly indicated the possibility of violent clashes. But the government opted to ignore them and allowed the brutal violence to spread.

■ The socio-political history of Manipur is such wherein the society was hierarchically organized with the Meiteis being the dominant community and the Kukis being looked down

led to the current crisis.

The NFIW team in its visit arrived to a conclusion that it was a state-sponsored violence.

■ The violence that broke out on May 3 did not occur by itself, without any

upon as 'uncivilized'. The constitutionally guaranteed affirmative action policies had resulted in the Kukis achieving some degree of social mobility in terms of gaining education and enter-

On Page 10