

KEEP ALIVE GLORIOUS LEGACY OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT



Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja hoisting the National Flag in the party central headquarters, Ajoy Bhavan, marking the 77th Independence Day. Those present include CPI National council secretaries Nagendra Nath Ojha, Ramakrushna Panda, party national council members, party whole-timers and IPTA leaders.

The freedom we achieved on August 15, 1947 was the result of an almost century-long struggle for liberation from colonial yoke. Thousands sacrificed their lives in the process before the country could be set free. The Communists, having shown their mettle in the final years of freedom struggle in RIN Mutiny, had contributed significantly in making the British departure inevitable. Netaji and INA played a historic role in the struggle for freedom of the

nation.

At the time of the attainment of freedom, the partition of the sub-continent took place and Pakistan was born. The ills of the British rule and the partition hardened the attitudes of communities towards each other and the air was heavy with violence, arson, murders and enmity.

During the same time, Jawaharlal Nehru was trying to steer India forward and Sardar Patel was engaged in painstaking efforts to unite

the country and its hundreds of princely states. The Communists were fighting against the injustices and exploitation in princely states and one of them that has gone in the annals of history was the glorious struggle against Nizam rule in Telangana. Surrounded by law books, Dr Ambedkar was working laboriously to draft the Constitution.

The foremost leader of our struggle for liberation was in Calcutta on that fateful day of August 15, 1947. The eastern parts of the country had seen a bloodbath and Mahatma Gandhi was there with the scarred people of our infant nation to heal their wounds of communal violence. Gandhi had also gone to Noakhali (now in Bangladesh) where riots were at their peak. He was there, amidst dead bodies and raped women, with a resolve to protect minorities from the fury of mobs, enraged by the creation of East Pakistan.

His appeal for peace did work and his concern for the people of his country prevailed over the communally charged mobs. Gandhi's fast had an extraordinary effect on the masses and people and leaders from both the communities promised him to maintain peace and protect people from any harm. Gandhi's courage and conviction in the unity of our people became the bridge of secularism and mutual respect, on which our highly diverse population took its first steps of freedom.

D Raja

Soon after, Gandhi embarked on another journey, this time to the North-West of the country with the same mission, establishing harmony and bringing people closer. The Mewat region of what is now in Haryana, UP and Rajasthan, was in flames. Hundreds of Muslims were ready to flee to Pakistan fearing violence. Their anxiety heightened after the unfortunate events of Alwar and Bharatpur. Gandhi decided to visit the riot-torn region at the insistence of Meo leader Chaudhary Yasin Khan and visited Ghasera village near Gurgaon in the shivering cold of December in 1947.

The dhoti-clad Gandhi addressed the masses and evoked confidence in them towards India's ability to protect its minorities. The frail Gandhi said "If I had the original power, not a single Muslim should have found it necessary to migrate to Pakistan from India or a single Hindu or Sikh to leave his home in Pakistan and seek asylum in the Indian Union." He declared, "India belongs to you and you belong to India." The great peacemaker did convince the people again. The minority population decided to stay in the secular, democratic India rather than moving to Pakistan. Gandhi's promise was upheld.

We are faced with a similar situation today, when

the nation is moving towards the culmination of 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' or the conclusion of the year-long celebrations.

Manipur, in the Eastern part of India is victim to ethnic strife. Violence that erupted on May 3 engulfed the entire state killing hundreds, displacing thousands and making the entire state a relief camp. Empathy and compassion are signs of statesmanship but these virtues are sorely lacking among those who sit on seats of power today. The courage and concern for unity shown by Gandhiji has no meaning for the BJP who thrive on strife and divide. It took nothing less than a shameful video of naked women being paraded for the prime minister to open his mouth on Manipur.

The Union home minister said that the High Court order added fuel to fire, accepting that there was fire before. Was the government caught sleeping on the fire? No, the 'double-engine' of RSS-BJP requires fuel of hatred to run. They were dividing the people of the strategically located state for electoral gains and the entire country is paying the price today. The Gandhian touch of empathy is absent, demagoguery and rhetoric cannot heal wounds. The double-engine has scarred Manipur.

Coming to Haryana, which witnessed a classic example of the use of weaponised religion from the

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PM's Speech, An Attempt to Cover Colossal Failures

The month of August calls upon every Indian to recall the unfading saga of great struggles and heroic sacrifices. This is the month that brought the long-awaited freedom to our people. Our long-drawn freedom struggle was an unparalleled one where various streams of struggles, from Satyagraha to Armed Revolt, flowed together and merged to liberate us from colonial clutches. The struggle was against the mighty British Empire over which the sun never used to set. The protagonists of colonial oppression believed that the aim of Indian people to attain freedom was unachievable. But the people's desire for independence from colonial yoke was so intense and zealous that, they united and achieved what was seemingly impossible. Thus, the day, August 15, became the most luminous day in the history of India. To mark that day, our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru outlined our 'tryst with destiny' in his historic speech. The very next day, on August 16, 1947, he declared from the ramparts of Red Fort that "the free flag of India is the symbol of freedom and democracy not only for India but for the whole world." All the Prime Ministers in our history tried to follow that glorious legacy to make Independence Day speeches rich in content, inspiring and introspective. However, ever since Narendra Modi became the prime minister, Independence Day speeches began to become hollow and sometimes, even meaningless. His speech on the 77th Independence Day was no different, to quote Shakespeare "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing".

While delivering his speech from Red Fort, Narendra Modi completely forgets that he is the prime minister of the biggest democracy

in the world. He seldom considers the fact that his words have to represent 140 crores of Indians and their aspirations of a bright future. Prime minister Modi, bringing disgrace to the high office he holds, has made this solemn occasion to deliver his typical political speeches, which could be made by any spokesperson of the ruling party. It was much ado about nothing. In the latest edition of his Independence Day address, the anxiety and panic of the PM was evidently visible. Independence Day was being used as the occasion for political forecasting when he claimed that he will deliver the next year's speech also. People could see how frightened he is regarding the 2024 elections. The prime minister seems to be so utterly unsure that he is trying to

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hide his agonies and uncertainties with high sounding words and rhetorical techniques. The PM was covering his colossal failures in all walks of life by saying that India will become the world's third largest economy. Such unfounded claims could only urge the people to make a comparison between his earlier promises and the ground reality.

It was not accidental that the prime minister did not spend much time to discuss about the legacy of our freedom movement, on the very day we attained freedom. In his heart of hearts, even Narendra Modi knows that the political stream that he represents had no role, even as a spectator in India's eventful and diverse battle against imperialism. Hence, he concentrated on his usual style of rhetoric. In world history one can find certain leaders of the same feather who resorted to empty words unrelated to deeds.

The prime minister wanted to make himself believe India has produced wonders under and due to his rule. He was eager to make others as well to think in those terms. The reality of the country compel the people of India not to fall prey to this kind of propaganda gimmicks. When the prime minister has been boasting about 'Viswa Mitra and Viswa Guru' the citizens of his country are passing through very testing times. The whole of North-East is under turmoil with

Manipur being its epicentre. Narendra Modi owes an explanation to the nation for his conspicuous silence for months together when Manipur was burning. The women of Manipur who were forced to parade naked will remain a question mark before all his claims of developed India. In the Human Development Index, our country stands at 132nd place. Prime minister was boasting about one IMF report in the Parliament. According to the same IMF, India's ranking on per capita nominal GDP is 139. In infant mortality rate, countries from the sub-Saharan region fare better than India. The promise of two crore jobs per year is a proven lie and our young generation is staring at a bleak future. Price rise has destabilized the living conditions of all sections of people. Still, our rulers do over time job to depict an India with five trillion-dollar economy before the world. Their promises like 'Sab Ka Saath and Sab Ka Vikas' are lying in the dustbin of aborted assurances. The political speech delivered by the prime minister on the august occasion of the Independence Day was a pitiable show by a failed politician to garb his colossal failures. It once again reminded the people the urgency of coming together and fight for a new India.

Maintain Independence of Election Commission: CPI

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on August 11, 2023:

The National Secretariat of Communist Party of India condemns the move by Union government to replace the Chief Justice of India from the selection committee to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner.

The CPI is of the view that this is a brazen attack on democratic functioning of the Election Commission and on its independence as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Stop Communalising Society in Haryana

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on August 11, 2023:

The National Secretariat of Communist Party of India expresses concern at the report that many gram panchayats in Haryana have passed resolutions banning Muslim shopkeepers

and vendors from doing their business. This amounts to social boycott and is provocation for communalisation of the society.

The party demands that strict action must be taken on those indulging in such anti-constitutional activities and expects the government of Haryana to extend all support and protection to minorities in this tense situation.

The video showing two women being paraded in extreme humiliation by an unruly mob of males in Manipur has shocked the whole country. It has brought shame to us worldwide. This has also exposed the hollowness in our society which takes pride in worshiping women as goddesses. This has also brought to the fore socio-cultural degeneration that has occurred and has highlighted male chauvinist attitude to use women as a tool. Above all it has exposed the insensitivity among the political and bureaucratic structure in power. This is the first ever incident of this level in independent India.

Dubious silence of the prime minister for the last 79 days since the violence erupted added to the surcharged atmosphere in the state. This led to hatred against each other. Hatred towards others does not happen automatically but it is engineered and brewed in a planned manner.

There are always problems in the society. The question is how we project them or how we try to deal with them and solve them. It is easy to blame the vulnerable sections of the society for various issues. Systematic propaganda is unleashed against the other community. This is spread in a systematic manner and a mind-set is created among the people against each other.

We have seen this during the partition of India when nearly 25 lakh Hindus Muslims and Sikhs were killed by each other. Upto 1.8 crore people were forced to migrate from their place to other areas. But that was the time we were ruled by the colonial masters who would not hesitate to resort to any dirtiest means to continue their power and hold. But we are an independent nation now.

It was beyond imagination that in our country, which fought against colonial power and despite extreme poverty and illiteracy developed as a democratic country that such

a situation, would ever crop up. But signs of such events were becoming apparent in the last few years. A systematic propaganda against the minorities has been unleashed and hatred being spread. Violence in Gujarat in 2002 in which 2,500 Muslims are said to have been killed and several women raped was a part of this sinister game plan. Worst was when such killings were going on a section of the people including the women rejoiced. Narendra Modi who was the chief minister at that time kept mum for several days and let the carnage go on.

Such pernicious propaganda in the last few years has led to communal division in the society. So much the people are engrossed by the propaganda that they lose human feelings and feel no pain when the people whom they hate are subjected to violence, even killings. The victim and the family face humiliation, extreme mental stress and develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. They lose interest in anything in life; develop suicidal tendencies and revengeful attitude. They get angry for no reason even on their near and dear ones on trivial issues. Those who have been subjected to physical violence keep on lingering for want of healthcare. When the state is insensitive or perpetrator, things are

Hatred Breeds Socio-Cultural, Mental Aberrations

Dr Arun Mitra

worse. People lose faith in the state machinery and do not approach them for redress of their grievances, rather try to solve themselves. This is an anarchic situation in any society.

Such situations destroy harmony in the society built through several decades of hard work. It takes decades to rebuild a harmonious relationship. It is the task of saner elements in the society to come forward to spread the message of love, brotherhood/sisterhood, respect to all particularly the women, children and the elderly, respect the belief of

others. It is important to develop scientific temper in the society based on oneness of humans.

The negative forces spread obscurantism and harp on the ancient glory. They try to devoid the people from getting wide knowledge; instead feed them with self-conceived and manufactured ideas. This is what was done by Hitler in Germany which led to killing of over eight million Jews, communists, trade unionists and socialists among others. Similar things were repeated in Rwanda

where over eight lakh people were killed just in 100 days in 1994 after hate campaign among Hutu and Tutsi tribes.

Let us not let this happen in our country lest it starts falling apart. It is important that the Constitutional bodies, bureaucracy, police and judiciary and others come proactive to save the Constitution. Civil society and social reformers have hard task ahead to take up the cause to save the idea of India for which thousands of our freedom fighters laid down their lives and laid foundation of a secular, democratic, socialist republic.

AISF Telangana Holds Secretariat Under Siege

Thakkalappally Sreenivasa Rao

An intense protest was held on August 10, 2023 under the leadership of the All India Students Federation (AISF) Telangana state committee demanding to resolve the existing problems in the education sector. The protest which shook the state secretariat was about the closing of government schools and colleges and granting permissions for private universities in the state. The Telangana state

government had issued an order prohibiting the entry of student leaders into the school, college, and hostel premises.

The long-standing demand like fee reimbursement and repealing hike in the mess charges in government SC/ST student hostels has not been addressed by the

government. AISF state council gave a call to put the secretariat under siege in protest against the anti-democratic, anti-student policies of the government. The protest was led by AISF state secretary Putta Laxman and state president Manikanta Reddy. More than hundreds of students participated in the rally.

The protesting students were stopped and taken into custody by the police.



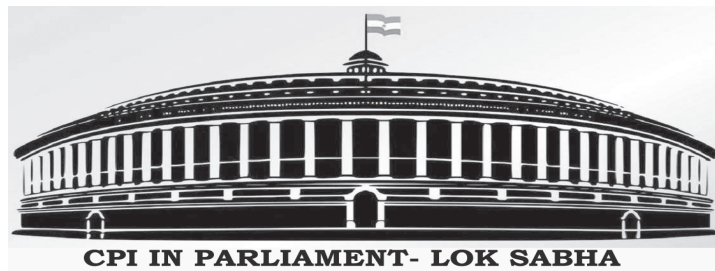
In BJP Rule, Promises Unmet, Democracy Stands Violated

CPI MP K Subbarayan in his speech made in Parliament during the non-confidence motion on August 12, 2023 said that “People elect their representatives to power. People’s

representatives are the ones who should be powerful. Snatching away the rights and powers of the elected representatives of the people in a democracy shows that the ruling dispensation (BJP) is not comfortable with the democratic set-up.”

In the speech, he pinpointed three instances of the discomfort of the ruling BJP government towards democracy and democratic set-up – the disruption caused by ruling coalition MPs while Rahul Gandhi was

making his speech, government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the refusal of demand raised by the opposition party MPs for discussing Manipur



violence.

“We have experienced from the rule of this government during last nine years that they do not have faith in the democratic institutions and particularly in democracy. The ruling dispensation does not have tolerance towards any

resistance from the opposition parties in a democratic way and in a democratic set-up,” he said. He added further, “The prime minister is the head of

the House and leads the council of ministers. He has the responsibility to give a reply to any issue raised in this House. Refusing to accept this democratic demand led to the logjam. This is reflective of the fact that the government is not inclined toward upholding

democratic values and credentials.”

The crux of the non-confidence motion raised in the house is the failure of the BJP-led Union government in fulfilling their election promises. “What was the assurance given by them (government)? They promised to give two crore jobs every year. If that is so they should have given employment to 18 crore people in the last 9 years. The irony is 5 crore people who were employed have lost their jobs during this period. MSMEs provide more employment in our country. But MSMEs are in a sorry state of affairs. They are devastated and are in crisis. Those institutions

which provide employment are being destroyed by this government. But on the contrary, the corporate giants are given importance and encouragement,” Subbarayan said.

He critiqued the economic adviser and policies of the prime minister which promote Adani and Ambani instead of farmers and workers who really contribute to the country’s wealth and development.

The myth of the BJP government being uncorrupt was questioned by MP. “I wish to state that the projection of this government as being corruption-free and their determination to uproot corrupt practices seem to be untrue. PM Cares fund was created by using your power. How much amount was collected? What was the

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What the Others Say...

A word of difference

Have Indian women come a long way since 1947? Many daughters are now getting the same educational and work opportunities as their brothers, even similar personal freedoms. But the big picture is dismal. This is not only on account of heinous crimes like the May 4 gang rape in Manipur. There is a very broad-ranging social inequality, one of whose striking symptoms is the ridiculously low female labour force participation rate in the world’s fifth largest economy. The bill to replace IPC, 1860 has been presented as more protective of women. But it preserves most of the language and thus the gendered thinking of a century and half ago, when the social dominance of men was both prevalent and preferred. The parliamentary standing committee to which the bill has been sent, must do course correction.

In Section 64 of the new bill, punishment for rape is not less than 10 years, instead of seven years in IPC. The question mark on this change comes from harsher punishments having proved to be quite ineffective deterrents so far. In Section 69, having sexual intercourse with a woman after promising to marry her without any intention of doing so is now clearly stated as “not amounting to the offence of rape”, although punishable with imprisonment and fines. This is a useful modification as such cases have so far seen very subjective treatments by different courts. However, what really viscerally comes through in the “offences against women” chapter is that men act, women are acted upon. Men don’t just assault, they make advances, request sexual favours, ‘take away’ women from other men. Women’s sexual agency is almost entirely missing.

The predictable counterargument is that it is men who victimise, women are victims only. It is the same logic that warded off the decriminalisation of adultery until 2018. Not only did IPC Section 497 punish only men for adultery, it also expressly prevented the wife from being punishable even as an abettor. What the apex court found

was that the emphasis on “invidious distinctions based on gender stereotypes” was actually tantamount to subordination of women. SC quoted TS Eliot – “The endless cycle of idea and action, endless invention, endless experiment” – to say that laws have to keep up with the times. The new criminal code should go further. It must frame the rules with the thinking and the language of equality Indian women deserve.

Courtesy: The Times of India

Dealing with the surge

The sharp surge in vegetable prices over the past few weeks had indicated that overall inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, would edge upwards in the months of July and August, breaching the upper threshold of the Reserve Bank of India’s inflation targeting framework. On August 14, data released by the National Statistical Office confirmed those fears. Headline retail inflation rose to a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, up from 4.87 per cent in June. While this surge was anticipated, the magnitude of the rise has surpassed expectations.

The disaggregated data shows the rise is driven by higher food prices. The consumer food price index rose to 11.51 per cent in July, up from 4.55 per cent the month before. Within the food category, inflation was driven by vegetables (37.3 per cent), spices (21.6 per cent), pulses and products (13.2 per cent) and cereals and products (13 per cent).

The central bank also expects this rise in inflation to be transitory. As the RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das, has said: “Vegetable prices may see a significant correction after a few months”. However, with this inflation print, there is the risk of the RBI’s forecast for the second quarter not being met — inflation would have to average 5.6 per cent over the next two months. There are also risks to food inflation beyond vegetables. Moreover, crude oil prices have firmed up. In its last meeting, the monetary policy committee had done well to look through this surge in inflation. However, considering that sustained high food inflation can influence household expectations, the committee must remain vigilant.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

Communist Party of India national council secretary Binoy Viswam reacting to the written reply given by minister of state for education Dr Subhas Sarkar to a question raised by Binoy Viswam said: “In our country with a huge young population and extremely low enrolment rates in higher education, the numbers provided by the government are not encouraging. Many deserving scholars are unable to pursue higher education due to lack of support mechanisms and it is the country’s loss by missing out on quality research from young minds. It’s imperative to ensure that every deserving scholar has an opportunity to avail such fellowships.”

The CPI leader added: “It is not just about allocating funds. Timely disbursement of these fellowships is crucial. Many scholars often face delays in receiving their fellowships, leading to financial hardships. Delays and administrative bottlenecks can deter scholars from pursuing their research whole-heartedly. The government must act to streamline the process, ensure universal coverage of

scholarships, timely hikes considering inflation to ensure that scholars receive their justified dues in time.”

However, the response evaded critical questions about the proportion of total MPhil and PhD scholars and the proportion amongst them availing the non-NET fellowship and on the hikes made in the non-NET fellowship amount over the years or whether the government intends to

Non-NET Fellowships Not Reaching the Needy: CPI

increase the amount. The government was also silent on whether non-NET fellowship will be made universal.

Minister of state for education Dr Subhas Sarkar

non-NET fellowship across the country. Out of these, 873 and 15,397 scholars are enrolled in MPhil and Ph D programmes respectively across 45 Central Universities in the country, for which data was provided

research scholars and student organisations. While there has been an increase in the stipends for JRF and SRF recipients over the period from 2019 to 2023, these increments must be weighed against the rising costs of living, inflation, and the heightened academic pressures faced by the research community. The hikes under JRF and SRF category over a period of four years appear inadequate when seen in light of the economic challenges that researchers face, especially in the absence of proper hostel accommodations and dependency on HRA.



in response to a question raised by Binoy Viswam in Rajya Sabha, revealed that during the year 2022-23, there were only 16,270 research scholars receiving

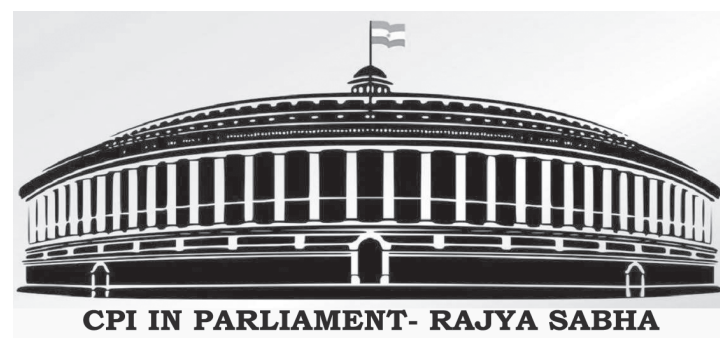
by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

It was also revealed that hikes in JRF and SRF scholarship amounts fall short of expectations of

NCT Amendment is Attack on Federalism: CPI

Speaking on the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, Communist Party of India national executive member Sandosh Kumar P said in Rajya Sabha on August 7, 2023 that he takes this opportunity to oppose the undemocratic, anti-federal and unconstitutional Bill introduced by the Union government. If you go through the pages of history, one thing can be easily understood that one organization, which he does not want to name, based in Nagpur was from the very beginning itself opposing the concept of federalism. They thought that the concept of federalism is actually anti-Indian. So, it always stood against that concept.

He said his party, the Communist Party of India, thinks that this attack, in the form of this Bill, is a new addition to that continuing



attack on federalism. Referring to the Statement of Objects and Reasons he said a detailed list is given where it is stated that any decision taken or any event happening in the capital of the nation not only affects the residents but also the national reputation, image, credibility and prestige in the international global spectrum.

The CPI leader asked the home minister who was present in the House whether he can cite even a single incident and single

example to justify his position. In fact, the minister is insulting the people of Delhi and the democratically-elected government. The democratically-elected government of Delhi is responsible and nobody discusses about these issues in any of the international forum.

Sandosh Kumar P pointed out that unfortunately, so as

to say, the international community is discussing about Manipur. He said he feels sorry to say that the treasury benches who are vocal against the failure of the Delhi government, must note that the European Union Parliament discussed about one particular Indian state. More than 6,500 FIRs were registered, not even 500 were arrested. So, in one state, the BJP government has failed like anything and now it is blaming the Union Territory and its government — the Delhi government.

He added that there are many provisions which are unconstitutional, anti-federal in this Bill. Saying most of the BJP MPs might have entered BJP recently because of many factors. But, at least, they should learn the history of BJP political party. As a political party, BJP, once upon a time, stood for the Delhi statehood, full statehood. L K Advani,

the forgotten hero of BJP in 2003, drafted the Bill, suggesting full statehood to Delhi. BJP has forgotten all those things.

The CPI leader observed that the Delhi Bill, actually, makes the chief minister’s position fourth — first, the Lieutenant Governor, second, the secretary; third, another officer. and the fourth one is the Chief Minister. He asked why then we need a democratically-elected government in Delhi and that home minister could have brought a new Bill suggesting the abrogation of the Delhi administration. This was the best thing.

Some of our friends, especially, from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh were very vocal today. Enforcement Directorate might have not knocked on their doors today, but we are not fearful of ED. We oppose the Bill as it anti-India, anti-democratic. He to appealed all to oppose the Bill.

Justice Delivery Not Meaningful Until Last Man Feels Secure

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud could not have been more right when he suggested that justice is delivered only when an individual feels confident that he will not be arrested or his house demolished arbitrarily. While the widespread demolitions are being carried out at Nuh, primarily aimed at the members of a particular community, provides a different context for the CJI

remarks, what is not to be missed is his emphasis that democracy and justice will be seen in action only when the last man on the street feels confident that he is safe.

The success of democracy does not lie in the lofty speeches being made in Parliament or within the four walls of courts, but in the conduct of the government representative at the lowest level, who for all practical purposes

K Raveendran

constitutes the final arbiter for people at the lowest level of the system. For them, he is the government, the court and everything that devolves from power. The complex layers of safeguards that democracy and rule of law are supposed to provide simply do not work for him. As long as he and his

community of people feel insecure about what the authorities can do or will refuse to do, it can be safely assumed that democracy has not worked for them.

While taking part in the Independence Day celebrations at the Supreme Court on August 15, the Chief Justice said the greatest challenge before the Indian judiciary was to eliminate the barriers to accessing justice and make sure that judiciary is inclusive and accessible to the last person in the line. The idea behind the judicial system is to create a mechanism that is more accessible and cost-effective for the people by overcoming the procedural barriers to justice.

“As I look to the future, I believe the greatest challenge before the Indian judiciary is to eliminate the barriers to accessing justice,” Dr D Y Chandrachud said. “We have to enhance access to justice procedurally by eliminating the constraints which prevent citizens from approaching courts and substantively, by building confidence in the courts’ ability to dispense justice,” he added.

There are serious issues about the delivery of justice in India. Things work out in picture perfect fashion for those who can afford it, but there is no universality about such privilege. For the selected class of people, there are enough safeguards and more to secure justice. The very concept of justice is tailored to meet the requirements of such privileged class. But for the rest of the people, judicial process is a painful experience, which gets them neither justice nor equity.

Even access to the judicial system is highly restrictive as vast sections of people are debarred from

it by the sheer distance between themselves and the courts. This is not to speak of cultural, economic and political barriers that prevent them from even thinking of recourse to courts as a viable option. The system continues to favour the privileged few. For those who have the resources, the judiciary is the ultimate protector of liberty, freedom and justice and at times justice is specially tweaked in their favour.

The majority of people are intimidated by the goings-on in the courts, the procedures, the robes worn by the judges and the advocates and the very air in the court rooms. The proceedings are conducted in a language that the majority do not understand and they stand clueless even when judgments are delivered. The CJI himself has pointed out the judgments written in English are not comprehensible to 99.9 percent of citizens, particularly in the legal form.

In this respect, the CJI said he was looking forward to the time when court proceedings are done in regional languages. As a beginning, over 9,000 judgments have already been translated into regional languages and the effort is to make all the 35,000 judgments of the Supreme Court available in every language. This is expected to help facilitate the use of regional languages in the subordinate courts. “What use is it to say you can argue in a regional language if the judgments are not in regional languages”, Justice Chandrachud wondered.

The CJI has indicated the possibility of employing artificial intelligence and other technologies in translating court judgments. Of the judgments translated already, over 8,000 are in Hindi while some have been translated into Assamese, Bengali, Garo, Gujarati, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

Keep Alive Glorious....

From Front Page

RSS playbook, six people died on July 31 after an infamous, self-proclaimed cow vigilante posted a video on social media giving a call to attend in large numbers a religious procession organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of the Sangh Parivar. This divisive leader of the Bajrang Dal is wanted for the kidnapping and killing of two Muslim men whose bodies were found burnt in a car. Peace is alien to the region since and normalcy absent.

Rioters are moving free and cases of violence, arson and stone pelting are being reported every day. The rulers’ answer to this widening gulf in the society is not dialogue and trust-building. It is the bulldozer. Gandhiji built bridges among the people of Mewat at a very sensitive time, the hateful bulldozer of the RSS-BJP is demolishing even the possibility of enduring peace and harmony in the region. Yet again, the lack of empathy and concern is discernable. Gandhiji toured the region with his frail frame wrapped in a simple dhoti for he was not afraid of his own people. Those who are moving in armored convoys

lack that conviction in people.

We got independence from the British in really testing times for our country and our leadership. The largest migration in modern history unfolded right when the tri-color was unfurled replacing the Union Jack. The leaders, whether Gandhi, Nehru, Patel or Ambedkar or galaxy of Communist revolutionaries with genuine concern for the people stood up to the occasion, faced the challenges bravely and shaped the country we all love and respect.

Entire world was doubtful of the survival of democracy in a poor country like ours which had seen an orgy of communal violence very recently. Still, our leaders worked tirelessly to give India the secular, democratic and welfarist foundations on which our republic was inaugurated on January 26, 1950.

Those suspicious of democracy’s survival in India were not all foreign. Closer home, the followers of Golwalkar and Savarkar had no faith in representative democracy. They punished Mahatma Gandhi for upholding secularism and protecting Hindu-Muslim

unity by taking his life, no less. Our country faced that calamity bravely too and the people of India, by their unity and hard work in demanding times, brought laurels to the country in all arenas. What Narendra Modi got in 2014 was a stable democracy, built on the bedrock of sacrifices of freedom fighters and guided by the vision of our Constitution. The last nine years under him have been mostly about trampling that vision and bulldozing the aspirations of the people of India. The empathy and courage we talked of earlier is nowhere to be seen and India is being dissembled for perpetuation of power with the RSS-BJP.

This is the challenge our precious freedom is facing today and the people have realized this. They are not ready to tolerate the assault on the idea of India by the present rulers anymore. They are uniting as they did to defeat the British Raj. Unitedly, they will triumph over British stooges too. The inclusive India of Gandhi, Nehru, Patel and Ambedkar will rise with empathy and courage and will prove to be stronger than the hateful ideology of Golwalkar and Savarkar.

New Regulations to Deprive Majority of Poor Students

The new regulations will bring more expenses for students. It is shameful and matter of great concern that the elected Academic Council (AC) members of NDTF clapped along with the administration to welcome this destruction. Twelve AC members dissented. The idea is derived from community colleges in the United States. It is a model of selling education resulting in heavy fee hikes garbed under the pretext of concessions and scholarships.

It also clearly implies exclusion of the bulk majority of historically deprived and financially weaker sections of Indian society. The right wing teachers organisations don't want students to learn and understand patterns of discrimination and who gets to control resources. They only want you to feel proud and forget about fraternity. It is divided into four units: theories, concepts and measures of discrimination; caste discrimination and inequality; gender-based inequalities and discrimination in the economy; and affirmative action.

The dissent note submitted to the authorities says with the supposed autonomy granted, the university has to generate its own fund. The regulation aims at pushing the expense of expansion on the students. Operationalisation of this autonomy would mean that all courses henceforth will be in self-financing mode and employees, both teaching and non-teaching, hired for these new courses departments will be on contract basis. It is very sad that DU is bowing down before such models at the completion of its hundred

years.

The DU's academic council recorded a dissent on the steep fee structure of the newly launched courses, criticising the effect of higher education Financing Agency loans. According to the members, the regulation aims at pushing the expense on the shoulders of students.

It is very sad that DU is bowing down before such models at the completion of its hundred years. Even in the Gandhian model of self-sufficient education, it was the state to provide all financial support. The



institutions were to be governed in a manner favourable to all stakeholders.

This is yet another death of the ideas of higher education championed by M. K. Gandhi and Dr. B R Ambedkar. DU is known for affordable education. This is a major blow to the idea of inclusion and education for all.

Teachers' bodies unite to take on RSS-backed outfit for DUTA poll

Taking a cue from the coalition of 26 Opposition parties — Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) — formed to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the next year's general election,

several teachers' associations and individuals at Delhi University have come together under the banner of the Democratic United Teachers' Alliance (D.U.T.A.). The D.U.T.A. aims to take on the RSS-backed National Democratic Teachers' Front (NDTF), in the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) elections on September 27, where nearly 10,000 Delhi University teachers will elect the leadership of their collective. The Front of teachers have appealed to the DU teachers to vote and

support to throw out the RSS-BJP backed NDTF front which is commercialising and privatising education in India.

The united teachers front have pledged to safeguard the dignity and security of all teachers. They have also assured to defend full public funding and build public opinion against privatisation and other sinister designs of NEP, 2020. They are committed to the absorption of all existing ad hoc teachers and the reinstatement of those displaced during the last two years. The Democratic United Teachers Alliance, a coalition of multiple groups including Congress's Indian National Teachers' Congress, AAP's Academic for Action and Development Teachers Association, the Left-leaning Democratic

Teachers' Front, and several independent teachers' associations such as the Common Teachers' Front, Delhi Teachers' Initiative, Independent Teachers' Front for Social Justice, and Samajwadi Shikshank Manch, has come together with a common purpose. The Democratic United Teachers' Alliance has nominated Dr. Aditya Narayan Misra as their joint candidate for the position of DUTA President.

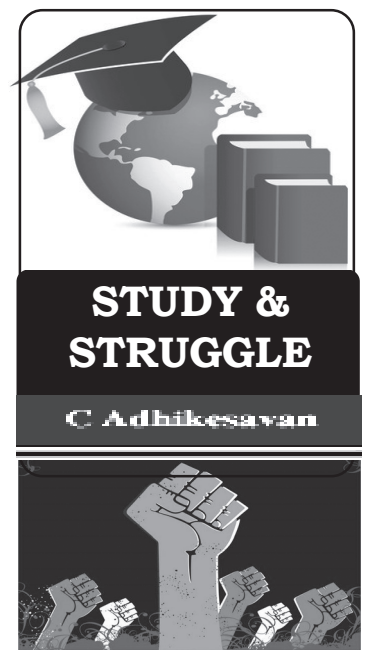
The Front will pursue the demand for restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). It will also fight for counting of past services at every stage of promotion and professorship for associate professors who have been left out. They will have to ensure timely and full payment of salaries and pensions which has suffered in the recent past due to cuts in budgetary allocation by the central government.

Hundreds of technical posts vacant in DU

The government is not willing to fill up the vacant posts in the Delhi University. In the financial year of 2022-23, the University of Delhi had over 842 posts for the technical staff lying vacant — the highest number of vacancies in the country yet. The education ministry has shared this data before the Rajya Sabha while responding to a question by parliamentarian.

When asked the education ministry stated the details of the state-wise vacancies relating to the technical staff in Central Universities, for the year 2022-23; whether a recruitment drive has been conducted to fill up these vacancies; and if so, the details thereof.

Meanwhile, the minister of state in the education ministry stated that occurring of vacancies and filling thereof is a continuous



process.

The vacancies arise due to retirement, resignation and additional requirements on account of enhanced students' strength. Central Universities (CUs) have been instructed by the Ministry of Education and University Grants Commission (UGC) to fill the vacant posts in mission mode.

Going by the figures shared by the ministry in the Rajya Sabha, five institutes have been mentioned under Delhi including the University of Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Sri Lal Bahadur National Sanskrit University and the Central Sanskrit University.

The University of Delhi had a total of 842 vacant posts while Jamia Millia Islamia University had 69 vacant posts, JNU had 59, Sri Lal Bahadur National Sanskrit University had 3 and the Central Sanskrit University had 7 vacant posts under the technical staff. Subhas Sarkar also said that the onus of filling up the posts lies on the Central Universities which are autonomous bodies created under Acts of Parliament. However, as per the Department of Personnel and Training, the mission recruitment portal, as many as 6,087 posts have been filled in Central Universities so far under a special recruitment drive.

Madhavi Roy: Tough Fight against Odds

Madhavi Roy was one of the outstanding builders and leaders of the Communist movement in the Central India, a leader now largely forgotten. She worked hard among the poorest and lived among them, leading a life just like them. She was born in 1898 in Barisal, now in Bangladesh. Her father was Shri Amrit Lal Kar, who knew many nationalist leaders, and as such the family was in touch with the freedom movement and its leaders. He died when Madhavi was just 5 years old. A month later, her mother too passed away. She was then looked after by her aunt.

A nationalist conference was held in Barisal when Madhavi was a girl of just 8 years. Its main organizer was the famous revolutionary of Anushilan group, Ashwini Kumar Dutta. He was also a great social reformer and a freedom fighter of Bakarganj district (Barisal). He was one of those who led the anti-Bengal partition movement of 1905. He went organizing Anushilan Samiti including in Barisal. They organized 'Shankar Muth' in their area. He was a close friend of Madhavi's father.

Madhavi soon came in contact with Anushilan Samiti and the 'Shankar Muth' while in school. She took part in many of its activities.

Marriage

She got married to Ashok Bose, who later took on the name of Prakash Roy. Prakash Roy belonged to a well to do landlord family of Nadia district of Bengal. But after some time, he came in contact with the Communist movement in Bengal. His family too had close contacts with revolutionaries including with Bhupendranath Dutt.

Prakash soon became a party wholtimeer, facing stiff resistance. He decided to distribute his part of land among the landless, and Madhavi fully supported him. Her in-laws wanted her to remain within the confines of the house but she decided to come out of it and work for the poor in the society.

Joins CPI

Madhavi joined the CPI in East Bengal in 1949. The party was illegal then. The police was after Ashok Bose (Prakash Roy). It had announced Rs 50,000 as award to anyone finding him dead or alive. This did not deter Madhavi. They worked for the rights of the poor workers

and peasants and for their organization. V Shankar has made a mention of such movements in his book 'My Reminiscences of Sardar Patel', Part two.

She then shifted to Calcutta. Those were the times of communal tension. She worked for refugees who came to Tollygunge. It was a very dangerous work. Madhavi was arrested along



Madhavi Roy

with two hundred other women and kept in Lal Bazaar Police Station. The conditions were extremely bad. Then there were no separate arrangements to keep the women prisoners. Madhavi went on a four-day hunger strike, and did not even take water.

Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy (Dr BC Roy) was the chief minister of Bengal then. He accepted their demands and made arrangements for separate barracks for women prisoners.

Ashok Bose fell seriously ill in 1951 due to constant work at almost starvation levels. They both had very difficult times. He developed serious TB infection. Yet she never lost heart. She took some money from her father-in-law and got her husband examined by the doctors. She sold off all the ornaments she got from her in-laws.

Party decided to send them to Madhya Pradesh, in Rajnandgaon. This was for two reasons. One was that the party needed someone to work among the backward and tribal people. Secondly, Prakash was sent away from work due to his failing health.

Prakash (Ashok) came to Rajnandgaon along with his wife Madhavi and two-year old son Amit,

in June 1952. He was now Prakash Roy, so much so that even today, very few know his real name that was Ashok Bose! The first ten years were spent in the most difficult and trying conditions. They lived in Motpur in Amrao Chawl in the worst kind of suffocating jhopar-patti. Then they shifted to Station Para, and later lived in Chikhli Jailor Chawl, as also in a labour colony. She used to carry water to her damp slum on her head from the wells of Chikhli. But she never complained.

They never had a fixed source of income. No ornaments were left. It was a bidi workers' area. The workers used to supply them with vegetables, rice and other food materials through mutual collections every Sunday.

She and Prakash began running a study center for some 40 bidi workers. Madhavi was a trained nurse. They together worked among bidi workers' families, organizing them under the red flag. Workers' families sustained Prakash's family constantly.

Rajnandgaon being a big bidi centre, thousands of workers were under 'ghar-khata' system (work from home) under merchants. Majority of workers were women. Prakash and Madhavi led many memorable struggles. Prakash Roy and Madhavi organized motor vehicle drivers and also BNC Mill workers under red flag. A number of middle class intellectuals like Professor Gajanand Madhav Muktibodh, freedom fighter Kanhaiya Lal Agrawal, Dr. Nandulal Chotiya, Ramesh Yagnik, Advocate Atal Bihari Dubey, journalist Sharad Kothari and others gathered around Madhavi and Prakash Roy. Party became a strong political force in Rajnandgaon within a short period.

In all the work of trade union and party organization, Madhavi used to be at the forefront along with her husband. She at the same time, used to look after him. She led the processions and addressed the meetings.

Women's organization

Madhavi Roy was among the founder members of Progressive Mahila Sangh in Chhattisgarh, then in Madhya Pradesh. She was also the president of Rajnandgaon district Mahila Sangh. She visited Chhuria, Gendatola, Dongargaon and the rural areas in other places and organized the kisan women. She attended the all India conferences and programs of NFIW held in Calcutta, Tamilnadu and elsewhere. She was elected to the Working Committee of the NFIW in 1970.

Peace, Dialogue and Reconciliation are Need of Time

Manipur, one of our beautiful states in North East has been bleeding since May 3 this year. Killing, raping, looting, house burning, official curfew, Janata curfew, roadblockade, closing of educational institutions and commercial activities, etc, are continuing unabated. The India-Myanmar border is open and hence the flow of militant insurgents and arms are continuing in Kuki based hill area while in the valley looted arms and ammunitions are with the militant Meitei groups. The absence of governance is replaced by 'fear', and unruly mob is ruling the state.

The violence between Meitei and Kuki communities has brought Manipur to hell. Till now around 200 people have been killed, thousands wounded and thousands have fled their homes, since the violence started in

Manipur, a state of 3.2 million that borders Myanmar.

The double engine governments in state and Centre have failed totally. Till May 11 our Prime Minister, who has addressed many Parliaments, Senate, and Congresses around the world, did not find time to address the Parliament of his own country on the Manipur issue. Everyone knows that the Manipur conflict is a long-standing and complex issue that has its roots in the history of the region. The conflict is often seen as a religious conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities, but it is also a conflict over land, resources, and political power that require serious attention of the state and Central

Pallab Sengupta

governments.

Till now hundreds of articles, editorials have been written, hundreds of demonstrations took place to stop the violence, requested both communities and their civil societies to come forward and initiate dialogue for achieving peace but so far no move has been made in this direction.

The two important civil society groups of Meitei and Kuki are rather playing most negative role. The coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) of Meitei group and Kuki Inpi of Manipur (KIM) are two biggest civil

society groups in Manipur. Both are chauvinist, biased and in a way responsible for continuation of ongoing violence. COCOMI and KIM have been at odds with each other for many years. The two organisations have different vision for the future of Manipur and have been unable to find common ground.

So, no government agency from the state and Centre and important people's organisations are there who can take initiative to build the bridge between the two communities. In this background after the July 25 successful demonstration for calling immediate session of the Assembly, the Manipur state council of CPI met on August 5 at Imphal during the 24 hour curfew to

discuss the present situation and what should be the role of the Party.

The meeting was attended by Pallab Sengupta, national council secretary and P Sandosh Kumar, MP, national executive member of CPI. The deliberations of the meeting were serious and aimed at mobilising Manipuri people to save Manipur. In this regard, meeting resolved that priority should be to achieve peace and tranquility in Manipur.

The meeting analysed the present situation and came to the conclusion that the present conflict is also a product of the history of colonialism. Continuation of exploitation leads to poverty, inequality, and

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Trade union work

Madhavi was active in the work among the BNC Mills workers and bidi workers from 1955 to 1967. Many struggles were conducted regarding lockdown and wage cuts.

Since 1955 she became badly affected with diabetes and had to go to the hospitals regularly.

SDO office. They succeeded in getting food grains at cheaper rates from the ration shops.

In 1972 again, party directed its members to organize movements against the rising prices of the food grains. Five hundred satyagrahis courted arrest. One hundred thirty six women led by Madhavi Roy also courted arrest.

She brought together seven women's

mentioned, she belonged to what became Bangladesh later. Naturally, she was sentimentally, too, attached to the liberation movement, besides due to its political nature.

In 1971, she initiated the campaign for fund collection for Bangladesh liberation movement. She went from house to house in blistering heat of May and June, explaining the importance of the liberation movement in detail. She could collect Rs 800 for Bangladesh liberation fund.

In 1973, Prakash Roy along with Madhavi and son Amit visited West Bengal and areas of Tebhaga struggle. They also visited Kakdwip, Chandanpiri and other places in the 24-Parganas. Villagers assembled in large numbers to receive and honour them.

Party sent her to Moscow for treatment in 1965. She was in serious condition. She remained for over five months there. She also got an opportunity to meet the leaders of the Communist parties of Greece, Sudan, USA, Argentina, and other countries.

She had organized several functions on the occasion of the international women's year in 1975. She was to preside over a function on December 3, but suddenly passed away in the same afternoon. The flowers and garlands meant for the occasion of the function were offered to her on her death.

Biographies of Communist Leaders-92

Anil Rajimwale

Yet she did not allow it to interfere with her work seriously. Since she was a trained nurse, she helped a large number of workers, whom she took to the doctors and hospitals. The doctors could not ignore her requests, and as she was a 'didi' to all the doctors.

Food movement

The food situation became very serious in Rajnandgaon in 1969. Madhavi along with other women leaders organized satyagraha before the

organizations on people's issues and built up effective movement. A joint coordination committee was formed, of which she was elected the vice-president. Women got new direction and came out of their family confines into a new world.

Solidarity with Bangladesh

She was very active in solidarity activities with the Bangladesh liberation movement. As we have

Retail Inflation Surges to 7.4 per cent on High Vegetable Prices

India's consumer price index (CPI) inflation surged sharply to a 15-month high peak of 7.44 per cent in July 2023, driven by high food and vegetable prices. July CPI print had breached the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of six per cent for the first time in five months. The consumer food price index (CFPI) in July also surged to 11.51 per cent — the highest level since October 2020, according to data released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation on August 14.

Under the food basket, vegetable prices soared 37.34 per cent against a contraction of 0.93 per cent year-on-year. Vegetables have a 6.04 per cent weightage on the overall retail inflation. The rise in inflation could also partly be attributed to the current surge in tomato prices. In key cities, tomato prices rose to as high as Rs 150-200 per kg.

Inflation for food and beverage soared to 10.57 per cent, compared to 4.63 per cent, while for cereals

it rose to 13.04 per cent from 12.71 per cent in June. The inflation rate for fuel and light came in at 3.67 per cent in July. Rural inflation came in at 7.63 per cent, compared to 4.72 per cent in June, while urban inflation stood at 7.2 per cent, rising from 4.96 per cent in June.



Street estimates had predicted that July's CPI print will breach the central bank's six per cent limit in July. On a month-on-month level, retail inflation came in at 4.81 per cent in June after easing sharply to 4.25 per cent in May—which was a 25-month low.

Food prices, which

account for nearly half of the inflation basket, have soared in the last two months largely due to the erratic monsoon throughout the country, pushing tomato prices at wholesale markets up more than 1,400 per cent in the past three months.

“Erratic monsoons over the past months attributed

cool down the prices to some extent,” said Raghendra Nath, MD, Ladderup Wealth Management Pvt Ltd.

Last week, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting upwardly revised the retail inflation projections for 2023-24 at

quarter at 5.7 per cent and fourth quarter at 5.2 per cent. Retail inflation for first quarter of 2024-25 is projected at 5.2 per cent.

“The month of July has witnessed accentuation of food inflation, primarily on account of vegetables. The spike in tomato prices and further increase in prices of cereals and pulses have contributed to this. Consequently, a substantial increase in headline inflation would occur in the near term,” said Das.

He reiterated what he said after the June meeting: “Bringing headline inflation within the tolerance band is not enough; we need to remain firmly focused on aligning inflation to the target of four per cent.”

DSP Mutual Fund had said in its August edition of Netra report that India's inflation trajectory is expected to be benign, but highly vulnerable to changes in food prices. With almost half of the CPI basket comprising food items, any price changes in this category have a substantial effect on the overall inflation rate in India. So, even small fluctuations in food prices can have a significant impact on the cost of living for the average Indian consumer, according to DSP.

Some food items, especially essentials like vegetables, grains, and dairy, tend to have relatively inelastic demand. “This means that changes in their prices lead to disproportionate changes in overall spending, as people cannot easily reduce consumption even if prices increase. As a result, food inflation can quickly affect household budgets and lead to decreased purchasing power,” said DSP in its report.

to a steeper-than-expected surge in the prices of vegetables. The food and beverage inflation rose to 10.57 per cent during the month from 4.6 per cent in the previous month. The vegetable prices are expected to stay elevated for quite some time, though fresh market arrivals may help

5.4 per cent, against 5.1 per cent it projected in its June meeting.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, as part of his remarks after the policy meeting, said assuming a normal monsoon, retail inflation is revised to 5.4 per cent, with second quarter at 6.2 per cent, third

Textile Exports Continue to Decline

Textile products worth a total of 1,663 million dollars were shipped last month compared with 1,695 million dollars in July 2022. Industry experts believe that exports might revive in the coming season if domestic cotton prices turn competitive, says a report.

Exports of textiles and apparel declined 1.9 per cent and 17.4 per cent, respectively, in July compared with the same period the year earlier. Cumulative export of textiles and apparel for the April-July 2023 period slid 13.7 per cent year-on-year.

Data from the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) showed that cotton yarn, fabrics, and made-ups registered 6.62 per cent growth last month (1,009 million dollars) from July 2022 (946.48 million dollars). However, shipment of man-made yarn, fabrics, made-ups, jute products, carpets, and apparel items declined.

Textile products worth a total of 1,663 million dollars were shipped last month compared with 1,695 million dollars in July 2022. Apparel exports were 1,141 million

dollars last month versus 1,381 million dollars in July 2022.

Indian Chamber of Commerce's chairman on textiles, said garment exports were at a “sustained low” for a year. In volume terms, the decline was sharp. Retailers in the US market were destocking and demand was expected to revive. “India expects a good cotton crop next season. If cotton prices remain competitive, exports will revive.”

“Regarding cotton textile exports, the mood is cautiously optimistic,” said Siddhartha Rajagopal, ED of Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council. “Demand looked better from China and if Indian cotton prices are reasonable, export of fabrics will look up,” Rajagopal added.

Ravi Sam, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association, said in the current market conditions, India could regain competitiveness in cotton textiles only if the import duty on cotton was removed. On August 16, Indian cotton prices were higher than international prices.

The waves of Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered job market disruption is knocking at the door of India, more intensively than any other country of the world, which may soon turn into a nightmare, since India is not yet prepared to face the challenge except producing some of the documents to make the government appear greatly concerned, but actually nearly absent from the ground where AI is in operation uncontrolled.

Almost five years ago in June 2018, NITI Aayog had published a discussion paper titled National Strategy for Artificial intelligence. However, did almost nothing to combat the threat, and by the pandemic year 2020, AI adoption in India was highest at 45 per cent, followed by 35 per cent in the US, 28 per cent in Japan, and 23 per cent in the UK, according to PwC report. The report had estimated, AI was to affect 9 per cent of existing workforce in India by 2030, while creating only 20 million new jobs. The estimate was frightening since, the rate of loss of jobs was just double than the rate of job creation.

The situation had already worsened unprecedentedly by July 2023, which is reflected in the statement of AICEO Emad Mostaque, who said the outsourced programmers in India will see their jobs wiped out in the next year or the two. It should be noted that India has over 5 million programmers who are engaged in outsourced jobs from the foreign countries.

Moreover, this is not the only area of job market which is going to be affected. In fact, almost all areas of the economy, excluding the jobs that has to be done physically by human beings, and that cannot be automated. The PwC report that studied the situation in

2020 during the pandemic had found that Indian enterprises across sectors had already embraced AI in a more definitive manner because for them it was more of a business necessity than a 'good-to-have' solution. A total of 89 per cent of Travel and Hospitality companies had taken the lead in AI implementation, followed by TMT (86 per cent), financial services (82 per cent), and healthcare and pharma (73 per cent).

Now the new PwC study published in June 2023, on the onset of industry 4.0 leading the Indian manufacturing industry to a major transformation, says that Indian industries working was for the golden batch using digital twins –



automation and AI. About 38 per cent of India companies had participated in their survey, and they were preferring to adopt one standardised digital solution across plants compared to global companies, and showing an upward trend towards adopting analytics and AI with a current implementation rate of 54 per cent.

The worse, Indian companies, spread across the sectors, tend to focus more on people, policies, and mindset while the global companies prefer to build up the right system for driving any transformation, the PwC report revealed. In another report published by the PwC earlier in April, had reported that about 70 per cent

AI-Powered Jobs Disrupt Labour Market NO CONCRETE STEPS, ONLY DOCUMENTS

Dr Gyan Pathak

to devise it urgently and comprehensively, since it cannot afford an uncontrolled AI-powered job market disruption turning into a nightmare. UNFPA has said that 68 per cent of India's population are working population. The labour force participation has been hovering around 40 per cent for quite some time, and over 90 per cent of them are already in informal

impact of AI-powered job market disruption. But then it involves investing more in education, training, and lifelong learning programmes that foster analytical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills, rather than promoting BJP-RSS clans' outdated concepts relating to education policy.

Urgently developing a robust regulatory and ethical framework for AI that ensures data privacy, security, accountability, and transparency. However, it would not only involve shedding of current government's approach of becoming a "surveillance state", but also establishing standards, guidelines and best practices for development and deployment of AI that protects the rights and interests of workers and thereby of society at large.

It is worth noting that AI is increasingly becoming capable of automating tasks that are performed by humans, and we don't know where it is leading to. Since AI is becoming increasingly affordable to smaller organisations too, a large number of MSMEs are also expected to adopt AI in their enterprises in foreseeable future.

Over 90 per cent of workforce are employed by MSMEs in India, and hence it would be gross mistake that only big companies or business would be deploying this technology and would go for automation in a big way wiping out large number of regular decent jobs having social security coverage whatever little their workers enjoy as of now. Contractualization and

of businesses are planned to be integrated in the metaverse into their organisational activities, while additionally, 63 per cent of companies that were actively engaged with the metaverse said they would fully embed the metaverse in their organisational activities within a year. In 2018, the NITI Aayog document had said that it had decided to focus on five sectors that are envisioned to benefit the most from AI solving societal needs which were healthcare, agriculture,

education, smart cities and infrastructure, and smart mobility and transportation. However, the paper had identified the barriers also which were – lack of broad-based expertise in research and application of AI; absence of enabling data ecosystem; high resource cost and low awareness for adoption of AI; privacy and security; and absence of collaborative approach to adoption and application of AI. However, there is little evidence that the government has done anything significant on the ground, while the AI-powered job market disruption in the country has been knocking at the door ever louder.

India is yet to have an appropriate legal framework in place. The country needs

insecure jobs. The AI-powered disruption would heavily cut in the entire spectrum of the formal job too, while just wiping out large number of informal and gig jobs in many sectors. Lack of any of the social security coverage for about 74 per cent of the workers would worsen their condition. Unemployment rate has also been hovering at about 8 per cent in recent times, which would further shoot up in a scenario of uncontrolled adoption of the twin deployment of AI and automation.

Reskilling and upskilling the workforce to adapt to the new demands of AI powered jobs and technologies are the need of the hour since we simply cannot wish away the

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AISF Foundation Day Observed



The 88th foundation day of the All India Students Federation was celebrated on August 12, 2023, at the organization's national headquarters in New Delhi. The program was inaugurated by Prof. Dinesh Varshney, secretary of CPI Delhi state council. AISF general secretary Vicky Mahesari was also present. In his inaugural address, Dinesh Varshney lauded the great historical role of AISF in freedom and struggle. He also spoke about how AISF took forward the struggle for saving public education. The dangers of NEP 2020 were also explained in the address. The education

policy is a complete agenda for the privatization and commercialization of education. He appealed present leadership of AISF to continue its struggle against the privatization of public-funded education.

In his address, Vicky Mahesari said that AISF will stand for free, compulsory, and scientific education for all. He also said that the organization will continue its struggle for the student's cause. The foundation day celebration was attended by students from Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia University and other places.

Call for Indefinite Strike...

From Back Page

The JFROPS rejected the Terms of Reference given to the committee and demanded that the only solution is to withdraw the NPS and to restore the defined and guaranteed Old Pension Scheme.

The JFROPS organized a huge rally of Central government and state government employees at Ramlila Maidan on August 10, 2023 in which more than 1.5 lakh government employees from all over the country participated. The rally adopted a memorandum to be submitted to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which all the negative aspects of NPS were brought out and justifications for restoring the Old Pension Scheme were given in detail. The rally also decided to observe the following action programme culminating ultimately in an indefinite strike and also a Bharat Bandh:

* Campaigning Programmes and mobilising the employees and also to create public support for the demand of scrapping the National Pension System (NPS) and restoration of the defined and guaranteed Old Pension Scheme should be a continuous process and the same should be intensified at the industry/ office/ unit/ local level in the coming days. Social Media should be fully utilised for this purpose.

* Joint gate meetings, rallies, processions, dharnas, seminars, etc, should be held on August 21, September 9 and October 21.

* Strike Ballot (Secret Ballot) to be taken by all the constituent organisations for 'Indefinite Strike' in support of single-point demand of scrap/ withdraw no guarantee NPS and restore defined and guaranteed Old Pension Scheme on November 21 and 22, 2023.

* The Massive Pension Adhikar Rally hereby authorises the steering committee of the JFROPS/NJCA to decide the date of issue of strike notice and the date of commencement of the indefinite strike.

* A call will be given by the JFROPS/NJCA for Bharat Bandh during the course of strike after consulting the Central Trade Unions and other like minded organisations.

The 1.5 Lakh of Employees assembled in Ramlila Maidan are of the firm view that the three crore government employees and their family members of 10 crores will teach the present government a lesson by not voting for them, if the NPS is not withdrawn. The stage is now set for an indefinite strike by the government employees.

all terrorist groups, closing of India-Myanmar border to stop illegal infiltrations, stop poppy cultivation in Reserve Forest Land, compensation for all victims of the violence, etc.

The meeting also decided to carry forward the revolutionary legacy of Jananeta Comrade Irabot Singh as his understanding

of building friendship among all communities are not only valid even today and can be the pathway for lasting political solution of the present conflicts in Manipur as he always said "friendship between the people of valley and hills are the guarantee for prosperous Manipur". CPI is committed to attain this goal.

Peace, Dialogue...

From Page 09

injustice. It also causes discontent among communities that has led to present conflict. Present ethnic conflicts took place due to the long negligence of the state by state and Central governments and their failure

to address the complex issues of land, identifying of social and cultural issues among different communities, misuse of forest lands, unemployment, equal access of education to all ethnic groups, poppy cultivations, containment of different

underground armed groups in Valley and hill areas, unchecked infiltrations from Myanmar as well as distributing forest lands to different corporates for mining and other commercial activities and many other issues.

The meeting resolved that promoting dialogue, trusts and reconciliation are essential for achieving peace. The meeting decided to engage in meaningful dialogue between the different communities in the region. This dialogue should be open and inclusive, and it should address the root causes of the conflict, such as discrimination, poverty, and lack of developments in all areas of Manipur. The meeting also reiterated its demand for immediate resignation of chief minister N Biren Singh, disarming of

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Nuclear Weapons, Growing Threat to Humanity

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

Let us recall the dreadful criminal act of total disregard for life, at the end of World War II, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 and three days earlier on Hiroshima on August 6. The two Japanese cities became an inferno, death surprised their inhabitants in less than a minute.

There are no exact figures on how many people died at the time or in the months following the explosions. Some estimate that by December 1945 the number was 110,000, others put it at more than 210,000. The US dropped its second atomic bomb on Japan, this time on the city of Nagasaki. On the 78th Nagasaki Day, the world remembers the 70,000 victims who serve as a harrowing reminder of the humanitarian and environmental cost of nuclear weapons.

But the horror of those days continued to claim more victims over time. Cataracts, malignant tumors, thyroid, breast and lung cancer developed in the following years among the survivors of the atomic bombings. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are sadly a reminder of the danger posed by nuclear weapons to the world, where there are an estimated 22,000 and whose total elimination should be a priority, as their very existence represents a threat.

However, almost eighty years after those vile actions, the UN warned about the increase in global tensions and differences between the most developed nations. Added to this is a fact that should be a warning: the increase in military expenditures. Last year, the figure rose to more than two

trillion dollars, equivalent to 2.2 per cent of the world's Gross Domestic Product.

UN Secretary General António Guterres said that the “shadow of a nuclear war” hung over the world. This happened because of global contradictions and fragmentation. The nuclear shadow that hung over the world during the Cold War has reappeared, and some countries are once again recklessly rattling the nuclear sword, threatening to use this means of destruction,” the deputy secretary general said at an event in Hiroshima.



The United States, the only country to have used this deadly weaponry in a war, allocated 877 billion dollars in 2022 to military spending, which represents 39 per cent of the funds allocated worldwide for this purpose. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the northern nation invested 295 billion dollars for military operations and maintenance alone. In recent days, peace groups have urged the U.S. government to halt the enormous military spending and put an end to the danger of nuclear war that is looming over the world today.

The historic leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel

Castro, has repeatedly warned of this danger, pointing out that the use of nuclear weapons in a war would mean the end of humanity. The world has never been safe because of the existence of this deadly weaponry, which, as Fidel Castro pointed out, should disappear in order to preserve the lives of all.

Communists are facing death threats in Ukraine

Communist youth leaders Aleksander Kononovich and his brother Mikhail, who are under house arrest in Ukraine, have said they are facing death threats. Left and progressive organizations across the world have

officer also made a Facebook post issuing a public call for their murder and revealing the address of their house. In the wake of such threats, various groups including the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), Communist Party of Greece (KKE), and Communist Youth of Greece (KNE) have reiterated the demand for the immediate release of the brothers.

According to a report by 902.gr, a KKE delegation led by MEP Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos, along with KNE leaders, will visit the Ukrainian embassy in Athens on July 6 to deliver a

condemned the persecution of the activists

Various communist and progressive youth groups have denounced the death threats and other forms of intimidation against communist youth leaders Aleksander Kononovich and his brother Mikhail Kononovich. The duo is currently under house arrest in Ukraine. Earlier this week, the Kononovich brothers, in an appeal, stated that President Volodymyr Zelensky's regime was trying to assassinate them. They alleged that a police officer, Yevgen Kravchuk, had repeatedly come to their home and threatened to murder them. The same

resolution “protesting against the ongoing threats against the lives of the two young communists.”

Following the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) arrested the Kononovich brothers, leaders of the Leninist Communist Youth Union of Ukraine (LKSMU), from the capital Kiev on March 6, 2022, and put them in jail. The SBU accused them of being propagandists holding pro-Russian and pro-Belarusian views with the goal of destabilizing the internal situation in Ukraine and creating a “necessary information picture” for Russian and Belarusian channels. The arrest triggered widespread

protests from progressive and communist groups in Europe and abroad, who denounced the move as part of the purge initiated by EU-NATO-backed Zelensky against communists, socialists, and other critics of his regime in the name of national security. Later, in July 2022, a show trial of the Kononovich brothers started in the Solomensky District Court in Kiev. The court sessions were continually delayed and postponed and the brothers were put under house arrest.

July 5 marked 486 days since their arrest.

During their trial, the brothers stated that “our case is completely fabricated from start to finish. What are we charged with? Pro-Belarusian views are being charged. We are being tried for our views. What kind of democracy can we talk about?”

Even before the war began, the post-Euromaidan regime in Ukraine had started decommunization attempts and persecution of communists. The Communist Party of Ukraine (KPU), led by Petro Symonenko, was banned from contesting elections in 2015. The communists have fought and will continue to fight for the benefit of our people.

In BJP Rule...

From Page 04

spending pattern?" he asked. He also said that Modi was afraid of questions.

He explained the plight of farmers and workers, and said "Both are in severe distress under this government. The amount which is written off by the present government has only benefitted the corporate giants like Adani and Ambani. This government snatches away the federal rights of the states. BJP is known for its way of creating disturbances due to its intolerance. This is an attempt to induce anger. They have been doing this for long. Minorities, SCs, STs, Muslims, Christians, and others are being attacked in an unprecedented manner. They have not fulfilled any of the assurances given to them. They are into disinvesting PSUs. Nehru created and successive Governments protected these PSUs. But the present Government has taken a decision to disinvest these PSUs. The foreign policy shaped by Nehru has been given up. This Government has shown its submissive approach toward the USA."

In the conclusion of his speech, Subbarayan said that Hinduism and Hindutva are never the same and are not interrelated and the BJP government will not return to power in 2024.

No CONCRETE STEPS...

From Page 11

informalisation of jobs in big companies are already in place in a big way without any check, even in the public sector or in the government, that is set to accelerate by adoption of AI and automation.

The argument being given by some that AI would generate enough jobs is wrong, since it is not comparable with earlier industrialisation providing jobs which needed humans to run. The case of AI is different, which adopts the nature of human being itself to replace humans in excellent way far more efficiently than humans in majority of cases.

NITIAayog's discussion paper released in November 2022, titled "Responsible AI" #AIforall reads well, but it is limited in scope covering chiefly facial recognition technology. Following the National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (NSAI) 2018, which

highlighted the road map ahead, stakeholder consultations were initiated in collaboration with the World Economic Forums in 2019, which culminated into two-part approach paper in 2021.

However, where are the appropriate actions? Modi government is too slow and progress in AI is too fast.

"AI is a disruption," admitted Rajeev Chanrashekhar, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology of India, on the sidelines of a G20 meeting recently, but advised "Don't overreact to fear narrative on potential human job loss." Can we ask, why should we not be concerned when AI is being increasingly adopted in large scale across the Indian job market, unchecked and uncontrolled, wiping out jobs increasingly day after day?

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Our Goal is to Oust BJP from Power: CPI

Communist Party of India national council secretary Binoy Viswam MP said in Vijayawada on August 12 that the present goal is to dethrone Prime Minister Narendra Modi from power. Narendra Modi's response on Manipur is painful. There is no protection to migrants. The YSR Congress Party has surrendered to BJP. We have to protect the state and save the nation.

He was addressing the poster release function on August 12 at Dasari Bhavan, in Vijayawada. Binoy Viswam along with Andhra Pradesh CPI state council secretary K Ramakrishna and assistant secretary Muppalla Nageshwera Rao were leaders who spoke to the gathering. The bus yatra, that is to start on August 17 and conclude on September 8, is aimed to expose the misrule of Narendra Modi as well as Jaganmohan Reddy. The poster was released by Binoy Viswam.

In his address, Binoy Viswam stated that Manipur incident made all the Indians to bow their heads. But the prime minister has given an explanation on the issue very satirically. It is unfortunate that the prime minister who spoke for more than two hours could spare just four minutes for such an important issue of Manipur. Though women were paraded naked, Union

home minister Amit Shah and officials were silent. The government of Narendra Modi is handing over mineral and forest wealth of north-eastern states which are being called as seven sisters to corporate houses.

He pointed out that employment potentialities are gradually being reduced. Changing the laws and giving them new names are not very important. What is important is to provide employment to youth, poor and migrant people. He also alleged that several bills were passed in Parliament without any discussion.

The bus yatra will cover all districts of Andhra Pradesh. Indian opposition is going in a proper way in order to dethrone Narendra Modi from power, he added. In Parliament the entire body of YSRCP is with Jagan but the mind is with Modi.

CPI AP state council secretary K Ramakrishna



addressing the function stated that Jaganmohan Reddy government is running in reverse gear. Just in four months period, he has made a debt of Rs33,500 crores. In the period of four years he has not completed even single irrigation project. Polavaram project is left in the air. Ramakrishna asked why the project is not being handed over to the Central government. Jagan had promised that Polavaram will be completed by Kharif season of 2020, changed it to 2021 and again to 2022. Now he is saying that Polavaram will be completed only by 2025. Owing to the policies of YSRCP, Taiwan company

Ram Narsimha Rao

has gone to Tamil Nadu, Amarraja batteries plant has gone to Telangana. Jacky and KIA companies of Anantapur are not investing at all. There are 2.2 lakh crore IT exports from Telangana whereas in Andhra Pradesh not even Rs2,000 crores IT exports are there. In the state there are 35 percent unemployed and they should be provided with jobs.

K Ramakrishna pointed out that in the state tax burden is being increased. YSRCP has attacked the leader of opposition in the state

assembly but a criminal case of attempt to murder was instituted on Chandrababu. The bus yatra exposing anti-people policies of Central and state governments will start from the gate of Vizag steel plant on August 17 and culminate in Tirupathi on September 8 with huge public meeting. As the Central government support is there to Jagan, despite many crores of rupees of debts, he could borrow. No party outside NDA has supported BJP as YSRCP is supporting. That is the reason why cases against Jagan are not moving forward, said K Ramakrishna.

On Record ...

The Union government's move to introduce a legislation proposing that election commissioners will be selected by a panel led by the prime minister, with the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union cabinet minister as members, has raised concerns about the overriding executive control over the poll body. The legislation, The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, was introduced on August 10 by the Union Ministry for Law and Justice in the Rajya Sabha, just a day before the parliament's monsoon session was to draw to a close. – *thewire.in*, August 12.

The information was revealed in the CAG report on the performance auditor of the NSAP

from 2017-18 to 2020-21. The report was tabled in Lok Sabha on August 8. The NSAP includes old-age pensions. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has found that the Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) diverted funds meant for the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for publicity purposes of some of its other schemes.

The information was revealed in the CAG report on the performance auditor of the NSAP from 2017-18 to 2020-21. The report was tabled in Lok Sabha on August 8. The NSAP includes old-age pensions. – *newslick*, August 10.

Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi lodged a police complaint in Pune against radical Hindutva leader Sambhaji Bhide for his alleged derogatory remarks against the Father



of the Nation. Bhide, who heads the fringe Sangli-based outfit Shiv Pratishthan Hindustan, had been accused of making offensive remarks against Mahatma Gandhi during a programme in Maharashtra's Amravati district in July. – *The Hindu*, August 10.

Compiled by: **C Adhikesavan**

Massive Rally by Govt Employees in Delhi
CALL FOR INDEFINITE STRIKE
FOR OLD PENSION SCHEME

The nationwide agitation and protest by the Central and state government employees are increasing day by day against the No Guarantee National Pension System (NPS) introduced by the AB Vajpayee led BJP government during the year 2003 for the Central government employees recruited on or after January 1, 2004. The federations and unions of government employees are demanding to scrap the NPS and to restore the defined and guaranteed Old Pension Scheme.

The protest and agitation throughout the country are gaining momentum due to the reason that the number of employees governed under the NPS is increasing day by day. A rough estimate states that there are more than 60 lakh NPS employees in various states and about 20 lakh NPS employees in the central government.

The then BJP government introduced the NPS with lot of fan-fare and argued that NPS is a better pension scheme than the Old Pension Scheme since the returns from the pension fund under NPS will be huge. In fact, when the employees' organizations protested against the NPS, the government of India in 2007 gave a written assurance that the pension in NPS will be more than the pension paid under the Old Pension Scheme. This has now been shattered by the actual benefits/pension the retiring employees are getting from NPS.

In accordance with the Old Pension Scheme, an employee with 10 years' service is eligible to get 50 percent of his basic pay as pension subject to a minimum

of Rs 9,000 + dearness relief. He can commute 40 per cent of the pension and can take it in advance while on retirement. He also would get two installments of dearness relief on the full



pension. The commuted portion of the pension will be restored after 15 years from the date of commutation. The Pension amounts get hike on a percentage basis after 80 years of Age. All these benefits are without



making any contribution by the employee. However none of these facilities are available in the NPS.

In the NPS, the employees have to contribute 10 percent of their

wages (Basic Pay + DA) and government makes a contribution of 14 per cent of the wages every month. The pension contribution is invested in different sources and the pension is paid based

on the returns from these investments/annuity. In a nutshell the pension of the government employees depends on the vagaries of the market. After 20 years of NPS what we are seeing is that the retiring employees are getting from NPS a very

meagre amount of Rs 2,000 to Rs 4,000 as pension and which remains static till the death of the pensioner. The myth and the false assurance of the government about the NPS have been

C Srikumar
unraveled by the above facts. Therefore, there is anger, frustration and discontent amongst the

government employees. The Congress which got the PFRDA Bill passed when in power with the support of BJP and other parties except the left parties have now started withdrawing the NPS and restoring the OPS in the

states which they are now ruling like Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh. The state governments in Jharkhand and Punjab have also withdrawn the NPS. Since

the Congress party has announced that if it comes to power it would restore OPS, it gives pressure to all the governments including in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and others as well to restore OPS. However the government of India and the PFRDA is refusing to return the pension wealth of the employees accumulated with the state governments which have withdrawn the NPS on the plea that it is the employee's money and cannot be returned back. Agitations are going on in all the states against the NPS.

In this backdrop, the Central and state government employees organisations including teachers' have constituted a larger platform of Joint Forum for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (JFROPS) which includes federations and unions from Railways, defence, postal, income tax, accounts and audit and others apart from the state government employees' organizations. Under pressure from all over the country and keeping the Parliament elections in mind the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced constitution of a high level committee under the chairmanship of finance secretary to recommend for improvement in the NPS.

On Page 12