

Mumbai Meet Ends in Optimism: For Unity, For Victory

‘JUDEGA BHARAT, JEETEGA INDIA’



The third meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) was held in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1, 2023 in Grand Hayatt hotel. The first meeting was held in Patna and the second meeting was held in Bangalore. The two-day meeting concluded successfully with the formation of four important committees to effectively carry forward the agenda of alliance and defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections. The slogan “Judega Bharat, Jeetega INDIA” was appreciated by all and was the main theme of alliance.

The meeting noted that BJP is continuing the communal agenda of colonial period of divide and rule and to counter that Judega Bharat, Jeetega INDIA is a very effective slogan, which incidentally counters effectively the BJP agenda of calling the opposition alliance as anti-national. Hence BJP is rattled with every meeting of the alliance. It has therefore announced Rs 200 cooking gas subsidy and also declared a committee under the leadership of former president Ramnath Kovind to study and propose one time election for Parliament and assembly under the theme of ‘One Nation, One Election’.

All opposition parties have opposed this agenda.

It is obvious that this agenda is being floated to divert the attention of people from burning problems like rising prices, unemployment and communal strides in Haryana and Manipur which reflected the incompetence of BJP rule and failure of BJP double engine theory.

The authoritarian, anti-federal and anti-constitutional agenda of BJP-RSS is being carried forward through the ‘One Nation, One Election’ agenda. Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja accused the government of taking a unilateral decision without discussing with other political parties.

Most opposition leaders spoke in the meeting and expressed their resolve to fight unitedly and raised

Dr Bhalchandra Kango



CPI general secretary D Raja is in the Coordination and Election Strategy Committee

various issues of importance. A co-ordination committee along with a campaign committee and media and social media committee was formed and declared during the press conference which took place on September 1 after the meeting and was addressed by various leaders including Uddhav Thakare, Mallikarjun Kharge, Lalu Prasad, Nitish Kumar, Stalin and Rahul Gandhi. Leaders of all parties were present on the dais.

The meeting began with the adoption of a unanimous

resolution congratulating ISRO and all our scientists and staff associated with successful Chandrayaan-3 project. Three more resolutions were also adopted. They are:

■ To contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections together as far as possible. The seat-sharing arrangements in different states will be initiated immediately and concluded at the earliest.

■ To organize public rallies at the earliest in different parts of the country on issues of public concern and importance.

■ To co-ordinate communications and media strategies and campaigns on the theme “Judega Bharat, Jeetega INDIA” in different languages.

The successful conclusion of the meet was possible because of excellent co-ordination and arrangements made by Uddhav Thakare along with Sena, NCP and Congress workers.

On August 30 a big public meeting of supporters of INDIA alliance was held in Mumbai and was

addressed by D Raja, Dipankar Bhattacharya, Ashok Dhavale, Medha Patkar and many others.

The meeting also decided to set up the following committees:

Coordination and Election Strategy Committee

The members are KC Venugopal of INC, D Raja of CPI, Sharad Pawar of NCP, TR Baalu of DMK, Hemant Soren of JMM, Sanjay Raut of Shiv Sena, Tejasvi Yadav of RJD, Abhishek Banerjee of TMC, Raghav Chaddha of AAP, Javed Ali Khan of SP, Lallan Singh of JD(U), Omar Abdullah of National Conference, Mehbooba Mufti of PDP and CPI-M (to give name later).

Campaign Committee

The members are Gurdeep Singh Sappal of INC, Sanjay Jha of JD(U), Anil Desai of Shiv Sena, Sanjay Yadav of RJD, PC Chako of NCP, Champai Soren of JMM, Kiranmoy Nanda of SP, Sanjay Singh

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‘Largest Con in Corporate History’

There has been again coming up charges against the Adani group that had already faced in 2022 the allegations of opaque financial dealings after a global network of investigative journalists published a report alleging that the company invested millions of dollars in its own companies through secret offshore structures.

The Adani Group has called the report of the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), “recycled allegations” and an attempt to revive the “meritless Hindenburg report”.

“We categorically reject these recycled allegations. These news reports appear to be yet another concerted bid by Soros-funded interests supported by a section of the foreign media to revive the meritless Hindenburg report.”

This time, The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project’s (OCCRP’s) investigations, published by The Guardian and Financial Times, has pulled down the market value of the 10 Adani group stocks by Rs 35,210 crore.

The associates of elder brother of Group founder Gautam Adani, Vinod Adani, and a member of the promoter group, are alleged to have created a complex web of structures within a foreign fund based in Bermuda to trade in Adani stocks. The two individuals, Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli of the United Arab Emirates and Chang Chung-Ling of Taiwan, are said to have used the Global Opportunities Fund to trade in Adani stocks without disclosing their business ties with the Adani family. It was in 2010.

That is not all. There are also reports claiming that the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), India’s apex anti-smuggling intelligence gathering body under the finance ministry, wrote to the markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India

(Sebi), in 2014, alerting the regulator about suspicious trading activities of these offshore entities. Sebi told the apex court in India in its filings that it had initiated a probe against the Adani Group as late as 2020, raising questions over whether the regulator indeed probed the leads shared by DRI and the outcome of the earlier investigation.

A former Sebi executive, on condition of anonymity, said Sebi takes cognizance of every complaint shared with it and follows the rule book to take it to its logical conclusion. He said, “I cannot share if we did probe (the Adani Group) then, because the matter is sub judice, but please remember that in any such investigation, we need cooperation from overseas regulators. Not all overseas regulators have been that helpful,” the person said without sharing any details.

According to sources, UK Sinha was the Sebi chairman in 2014; earlier this year, he became

Editorial

the chairman of New Delhi Television Ltd, the Delhi-based broadcaster acquired by the Adani Group last year. Any attempt to locate further details remained fruitless.

Adani group, in its defense also added that the cases cited in the OCCRP report on DRI were closed more than a decade ago, and even the Supreme Court upheld the clean chit given to the Adani Group in the matter. The case pertained to allegations of over-invoicing, transfer of funds abroad, related-party transactions and investments through foreign portfolio investors. “An independent adjudicating authority and an appellate tribunal had both confirmed that there was no over-valuation and that the transactions were in accordance with applicable law,” the Adani Group added.

The minimum public shareholding norms of Sebi prohibit promoters from owning more than 75 percent of a company. If any fund has common

ownership with the promoters, then the shares owned by the fund will be included in the promoter group. Hence the allegations become more significant.

Ever since 2014, the power and influence of the Adani Group has soared, with the conglomerate acquiring lucrative state contracts for ports, power plants, electricity, coalmines, highways, energy parks, slum redevelopment and airports. In some cases, laws were amended that allowed Adani Group companies to expand in sectors such as airports and coal. In turn, the stock value of the Adani Group rose from about 8bn dollars in 2013 to 288bn dollar by September 2022.

The New York financial research firm Hindenburg published a report in January accusing the Adani Group of pulling off the “largest con in corporate history.”

The apex court had set up an expert committee taking cognizance of a writ petition filed in February to examine various aspects of the Adani-Hindenburg saga. In its status report on its investigations into the Adani Group, Sebi said it was probing the violation of minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms by the Adani Group between 2016 and 2020. However, the regulator added that the investigation into the MPS norms is not finished since Sebi had to contact several overseas regulators for the information.

Meanwhile, according to sources, Modi-linked Adani family secretly invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the Indian stock market, buying its own shares.

According to offshore financial records, associates of the Adani family might have spent years discreetly acquiring stock in the Adani Group’s own companies during its meteoric rise to become one of India’s largest and most powerful businesses. By 2022, its founder, Gautam Adani was India’s richest person and the world’s third richest with 120bn pounds.

National council secretary of the Communist Party of India and leader of the parliamentary group Binoy Viswam wrote the following letter to Prime Minister, Government of India, Narendra Modi, on September 1, 2023 about his concerns regarding issues with the recent decision to implement the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojna (PM-BJP) under the banner of “One Nation, One Fertiliser” and about the stipulations concerning the branding with “PM-BJP”

‘One Nation, One Fertiliser’

alongside his photograph:

“Primarily, the rationale behind unifying all fertilisers under one name is unclear. Both public and private fertiliser companies have worked in the sector. A single name for all these fertilisers not only diminishes the identity and value these companies have built but may also lead to confusion among farmers who rely on specific products for specific needs. Moreover, the decision to

print “PM-BJP” prominently on fertiliser bags raises further concerns. The abbreviation “BJP” in the name and logo, which also represents the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, can easily be misconstrued as a political branding exercise, especially with the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

The choice of the term “PM-BJP” appears driven by political consideration. Such a move undermines the

faith of the public in the impartiality of governance and is as an attempt to utilise taxpayer money for political propaganda. Our nation’s farmers deserve clarity, choice, and transparency when choosing fertilisers. Imposing a single branding, and that too with clear political overtones, not only diminishes their choices but can also lead to questions about the quality and efficacy of the products. Our farmers

are the backbone of our nation, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that their interests are placed above all else.

In light of the above, I urge you to reconsider the “One Nation, One Fertiliser” policy to allow companies to maintain their individual identities and trust among consumers. I further urge you to immediately remove the “PM-BJP” branding from fertiliser bags to ensure there is no perception of political bias.

IDPD Visits Manipur Relief Camps

Inmates Living in Sub-human Conditions

A delegation of Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD visited relief camps in the valley and hills of Manipur from September 1-2, 2023, in both Meitei and Kuki areas to assess the health conditions in the relief camps. They have released a comprehensive report of the pathetic conditions in the camps.

The team consisted of IDPD president Dr. Arun Mitra, general secretary Shakeel Ur Rahman, senior vice president Dr. Ravindranath, and secretaries Dr. Shanti and Dr. Rajani. The team visited the relief camps in Khuman Lampak Sports Hostel in Imphal district and IIT relief camps under Saparmeina PHC in Kangpokpi District in hill areas. There are 334 relief camps in Manipur as of now. The team of doctors met inmates and nodal officers of the relief camps, officials of the health department, workers of civil society organizations, and officers of district administration.

Vital Observations

■ The referral systems for seriously ill patients in the relief camps in hilly areas are not satisfactory. The displaced people in the hills of Manipur informed that they had to travel to Nagaland covering up to 150 km to Kohima or Dimapur to get medical assistance in case of even moderately ill patients. Some of them even travel to Assam for their medical needs. Earlier, before the violence, they were referred to medical colleges in Imphal for better treatment. Now the movement of citizens from hills to valleys and vice versa is impossible due to ongoing turmoil in Manipur.

■ Kangpokpi District Hospital presently has neither an operation theatre nor a blood storage facility. Manipur is facing an acute

shortage of specialists' other doctors and health workers. Most doctors with specialisations in various areas and all the medical college hospitals of the state are in Imphal district (3 medical colleges) and Churachandpur district (1



medical college).

■ No special immunisation drives especially against measles have been undertaken in the visited relief camps. Measles Vaccine Immunisation drive in children above 9 months along with Vitamin A oral suspension is imperative for relief camps according to United Nations Humanitarian Commissioner for Relief (UNHCR) SPHERE standards.

■ The inmates and nodal officer of a relief camp in the valley said that no green leafy vegetables/eggs/meat/fish has ever been supplied in the ration of inmates by the government; although, local community,

Civil Society Organisations, and a few individuals provide few vegetables sometimes. Another nodal officer in a relief camp in Hills said that they get one egg per inmate once every 13 days, but green vegetables are not supplied. Rice, dal, potatoes, and cooking oil constitute the bulk of the ration supply to the relief camps. The absence of green leafy vegetables and animal proteins in the diet of children for the last four

months may lead to night blindness caused due to Vitamin A deficiency.

■ The visited relief camps are overcrowded, availability of potable drinking water and water for bathing/washing/in toilets are not sufficient in quantity. Sanitation needs to be improved by many folds. Supply of Sanitary napkins to maintain good menstrual hygiene in relief camps is insufficient.

■ There has not been fogging for mosquito control in and around relief camps.

■ The inmates informed that they have been facing lots of mental stress by staying in relief camps for the last 4 months and they are not sure when they will

go back to their homes or if ever will they be able to go back to their homes. Few children are having nightmares. Children are missing their schools and friends adding to their worries. These are signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

■ Patients with Non-Communicable Diseases like – Diabetes, High Blood pressure, chronic kidney diseases, etc. are present in the relief camps. A couple

of patients need hemodialysis.

■ The IDPD delegation placed the following demands on both the Union and state governments in order to rectify the deplorable subhuman conditions of the camps.

■ Robust referral systems after triage from primary health centres to higher relief centres both within the Manipur State and neighbouring states should be put in place at the earliest.

■ Fabricated Operation Theatres should be made operational at district and sub-district levels with immediate effect. Blood storage units should

be started around relief camps after cluster formation.

■ Internet services should be restored in all health facilities around relief camps so that telemedicine services can be available to inmates of relief camps at the nearest health facility. These telemedicine facilities can also be used in training Basic doctors in performing Peritoneal Dialysis (for Renal failure patients), and other skills like the use of AMBU (artificial manual breathing unit) bags in case of Respiratory Distress Syndrome among children, counselling mothers for breastfeeding of newborn children etc.

■ A strong medicine and vaccine supply system should be made functional and real-time monitoring of the stocks of medicine at ground zero level should be done.

■ Both central and state governments should implement the UNHCR SPHERE standards for meeting the health needs of the displaced people sheltered in relief camps.

■ Immunisation against Measles and providing Vitamin A supplements to children should be undertaken immediately. Supply of good nutritious food like green leafy vegetables, milk, eggs, meat, and fish should be ensured for all categories of the inmates in the camps.

■ Fogging for mosquito control should be done in and around relief camps should immediately be undertaken.

■ Psychological counselling of inmates with Post Trauma Stress Disorder should be a regular feature at relief camps.

KOLKATA: Ignoring heavy rains and disasters, in response to the call by the Left Front in remembrance of the martyrs of Food Movement launched on August 31, 1959, people thronged in large numbers. Esplanade was flooded with people on August 31. The massive gathering of people on the remembrance day proved that even though there was no representative of the Left Front in the state assembly and Lok Sabha from the state, the Left Front and Red flag still held its place among people as they always stood by them wherever they were needed. The rally on August 31 issued a call for unleashing an intense agitation against the communal fascist BJP and the corrupt Trinamool government in the state against the hike in prices of food and essential commodities and demanding employment.

Homage to Martyrs of Food Movement, Aug 31, 1959 Struggle against Denial of Food still Alive

The program was scheduled for 2 o'clock. But long before that, processions started coming from Howrah and Sealdah. Ignoring the drizzle, people flocked to

Subodh Datta

rain, soon they started coming back as soon as the rain subsided. In the

them ignored the rain and started chanting slogans just before the speeches of the left leaders.

The meeting started with everyone paying respect to

elections in the state.

Chairman of Left Front, Biman Basu presided over the meeting. He said that on August 31, 1959, the workers, farmers, farm labourers from villages had gathered at the foot of Shaheed Minar to demand food. Later the procession moved towards Raj Bhavan. It was here that police started baton-charging the peaceful march. According to the government, 80 protesters died on spot. In reality, the number of dead was much more. Today again the price of food and fuel in the country has skyrocketed. The communal BJP government at the centre and the corrupt Trinamool government in the



Jawahar Lal Nehru Road. Although the crowd got temporarily dispersed by the

crowd were students, youth, women, labourers, farmers, farm labourers and all of

those who died in the mass movement and those who died in the last panchayat

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What the Others Say...

SEBI must answer

Following the rout in the stocks of companies of the Adani Group, after publication of the Hindenburg report, the SEBI began to look into the gamut of issues this episode has raised. Subsequently, the report of the expert committee, appointed by the Supreme Court, broadly outlined the scope and extent of SEBI's investigation. While the committee concluded that there was no evidence of regulatory failure, several reports over the past week, which provide granular details on issues such as minimum public shareholding and stock market activity, suggest otherwise.

A report provided details of an investigation carried out by the ED which concluded that a dozen companies, including foreign investors based in tax havens, were "top beneficiaries" from short selling of companies of the Adani Group. Some of these investors had, in fact, taken positions just a few days before the release of the Hindenburg Research report. None of these entities, however, are reported to have disclosed the ownership structures to income tax authorities. As per the report, ED had shared its findings with SEBI. A few days after that, another report detailed how two individuals — one from the UAE and another from Taiwan — who had taken large positions in the Adani Group companies were associates of Vinod Adani (Gautam Adani's brother). If these individuals were to be considered as proxies for Vinod Adani, and treated as part of the promoter group, it would imply that the Adani Group companies may have violated stock market rules. Another report showed that two offshore shell companies registered in the British Virgin Islands that are said to have invested in Adani Group stocks are also linked to the group. The denials issued by the Adani Group have done little to address the concerns.

Questions have also been raised, and rightfully so, about SEBI. Apprehensions are also stoked when a former SEBI chairman, to whose tenure some of the allegations made in the reports can be traced, becomes an independent director and non-executive chairperson of a new channel

owned by the Adani Group. As the stock market regulator, SEBI would do well to address the questions raised in a comprehensive manner.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

G2 within G20

Notwithstanding Modi's pitch for consensus at the G20 summit, the Ukraine issue has ensured that consensus has remained elusive in all ministerials held under India's presidency thus far. With both the US and the China-Russia combine hardening their respective positions, India needs to do a fine diplomatic balancing act to ensure the summit's success. In fact, divisions between the two camps had also emerged at the Bali G20 summit last year.

However, drafting the Ukraine paragraph of the joint communique this time is proving to be a greater challenge because the US and the China-Russia combine have diverged even further. While the Beijing-Moscow strategic compact has grown tighter, there is bipartisan support in Washington for a tougher approach towards China in terms of trade, technology and geopolitical issues. For example, the US has now made it clear that it won't be selling sophisticated chips to China, which it believes can be used by the Chinese military. In fact, this 'tough-on-China' approach is feeding into the US's determination to thwart Russia's military operations in Ukraine. This puts India in a tricky spot. While New Delhi needs Washington's support to counter Beijing's designs in Asia, it is also dependent on Russian military hardware for its armed forces. But it's increasingly clear that given current geopolitical realities, India will always be third in any India-China-Russia trilateral. Therefore, New Delhi must diversify its supply chains, both in military lines and strategic products like APIs and batteries to reduce its dependence on Russia and China.

On G20, India's proposal to include the African Union in the grouping is a good move, but there appears to be problems there, too. If the union is allowed in, it may temper moves to divide the G20 into two camps, and thus keep the focus on the Global South. But there's no escaping the widening strategic-security gulf between the US and China-Russia.

Courtesy: The Times of India

From Non Aligned Movement to G20

Challenge to Peace and Health

Much euphoria is being created about the upcoming G-20 meet in Delhi next week. The high pitch is particularly to project that it is because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India has got the chairmanship of the group. Truth of the matter is that in the G-20 there is a rotatory system of chairmanship. In fact India could have been the chair of the G20 last year but it was delayed by one year. The G20 has several agendas to discuss, but the most important ones are the global peace and health for all.

World today is in a very critical situation because of on-going armed conflicts in several parts. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is the most serious one at this juncture. As per the UNO over 14400 people have been killed including 3604 civilians. Over 8 million people have been displaced externally living as refugees in other countries.

The issue has not remained just between Russia and Ukraine; with the explicit involvement of US and NATO the things have gone too far. Both sides have warned of use of nuclear weapons. After the US President Joe Biden issued the statement that they would supply cluster weapons to Ukraine, Russia has warned that in that case they would be left with no other option but to use nuclear weapons. This is a very dangerous situation because any nuclear exchange at this time on that border will not remain between Russia and Ukraine; it will be a nuclear exchange between Russia and USA & NATO. As per the latest scientific studies this would mean death of over 5 billion people which would be an end of modern

civilization built through thousands of years of human labour. Study conducted by the IPPNW and the environmental groups has already shown with evidence that even a limited nuclear exchange, for example between India and Pakistan, would lead to death of over 2 billion people. But an exchange between Russia and US would be much more catastrophic.

In addition there are



conflicts going on in different parts of Africa and Asia. These internal strife have International support in one form or the other for various economic interests of the rich nations. The situation in Palestine or in Syria are examples of extreme human rights violations. It is therefore important that the G20 takes a firm decision on such issues of nuclear disarmament and check on the proliferation of small arms.

However it seems unlikely because the G20 is not a homogenous group. It is a group of countries with self-interests dominated by the multinational corporations and military industrial complex. This is in contrast to the Non-Aligned movement (NAM) which took effective steps and raised serious concerns on the issue of disarmament, development and human rights in different countries. It is well known that India had played significant role at that moment. NAM was

Dr Arun Mitra

founded at the initiative of Jawaharlal Nehru, Marshal Tito and Abdul Gamal Nasser. The NAMs 7th summit was held in Delhi in 1983 in which heads of the states from 117 countries participated and there were 20 observers from several countries. In contrast, the G20 is a tiny event but with much hype.

It seems unlikely that the G20 meet would come out with a firm declaration to abolish nuclear weapons which is now possible through a multilateral Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) passed by the UNO on 7th July 2017. There is a

strong lobby within the G20 who opposed the TPNW in the UNO and put tremendous pressure on the members of the UN General Assembly. These countries are the protagonist of theory of nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

It is very much unlikely that G20 will come out with a concrete decision on health for all which requires equitable distribution of resources for healthcare. We have in fact witnessed how the Pharmaceutical companies particularly vaccine producing companies played havoc during the COVID pandemic and blackmailed smaller countries who did not have either technical knowhow or resources to produce vaccines on their own. Big Pharma companies are known to have made huge profits during the period. For any talk on health for all, affordable drug pricing and equitable healthcare, the Pharma companies have to be regulated and their

profits made transparent.

It would be good to watch the on-goings of the G20 and outcome in various sectors. But the countries which are there the USA the England the France have pro corporate ideology and economic interests. Will they be ready to part away with the arms or will they be ready to make effective changes in the world trade organization so as to meet the requirements of the developing countries for health for all.

As chairperson of the 7th non-aligned summit India played a big role in organizing the developing countries on the one goal of this disarmament, equitable development, human rights, health for all etc. They passed resolutions supporting the cause of Palestinians and on other issues of human rights.

For such decisions there is need of statesmanship. That statesmanship is lacking in our polity at present.

Save Constitution, Save Parliament

National Council secretary of the Communist Party of India, and leader of CPI Parliamentary Party Binoy Viswam wrote the following letter to Hon'ble President of India Droupadi Murmu, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on September 9, 2023, expressing his concern regarding the manner in which this government has proceeded to convene a Special Session of the Parliament from September 18, 2023 to September 22, 2023.

It was informed through the summons that this Special Session shall not have any of the functions that the Parliament as a legislature has always performed. It will not have zero hour, question hour or private member's day, nor has the agenda for these five days been circulated. In our form of Government, function of the Parliament is to keep the government accountable to people. However, these actions make one wonder whether this session will be an Executive Parliament, replacing the House

where debates, discussions and dissents took place. As we witnessed in the previous sessions, the government stifled the members from discussing issues of utmost importance including Manipur and hurriedly passed several laws with far reaching consequences with little or no debate. In light of these attempts to make the Parliament redundant and ineffective, it appears that with this Special Session, the government intends to give a clear message that a parliamentary majority has enabled them to completely do away with the parliamentary system.

It is evident that the system of checks and balances envisaged in our Constitution is under a major threat. You are sworn to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution" and in these extraordinary circumstances, I request your intervention to preserve parliamentary system and to allow parliamentary sessions to be a platform where questions and matters of importance are raised and deliberated upon.

TN State Convention of Samyuktha Kisan Morcha

TIRUCHIRAPALLI (TN): The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) Tamil Nadu state convention was held here on August 30, 2023. The coordinator of SKM Tamil Nadu K. Balakrishnan, acted as the president. All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) national president Ravula Venkaiah and All India Kisan Sabha (36, Canning Lane) national leader Hanan Molla were present as chief guests. Farmer leaders from Tamil Nadu S. GunaShekaran, Masilamani, Siva Suryan, and other delegates of 11 Kisan organizations and more than 700 farmer representatives from different districts took part in the convention. The first flag of the Samyuktha Kisan Morcha was unveiled by



AIKS national president Ravula Venkaiah addressing the convention

Hanan Molla.

In his address, Ravula Venkaiah said that it was the Farmers' movement that made Narendra Modi bend his head. Three draconian farm bills were introduced by the BJP-led Union government. These laws faced widespread protests from every corner of the country. Seven state governments rejected the

laws. The mass agitation spearheaded by 540 farmers' organizations unitedly received solidarity around the globe. 750 farmers became martyrs in this movement and the Union government repealed the laws due to the immense momentum of pressure built by the Farmer's movement.

He said that the cases against farmers are pending in the courts. The promises which the Union government gave while announcing the repeal of laws remain to be fulfilled. A fresh protest was

begun at Jantar Mantar on March 20, 2023, demanding the fulfillment of the promises. Nearly thousands of people participated in this agitation. He also said that to defeat Narendra Modi through strong movements, SKM will hold meetings in states.

AIKS (36 Canning Lane) leader Hannan Mollah said in his speech that compensation should be paid to the family of martyrs and the cases taken against the farmers should be

dropped. He demanded that the Union minister and his son should be prosecuted and punished for the killing of four farmers in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. He also demanded that C2+50 should be implemented to support prices for the farmers, and Kerala-style debt relief should be made a legal right throughout the country. He said that all the farmers should participate in the nationwide movement for this.

Judega Bharat...

From Front Page

of AAP, Arun Kumar of CPI(M), Binoy Viswam of CPI, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi of National Conference, Shahid Siddiqui of RLD, NK Premachandran of RSP, G Devarajan of AIFB, Ravi Rai of CPI(ML), Thirumavalan of VCK, KM Kadar Moidin of IUML, Jose K Mani of KC(M) and TMC (to give name later).

Working Group for Social Media

The members are Supriya Srinate of INC, Sumit Sharma of RJD, Ashish Yadav of SP, Rajeev Nigam of SP, Raghav Chaddha of AAP, Avindani of JMM, Iltija Mehbooba of PDP, Pranjal of CPI(M), Dr Bhalchandra Kango of CPI, Ifra Jan of National Conference, V Arun Kumar of CPI(ML) and TMC (to give name later).

Working Group for Media

The members are Jairam Ramesh of INC, Manoj Jha of RJD, Arvind Sawant of Shiv Sena, Jitendra Ahwad of NCP, Raghav Chaddha of AAP, Rajiv Ranjan of JD(U), Pranjal of CPI(M), Ashish Yadav of SP, Supriyo Bhattacharya of JMM, Alok Kumar of JMM, Manish Kumar of JD(U), Rajeev Nigam of SP, Dr Bhalchandra Kango of CPI, Tanvir Sadiq of National Conference, Prashant Kannoja of SP, Naren Chatterjee of AIFB, Sucheta De of CPI(ML), Mohit Bhan of PDP and TMC (to give name later).

Working Group for Research

The members are Amitabh Dubey of INC, Prof Subodh Mehta of RJD, Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena, Vandana Chavan of NCP, KC Tyagi of JD(U), Sudivya Kumar Sonu of JMM, Jasmine Shah of AAP, Alok Ranjan of SP, Imran Nabi Dar of National Conference, Advocate Aditya of PDP and TMC (to give name later).

'Save Constitution, Save Parliament'

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The Struggle is for Equitable Education

In the country, there are 15 lakh schools where an estimated 25 crore children get enrolled. Out of this nearly 50 per cent (12 crore) go to private schools, which are estimated to be around one-third (about 4.5 lakh) school in the country. The exponential growth of private schools and the increasing number of enrolments in these schools over the past decades highlight the inadequate conditions of government schools.

The Kothari Commission (1964-1966) report proposed Common School System in the country, which emphasised and aimed to provide equal educational opportunities to all children by encompassing public schools, government aided-schools and recognised private schools. However, despite more than five decades since the recommendation was made, the country is yet to achieve this vision.

The ultimate aim was to ensure that all schools within this system maintained a high standard of quality and efficiency. The system of neighbourhood schools, has been successfully implemented in countries like the then Soviet Union, Cuba, China and even in the capitalist countries like United States and United Kingdom.

September 5, as we celebrate the teachers day, we demand that there must be equitable education system in India. Besides we demand that there must be also support the dearness allowance and implementation of Kothari Education Commission report, which recommended respectable salary and pay

parity for teachers of all categories. The Kothari Commission report proposed a Common School System but its implementation faced opposition from certain sections of the society that are against sending their wards to schools having students from mixed economic backgrounds. The high class, the upper middle and middle class is against sending their children to government schools. This resistance to the idea of common schooling stems



from the fear that their caste and social will diminish, potentially endangering their dominance in society.

The conditions of government schools in most of the states remain deplorable while the private schools flourish. Though the Kothari Commission proposed Common Education System, it could not be implemented as it faced opposition the certain sections of society.

The children belonging to downtrodden sections of the society do not have any other source of education throughout the entire country. The injustice is being done to the poor tribal children by giving this rotten education. The governments are rather ensuring they continue doing labour work generation after generation

and don't move forward in their lives. They are being simply cheated. They trust the government. There is requirement of infrastructure and teachers. They are academically at low level.

The story of government schools, baring a few states like LDF government ruled Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi and a few states in Northeast is probably the same across the country. The quality education in government schools has been

deliberately ignored so that private schools could prosper at the cost of the students from the poor class. The education policy framers and administrators of government schools have hatched this conspiracy to deprived the quality education to the poor. The upper rich and the middle class parents send their children to private schools whereas the parents belonging to working class, the dalits, adivasis and some sections of the OBC and religiously minority sections send their children to government schools. The National Education Policy (NEP) brought by the ruling RSS-BJP regime would further marginalise and communalise the students of this strata of society. Under the NEP the education is highly costly.

The current education system under the ruling regime reflects the challenges as the government says that it is striving to provide quality education to all its citizens. With a vast and diverse population, the country faces the dual task of ensuring access to education and improving its quality across different regions and socio-economic backgrounds.

The governments have to overcome of the persistent problems like uneven learning, gender disparity

and skills development. The disparity arise not only due to inefficiencies in the education system but also how the system in the country has been shaped over decades.

The history is evident that the traditional Hindu education system served the needs of Brahmins, those were considered the highest caste in the social hierarchy. The medieval period education was also meant for the elitist. These notions and tendencies were re-enforced under the British rule that linked education to government service meant to serve the colonial interests, which created a divide between English medium and vernacular medium schools, which is till date continuing.

The independent India



STUDY & STRUGGLE

C. Adhikesavan



under Jawaharlal Nehru envisioned the country as a secular democracy with the intervention of state in commanding the economy. Education was used a tool to unite the country that was divided by wealth, caste and religion to foster self-reliance and modernisation.

The education system in India has been favouring and is still the privileged class particularly after the introduction of NEP. Education is being seen as the symbol of status and aspiration in the society seeking job opportunities in the neo-global market. However, not all has access to quality English medium education, many students belonging to poor strata of society are being deprived from this.

To overcome obstacles we need to approach for a comprehensive and engaged approach is need of the hour. It needs strong political will with the support of policymakers, education experts and stakeholders. We must raise awareness and foster consensus on the importance of scattering equitable education opportunities for all children. Currently the country's elite section is responsible for the neglect of our public education system. The elite want the children after getting sub-standard education to serve them.

Urbanization in India

C. R. Bakshi

Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas. Urbans is a Latin word of ancient Rome, meaning people who lived in cities settled at concentrated areas of habitation with complexities of race, religion and relations in their living, with professions other than agriculture.

In India, according to Census-2011, there are 4378 cities amongst which 1451 can be categorized as towns with municipalities. During 1947, the city based population in India was five crore which increased by leaps and bounds to 21 per cent of the total population in 1975 and 27.8 per cent in 2000.

If we consider the year 2011 as base of latest Census, then we find that out of 1.21 billion total population, 37,71,06,125 people live in cities. This constituted 31.1 per cent in 2011, whereas it was 27.8 per cent in 2001. During last ten years the migration of rural population to cities was more than 22 millions.

Globally, it is predicted that by 2050, about 64 per cent of the developing world and 86 per cent of the developed world will be urbanized. The United Nations (UN) has also projected that nearly all global population growth from 2017 to 2030 will be absorbed by cities. It will be about 1.1 billion new urbanites over the next 13 years.

In developing world like India, as a result of conflicts over land rights due to the effects of capitalist globalization, the poorer sections of people in rural society, such as farmers, unemployed youth and agricultural labor including the indigenous tribal people, migrated and settled into

cities in the past and the process continues as agriculture fails to provide livelihood. A booklet of AIPSN published in 2017 with the caption 'Development for the Rich' writes: "Rapid growth of Indian economy since the 1990's has been accompanied by a growing agricultural distress. More than 300,000 farmers have committed suicide in this period, and the manufacturing sector is stagnating. About 1 crore 30 lakh Indians are born every year but job creation in the organized sector absorbs only ten per cent of this number."

Forced Displacement of Rural Population

The most negative feature of the process of urbanization is the ruin of agriculture and unprecedented dominance of real estate sector by land mafias, causing displacement of rural population. Urbanisation has got momentum with the mad pursuance of the economic neo-liberalism by the Union and State governments. It gets boost with the increasing immigration of rural work force due to the shrinking of job opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors. ... The acquisition of land in fraudulent manner is a continuous menace that is ruining the lives of millions. The nexus of land and builder

mafia, ruling politicians and bureaucracy is playing havoc. Millions are being dislodged from their land. The recent changes in land acquisition laws will further aggravate the situation.

Another aspect of this unplanned urbanization is more and more privatization of most of the civic amenities heaping new economic burden on the urban population. Even supply of drinking water has been privatized in a number of cities and towns. Migrant labour also adversely affects the daily wage system."

Conflict between modern industry and agriculture:

Karl Marx had stated in his CAPITAL-Volume I: "Capitalist production, by connecting the population in great centres, and causing an ever-increasing preponderance of town population, on the one hand concentrates the historical motive power of society; on the other hand, it disturbs the circulation of matter between man and the soil, that is, prevents the return to the soil of its elements consumed by man in the form of food and clothing." (Capital-I, pp.474-75). This imbalance between industrial production and agricultural production will ultimately create crisis for existence of humanity."

What 'The Communist Manifesto' says:-

The Communist Manifesto, the first programme of proletarian revolution, jointly written by Marx and Engels in 1848, says: "Communism means gradual combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries, gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country, by a more equitable

distribution of the population over the country." (Marx-Engels Selected Works Vol.I, p.127).

In his work 'Principles of Communism', Engels theoretically substantiated some most important points in the Communist Manifesto and tactical principles to prepare for a transition from capitalism to socialism.

To the question (No.17): "Will it be possible to abolish private property at one blow (?)," Engels answers: "No, such a thing would be just as impossible, as at one blow to multiply the existing productive forces to the degree necessary for the creation of the community."

Interestingly, he counted 12 points of action programmes for creating a situation in democracy which was visualized by him in post-proletarian revolution. Among those 12 points, in point No.7, he says, (the programme would include): "Increase of national factories, work shops, railways and ships, cultivation of all uncultivated land and improvement of the already cultivated land in the same proportion in which the capital and workers at the disposal of the nation are increasing."

In the clarification to point No.9 of these 12 point programmes, Engels says, (it will be) "The erection of large palaces on national estates as common dwellings for communities of citizens carrying on industry as well as agricultures and combining the advantages of urban and rural life, without the citizens having to suffer from the onesidedness and disadvantages of either."

At the end to the answer of the question number 18 (what will be the course of

this revolution), Engels says, at point no.12, that "Of course, all these measures cannot be introduced at once. But one will always lead to the other ... finally, when all capital, all production, and all exchange are concentrated in the hands of the nation, private ownership will automatically have ceased to exist, money will have become superfluous and production will have so increased and men will have so changed that the last forms of the old social relations will also be able to fall away."

In reply to the question number 20, Engels says:

"It follows from all this that the antithesis between town and country will likewise disappear. The carrying on of agriculture and industrial production by the same people, instead of by two different classes, is, even for purely material reasons, an essential condition of communistic association. The scattering of the agricultural population throughout the country, alongside the crowding of the industrial population in the big towns, is a state adequate only to an underdeveloped stage of agriculture and industry, an obstacle to all further development, which is making itself very perceptible even now."

Obviously, urbanization is antithesis to the theory of equitable distribution of the population, equitable development and social justice. Neither the urban population in urbanized cities and towns will get civic amenities at lower cost nor the rural population will have access to their land,

and its Baneful Impact

agriculture and employment for increased food production and better income.

Mahatma Gandhi on India and Socialism

In Indian context, Mahatma Gandhi in his article 'India and Socialism', writes: "Real socialism has been handed down to us by our ancestors who taught, 'All land belongs to Gopal; where then is the boundary line? Man is the maker of that line and he can, therefore, unmake it.' Gopal literally means shepherd; it also means god. In modern language it means the state, that is the people. The land and all property is his who will work for it. No man should have more land than he needs for dignified sustenance." ('India of My Dreams' by M.K. Gandhi, pp.22-23).

Regarding village Industries, Mahatma Gandhi was of strong view that, "Extinction of village industries would complete the ruin of the 7,00,000 villages in India. ... If the village perishes, India will perish too. ... The revival of the village is possible only when it is no more exploited. Industrialization on a mass scale will necessarily lead to passive or active exploitation of the villagers as the problems of competition and marketing come. Therefore, we have to concentrate on the village being self-contained, manufacturing mainly for use. Provided this character of the village industry is maintained, there would be no objection to villagers using even the modern machines and tools that they can make and can afford to use. Only, they should not be used as a

means of exploitation of others. (Ibid, p.104)

My experiences in China in 2002

In the year 2002, I got a chance to visit China along with a 5-member delegation of CPI. We were taken to a village named Nanzie of Hainan province which was comparable with Uttar Pradesh in India. Chinese interpreters told us that it was an ideal village of China which was being developed both in agriculture on the one hand and on the other hand, in setting up small scale industries like printing machine, printing ink factory, spices factory, wheat grinding units, lathe machines for manufacturing spare parts of agro-equipments and transportation vehicles, etc., which were being operated by the village youth in an integrated co-operative production system. The village council was looking after 26 institutions. Gradually, the difference between the character of rural and city life style was being removed, they claimed. It was a successful experiment to introduce principles of communism in economic activities of the village. This system was started in the year 1984 and since then the economic growth was 300 times higher than that of the base year. In 2001 their per capita income per month was 811 dollars (nearly 40,000 Rupees).

With total population of 1300 belonging to 300 family units, the village was having 60 hectare irrigated land in total land area of 1.78 square mile. Every peasant was allotted patta of equal measure of land for agro-activities. All the families were allotted apartments built by

the village council and they were provided with air conditioners, stove, electronic equipments, etc. Entire educational cost of students upto college level, medical expenses in hospital for treatments, etc. were borne by the village council. The income of peasants was higher than the factory workers by more than ten percent. The village council leaders told our delegation that there were such 360 villages in Hainan province. But all the villages could not develop their economy upto that level as that of the village Nanzie. This village council popularized a new slogan: "Let members of the village council reduce their personal savings to 'zero' and adopt the policy of communism, 'from each according to his capacity and to each according to his necessity.'"

I think, such a dream of communism was there in the mind of Mahatma Gandhi also in his concept of 'Gram Swaraj' in India.

The new Chinese leadership is now experimenting with a new idea of "Theoretical innovations in the localization of Marxism." Recently, Dr. Siddangouda Patel of Karnataka who along with the CPI State Secretary from Bihar, Com. Satyanarayana Singh, visited China to attend a seminar on the subject. He reported in the New Age: "In spite of the ambitious and impressive economic development of the Chinese economy, around 40 million of the Chinese population are yet categorized as "poor". Therefore, the present focus of the CPC is to eradicate poverty by the year 2020."

We also find a negative report through a booklet

written by Musharraf Ali, namely, "Smart City - Rahatya Afat", which says that 6 crores and 40 lakhs apartments in Smart Cities constructed in China are remaining vacant. If a city population is standard is to be considered upto 10 lakhs, then with these vacant houses 64 new cities can be established."

Actually, there are many contradictions on the way to build socialism, and those can be solved by applying Marxist dialectics only, internationally as well as locally, in accordance to the characteristics of a given country. As China is struggling for building scientific socialism according to their characteristics, India also will have to pursue the path of scientific socialism according to Indian characteristics.

Smart City will only Increase Unemployment, Slum and Crimes in India

The concept of smart city that has already started raising head in India at the instance of imperialist forces, corporate houses and big monopolies, with the lead taken by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will worsen the problems of our vast masses of urban population as well as the population in rural areas who have been suffering from worst agrarian distress. The governance of the country through democratic process will actually be handed over more and more to private monopoly houses, land mafia and developers in country side and the agriculture will be further ruined.

As Prof. S.R. Solanki, Head Of the Department of Economics, Arts,

Commerce & Science College at Borsad in District Anand (Gujarat) has written:

"The use of modern technology is increasing in cities in industrial fields. So the figure of employees is increasing more rather than the figure of employment. Hence, urban unemployment has increased. It is due to urbanization, the problem of habitat emerges. So people live in filthy Chawls, roads which give birth to theft, loot, prostitution etc. ... The pollution of air, water and noise have increased in cities due to industrial development and increasing vehicles. Urbanization is a dangerous problem for a developing country like India."

The instance of broken-city system causing dangerous accident that took place in Mumbai this year on the railway bridge at Elphinstone station by killing 20 citizens and hurting many more in a stampede, shows the failures of the development plans of urbanization. When lives of urban people in multicore cities like Mumbai cannot be saved, why should we make it as a choice for development?

So, India will have to oppose urbanization tooth and nail and force the government not to follow the foot steps of globalization and urbanization by world capital, which they have planned only to make more profit and solve their own problem of the crises of finance capital at the cost of common man in cities and the rural agriculture in India.

(Presented in All India Progressive Forum Seminar in Madgaon, Goa in December, 2017)

Three Days Women Cadre Class in MP

A three day Party Class for the women cadre of Madhya Pradesh was successfully organized at the Jungle Resort of GhunGhuti in the Umariya district of the state.

The three-day class was inaugurated by assistant secretary of MP state council of CPI Haridwar Singh and was presided by Dr Yugal Rayalu, member of the Central Education Department of CPI.

In his inaugural address, Haridwar Singh expressed his happiness over the very good response to the class. He called upon the women cadres to get acquainted with the Marxist Philosophy to become good leaders in the coming times. He paid rich tributes to the great leaders of CPI who nourished the party through the thick and thin of the times. He said being a class for the women cadre, women's issues form the core of the class. Apart from the Marxist Philosophy, the participants should try



to understand the challenges that women of India face today. Haridwar Singh appreciated the efforts of Vibha Pandey, state council member of the Party and general secretary of state Anganwadi Union, to reach out to the maximum number of the participants. In his presidential address, Dr Yugal Rayalu congratulated Arvind Srivastav, secretary of state council and Haridwar Singh, for having worked hard to organize the class. He called upon the participants to read as much as material that is being made available

Dr Yugal Rayalu

to them. He said understanding Marxism and implementing it is a continuous process, hence we must be continuously updating ourselves with the changing situations. He also guided the participants about the best ways to make best of the class in the short duration of three days.

Vibha Pandey was elected the Captain while Aruna Patel was elected the vice captain of the class. Both of them conducted the proceedings of the class. The first session was engaged by

Dr Rayalu on the subject, "Scientific Temperament".

He used the basic principles of logic to explain the concept of Scientific Temperament. When he asked each of the participants to give an example of logical and illogical events happenings, there was a spontaneous response and each participant narrated incidents.

Aruna Patel engaged the second session on, "Constitutional Rights of women". She explained in very easy language about the rights of women enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

Vibha Pandey concluded the day's

tasks with her session on, "Fighting for women's rights in day to day life". This was an interactive session with good participation from the women cadre.

Second day, Sarika Srivastav engaged a session on the history of "Women's struggle for their rights". Starting from the first war of independence, she gave a detailed information on the subject.

Haridwar Singh engaged a session on the history of Communist party of India and workers movement. Dr. Rayalu explained the basics of Marxism in the last session. He explained the difference between the bourgeoisie Parties and the Communist Party to the participants. Kiran Prakash conducted the feedback session in which all the participants spoke about their experience in the class. Most of the participants promised that they would work seriously to build the party in the state.



Union-State Govt Nexus Wrecking Universities in WB

The state government and the governor of West Bengal, who also serves as the Chancellor of state-aided universities, are collaborating to undermine the democratic foundation of public-funded universities in the state. The state government initiated this process by unilaterally appointing individuals aligned with their interests as vice-chancellors of state-aided universities, disregarding the relevant university acts and UGC regulations. They further enacted a series of undemocratic and authoritative education bills in the Assembly, aiming to exert direct governmental control over university administration since assuming power. This paved

the way for the current Governor to manipulate institutions of higher learning, pushing them toward a specific ideological stance.

In recent times, the governor has been appointing individuals affiliated with RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), some of whom lack even the basic qualifications for holding the position of vice-chancellor, as interim VCs of state-aided universities. This continues to violate both the pertinent university acts and UGC guidelines. The latest instances of politically motivated appointments involve individuals from non-academic backgrounds, including a retired judge (known for his

biased verdicts during his tenure as chief justice of the Karnataka High Court) and a former police officer (IPS) as interim vice-chancellors of state-aided universities. Even in the recent appointment of the interim Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University, the UGC guidelines were disregarded.

Various individuals and organizations have already filed several legal cases challenging these authoritarian decisions made by the Governor, both in the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court.

All India Federation of University and College Teachers Organisations (AIFUCTO) unequivocally condemns the undemocratic actions and

choices of both the state government and the governor of West Bengal. It is evident that their intent is to systematically dismantle the state's publicly-funded universities. This aligns with the concealed agenda of the central government to allow corporate entities to play a role in higher education and to deprive marginalized communities, particularly those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, of their fundamental right to higher education—a primary objective of the National Education Policy 2020. (NEP 2020).

We demand an immediate cessation of these malpractices and a return to the operation of universities

in accordance with the relevant university acts and UGC guidelines, devoid of any political interference. We insist that the UGC rules and regulations governing the appointment of vice-chancellors must not be breached by any authority. Additionally, we call for the prompt appointment of full-time vice-chancellors, adhering to the applicable university acts and UGC guidelines, for all state-funded universities.

If the state government and the Governor of West Bengal persist in their disregard for established norms, AIFUCTO will be compelled to initiate robust resistance against both entities to safeguard the democratic and inclusive structure of higher education in our nation.

Workshop on Party Education

KOLKATA: The State Party Education Department of the Communist Party of India organized a two-day workshop on Party Education on August 26 and 27, at Bhupesh Bhawan, Kolkata.

Today the country is in a deep crisis. The RSS-controlled and corporate-run communal fascist BJP government in the centre is pushing the country towards divisions on religion, sex, language, caste and groups.

They want to make our secular India a Hindu Rashtra. Communists need Marxist-Leninist education to get rid of this deep crisis. Anil Rajimwale, Principal of the party's central education department, expressed this opinion in the opening speech of the workshop on August 26. The main basis of the communist movement is economic, political and ideological struggle. In 2014, the BJP came to power under the leadership of

Narendra Modi. Guided by the RSS and corporate capital the government, he wants to privatize the country's resources and hand them over to the capitalists.

Party education is very important to save the country's Constitution and democracy. Thus, translation of booklets, pamphlets and books into regional languages is essential.

In today's workshop on the topic 'Importance of party education and future plans', state secretary Swapan Banerjee said that the country is going through a deep crisis. Marxist-Leninist education is very important in this adverse situation. Hence the organization of this workshop. Today's politics is becoming more complex. More and more workshops are needed to understand this complex politics. Cadres educated in Marxism and Leninism are the real wealth of a

Subodh Datta

Communist party.

Kalyan Banerjee, editor of CPI state organ Kalantar, and Srikumar Mukherjee spoke on this day.

CPI is going to celebrate its centenary. CPI must turn around, must show direction to the people. This call gained importance on the last day of the two-day workshop. Speakers of the day were former principal of Rajya Party School, Bhanudeb Dutta, a member of the central secretariat, Pallab Sengupta and deputy editor of New Age, Krishna Jha. Bhanudeb Dutta said that the communist movement is basically a movement of workers and farmers. Communists are the intellect and conscience of this age.

Pallab Sengupta, a member of the central secretariat, said that the party should move forward

through ideological struggle.

In order to make party education effective and efficient, party education department chief Amlendu Debnath divided the state into five zones and distributed the responsibilities of each zone.

A large number of party

teachers at the district and local council level attended the workshop. Twenty three participants from 16 districts took an active part in the discussion.

On the first day, the workshop was begun after hoisting the party flag and garlanding the martyr's altar.

Services Sector Growth Slows Down in August

Growth in India's dominant services sector lost some steam in August as the headline Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) figure fell to 60.1 from a 13-year-high of 62.3 in July as sales slowed down amid a record increase in new export business, said a survey by S&P Global on September 5, 2023.

"Total new business increased for the twenty-fifth month in a row during August. Advertising and robust demand for services were among the reasons listed for growth. Although softer than in July, the overall expansion in sales was one of the strongest seen in 13 years," said the credit rating agency.

A reading above 50 in the survey indicates expansion of services activity and a figure below that suggests contraction. The survey polled around 400 companies in non-retail consumer services, transport, information, communication, finance, insurance, real estate, and business services.

Calls for March...

From Back Page

country. Several agitations had taken place — in 1976 Harijan Maha Sabha, in 2002 Bhopal declaration, in 2013 for sub plan for SCs and STs. It is because of reservations SCs and STs could become IAS and IPS officials and ministers. He also pointed out that as per Article 46 of the Constitution, livelihood, employment, education, land, health protection measures, reservations have to be compulsorily provided to Dalits, scheduled tribes.

Prof Sukhadiyo Thorat, former chairman of JNU, while addressing in the concluding session of the summit stated that in child deaths, the number of Dalits are more in number. He also expressed concern that those children are unable to get nutritious and qualitative food. In higher education upper castes are 41 percent whereas Dalits are mere 12 percent. In slums upper castes are four percent and Dalits are 13 percent. Dalits are being neglected in all fronts. Ruling classes miserably failed in implementing Dalit rights. In

other countries providing welfare measures for depressed classes is treated as a right but in our country it is treated as mercy. Their rights are being enjoyed by upper castes. Encouraging and helping Dalits must be treated as a right.

Mallepalli Laxmaiah, chairman for Centre for Dalit Studies while addressing assured that state level and district level conventions will be organised where local issues will also be discussed. A movement will be build up. Political, economic and social issues will also be discussed. During the last 10 years attacks on Dalits have increased. He also assured that inequalities, discrimination and negligence of ruling classes will be exposed.

Kaki Madhava Rao, former secretary, united Andhra Pradesh government, emphasized on the unity of Lal, Neel (Red and Blue) flags. The ideologies of Marx and Ambedkar must be understood well. In our country, the British government has gone and billionaires' government has

come. We should feel ashamed of it. Where is equality as per Ambedkar's ideology? Who is responsible for this? He expressed concern that Dalits are facing inequality and discrimination in political, economic and social fronts.

Subhashini Ali, former MP and Dalit Soshan Mukti Manch leader pointed out in her address that RSS is conspiring to dismantle our Constitution in order to replace it by Manu Smriti. Mostly women are being exploited more even among Dalits and tribals. Hindutva forces are making laws against Dalits and adivasis. In Telangana differences are being created between Malas and Madigas and in Manipur between tribals and other peoples of other regions by the governments themselves.

Prof Limbadri, chairman, Higher Education Council, Telangana, while addressing said that because of economic and social backwardness, Dalit dropouts are more in number in the country. The role of Dalits is very nominal

in maths, science, computer science, statistics, data science and astronomy, etc. Though several laws are being enacted towards empowerment of Dalits, expected results are not being achieved. Empowerment is possible through education and employment. In 1960 there were 25 universities and 700 colleges but at present 1,113 universities are there but the number of Dalits in IITs and IIMs is very less.

Prof Narendra Kumar, JNU, in his address, made it clear that due to liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, the employment potentialities have decreased considerably. In the past children of workers and also of sarpanches used to go to government schools. But this situation has been changed gradually. If New Education policy 2020 is implemented, children belonging to Dalits

and adivasis will not get admissions in private schools. There is a danger to Indian universities with the government allowing foreign universities to come to India.

The summit has passed a resolution condoning the demise of Gaddar Praja Yuddha Nauka.

The summit also condemned the ghastly incidents in Manipur and demanded immediate resignation of chief minister of Manipur.

Nakka Balamallesh, state general secretary of BKMU, Ramavath Anjaiah Nayak, state general secretary, Girijana Samakhya, Kanthiah state president, BKMU, Koyyada Srujana Kumar, Thati Venkateshwarlu, secretary and vice president, BKMU, Jangaiah and Marupaka Anilkumar, state general secretary, Dalit Hakkula Porata Samithi also took part in the summit.

Remembering Martyrs...

From Page 04

state are not taking any measures to control prices and create employment. The fight against communalism and arbitrariness must be intensified. He submitted a charter of demands.

In support of the demands, state secretary of CPI, Swapan Banerjee said, ignoring the rain, this massive rally wants to warn both the Centre and the state governments that the people are awake, and are cautioning the ruling forces that their days are coming to an end. The price of daily necessities including food has skyrocketed, there is no opportunity for employment. Unemployment is growing fast. The communal BJP government at the Centre is keen to shatter the democratic system and establish a Hindu state. And the corrupt Trinamool government is busy selling jobs and smuggling coal, cattle and sand. Some leaders and ministers are in jail today. These two governments should be removed and people's governments should be established at the centre and state.

CPI(M) state secretary, Mohammad Salim said that there has been a glorious food movement in this state. We will not let the country fall into the hands of corporates; we will save the state from the hands of robbers.

Naren Chatterjee of Forward Block, Tapan Hor of RSP and several others were among those who the assembly.

Notable among those who attended the rally were Prabir Deb, Tapan Ganguli, Kalyan Banerjee, Gautam Roy of CPI, Suryakant Mishra, Ramachandra Dom of CPI(M). Leaders of Left parties were also present.

In the morning of August 31, Left leaders had paid tributes to the Martyrs of the Food Movement at the Raja Subodh Mallick Square by placing floral wreaths.

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CP of Chile Pays Tributes to Allende

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

Communist Party of Chile paid a tribute to President Salvador Allende, celebrating 53 years since the triumph of the Popular Unity. A march was carried out from Alameda with Morandé to the feet of the monument to the former commander in the Plaza of the Constitution, honour and glory.

As is tradition, political and social organizations made a pilgrimage to the monument to Salvador Allende, in the Plaza of the Constitution, on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of his election to the Chilean presidency.

On September 4, 1970, Allende won the elections as the candidate of the Popular Unity, a coalition made up of left-wing groups, including the Socialist and Communist parties and the Unitary Popular Action Movement (MAPU).

During the thousand days of his government, important transformations were carried out in the country, such as the nationalization of copper, the deepening of the agrarian reform, the half-litre of milk daily to eliminate child malnutrition and the universalization of health.

Allende won after four elections, it was not overnight, but the result of a people that organized itself and for the first time Socialism came to power democratically.

The son of the recently deceased president of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh), Guillermo Teillier, participated in the pilgrimage along with the widow of the former leader of that organization, Margarita Alvarado.

“My father would surely be here, so obviously we are on his behalf and because of

what the figure of Allende represents,” he said.

The march passed in front of the door of Morandé 80, of the Palacio de La Moneda, where the remains of the dignitary were removed on September 11, 1973, when the coup led by Augusto Pinochet took place.

In his speech at the end of the pilgrimage, the general secretary of the PCCh, Lautaro Carmona, recalled that in this same

of Recoleta on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the coup, paid tribute to Allende.

US silence encourages Israeli aggression

Israeli occupation forces killed Ayed Samih Khaled Abu Harb, a 21-year-old Palestinian youth who was shot in the head during an armed raid on a refugee camp in the West Bank city of Tulkarem.

In a reaction to this, the Palestinian presidency spokesperson Nabil Abu

stop the ongoing Israeli aggression and not be satisfied with the policy of statements that do not change anything on the ground,” warning that “the situation is on the verge of exploding as a result of the dangerous Israeli escalation.”

Since January, over 220 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers, according to official figures.

The poorest countries in



square, the president warned of a serious conspiracy of reactionary elements that, in order to attack the advance of the people, did not hesitate to resort to fascist practices.

He denounced that the ultra-right makes abusive use of its majority in the Constitutional Council in charge of drafting a new magna carta to replace the one in force since the time of the dictatorship (1973-1990).

If the Constitution proposal emanating from that council goes above the interests of the people, without a doubt, it will be rejected, said Carmona.

The participants in the International Summit for Democracy and Human Rights, held in the commune

Rudeineh criticized the United States for its inaction on the ongoing Israeli violations in the West Bank, urging it to take meaningful actions to end the Palestinian suffering.

He criticised the role of the irrational U.S. silence has encouraged the Israeli government to continue its violations against our people in the West Bank.

According to him as a result, Israel returned to its policy of storming the cities in the West Bank and killing young Palestinians as well as destroying the infrastructure of Palestinian cities and villages. He stressed that Palestinians will never give up their rights of defending their lands and holy places.

He called on the U.S. to “intervene immediately to

world by GDP per capita

Despite abundant global wealth, some countries continue to suffer in extreme poverty. Going by GDP per capita country-wise, there is a list poorest countries in the world in 2023. Before getting into the list of the poorest countries in the world, let's first understand the concept of GDP per capita and how a country is ranked on this basis. GDP stands for Gross Domestic Product, which measures a country's goods and services produced yearly. Its population must also be considered to get a clearer picture of how rich or poor a country is. Therefore, divide the GDP by the total number of people in the country to get GDP per capita.

Sometimes, the GDP per capita only tells us part of the story. That's because the cost of living and inflation rates can vary a lot from one country to another. That is where PPP penetrates to make a fair comparison. PPP stands for Purchasing Power Parity and considers the local costs and inflation rates to give a more accurate picture of the standard of living in different countries.

Some countries might have artificially inflated GDPs due to being tax havens. So, in GDP per capita ranking 2023, GDP per capita PPP is a helpful tool to pinpoint the poorest countries in the world.

These are the poorest countries in the world in 2023 by GDP per capita PPP as estimated by International Monetary Fund (IMF) as of August 28, 2023. The GDP-PPP in dollars. South Sudan with GDP-PPP 515.75, Burundi 891, Central African Republic 1,130, Somalia 1,370, Democratic Republic of Congo 1,474, Mozambique 1556, Niger 1,600, Malawi 1682, Chad 1797 and Liberia 1,798.

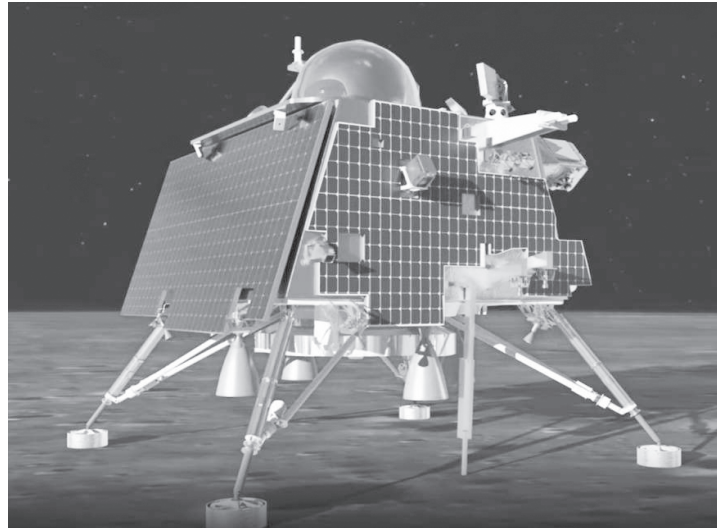
Smaller and less powerful countries in challenging regions are among the bottom ten economies. Liberia and Chad encounter obstacles like limited resources, weak financial sectors, and unfavourable tax regimes, hindering foreign investments and growth. Even larger nations like the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique struggle with poverty due to internal conflicts, political instability, and inadequate infrastructure, hampering their economic progress.

Unsung Heroes Who Made Chandrayaan-3 Possible

The Platform of Central Trade Unions and Independent Sectoral Federations/Associations salutes the team of engineers, scientists, communications experts and so on, who made Chandrayaan-3 possible. Their undaunted work has opened up myriad possibilities for India to forge ahead in many fields. As the story of Chandrayaan-3 unfolds, heart-rending stories of those who worked selflessly for the project emerge.

Thousands of engineers and workers of Heavy Engineering Corporation

(HEC), Ranchi, Jharkhand, a public sector undertaking, who have designed and manufactured the mobile



launch pad and other important equipments that

made Chandrayaan-3 possible, have not been paid for the past 17 months. ISRO scientists and engineers

have worked without any promotions.

The communication that was crucial for Chandrayaan-3 project was handled exclusively by BSNL, another PSU, deliberately being strangled by the Central government.

That the entire project was handled by PSUs is not surprising. In fact, the PSUs in India were established because their products (machinery) had a long gestation period, in which the private sector was not ready to invest. They wanted quick assured profits.

The story of HEC employees brings to mind the saga of ASHA and Anganwadi workers who worked selflessly during the covid pandemic, only to earn kudos as "Frontline Warriors" but no increase in

their miserable monthly honorarium. Will the Prime Minister be truthful to admit that it is the public sector that is the backbone of our nation — from bringing up healthy children to exploring the outer space. It is the PSUs which have been robbed of thousands of crores of rupees to erect huge statues, while starving the PSU employees, getting all priorities wrong.

The CTUs demand that the Central government immediately release the dues of HEC Employees as well as the promotions due to the engineers and scientific cadres at ISRO as well as at other units who played their significant role in this project as India celebrates their contributions.

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CPI held Protests against Price Hikes in Assam

In response to the clarion call given by the Assam state unit of the Communist Party of India (CPI), mass demonstrations were staged throughout the state against abnormal price hikes of consumer goods and all essential commodities. District units of CPI organized numerous agitation programs on August 28, 2023.

The procession of CPI activists in Marigaon town and gathering in front of the District Commissioner's Office was led by CPI national executive member Munin Mahanta. He sharply criticized the BJP-led state government for its failure to contain the abnormal price rises. The demonstration program in Golaghat Town was led by Pikumoni Dutta, member of CPI state executive and party Golaghat district secretary Horen Bora. They submitted a memorandum to the District Commissioner to control the price hikes. Both leaders in their respective addresses

to the gathering criticized the state government for its failure to fulfill its promises.

CPI state assistant secretary Arup Kalita led the demonstration in Lakhimpur town and criticized the state

was led by Kanak Gogoi secretary of CPI Assam State Council and Sivasagar district secretary Moni Buragohain. A march was held to the office of the district commissioner.

people of Assam at reasonable rates. The minister publicly announced that he has no capacity to control the price rise of the commodities except salt. Kanak Gogoi vehemently

the public distribution system, providing all essential food items to the people of Assam, dismantling the nexus between big businessmen and government, punishing the dishonest businessmen who make the artificial scarcity of goods, to stop all syndicate raj in the state, and repeal defect electric smart meters.

Party state council assistant secretary and Nagaon district secretary Ratul Bora, Dibrugarh district secretary Jatin Saikia, Karimganj district council secretary Ragendra Ch. Das, Tinsukia district secretary Ranjan Choudhury, Jorhat district secretary Vishwajy Saikia, Dhemaji district secretary Subhash Kalita, Nalbari district secretary Tapon Barman, Dhuburi district secretary Mahesh Rai and Goalpara district secretary Sailen Das led the agitations in their respective districts.



government. He also told before the gatherings that Himanta Bishwa Sarma is an anti-people chief minister of Assam who works only for the rich people.

A number of CPI activists were present at the demonstration organized by party Sivasagar district council. The demonstration

Kanak Gogoi explained the importance and demands of the protest program and criticized the state government's failures to control price hikes. He also said that the food and civil supply department and its minister Ranjit Kumar Das have totally failed to provide essential commodities to the

opposed their insulting comments and appealed to the people of Assam to reject the BJP government and its leaders in the forthcoming general election in 2024.

Memorandums were sent to the CM of Assam through all district commissioner's offices demanding strengthening of

On Record ...

Developed and emerging economies must use a summit this weekend to forge an international agreement to increase wealth taxes on the global rich, campaigners have said.

In an open letter to the G20 before its meeting in Delhi, the group of almost 300 millionaires, economists and politicians say urgent action is needed to prevent extreme wealth "corroding our collective future".

The letter, whose signatories include the Disney heiress Abigail Disney and the artists Brian Eno and Richard Curtis, urges the G20 to demonstrate the same global cooperation it showed in ensuring multinational companies pay a minimum level of tax to agree collectively to tax wealth.

With deep divisions between members of the G20, little is expected of this weekend's summit, but those pushing for a wealth tax said it was time for leaders to listen to public opinion. — *The Guardian*, September 5.

From the outside, the Global Opportunities Fund in Bermuda looked like any regular

investment fund: broad, bland, and uncontroversial. On the inside, however, two men were using the fund for a specific purpose — to amass and trade large positions in shares of the Adani Group, one of the biggest and most politically connected private conglomerates in



India. The two men — Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli from the United Arab Emirates and Chang Chung-Ling from Taiwan — are associates of Vinod Adani, brother of the conglomerate's founder Gautam. Their investments were overseen by a Vinod Adani employee, raising questions over whether they were front men used to bypass rules for Indian companies that prevent share price manipulation. The intricate paper trail that

shielded their identity from regulators and the public is laid bare in documents shared with the Financial Times by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a network of investigative journalists. Hindenburg alleged that entities controlled by associates of Vinod Adani manipulated the share prices of some of the group's 10 listed entities, sparking a furore that has knocked more than \$90bn off the conglomerate's valuation. The allegations in the report were strenuously denied by the group. — *Financial Times*, August 31.

This decade has been the WORST decade for the Indian Economy. You may ask why? The Indian plutocracy. The richest 10 per cent have 77.4 per cent of national wealth; the poorest 60 per cent have 4.7 per cent. Here are the 10 reasons: 1) The Manufacturing sector was cruelly battered by this regime. 2) Rupee fell to an unprecedented historic low. 3) In spite of a weakening¹, exports was at all time low. 4) The economy got shackled by debt. Every citizen today owes a debt of¹ 1.16 lakhs. 5) Far from achieving strategic autonomy. — source: IMF.

Compiled by: *C Adhikesavan*

National Summit of Dalits

CALLS FOR MARCH TO PARLIAMENT ON DEC 4



CPI national council secretary Syed Azeez Pasha addressing the meeting

HYDERABAD: It was in the two-day national summit of Dalits held here at Tourism Plaza on August 26 and 27, 2023, that it was decided to hold “March to Parliament” on December 4, 2023 in defence of Dalit rights. The summit has also resolved to hold statewide conventions and collect one crore signatures on Dalit issues which will be submitted to the President of the nation. Many speakers at the summit made it clear that Dalit demands will be political demands in the coming 2024 general elections. The speakers of the summit spoke in detail on the increasing attacks on Dalits, suppression, discrimination, untouchability, etc. They also criticized the ruling classes for their miserable failure in implementing the rights that the Constitution our country has provided.

The summit was presided over by a panel comprising

Mallepalli Laxmaiah, chairperson, Centre for Dalit Studies, B Venkat, general secretary, All India Agricultural Workers Union, Subhashini Ali former MP, Nirmal, Dheerendra Jha and Gulzar Singh Ghoria.

Syed Azeez Pasha, Communist Party of India national council secretary and former member of Parliament, K Radhakrishnan, minister for SC, ST, BC Welfare and endowments, Kaki Madhav Rao, former secretary, United Andhra Pradesh state government, Prof Limbadri, chairman, Higher Education Council and Narendra Kumar, professor, JNU addressed the summit.

Rajashakar Undru, additional secretary, Haryana state government presented the keynote address while Prof Sukhadiyo Thorat, former chairman, JNU addressed

Ram Narsimha Rao

the concluding session of the summit.

Syed Azeez Pasha, former member of Rajya Sabha and national council secretary of CPI in his address stated that though there are welfare schemes for the Dalit sections, the authorities have miserably failed in their implementation. He expressed his anger against the negligence shown towards the Dalits. He also expressed concern that they are lagging behind in all fronts including lands, industries, employment, trade, etc. Poverty is also increasing among them. Untouchability is still continuing even after 76 years of independence. Poverty and unemployment have increased to its peaks.

Syed Azeez Pasha pointed out that in the regime of BJP headed by Narendra Modi,

unemployment has increased many folds. In hunger index India stands at 101 rank out of 107 countries whereas Pakistan is in 97th rank and Nepal in 78th rank. It is unfortunate that India is behind our neighbouring countries in hunger index. He also reminded that in 1968-69 he has written an article regarding discrimination against Dalits and on untouchability as well. But certain journalists did not believe that untouchability was prevailing even after certain punishable laws. He underlined the need for launching nationwide united struggles on Dalit issues and for implementing Dalit rights.

K Radhakrishnan, minister for SC, ST, BC Welfare and Endowments in Kerala LDF ministry in his address stated that the Kerala government has taken many decisions so that there will not be inequalities

and discrimination against Dalits. Kerala Left Front Government has appointed Dalits as priests in temples. He also observed that in the regime of BJP, discrimination and inequalities have increased and now the BJP is conspiring to introduce communal ideology in history and science fronts. He also revealed that Narayanaguru has revolted against discrimination. Krishna Pillai of CPI had fought against discrimination against Dalits in 1935 for which RSS goons attacked him.

Rajashakar Undru, additional secretary of Haryana state government while presenting the keynote address made it clear that equality, self-reliance, secularism and democracy which are enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution are in peril in the changed political situation of the

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