

Two-Day CPI National Executive Meeting

CALL TO STRENGTHEN INDIA BLOC

The two-day meeting of the national executive of the Communist Party of India (CPI) held in the central party headquarters, Ajoy Bhavan in New Delhi on September 19 and 20 has decided to try its level best to strengthen the INDIA bloc by mobilizing people and by bringing various organizations of workers, peasants, youth, women, students and other social movements around the INDIA bloc.

Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja issued the following communiqué at the press conference on September 21, 2023 after the conclusion of the two-day national executive meeting:

The National Executive of the Communist Party of India had its meeting on 19 and 20 September, 2023 at New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Vanaja, member of the national executive and member of the state secretariat of the party in Andhra Pradesh.

Party general secretary D Raja reported on the political developments including the formation of Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). He also explained what should be party's approach and role in forging alliance in states to

fight elections for the state assemblies and elections for the Lok Sabha.

After deliberations, the national executive expressed its view on the following issues:

On Women's Reservation Bill

Communist Party of India stands for women empowerment and for gender equality. It was CPI leaders and members of Parliament like Renu Chakravarti and Geeta Mukherjee, who championed the cause of women's reservation in assembly and Parliament. It was in 1963 that Renu Chakravarty raised the issue in Parliament. In fact, Geeta Mukherjee as head of the Parliamentary Select Committee recommended 33 per cent reservation for women.



CPI general secretary D Raja along with national council secretaries Atul Kumar Anjaan and Dr K Narayana addressing the media

In this background, CPI welcomes the reservation bill but points out that it is 2024 election and formation of INDIA alliance, which has rattled the BJP government and forced the government to adopt the bill. In spite of having majority in Parliament since 2014, it took 10 years to introduce the bill.

In spite of lots of discrepancies to take political advantage, the bill has been introduced. It will be only effective after delimitation process in 2026 and only will be implemented in 2029. It is surprising that OBC demand for

reservation is not discussed and considered.

On INDIA bloc

The national executive meeting of CPI has welcomed the formation of the INDIA bloc. Party believes that the formation of the INDIA bloc is a significant step forward in defence of the secular democratic character of our Republic and its Constitution. This strong political formation will definitely be able to replace the BJP from central and state governments. CPI will try its level best to strengthen the INDIA bloc by mobilizing people and by bringing various organizations of workers, peasants, youth, women, students and other social movements around INDIA bloc.

CPI has agreed to the formation of different committees unanimously decided by all parties participated in Mumbai meeting for practical purposes of coordination, campaign management, print and electronic media and social media campaign for advancing the political

and organizational preparations for the forthcoming state and parliament elections with the understanding that all important decisions will be taken by the leadership of INDIA bloc.

CPI feels that the Coordination Committee can be expanded to accommodate other political parties to have more inclusive discussion and decision.

CPI will participate and contribute its best for the smooth running of the committees keeping in view the primary objective is to defeat BJP and its allies.

Condemns Attack on AISF in Udhampur in J&K

The meeting of the national executive of the party severely condemns the police and paramilitary action as well as attack by ABVP-RSS hooligans over Jammu and Kashmir state conference of All India Students' Federation (AISF) at Udhampur on September 18, 2023.

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A view of CPI national executive in session

Bill Passed, But...

After a very long wait, the Women's Reservation Bill has been passed by the Parliament. Everyone who knows about the history of the struggle for the enactment of the Women's Reservation Bill would think about Comrade Geeta Mukherjee at this moment of victory. She was the unforgettable communist leader and a consistent fighter for women's rights who took the passing of the women's bill as a life mission. She was a true communist who believed that the tasks of the Indian revolution could not be fulfilled without the liberation of the women of the country. Thirty-three per cent participation of women in the Parliament and state legislatures is only the first step in that direction. Even for that first step to be accomplished, the democratic forces of the country had to wage consistent battles for decades. Passing the bill would be an impetus for the future struggles of women's organisations and other democratic forces.

The BJP government is trying to capture the scene as the champion of women empowerment in the country. All their propaganda measures are tuned accordingly and they propagate that Narendra Modi is the crusader of women's rights. Contrary to the hype being built, the fact is that Narendra Modi and his party are not at all sincere in the enactment of the Women's Reservation Bill. They are ideologically and politically not in favour of women empowerment. Theirs is a male chauvinistic organisation controlled by the RSS in which women are denied even primary membership. Their ideology is guided by *Manu Smriti*, that preaches '*Na sthree swathanthryam arhati*' (women do not deserve freedom)". All of a sudden, their government became advocates of *nari shakthi* and wanted to crown it with this bill. Electoral compulsions were overpowering ideological convictions inside the BJP. Otherwise, how

can they justify the long lapse of nine years, from 2014 to 2023, for initiating this bill?

The content of the Women's Reservation Bill was shaped by the United Front government in 1996, in which the Communist Party of India also held important positions. It could not be passed then because of differences regarding reservations for the OBCs. A Joint Parliamentary Committee led by Geeta Mukherjee was formed on this behalf. Though it presented its report in record time, the move could not go forward as the bill had lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. During the period of the Vajpayee government, there was no considerable progress in the matter. The UPA-I, in which the left parties played a significant role, took the matter seriously and the Women's Reservation Bill found an important place in the Common Minimum Programme. During this government led by Dr

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Manmohan Singh, the bill was introduced on May 6, 2008. After Standing Committee scrutiny, the Rajya Sabha passed the bill on March 9, 2010. From that point, due to political uncertainties, there were no serious developments on the matter.

The Communist Party of India and the left forces have always been strongly committed to the Women's Reservation Bill and continued its struggle along with the progressive women's movement in the country. The National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) took this struggle to the Supreme Court in 2021 in the form of a Public Interest Litigation. In the course of hearings in this important matter, the apex court also took a firm stand and cautioned the government of serious repercussions if the enactment of the bill is further delayed. Along with the 2024 elections, various factors compelled the BJP government to come forward with the legislation. Though this

is a historical turning point in the direction of women's empowerment, the BJP is not at all sincere in its implementation. In the name of the forthcoming census and delimitation of constituencies, the government attempts to delay its implementation for any further period of time. That should be resisted. The democratic forces of the country urged the government to implement the Women's Reservation Bill without any further delay after the dissolution of the current Lok Sabha itself.

The experience with the reservation for women from one-third (33 per cent) to one-half (50 per cent) of the total seats in panchayats and local urban bodies has shown us how giving reservation to women in governance could bring in a positive change in our political landscape. This should be the fuel for furthering the objectives of gender-inclusive politics. The scope of the present Act should be extended to the Rajya Sabha, the state legislative councils as well as the assemblies of all Union Territories. Reservations for OBCs and minorities in the law-making bodies are vital for a meaningful representative democracy. The Geeta Mukherjee committee report has also mentioned this aspect. The stage managers of the BJP, who now boast about the Act, have never applied their minds to such important questions till this moment. Their only concern is the capture of power in the name of *nari shakthi*. Sharing power with women and respect for social justice do not feature on their political and ideological agenda. They should be exposed before the people. From this first point of victory, the struggle for women's empowerment has to go forward. The communists will hold their hands together with women and all other democratic forces in their struggle for justice and emancipation.

CPI MP Writes to Rajya Sabha Chairman on Violation of Norms

The following letter was written by CPI national council secretary Binoy Viswam MP on September 19, 2023, to Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankar,

I write these lines to you with utmost regret about the unfortunate events that took place on a solemn day. On September 18 2023 we all gathered to say adieu to the historic old building of the Parliament where we rightly devoted one entire day to

discuss 75 years of our democratic journey. Members expressed themselves on socio-political issues confronting the country and reflected on the journey of the Indian Parliament. But most unfortunately, due to reasons known only to you, you denied this opportunity to the Communist Party of India to take part in the discussion.

Our party had given names for the discussion at the appropriate time and your

secretariat listed our names in the list of speakers for this important discussion. A total of 34 speakers from 20 different political parties contributed on the last day of proceedings in the historic old Parliament building. But the CPI was not allowed this opportunity when the House was abruptly adjourned at 5:58 PM on September 18, 2023. I approached you personally and you assured me that the CPI will be called. But the assurance proved

futile, resulting CPI was not allowed participation in this very important discussion. No reason was offered for this omission.

CPI's role in liberating the country from British rule, shaping the national agenda in a progressive direction post-independence, and strengthening parliamentary democracy is very well known. In both Houses, members from different political parties including the Prime Minister recalled the

invaluable contribution of CPI stalwarts like Indrajit Gupta, Bhupesh Gupta, and Hiren Mukherjee by raising people's issues in the Parliament. It is regrettable that a party with such a glorious history, vision, and uninterrupted presence in the Parliament since independence was not allowed to express itself. I seek your understanding in this concerning matter with an expectation that such occurrences shall not be repeated in the future.

Implement Immediately Women's Reservation: NFIW

The following is the press release issued by National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) president Aruna Roy and general secretary Annie Raja on the Women's Reservation Bill on September 21, 2023:

Founded in 1954, the National Federation of Indian Women has been spearheading the movement for political representation of women as a means of empowerment, along with strengthening and safeguarding their economic, social and human rights. Our leader and former member of Parliament Geeta Mukherjee spearheaded the campaign for political representation of women in decision-making bodies like Parliament and state legislative assemblies. Geeta Mukherjee, as chairperson of the Joint Select Committee on Women's Representation Bill worked hard and submitted its report well on time.

Since the first introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha in 1996 and its passage in Rajya Sabha in 2010, governments have time and again provided frivolous reasons for the delay in passing the Bill. The main reasons quoted were the need for further consideration and consensus between political parties, notwithstanding the fact that for any amendment to the Constitution, two-third majority is the criteria.

NFIW's PIL in SC on Bill: As the BJP led NDA government was not responding to the demand for the passage of the Bill, since it came to power in 2014, NFIW filed a writ

petition in Supreme Court and the apex court sent notices to the Union government and all those political parties which mentioned its support in their respective election manifestoes. But the Union government did not file its response. As a result on September 5, 2023 a bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna had questioned the Central government about its reluctance to file a response and as to why it is not tabling the bill in the Lok Sabha. The next hearing is on October 11, 2023.

NFIW submitted that the non-introduction of the Bill is arbitrary, illegal and is leading to discrimination. We argued that the framers of our Constitution took note of the adverse and discriminatory position of women in our society and took consequent steps to curb the menace of discrimination and additionally to oblige the State to actively undertake welfare measures for women.

Response to Bill introduced on September 19, 2023.

■ NFIW welcomes the introduction of the WR Bill in Parliament.

■ The Bill is only for 33 per cent reservation of seats for women and not 50 per cent.

■ No Fixed Time-Frame: The proposal is that the Bill, when passed, will be implemented after a census and electoral delimitation exercise in 2029. It will adversely affect the women as there will be elections to many State Assemblies before 2029. It clearly shows the reluctance and

anti-women mindset of BJP government on political equality for women.

■ Every time the Union government passes a Bill with the stated objective of it being beneficial to women, it means the exact opposite. It criminalized instant Triple Talaq that has shattered families with men being arrested without proof. When the sole bread winner is jailed, where does it leave the women and children?

NFIW is deeply disappointed with the fact that there is no mention of Reservation either in Rajya Sabha or in state legislative councils.

■ No mention of Trans women or OBC women in the Bill.

■ There is clear mention of National Capital Territory of Delhi but no mention about other Union Territories.

■ No mention of Reservation for women in states which have three or less than three parliamentary constituencies.

NFIW pays its homage to Com Geeta Mukherjee and all those stalwarts, who fought for women's political empowerment.

NFIW salutes all those women and women organisations and democratic forces, who have been campaigning and struggling for passage of women's reservation.

We thank the Supreme Court for pushing the Modi government to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament.

India Witnessed Worst Nine Years under BJP: CPI

Communist Party of India (CPI) leader K Subbarayan MP said in Lok Sabha on September 18, 2023 that CPI has rendered a great contribution during the freedom struggle and in the development of our nation after it became independent. He was participating in the discussion on the parliamentary journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha — Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings.

K Subbarayan said that this is a discussion on 75 years of constitutional democracy and he wants to say his views on behalf of the Communist Party of India. During those 75 years, there were painful instances besides some happy

occasions. He reminded the House of one thought of Dr B R Ambedkar. While delivering his concluding speech at the adoption of the Constitution of India in the Constituent Assembly on November 24-25, 1949, Dr Ambedkar said: "I don't know whether Indians will place nation above creed or creed above nation. But this much is certain if they place creed above nation, our independence will be put in jeopardy for the second time and be lost forever." This was a warning from him.

When we look into the experience of 75 long years, the CPI member said that the last nine years have been painful. Our independence, which we got by sacrificing several precious lives has

now become a question mark. A nation is not in the maps hanging in the classrooms, but it is what the people on the whole make. It should reflect the interests of all the 140 crore people and only then it will reflect a nation. Therefore, the



national interest is not merely in protecting its boundaries or the forest area or tar roads. Nation actually means its people.

K Subbarayan pointed out that people belong to different religions and different castes. Nation

should be reflective of all the people of the country. Only then it becomes something of national interest. Therefore one finds that during the last nine years, the situation has become worse. It is a dangerous precedence in our history. He said that he wanted to cite in detail the reasons for the downfall, but there is paucity of time and hence he could not say in detail the experiences relating to 75 years of our country within one or two minutes of the allotted time.

The CPI leader said that when we talk about the period of last 75 years, one finds that the constitutional democracy is being demolished in a planned manner now by the present

government. They come to power in the name of democracy and then they acquire a tendency aimed at destabilising the constitutional democratic set-up. This tendency is very dangerous. Parliament will not get its image through bowing down at the steps of this building. The government of today day is not protecting the inclusiveness of Parliament. They don't love this nation or the parliamentary practice and procedure. There are just engaged in a show-off. The actions of the government are neither reflective of our national interest nor of protection of parliamentary procedure. The actions also do not

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AISF Holds Delhi State Conference

New Delhi: All India Student Federation (AISF) Delhi state unit conference was held on September 17, 2023 at AITUC Bhavan. The conference was attended by delegates from JNU, DU, JMI, Jamia Hamdard, and IPU.

The conference was inaugurated by Communist Party of India (CPI) state secretary Dinesh Chandra Varshney. AISF national executive member Varinder Khurana and AIYF Delhi state secretary Amrita Patak were present.

In his inaugural address, Dinesh Varshney said that he came for the conference not only as the secretary of the party but also as former AISF Delhi state secretary and a humble member. No organization can claim a rich history and legacy like AISF. We have always fought for universal education and the rights of students. Our organization had engaged in militant struggles and

protests in Delhi during the 1970s and 1980s. This legacy must be carried forward. Varshney said.



He also criticized the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP is a document of complete commercialization and privatization of education. He said that education is a right and the current BJP-led Union government wants to make it a privilege for few. He also cited that 70,000 schools were stopped during the past two years of

the Modi government. He once again reiterated the need to engage in the constant struggle to save

public education. AISF national executive member Varinder Khurana greeted the conference. He reminded how democracy is diminishing under the BJP rule. The national capital was locked forcefully in the name of the G20 Summit and people were forced to move behind the green sheets placed across the slums. He reminded the delegates that

Delhi being the national capital has a lot of prominence in Indian politics. Any activities and

protests happening here will be amplified widely throughout the country. He urged the upcoming AISF Delhi state leadership to keep this in mind and work proactively on various student-related issues.

AIYF Delhi state secretary Amrita Pathak said that the growing presence of muscle politics in institutions like JNU is

highly alarming. AISF must strive to eradicate these tendencies and restore campus democracy.

The presidium comprised of former JNUSU joint secretary Md. Danish, Abhipsa Chauhan, Inzamamul Hassan, Aminul Hassan, Santosh Kumar, Anu, Prashanth Chauhan, and Khushboo Sharma. The organizational and political report was presented by Abhipsa Chauhan. Vivek, Shubham, and Santosh from JNU, Nawab from Jamia Milia Islamia, and Prashanth Chauhan from IPU participated in the discussions on reports.

A 17-member council was elected in the conference. Inzamamul Hassan was elected as the secretary of the council. Abhipsa Chauhan was elected as president. Santosh and Khushboo Sharma were elected as joint secretaries, Shubham as vice president, and Aminul Hassan was elected as treasurer.

What the Others Say...

Going backwards

Indian Farmers, according to the Agriculture Ministry, harvested a record 112.7 million tonnes (mt) of wheat in 2022-23. Government agencies bought only 262 mt of that crop, as against the all-time-high procurement of 43.3 mt two years ago. Together with the ban on wheat exports since May 2022, these should have translated into higher open market supplies, exerting downward pressure on prices. Yet, recent government actions suggest the opposite. In June, stock limits were clamped on wheat, with wholesale traders and big chain retailers not being permitted to hold more than 3,000 tonnes. Late last week, this limit was further lowered to 2,000 tonnes “to ensure that no artificial scarcity of wheat is created in the country”. It raises the question: If domestic market availability based on official production estimates is more than adequate, why should there be any “artificial scarcity” fears or need to prevent “hoarding and unscrupulous speculation” in the cereal?

The issue isn't simply about government output data probably not squaring with ground reality that points to upward pressure on prices. Of greater concern is how government policy and approach towards agriculture has changed. The Narendra Modi government, only three years ago, had passed the three farm reform laws. Not only were farmers granted the freedom to sell their produce anywhere and to anyone, private agri-businesses could also now purchase directly, from them. Today, in their place, there are export bans/ curbs on wheat, non-basmati rice, sugar and onion, even as tur and urad pulses too have been brought under stock limits. If these weren't enough, a floor price of 1,200 dollars per tonne, below which exports aren't allowed, has been imposed on basmati rice that is hardly consumed by low-income households.

The farm laws may have been repealed following protests that largely resulted from poor communication. But the retrograde “supply-side” actions of the last one year or more cannot be blamed on the farm unions. Worry over food inflation becoming a potent issue in the run-up to national

elections has led to the government disowning even the spirit of the farm laws. Officialdom has been empowered to do whatever it takes in the name of fighting food inflation — regardless of the long-term consequences. Will these incentivise agri-businesses to invest in warehousing and processing capacities or develop export markets for grown-in-India produce? The government needs to take a call on this — and also on whether it sees agriculture as a problem or an opportunity.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

Manipur needs a political intervention

In any province in any part of the world, the back-to-back killings of a serving police officer and an Army personnel would evoke feelings of outrage and anger. But if these violent acts come after four months of continuous ethnic bloodshed, where every period of relative lull has only come to be shattered by an even fiercer spurt of clashes, then it should serve as a warning bell and a sign of deep worry — one that the state government would do well to heed. Since May 3, when tensions first flared up between the dominant Meitei and the tribal Kuki groups, there have been several attempts to quell the violence, but all have failed.

The civilian administration appears to have all but melted away in the hinterland, where armed men, sometimes wearing uniforms, appear to have established their writ. They belie claims by the Union and state governments that violence is ebbing in the state and the situation is becoming normal on the ground. This cannot stand. No country can afford to turn a blind eye to a systematic breakdown of law and order in a province for four months, especially if it has taken 175 lives and displaced 50,000 people.

The conundrum in Manipur — that Meitei groups don't trust Assam Rifles, Kuki groups don't trust large chunks of Manipur Police, and the working relationship between the two forces appears to be fraught — can only have a political solution, not a securitised one. Such a breakthrough must be urgently sought by the government, and action taken against elements — including those close to the establishment — that continue to widen the trust deficit. Nothing less will staunch the bloodshed.

Courtesy: The Hindustan Times

Haryana CPI, CPI(M) Hold Joint Convention

Call to Save Nation from Communal Onslaught



Haryana state council secretary Dariyav Singh Kashyap addressing the joint convention

A joint convention in defence of secular democratic republic and to reverse the communal and pro-corporate policies as well as for making pro-people policies was organised by CPI and CPI(M) at Jind on September 17, 2023.

The joint convention declared that the BJP government at the Centre and in the state should be rejected to save the nation from communal onslaught as well as to protect the livelihood of masses at large. The present ruling dispensation had shattered the basic values of economic sovereignty, social justice and equality enshrined in our Constitution. The leaders appealed to their cadres present in hundreds at the convention to go to the villages and expose the communal corporate nexus. The leaders also told the participants to be vigilant about the ill-designs of the ruling party to vitiate the social atmosphere of the

state. They reiterated that the incidents like Mewat should not occur again.

The convention noted that the minorities, women and Dalits are facing the onslaught of Hindutva which plays havoc to the social fabric of society. The convention reinforced the need to roll back the NEP-2020 which is a clear violation of the basic right to education. Schools are being merged or shut and children from lower economic strata, girls and minorities are being forced to abolish their right to education. In higher education sector, grants are being withdrawn. Instructions are issued to run the institutes by self-finance, which clearly indicates that most of the aspirants will be deprived of higher education.

The convention pointed out that in the name of Chirag Yojna, children are being diverted to private schools. Even the health system stands shattered. There are

Dariyav Singh Kashyap

no new recruitments at any level, be it PHC or CHC or General Hospitals or Medical Colleges or Medical University. Women are the worst sufferers when health services are being privatised.

A total of 76 percent of electricity production is with the private sector. Railways, airports, roadways are being privatised on a regular basis. The richest one percent has acquired 58 percent of country's wealth while the common people are being denied their basic rights of health, education and food. Increasing unemployment has made it difficult for the people to have their meals even two times a day. This has resulted in India coming down to 101st place out of 116 in malnutrition index.

The present regime is promoting the interests of the capitalists. If the government says no to writing off their loans, all the marginal

peasants could heave a sigh of relief as it will become easier to waive off their loans which need only one lakh crore rupees.

The convention welcomed the formation of INDIA alliance. All the secular political parties of the alliance will decide to field candidates jointly up to the maximum level for the coming Lok Sabha elections as well as legislative assembly elections in the state.

The convention concluded raising slogans to defeat the BJP government at the Centre and BJP-JJP Government in the state and take forward the left democratic politics to address the woes of large number of toiling masses and common people of the state.

The convention was presided over by Savita and Dharampal Chauhan. It was addressed by Dariyav Singh Kashyap, CPI state council secretary, Surender Singh, CPI(M) state secretary, Swaran Singh Virk, chairman, CPI State Control

Commission, Surekha, CITU state president, Harbhajan Singh Sandhu, AITUC state joint secretary, Dr Sukhdev Jambhu, general secretary, Haryana Kisan Sabha, Sumit, AIKS state secretary, Dr Jagmati Sangwan, national vice-president, AIDWA, Neelam Sandhu, Haryana Mahila Sabha general secretary, Jagmal Singh Khet Mazdoor Union state president, Haryana Khet Mazdoor Union state general secretary Arun Kumar Shakkarwal, Naresh Kumar, DYFI state secretary, Satyender Giri, AIYF state general secretary, Vinod Gill, SFI state president, Arman Singh, AISF state coordinator, Rishikesh Rajli of Viklang Adhikar Manch.

The convention adopted the resolutions in support of ASHA workers strike, Kisan-Trade Union Joint Padaav at state headquarters on November 26, 27 and 28 and against Manipur violence and demanding judicial enquiry into Nuh's incident of violence.

Hindutva Brand Policy Fails

Voters Pay No Heed to Sanatan Dharma Squabble

Hindutva brand politics seems to be in trouble in all the five poll-bound states — Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Mizoram — for which election schedules are to be announced within a few weeks from now. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has come on the centre stage to campaign for BJP's Hindutva brand politics, since none of these states are now left with an unanimously agreed chief minister face to project during the campaign, which is in contrast to earlier several elections, chiefly due to severe level of infighting. It is adversely affecting even their support base.

No wonder, Congress seems to be the biggest beneficiary, not only on account of the continued infighting in the BJP and its rank and file across the state, but for other reasons too, chiefly the human predicaments brought by ever-worsening economic hardships. Though the common people, who were made to ring utensils as bells to drive away Corona, on the word of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are not now ready to act on his bidding this time and have now become somewhat meditative on how and whom to vote.

It may be noted that all BJP leaders are dependent on Narendra Modi's strength in the five poll-bound states this time, and hence in a sense, Modi is contesting on all seats on

behalf of BJP candidates. The weaknesses of the state BJP leadership and the contesting candidates are obvious, and hence the party does not rely on them to win these elections which are considered semi-final for the Lok Sabha election 2024, in which Modi will be seeking his third term.

This situation explains the reason why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shifted his campaign strategy — from an anti-minority Hindutva slant, the spread of minority phobia, and jingoism to the spread of opposition phobia telling the Hindu majority that the INDIA alliance is out to destroy their “Sanatan Dharma” (The Religion Eternal). His political statements imply that Hindus are in danger of total neutralization by the INDIA alliance's political

Dr Gyan Pathak

constituents. What he does not care to tell is the reality that it is in the power of none to destroy any “eternal doctrine” that we call “Sanatan Dharma” the principle on which rests the universe (Dharma Dharyate Jagat). Either Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not know this, or he willingly wants to eradicate this principle of the Religion Eternal to his communal Hindutva brand politics. Eradication of his Hindutva brand politics is possible, and all the forms of politics in the name of religions, but not the Religion Eternal (the God or nothingness personified, whatever you may like to call it) in which everything originates, lives, and finally dissolves. Anyone who believes in this doctrine is a follower of the Religion Eternal. It has nothing to do with either Hindutva brand politics or anti-Hindutva politics.

However, it is a socio-political concern that a prime minister is rousing and fanning religious fundamentalism, superstition, and passion among Hindus in the name of “Sanatan Dharma” which he wrongly substitutes for communal “Hindutva”.

The two-day newly reconstituted Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Hyderabad, on September 16-17, has decided not to fall into the communal trap laid by the RSS-BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who in election-bound Madhya Pradesh picked the thread from Udhayanidhi to create “INDIA alliance phobia” by alleging opposition parties having hidden agenda to destroy “Sanatan Dharma”.

There are negligible takers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement

in Telangana and Mizoram. The electorate is by and large with non-BJP political parties. The contest in Telangana seems to be between the BRS and Congress. Since AIMIM has not been invited to join the INDIA alliance, the party is trying to forge a third front both for the Vidhan Sabha election 2023 in the state and the Lok Sabha election in 2024. The proposal does not suit the BRS, since it would not benefit it much. AIMIM overtly plays Muslim politics as the BJP plays Hindutva politics. In a house of 119, BRS (TRS in 2018) had won 88 seats, while AIMIM was able to win only seven seats. Congress had won 19 seats. BJP could win only one seat. Anti-incumbency is likely to weigh heavy on the KCR-led ruling BRS, which has signalled an improvement in the political prospect of Congress, that has announced six guarantees to the people of the state.

Mizo National Front (MNF) is ruling Mizoram that had won 27 seats in 2018 in the house of 40. MNF is part of NDA, though the party is not happy with the BJP on several issues, including violence in Manipur. BJP had won one seat in 2018. Congress had won four seats, while independents won eight. Anti-incumbency marks the ruling NDA while Congress has improved a little. The vote share of MNF was 37.7 per cent while Congress had bagged around 30 per cent votes. BJP's share was 8.09 per cent and is set to lose. The state is heading for a close contest between Congress and MNF. Modi's Hindutva campaign has become hateful there in the light of Manipur violence.

Modi's Hindutva campaign is stirring the electorate most in Madhya Pradesh, compared to Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. It may be perhaps because,

the BJP is the ruling party in Madhya Pradesh, and both Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are ruled by Congress. In all three states, BJP state units are ridden with unprecedented levels of infighting which is still continuing despite all efforts of the central leadership. Additionally, the ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh has been facing a public sentiment of double anti-incumbency both in the state and at the Centre. Hindutva's passion is visible, but public dissatisfaction with the government is so deep that it may impact their voting against the BJP.

Both in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the Hindutva wind is too weak to make any major impact on the electorate from the majority community. Congress governments in both states have cared for their citizens comparatively well through numerous public welfare schemes. There has been continued infighting within the Pradesh Congress Units in both states, but it has been somehow kept under control, and the warring groups have been brought to reconciliation.

Narendra Modi's statement that the INDIA alliance has a hidden agenda of eradicating “Sanatan Dharma”, did not attract the electorate in any of the five states. The general mood in all the five states does not seem to accommodate hyper-communal Hindutva propaganda of the RSS-BJP or even of Narendra Modi. Their sufferings under BJP's rule and the exposed selfishness of warring state BJP leaders, even in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, seem to be dominating factors in their emerging electoral sentiments.

New Age Weekly

**Ajoy Bhavan, 15, Com. Indrajit
Gupta Marg New Delhi-110 002**

Single Copy	Rs. 7
Annual Subs.	Rs. 350
Three years	Rs. 1,000
Agency deposit	Rs. 70 per copy

**Name of Account: New Age Weekly
Bank – CANARA BANK**

Branch – I.P. Estate, New Delhi – 110002

Current Account

No.: - 90171010000130

IFSC Code – CNRB0019017

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Opposition-Ruled States Refuse to Implement NEP

The RSS-BJP Union government launched a new framework for school education, even as states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have refused to implement the National Education Policy (NEP). Several Opposition-ruled states have either adopted the policy in parts or decided to postpone the implementation. The Opposition parties have several reservations regarding the NEP which has many flaws and the political agenda of the RSS.

Three years since the launch of the NEP in 2020 only a specific sections of it have been accepted by most states. The pushback to the policy has come mainly from Opposition-ruled states, with Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu either delaying implementation or refusing to adopt the policy altogether.

The NEP, which was launched in July 2020 as an update to the previous 1986 policy, is a wide-ranging framework for education from the primary level all the way to higher education as claimed by the ruling communal regime. The Union Ministry of Education has released the revised draft of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE). Together, the two documents will serve as a guide for designing textbooks for classes 3 to 12 to be published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). These textbooks are expected to be introduced by the 2024-'25 academic session.

The NEP, however, is not binding on states, and they remain free to accept or reject the policy. Earlier this month, the Congress government in Karnataka became the first state to announce it would repeal the NEP from the next

academic year, following through on one of the party's poll promises for the Assembly elections. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that NEP could only be repealed after making some necessary preparations. "There was no time for preparations this year. By the time the election results came in and the government was formed, the academic year had already started. This year, NEP will be continued as it should not cause problems to students

the 21st century.

Kerala, too, has yet to adopt the provisions of the policy. The state released supplementary textbooks that cover the portions deleted from the NCERT textbooks. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the deleted sections should not have been removed and that the updated textbooks will "endanger our secular thinking and fraternal society".

Recently, the Kerala State Curriculum Committee for

Union government know that such a system will erase the importance of culture, language, linguistics and traditional diversities?". However, the Union education minister said the Centre expects Tamil Nadu to accept the NEP. The state government's decision to formulate a common curriculum for higher educational institutions has run into protests from academics and some universities.

As for the remaining



in the middle of an academic year.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said the Karnataka government has scrapped the NEP which has been adopted by the (previous) BJP government in the state which is mischievous and regressive. Next year, the state government is coming out with the new Karnataka Education Policy.

This decision has not gone down well with the Centre, with Union Education Minister criticising the decision and urging the state not to indulge in "politics over the NEP". The communal and fascist Union government claimed that the NEP was not established in 2023 but in 2020 ... envisioned by the educationists of this country. This is not a political document, it's a philosophical document for

Higher Education released a circular piloting a "four-year undergraduate programme with a single-exit option after three years in Kerala universities." The committee noted that its provisions are not the same as in the NEP, "which provides for multiple entry-exit options".

Tamil Nadu is another state resisting the policy. The state government in 2021 refused to accept it, with the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) writing to the Union Minister of Education with its reservations. ADMK Rajya Sabha MP, told the BJP to "concentrate in the states where they ruled to improve the literacy rate". Through NEP the Union government wants to dominate the state, dictate a policy to states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu with higher literacy rates and development? Doesn't the

Opposition-ruled states and Union Territories, Delhi, Bihar, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have either adopted the policy in parts or decided to postpone the implementation process. Telangana, for instance, hasn't denounced the policy but has yet to begin implementing it.

Andhra Pradesh has made significant strides in implementing the NEP, ordering a revamp of its schools as per its guidelines. The state education minister from the YSRCP government, said the state administration plans to make the most efficient use of its teachers under NEP guidelines. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi, too, has adopted the policy, with the Directorate of Education expressing its intentions to restructure school



STUDY & STRUGGLE

C Adhikesavan



education, as per the NEP, from the next academic session.

West Bengal has asked state universities to offer four-year undergraduate programmes starting with the upcoming academic session this year, following a partial adoption of the NEP. The state, however, announced its own education policy soon afterwards, making it clear that it was not going to adopt the national policy in full. The other Opposition-ruled states that have begun implementing the NEP are Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh.

Among the BJP-ruled states, the policy has found ready acceptance and is currently in different stages of implementation across schools and colleges. Earlier this month, Uttar Pradesh government held a meeting with officials of the higher education, secondary education, and basic education departments to take stock of the NEP's implementation. Madhya Pradesh had set up a task force to chalk out a roadmap to implement the NEP the same year it was launched. Assam, Gujarat and Haryana, too, have made progress on implementation. Haryana's Kurukshetra University became the first educational institution to implement NEP in the state. All the BJP-ruled states find enough material in the NEP for implementing the RSS agenda of communalising, commercialisation and privatisation of education in the country.

The 18th national conference of All India Progressive Writers' Association (PWA) hosted in the historic city of Jabalpur, brought together literary luminaries, artists, and thinkers from across India and beyond. The conference was held from August 20 to 22 and the venue was named after famous Hindi writer Harishankar Parsai.

The first day's festivities began with a flag-hoisting ceremony led by presidium members Rajendra Rajan, Rakesh Veda, Sukhdev Singh, and Naresh Saxena.

The first session was marked by revolutionary songs, a warm welcome by Vineet Tiwari, and a distinguished panel consisting of national presidium members and members of the national secretariat. A poignant condolence resolution was presented by Vineet Tiwari, followed by a comprehensive report presentation by PWA national general secretary Dr. Sukhdev Singh Sirsa.

The conference also featured a message from the national president, Ponneelan, read by T S Natarajan. The session included brief addresses by members of the presidium and the secretariat, book releases, and concluded with a vote of thanks by Rajendra Gupta from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

The evening session focused on the theme 'Need for Solidarity to Save the Republic and Democracy.' It was moderated by Tarun Guha Neogi and included revolutionary songs by IPTA, Ashoknagar. Highlights of the session included speeches from notable figures such as Syeda Hameed, a renowned writer and economist, and H E Alejandro Simancas Marin, the Ambassador of Cuba. The event featured the

release of several publications, including 'Thithurta Hua Gantantra', 'Udbhavna', 'Banaas Jan', 'Raag Bhopali,' and more. The 11-member delegation



from Manipur also joined in.

The day concluded with a cultural program featuring the play 'Nithalle Ki Diary' based on the writings of Harishankar Parsai, presented by Vivechana Rangmandal of Jabalpur.

The second day began with a discussion on "The Threats to Expression and Challenges of Protection and Promotion of the Constitution." The session was moderated by Nathmal Sharma and featured speakers Dr. Navsharan Kaur and Virendra Yadav among others. The morning session also included book releases and concluded with a vote of thanks by Sanjay Shrivastava.

The afternoon session focused on 'Cultural Expression against Exploitation' and was moderated by Vijendra Soni. It featured an array of speakers from different regions of India, discussing the importance of cultural expression in addressing social issues. Several books were released during this session.

The day continued with a session exploring the 'Role of Literature in Building a Better Society'. The session was moderated by Shekhar Mallick and featured

distinguished speakers who discussed the power of literature in shaping society. Books were released, and the session concluded with a vote of thanks by Sarika

Srivastava. The evening session revolved around 'The Hopes of Light in Our Times' and featured speakers from various regions who shared their perspectives on contemporary challenges and hopes. Dr. Aram, Dr. Mohandas, S. K. Ganga, Valluru Sivaprasad and many other writers expressed their views. Several books were released during the session, and Dr Surjeet Brar delivered the vote of thanks.

The evening concluded with a musical presentation of poems by well known authors. Alankriti and Shaily Nriyanjali from Jabalpur added a cultural touch to the event.



The final day began with a session themed 'Commitment to Writing is Commitment to Life'. It featured speakers who emphasized the importance

of writing in shaping our lives and society. This session was exclusively for delegates and focused on the organizational aspects of the conference, including discussions on the Jabalpur declaration which was presented by Virendra Yadav and the announcement of new executive and office bearers. The conference elected noted writer of Telugu Penugonda Laxminarayana as the President and Dr. Sukhdev Singh Sirsa from Punjab as general secretary, Vibhuti Narain Rai as acting president.

The conference

18th National Conference of PWA

concluded with felicitation of family members of Harishankar Parsai and other artists, followed by closing acknowledgments by Tarun Guha Neogi. Top of Form

Jabalpur Declaration

The following declaration was adopted in the eighteenth national conference of the Progressive Writers'

Association:

Forty-three years ago, in this city of Jabalpur, participating in the national conference of the Progressive Writers'

Vineet Tiwari

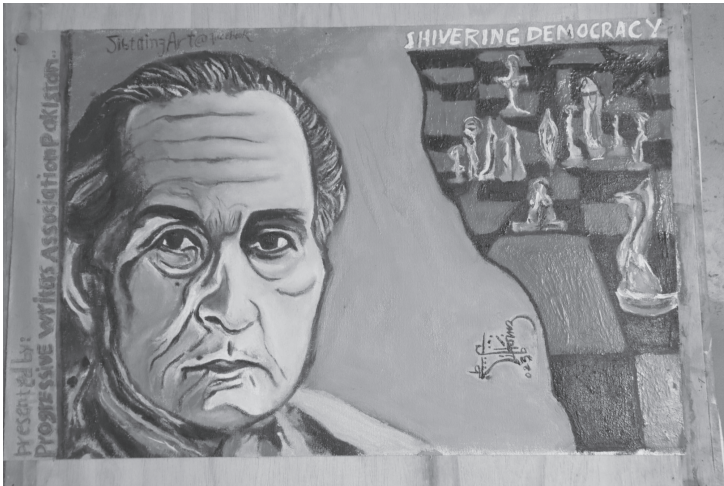
Association, we the writers of all the Indian languages, as guardians of the glorious tradition and legacy of the progressive writing movement, had committed ourselves to protect the ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism. Today, when we are here together again in this eighteenth National Conference of the Progressive Writers' Association, we are faced with new challenges to save the values of equity, equality, and secular democracy

which are cherished by the freedom movement and protected by the Constitution.

Today, Indian democracy is facing an existential crisis like never before. We can see that in this century, especially in the last decade, retrograde, regressive, majoritarian, superstitious, and revivalist ideas are being institutionalized and glorified at the expense of rationalism, pluralism, scientific thinking, and progressive outlook.

There are clear signs of the conversion of secular democracy to a majoritarian theocracy. Autonomous constitutional institutions are being subverted and destroyed by polluting the atmosphere of knowledge acquisition. The space for free intellectual dialogue is being squeezed everywhere including public spaces, research, academic institutions, universities, etc. Ignoring the multilingual, pluralistic, and inclusive

Protect Democracy, Freedom



cultural wealth of Indian society, it is being made one-sided, singular, and narrow. The tradition of the Buddha, Basavanna, and Kabir is being erased. The images of Gandhi, Nehru, and Ambedkar are being tarnished by de-contextualizing them. Also of grave concern is the apparently direct alliance of Hindutva politics with capitalist institutional and corporate powers. From this crony capitalism comes totalitarianism which is the domestic variant of fascism, but its origin and modus operandi are inspired by Hitler's Nazism. A direct crisis has arisen in the domestic structures. We have many examples of the suppression of the freedom of expression and protests against the same. Many intellectuals, writers, and human rights activists have been imprisoned during this

martyrdom. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have been attacked in the name of investigation and forced to stop their work.



In the 1990s, the economic policies driven by liberalization, privatization, and global capitalism paved the way for disparity and poverty. In the absence of employment and fulfillment

away from the responsibilities related to education and medicine. There is unnecessary and excessive taxation on the middle class as well and the class deprived of pension facilities is in trouble. Unemployment is at its peak, and the gap in economic inequality has widened further. The future of the present generation is also in danger. The entire country is being converted into a commercial project by abandoning the concept of a welfare state envisaged by



society on the basis of religion, caste, and personal beliefs. Forget about any checks or controls from the government side on these notorious and criminal activities, we see the impunity given to such

'Vibhajan Vibhishika Divas', the people of the country are being molded into a permanent mood for partition. The public mind is being polluted by miraculous babas and is being made frenzied and they have the support of the government and administration.

From Manipur and Mewat to Uttarakhand and other parts of the country, a new chapter of division and separation is being written. The composite identity is being erased by changing the names of the cities. Enemy images are being created of minority religious communities by declaring them guilty of love jihad, cow slaughter, and forced conversion. Murder by frenzied mobs and bulldozer justice are new weapons of the government to oppress minorities and the voices of dissent. Voices raised against the oppression of women, Dalits, and farmers or in favour of their rights are ignored and crushed.

Protection of musclemen by politics is the new normal. Whoever gives statements that polarize or divide the society is being protected by not taking proper action despite the directions of the court.

Increasing discrimination and atrocities on women, tribals, and Dalits is the natural consequence of the proud superiority of the Manuwadi ideology of majoritarianism. This text can be read from

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period. Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, M M Kalburgi, Gauri Lankesh and Father Sten Swamy had to offer

of basic necessities of life, more than eighty crore people in the country are struggling for minimum living facilities. The state has shied

the Constitution. Other constitutional institutions like the Judiciary and the Election Commission are being targeted and weakened. Large sections of the print and electronic media have been rendered ineffective and domesticated. Social media is also under tight control now. 'Big Brother's monitoring is also intensified.

Following the imperialist world order, the role of the state with alternative and independent policies has been abandoned. To divert the attention of the public from all these issues, emotional issues like cow protection, love jihad, hijab, Ganga and Geeta are being raised. All kinds of tactics are being adopted to divide

miscreants by the government. All kinds of lies are being spread about the voices of dissent and resistance, stigmatizing them with negative terms like 'Urban Naxals', 'Tukde Tukde Gang', and 'Award Wapsi Gang'.

It has to be accepted that now Hindu revivalism is paramount in the form of an agenda as the central ideology of the ruling class. Installation of the religious symbol Sengol by the priests in the Parliament, then the ritualistic participation of the head of the country's executive in laying the foundation stone of the temple in Ayodhya are an open expression of this agenda. By observing the tragedy of partition as the

G20 Brunt on Marginalized, Informal, Daily Wage Workers

The following is the press release issued by the All-Indian Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and other Central Trade Unions (CTUs).

Finally, the much-drummed-up show of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" ended on September 11, 2023. The nine years of Modi rule have been marked by extreme inequality, the highest unemployment, uncontrolled price rise of essential commodities, reduced budget allocations for social security, and yet pushing of all-out privatization which will further worsen the condition

of the common people. The only way to stage the G20 event in Delhi was to cover up the slums along the VIP route with green sheets and yellow barricades to keep them out of sight of the visiting dignitaries, round up the stray dogs, and so on.

Now Delhi started unwinding: The slums were uncovered, those who live from hand to mouth in the cordoned-off area of Delhi were set free to feed their mouths, stray dogs that were rounded up were released – not necessarily in their usual habitat, making their lives miserable, curfew-like advisories in parts of Delhi were lifted to allow free

movement of traffic, many gatherings related to G20 of social scientists, teachers were banned even in private premises in Delhi, not a single press conference was arranged even for the guests, which was taken note of by Joe Biden, the US President, the unabated Manipur violence was mentioned by UN Experts, all other events were rode-rolled undemocratically (Chairmanship of L20 given to BMS, a stooge union of the RSS), some 4500 crores of rupees were blown up in the process. The unabashed BJP of course claimed success in reaching a consensus over the G20 leaders' New Delhi Declaration", The G20 was used by the BJP as a toolkit for election propaganda. But a closer look at the fine print of the Declaration leaves you frustrated – just verbose and has no substance.

The G20 or the Group of 20 industrialized and several developing countries and now the new member African Union is a premiere economic forum that took birth in end-2008 in the shadows of the financial crisis caused by the banks of Wall Street and successive American policymakers- who did away with the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933. The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States along with the European Union and now the African Union.

Despite the unlimited hype about holding the presidency by India at a cost of hundreds of crores of rupees, the NDD seems to have rehashed the previous G20

Leaders' Statements with some inconsequential additions here and there with little impact.

The crores spent in painting walls and roads of various cities in India cannot take away the fact of unemployment, poverty, hunger, and health issues stalking the common people of India. The BJP and the ruling clique chose the heartless option of hiding what they have failed to achieve in the past 9 years of their misrule.

As the Farmer's Bodies find import duties on poultry, apples, etc. from USA reduced as a result of USA-India talks on the sidelines of G20, the full import of this gathering is sinking in as reduction of import duties on other goods come to light: the Corporates were at work in their Give-and-Take!

India Witnessed...

From Page 03

reflect democratic credentials and the Indian Constitution. If we allow this government to continue in power, we may be forced to lose our valuable independence, which we got by sacrificing several thousands of precious lives.

Saying that many MPs have praised in the House about the success of the recent G-20 Summit, the CPI leader said that we have entered into agreements with USA and Israel, which never protected India's interests. Pandit Nehru had created a respectable image for India among the world nations. But that image of India has been tarnished now.

K Subbarayan concluded by saying that if we want to protect India, we have to remove the present government from power as it is incapable of protecting democracy, Constitution and the parliamentary system of governance. Protecting India is possible only by protecting its democracy and the political system.

Call to Strengthen...

From Front Page

Police and paramilitary forces tried all means to stop the announced state conference of AISF in Udhampur of J&K under the direction of the ruling clique. ABVP and RSS attacked and manhandled the delegates in the presence of police force, not sparing even the All India president of AISF while the police remained a mute spectator. Police informed the organisers that they cannot allow any programme by left organizations because they are anti-nationals. This is clear violation of the constitutional rights. Left organisations are not prohibited in this country. AISF is the first student organization which fought in freedom struggle and has given many national leaders.

The party demands the Union government to take stringent action against the hooligans of ABVP-RSS as well as police and paramilitary personnel involved in this incident.

CPI also appeals to all democratic minded people of J&K as well as the country to unitedly resist such fascist attacks.

Services Sector Growth Slows Down

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.

It noted that despite a downturn in August, the index indicated one of the strongest increases in output seen since mid-2010 as survey respondents mentioned positive consumer appetite, favourable market conditions and successful events as the reason for this growth.

Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said that Indian services companies achieved a milestone in August, as they clocked a record surge in new export business. Asia Pacific, Europe, North America and the Middle East contributed to the upturn.

"This spike in international demand

supported one of the best sales performances recorded over the past 13 years, and acted as a catalyst for firms to expand their workforces as well as output. Demand strength also fostered a heightened sense of optimism regarding the outlook, boding well for economic growth prospects," she said.

Services firms got new business despite hiking their charges as the overall rate of output price inflation quickened in August.

"Anecdotal evidence indicated that robust demand conditions facilitated the passing on of cost increases to clients. The overall rate of input price inflation remained above that seen for output charges, despite easing since July. Monitored companies suggested that food, input and labour costs all rose over the course of August," the survey said.

Stop Mass Displacement of Ad-hoc Teachers in DU: DUTA

The following is the letter from Dinesh Varshney leader of Janwadi Shikshak Manch along with other leaders of the teacher's organization alliance- Democratic United Teachers' Association on September 18, 2023, to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi, regarding the mass displacement of ad-hoc teachers in the Hindi Department of Satyawati College (Evening):

Reports of en-masse displacement in the Department of Hindi, Satyawati College (Evening) have shocked all teachers. While the Selection Committee was held from September 1 to 5 and 12 to 16, the results are not yet announced on the college website. The fact that results have not been displayed on the website (as is the current norm) compels us to believe in the reports that close to 70-80% of serving teachers have been displaced including teachers serving for as long as 20 years.

Any injustice of this kind, on the basis of 4–6-minute interviews, which totally disregards the contribution and continuous work of a serving teacher, is completely

unacceptable.

The displacement of teachers is not only an attack on the livelihood of thousands of teachers but also shows a callous disregard of the University administration towards their contribution to these institutions with their tireless work. It also has deleterious academic consequences. The tragic incident wherein Samarveer Singh, a young talented teacher, was forced to take his life after being thrown out of his job in the Department of Philosophy, Hindu College highlights the pain of many young teachers who have unjustly lost their jobs. This unfair loss has happened at a time when these teachers were hoping for what is arguably a well-deserved permanent job after years of serving in ad-hoc and temporary positions.

A teacher is created in the classroom through years of experience. It is unfortunate that trained teachers are often being replaced by those who do not have a day's teaching experience! Students in several colleges have protested the displacement of their teachers. These displacements will adversely

impact the teaching-learning environment in colleges. It is surely unfortunate that even students' concerns are not being taken seriously.

Also, in many places, there are very serious allegations of politically motivated nepotism and an unfair interview process that often borders on the farcical. Candidates have been humiliated during the interview process, mocked, and have been asked questions that have no relevance to their academic discipline. For example, in an interview for English, candidates were asked the meaning of a Sanskrit shloka! Department professors have been sidelined and the opinion of teachers-in-charge is ignored. The same set of experts is being sent repeatedly to various selection committees, and 'lists' of candidates to be selected circulated beforehand, raising questions about the fairness and credibility of the entire process. In drawing the lists of experts and VC nominees, professors including Heads of Department have been largely excluded.

To add to the difficulties of those displaced, ad-hoc

appointments are not being made against regular vacancies, ostensibly on the basis of verbal instructions from the University. This is totally unacceptable. While the attempt of the institution should be to recruit teachers on a permanent basis against vacancies, ad-hoc appointments should be allowed against leave vacancies, retirements, or vacancies that are against variable workloads. In effect, we are looking at a scenario where guest appointments against full-time posts have become the norm. This is not acceptable as it is neither in the favour of the institution nor of teachers. While full-time teachers remain available to students and contribute to the college through their work on committees and student societies, guest faculty are paid for a fixed number of lectures and are not necessarily available to students outside the classroom because of the nature of their appointment.

The university has been conducting interviews in colleges, finally, after almost 10 years. Though vacancies have been advertised in the past, interviews were not held for one reason or another and the number of

ad-hoc teachers in the university was steadily increasing. Teachers have been demanding the absorption of ad-hoc teachers through a one-time UGC Regulation and were hoping that in the current round of interviews, justice would finally be done and all those teaching against the advertised positions would be absorbed. It was hoped that those who had tirelessly served the institutions and had worked in the best interest of students against all odds would be justly made permanent.

We appeal to the Vice Chancellor for his urgent intervention in the case of Satyawati College (Evening). If true, this grave matter requires a strict, urgent, time-bound, and impartial inquiry, pending which the newly appointed OSD should be sent back to his parent college.

As the academic and administrative head of the University of Delhi, it is the responsibility of the Vice Chancellor to ensure that no more displacement happens in colleges and departments and justice is done to ad-hoc and temporary teachers. Not doing so will surely lead to more unrest in the University which will disrupt the teaching-learning process.

Household Savings Fall to Nearly 50-Year Low

Net financial savings of households fell to a nearly five-decade low of 5.1 per cent of GDP in 2022-23, down from 7.2 per cent in 2021-22, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on September 18, 2023. The numbers suggest a severe income crunch and likely transience of the post-pandemic rise in consumption.

Worryingly, annual financial liabilities of households rose sharply by 5.8 per cent of GDP compared with 3.8 per cent in 2021-22, indicating larger-than-usual resort to loans for consumption purposes, and purchase of real estate.

The rate of increase in financial liabilities last fiscal was the second highest since Independence. Only in 2006-07, the flow was sharper at 6.7 per cent.

In absolute terms, net household assets dropped sharply from Rs 22.8 trillion in 2020-21, the pandemic year which saw a huge drop in spending, to Rs 16.96 trillion in 2021-22, and further to Rs 13.76 trillion in 2022-23. Household debt, in terms of the stock of financial liabilities, consequently remained sharply elevated at 37.6

per cent of GDP in 2022-23, as against 36.9 per cent in 2021-22.

Falling or stagnant household and SME incomes, at a time of raging inflation, is probably the main reason for the subdued savings and higher borrowings.

The latest RBI data on household assets and liabilities also raise worries about the immediate growth potential of the economy. The support to growth from private consumption may turn out to be weaker than anticipated, even as a private capex cycle appears to be delayed.

Nikhil Gupta, economist at Motilal Oswal said the combination of weak income growth and falling financial savings, led by borrowings, is unsustainable. "We believe that consumption growth is unsustainable. Whether it will be substituted by investments is not our base case, though the jury is still out," Gupta said. According to Gupta, the household debt is the second-highest annual flow post independence.

Household savings, RBI data show, came in at Rs 13.76 trillion in 2022-23 compared with Rs

16.96 trillion in 2021-22. To be sure, the trend could reverse if the economy picks up pace and real incomes grow. However, both consumption and investments could be impacted if savings don't pick up meaningfully in the current year.

In a break from trend, private consumption final expenditure (PFCE) improved to six per cent y-on-y in the first quarter of 2023-24, higher than the 2.8 per cent y-o-y in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 and 2.2 per cent y-o-y in the third quarter of 2022-23, likely helped by lower inflation. Data for July and August suggest mixed trends for consumption, with passenger wholesale car sales, auto retail sales, and air traffic doing well, but wholesale two-wheeler and tractor sales, rail passenger traffic, aviation cargo and consumer goods imports not faring as well.

The first quarter of 2023-24 GDP data revealed that investment was more buoyant than consumption and that urban demand was higher than rural demand.

Expose Communal Politics...



Telangana state council secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao addressing the meeting

From Back Page

national council member, Palla Venkata Reddy, Pasya Padma, V S Bose, Balamallesh, Takkalapally Srinivas Rao, Bhagam Hemanth Rao, Kalaveni Shankar, E T Narsimha, Balnarsimha, party state secretariat members and M Narsimha deputy general secretary of state AITUC were present. Poet, writer and singer Jairaj felicitated Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy and MK Mohiuddin, freedom fighter with shawl.

D Raja began his speech by saying, brothers and sisters Lal Salam in Telugu. Recalling that Telangana had merged with the Indian Union on September 17, 1948, he said that that is why we are celebrating this day. Comrades Ravi Narayana Reddy, Makhdoom Mohiuddin and Baddam Yella Reddy had given call for Telangana armed struggle against the dictatorial rule of Nizam, excesses of landlords and razakaars, the private army of Nizam, etc. Chandra Rajeshwar Rao and Puchalapalli Sundarayya have supported the call and guided the struggle with material and monetary support along with imparting military training to veterans of the struggle. BRS and BJP are also celebrating the day in some or other name,

though their contribution in this regard is nil, D Raja observed.

The CPI general secretary pointed out that without recognizing the heroic role played by the communists, Indian history will be incomplete. In fact communists are not merely part of the



history they have created history, D Raja underlined. Communists have shed their blood, went behind bars, were imprisoned for many years, made many sacrifices, including their family members, etc. But BJP is



distorting history saying that Telangana armed struggle is a conflict between Muslim king and Hindu people.

Rejecting the baseless argument, he said only if India exists, we will be able to exist. He wanted Narendra Modi and Amit Shah to realize this and should stop looking at every issue from Hindu and Muslim angle. BJP is claiming that it is on the orders of Sardar Vallabhai Patel army had come to Telangana, but one should not forget that Patel was a member of Nehru's cabinet. Communists had been fighting prior to that of army reaching Telangana. Without the historic Telangana armed struggle launched by the communists, the merger of Telangana into Indian Union would not have become possible, Raja asserted.

The CPI general secretary further stated in his address

Summit. Modi claims it comes to power third time; he will transform India into the third biggest economy in the world. He made promises to create two crore jobs every year and to deposit Rs 15 lakhs in everybody's account by bringing back black money stacked in foreign banks. People have now understood that these promises were only to get votes. Instead under Modi's regime Adanis and Ambanis have become super rich. In Manipur internal civil war is taking place and Modi is conspicuously silent on the issue. He is dismantling Constitution, federalism, and secular foundations. Governors are working as agents of BJP. One has to see how KCR is going to react to this.

D Raja told the gathering that Left parties, Congress, and other secular parties

have come united and formed 'INDIA' as an alternative front against communal reactionary BJP and its allies. As and when this front was announced, Modi started getting irritated and started attacking the front and its partners. 'INDIA' is not a mere front of certain parties but alliance of people, who are dissatisfied against with Modi government's nine years of rule. Hence people are coming out in protests with the slogan 'BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao'. At the time of writing of our Constitution, Dr Ambedkar had clearly pointed out that

India is a country of plurality. At present Modi is stating that 'One country, One election'. But Ambedkar had stated that the Constitution is being formed and decided that free elections must be conducted. Permanent Election Commission is set up in order to conduct free elections. It is true that in 'One country, One election' expenses will be less. But according to CAG report under Narendra Modi regime in the construction of national highways, Rs 7.5 lakh crores has been misappropriated. The government therefore is not honest in suggesting One Country, One Election.

D Raja observed that as per Indrajit Gupta Election Reforms Committee, the government has to bear all expenses incurred by political parties for election. Stating that in Telangana elections are going to take place, all parties have to work together to defeat BJP in the elections and to protect the Constitution.

Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, former CPI general secretary in his address stated that KCR will neither join the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nor the front of opposition parties. If both the fronts do not have majority, he would vote for BJP and claim ministership at the Centre.

Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, Telangana CPI state council secretary while rendering presidential remarks stated that BJP had never hoisted national flag till 2001. RSS also had stated that tricolour is not auspicious. Hence they never hoisted national flag at the headquarters of RSS in Nagpur.

Bommagani Prabhakar, Ravindra Chary, Seetharamaiah, Nedunoori Jyothi, state executive committee members, B Chaayadevi, Sailoo Goud, Palamakula Jangaiah, district secretaries of Hyderabad, Medchal and Rangareddy respectively were also present.

US-NATO's 'Democratic' Imperialism is Libya's Nightmare

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

Libyans are suffering. The reason behind is the 'democratic' armed intervention by the United States and NATO to destroy Libya. Today one should stand with Libya.

NATO's military intervention in Libya in 2011, which overthrew the regime of Muammar Gaddafi, resulted in a chaotic and murderous failed state. Libyans were forced to pay a horrific price for this catastrophe.

Hillary Clinton famously quipped "we came, he died" when Muammar Gaddafi, after seven months of US and NATO bombing, was overthrown in 2011 and killed by a mob who sodomised him with a bayonet. But Gaddafi would not be the only one to die. Libya, once the most prosperous and one of the most stable countries in Africa, a country with free healthcare and education, the right for all citizens to a home, subsidised electricity, water and gasoline, along with the lowest infant mortality rate and highest life expectancy on the continent, along with one of the highest literacy rates, swiftly fragmented into warring factions. There are currently two rival regimes battling for control in Libya, along with an array of rogue militias.

The chaos that followed Western intervention saw weapons from the country's arsenals flood the black market, with many snatched up by groups such as the Islamic State. Civil society ceased to function. Journalists captured images of migrants from Nigeria, Senegal and Eritrea being beaten and sold as slaves to work in fields or on construction sites. Libya's infrastructure, including its electrical grids, aquifers, oil

fields and dams, fell into disrepair. And when the torrential rains from Storm Daniel — the climate crisis being another gift to Africa from the industrialised world — overwhelmed two decrepit dams, walls of water 20 feet high raced down to flood the port of Derna and Benghazi, leaving up to 20,000 dead according to Abdulmenam Al-Gaiti, Mayor of Derna, and some 10,000 missing.

'The fragmentation of the country's disaster management and disaster response mechanisms, as well as deteriorating infrastructure, exacerbated the enormity of the challenges. The political

— as it did Iraq — as a unified and stable nation. The flood victims are part of the tens of thousands of Libyan dead resulting from our 'humanitarian intervention,' which rendered disaster relief non-existent. The world must bear responsibility for Libya's prolonged suffering. But once the US and NATO wreak havoc on a country in the name of saving its persecuted — regardless of whether they are being persecuted or not — they forget they exist.

Karl Popper in 'The Open Society and Its Enemies' warned against utopian engineering, massive social transformations,

understandable backlash on social media.

There is no official tally of the casualties in Libya that have resulted directly and indirectly from the violence in Libya over the last 12 years. This is exacerbated by the fact that NATO failed to investigate casualties resulting from its seven-month bombardment of the country in 2011. But the total figure of those killed and injured is likely in the tens of thousands. Action on Armed Violence recorded '8,518 deaths and injuries from explosive violence in Libya' from 2011 to 2020, 6,027 of which were civilian casualties.

In 2020, a statement by



situation is a driver of risk,' according to the World Meteorological Organisation.

Most of the human casualties' would have been avoided if there had been a 'normally operating meteorological service' which 'would have issued the [necessary] warnings and also the emergency management of this would have been able to carry out evacuations of the people.

Western regime-change, carried out in the name of human rights under the United Nations doctrine of R2P (Responsibility to Protect), destroyed Libya

almost always implanted by force, and led by those who believe they are endowed with a revealed truth.

Libya, like Iraq and Afghanistan, fell victim to the self-delusions peddled by humanitarian interventionists — Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Ben Rhodes, Samantha Power and Susan Rice. The Obama administration armed and backed an insurgent force that they believed would do the bidding of the US Obama in a recent post urged people to support aid agencies to alleviate the suffering of the people of Libya, a plea that ignited an

seven UN agencies reported that 'Close to 400,000 Libyans have been displaced since the start of the conflict nine years ago — around half of them within the past year, since the attack on the capital, Tripoli, started.'

'The Libyan economy has been battered by the [civil war] the Covid pandemic. The country's fragility is having far-reaching economic and social impact. GDP per capita declined by 50 per cent between 2011 and 2020 while it could have increased by 68 per cent if the economy had followed its pre-conflict trend,' the report says. 'This suggests

that Libya's income per capita could have been 118 per cent higher without the conflict. Economic growth in 2022 remained low and volatile due to conflict-related disruptions in oil production.'

Amnesty International's 2022 Libya report also makes for grim reading. 'Militias, armed groups and security forces continued to arbitrarily detain thousands of people,' it says. 'Scores of protesters, lawyers, journalists, critics and activists were rounded up and subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and forced 'confessions' on camera.' Detained migrants and refugees were subjected to torture, unlawful killings, sexual violence and forced labour.'

Stockpiles of weapons and ammunition — estimated to be between 150,000 and 200,000 tons — were looted from Libya with many being trafficked to neighbouring states.

The misery and carnage, which rippled out from a dismembered Libya, was unleashed in the name of democratisation, nation-building, promoting the rule of law and human rights.

Military intervention is good for Iraqis, Afghans or Libyans, but not for Palestinians or Yemini. Human rights are supposedly sacrosanct when discussing Cuba, Venezuela and Iran, but irrelevant in our offshore penal colonies, the world's largest open-air prison in Gaza or our drone-infested war zones.

Liberals have prostituted their supposed values to the Empire. Incapable of taking responsibility for the carnage they inflict, they clamour for more destruction and death to save the world.

Writers Urged to Protect...

From Centre Pages

Una and Hathras to Bhima Koregaon. By uprooting the tribals from their basic cultural consciousness, the unabated loot of water, forest and land is going on, the ultimate beneficiaries of which are the corporate capitalists who have close ties with right-wing politics.

Ideological disagreement has been brought under the category of cognizable offence. From street demonstrations to court cases to ban on the works of writers in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, and Santhali (English) languages such as of Perumal Murugan, Kancha Ilaiah, K S Bhagavan, S. Harish, Parul Khakhar and Hansda Sovendra Shekhar, has been

resorted to during this period.

All these situations are infuriating and disturbing to us as writers. The rewriting and rescheduling process of history and curriculum is going on. Historical heroes like Akbar and Tipu Sultan are being excluded and Hindutva heroes are being included in the curriculum.

As a result of its inevitable outcome, the understanding of diversity and texture of Indian social structure will be destroyed and the new generation will be cursed to go in a one-sided, incomplete, and wrong direction by being deprived of the true knowledge of inclusive and pluralistic history. The regressive changes in NCERT books are a proof of this. The new education policy is an indicator of these

changes. We know that all these situations are the biggest obstacles and danger for the development of any country and society.

In the last decade or so, we witnessed the above scenario with our consciousness of the resistance. From time to time, we have also registered our resistance through the common forums of writers' organizations. Our role has been of support and solidarity in favour of the farmers' movement, the campaign of women wrestlers and the voices of human rights activists, fearless journalism, and the intellectuals and in opposition to the legal proposals related to the citizenship register. In the context of the current challenges, our first

responsibility today is to protect constitutional democracy and freedom of expression, while ensuring more effective participation with wider mass struggles. For this, there is also a need to form a united front of writers' organizations.

In this context, we remember Premchand, who in his famous presidential address in 1936, on the occasion of the foundational conference of Progressive Writers' Association, Lucknow, said: "Literature is the one in which the truths and experiences of life are expressed, in which there is criticism of life. It is the duty of literature to stand for the downtrodden, the oppressed, the underprivileged, whether an individual or a group. Art should also be weighed on the scales of usefulness. We

have to change the criteria of beauty or parameters of aesthetics. The whole world should be in the broad spectrum of beauty, which is in good taste, and self-respect, and should not be opposed to humanity. The writer exists along with the society, if separated her or his value becomes zero. We do not consider literature only as an object of entertainment and luxury. Only the literature that has high thinking will pass our test. May it be the sense of freedom, the essence of beauty, the soul of creation, the light of life's truths, that stirs and puts us at unease, do not lull us into sleep, for too much sleep is a sign of death." These words of Premchand are still relevant guiding and inspiring in challenging times. We are collectively determined to be the claimants of this glorious heritage.

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Restore OPS, Repeal NEP 2020: AIFUCTO

Dr Arun Kumar

In a rare gesture of unity and solidarity, thousands of teachers, non-teaching staff, students, and voluntary organizations thronged into the streets of New Delhi to exhibit their deep-rooted resentment against National Education Policy 2020 and National Pension Scheme. They presented memoranda to the President of India, the Prime Minister, and the Union minister of education to roll back the National Education Policy and for restoring Old Pension Scheme.

The protesting members condemned the undemocratic and retrograde mindset of the Central government which did not even hold a dialogue with either AIFUCTO or with the Joint Forum for Movement on Education



(JFME). Besides demands for repealing NEP and restoration of the old pension scheme, JFME and AIFUCTO demanded allocation of 10 per cent of GDP on education, filling up all vacant teaching and non-teaching posts, withdrawal of all common National Entrance Tests, no closure or merger of schools and colleges, protect the secular, scientific, democratic and federal character of

education, etc.

Leaders of the organization also warned that they would wage a country-wide political struggle to dislodge the BJP government at the Centre if the government does not respond to the collective wisdom of the nation.

Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D Raja, All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) general secretary Amarjeet Kaur,

CPI(M) polit bureau members Nilotpal Bose and Tapan Sen expressed solidarity to the demands and urged to carry political struggles to dislodge BJP government and NEP 2020.

AIFUCTO president Prof Kesaba Bhattacharya, general secretary Dr Arun Kumar, JFME chairman Prof Nandita Narayan, national convenor Dr Amiya Kumar Mohanty, FEDCUTA president Prof

D K Lobiyal, K T Narasimha Reddy from AISFTCN, Bharati from STFI and other members of AIFUCTO and JFME coordinated the entire programme.

The programme ended with the reiteration of the organization's commitment to continue and intensify its struggles in the larger interests of the country and to take the battle to nook and corners of India.

On Record ...

A 27-page chapter titled 'Quality of Accounts and Financial Reporting Practices' in the CAG's report number 21 of 2023 shines a light on accounting shenanigans that will leave any private conglomerate and its auditors aghast at the sheer audacity of the sharp practices in Union government accounts. There is something rotten in the central government's accounts — and the situation has been allowed to fester for a very long time with no real attempt to sort out the mess.

Last month, the auditor of the Centre's accounts — the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) — came out with a report that revealed just how the Narendra Modi government and its accountants have carved out nooks that serve as secret repositories of public money. — *The Telegraphy online*, September 19.

The Narendra Modi government introduced the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023, to bring in 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and all state Legislative Assemblies. This will include reserving one-third of the seats kept for SC/STs, and "as nearly as possible", one-third of the total seats in the general category.

The seats will be reserved after the



completion of the delimitation exercise based on the first Census conducted after the passage of the Bill. It mandates women's reservation for 15 years from the commencement of the Act, with Parliament empowered to extend it further.

Rotation of seats reserved for women will happen only after each subsequent delimitation exercise, to be determined by Parliament by law, as per the Bill. — *The Indian Express*, September 19.

Judges must ensure that the law does not discriminate against anyone based on the quality of legal representation an accused can afford, Supreme Court judge and executive chairperson

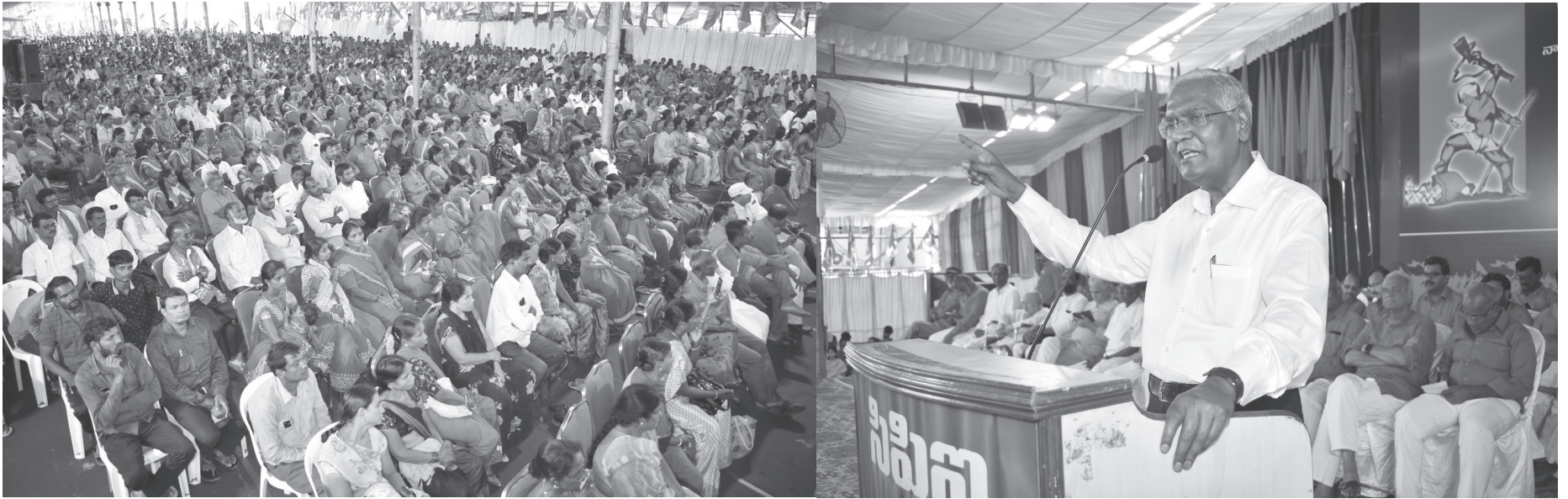
of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said, observing that it was the poor and uneducated who end up behind bars for years while the rich get bail at an earlier date. said: "Our responsibility as judges is to ensure that the law is followed in letter and spirit and it does not discriminate between anyone on basis of the quality of legal representation they can afford, among other man-made qualifiers."

Justice Kaul said judges couldn't turn a blind eye to the plight of the poor. — *The Hindustan Times*, September 19.

Compiled by: *C Adhikesavan*

Telangana Armed Struggle Anniversary Celebration

**EXPOSE COMMUNAL POLITICS OF
RSS-BJP COMBINE: CPI**



CPI general secretary D Raja addressing the public meeting

Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D Raja wanted Union home minister Amit Shah to tell the people of our country the role played by BJP and RSS in the historic Telangana armed struggle. The BJP is distorting the history of Telangana armed struggle to make political gains. He was addressing as the chief guest the huge public meeting organized by the Telangana state council of CPI, marking the concluding session of Telangana armed struggle anniversary celebrations in the afternoon of September 17, 2023 at Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad.

The CPI general secretary in his address asked Union home minister Amit Shah to make public the role played by RSS and Jana Sangh, the mother organizations of BJP, in either the freedom struggle or in Telangana armed struggle. He wanted Amit Shah to tell the people of our country the struggles and sacrifices made by RSS and Jana Sangh in that period.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are distorting the glorious history of Telangana armed struggle and telling all lies to the media. They are trying to rewrite Indian history.

D Raja made it clear to the leaders of BJP that the people of this country are not going to believe their lies. He appealed to the people to defeat the communal BJP-

Ram Narasimha Rao

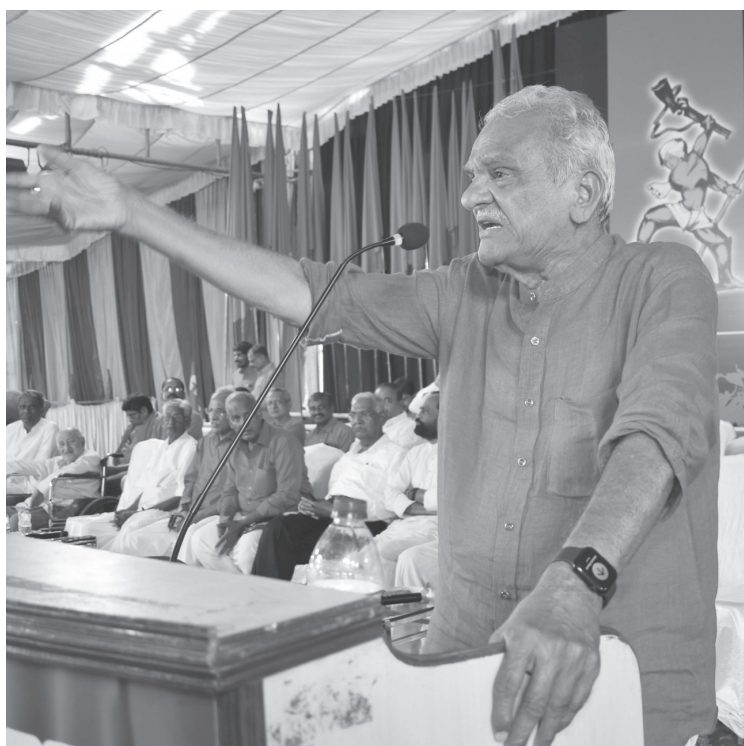
led governments both in the Centre and in states. He also suggested that secular, democratic parties including Congress have to work together with more coordination and more mutual understanding keeping in mind the reality and with the main aim to

defeat fascist communal BJP. He said that the Telangana chief minister is playing hide and seek game. He is hoping that he can go on cheating the people of Telangana, but that is not possible this time, the CPI general secretary D Raja said.

The public meeting was presided over by Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao,

CPI Telangana state council secretary. The meeting was also addressed by Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, former CPI general secretary, Dr K Narayana and Syed Azeez Pasha, party national council secretaries and Chada Venkata Reddy, party national executive member. K Srinivas Reddy, party

On Page 12



CPI national council secretary Dr K Narayana addressing the meeting



Former CPI general secretary S Sudhakar Reddy addressing the meeting

Printed & Published by D. RAJA on behalf of the Communist Party of India at BFL Infotech Ltd (Media Division), C-9, Sector-3, Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, UP & Published from Ajoy Bhavan, 15-Com.Indrajit Gupta Marg, New Delhi-110 002. Ph: 011-2323 0762.
Editor: BINOY VISWAM, Deputy Editor: KRISHNA JHA *E-mail: newagemukti@gmail.com - Layout: JANARDANAN. R