

Massive Rally of Left Parties in Lucknow Call to Defeat BJP, Ensure Victory for INDIA



CPI general secretary D Raja addressing the rally

A huge rally of left parties was organized on October 11, 2023 at the Eco Garden in Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh. Thousands of people gathered from 75 districts in the east, west, north and south of Uttar Pradesh.

The government of India has reduced the general coaches in the trains, but despite hardships, massive gathering at the rally venue could be seen. People from economically backward sections from far off regions of the state joined over the rally as they were keen to listen to their national and state level leaders.

Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja, Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, All India Forward Bloc general secretary G Devrajan and Loktantrik Janata Dal general secretary Javed Raza came to Lucknow from Delhi to attend the rally.

Other prominent leaders who were present on the occasion were Dr Girish Sharma, member of the CPI national executive, Subhashini Ali, member of the politburo of the CPI(M), Arvind Raj Swaroop, state council

Arvind Raj Swarup

secretary of the Uttar Pradesh CPI, Dr Heeralal Yadav, state secretary of the CPI(M), Ishwar Prasad Kushwaha, senior leader of the CPI(ML), general secretary of Uttar Pradesh All India Forward Bloc Dr Vishwas.

The entire meeting venue was decorated with red flags and posters with slogans. It expressed the mood of the people's struggle.

Addressing the participants, Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja said the country's general condition is on decline. Inflation and unemployment are rising. Attacks on Dalit women and minorities are increasing. The BJP government has done nothing for the welfare of people. It is high time that people start thinking about the relevance of BJP-RSS governments at the centre and state levels. The Prime Minister keeps talking about what he thinks in "Man kibaat". But who is this government, which is with Ambani and Adani?

He said that the

government had said that there would be employment for two crore young people, but question remains did those youth get the jobs? Prime minister visited Rajghat on October 2. Gandhiji used to pray to God, that was Ishwar and Allah both, that everyone should have rightful thinking. So I would like to say that there are only three to four people in the country who should be told to think good about people. Prime minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and finally UP chief minister Yogi Aditya Nath. There is one and same law for everybody in our country but the BJP ruling at the Centre and at states is breaking the unity of the people of the country. Dalits and tribals are being attacked, BJP's philosophy is not about unity. There is no equality. If we have to save the country, we have to defeat the BJP, said CPI general secretary.

D Raja said when the country attained independence, Gandhiji had gone away from Delhi to save Hindus and Muslims

but Modiji does not have the guts to go to Manipur. The BJP government is trying to change the Constitution. It has handed over the public sector to the capitalists and Modiji refuses to say what Constitution he would present before the people of the country and to the people of Uttar Pradesh. We have to defeat the BJP and save secularism and the Constitution. He appealed to the people of Uttar Pradesh to defeat the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The Left parties are also part of the India alliance.

CPI general secretary appealed to the Samajwadi Party to cooperate with the parties in the India Alliance in Uttar Pradesh, same for the left parties in Tamil Nadu, and also in Bihar. It has been decided collectively that the BJP has to face defeat. So we have come to UP. Uttar Pradesh played a leading role in the freedom movement and now when we can defeat the British government, we can defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party also. We have to defeat the NDA to strengthen the India alliance. He appealed to the people to protect the Constitution and fight the

challenges that we face. He expressed hope that the people of Uttar Pradesh will defeat the BJP in the coming elections.

Dr Girish, member of the national executive of the Communist Party of India and Co-in-charge of the CPI in UP, said that people are breathing fire today to make BJP leave the state as well as the country. Issues of labourers, farmers, Dalits and minorities are going to be raised. Questions that remain unanswered keep haunting women and those would also be raised. Crime has been rampant in Uttar Pradesh. Every day, there are crimes being committed against women. Law and order in Uttar Pradesh has collapsed. Roads are bumpy, bulldozers are crushing everything. Corruption has been growing even in the state machinery. In fact the government in Uttar Pradesh has failed, said Dr Girish, adding that today's rally has shown that some people are confused about where the Left is in Uttar Pradesh. He said further that the Left in Uttar Pradesh is in 403 assembly seats and it is in

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Stop Making Media The Master's Voice

An unprecedented gloom has been setting over in our hitherto unblemished skies. All pervasive, suffocating. Since last nine years, right from 2014, there is all out destruction of everything positive. And it does get noticed. The sentinels of media convey to country how pillars are crumbling. Manipur incidents could be shared only after three months, but when it did, it shook the world. The stream continues to flow overcoming the deterrents. For the very sense of awareness about our link with the world, with evolution, or its negation, we are indebted to media. Slowly, media has started occupying the space that it has always deserved. But not for long. Media must be tamed if it has to be 'His Master's voice', this fact has gone deep for those in the power game. All other options are getting removed from the scene. There has simply been no carrot and neither stick, there is left only the existential question. It has been also experimenting with readymade definitions, to "snare" the Indian media. Ten years are gone in giving it shape, in the name of objective journalism. The effort has been to cover the entire mainstream journalism, with the explicit purpose to create wedge. Wedge in unity. The result is our country is in shambles. Composite culture stands crushed as has been the Constitution. Health, education, availability of essentials, unemployment and finally freedom to think, all that humanity needs stand challenged. Media is no exception to it.

The Centre has been keen to use media to present each and every act of the government packaged in shining praise for all the twenty four hours. But it needs compromise on positions. Weak alternatives have been flooding the entire world of news in news portals and YouTube channels. The regime, or the Centre of power, nervous at its own plight, want only easy options. One of the choices has been majoritarian communal ideological agenda and the accompanying politics with Big Capital.

However, the efforts stood meaningless. Apparently invincible, in reality, it has been almost failing to be in full control. Media has

remained unbending, following its ethics, undeterred.

The examples are there. NewsClick, one of them, was launched in 2009 by veteran Indian journalist Prabir Purkayastha. It speaks about itself as "one of India's most consistent chroniclers of diverse people's movements and struggles."

Nobody is denying that the case against Newclick must run its course, but it must be based on evidence. The brazen attempt to create scare, with imposing UAPA, taking away the devices like mobile, laptop does not take the attempt anywhere. While framing the charge, the Delhi police said, "A total of 37 male suspects, and nine female have been questioned." The way it has been written putting the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against them does not bode well. The ominous shadow hangs over many others as well.

Editorial

Journalists and media outlets, almost everywhere, all over the world, are raising questions about press freedom and their ability to work without the "threat of reprisal" especially after police raided in the Indian capital on October 3, 2023, the offices and homes of journalists working for NewsClick, and keeping up its independence as digital news outlet.

The same pattern was repeated as in all tyrannical systems. There were the early morning knocks. Rude and repetitive. Unprepared, vulnerable, one faces the threat. Then the victim is taken over, without explanation, without evidence.

The demonstrators in New York, against the oppressive attitude of the Indian government attacking news portal NewsClick had placards that said it was McCarthyism. They were expressing their refusal to accept the status offered to press in India. It is no more the fourth estate. Government is no more answerable to

it. In fact McCarthyism is the political practice of publicizing accusations of disloyalty or subversion with insufficient regard to evidence, and the use of methods of investigation and accusation regarded as unfair, in order to suppress opposition. Evidence is the last thing provided in NewsClick case, a practice that has started after their failure to gain grounds. In fact it is the same fear, to get over which, McCarthy had set the rule of scare. But the day also came when MacCarthy, the chairman of the Senate Permanent Investigation Subcommittee in US, conducting hearing on subversion was censured by American senate on December 2, 1954, and he died on Decembr 2, 1957.

Evidence is imperative. The courts are making it increasingly clear that they are not impressed with the way the Central agencies are proceeding with action against their victims. Going by the sharpness in the courts' remarks, it seems that the day may not be far when the selective manner which the law is taking, as claimed by the ruling party politicians, or allowed to take its course, is questioned by the courts.

In almost the same fashion, the Delhi High Court on October 6, 2023 asked the Delhi police why the NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and his HR manager Amit Chakravarty were not provided the rationale for their arrest, which as they claimed was within their right to know as every accused has, according to Supreme Court directive. The High Court then cited Supreme Court decisions that those getting arrested have a right to know why they are being arrested. The last couple of days have seen the central agencies getting into what appears to be 'crash programme' of raids at multiple locations in several states. Ahead of the coming assembly and later parliamentary elections the ruling BJP is finding itself increasingly vulnerable. It is the growing strength of the consolidation of the anti-Modi parties and elements that has become the threat. Media is not alone in this, it is for all those who have a voice. And know how to raise it.

CPI Expresses Concern Over Palestine-Israel Conflict

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued on October 8, 2023 the following statement:

The Communist Party of India expresses its serious concern on the escalations of the Palestine-Israel conflict blowing into a bloody war resulting in the death of more than three hundred people on both sides already.

The CPI urges both the sides to exercise restraint to avoid further loss of precious lives.

CPI calls upon the international community, United Nations and the government of India to make efforts for the establishment of permanent peace by supporting the two-state solution with pre-1967 borders and East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

India should unequivocally uphold the two-state solution as agreed in the United Nations.

New Age Weekly

Election Schedule

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on October 9, 2023 announced the dates and polling schedule for Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Mizoram. Assembly polls in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Mizoram will be held in a single phase.

Elections will be held in Mizoram in a single phase on November 7. While polls will be held in Madhya Pradesh on November 17, Rajasthan will go to vote on November 25. Elections in Telangana will be held in a single phase on November 30. Elections in Chhattisgarh, on the other hand, will be held in two phases — Phase 1 on November 7 and Phase 2 on November 17. Counting of votes will be on December 3.

Students' Suicides not Just a Medical Problem

News of suicides by the students from Kota, a dream destination for the aspirants to get coaching for entry into higher education courses like the Engineering and Medicine, are highly disturbing. These students are the next generation who are to shape the future of our country. End of their life at this tender age is heart breaking for the parents who have nurtured their children with love and affection. They are shattered by this irreparable loss. Parents and other family members are likely to develop significant psychological and physical comorbidities under such circumstances. These incidents are also a warning for the society to introspect deep into the whole issue and find out causes and remedial measures.

According to the National Crime Report Bureau data the number of students committing suicides has grown by 70 percent over the past decade as per a report published in the Money Control. The number of students who committed suicides in India rose from 5.7 percent to eight percent of total suicidal deaths in 10 years; that is 7696 in 2011 to 13089 in 2021. This is nearly 70 percent increase in the decade.

In the present day cut throat competition, there is a mad race for getting better score and higher merit. MCQ type of examinations, have become the routine to check one's knowledge. Purpose of education is to prepare good citizens with ethical values and social concerns. In the growing consumerist culture this has changed and success of a person is measured by entry into prestigious institutions and a career which ensures

huge profits. This concept has diminished the trend to join the humanities. As a result large number of present day generation is devoid of information about history, civics, political science and economics. There is too much of inflow of information on the social media which the young people consider as gospel truth. This affects the analytical capabilities. Too much involvement in the online/virtual working has reduced their interaction with the fellow beings. This has adverse impact on

personality development and reduces decision making through collective discussion. Mushrooming coaching centers and their glittering advertisements leave powerful impact even though such centers charge exorbitant amount.

There was a time when the students would discuss several issues in groups and make a collective wisdom. Now there is hardly any student movement compared to 40 years back when student organisations would react to increase in tuition fees, bus and train fares and travel passes for students. They would also agitate for improvement of infrastructure in their school or college. There was a trend to organise debates on the education policy, job opportunities, social

Dr Arun Mitra

harmony, gender equality etc. These things are little to be seen.

Lack of physical activity has worsened the situation. Most of the students in the middle and upper middle classes are pampered at home and are unable to bear the stress of cut throat competition once they move out. Undue pressure and expectations from parents puts them under tremendous stress and a feeling of shame in case of non-fulfillment of

factors must be addressed in tandem with providing counseling to students, according to her.

Albert Einstein had said way back in 1949 that "This crippling of individuals is considered the worst evil of capitalism. Our whole educational system suffers from this evil. An exaggerated competitive attitude is inculcated in the student, who is trained to worship acquisitive success as a preparation for his future career." "If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy

fairy tales era when our grandmother used to tell us stories while going to the bed or gather a few children to narrate events of her past experiences. That was preparing a person with a wider vision.

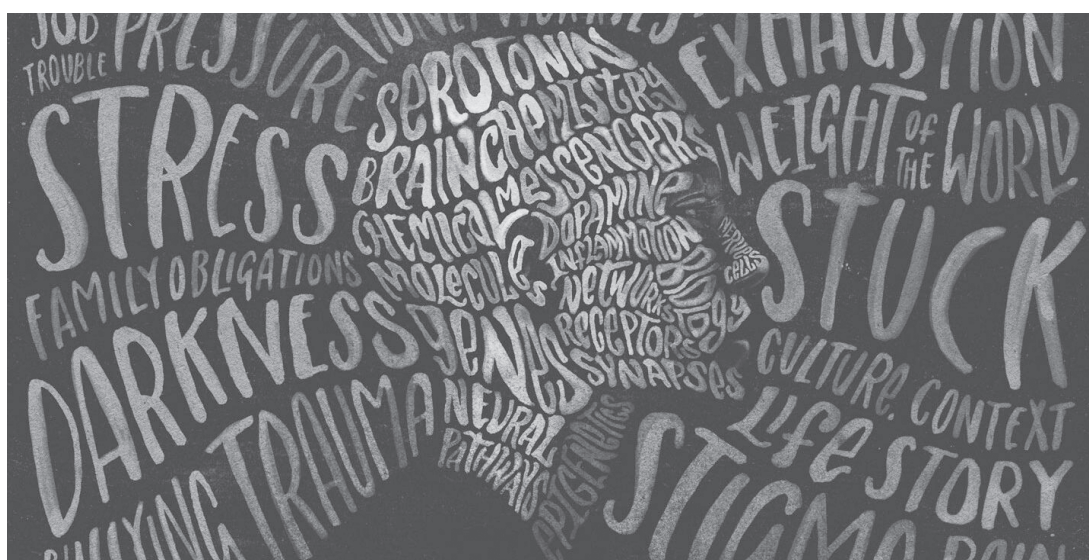
Technological revolution would go on. But we have to make corrective methods to develop a youth of moral values and full of compassion and empathy. This is possible through rationalising education for all with equity as envisaged by the Kothari Commission in 1968. The commission had recommended common school and neighbourhood school system. This would have meant mixing of students from different classes and socio economic groups.

However the whole concept has been thrown into dustbin with the neo-liberal economic policies. Education has gone under the control of elite. This has become a global phenomenon points out Michael Apple, Professor of Curriculum and instruction and educational policy, University of Wisconsin USA. Under the Neo liberal economic policy, education is only for those who have resources while a large section is marginalized and alienated.

tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." "A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." "Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value."

We have forgotten the

It is important that students' aptitude is taken into account while deciding the future education plans instead of pressure of market forces. In this work facilitators and psychological counsellors can do useful job. The students should be continuously counseled on health and encouraged to involve in recreational and extracurricular activities. This will help their physical and mental growth.



Unemployment Haunting People

Indian labour market is undergoing a structural change with the fast-changing world of work and the multiple crises therein. On the one hand a very large number of workforce is not able to get jobs, and on the other, employers have been reporting severe labour shortage in both the skilled and unskilled categories, implying a disturbing level of distortion in the labour market that needs an urgent solution before it goes out of control.

At the end of the first week of October, the month of the festival season, unemployment rate according to CMIE data on 30-day moving average basis has registered a record high of 9.5 per cent. It means that even the beginning of the busy season of the Indian

economy and the festive season have failed to provide enough employment to our workforce. It should also be kept in mind that a person getting at least one hour of work in a week is counted as employed in our country, and those who have left searching for jobs out of frustration on account of non-availability of jobs in the market are also not counted as unemployed.

Therefore, the real situation on the ground is even more frightening as the unemployment data suggests.

It also be noted that the total employment in India has been around 40-41 crore, which included employment in both the salaried and non-salaried categories for quite some time.

Dr Gyan Pathak

Salaried jobs have been in the range of 8-9 crore only in the last 12 months. It means around 32 crore people are in some sort of informal jobs, which included workers who have reported self-employed, majority of whom are basically unemployed with erratic job availability which is quite scant, and hence unemployment in disguise. The share of self-employed workers is about 75 per cent of all employed population. The working age people (15-59 years of age) in the country are 60.7 per cent (around 85 crore) of the total 142 crore population in the country.

The predicaments of the workforce lie in the fact that

around 53 per cent of the salaried workforce does not have any social security benefit as per the government's latest Periodic Labour Force Survey Annual Report 2021-22. It means that even more than half of the salaried workforce did not have access to provident fund, pension, healthcare, disability insurance, or any other social security coverage. Only 1.9 per cent of the poorest 20 per cent workforce has access to at least on social security coverage. About 1.3 per cent of gig workers have rarely any social security coverage.

It means more than half of the working age people are out of any job whatsoever. There are no jobs for them in the labour market, and neither have

their own means of livelihood. They are dependent on others for their survival, including their own family members or by getting free food grains from the government under Food Security Act. They have lost their dignity of a workforce, and spending days with a beggarly existence. It is inhuman, and the government must protect them and make arrangements for them to spend life with dignity by providing the work they are capable of doing. On top of it about 12 million young people leave their educational institutions every year to join the workforce. Total number of people from working age in the country is projected to be 104 crore by 2030.

What the Others Say...

Face the climate

This year has seen India records its warmest ever February and the driest August since time-series temperature and rainfall data became available from 1901. On top of these, rains were well above normal in March, April and May, while the southeast monsoon arrived a week late on June 8, but covered the entire country six days ahead by July 2. With three months still to go, the current year seems on course to set new benchmarks in the annals of climate change. Its effects are no longer confined to just damaging the wheat crop weeks away from harvesting or delaying the pace of kharif sowing. Climate change is now being flagged as the "single biggest business risk" by even consumer good firms. Unseasonal showers during the last summer season crimped demand for ice-cream and cold beverages as well as sales of air-conditioners and refrigerators.

For farmers, coping with the vagaries of the monsoon is a challenge probably as old as agriculture itself. But climate change isn't simply about monsoon failure. Instead, it has to do with fewer rainy days and extended dry spells, interspersed with intense precipitation and also extreme temperature derivations. While these have already become the new normal in agriculture, non-farm businesses are also beginning to feel the pinch. In the past, bad monsoons basically impacted rural incomes and, in turn, sales of tractors, two-wheelers and fast-moving consumer goods. But milder summers, shorter winters and unseasonal rains do much more, by creating less-manageable uncertainties for companies used to planning production and building stocks based on established demand patterns.

It's not farmers and businesses alone. Even economic policymakers need to incorporate climate change into their growth and plan models. There has to be more investment in knowledge about all potential outcomes and probabilities of occurrences with regard to extreme weather events across sectors. Such knowledge generation, extending to breeding of temperature stress-tolerant or drought-resistant crops and timely

forecasting of large storms and heat waves, is essential in a world of both adaption to and mitigation of climate change. And since climate change isn't sparing anyone, including the big FMCG players, and adaption is something that's of more immediate interest, it makes sense to get everyone on board. Let government, industry, meteorologists, agricultural scientist and disaster management specialists together draw up a national climate adaption strategy for India.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

The work women want

The Economics Nobel honour roll has 93 names. Claudia Goldin is only the third woman. Fittingly, she has won it for work on "women's labour market outcomes". And nowhere are the costs of neglecting such 'women's topics' plainer than in India, where women's low labour force participation rates continue to be a big drag on social and economic outcomes. While Goldin's pioneering work at Harvard has drawn largely from US data, the theoretical takeaways are very useful here.

Goldin underlines how transformative contraception is for women, both personally and in transforming society's expectations. In this context it is interesting to think about Tamil Nadu's 21.9% women's urban labour force participation rate and Bihar's 8.6%, in relation to the two states' significantly varying birth rates.

There's also much debate in India on why the number of working women hasn't increased despite rising education levels for women. Goldin's insight is that women pay a high cost for "temporal flexibility", where choosing to work fewer or more flexible hours to allow them to raise a family, costs them a wage gap. Goldin finds the wage gap to be the narrowest in US tech because it promises more flexible hours. But in a much more conservative labour market like India, with fewer flexi working options of quality, similar family needs translate into many women opting out of a paying job altogether. On top of this, there is victim blaming. Goldin rebuts the idea that women's lower wages flow from their choice of occupations. If more men were nurses, nurses would be better paid than doctors. What yawning gender gaps boil down to is unfair distribution of family work – that's the biggest insight from this year's economics laureate.

Courtesy: The Times of India

Marches That Awaken The Masses

R Ajayan

The BJP Hatao Desh Bachao campaign as per the call of the National Council of the Communist Party of India has been successfully held in Kerala. The marches were organised from September 1 to 30 by all the local committees of the party in Kerala.

Through these marches, meeting people at the ground, has become the curtain raiser for the upcoming campaign for the 2024 general elections. Led by the cadres from grassroots levels, the response from the common masses was quite positive. Throughout the marches, the policies of the BJP-led Union government were highly criticized by the speakers. They explained to the people how the Kerala state government, led by the Left Democratic Front, has proved itself as alternative to the BJP government. It has taken up policies for people's welfare and implemented them successfully. The political documents and pamphlets for the campaigners were distributed by the CPI state council through the district committees. The campaign was launched and managed in a unique way. The local committee secretaries were designated as captains of the marches. The state council had instructed that it would be imperative if the vice



captains of the marches were women and leaders of

the branch and local level are the leaders of their locality.

that the top committees would be providing every

participated attracted the people. As per the report obtained by the CPI Kerala state council, 90 percent of directors and vice captains in the campaign were women. Party units were rejuvenated by these marches.



In Kerala, there are 941 panchayats and 87 municipalities. The total number of local self-governance institutions is 1028. But we were able to organize nearly 1300 local marches whereas we have 1265 local committees. This means that the effect of the campaign has penetrated the masses very well. The activists became energized to

mass organizations. This ensured a massive participation of women activists in the marches.

So, the party had decided

support to the marches but

The march was also to point out the importance of the cadres at the grassroots level. Those cadres at local and branch levels are indispensable for the functioning of a party. These cadres interact and get involved in the affairs of common people. In the eyes of the people, the cadres at



the local committee secretaries and other local-level activists would be steering the marches. The campaign had a two-fold target. One was to expose the anti-people policies and actions of the Narendra Modi government. The second is to replenish the party's influence among the common people. We have achieved these targets successfully. The local marches in which women and children enthusiastically

the level that two marches were held under many local committees. CPI state council is of the view that the momentum gained by the party units can be effectively utilized for the upcoming general election campaigns. Owing to the importance of the 2024 general elections, CPI is planning to carry on more local-level campaigns to make people ready to defeat the BJP.

Delhi Left Parties Protest Attack on Press Freedom



CPI national council secretary Amarjeet Kaur addressing the protesters

The Delhi units of left parties held a massive dharna on October 10, 2023 at JantarMantar condemning the attack on freedom of the press.

Addressing the protesters Communist Party of India national council secretary Amarjeet Kaur condemned the arrest of News Click founders PrabirPurkayasthaand Amit Chakraborty. She also condemned the vindictive raids on the houses of 46 well known independent journalists including eight women journalists by Delhi police which

is under the Union home ministry. The draconian anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), was used against them.

All those intimidation tactics were being used to mull the voices of the truth and facts. Those journalists, who have been implicated, are reputed journalists who are known for their honest write-ups. She strongly condemned the Delhi police under Union home minister Amit Shah for their actions against the journalists. She also condemned

the jumla politics of BJP-RSS government at the Centre.

Others who addressed the protesters include Brinda Karat, politburo member of CPI(M), G. Devrajan, general secretary AIFB.

The protest meeting was presided over by CPI Delhi state council acting secretary Shankarlal, KM Tiwari, secretary of CPI(M), Ravi Ray, secretary of CPI(ML), RS Dagar, secretary of RSP, Dharmendra Kumar Verma, secretary of AIFB and Birju Naik of

West Bengal AISF State Convention

Organize Mass Movement against Education Policies

KOLKATA: The West Bengal state convention of AISF held at Lahiri-Mukherjee Hall in Kolkata on September 23, 2023 took a pledge to organize a massive movement against the education policies of the both the Centre and state. The convention began with the hoisting of the AISF flag by national president of the organization Shuvam Banerjee.

This was followed by offering of floral tributes by the state and district level office bearers and leaders of the organization to the martyrs' altar.

The work of the convention started with great enthusiasm and energy of the teens and the youth who filled the Lahiri-Mukherjee Hall.

New Age Weekly

A presidium consisting of AISF state president Soumen Mandal, state secretariat members Babita Saha, Rajneel

Subodh Datta

a two-minute silence was observed to pay respect to

sung by Rajneel Mukherjee, the work of the

Convention started. National president of AISF Shuvam Banerjee

our organization, AISF, will be held in Begusarai in Bihar from September 28 to October 1. Students from different parts of the country will attend the conference and we have to make this conference a success by sending delegates to the conference. The national conference experience will help us to build a strong organization in our state.

Shuvam Banerjee said that the role of our organization, AISF, in India's freedom movement is glorious. Those who were once the supporters of the British rule today want to teach us what patriotism is. The BJP government at the Centre wants to abandon the country's secularism and



Mukherjee and Debashis Guin conducted the proceedings of the convention. In the beginning,

the late leaders of the students and the democratic movement.

After the opening song

formally inaugurated the student convention. In his opening speech, he said that the national conference of

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Hindutva Schools Indoctrinating Young Minds

In rural India, private schools run by the Ekal Foundation provide access to education—but force children to imbibe divisive teachings that preach Hindu superiority.

In Uttar Pradesh children of downtrodden community attend these Hindutva schools run by Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation. Their attire is so poor that they wear tattered clothes and hand me down slippers and carry half-broken and half-chewed pencils.

The school ensures children in rural India get access to education. These one-teacher schools are free and offer vocational classes alongside literacy to children aged five to 14 from any caste or religion. However, the curriculum is firmly rooted Hindutva ideology.

As children trail behind each other, they can be seen entering a local Hindu temple in their village, where they obediently sit on the floor, which exhales the heat of the sun. Facing a table with photos of Hindu deities neatly placed with the support of incense sticks, children focus all their attention toward the deities. They are taught Hindu prayers and mantras. The teacher stresses upon adharms about whom only Hinduism could teach the children and those who are not Hindus, are adharms.

Ekal Vidyalaya is a U.S.-based organization that sets up private, single-teacher schools in rural India. This concept was conceived in 1986 in India's Jharkhand; in 1989, Shyam Gupta, a senior member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu paramilitary organization, stepped in to take over the campaign for Ekal Foundation. This branch is the primary campaigner for the donations that are received to run schools in India.

Another radical Hindu

organization responsible for attacks on Muslims and Christians – the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) – has boasted of its involvement with the EVF. The VHP's website states that the launch of the EVF of USA was among “some of the major contributions made by VHP of America.”

Classes at Ekal include a mix of children from all spheres of village life: Hindu upper castes, lower castes, tribals, and Muslims. As of March 2023, Uttar Pradesh housed 17,188 Ekal schools, where more than 519,301



students were enrolled.

It mandates that its students to follow and believe in Hindutva, a radicalized form of Hinduism, by making it a part of the compulsory curriculum. Students across Ekal schools are being made to believe that being Hindu equates to being more “Indian” than following another religion.

While the schools may be free for individual families, they do come at a steep cost for society: deepening communal divisions and further marginalizing hundreds of millions of non-Hindu Indians.

Caste Discrimination Continues to Grow in Delhi IITs

A survey conducted by Board of Student

Publications was put into cold storage after findings were presented to senior faculty; newly formed SC/ST Cell working on a fresh survey in Delhi IIT. It is not surprising that such views often get reflection in the vicious opposition reservation.

Even as allegations of caste discrimination within premier institutes like the IITs continue to grow, a survey of undergraduate students conducted by the Board of Student Publications (BSP) of the IIT-Delhi in 2019-20 had revealed that while 75 per cent SC/ST/OBC students

were found to be negatively affected by casteist comments, as many as 59 per cent students from the general category reported that they either agree with or are neutral to casteist remarks.

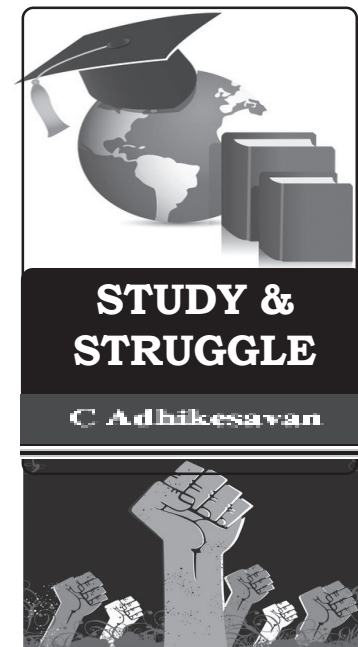
The survey findings come to light months after the results of a similar survey conducted at IIT-Bombay had revealed widespread caste discrimination on campus. However, the IIT-Delhi survey, for the first time, attempts to record sentiments of general category students on the subject. It showed that half of general category respondents admitted to making casteist remarks intentionally or otherwise. 15 per cent said they had made

the remarks intentionally. More insights showed that on average, 41 per cent respondents across categories reported casteist remarks being made on campus — intentionally or otherwise, with 11 per cent students reporting that they “know of professors/administrative staff who have made casteist comments”.

Despite the findings being shared with senior administrative faculty, and discussed at a Student Affairs Council meeting in 2021, the report has since been confined into cold

storage. While the Board of Student Publications was advised not to make the findings public and was promised action by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, it is unclear what action the institute has taken since.

This year, two Dalit students of the Mathematics and Computing Department died by suicide at IIT-D within months of each other. Student organisations on campus sought an investigation into alleged caste discrimination by certain faculty of the departments concerned. In the wake of these suicides, some organisations had last month tried to initiate a survey on caste discrimination but it was shut down hours after



some students found it “insensitive and irrelevant” and the SC/ST Cell said it was never consulted about it.

The SC/ST Cell and some organisations are currently working on initiating another survey on caste discrimination on campus.

But more than three years before IIT-Delhi even had an SC/ST Cell, the organisation had managed to complete a similar survey. The survey conducted via Google forms in 2019-20 had captured 15 per cent of the total undergraduate strength of the campus at the time, following which the Board of Student Publications had prepared a report — which was shared with the Dean (Student Affairs) and the Dean (Student Welfare) by the Board that was elected for the 2020-21 tenure.

The report was officially presented at an online meeting of the Student Affairs Council, the official elected student body, where the students were promised that issues arising out of the findings would be addressed by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

The report also noted that over 70 per cent of GC respondents felt that differential fee structure for reserved category students was unfair — with the percentage higher at 90 per cent for GC respondents with family income of over Rs 9 lakh. A similar trend was seen among SC, ST, and OBC students who felt the fee structure was unfair.

K Satyanarayana: Founder-Builder

K a m b h a m p a t i Satyanarayana (Senior) was among the founders and builders of Communist movement in South India, along with Amir Haider Khan. Earlier it was with M Singaravelu, who was also one of the founders of Communist Party in Andhra along with P Sundarayya in 1934.

K Satyanarayana was born on July 17, 1909 in D o d d a v a r a m , Rajole Taluka, East Godavari district in AP. He belonged to a middleclass family, and his father carried the same name as his son. He was dewan in the services of Tunizamindar.

K Satyanarayana was studying in Kakinada when Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in 1919, leaving a deep scar on his mind and he decided to dedicate himself to freedom movement. While in High School during 1921-22, he heard the speeches of Congress leaders such as Bulusu Sambamurthy, M Ragaiah Naidu, D Subbamma and others. The NCO movement was all around then. They collected heaps of foreign cloth and burnt them, and propagated the cause of Swadeshi and Khadi. Many Congress leaders left their lucrative jobs and lived very simply in Khadi clothes.

Satyanarayana moved about with some important leaders selling Khadi. He himself began to spin Khadi. In two years he spun yarn for four dhotis, and gave his father two of them!

He was also inspired by the revolt led by Alluri Sitaram Raju.

Visit of Gandhiji

Gandhiji visited Andhra Pradesh in 1929, and came to Tuni. The landlord hosted him. A meeting of women with Gandhiji was arranged in a big hall. They donated their jewelry quite liberally.

In the evening meeting, many people donated money. Gandhiji declared that for him, the 'kanis' or small amounts donated by the poor were more precious than the large amounts donated by the rich. The incident took place when Satyanarayana was studying in BA in Kakinada College. Around that time, Simon Commission visited India. A strike was organized in the Kakinada College with the slogans 'Simon Go Back!' The students took out a procession and a public meeting was held in the evening. It was addressed by the famous revolutionary leader Swami Kumaranand, also a Communist.

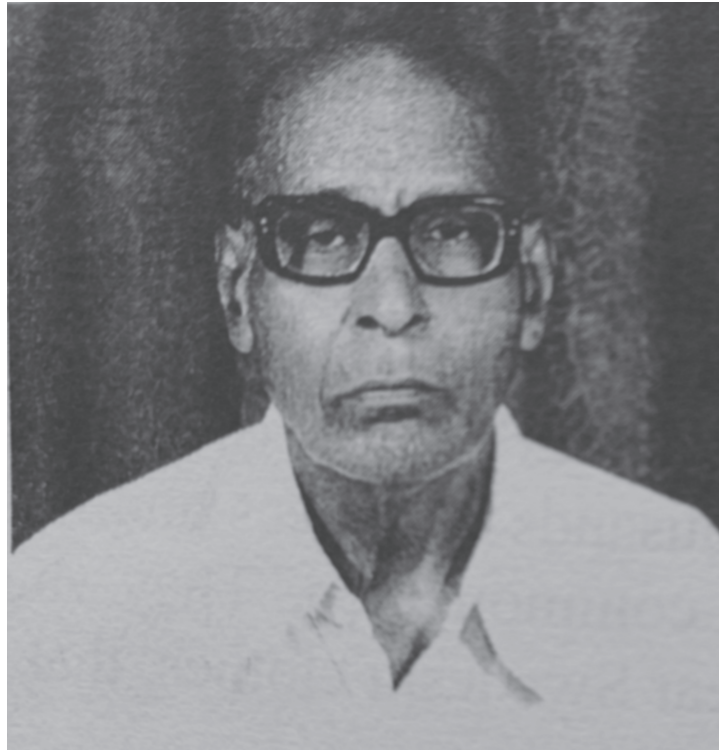
The following day S a t y a n a r a y a n a met Kumaranand again in the house of Sambamurthy, the secretary of the Complete Independence Committee. They talked for a long time. The Swami gave him a book titled 'The Might and Myth of Bolshevism' by Rewi Miller. Satyanarayana kept reading the book for the entire night and finished it around morning. An artist friend of Satyanarayana drew a copy of the portrait of Lenin and the book was returned.

In active politics

Satyanarayana passed his BA in 1929. At 21, he took a vow along with his friends to dedicate whole life for the country. They formed a group to sell Khadi every

Sunday.

Congress had passed the resolution of complete independence at Lahore in the midnight of December 31, 1929. People and students decided to observe January 26 as the



'Independence Day'. Satyanarayana and some others organized a hartal on January 26, 1930 in Madras. They had mobilized the students in a procession and went up to the Triplicane Beach.

He dropped out of studies after MA first year and took part in the Salt Satyagraha. Sundarayya was also there in the Satyagraha Camp along with others.

In the meantime, Satyanarayana joined the Congress, then CSP and finally the CPI. In the Congress presidential elections in Tripuri, he and many others from Andhra voted for Bose, defeating Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

Work in Congress

He was in the district committee of the Congress in Kakinada, and mobilized volunteers for the Vemur Satyagraha Camp. He also

ran an underground cyclostyled paper called 'Ranadundhubi' (war drum) for several months.

Meanwhile the CD (civil disobedience) movement gathered speed. Thousands went to jails. He courted

arrest on January 26, 1931, and was sentenced to RI for six months. He was sent to the Rajahmundry Jail, but was released before the term was completed. The younger elements were disappointed with the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

Attending Congress session

After release from jail, Satyanarayana went to Karachi to attend the Congress session as a delegate from Andhra. They journeyed by ship from Bombay to Karachi. Just before boarding, they learnt of the hangings of Bhagat Singh and associates. He supported the proposal to remove the part of resolution condemning violence.

After return from Karachi, he joined a secret society along with a Congress leader in Kakinada. He also attended the Delhi session, which had

been banned. He managed to establish connection with the revolutionary accused in Delhi Conspiracy Case. Probably, it was Vaishampayan, whom he contacted, in 1932. Vaishampayan was in-charge of HSRA in north India. Satyanarayana got his permission to start a branch of HSRA in Andhra. He even secured a revolver and some cartridges.

Organizing CPI with Amir Hyder Khan

Before he could proceed further, Satyanarayana was asked to go back to Madras. Going there in 1931-32, he met Amir Hyder Khan, who was organizing the CPI in south India along with some others. He worked underground as the party was under ban.

Amir Hyder established a Young Workers' League in Madras. They belonged to printing and other industries. Satyanarayana became part of it. They tried to inculcate class consciousness among the workers. He had become a party whole-timer, getting a paltry wage of Rs 25 per month, on which he and his wife Manikyamba somehow carried on. They lived in a tramway worker's house at Chintadripet in Madras.

'Munnetram' (progress) was published from Madras as party's official organ. Raja Vadivelu was the editor as well as the printer and publisher. It provided extensive coverage to the proceedings of the Meerut Conspiracy Case.

Satyanarayana was soon arrested from West Godavari district, and was prosecuted on charge of distributing copies of the

of CPI in Early 1930s

banned 'ViraBharati', and sent to Rajahmundry and Bellary jails.

Thereafter, he worked for Swaraj paper run by Prakasam Pantulu from Madras, and then he joined New Age as assistant editor published by Siddi Raja. Later on Ghate became its editor. It propagated scientific socialism.

Labour Protection League

During 1935, he worked in the Labour Protection League. In the meantime, he passed his MA as a private candidate. The League had spread to Guntur, Nellore and other places. P Sundarayya too worked in it. It served as an open platform for the CPI.

Meanwhile, a number of periodicals were brought out by the League from various towns and cities. ASK Iyengar, Vadivelu, Bhashyam, Manikyam and others worked in the League. Satyanarayana worked among the municipal workers, as also among the press, tramway workers. All India Press Workers' Conference was held for the first time in Madras organized by the Labour Protection League.

He and V Narsing Rao were arrested for distributing 'ManaPrabha' among the municipal workers. Two Congressmen defended them. One was a High Court judge, the other a pure Gandhite. They were NS Varadachari and B Jagannadha Raju, who defended them in the court; later he became a High Court and then a Supreme Court judge. Rao and Satyanarayana were sent to Cuddalore and Trichinopoly

jails. He was released only in 1936. By that time the line of the party had changed significantly. Dutt-Bradley Theses helped CPI in a positive manner.

Satyanarayana left Madras for Kakinada, taking up the CSP responsibilities in East Godavari district. District peasant conference was held in Kotipalli and an agricultural workers' organizations came up. Labour unions were set up in various towns. Coir workers of Kakinada went on strike.

Provincial elections, 1937

The elections to Madras provincial legislative council were held in February 1937. The main contest was between Justice Party and the Congress. Two Communists supported by the Congress were also elected. Communists supported the Congress in all other constituencies. In the public meetings, both the Tricolor and the Red Flag were hoisted together. Satyanarayana and others went village to village, house to house for election campaign. It indeed was a great experience. They were also beaten up on occasions. Congress government was installed in Madras Province despite hurdles created by the Governor.

Soon, elections to the provincial Congress committees were held: he contested against MC Raju, a right-winger, and defeated him for the PCC.

Justice Party bans political school!

At first Reddy Naidu of Justice Party was appointed the prime minister (today's

chief minister). During this time a political school was organized at Kothapatnam in Guntur by Andhra Provincial Youth League and Socialist Party. Satyanarayana too taught in the school. District Congress leaders helped financially. Congress leaders moved around in the villages collecting money for it.

After two weeks, the Justice Party government banned the school! The participants defied the ban and were lathi-charged. Many were arrested. Protest meetings were widely held. Soon the Congress came to power, ban was removed and all were released.

AP CSP started a paper called 'Navashakti' by 1937-end, and Satyanarayana was a member of its editorial board. He therefore moved to Bezwada (Vijayawada). It supported the progressive steps of the Congress ministry and criticized the retrogressive ones.

Important Communists became members of the APCC and even of the AICC. Satyanarayana attended Haripura (1938) and Tripuri (1939) Congress sessions from AP.

Another political school was held in Mathenavaram Palem in 1938, attended by over 300 participants. Almost half the CC of CPI was present. Guntur district Congress leaders rendered all the possible help. Satyanarayana was a teacher in this school also.

During WWII

'Navashakti' was closed down and many went underground. Satyanarayana held secret



meetings as well as open ones. He prepared a huge map of the War theatre and started to explain the battle positions. He was arrested and interned in Vellore Central Jail with 200 others. Intense debate broke out inside after the USSR was attacked in 1941.

Among the prisoners was KB Krishna, a great Marxist intellectual, who had returned from the US and who wrote extensively on materialism and dialectics in Indian philosophy and other subjects. He explained Marx's Capital in the classes in the jail. After Nazi attack on the USSR, he prepared a document advocating a change in the political line and sent it out. Satyanarayana later on wrote about life and works of KB Krishna. The CC CPI also gradually came over to the positions in Krishna's document on many issues.

After release, Satyanarayana joined the editorial board of Prajashakti, the organ of the provincial CPI. Satyanarayana was later critical of the way 1942 line was implemented.

Like in Bengal, there was a severe famine in the Rayalseema region those days. The party did lot of relief work.

Post-WW II

In the 1946 elections, CPI polled huge number of votes, and one member was elected to the Provincial Assembly. After elections, a new government was installed in Madras under Prakasam. The Communists at this time launched a huge

peasant movement against Challapalli Raja. The government introduced what came to be known as the 'Prakasam Ordinance'. Satyanarayana was also detained. After release, the Communists and the Congressmen jointly celebrated the independence of India.

Satyanarayana was in favour of withdrawal of the armed struggle in Telangana.

Positions on world Communist movement

Satyanarayana favoured the criticism of Stalin made by Khrushchev generally for his (Stalin's) 'arbitrary, authoritarian and anti-Marxist tendencies and excesses'. Satyanarayana sharply criticized the Chinese positions. He condemned the Naxalite movement for 'their wild admiration and imitation of the Communist Party of China'. Their line was nothing but a revised edition of the 'Andhra Theses' of 1948-50.

K a m b h a m p a t i Satyanarayana (Sr) died on January 16, 1983. At the time he was busy writing a history of the Communist movement in Andhra region.

K a m b h a m p a t i Manikyamba was the wife of K Satyanarayana, who worked shoulder to shoulder with him throughout. She was arrested several times and attended the political schools. She worked in the Andhra Provincial Women's Association set up by the CPI, and carved out her own place in social and political life.

Solidarity with Far-Right to have Ominous Portent

It is now a full-fledged war between Palestinian militants and Israel. In the last four days, nearly two thousand have been killed. All indications point to further escalation involving the other militants friendly with Hamas on the one side, and big assistance to the far-right Netanyahu regime by the US and other western nations. So far, no world body including the United Nations has talked of the cessation of the hostilities. Both Hamas and the Israel are determined to fight till the end, it seems.

In the last two years, this is the second big war after the attack on Ukraine by Russia on February 24, 2022. In the last 20 months since Ukraine war, there have been countless meetings and appeals for the end of war, chiefly from the Global South, and discussions have been held at both the UN, and other multilateral forums including the G20, but so far, no breakthrough has been made. The Russia-Ukraine war continues, costing over 10,000 lives and enormous destruction of properties in both the Ukraine and Russian cities nearing Ukraine border.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is still the head of the G20, and last month claimed the big success of the G20 summit in Delhi, in a tweet on October 7, expressed deep shock by the news of Hamas attacks on Israel. PM said that India stands in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour and thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. PM certainly

can express his shock at the sudden Hamas attack and the death of innocent civilians, but talking of India standing in solidarity with Israel without mentioning anything about the need for the end of the war and not mentioning the Palestine issue at all, indicates a deep shift in India's position in this continuing Israel-Palestine dispute.

It is significant that so far the external affairs ministry did not issue any official statement, the External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar only circulated the PM tweet. It is certain that PM's position in the tweet has landed the external affairs ministry in a bit of a soup, which will now be forced to explain this contrary stance to most of the countries of the Global South. Apart from the Arab nations, the members of the African Union, whom the Indian Prime Minister gave new membership to G20 at the September summit, will not be comfortable with the out and out pro-Israeli stand of the PM.

The situation can still be saved if the PM or the EAM issues an elaborate statement on the present West Asian war, correcting some misconceptions which have certainly been aroused among the Global South members. PM will be addressing the virtual G20 meet in November this year – his last assignment as the G20 head. If the present war continues, the Indian PM will have to face many embarrassing questions from the Global South members at this virtual

Nitya Chakraborty

summit. The credibility which the Indian PM earned through his diplomatic success in the Ukraine war issue, has got shattered with this stand on Hamas-Israel war.

India's position is akin to that of G7 nations led by USA and not with the Global South as also Russia and China.

The Congress Party in its statement while expressing its shock at the Hamas attack and the death of the innocent Israeli civilians has also underlined simultaneously the need for a permanent settlement of the Palestine question. The CPI national secretariat in its statement called upon international community, the United Nations and the Government of India to make efforts for the establishment of permanent peace by supporting the two states solution with pre-1967 borders and East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

Western nations and the international media have been portraying the Hamas as terrorists and demons, but Hamas is the main Palestinian militant force in the Gaza strip and they have been fighting the Israeli sniper attacks for the last few years, especially since the last election, with Benjamin Netanyahu making his comeback as the Israeli Prime Minister.

Netanyahu heads the most right-wing government in Israel's history. It is labelled fascist even by some opposition parties in Israel

itself, including the Communist Party. Some of its own ministers agree: its Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich describes himself as a "fascist homophobe." The Israeli PM's infamous Nation State Law of 2018 formalised the subordinate status of the one-fifth of its citizens who constitute the 'Israeli Arabs'. This term is used as Israel declines to recognize Palestine as a nation and Palestinians as sovereign people.

This, together with the systemic oppression of Palestinians in their own illegally occupied or besieged lands, has prompted the most prominent liberal human rights organisations in the world, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, to agree that Israel is an apartheid state.

Amnesty assessed that the routine "massive seizures of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, forcible transfer, drastic movement restrictions, and the denial of nationality and citizenship to Palestinians" amounted to a single overarching system of repression which amounts to apartheid under international law. Yet not only has Israel operated such a system for years, it is getting worse. Hundreds of Palestinians had been killed in 2023 before Hamas launched its assault on Saturday; the United Nations already deemed it the deadliest year for Palestinians since 2006.

Netanyahu's bid to overhaul Israel's judiciary and give an increasingly far-

right Knesset the ability to overrule the Supreme Court will only accelerate the theft and colonisation of Palestinian land. His ultra-racist security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has been promised a new "national guard" to command that will terrorise Palestinian communities: even Benny Gantz, a recent Israeli defence minister and deputy prime minister, warns that this will be a private army and a law unto itself.

As the Israel-Hamas war entered its fourth day, Netanyahu-led Israel is pummeling the Gaza Strip, land and sea-blocked with no escape route, with bombs en masse. Hospitals, schools, high-rise buildings, heritage mosques and even the third oldest church in the world have been razed to dust, taking with them innumerable precious lives. Gazan children and journalists are getting killed by Israel's blind revenge. Entire families are being wiped out in these genocidal attacks on the civilian population, while possibly also killing the Israeli hostages and prisoners of war in Hamas custody in the process. Gaza, the world's largest open air prison with over 2 million Palestinians, is a sitting duck. In the light of this, Prime Minister Modi's post unequivocally siding with Israel is therefore bound to go down in history as a gross error in judgment. How can India project itself as the 'voice of the Global South' if it's so tragically at odds with what the Global South thinks about this protracted conflict that is the Israel-Palestine issue?

Ice Shelves Collapsing in Antarctica

The past couple of years in Antarctica have been a rough and tumble affair of erratic climate change with record-high temperatures and totally unexpected ice shelf collapse. The continent is starting to reflect the impact of a warming planet that's just too hot for icy comfort. So, what surprises will this year's summer season bring?

At the tail end of Antarctica's 2022 summer, during the start of autumn/March '22, temperatures along the eastern coast spiked 70°F (39°C) above normal. Scientists called it "unthinkable." According to Edward Blanchard-Wrigglesworth, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington: "We found that temperature anomaly, the 39-degree temperature anomaly, that's the largest anywhere ever measured anywhere in the world." (Source: Scientists Found the Most Intense Heat Wave Ever Recorded – in Antarctica, The Washington Post, September 24, 2023)

Within weeks, the unthinkable happened in East Antarctica. Conger Ice Shelf suddenly collapsed. According to NASA: "It is relatively common for ice shelves in Antarctica to spawn icebergs, it is less common for an ice shelf to completely disintegrate. The collapse has reshaped a part of the Antarctic landscape where coastal glacial ice was once thought to be stable. The change happened fast... All of the previous collapses have taken place in West Antarctica, not East Antarctica, which until recently has been thought of as relatively stable. This is something like a dress rehearsal for what we could expect from other, more massive ice shelves if they

continue to melt and destabilize. Then we'll really be past the turnaround point in terms of slowing sea level rise".

Antarctica's upcoming summer of 2023 with sunshine 24/7 from October thru February will bring a new season that is especially notable considering the fact that global warming strutted its stuff during Antarctica's dark winter months of March-to-October 2023, setting new high temperature records and especially true of global warming's impact on abnormally high ocean temperatures, which serve to undercut and weaken ice shelves: "The Southern Ocean has warmed substantially," thus creating

Robert Hunziker

the way, the erratic behavior of the climate system over the past 18-24 months is of major concern, as global heat has enveloped the planet, setting records from the peaks of the tallest mountains in the Alps to the deepest interior of Antarctica, almost as if the climate system is programmed to keep turning up the thermostat, regardless of location, regardless of time, whatever season. Of course, this is as threatening to survival of Antarctica's icy stature as it is fatal to the world's coastal cities.

Polar Amplification in



Antarctica

higher risks for 90 percent of the world's surface water that is impermanently locked in ice.

Already, strange things may be happening. For example, according to a non-authoritative source, the crucial Pinning Point 5 is gone at Thwaites/Pine Island glaciers. That source claims this risks an acceleration of glacial flow and termed the occurrence "an emergency," but that has not been verified by other sources. It should be noted that the source has a reasonable track record of following Antarctic events that later make news. Along

Times are changing fast as Antarctica, like its cousin up north, heats up much faster than the rest of the planet. According to Dr. Mathieu Casado, Laboratoire des Science du Climat et de l'Environnement/France, there is direct evidence that Antarctica is undergoing "polar amplification."

In plain English, it is heating up much faster than the overall planet, which is horribly threatening news. In fact, the study found the continent is heating up per decade as much as 50 percent over climate

models. This is a shocker to climate scientists and should be of serious concern to any sane/grounded person. It speaks to the necessity of taking immediate action by nation/states to convert energy systems to renewables.

According to the Casado study, Antarctica's warming "is almost twice as strong as global warming estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ... also 20-50 percent larger than the estimates from the climate models used to produce the IPCC reports - even in East Antarctica, which was believed to be largely unaffected by climate change so far." Accordingly, the

study anticipates "dire consequences for the low-lying lands... further warming of the consequences of greenhouse gas emissions, even in one of the most remote parts of the world."

Therefore, sea level rise as currently anticipated by consensus opinion is very likely too low in terms of potential and resultant coastal impacts, including calculations used by the IPCC, underestimating global warming's impact on Antarctica by a wide margin.

It is instructive to look at the latest IPCC report, which is a synthesis dated March 2023 that integrates

the findings from its Sixth Assessment Report Cycle, stating: "Climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying... There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all. Choices made this current decade will impact us now and for thousands of years." Thus, the IPCC puts the decade of the 2020s on a pedestal of achievement that must be achieved, or it'll crash.

According to the IPCC's Best-Case analysis: "If the world bands together to slash emissions immediately, the world can avoid the most catastrophic version of the climate crisis, but it will continue to warm until at least mid-century, due to the impact of past emissions." For example, some changes that are already set in motion, like sea level rise, are irreversible over many decades. Adaptation is necessary.

In point of fact, the Casado study adds a haunting new perspective to the 6th Assessment Report, Antarctica's warming is almost twice as strong as stated by the IPCC. In the final analysis, the study means the IPCC vastly understates the impact of global warming on Antarctica, which can only mean that low-lying coastal cities should build massive sea walls.

After all, according to the Miami Herald regarding southern Florida, within the next couple of years: Some Keys Roads Will Flood by 2025 Due to Sea Rise, Fixing Them Could Cost 750 Million dollar, Miami Herald, Oct. 21, 2021.

And this: "Several parts of coastal North Carolina could fall victim to extreme flooding in the very near

On Page 12

Ensure Safety of Indians in West Asia: CPI MP

Communist Party of India national council secretary Binoy Viswam MP wrote the following letter on October 8, 2023 to Union minister for external affairs Dr S Jaishankar, urging him to ensure safety of Indians stranded in West Asia:

I write to you seeking your intervention regarding the safety and security of Indian citizens stranded in West Asian region amidst the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas that has assumed very serious dimensions. It is painful for Indians that the Indian government was quick in announcing support to Israel instead of ensuring the safety of Indian citizens first.

As you are aware, there are thousands of Indian citizens in the region as workers, small businessmen, students and tourists. A significant number of them are from the state of Kerala. In the event of recent attacks and counterattacks by Israeli security forces and Hamas, the lives of

these Indian citizens are in danger. I request your intervention in carrying out immediate evacuation process to safely rescue them from the war-like situation. India's historic ties with countries in West Asia and our championing the cause of self-determination have earned a traditional goodwill for us. India has had a history of successful rescue operations to ensure the safety of its citizens. I believe that you will take up the matter with the seriousness it merits.

I also urge you to ensure that the government stays committed to India's traditional stance of supporting the legitimate interests of Palestine for a life of dignity, respect and human rights. India's efforts on legitimate forums to ensure permanent peace in the region by upholding relevant United Nations resolutions for the two-state solution with pre-1967 borders and East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine will prove valuable in ensuring lasting tranquility in the region.

Organize Mass Movement...

From Page 06

socialist ideals and turn the country into a corporate-run Hindu state. Through saffronisation, privatization and commercialization, education has been made a highly priced one that the children of poor working class families will remain deprived of education. In our state too, the end of the public education system has started. He called for a strong movement against the Centre's National Education Policy (2020) and the state's new education policy.

Addressing the convention West Bengal state council secretary of the Communist Party of India said that a right-wing communal fascist party, the BJP, is in power at the Centre and the Trinamool Congress, a deeply corrupt autocratic party, is in power in the state. Students should come forward to fight against both

the forces. He said that the BJP government at the Centre, which believes in the ideology of RSS and is controlled by corporates wants to destroy India's pluralistic culture. And by removing the word secular from the Constitution they want to make secular India into a Hindu State. They want education to be saffronized, privatized and commercialized. They want to remove historical events from the history curriculum and introduce mythological myths instead. Through the National Education Policy (2020), they on one hand want to complete the privatization of education and on the other hand, want to turn it into a commercial product by privatizing it. The goal of this educational policy is to make blind devotees by depriving the children of ordinary families of the opportunity of education. He urged to build a stronger student movement in the state

with the lessons from the AISF national conference.

Presenting the organizational report at the state convention, state secretary, Vikram Bahadur Mandal, said that after Trinamool came to power, student union elections in colleges and universities have been stopped. The rights of the students are being denied. The condition of education in our state is very bad. Many bureaucrats including the former education minister are in jail today. Our fight is against both the corrupt Trinamool government and the communal BJP government.

Gautam Roy, a former student leader and a member of the party's state secretariat, called for strengthening the student movement in the coming days by highlighting the various experiences of the student movement in the convention.

Ice Shelves Collapsing...

From Page 11

future... several portions of North Carolina can be seen below the annual flood level by the year 2030." Breaking News, Fox 8/North Carolina, July 21, 2023.

Indeed, mainstream news outlets like the Miami Herald and Fox 8 News are ringing the bell at the town square, warning about sea level rise flooding portions of Florida and North Carolina... real soon!

And this: According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Gulf Coast region saw more than a 1,000% increase in the number of high tide flooding days in 2020 over the past two decades. (Source: Gulf Coast Sea Level Rising at 'Unprecedented' Rate, Recent Studies Find, Houston Public Media, April 12, 2023)

In turn, all above brings to surface questions about motives of people who denigrate, attack, and belittle the climate change issue, human-caused global warming, and renewables thereby serving to block or interfere with nationwide efforts to do something constructive. Their line of thinking is extraordinarily dangerous to the country in the face of actual flooding events along America's coasts that are loaded and ready for more action very soon.

Mainstream news has clearly identified impending danger.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), sea level rise over the next 30 years will equal the past 100 years. "In the United States, the most vulnerable populations live on the East and Gulf Coasts... The acceleration of sea level rise along these coasts is 'unprecedented in at least 120 years.'" (Source: Acceleration of U.S. Southeast and Gulf Coast Sea-Level Rise Amplified by Internal Climate Variability, Nature Communications, April 2023)

The Antarctic summer of 2023 is on shaky footing as global heat is on the march worldwide like never before, and it knows no boundaries from south to north, every ecosystem everywhere is fair game. Of course, a major concern is rapid acceleration of ice shelf disintegration, especially fragile West Antarctica where Pine Island Glacier and Thwaites Glacier are already the fastest changing and most unstable glaciers in the world. Incidentally, Thwaites has a nickname: The Doomsday Glacier.

Robert Hunziker is a journalist from Los Angeles

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Narges, the Warrior, Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

Narges Mohammadi has rightly been chosen as an awardee of the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian Nobel Committee for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all. Her brave struggle has come with tremendous personal costs. Altogether, the regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes. Mohammadi is still in prison.

She declares, “Iran’s “brave, resilient, lively and hopeful women” would attain victory.

“Victory means establishing democracy, peace and human rights and ending tyranny.” “We will not back down.”

In September 2022 a young Kurdish woman, Mahsa Jina Amini, was killed while in the custody of the Iranian morality police. Her killing triggered the largest political demonstrations against Iran’s theocratic regime since it came to power in 1979. Under the slogan “Woman – Life – Freedom”, hundreds of thousands of Iranians took part in peaceful protests against the authorities’ brutality and oppression of women. The regime cracked down hard on the protests: more than 500 demonstrators were killed. Thousands were injured, including many who were blinded by rubber bullets fired by the police. At least 20,000 people were arrested and held in regime custody.

The motto adopted by the demonstrators – “Woman – Life – Freedom” – suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.

Narges fights for women against systematic

discrimination and oppression. She supports women’s struggle for the right to live full and dignified lives. This struggle across Iran has been met with persecution, imprisonment, torture and even death. She fights for freedom of expression and the right of independence, and against rules requiring women to remain out of sight and to cover their bodies. The freedom demands expressed by demonstrators apply not only to women, but to the

been among the countries that execute the highest proportion of their inhabitants annually. Just since January 2022, more than 860 prisoners have been punished by death in Iran.

Her activism against the death penalty led to the re-arrest of Mohammadi in 2015, and to a sentence of additional years behind walls. Upon her return to prison, she began opposing the regime’s systematic use of torture and sexualised violence against

Mohammadi has helped to ensure that the protests have not ebbed out.

Narges Mohammadi is a woman, a human rights advocate, and a freedom fighter. In awarding her this year’s Nobel Peace Prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to honour her courageous fight for human rights, freedom, and democracy in Iran. This year’s peace prize also recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who, in



entire population.

In the 1990s, as a young physics student, Narges Mohammadi was already distinguishing herself as an advocate for equality and women’s rights. After concluding her studies, she worked as an engineer as well as a columnist in various reform-minded newspapers. In 2003 she became involved with the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Tehran, an organisation founded by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi. In 2011 Mohammadi was arrested for the first time and sentenced to many years of imprisonment for her efforts to assist incarcerated activists and their families.

Two years later, after her release on bail, Mohammadi immersed herself in a campaign against use of the death penalty. Iran has long

political prisoners, especially women, that is practised in Iranian prisons.

Last year’s wave of protests became known to the political prisoners held inside the notorious Evin prison in Tehran. Once again, Mohammadi assumed leadership. From prison she expressed support for the demonstrators and organised solidarity actions among her fellow inmates. The prison authorities responded by imposing even stricter conditions. Mohammadi was prohibited from receiving calls and visitors. She nevertheless managed to smuggle out an article which the New York Times published on the one-year anniversary of Mahsa Jina Amini’s killing. The message was: “The more of us they lock up, the stronger we become.” From captivity,

the preceding year, have demonstrated against the theocratic regime’s policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women. Only by embracing equal rights for all can the world achieve the fraternity between nations that Alfred Nobel sought to promote. The award to Narges Mohammadi follows a long tradition in which the Norwegian Nobel Committee has awarded the peace prize to those working to advance social justice, human rights, and democracy. These are important preconditions for lasting peace.

The Left forces in Iran have been solidly backing the struggling women to preserve their human dignity. Women’s uprising in Iran is the voice of women in the world. The ongoing uprising of women in Iran is part of

the global women’s rebellion and a product of 44 years of resistance by the women who never surrendered. This long resistance finally arrived at the famous uprising of “Women, Life, Freedom” which issued a clear verdict on the theocratic regime in Iran: The Islamic Republic of Iran must be overthrown! The Left forces have declared that this regime (the IRI [Islamic Republic of Iran]) created horrendous social relations by grafting Islam-o-slave relations to capitalist-imperialist relations, strengthening the chains of women’s oppression. This regime, combined state and religion in order to “sanctify” dire misery and lack of basic rights of the masses and their brutal capitalist exploitation, pushing and keeping them in submission. It murdered or imprisoned the best revolutionary women and men of Iran. With its reactionary “anti-imperialism,” the IRI has tried to hide its dependence on the global imperialist system. It has trained armies of obscurantist theocrats in Iran and throughout the Middle East. It has dispatched its criminal IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) beyond Iranian borders into Iraq and Syria in order to commit crimes against the peoples of those countries. It has stolen land and water of the peasants and has destroyed their environment. It has oppressed Kurdish, Balouch, Arab, Turk, Turkmen and Lornationalities in Iran. The experience of 44 years of theocratic rule in Iran has demonstrated that wherever religious fundamentalism prevails, an intense patriarchy and aggressive misogyny will prevail. But patriarchal oppression, also reigns in secular states with undeniable intensity.

Call to Defeat BJP...

From Front Page

Lok Sabha seats and will defeat the BJP in the entire state. Ghosi has shown it.

Before the national leaders spoke, the state secretary of the Communist Party of India Arvind Raj Swaroop, in his address said that minorities are being attacked in the country as well as in the state. Peoples rights are being curtailed. Democracy is weakening. Every day some announcements are made but all these announcements are false. The youth is sitting idle at home. Dalits are being killed. Those torturing Dalits are roaming free. They have no fear. The government gives communal slogans to

avoid these questions, its ministers are also making communal speeches.

Minorities are being targeted. Sometimes love jihad comes, sometimes cows come, sometimes they come to Pakistan, sometimes they come to China, sometimes they raise India and now they bring Sanatana. He said people are facing murderous challenges, they have to be protected from all this and the government has to keep a constant vigil on everyday attacks even on the lives of people. Government machinery is today generally used against those who oppose it, be it the ED, the CBI, and others.

Speaking on the occasion, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yachuri said the politics of hate and violence is being committed by the BJP in the country and people are witness to it.

The BJP government wants to change the country's Constitution, to change the economic policies, destroy secularism and to take away work and employment opportunities and education opportunities and social justice opportunities.

The people of Uttar Pradesh have to fight it and defeat the BJP.

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-ML) national general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said

the women's reservation bill was passed by a special session of Parliament but neither reservation was given nor will it be implemented before 2024.

He appealed to the people of Uttar Pradesh to play a big role in 2024 and defeat the BJP.

Mr Devarajan, general secretary of the All India Forward Bloc, said the rally is a timely call and the BJP has to leave in 2024 as it has looted the people in every way.

The National General Secretary of the Loktantrik Janata Dal, Javed Raza said that the democratic forces stand with the goals of today's rally and it is now an opportunity to

teach the BJP a lesson and protect the interests of the people of the country while protecting the democracy and Constitution of the country.

The meeting was also addressed by CPMs Subhashini Ali, State Secretary Heeralal Yadav, senior CPI(M) leader Ishwari Prasad Kushwaha, Krishna Adhikari and Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) regional president Zuber Ahmad Qureshi and All India Forward Bloc General Secretary K Udaynath Singh.

The rally was held in an atmosphere of great joy and people resolved to defeat the BJP in 2024 and bring to power the India alliance.

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LIC's Market Share Drops to 59 Per cent

The share of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in monthly new business premium (NBP) in the life insurance sector declined to 58.5 per cent in September 2023 from 68.25 per cent in September 2022 — a drop of 975 basis points — owing to shortcomings in the product and distribution side of business. However, the market share saw a marginal uptick from the 57.37 per cent recorded in August this year.

According to the monthly business data released for September 2023 by the Life Insurance Council, the NBP of LIC up to September 2023 stood at Rs 92,462.62 crore as compared to about Rs 1.25 trillion in the same

period a year ago. As a result, the life insurance industry's NBP declined almost 13 per cent during the first six months to about Rs 1.59 trillion.

Lower sales of participating products and lack of competitive non-participating products, along with the changes made to product features and pricing, have led to the decline in the market share of LIC, said insurance analysts. Meanwhile, the share of private life insurers saw a steady increase to 41.50 per cent in September 2023 from 31.75 per cent in September 2022.

Among private life insurers, the market share of HDFC Life Insurance in

NBP rose to 8.31 per cent from 6.07 per cent and that of SBI Life Insurance to 10.27 per cent from 7.19 per cent.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, and Max Life Insurance saw a near less than one per cent increase in their market share from September 2022.

According to the Annual Report 2022-23, the state-owned life insurer had 16 participating products, 20 non-participating products, 11 group products, and eight riders. Of the new policies generated in this period, 94.39 per cent of the policies were participating products and 5.61 per cent of policies were non-

participating products. Meanwhile, on the distribution side, higher dependence on agent-led networks for selling policies, instead of bank assurance and other alternative methods, is impeding growth in premium.

Analysts expect growth in life insurance premium to be driven mainly by the country's large section of young population who depend more on digital services to choose their insurance policies. Persisting reliance on traditional methods will affect the premium. In addition, the higher commission structure of agents also affects the profit margins of LIC.

During 2022-23, more

than 96 per cent of LIC's first-year premium was generated through agents and insurance advisors. On the other hand, the major private insurers — SBI Life Insurance Company and HDFC Life Insurance Company — generated only 18 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, of their business through agents.

"Digital initiatives of private insurers to enhance customer service have provided them an edge over LIC. This includes the ease of taking on board customers and agents through digital solutions, real-time tracking of claims as well as virtual meetings with customers to resolve their queries," said Manogna Vangari, insurance analyst, GlobalData.

On Record ...

India's former Prime Minister and Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee in a gathering, dated almost forty six years ago, had stood in support of Palestine and demanded Israel to 'vacate the land'. The video has resurfaced amid the ongoing war between Israel, and Hamas fighters from Gaza. After Hamas fighters unleashed a multi-pronged surprise attack on Israel, the Benjamin Netanyahu government ordered complete blockade and seize of Gaza in retaliation. Israeli defense minister instructed that electricity, food, water, and gas connections of Gaza be cut-off. In the 1977 video of Prasar Bharati that has resurfaced, late PM Vajpayee is seen saying "Israel will have to vacate the land occupied by the Arabs." — *livemint.com*, October 9.

The smallest planet in our solar system is getting smaller as heat escapes its core and fresh cracks open on its surface, new research finds. The smallest planet in the solar system is getting even smaller. Mercury, the closest planet to the sun, has been cooling down and contracting for millennia, creating gigantic scars on its surface (known as lobate scarps) as the rocky surface buckles from the shrinkage.

Geologists weren't sure when exactly these scarps formed, or if Mercury's still making new ones as it continually cools — until now. New research published Oct. 2 in the journal *Nature*

Geoscience took a closer look at the scarps, and found small cracks indicating that they must have moved in the last 300 million years. — *livescience.com*, October 8.

Eighteen organisations of journalists and media outlets across India have together written a joint letter to Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud, forwarding an earnest plea seeking the judiciary's attention to the attacks on press freedom in the country.

The plea comes in the immediate aftermath of the Delhi Police's raids on and questionings of 46 journalists, editors, writers, and professionals seemingly connected in one way or another to the online news portal, NewsClick. Several of the journalists' electronic devices were seized and the portal's director Prabir Purkayastha and its HR head Amit Chakravarty were arrested.

The letter has sought the courts' help in framing of norms to discourage the seizure of journalists' phones and laptops on a whim, evolving guidelines for the interrogation of journalists and for seizures from them and finding ways to ensure the accountability of state agencies and individual officers who are found overstepping the law. —



thewire.in, October 8.

Worldwide Media Holdings (WMH), the US-based for-profit group whose investment in NewsClick is the basis of the Delhi police's terror case against the news portal, said in a statement that it "has never received any funding, nor taken direction from any foreign individual, organisation, political party, or government". Pletcher said that all of the funds of WMH, which is a subsidiary of People's Support Foundation, came from the sale of US businessman Neville Singham Roy's company Thought Works and it "has never received funds from a foreign government". — *thewire.in*, October 7.

Compiled by: **C Adhikesavan**

Anganwadi and Mid-day Meal Workers' Strike Ends

Dr B V Vijayalakshmi

The Anganwadi workers and helpers of Telangana state who were on strike for the last 24 days ended their strike successfully on October 4, 2023. The strike was led by the joint action committee of AITUC and CITU. Negotiations took place between the concerned state ministers, government officials and union representatives, with the initiative of Chada Venkata Reddy, CPI national executive member.

The following demands were accepted after negotiations:

■ After retirement, the workers and helpers will get Rs2 lakhs and Rs1 lakh as retirement benefit. The earlier proposal of the government was Rs1 lakh and Rs 50,000 respectively for workers and helpers.

■ Insurance cover of Rs2 lakhs will be given to all.

■ The present old age pension of Rs 2,016 will be given to Anganwadi workers and helpers also. Earlier, it was applicable only to common people.

■ Pay revision given to state government employees will be applicable to Anganwadi workers also. Earlier, that is three years back pay revision was given at the rate of 30 percent. Hence workers' wages have jumped from Rs 10,500 to Rs 13,650.

■ An interim relief of five percent was also agreed upon.

■ We were demanding to increase salaries from Rs 13,650 to Rs 15,000. They have agreed to raise the salaries. They may increase Rs 1,000 only in salaries.

■ They have agreed to pay wages for the strike



Dr. B V Vijayalakshmi addressing participants of Anganwadi strikers

period.

■ At present workers and helpers are getting summer holidays of 15 days alternatively. Ministers have agreed to raise the holidays to one month.

These are our major demands. Other demands will be considered over a period of time.

Chada Venkata Reddy took initiative in arranging the negotiations with concerned ministers.

The Joint Action committee had given a call for Chalo Hyderabad. Several arrests including house arrests were made. Despite repression 5,000 workers and helpers gathered. It turned into a victory celebration meeting. JAC expressed

thanks to Chada Venkata Reddy, T Harish Rao, minister for finance and health, Sathyavathi Rathod, minister for women and child welfare, Dr B V Vijayalakshmi, AITUC national leader, Mohd Yousuf state president of AITUC, S Veeraiah, state secretariat member of CPI(M). There was a feeling that election notification will be published this week and hence negotiations were speeded up. However the strike of 24 days is a long drawn strike as far as Anganwadi workers and helpers are concerned.

The meeting was also addressed by Jayalakshmi and Nanduri Karuna Kumari state general secretaries of Anganwadi workers and helpers unions affiliated to CITU, and AITUC,

Vijayalakshmi of AITUC, Mohd Yousuf of AITUC, Paladugu Bhaskar of CITU. Tekumalla Sammaiah, Palla Devender Reddy, Narati Prasad state secretaries of AITUC, Sai Eashwari, Pyari Jaan, Chandana, president, treasurer, secretary respectively of Anganwadi Association, Jaya, Savithri, Jyothi, Rangalaxmi and Upendra also participated.

12 days strike of Mid-day meal workers: The state government has declared to release pending bills of mid-day meal workers. On this occasion a meeting was held in Satyanarayana Reddy Bhavan, the state head quarters of AITUC.

The meeting was presided over by Prem Pavani state

president of the union. The Meeting was addressed by Dr B V Vijayalakshmi national president of the union, and S Balraj state general secretary of AITUC who thanked the government. But they declared that they would continue the strike till their pending bills are being paid. At present the government is paying Rs 3,000 per month but if morning breakfast and other things have to be cooked, the amount should be hiked to Rs 10,000, the leaders demanded. They have also demanded that eggs, oil, gas, salt, utensils, lintels, etc, must be supplied and other basic amenities provided by the government.

The meeting was attended by Jampala Ravinder general secretary, Poosala Ramesh working president, Sattenapalli, Vijayalakshmi, deputy general secretary, Kuntala Dashrath, vice president, Ramamurthy, Sailoo, Mumtaz, Venkatesh, assistant secretaries, Ramakrishna, Poreddy Pramila, Samala Rama, Janagama Shobha, Laxman, Vasantha, Manga, Lalitha, Odhela Ramesh, Kondarajitha, Gaddam Lalitha, Sangem Padma state council members of Association.



A view of the participants

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