

One Nation, One Election

NO SOLUTION TO AILMENTS OF PRESENT ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The making of the Constitution commenced with a clear awareness of the immense diversity of our country and the need to address and accommodate the same while upholding the principles of justice and equality. The road towards democracy was embarked upon with a strong sense of representation and recognition. Universal adult franchise was one of the early expressions of this vision.

Similarly, a clear division of subjects between the Union and state governments was designed to aid the democratic expression of national and local aspirations. The democratically elected government operating within a federal setup becomes the legitimate medium to pursue the Constitutional vision. It is in this context that Dr Ambedkar identifies the centrality of free and fair elections, conducted at regular intervals both at the Union and state levels. To ensure the undertaking of this process smoothly, he firmly argued for the establishment of the Election Commission of India as an independent as well as permanent body. Article 324 of the Constitution precisely enshrines this value.

Unfortunately, contradictory to this Constitutional value, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the staunchest cheer leader of One Nation, One Election. This needs to be called out for what it is a frontal assault on the inclusive essence of the Constitution.

A committee chaired by former President Ramnath

Kovind, has been appointed to examine the possibility of the execution of this nefarious plan. It is evident from the composition and mandate of the committee that the recommendations have been formed already and the entire exercise led by Ramnath Kovind is only to give some legitimacy to an otherwise authoritarian whim.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's obsession with 'oneness' is not hidden from anyone. From one nation, one tax to one nation, one election it is anybody's guess whether this monolith drive has any end. Sometime back, the Law Commission of India invited views from stakeholders on holding simultaneous elections to state assemblies and the Lok Sabha and they are yet to submit a report. The question arises that when the Law Commission of India is already examining the subject, what is the need for a separate committee? It is, as said earlier, only to provide legitimacy to the move.

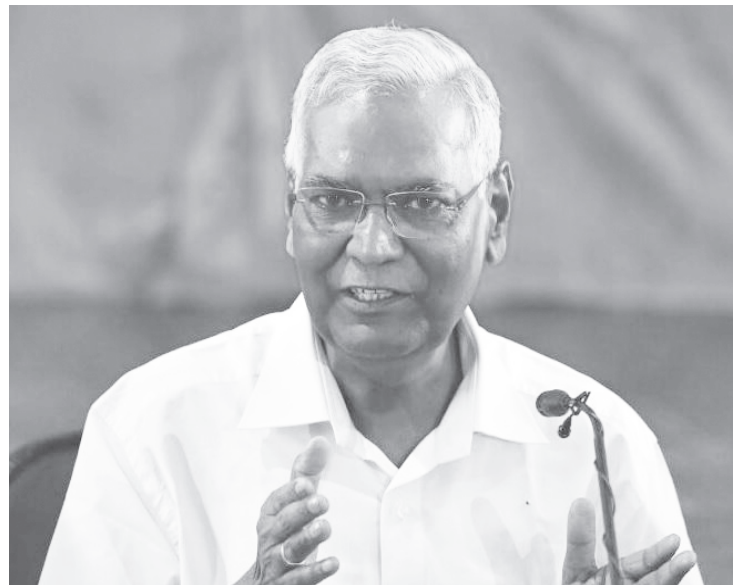
Shrewdly enough, the questions posed by the Law Commission makes a unilateral assumption of a priori consensus on holding

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simultaneous elections where none exists. Similarly, the government constituted committee in probability will go on to produce a report that echoes the Prime Minister's views that have been aggressively expressed several times. This prompts us to delve deeper in the issue and examine what caused elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies separately and whether it is desirable to hold them together.

In our current electoral system, democratically elected state governments have the right to continue in office till they enjoy the confidence of the assembly or till the expiry of their term, that is, five years. When our Constitution was being framed, Dr Ambedkar and other leaders preferred responsibility of the government over its stability. The proposal to have 'One Nation, One Election' attempts to homogenize the opinion of the people of different states, as expressed in elections to state assemblies, with their opinion vis-à-vis the Union as expressed in the elections to the Lok Sabha.

In such a scenario, responsibility and accountability will be the victims as political parties will meet the people only once in five years. If we follow this in practice, if the Lok Sabha is dissolved post



a no-confidence motion or no coalition reaching a stable majority, all state assemblies will have to go through elections, regardless of whether a stable government was formed in the state or not. This is insulting the mandate people gave to the parties of the state and goes against the fundamentals of representative parliamentary democracy.

It is being argued that after the inauguration of our republic, elections to assemblies and Lok Sabha were being held together. Everyone knows that but the caveat here is that why the cycle of simultaneous elections broke in the first place. The government formed by the Communist Party of India in Kerala after the second general elections in 1957 was one reason that the cycle broke. The CPI ministry was one of the initial victims of the Article 356 of the Constitution and elections were held for the Kerala Assembly in 1960, separately from the General Elections. In the elections for

Kerala Assembly held in 1965, again separate from the general elections, no party could prove majority and elections were held again in 1967, along with the general elections. This process was natural given the nature of electoral democracy and how people exercised their franchise. Elections were neither imposed, nor denied to bring the state assembly in synchronization with the Lok Sabha elections.

After 1967, other forces emerged on the political horizon that challenged one-party rule in most states. The dominant party lost power in as many as eight states. The results produced by the 1967 elections were evidence of greater penetration of democracy and political parties that channelized emerging aspirations of the people fared better than the dominant party in the Union in many states. In other words, the break from the cycle of simultaneous

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Challenges to Constitution

In the five-day session of the Parliament, which was unusual, the themes taken up were certainly not manageable in just five days, but they were all clinched in both the houses. The last session of the Parliament had concluded only on August 11 and coming session is also not very far, as it is in December. Obviously, the step was meant to bask in a glory yet to be earned, meant for pre-election days. Despite the growing discontent over the parliamentary processes in the massively populous democracy, leading to boycott by the opposition, the proceedings were started. But most shocking was the statement made by a central minister, when he said that the first session was to be the last in the building of British era, the old Parliament House, and the rest of the session would continue in the new building as part of the Hindu nationalist project to reject all colonial legacies. To get rid of exploitative legacy of colonialism means taking the country and its people out of poverty and backwardness, strengthening the bonds of mutual solidarity among diverse people, and preserving the constitutional mandate of secularism, democracy and federalism. Unfortunately, despite getting a big mandate in each of the two general elections in 2014 and 2019, the BJP government has simply used its power to impose the thinking and ideas of the RSS on our democratic set up. In the process, it is relentlessly dismantling the constitutional principles, bulldozing over people's aspirations and crushing their voices. Despite its claims, the BJP has been busy in its entire tenure building a dictatorial, majoritarian state that crushes the working people, religious and linguistic minorities, destroys the democratic system, and does not hesitate to violate the rule of law to achieve its ends.

The BJP's concept of good governance is concentrating all power into the hands of the

Centre, modeled on the lines of Manu Smriti, and putting all the medieval regressive ideas into practice, including a second class status for the so called 'lower' castes, for minorities, for women, and generally for all those who labor to produce wealth. To meet all this, it has to demolish the Constitution based rule and replace it with autocratic regime. And this is what has been happening in the past nine years. On the very first day, the copies of our Constitution were distributed among the parliamentarians. But tragically, there were parts that were omitted. To mention a few, the first very victims were secularism and socialism from the preamble itself.

It is subversion of democracy. Parliament has been hijacked.

People's issues have no space in parliamentary debates. Laws are passed without getting into its all dimensions in detail. A process of systematic

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neglect of Parliamentary Committees has been adopted avoiding their opinions. There are instances when important Bills have been passed either without debate or camouflaged as Finance Bills to get them passed!

So far as the power structure of the Centre and the states and their mutual relations are concerned, regional aspirations are always suppressed. Federal structure envisaged by the Constitution has been victim of chronic negligence.

One burning example is GST that is disempowering states. Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) imposed on the country in 2017, states have no power in deciding what tax rates to impose on which commodities (barring alcohol and petroleum products), a right that was given to them under the Constitution of India.

This snatches away the freedom of the states to pursue alternative strategies. The taxation system determined by the central government becomes the feature in which all state governments must fit in. Although there is a GST Council made up of representatives of all states, the Central government has established its own sway over it. As it is, the states' fiscal position is dire especially after the pandemic. With the imposition of GST their dependence on the Centre has become even more dire. It is a disastrous move that violates the federal structure of the Constitution. GST has been brought in at the demand of the big corporate sector of the country. It has resulted in the squeezing out of the smaller industrialists and ruin of the small trader. Currently some compensation is being paid by the Centre to state governments for the tax revenue losses. But there is not even a flickering flame there.

Another example of the blossoming autocracy is seen in repeated encroachment on the rights of states enshrined in the Constitution. The four Labour Codes and now repealed three agriculture related laws passed by the Parliament are examples of the same. The Labour Codes subsume 29 existing labour laws. Labour is on the concurrent list, meaning it can be legislated upon by both Centre and States. But the government at the Centre passed the Codes because it was in a hurry to favor the corporate sector by introducing hire and fire policies, fixed term employment, increased working hours and reduced minimum wage norms. It has also been putting pressure on the state governments to frame rules under these Codes so that they can be implemented. The farm laws too dealt with agriculture which is under the states' list. They were repealed earlier this year under immense pressure of the farmers' movement.

CPI MP Writes to President on Anti-minority Outbursts by BJP MP

Communist Party of India national council secretary Binoy Viswam MP wrote the following letter on September 27, 2023 to President of India Droupadi Murmu:

I write to you with deep concern and anguish at one of the most unfortunate incidents that have taken place in the history of our parliamentary democracy. This is regarding the derogatory language that was used by a

parliamentarian in the Lok Sabha during the discussion on "India's glorious space journey marked by successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3". The anti-minority expletives used by BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri against Lok Sabha member Danish Ali have tarnished the reputation of the Indian Parliament.

The founders of independent and democratic India would turn in their grave, seeing our founding

values deteriorate beyond imagination. Dr Ambedkar while drafting the preamble to the Constitution, inserted the word "fraternity". He knew that a democratic society is one that would bind us in a constitutional democracy with the values of fraternity. Secularism is another core foundation of our Republic. However, the language used by Ramesh Bidhuri has left these core values in shreds. This could not and should not be

tolerated in streets, homes and classrooms, let alone in the Parliament. I was in an expectation that such derogation would not be tolerated by Speaker of the House Om Birla, especially when a formal complaint has been sent by both Danish Ali and K Suresh, who was chairing the proceedings when this untoward incident took place. However, to my dismay the Speaker left the incident and Ramesh Bidhuri only with a 'warning'.

As the Head of the State, an integral part of the Parliament and the only functionary whose oath to office explicitly includes the duty to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution", I seek your urgent intervention in the matter. You are the last resort to the crores of Indian who believes in the founding values of equality, fraternity and secularism.

CPI Lauds Role of ISRO, Its Employees

Communist Party of India national council secretary Binoy Viswam MP said on September 20, 2023 that he salutes the scientists, the employees and workers who shed their tears, blood and sweat for the success of Chandrayaan-3. He was participating in the discussion in Rajya Sabha on 'India's glorious space journey marked by successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3'. He said that Chandrayaan-3, of course, is a great victorious moment for the country and for the whole world.

The CPI national council secretary said that before he speaks on the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3, he would like to put on record the unfortunate incident that happened on September 19, that is, on the last day in the old building. On that day, when the House was discussing the 75-year journey of the Indian Parliament, the Communist Party of India, the TDP and the RLD were not allowed to speak. SP was also denied time and the TMC was given only half of the time. This is not the proper way to run a meaningful Parliament. Saying that we talk about great things when it comes to taking action, we forget it. He said he is registering his protest on that incident with all seriousness.

Back to the discussion on India's glorious space journey, Binoy Viswam said that he remembers the moment when a world-renowned scientist Dr Vikram Sarabhai went to a Bishop in Trivandrum. His name was Bishop Pereira. Dr Vikram Sarabhai went to Thumba because of its geographical importance. It

is on the equator and has got some magnitude, which has got some relevance for scientific launching. His plea was to allow him to build a launching base near the church. The Bishop said: "I cannot reply on my own. Please give me some time. Please come tomorrow. I will have a meeting with my people here."

When Dr Vikram Sarabhai reached there the next day in the morning, there was a big gathering. To that gathering, Bishop Pereira said: "He is a world-renowned scientist and has come with a request that he needs some space from our property to have a scientific centre for launching a rocket from here for the country's future." He asked them: "What do you say?" The common people, the fishermen, after one minute silence, said in one voice: 'Amen', which means, we are for that. That was the beginning of Thumba rocket launching station.

The CPI national council secretary said that he had the honour and privilege to visit that centre many a times. He knew many of them right from S Somanath, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Saying that taking all the names is not possible, he said he knew many of them very closely and they are his friends. They are a very good team of people, dedicated and committed for science and the country, and, their contribution is invaluable. They have made a record. That record is the record of human endeavour — collective and dedicated. But it is unfortunate that all those achievements of those people and the scientists are credited to the name of a single man.

He said that though our Prime Minister is great, singing glories for the Prime Minister all the time while talking about Chandrayaan is not a scientific way of dealing with things. Science is for progress, for social progress and also for the progress of the mankind. ISRO has proved that it has the ability to help the country in so many ways. He recalled that many years ago, when he was the forest minister of Kerala, the government discussed with them the issue of forest fires. One of their teams came to the forest headquarters and we sat with

In such a situation, we need the people of the country to be fed properly. They have the right to education and the right to employment, and, for such rights, science can play a great role and that role has to be emphasized. In the name of science, sometimes, we promote superstitions. Saying that the government has come to an understanding that we can replace science with superstition, Binoy Viswam said that science is science, it is not superstition. Cow dung is needed but it is not the fuel for the progress of

fighter who fought throughout her life for women's representation, he supports the Bill. He requested the government to make sure that it will be implemented in 2024 elections.

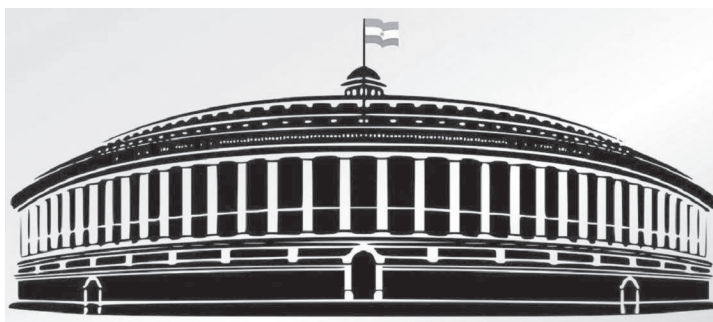
He wanted the government to remove all the hurdles in the name of census or delimitation, ensure that reservation would be extended to Rajya Sabha and to all the state legislative councils. He also wanted the government to take care of the rights of the OBCs and the minorities by granting their rightful share in the present and future law-making bodies.

Binoy Viswam pointed out that the BJP is the most insincere one.

The Bill that they have brought is only for electoral gains. Everyone knows that BJP is the political outfit of the RSS which does not provide space even for a single woman in it. Instead they have formed Rashtriya Sevika Samiti as they do not believe that a woman can sit with a man in the RSS. The BJP and RSS follow the Manu Smriti and believe in 'na sthree swathantryam arhati'. The followers of Manu Smriti cannot be sincere to a Bill for women's empowerment. They are concerned only about electoral victories and for that purpose, they have brought this Bill.

He added that the woman President of India, Draupadi Murmu, was not seen when this House was inaugurated. Since she is a woman and an adivasi, she has no place for that great function. Also under BJP rule, the women of Manipur were paraded naked on the streets. The government has come with

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them for two, three hours. He said he himself had experienced that ISRO team helped the forest department of Kerala to find a possible solution to prevent the forest fires. In such a way, in many aspects of human life, science can help us. ISRO is doing that help.

In this regard, the CPI national council secretary raised the issue of funds given to the ISRO and demanded that the same has to be considered seriously. He requested the government not to neglect the issue of funds and ensure that the funds provided to ISRO are increased as that great institution has to do a lot for the country and its future. India is a country with great advancements but a country of poor people. Though its people are poor, one percent of the population is still controlling 80 percent of the wealth of the country.

the country. Science is the more important than anything else but what was said here was that we are going to the priests to decide the time for launching. It may not be good. Science and not other ways of doing things can help us. We believe that the government has to learn from ISRO. ISRO will help the government to function in a scientific way. Give them the freedom to work scientifically and properly for the way of doing things.

Implement Women's Reservation in 2024 Polls

Participating in the discussion on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Women's Reservation), Binoy Viswam said on September 21, 2023 that on behalf of the Communist Party of India, the party of Geeta Mukherjee, the great

Student Penalised on Ground of Religion

No Quality Education in UP: SC

There cannot be any quality education if a student is sought to be penalised on the ground that he belongs to a particular community, the Supreme Court said September 25, 2023, as it pulled up the Uttar Pradesh government for shoddy probe in a case where a Muslim schoolboy was allegedly slapped by his classmates on the instruction of his teacher in Muzaffarnagar.

Voicing displeasure over the incident, the top court directed the UP government to appoint a senior IPS officer within a week to probe the case. "The teacher asked the students to beat the victim because of his religion. What kind of

education is being imparted?" it said.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal, while directing that the IPS officer shall file a report in the apex court, asked the state government to conduct counselling of the victim and other students involved in the incident by professional counsellors.

"There cannot be any quality education if a student is sought to be penalised on the ground that he belongs to a particular community. There is a prima facie failure on the part of the State to comply with mandatory obligations of RTE Act and relevant rules," the bench said in its order.

It was hearing a plea filed

by Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, seeking speedy investigation in the case.

The top court, which perused the status report filed by the Muzaffarnagar Superintendent of Police, said it has "serious objections" to the manner in which the FIR was registered after a long delay. It said the father of the victim has made specific allegation that his son was beaten in school due to his religious faith.

"The complaint filed by the student's father related to cognizable offences but no FIR was immediately registered. Only a non-cognizable report was filed initially and the FIR was registered after a long delay

on September 6, almost two weeks after the incident. The father's allegations were not mentioned in the FIR... This is about quality education. Quality education includes sensitive education," the bench said.

It recorded in its order that if the allegation is correct, this may be the worst kind of physical punishment imparted by a teacher inasmuch as the teacher directed other students to assault the victim.

Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the UP government, said the communal angle in the case was blown out of proportion. The bench refused to agree with his

submission and said there is a video of the incident. "...it is a very serious issue and we will go deep into it. The manner in which this incident has happened should have shocked the conscience of the State," it said.

The court also took exception to the fact that counselling of the victim was done by the district welfare officer, and said this should have been done by a professional counsellor and that too of all the students involved in the incident.

"Counselling of the students including the victim has to be done by experts. This case should be investigated by a senior IPS officer and we would not let

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What the Others Say...

Climate abdication

In 2019, the UK became the first major economy to pass a law that committed the country to end its carbon emissions by 2050. However, several experts reasoned that this carbon neutrality, or net zero, project was a subterfuge, a way of delaying immediate climate action, especially because the country was not on track to meet its previous less ambitious targets. In response, the then Boris Johnson government decided to advance the ban on new petrol and diesel cars to 2030 — a decade earlier than the UK's previous commitment. But now, Johnson's successor, Rishi Sunak, has gone against the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee, the statutory body responsible for monitoring progress on attaining the net zero target, by pushing back the ban on new fossil fuel-driven cars to 2035. Sunak has maintained that the measure will not stall UK's progress towards net zero.

At the last UNFCCC CoP, Sunak said that the rising energy prices because of the war in Ukraine are not a reason to go slow on climate change mitigation. He had urged countries to invest more heavily in renewable energy. The contradiction between the UK prime minister's stance at the UN meet and his domestic policies indicates a disturbing tendency: Developed country representatives often make the right noises at global summits but they fail to match their words with action at home. On paper, for instance, the US seems better positioned to meet its Paris Pact targets compared to the four years of climate denial under Donald Trump. Yet, independent assessments show nearly two years after Joe Biden signed an order to make America carbon neutral by 2050, the country's emissions trajectory remains uncertain. And now, days after it was party to a landmark G20 declaration that affirmed the bloc's commitment to renewables, the UK has watered down its climate plans.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

The job question

India's bounce-back from the pandemic's economic fallout was fast and sharp. In 2021-22, not only had the GDP of Rs 149.25 lakh crore risen 9.1 per cent over the previous year, it had also surpassed the pre-Covid level. Employment however has been a different story. Azim Premji University's State of Working India 2023 draws together employment-related data from different government reports to show that the resilience of the job market, particularly for women and young graduates, has lagged that of the overall economy.

On the surface, one of the highlights of the employment data has been a sharp rise in both men and women working in the post-Covid phase and a simultaneous decline in the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in 2021-22 was 6.6 per cent, over two percentage points lower than the same in 2019-20. The upward trend in women's employment has been notable. However, a fine-grained analysis by SWI 2023 report showed that there's been a structural deterioration in the nature of women's employment. The jump in women's employment has been driven by self-employment, particularly in the category of unpaid work. Self-employment is generally a fallback option, which suggests that the job market for women may have worsened.

This is corroborated by the inflation-adjusted monthly earnings of the self-employed over the last five years. For sure, the monthly earnings are higher than both 2019-20 and 2020-21. But the monthly earnings of Rs 12,089 in 2021-22 were lower by two cent than the same in 2017-18. There's economic stress underlying the increase in women's participation in the labour force. Little surprise then that political parties are rushing to tailor fiscal policies to provide monthly income support to women in different states! Youth unemployment has long been an area of concern.

For decades, India's structural transformation in the job market has lagged the growth in GDP. The term 'jobless growth' is shorthand for the lack of correlation between growth of GDP and employment. This phenomenon appears to have worsened for women in the post-Covid phase. It's something that deserves more attention as the contribution of women is critical if India wants to be a developed economy.

Courtesy: The Times of India

CPI Demands 50 per cent Reservation for Women

Communist Party of India (CPI) leader K Subbarayan demanded in Lok Sabha fifty per cent reservation for women instead of 33 per cent. He was participating in the discussion on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, namely the Women's Reservation Bill on September 20, 2023.

He said that the stand of CPI is women should be given 50 per cent reservation instead of 33 per cent. Also the CPI is unable to support the Bill as nobody knows when this Act will come into force. Enumeration of census was not done in the year 2021. The government does not know when they would go for the census. Secondly the next census is slated to be enumerated in the year 2031. After the 2024 Elections, there is no assurance whether the bill will be implemented before the year 2029. If that is the case, as per this Act, we can presume that only after the year 2034 the government will be implementing the Act.

The CPI leader pointed out that the ruling BJP dispensation is not actually intending to give more powers to women. It has a mindset to keep women in slavery. The mindset prevailed in the past wanted that when the husband dies, his wife should also be put on the funeral pyre. As an indirect furtherance of this unwanted evil, the government is trying to delay the implementation of the Act indefinitely instead of implementing it in the year 2024.

He pointed out that there is one more important issue. The reservation is only for 15 years. After 15 years, nobody knows what will happen to this reservation.

These lacunae show that the BJP government is not wholeheartedly inclined to give women their rightful share in power.

Such gaps need to be filled. He also urged that the Bill should be amended in such a way making it suitable for implementation from the year 2024 itself. Further it should not have a fixed period of 15 years, which means that the government is not ready to extend women their rightful share in power.

K Subbarayan observed that the Communist Party of India has been tirelessly demanding women's reservation for years. In Lok Sabha then CPI member of Parliament Geetha Mukherjee had tried so much by uniting several MPs to make women's reservation a reality. Such is the tradition of CPI and hence on behalf of CPI, he urged that the Act should be implemented in 2024, after removing the limitations.

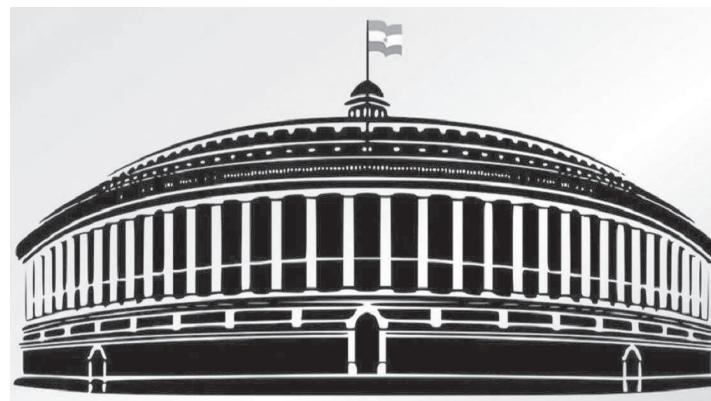
On Success of Chandrayan-3

Participating in the discussion on success of Chandrayan-3 mission and other achievements of our nation in the space sector, on September 21, K Subbarayan said that science liberates humans from superstitions. Superstitions and disbeliefs among human beings create a situation of negativity and negative thoughts all around. Therefore there is an urgent need to liberate humanity from superstitions in our country.

Science will be a helping hand in a very big way.

Thanking Jawaharlal Nehru an unforgettable leader for his visionary thoughts and ideas, the CPI member said that he had laid down the path and direction for the development of our

country. He had sown the seeds, which have now grown to benefit us with Chandrayaan 1, Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3. We are getting new details about moon through the success of these projects. The success



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of Chandrayaan-3 is due to our consistent efforts undertaken during the last 50 years.

K Subbarayan observed that with the success of Chandrayaan mission, all the false disbeliefs about moon have been quashed. Chandrayaan-3 has tried to change the veracity of information about moon so far. All superstitions have been proved wrong. He extended his heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to all the scientists and the supporting staff who have helped to make the mission of Chandrayaan a grand success.

The Constitution of India talks about the scientific temper. But those who took oath and allegiance in the name of Constitution, which talks about scientific temper, are misleading the people with misinformation. In India such a dangerous situation is very much visible. These are the matters which are to be viewed with great concern. We can find solutions to these issues only with the help of science. Measures are to be taken in that direction. India has witnessed a stellar achievement in the field of space science and we are

proud to be Indians. We should once again think with gratitude that only because of the seeds sown by

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, this success was possible for us to achieve. This exalted position has been reached by us because of him.

He said that scientists from Tamil Nadu have played a major role in Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3 projects. They have contributed in depth in all these three projects. India has come to know about the standard of education that prevails in Tamil Nadu through the success stories of Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3. The sharpness and strength of Tamil Nadu in educational development are very much visible now. The success stories of Chandrayaan-1 Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3 have stood as a testimony for looking at Tamil Nadu so closely and with a sense of learning from it.

He urged upon the Union government that science exhibition should be organised in all villages and other places. People should be taught about scientific temper. Only then we can be honest and truthful to our Constitution.

CPI Decries Attack on Cuban Embassy in US

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued on September 26, 2023 the following statement, condemning the terrorist attack on Cuban embassy in the US:

The National Secretariat of the CPI strongly condemns the terrorist attack on the premises of the Cuban Embassy in USA on the night of September 24, 2023, damaging the property very badly. This is not the first time that the Cuban embassy in US was attacked.

The party demands that the US Administration must take strict action against the perpetrators of the attack.

Unite against YSRCP Govt in Andhra Pradesh

Opposition party leaders in Andhra Pradesh urged all political parties, mass organizations and masses in general to come together and build up strong people's movement in order to save democracy in the state. They were taking part in a round table discussion meeting held on September 12, 2023 at Dasari Bhavan, Andhra Pradesh state headquarters of Communist Party of India (CPI).

The meeting was presided over by K Ramakrishna, CPI Andhra Pradesh state council secretary, while Muppalla Nageshwera Rao, assistant secretary of state council welcomed the participants. Donepudi Shankar, party state executive member proposed vote of thanks. R Pitchaiah state treasurer of IPTA had entertained the audience with revolutionary songs.

The round table meeting was held to protest against the suppressive methods of Jaganmohan Reddy government on all political parties and leaders of opposition. YSRCP government led by Jaganmohan Reddy with police support is attacking leaders of political parties and mass organisations. As opposition parties had given a call for statewide bandh, many leaders were taken into custody from railway and bus stations.

K Ramakrishna, CPI state council secretary in his address stated that house arrests have become order of the day. As per our Constitution, any political party can express its dissent and hold protest demonstration. He made it clear that the state government is stating that people's movement should not be build up against the anti-people policies of the government. This is the

manifestation of dictatorship. These suppressive methods cannot be allowed in democracy. Approach of vengeance is main agenda of Jagan Mohan Reddy's police administration.

If the state government feels that anybody has done a fraud, then he or she can be made to face an inquiry with the support of ACB, vigilance cell or CID. But illegal arrests made with mala fide intentions are nothing but



CPI AP state council secretary K Ramakrishna addressing the meeting

injustice. As people are expressing their protests against illegal arrest of IDP leader Chandrababu Naidu, they were arrested and slapped with false charges. He also expressed concern that this is nothing but violation of constitutional rights.

Telegu Desam Party politbureau member Bonda Uma Maheshwera Rao, while addressing stated that if globally reputed company like Siemens has given training to Andhra youth in skill development why allegations are made on it. Any company from abroad will come to Andhra Pradesh. Can leaders of YSRCP government point out that amount invested on skill development was diverted for other purpose except for skill development. In Amaravati project, if fraud would have taken place

Ram Narsimha Rao

Jagan Mohan Reddy would not have been silent all these four years. This is not the issue of any individual or party. This is the issue of all democratic people.

Varla Ramaiah, politburo member of TDP while addressing stated that this incident of illegal arrest of Chandrababu Naidu, leader of opposition, is not less than of dethroning NTR Rama Rao,

the then supremo of TDP. There was massive movement against step of Nadendla Bhaskar Rao. Chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is in political arena with vengeance as his prime objective.

TDP leader and former minister of agriculture Vadde Shobhandreeswar Rao, while addressing made it clear that the arrest of Chandrababu Naidu is in order to make him surrender. Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are helping Jagan Mohan Reddy so that Chandrababu Naidu will surrender. Same tactics is being applied towards Kavitha (TRS) and Mamatha Banerjee in Bengal.

V Srinivasa Rao, state secretary, CPI(M), while addressing stated that the anarchic regime of Jagan Mohan Reddy is supported

by Narendra Modi. But democracy cannot be suppressed in Andhra Pradesh by anybody. In Andhra Pradesh people have to fight against both Narendra Modi and Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Srinivas Reddy, state president, Telugu Rythu, while explaining happenings at the time of Chandrababu Naidu's arrest, stated that police refused to tell the reason why they are arresting him. They said that

without telling the reason they will complete their work.

Lok Satta state leader Bhanu Prasad while addressing stated that police is not in a position against ruling circles and whatever crime they have committed. In the interest of getting promotion, police officers are becoming puppets in the hands of political leaders. In India freedom of expression is having no place though it is mentioned in the Constitution.

Potina Mahesh state spokesman of Janasena Party while addressing stated that Jagan Mohan Reddy regime has started by dismantling Prajavedika. Cases are slapped on individuals even for their posts and writings in Facebook. He is behaving as dictator though he got elected democratically. One has to learn for Jagan

Mohan Reddy to practise corruption.

G Obulesu state general secretary of AITUC, while addressing stated that police are also performing their duties as dictators and in order to stop movements they are putting conditions such as number of participants should not be more than 500. They are restricting the presence of AITUC and CITU leaders as they talk politics. In this situation TDP should speak against BJP.

Nethi Umamaheshwer Rao, state president of Professional Forum, stated that cases must be registered against former IAS & IPS officers, if they are found guilty. In the same way former MLAs and MPs also can be booked. He also has pointed out that Jagan Mohan Reddy seems to be the adopted son of Narendra Modi.

Laxma Reddy, state president, Janavignana Vedika while addressing pointed out that YSRCP government is terrorising the people by stating that Chandrababu is arrested and Ramoji Rao will be arrested soon.

The meeting was also addressed by Akkineni Vanaja national executive committee member of CPI, Penumatsa Durga Bhavani state general secretary of NFIW, Malathi of LokSatta, Shubli, leader of minorities, Puvvada Sudhakar Amaravati JAC, Balakotaiah Dalit JAC Amaravati, Kondalrao, Jaibheem party, Navkranthi party leaders Ravula Subramanyam, Srinivas Rao, Ravulapalli Ravindranath state president of AITUC, Paruchuri Rajendra state president AIYF, Chandranayak state president IPTA, G Koteshwar Rao, city secretary of CPI.

Unemployment Time Bomb Hidden in So-called Indian ‘Economic Miracle’

An unemployed youth runs behind the car of the Indian Prime minister to seek a job. Too few jobs, too many workers and ‘no plan B’: The time bomb hidden in India’s ‘economic miracle’. Hope the Indian youth will defuse the ticking time bomb in 2024 and also defuse the myth and false promise last time that the ruling regime will provide two crore jobs every year to the youth. A new survey come out with a fact finding report that a large 42 per cent of Indian youth remain unemployed. Apart from this, the report—published by Azim Premji University—even mentions that the connection between growth and good jobs remains weak. Youth unemployment in the country is climbing sharply, a development that risks undermining the new darling of the world economy at the very moment it was expected to really take off.

This is the situation despite the claim by the BJP RSS ruled Union government that the Indian economic is growing speedily, the unemployment rate among graduates under 25 years of age touched a huge 42 per cent post-Covid, compared to higher secondary (21.4 per cent), secondary (18.1 per cent), middle (15 per cent) and others, according to a report.

Post-Covid the unemployment rate is lower than it was pre-Covid, for all education levels. But it remains above 15 per cent for graduates and more worryingly it touches a huge 42 per cent for graduates under 25 years,” the report – State of Working India 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes.

The report mentioned that since 1990s year-on-year non-farm GDP growth and non-farm employment growth were uncorrelated with each other. However, the conception of job creation changed between

2004 and 2019 as it was interrupted by the pandemic which caused larger growth in distress employment.

The unemployment rate falls from over 40 per cent for educated youth under 25 years of age to less than 5 per cent for graduates who are 35 years and above, indicating that eventually graduates do find jobs. However, the key questions are, what is the nature of jobs they find and do these match their skills and aspirations?

On the issue of female employment, the report states that it rose since 2019 due to a distress-led increase

As per the caste based segregation issue, the report stated that Scheduled Caste workers declined rapidly over time in waste-related work and leather-related work, though it has not been eliminated as of 2021-22.

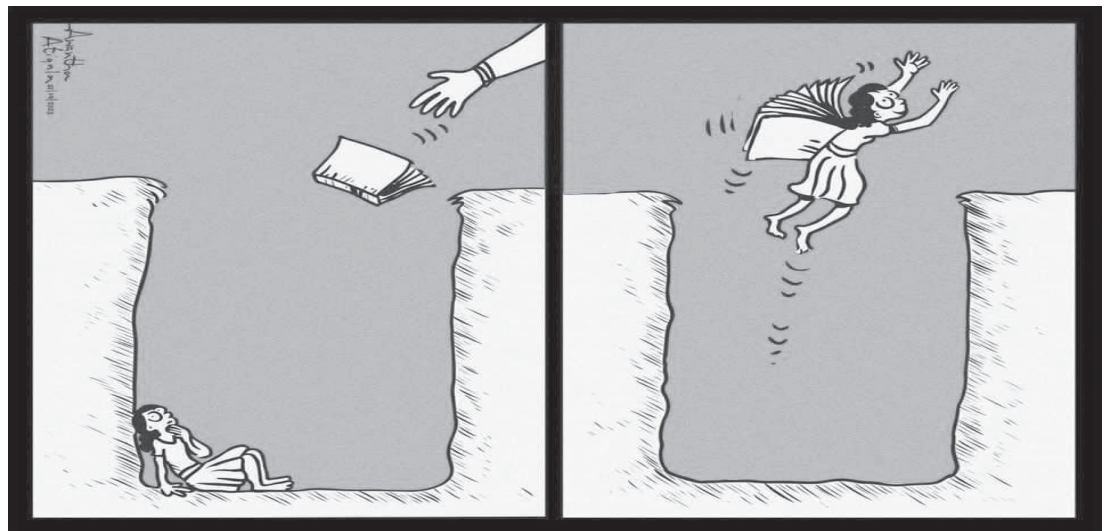
In the leather industry, the representation index declined sharply to 1.4 in 2021. In waste management and sewerage, over-representation of SCs decreased to 1.6 times in 2011 before increasing slightly again, as per the report.

Also, the report mentioned that lower-caste entrepreneurs are still rare.

are currently vacant, the Union education ministry.

According to the minister, 7,033 posts are sanctioned for SC, ST and OBC candidates in central universities. Of these, 3,007 posts remain vacant as on July 1. The minister shared the information in the Lok Sabha as part of a written response to a query on the number of reserved teaching posts which are lying vacant in central varsities.

Pradhan said that while 46 per cent (1,665) of the posts for OBCs are vacant, 37 per cent (837) and 44 per cent (505) are yet to be filled



in self-employment. Before Covid, 50 per cent of women were self-employed, but post Covid this rose to 60 per cent. Even two years after the 2020 lockdown, self-employment earnings were only 85 per cent of what they were in the April-June 2019 quarter, according to the report.

Looking at a similar point of view, the report mentioned gender norms continue to be significant for women’s employment. It said that compared to households with no mother-in-law present, married women living in households where the mother-in-law is present but not employed are 20 per cent (rural) to 30 per cent (urban) less likely to be employed. While, if the mother-in-law is employed herself, daughters-in-law are 50 per cent (rural) to 70 per cent (urban) more likely to be employed.

The report found that even in the smallest firm sizes, SC and ST owners are under-represented compared to their share in the overall workforce. However, SC and ST owners are barely represented among firms employing more than 20 workers.

Near to 50 per cent reserved teaching posts vacant in central universities

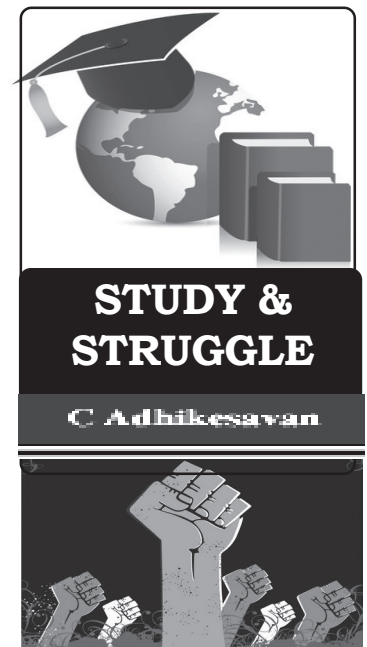
Over 42 per cent of teaching posts reserved for candidates from SCs, STs and OBCs across 45 central universities are currently vacant, as per the report of the Union education ministry. Over 42 per cent of teaching posts reserved for candidates from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) across 45 central universities

by SC and ST candidates, respectively.

Responding to another question on the overall vacancies in central universities, the minister replied that as on July 1, 22,412 of the 54,512 sanctioned posts in 45 central universities, running on regular mode under the purview of the education ministry, remain unfilled.

According to the BJP RSS Union government, the vacancies arise due to retirement, resignation and additional requirements on account of enhanced students’ strength. Central universities have been directed to fill up vacancies as and when arising, according to the minister.

The minister also said that through special recruitment drives, 6,087 posts have been filled up so far as per



the Department of Personnel and Training’s Mission Recruitment Portal.

The Union minister also said that 517 candidates were hired this year under the reserved category. Of them, 285 were OBCs, 150 SCs and 82 STs.

DU college sacks six ad-hoc professors

A Delhi University college has sacked six senior-most ad-hoc teachers had been working at the college for the past 23 years and the junior-most for 9 years. Some of the fresh but unsuccessful candidates said off the record that their interviews lasted just around five minutes. The intention of the Union government is very clear that it want to destroy the public sector educational institutions just to increase the private and commercial participation by infiltrating the inferior teachers.

Satyawati (Evening) College had advertised 16 posts in its Hindi department, where 11 ad-hoc faculty members worked. Following interviews between September 1 and 16, six of the ad-hoc teachers were rejected, five were appointed as regular teachers, and 11 fresh candidates were recruited. The development comes amid allegations from some teachers that the ongoing appointment process in DU colleges has been favouring “recommendations” and “networking” over ability and experience.

Radha Mohan Gokulji: Among Organizers of CPI Foundation Conference in 1925

Very few people are aware of the name of Radha Mohan Gokulji as one of the founders of CPI in its conference in Kanpur in 1925. He is an almost forgotten name now. He was among the leading organizers of this conference along with Satyabhakta, Maulana Hasrat Mohani, Arjun Lal Sethi and others, who practically constituted the organizing and reception committee of the conference.

Early Life

Radha Mohan Gokulji was born on December 15, 1865 in Gopalganj, Allahabad, under Bhadari state in Oudh (now in UP). His ancestors came from Khetri in Jaipur estate in Rajasthan. They were Agrawal Singhanias, and perhaps migrated more than 250 years ago due to loss of property and poverty. One of them worked as Poddar for Bhadari Maharaja. The place is related with Raja Rana Beni Madhav Singh, who rose in revolt in 1857 against the British rule and held the area for several days. His father was Lala Gokul Chand.

Radha Mohan got his initial education in a Buddhist Vihar nearby at the age of six. There he learnt Hindi. Following this, he was educated by Maulvi Fida Hussain. Then his father came to Shahzadpur, district Allahabad, and later shifted to Kanpur for studies, staying with his uncle. Radha Mohan was married at the age of 13. He got his further education in Agra in 1878 in St John's Collegiate. He studied English there.

Radha Mohan perhaps added his father's name and became Radha Mohan Gokulji.

In 1884 he had to leave Agra due to the collapse of his father's personal business, and he went to Allahabad seeking some job. He got the job of apprentice in accounts department at Rs

20 per month. But he clashed with a British employee, whom he beat and left the job after about nine months. Vowing never to work again under the British, he went home. He burnt all his certificates. This was in July 1886.

He also took up social reform work in Agra. He participated in a 'Shuddhi' rites of a Muslim in Arya Samaj, which was occasioned by distribution of sweets. This was resented by the orthodox people but Radha Mohan insisted on eating the sweets. He also began to propagate in favour of the widow marriage on behalf of the Arya Samaj.

In 1885 he took a share of Rs 25 in 'Swadeshi Vyapar Company' in Allahabad. Since then he always wore swadeshi cloth.

Under Congress Influence

It was in 1885 that the Indian National Congress was founded in Bombay. A meeting to report about it was held in Shivrakhan Pathshala, Johnsonganj, Allahabad under the chairmanship of Pt Sunderlal and addressed by Pt Madan Mohan Malviya. About 15 persons attended, including Radha Mohan. The meeting had a deep impact on his mind.

Then he had to shift to Riwa to find a job but fell a victim to malaria and returned to Kanpur. There he started working in a journal called 'Brahmin'

edited by Pt Pratap Narain.

In Calcutta

He reached Calcutta in the course of his work and gave tuition to some Marwari boys. He also joined the community in business and got acquainted with Jugal Kishore Birla, who was doing lot of social reform work under the Arya Samaj. Radha Mohan began to publish a journal named 'Satya Sanatan Dharma' in 1908, which did lot of reform work. It was a reformist reply to the the orthodox 'Shri Sanatan Dharma'.

Follower of Lajpat Rai

He studied a lot of nationalist literature and came under the influence of Lajpat Rai's views. He later wrote a biography of Lala Lajpat Rai.

In the meantime, he first lost his wife, then his daughter, and then his only son, a 16 year old boy, in 1901. He was in dire straits. He was being pressurised to remarry, but he said he would marry only a widow. Nobody agreed to that. He never married again. He first went to Gurgaon and then to Mathura during this time.

Writing Extensively

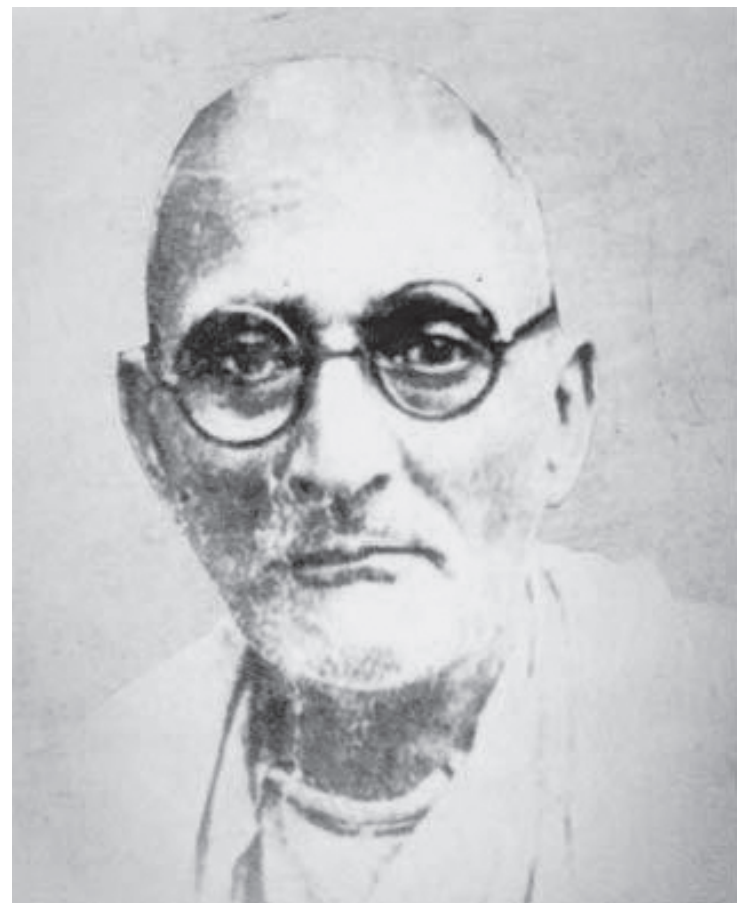
Radha Mohan wrote 'Desh ka Dhan' (wealth of nation) in 1908. It was a serious critique of colonial economy and sharply criticized the colonial exploitation. He emphasized the role of labour. He wrote 'Niti Darshan' in 1912, outlining social welfare measures to improve society. Later he wrote his famous work 'Communism Kya Hai' (What is Communism).

After the Kakori incident, in which Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah and others were

arrested, it was Radha Mohan who, on the basis of practical information and knowledge, reorganized the whole organization. He sent Vijay Kumar Sinha to Chandrashekhar Azad in Jhansi and called him to his residence. He was in active

of communism as well as with the details of Russian revolution and its theory and practice. This book played a big role in training up the revolutionaries of those years.

Later on, the police discovered some 150 copies



contact with such revolutionaries as Sachindranath Sanyal and others.

Radha Mohan left a deep imprint on the women's movement too. He was a great advocate of women's rights and worked tirelessly for widow remarriage and against obscurantism. His ideas, as also others, contributed to the formation of 'Bhartiya Mahila Samiti' in 1917.

Bhagat Singh also met him later on and exchanged opinions on communism. Radha Mohan had written 'What is Communism?' in Hindi in 1924, which became very popular. This was published by Satyabhakta in Brahman Press, Kanpur. It dealt extensively with principles

of this book in Agra and seized them. They could be retrieved only much later.

He also arranged arms and ammunition for the revolutionaries and money too.

In Gandhian Movement

Radha Mohan joined the non-cooperation movement in 1921. He began to live at Satyagraha, or Asahayog, Ashram, Nagpur under the influence of Pt Sunderlal. In between he wrote a number of biographies such as of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Napoleon Bonaparte and others. The life of Napoleon was written for Nagari Pracharini Sabha.

He was also briefly associated with Hindu

Mahasabha.

Foundation of CPI in Kanpur, 1925, and Gokulji

In 1923, Satyabhakta joined Radha Mohan Gokulji in bringing out the journal 'Pranvir' from Nagpur. Pranvir published the first quarterly report of the 'Indian Communist Party', established by Satyabhakta in Kanpur. It was signed by Satyabhakta as secretary. It said that there were 78 members of the party, mostly from Kanpur and UP. Among its prominent members, he mentioned

journals. He was widely known as a leading literary figure.

Poet Nirala considered him his first political Guru. Writing about him, Premchand said that he was a 'Modern Charvak'. According to Premchand, he was among those few who wrote fearlessly on religious, social, moral and political issues. He was against all kinds of social and religious obscurantism. He wrote a series beginning with 'Expulsion of God' in Hindi journal 'Madhuri', which ran continuously for eight years.

library that Shiv Verma took Marx's Communist Manifesto and read out to Chandrashekhar Azad.

The Kanpur foundation conference of CPI elected a Central Executive Committee, of which Radha Mohan Gokulji was an elected member. The CEC held its first meeting on December 28. It decided upon the in-charges for various provinces. Radha Mohan Gokulji and Muzaffar Ahmed were made responsible for Bengal. They were made provincial secretaries to organize

morning. Shiv had seen him in 1925 at the time of the Congress session in Kanpur. Shiv was disappointed with this meeting. But his next meeting was quite warm, and Gokulji asked a number of questions, personal as well as political. He gave him 'Communism kya Hai?'

Shiv Verma had earlier read one or two books on Marxism including 'Samyavaad' by Ram Chandra Verma written in 1918. Gokulji's book was very simple and educative. Gokulji asked him a number of questions while taking back his book returned by Shiv, including 'What is communism?'. Their mutual contacts increased, and Shiv became a firm Marxist and a Communist. Gokulji became his teacher of sorts on Marxism. It was at the house of Gokulji that Shiv first met Chandrashekhar Azad. Gokulji also helped Shiv Verma and others to buy two foreign made pistols from Rajasthan. His friend Fateh Bahadur brought the pistols hidden in a pillow. One was used by Mani Banerjee to shoot SP CID of Allahabad Banerjee, and the other was used by Bhagat Singh to kill Saunders. The same pistol was seized from Bhagat Singh at the time of assembly bomb case.

Gokulji also visited Nepal to meet Raja Mahendra Pratap but failed to meet him. In the course of Meerut Conspiracy Case, the police raided the house of the younger brother of Gokulji in Agra. They could not find anything except copies of Communism Kya Hai?. Radha Mohan was out of the town. He was arrested in 1930 and was sent to Kanpur Jail. He was released in 1932 and made Hamirpur his area of work. He fell seriously ill in jail due to stomach problems like dysentery, etc. This

continued till his death in 1935.

He wrote extensively in journals like Pranvir, Matvala, Manorama, Maharathi, Navyug, etc.

Last Days

Radha Mohan Gokulji spent his last days in Khohi village in Hamirpur district near Kanpur. A small school was started in 1933 by Swami Brahmanand and Vrindavan Singh among small hills and greenery.

In fact, the school was a cover for several social and revolutionary activities. Youth were recruited and revolutionary underground propaganda carried on. Arms were acquired and bombs made. Police later on discovered the place.

In his '70s, Radha Mohan organized a group of youth around himself. He visited the nearby villages and gathered students to teach. Among the literature, he also taught them Pt Nehru's 'Letters from father to his daughter'. People helped by sending money by money orders. Many students and teachers stayed in the school itself and cooked and ate collectively.

Police got suspicious of Radha Mohan's activities. It was reported that a Baba in sadhu's attire was organizing the youth and training them in bomb making. The Collector called him. He went on a pony through bad roads despite not feeling well. On return he fell ill with diarrhea and dysentery.

He died after about 10 days on September 3, 1935. He was a firm atheist, but at the time of his death he uttered the words 'Hey Ram'. He was buried in the fields near Khohi. Now this site is in shambles. Dainik Vishvamitra published news of his death with a big photo of his.

Such a rare personality was associated with CPI's foundation. ■

Biographies of Communist Leaders-95

Anil Rajimwale

Maulana Hasrat Mohani, Radha Mohan Gokulji, Rama Shankar Awasthi (editor, Vartman), Ram Gopal Vidyalankar (editor, Pranvir) and others.

It is little known that Radha Mohan was among the leading organizers of the first Communist conference, along with Satyabhakta, Maulana Hasrat Mohani and others. He was called to Kanpur by Satyabhakta in 1924 to work in the 'Indian Communist Party'. During his stay in Kanpur, Radha Mohan studied Marx, Engels, Lenin, Proudhon, Bakunin etc. He became a firm rationalist. By this time, Radha Mohan had assimilated many basic concepts of communism. He had already written What is Communism, which contained explanations of Marxist concepts.

Radha Mohan had written a number of books particularly in literature as also on Marxism. He wrote and edited a number of

According to Dr Ram Vilas Sharma, Radha Mohan raised the demand for the agricultural labourer becoming owner of the land he tilled. He was also intensely against imperialism and communalism. Vijay Kumar Sinha wrote that Radha Mohan's life was closely related with this phase of communist movement. He suggested that the section on Communist movement be published separately, particularly in English.

According to Devi Dutt Joshi of Agra University, Radha Mohan was among the first in India to propagate Communist ideas through the medium of Hindi language to the masses. The famous revolutionary associate of Bhagat Singh and a well-known Communist Shiv Verma quotes Satyabhakta to the effect that Radha Mohan and Maulana Hasrat Mohani contributed most to the success of Kanpur Communist conference. It was from Radha Mohan's

provincial committees in their respective provinces.

His contact with the organized Communist movement and CPI was short-lived. He had a mixture of ideas. After 1926, he along with some members of Satybhakta's Kanpur group tried to form a Hindi Samyavadi Party. This obviously did not survive. He then took up active social work.

Contact with Shiv Verma

Shiv Verma met Gokulji first in December 1926 through Vijaya Kumar Sinha, the famous revolutionary belonging to Bhagat Singh group. Gokulji was staying those days in Karachi Khana in Kanpur among a workers' chawl-type place, with two rooms. Workers used to stay in the rooms in the lower floor and Gokulji himself in the upper floor.

He was cutting vegetables when Shiv Verma and Vijay arrived in the

No Quality Education...

From Page 04

it to be watered down. We also want to know when the charge sheet will be filed and what protection is given to the witnesses and the victim," the bench told Nataraj, and asked him to file a report.

It said the state must take responsibility for the education of the child as "it is a case of violation of the fundamental right of the child and the rules framed by UP for the right to free and compulsory education".

The bench said the IPS officer, to be appointed by the state government, should also go into the question of whether section 153A of IPC

(promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language) should be invoked.

Referring to the provisions of Right to Education Act and the corresponding rules, which prohibit mental and physical harassment of students and their discrimination, the bench said under the Act, the local authority is required to ensure that no child is subjected to caste, class, religious, or gender abuse or discrimination in school.

"So, there cannot be any religious abuse in a school," the Court observed and added: "The State will have

to answer the important question as to what facilities it will extend to the victim of the offence under the RTE Act for his quality education as per the Act. The State cannot expect the child to continue in the same school."

It also rejected Nataraj's submission that the petitioner has invoked his status of great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi in the petition and said it can even treat the petition as a suo motu proceeding, considering the fact that it raises allegations of state inaction and violation of fundamental rights.

"In a case like this, the state should not be concerned with the locus of

the petitioner, inasmuch as this is a case where not only was the criminal law process not set in motion, but there was a violation of fundamental rights and RTE Act," it said.

The top court also impleaded the secretary of UP Education Department as a party to the case and sought a report from him on counselling of the students and better educational facilities for the victim. The bench said after looking at all the reports on October 30, it will consider whether any further directions are required to be issued. It also directed the state government to place on record the detailed guidelines laid down by the

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) about imposing physical punishment on students.

The Muzaffarnagar Police had booked the teacher accused of making communal comments and allegedly ordering her students to slap a Muslim classmate for not doing his homework.

The school was also served a notice by the state education department in connection with the matter. The teacher was booked after a video showed her allegedly asking students to slap the Class 2 boy in Khubbapur village and also making a communal remark.

CPI Lauds Role of ISRO...

From Page 03

the Bill with so many hurdles — census and delimitation. He recalled a story where a fox is invited for a dinner where the fox is served soup on a large plate. The fox could not sip a single drop of the soup. The same thing could happen with the bill, which is not meant for empowerment of women but is only for BJP's electoral purpose. The country knows it and people will defeat BJP when the elections happen.

On Science Policy

Participating in the discussion on 'India's Glorious space journey marked by successful soft landing of Chandrayan-3' CPI national executive member Sandosh Kumar P said on September 20, 2023 that he joins the members of this august House to congratulate those scientists and workers who made this spectacular achievement. There is no point in making a lengthy speech. Congress

member Jairam Ramesh has made an absolutely brilliant speech on how mesmerizing is the history of the Indian space science. It all started with the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, who had friendship with Albert Einstein and many other scientists.

Saying that he is from Kerala, the CPI leader pointed out that it was a state which introduced science policy in the year 1972 for the first time in the history of India. But unfortunately the minister concerned when asked about the Indian state that introduced the science policy for the first time, the answer was very shocking. The minister stated that it was Gujarat in the year 2018. This shows how the ruling dispensation is creating new history. They are absolutely disconnected with history and reality. In their mad rush to praise Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they even forget former Prime Minister AB Vajpayee.

Sandosh Kumar P requested the chairman to kindly correct that answer because it was CPI leader C Achutha Menon, one of the great statesmen of this country, who introduced the first science policy in the country, and not in Gujarat in 2018. It is absolutely contrary to the facts. It is important to note that our country is moving forward and in the coming years, we will achieve more and more things.

Science and technology is not the monopoly of anyone. Science and technology will continue. There is no point in comparing the speeds of Lunar Mission, Aditya and Chandrayaan. The minister was comparing the speeds of Lunar Mission, Aditya and Chandrayaan. Time has changed and technology has changed. Obviously, new technology will help us move forward. That reality has to be accepted. It is not because of the political leadership. Political

leadership has an important role to play but don't undermine history, don't eclipse the contributions of others.

Govt's Sincerity on Reservation Doubtful

Participating in the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, Sandosh Kumar P said on September 21 that the CPI has always stood for the empowerment of women. Leaders like Geeta Mukherjee were instrumental in bringing women's reservation. Now, the important question is whether the government is serious in implementing this Bill. It is linking both Census and delimitation with this Bill. The Union minister who brought this Bill was explaining many things, but he did not explain the connection of this Bill with the Census and delimitation.

He wanted to know the problem in implementing the reservation in the coming elections. We have 542 Lok Sabha seats and 181 can be given. The country wants to

know the problem that is preventing the government from implementing this legislation and making it practical in the coming elections. He wanted to bring to the notice of the government that there is a case pending in the Supreme Court of India which was initiated by one of the prominent women's organisations in India, namely, National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW). That case is pending and all political parties have been made a party to it. The government of India and almost all states are also part of that case. When last time the Supreme Court asked for the steps taken by the Union government, the counsel representing the Union Government was absolutely defenceless.

The Bill in fact is a face-saving mission. India is a country which stands at 140th rank in a world report on women's role in politics that has recently come out. We wholeheartedly support this Bill, but we sincerely doubt the intention of the government. ■

Fall in Job Creation Shows Economic Distress

The era of joblessness that began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi assuming his second term in 2019, has been worsening with the substantial decrease in regular job creation. Coupled with high prices and inflation, the situation pushed people into unprecedented economic distress that led rise in self-employment rather than the so-called economic growth that the government has been boasting about.

The most recent study by Azim Premji University titled "State of Working India 2023" says that the pace of regular wage job creation has decreased due to the growth slowdown and the pandemic. The gender-based earning disparities have stagnated since 2017 when women were earning 76 percent as wage in comparison to men workers.

The connection between growth and good jobs remains weak, the study found, suggesting that "policies promoting faster growth need not promote faster job creation." Decent employment growth was faster between 2004 and 2019, as well as the share of workers with regular wage or salaried work, grew from 18 percent to 25 percent for men and 10 to 25 percent for women. However, since 2019, both have plummeted to 20 percent for women. Post-covid, the unemployment rate remains above 15 percent for graduates and more worrying it touches a huge 42 percent for graduates under 25.

After falling or being stagnant since 2004, female employment rates (Women's Participation Rate or WPR is short) have risen since 2019, but for the wrong reasons. Since 2019, the increase in rate has been

due to a rise in self-employment which was led by economic distress, not by economic growth. Before Covid, 50 percent of women were self-employed. After Covid, this rose to 60 percent. As a result, earnings from self-employment declined in real terms over this period. Even two years after the 2020 lockdown, self-employment earnings were only 85 percent of what they were in the April-June 2019 quarter.

The study has found that SC and ST entrepreneurship are still rare. SC and ST owners of enterprises are barely represented among firms employing more than

Dr Gyan Pathak

others. As of 2021-22, around 22 percent of SC workers were regular wage as compared to 32 percent of others. However, 40 percent of SC workers were in casual employment as compared to only 13 percent for others. SC workers have been increasingly moving from agriculture into construction, which has remained the principal source of casual work.

The employment structure varies far more across gender and caste identities than it does across religion, the study says. It is

employment elasticity, which is far lower than the developing country average. The most recent period (2017-2021) is an exception to the trend. Growth significantly slowed down but employment rose sharply. The study concluded based on this government data that growth and employment have been uncorrelated. However, other sources suspect the data itself and question – how can employment rise when economic growth slows down? Yes, it can happen due to faulty ways of counting employment and unemployment in the country.

The unemployment

34, unemployment among graduates and above was as high as 9.8 percent.

The study raises a pertinent question while pointing out that graduates eventually find jobs, but what is the nature of the jobs they find, and do these match their skills and aspirations? More research is needed on this important topic, the study suggests.

The majority of women remain outside the workforce in India due to supply and demand side challenges, the study pointed out. Female Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR) in almost all states of the country lie below the line of best fit, which means female LFPRs are lower than predicted for their level of per capita GDP. Even if gender norms change and are no longer a barrier for women to undertake paid work, there remains the question – are there enough jobs? The study finds several pieces of evidence negatively impacting female LFPR.

Between 2017 and 2021, there was a slowdown in overall regular wage job creation but formal jobs (with a written contract and benefits) as a share of all regular wage work rose from 25% to 35%. In 2020-21 (pandemic year) regular wage employment fell by 2.2 million. But this net change hides an increase in formal employment by 3 million and a loss of about 5.2 million of semi and informal regular wage employment. While half of the lost employment is accounted for by women, only a third of the increase in formal employment accrued to women. So, in net terms, women lost out on formal employment in this period. Not only that, there was a shift towards self-employment due to distress.



20 workers. Correspondingly, upper caste overrepresentation increases with firm size.

Before 2019, economic growth pulled people out of agriculture and the share of regular salaried workers rose. But women left the workforce and informality levels remain a concern. Although the share of non-agricultural employment rose, it was not matched by a similar increase in the share of regular wage employment or employment in the organized sector.

The caste analysis shows that SC workers are far more likely to be in casual employment compared to

worth noting that Muslims are less likely to hold regular wage jobs and more likely to be in own-account or casual wage work over the entire four-decade period after controlling for education, household size, state, and other relevant factors. It may be recalled that persistent underrepresentation in regular wage work was noted in the Sachar Committee Report of 2006. It continues to be a matter of concern, the study emphasized.

In the non-farm sector in India, output consistently grew much faster than employment, which resulted in a steady fall in the

scenario is disturbing for educated youth, the study has pointed out, though it is still high among all below 25 years of age. Quoting the government PLFS data for 2021-22, the study highlighted the unemployment rate among illiterate at 13.5 percent, literate but below primary 10.6, Primary or middle 15, secondary 18.1, higher secondary 21.4, and graduate and above 42.3 percent. For youth between 25 and 29 years of age unemployment among higher secondary was at 10.6 and among graduates and above was 22.8 percent. Even at the ages of 30 and

Call to Defeat...

From Page 15

dissent and these rights find place in Indian Constitution. These rights are under attack in various garbs.

It is the paramount duty of the working class to protect these rights for themselves and for the whole society.

The initiatives by the trade unions to build bridges with the farmers are positive developments, the meeting had noted. In this background while discussing the activities conducted in the reporting period, it was noted that the programmes conducted on the joint call from the platform of Central Trade Unions on August 9, the historic day of Quit India movement against British colonial rule and

supported by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha set the direction of the working class to take headlong the anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national policies of Narendra Modi led RSS-BJP government.

The General Council expressed its satisfaction on the successful holding of the All India Joint Convention of Workers and Farmers held on August 24 at Talkatora Stadium with participation of 7,000 delegates from ten central trade unions, dozens of sectoral Federations and Associations of the organised and unorganized sectors and about 32 farmers organizations under the banner of Samyukt Kisan Morcha. This joint

convention of the movements of two significant productive forces of the country is historic and its message must percolate down.

October 3, 2023 would be observed as black day in all the districts of India with protests at district headquarters jointly by workers and farmers. This is the day when the son of the home minister for state crushed farmers under his jeep in Lakhimpur Kheri. It was an attempt to kill the democratic rights of people who raise their voice against injustice. The government should be thoroughly exposed of its designs to kill any opposition, the right to dissent and freedom of expression.

This will be followed by yatras and campaign programmes for the success

of next programme of action as Mahapadav at Raj Bhawans all over India for three days from November 26 to 28, 2023. The date of beginning of Mahapadav is November 26 when in 2020 on this day trade unions went on nationwide general strike on their demands and the farmers started their march towards Delhi against three farm laws imposed on them along with other demands.

Several resolutions were adopted on the pressing issues of the workers and common masses. The council adopted a resolution calling upon the working class to extend support to opposition alliance INDIA in the forthcoming elections and placed its demands to be included by the alliance into their commitments to working masses.

The meeting resolved to observe October 31 AITUC

Foundation Day in grand manner with full vigour to pledge to work hard side by side with the other toiling masses to salvage India from the fascist forces.

Our commitment to carry forward the decisions National Convention of Workers on January 30, 2023 and All India Joint Convention of Workers and Farmers on August 24, 2023, their message to fight the anti-worker, anti-farmer, anti-people and anti-national policies of the RSS-BJP government, to carry the message to all nook and corner of the country, to expose the real face of the government for the people to dethrone this ruthless tyrant regime needs to be fulfilled with all sincerity.

Defeat RSS-BJP Government! Save Nation, Save People!! ■

No Solution to Ailments....

From Front Page

elections was entirely democratic and legitimate form of the will of the people. This break itself is evident enough that in a federal parliamentary democracy, holding simultaneous elections for the House of the People and state assemblies may have a restrictive effect on the franchise and verdict of the people, as different states may throw different results unaligned with the results for the Union.

Post the demolition of the Babri Masjid, four state governments were dismissed by the President citing failure of constitutional machinery. Though the CPI is in opposition of President's rule on a principled basis, many have demanded President's rule in Manipur looking at the complete collapse of administration in the state. The proposal being pushed has no mechanism for dealing with such a situation, except to perpetuate un-democracy in the states.

One major reason being offered for the desirability of 'One Nation, One

Elections' is financial. Heavy premium is being posed on the idea as it will save the expenditure involved in holding elections by thousands of crores of rupees. Election expenses from the State are those involved in setting up polling booths, payment of TA/DA to personnel, transport arrangements, purchase of ink, etc. It is being argued that holding simultaneous elections will significantly reduce, or may halve these expenditures. However, data sourced from the Election Commission of India tells us very clearly that electoral expenses are not simple variables and should be studied carefully before making such sweeping generalized remarks.

For example, in Andhra Pradesh, simultaneous elections took place in 2014 and the average cost per assembly constituency was Rs 1.66 crores. In another large state, Madhya Pradesh, elections to the Lok Sabha and state assembly were held separately and the combined cost was Rs 1.43 crore per constituency.

Simultaneous elections or separate, the difference is small and 'One Nation, One Elections' is no panacea for electoral expenses or malpractices, except that it curtails people's democratic franchise.

Further, 'One Nation, One Election' is also going to have fixed costs that may outweigh the financial prudence argument. To hold simultaneous elections, the procurement of EVMs on an unprecedented scale itself is a large expenditure apart from their safe storage for a five years period. It is illogical to keep the EVMs locked for five years when they can be used to conduct elections in different states and local bodies, just for the sake of saving money which is not guaranteed at all. What our country needs are comprehensive electoral reforms aimed at free and fair elections, not Narendra Modi's shallow solutions. One reason being cited is reduced expenditure on account of political parties, without considering available options like state funding of elections as recommended by the Indrajit Gupta

Committee.

We must put an end to institutionalized corruption in the form of electoral bonds and should frame better laws to curtail money and muscle power in elections. A few enthusiastic supporters have also expressed the far-fetched expectation that 'One Nation, One Election' will reduce the instance of hate speech, since fewer rallies mean fewer instances of hate speech. The claim is only worthy of ridicule since instead of recommending stringent punishments for those who indulge in hate speech, it aims to curtail the number of interactions people have with political leaders. The bias of media houses is damaging the free flow of information that needs tackling, not homogenizing elections.

It is disturbing to see that the Union government has completely morphed into a political party perpetually concerned about elections. The majority of 2019 is being abused to turn our democracy into an electoral autocracy. For all the claims of sweeping changes, all of Narendra Modi's grand designs have been spectacular failures and have

unleashed great misery upon the people. Demonetization destroyed our economy and the faulty GST has caused the demise of hundreds of small producing units. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party have ably shown their concern for elections and democratic franchise in the case of Jammu and Kashmir where people are without any democratic representation from 2019 itself.

Coming together of parties with secular, democratic and patriotic values has made the BJP restless. INDIA has got under Narendra Modi's skin. BJP can see the threat to its continuation in office from the unity of democratic people. 'One Nation, One Election' and changes in the manner Chief Election Commissioner is appointed, taken together, are not BJP's answer to any of the ailments of the present electoral system. It demands comprehensive electoral reform including proportional representation and level playing field to the political parties. One Nation, One Election is a desperate attempt of BJP to remain in power and continue with trampling democracy. ■

Communist Youth Festival – An Awe-Inspiring Political Event Concludes in Athens

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

The three-day 49th Communist Youth Festival, which has been inspiring the youth populations across the world has concluded its final day session in Athens on September 23, 2023. Young Communists around the world participate and share their economic, social and political values among the youth. The communist youth of Greece (KNE) organised the huge worldwide programme.

Thousands of people of every age, from every corner of Athens but also from other cities, attended the events of the first day which included music concerts, political discussions, stand-up comedy and other activities.

Among the events, the first day on September 21 of the Festival was marked by music concerts given by popular artists, including concerts dedicated to Mikis Theodorakis, poet and playwright Iakovos Kampanelis, popular composer Manolis Chiotis, Asia Minor, etc. An emotional event was held in memory of communist actor and former KKE MP, Kostas Kazakos, who died a week ago.

Numerous visitors attended the political event titled “The imperialist war in Ukraine and the stance of the communists”, with the keynote speaker being Eliseos Vagenas, head of the International Relations Section of the CC of the KKE. Other speakers included Ivan Zakorov on behalf of the Revolutionary Communist Youth League of Russia (Bolsheviks), while a statement of the youth wing of the Union of Communists of Ukraine was read. At the side-lines of the event, Frixos Brouzgos, member of the CC of the KNE, presented the new booklet of KNE’s ideological committee under the title “Truths and Lies for

Capitalism” which focuses on the imperialist war.

It must be noted that 35 representatives of Communist Youths and Anti-imperialist youth organizations are participating in this year’s festival in Athens. The kiosks of the foreign delegations, which attract the interest of the festival’s visitors, are located in the so-called “International City” in the heart of Tritis Park.

Under the slogan “The new generation with KKE for the big, the beautiful, the sensational” (N. Beloyannis)- Socialism, the answer in the 21st century”,

KNE-Odigitis festival. The major slogan of this year’s festival was “With the KKE, for Socialism, so that the light vanquish the darkness”, inspired by communist poet Nazim Hikmet.

The festival included numerous political and cultural activities, including music concerts by some of the country’s most popular artists such as Maria Farantouri, George Dalaras and Vasilis Papakonstantinou, theatrical performances, book presentations, stand-up comedy, various exhibitions and sports events.

Being one of the country’s

Indian Prime minister has failed to say a word against his MP. The Indian media or the Godi media has failed to condemn the slur on the Muslims.

The Al Jazeera says BJP’s Ramesh Bidhuri makes Islamophobic and threatening remarks against Kunwar Danish Ali during a debate. Abusing Muslims, OBCs, Adiwasis and Dalits, who have been historically marginalised by the privileged castes in India have become an integral part of the BJP RSS culture. They say there is nothing wrong in it. This Islamophobia has reduced

opposition parties and social media users who demanded strict action against Bidhuri.

The RSS refers to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ruling BJP’s far-right ideological mentor that aims to create an ethnic Hindu state in the world’s most populous country. Bhagwat heads the RSS, which boasts of millions of lifetime members in India and abroad. Ali said if an elected legislator could be threatened inside a parliament like this, then “it speaks volumes about what an average Muslim in this country would be facing”. Omar Abdullah, a politician from Indian-administered Kashmir, said hate against Muslims in India “has been mainstreamed like never before”, writes Al Jazeera.

Ali, the legislator, said he would file a privilege notice with the speaker to seek action against Bidhuri. Political observers say Bidhuri’s remarks are yet another instance of anti-Muslim rhetoric and abuses used by the members and supporters of the BJP.

Sky News of Britain has vehemently opposed the slur on Muslims community inside the Indian parliament. After an abusive tirade, which stemmed from an argument about the prime minister, an emotional Ali threatened to leave parliament if no action was taken.

Narendra Modi has reduced Indian Muslims to living in such a state of fear in their own land that they grin and bear everything. Ali has requested the issue be referred to parliament’s privileges committee.



this year’s KNE-Odigitis Festival concludes its journey.

In a fully-packed Tritis Park, thousands of communists, workers, people of every age, men and women, attended the event, where the keynote speaker was Dimitris Koutsoumbas, General Secretary of the CC of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE). Opening speeches were delivered by the Secretary of the CC of KNE, Thodoris Kotsantis, as well as Giannis Protoulis, member of the Political Bureau of the CC of the KKE.

The events were the peak of a series of events all over the country, within the framework of the 49th

most significant annual cultural events, the KNE-Odigitis festival spans a history of 45 years. The 1st festival of KNE and her newspaper “Odigitis” took place on September 1975, just months after the collapse of the 7-year old military dictatorship.

World media on Islamophobia: racist slurs in Indian Parliament

World media has sharply reacted on the incident of bashing by communal and fascist rightist majoritarian party BJP RSS in the Indian parliament against an MP from a minority section. A BJP MP abused a Muslim MP naming him as ‘terrorist, pimp’ by BJP member inside India’s parliament and the

Indian Muslims to living in such a state of fear in their own land they grin and bear everything.

The report says, that the speaker of Lok Sabha, who is also an RSS cadre refused to take any action against erring and abusive BJP MP. The speaker suspends the Opposition MPs for every drop a pin or for trivial issues and here outright abuse is condoned. The Indian legislature has started playing politics over majority versus minority card disrespecting the pluralistic Indian Constitution.

Mulla is another pejorative word for Muslims in South Asia. The remarks inside the newly inaugurated parliament building sparked angry reactions from the

On Record ...

The Supreme Court gave the Nagaland government time till November 10 to pass the legislation to give women 33% reservation in urban local bodies, reminding the state that the “proof of the pudding is in the eating”. “This matter has been pending now for several years. We understand the state has to take many factors into consideration. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. So when will we have it,” the bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia said. Nagaland’s advocate general KN Balagopal told the top court that the bill, which sought to introduce 33% reservation in 36 town councils and three municipal councils, was expected to become a reality before the next hearing. He said tribal leaders of 16 major tribes and 7 minor tribes have been taken into confidence by the state government and the bill, currently pending before a select committee of the assembly, will be passed before the next date. – *The Hindustan Times*, September 26.

In a move that significantly alters the Tamil Nadu political landscape ahead of the 2024 Lok

Sabha elections, the AIADMK Monday announced it is snapping ties with the BJP-led NDA alliance. After a resolution was passed unanimously at a recent party meeting in Chennai, the AIADMK announced that it would lead a separate front during the upcoming elections. Now, the end of the alliance was not completely



unexpected. It’s also not the first time the two parties have decided to part ways. There has been trouble brewing within the alliance for some time now, with leadership constantly at odds over a range of issues — the latest being a purported remark by BJP state chief K Annamalai on former

chief minister CN Annadurai. – *The Indian Express*, September 26.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) created history on August 23 by landing near the south pole of the Moon on August 23, making India only the fourth nation to land successfully on the lunar surface after the US, Russia and China. Somanath recalled an incident that had deeply affected him. “Many years ago... in launch of GSLV Mark-III expedition, there was every possibility of a failure but somebody had to take the decision (of launching) and I took it. I think I was threatened... that it would be a ‘colossal failure’,” he said. – *DNA*, September 26.

“After the announcement of these tickets, Shivraj and Scindia are saying that our power is slipping away but let’s make sure these leaders lose their power as well. Its clear that the BJP is scared of the image of Malikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. Just look at the anger of the people of MP. 1 CM, 2 Central Ministers and 7 MPs will be unable to save the Shivraj government” said Surjewala in a post on X. – *DNA*, September 26.

Compiled by: *C Adhikesavan*

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Call to Defeat Anti-people...

From Back Page

per cent of the wealth. The report further said that if India's billionaires are taxed once at two per cent on their entire wealth, it would meet the requirement of Rs 40,423 crore for the nutrition of malnourished in the country for the next three years. The hunger index of India has further gone bad and the country stands at 107 among 122 nations.

While the country suffers from multiple crises like hunger, unemployment, inflation and health calamities, India's billionaires are doing extremely well for themselves. The poor, meanwhile, are unable to afford even basic necessities to survive. The number of hungry Indians increased to 350 million in 2022 from 190 million in 2018.

The failure to tax rich people and corporations fairly exacerbates inequality as governments then resort to taxing the rest of society more. Heavy reliance on consumption taxes like VAT increases inequality and is regressive in nature because poor people pay a larger share of their incomes. According to government sources the share in GST of top 10 per cent population is merely three per cent, whereas the share in GST of bottom 50 per cent is 64.5 per cent.

The government waved off Rs 14.49 lakh crore loans of defaulters in nine years whereas farmers are suffering due to indebtedness.

The attacks on the PSUs continue while the business promotion of foreign and Indian corporates is weakening the very bases of Indian economy. The recent visits of Prime Minister to USA and other countries before G-20 have exposed enough that the agenda was promotion of corporates as against our PSUs. Much of the agenda of the armament industry of US and some others was fulfilled. His visit in France has already raised

the question on Raffaele and other deals.

Sixty one years' efforts of our scientists and engineers brought the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission and the nation celebrated it in right earnest. But the truth came to fore that the engineers and other staff of Hindustan Engineers Corporation (HEC), a PSU that helped ISRO did not get wages for 18 months. It was heartening to note that it is our BSNL, another PSU which has played the vital role in the communication system of Chandrayaan-3. The government is doing everything possible to favour its corporate friends to kill BSNL business. The circular of RBI asking PSBs to reach negotiated settlement with willful defaulters is nothing but nakedly helping the willful looters of public money.

Demonetisation, electoral bonds and PM Care Fund with no accountability point to corruption for amassing public money. RSS-BJP government has proved to be the most corrupt one. The report makes it clear that the BJP-RSS government's policies are nakedly promoting corporates specially the two of Prime Minister's friends. This is precisely what is called building crony capitalism.

In our country we have been protesting and resisting through united opposition by the platform of the central trade unions the regressive labour law changes and codification. The central government has made rules centrally, and also through the state governments ruled by its own party or where they are ruling in coalition. In union territories, they are imposing central rules. Many of the governments are yet to frame the rules in states. The meeting called upon unions to develop bigger resistance not to let the rules framed or where these are framed, not to be allowed to notify and implement. RSS-BJP government wants to

weaken the resistance to its policies from the organised trade union movement. Hence the labour law changes and codification are the tools to weaken and cripple collective bargaining.

Having failed on all counts the ruling party depends on the politics of hatred, communal divide and on 'Hindu Rashtra' slogan. The communally charged violent groups are getting boost. There are horrifying details from Haryana that police is allowing such groups to carry forward the activities of the vigilante groups in the name of cow safety/cow protection force. It is an example of state apparatus allowing private persons to take law in their own hands.

The instances of communal violence on Ram Navami Day and the incidents in religious yatra in Nuh in Haryana are indicators enough for the future events to unfold if the government continues to shelter these groups under the garb of religious activities.

The situation in Manipur continues to be volatile. The incidents of parading naked girls and women in Manipur shamed India but it did not bring any remorse to the top leaders in BJP including the Prime Minister who kept his mouth shut till the Parliament began. The BJP ruled state is exposed by several visiting teams which found that the government not only allowed the situation to worsen but was conniving in letting the situation deteriorate. The vote politics is priority of the ruling regime in the Centre than the unity and integrity of our nation and our people's living in peace and harmony.

The regressive approach in the field of education continues with the ulterior motive to make next generations to be blinded of realities. These forces would find it easier to spread myths and communal violence on emotive issues. The syllabus

is under change. The Darwin theory and industrial revolution chapters are removed from text books. Maulana Azad goes out of syllabus. Savarkar is introduced while the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and ban imposed on RSS are removed from the books.

The misuse of government institutions has been fast paced and the instances of the use of ED, CBI, UAPA, NIA, NSA and sedition law have become are more common to suppress the opposition voices.

The highest office in the country was also not spared by Narendra Modi government, which is evident from the fact the way the inauguration of new Parliament was conducted ignoring all democratic traditions and decorum by not inviting the head of the Constitution of India, President Droupadi Murmu. The naked show of religious bias as against secular traditions and use of Sengol ignoring all facts of history, as if it is transfer of throne to a new king is self-explanatory. All these are aimed at pushing the country to an authoritarian autocratic state. The dichotomy of the situation was that the perpetrator of alleged crimes of sexual harassment was enjoying the hospitality of the government and the young wrestlers who brought laurels to the country by winning medals in international competitions were being brutally lathi-charged along with their supporters. The naked use of police forces to suppress the genuine causes and the movements was once again evident, but in more blatant way.

The treatment meted out to those who risked their own professional carriers, courageously raising the issue of sexual harassment to them, had shaken not only them but all those who cherish democracy and stand for justice.

The democratic spaces

are shrinking further and media being gagged, the voice of opposition, the movement and agitations are not finding place in the media.

India is continuously slipping in the index of freedom of press. Last year India was placed at 150 out of 180 countries. This year India slipped down to 161, whereas Pakistan is 152 and Sri Lanka is at 135, Bhutan is 90. India is listed among the 37 nations considered to be worst for journalists. Death of journalist on duty is more in India than any other nation.

The battles are further being drawn sharply between the wealth producing working masses and those who exploit the labour to the hilt to maximize their profits in various parts of the world. It is the corporate loot all around and the finance capital is looking for every opportunity to gain businesses and markets in any part of the world. RSS-BJP government in our country is not only working for the amass of money by corporates specially the close friends of PM, it is also working for the foreign corporates to put their foothold more deep into our economy posing a threat to our sovereign rights on our natural resources and national assets.

Now is the time not to leave any stone unturned to overthrow this anti-national government. AITUC has been playing significant role in the joint movement of trade unions towards this goal.

The trade unions in India evolved in democratic assertion of Indian masses against the oppression and suppression of the local exploiters and the colonial masters. Trade unions, the collective of workers to fight for their rights, for present and future is the basic tenets of a democracy. AITUC played its role in establishing right to unionise and collective bargaining, right to democracy, right to freedom of expression and right to

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AITUC General Council Meeting

CALL TO DEFEAT ANTI-PEOPLE, ANTI-NATIONAL BJP IN ELECTIONS



AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur addressing the meeting

AITUC General Council met at Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu from September 22 to 24 with participation of members from 22 states and All India Sectoral Federations and Associations. The meeting discussed the prevailing political and economic situation, the status in regard to democracy, secularism and harmony in the society and the role of working class in the forthcoming Parliament elections in 2024.

The report on political and economic development noted that the economy is in deep crises. The ever-rising prices of essential

commodities — the cereals, pulses, wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, cooking gas which had reached Rs1,200 a cylinder, 15 per cent hike in retail milk prices in last one year — are telling on the masses. It is only due to ensuing elections that Rs200 rebate was announced on gas cylinder. It costs now more than Rs 900 per cylinder which is double than what was the price in 2014.

The rate of rise in unemployment rate is not receding, rather it is increasing. The minister for labour and employment admitted that about 1.2 crores of jobs were created in nine years against the

Amarjeet Kaur

promise of creating two crore jobs every year. Even the claim of having created 1.2 crore jobs is an exaggeration.

The worsening of unemployment situation is a matter of serious concern. Every day the news of job cuts and lockouts are received not only from industrial hubs and service sector but also from the IT sector where highly qualified youth is in employment.

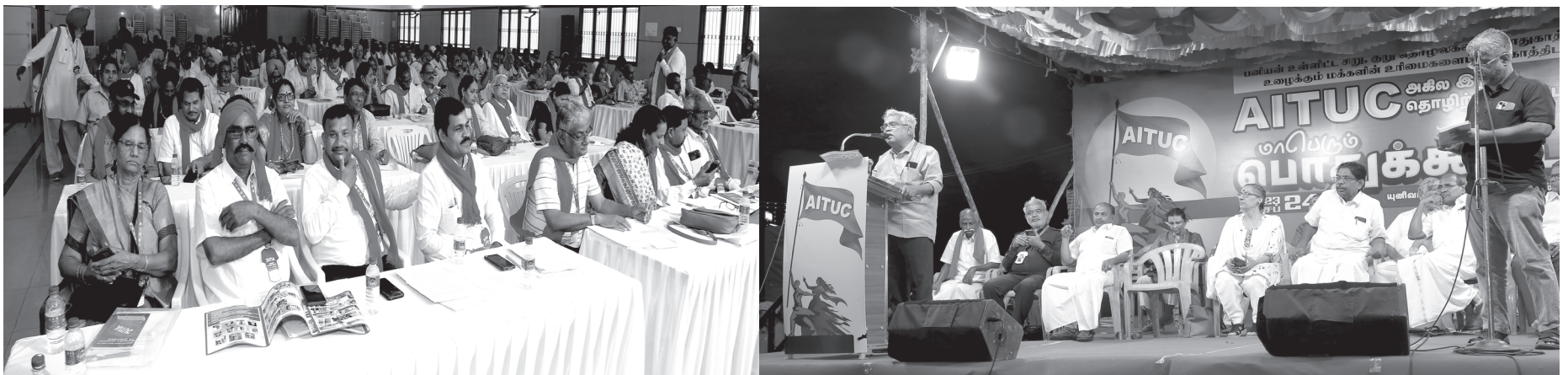
With the downfall of Adani empire after the Hindenburg report came out, the public sector

undertakings which had invested huge amount in Adani companies are in tight position. About Rs 30,000 crores of LIC and Rs42,000 crores of SBI were invested in Adani companies. Similarly shipping company, Paradeep, GAIL, IOC, to name a few PSUs were made to invest and it is understood that the PMO played the role of a facilitator. It is worldwide known that the Prime Minister took personal interest and promoted Adani companies for their business expansion in several countries. In mines in Australia Indian government stood as guarantee for Adani

company and money arrangement was facilitated through PSU Bank, SBI. Home minister gave cover for Adani's Mauritius Company. For Port in Israel, Indian government stood for sovereign guarantee for Adani group. In Sri Lanka also reports are there that there are electricity generation contracts.

The council noted that Oxfam India's report on inequality in India released on January 16, 2023 finds that just five per cent of Indians own more than 60 per cent of the country's wealth, while the bottom 50 per cent possess only three

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AITUC working president Binoy Viswam addressing the meeting

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