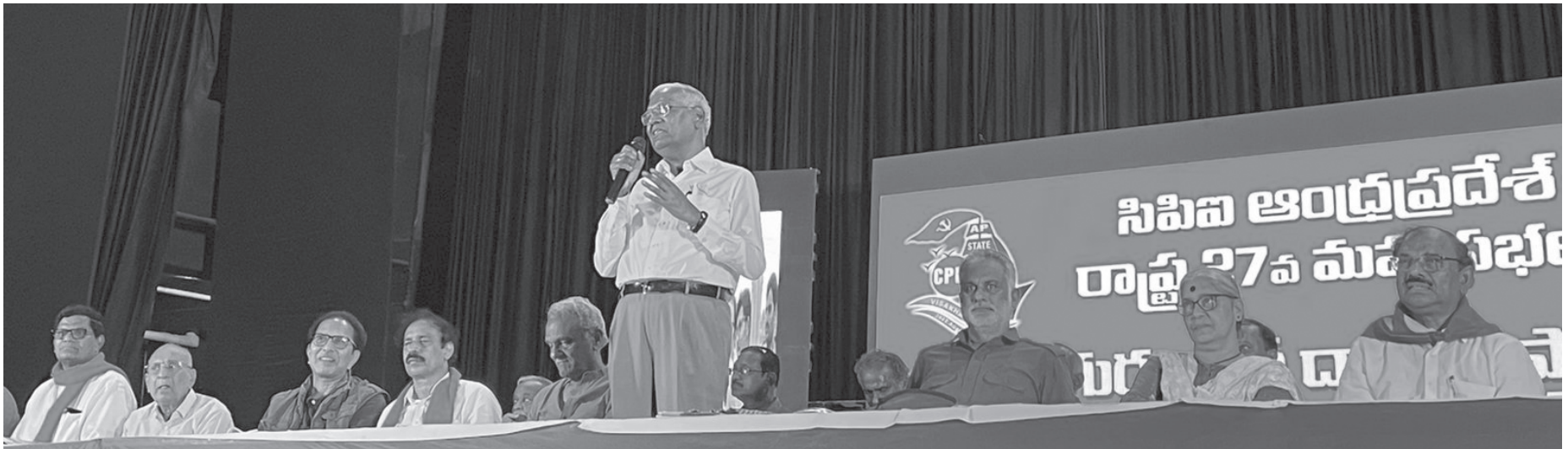


27th Andhra Pradesh CPI State Conference

ALL PARTIES MUST UNITE TO DETHRONE BJP FROM POWER: CPI



CPI general secretary D Raja inaugurating the AP state conference

Ram Narsimha Rao

Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja said that the party's main aim at present is to bring down BJP government headed by Narendra Modi, which is conspiring to dismantle our Constitution. Regional parties have to decide whether they are with the people or with BJP. Bihar development is a guideline to the entire nation. Jaganmohan Reddy has to change his attitude towards BJP, otherwise people will teach him an appropriate lesson. In this background all left, secular and democratic forces should get united in the forthcoming general elections to bring down BJP from power.

CPI general secretary was addressing a huge public meeting on August 26, 2022 at Gurudas Dasgupta Nagar at Vizag organised on the occasion of the 27th conference of

Andhra Pradesh state unit of CPI. The public meeting was presided over by J V Satyanarayana Murthy, party state assistant secretary.

D Raja further said that in the regime of Modi, there is a danger to our country and the Constitution. Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar had clearly said in a debate in the legislative body that ours is not a theocratic state, it is a secular democratic country. Ambedkar had emphasised that he would not allow this country to be converted into a Hindu Rashtra.

The CPI was formed in 1925 and RSS was also founded the same year but made no contribution towards freedom struggle. As a matter of fact they had worked as puppets of British imperialism, whereas CPI had made many sac-

rifices. Several communists had become martyrs, several had gone to prisons and many had led underground lives. In those days RSS had made serious effort to convert India into Hindu Rashtra, but Ambedkar had resisted the move.

After independence Jawaharlal Nehru as the first Prime Minister along with Ambedkar tried to make India as a welfare state. Both worked hard for the welfare of the people. Jawaharlal had established public sector undertakings in key industries. BJP after coming to power with Narendra Modi as the prime minis-

ter is selling away all profit-making PSUs to its corporate friends at throw away prices. D Raja also expressed unhappiness that BJP and RSS are creating communal tensions and polarising people on communal lines.

BJP is ruling the nation with remote control of RSS. In Modi's regime attacks are increasing on Dalits, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Adivasis. Whoever is questioning Modi government is being branded as anti-national, terrorist, Naxalite, etc, and sent to jails. Independent organisations like ED, CBI and national intelligence agency are being used to terrorise those who are questioning the government. Modi government is not even giving the states their GST share. The Centre is taking away the rights of states. On behalf of CPI, we are appealing to all left, democratic, secular parties to be united in order to defeat the NDA led by Modi.

Raja also appealed to civil society to come forward to remove Modi from power at the Centre. He wanted even the re-



A view of the delegate session

Editorial

When in 2016, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was targeted by the new regime, the students and teachers refused to submit. Classes continued under the open skies since authorities had locked the class rooms. Teachers kept their promise. Students debated the concepts that were posed as challenges to them. The undeterred steps showed that those attending the classes had realised the enormity of the crisis. In fact entire country was in the grip of it. Someone had pointed out that in independent India, whenever we had faced the polarising attack on our fabric, it had been only from those who believed in the supremacy of the majority over the minority. In fact, it had been Hindutva, keen to establish its exclusivity, ideologically and politically, that wanted to reconstruct India as a whole with absolute state power.

Earlier it had happened at the time of partition. Lacs of people lost their lives. Families lost their dear ones. Women were violated with unimaginable brutality. A dividing line was stabbed and the country was cut into two. It was the same in 1992, December 6, when Babri Mosque was demolished. One of the most sacred spaces for the minorities was violated. The ground where the mosque stood, there remained only a moist patch.

It has been said that what we are dragged through now is the same as it was in previous instances. But what we are engaged in is nation building, where there is no singularity. People are from multiple streams that reflect their literature, culture, way of living, all of which together construct their world view, which has to be respected. And yet there is the mainstream of national liberation struggle in the pre-independence days

and now in post, when nationalism has kept evolving, unity in multiplicity.

It is that 'revolutionary nationalism' as it is called by Prof Mridula Mukherjee which has brought the blessings of Constitution, teaching us to respect those that are different, and yet they are us only. We live for the humanity, and if need be, we die for it. Our national liberation struggle, in its dirt and blood, starvation and epidemics, brings out the common masses, the people that we all are, and makes visible their multiplicity and the oneness. This is how we are all created, with our humane traditions of secularism, our democratic principles and the oneness, that brings fraternity, liberty and equality. It is the contribution of the days of post feudalism, when caste is no bar, opportunities and resources or gender cannot inhibit anyone for not taking part. When Tilak brought the Constitution of India Bill in 1895, and asked for voting rights, the adult suffrage was universal, for both men and women. The Constitution that was formally adopted in 1950, had its genesis fifty years back. For the 'Father of modern India', Raja Ram Mohan Roy, civil liberties were imperative, and the battle still goes on.

In contrast to it, for those who are trying to find the roots for the Hindu nationalism, the cadres are fed on the poison of communalism. There are efforts to engrave in them that any other community is inferior that is not Hindu. There is absolutely no tolerance for any other views and it was in this spirit that in those three weeks and several time there after that students and teachers were brutally attacked, mostly in the presence of police that mostly kept quiet.

The teachers and students were assaulted while keeping 'nationalism' as theme on which instead of debate or lectures, they preferred physical attack. But

one fact glared out from the entire murky goings on. The Hindu nationalism believes in its singularity and hence the issue is not minorities submitting, instead it strives to take the command of entire consciousness of the people in the country. The RSS is different from fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany. Its nationalism is based on reorganising whole of the society as a means to produce new kind of people, as Hindu. There would not be any other community at par with it, they all have to submit to Hindutva. Hindus would be made to believe that all the 'others' are racially inferior to them. They are aliens, invaders. Their identities are to be merged within Hindu culture and they must opt for conversion. RSS believes in reinterpreting traditional cultural features, preserving them and also attributing new meaning to the symbols and practices, apparently in reaction to the disorienting influence of the western culture. It is to have a spread all over the society in which ideology plays only a subservient part. To substantiate his reasoning, VD Savarkar introduced traditions often alien to Hinduism. He tried to redefine Hindu identity to fight what was essentially the imaginary threat and introduced the concept of 'Vedic Golden age' to make his followers deflect from anti-British agitations and enter into anti-minority actions. The imaginary 'Golden Age' that had no real existence in history was turned as the corner stone of ethnic or communal Hindu nationalism. It was turned into a reference point, an imagined tradition, based on western examples and presented as revival of a lost tradition. It was plain and simple revivalism, a necessary component of fascism.

Nationalism of Hindutva Forces

Core Sector Growth Slips to 4.5 per cent

The output of eight core infrastructure sectors slowed to 4.5 per cent in July as compared to 9.9 per cent recorded in the same month last year, as per the government data released on August 31, 2022. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries increased by 4.5 per cent (provisional) as compared to the Index of July 2021, according to data released by the ministry of commerce and industry.

The production of coal, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, electricity and cement industries increased in July 2022 over the corresponding period of last year.

The index of core industries measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz., coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers,

steel, cement and electricity. The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Coal production (weight: 10.33 per cent) increased by 11.4 per cent in July, 2022 over July, 2021. Its cumulative index increased by 26.6 per cent during April to July, 2022-23 over corresponding period of the previous year.

Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04 per cent) increased by 6.2 per cent in July, 2022 over July, 2021. Its cumulative index increased by 11.7 per cent during April to July, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Fertilisers production (weight: 2.63 per cent) increased by 6.2 per cent in July, 2022 over July, 2021. Its cumulative index increased by 11.3 per

cent during April to July, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Steel production (weight: 17.92 per cent) increased by 5.7 per cent in July, 2022 over July, 2021. Its cumulative index increased by 6.5 per cent during April to July, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of previous year.

On Page 12

Elections 2024 and Its Economic Challenges

In a functioning democracy, electing a suitable government for the next tenure is a privilege of the voters. But it is the civic duty of the voting population to assess the political and economic situation from a national point of view and exercise their right to elect appropriate government.

This preface looks very simple, though its implementation is very complex, fraught with lack of information, of political knowledge, region-religion-caste biases; limited interest in day-to-day politics etc. To sway the mass opinion towards itself is the prerogative of every political party and not to get swayed is the wisdom of the voting masses.

Many times, the masses get swayed at the time of election and then are left to repent for the whole tenure of the government. But electoral democracy offers a periodical opportunity to think and rethink about their choice in the parliamentary elections. Now, the elections are in 2024 and thinking period is also up to 2024. Among the basic points to ponder over, economic points occupy a life and death significance. Some of them are discussed here by way of action points.

Let us underline that we are not discussing the lingering ill effects of Demonetization and the continuing glitches of GST from which the businesses and the consumers continue to suffer. Nor are we discussing inflation.

Unemployment

Young boys and girls (especially with higher

education and more so with higher technical education) have dreams of good jobs, enhancement of knowledge through research etc. But greater automation is resulting in lower increase in employment. As per one calculation, during the decade of 1980-90 a 1 p.c. increase in GDP created roughly 2 lakh jobs. This proportion declined and for 2000-2010 it was barely half a lakh. The pressure of unemployed young men in villages and towns is such that although the young boys angrily responded to the short term of employment in Agni-vira

*Shreenivas
Khandewale*

short-term contracts. The basic question is: will it empower the working masses to have a good, satisfactory life? Which-ever is the government, problem of unemployment demands a serious systemic solution.

Restart of MSP Agitation

Last year due to elections in U.P. the Central government had to withdraw the three farm laws passed by the Parliament. At that time the Prime Minister appointed the MSP Committee. But the very objectives were a dilution of MSP. The



scheme, they are thronging by thousands for recruitment. The reason is not a sudden liking for the scheme but hopelessness of sitting idle at home. The same tenure of maximum four years has been recently recommended by the University Grants Commission, in its 560th meeting for the appointment of professional Professors, even those not with former qualifications but adjudged as 'experts'. In short, to fight out the structural, systemic and technological problem of unemployment, the government is busy creating jobs with

objectives were: (1) to promote zero budget based farming (2) to change cropping pattern, and (3) to make MSP more transparent. Nowhere in these objectives is the mention of giving legal status to MSP. Thus, the Government, rather than discussing the main demand of the farmers, appears to be adopting diversionary tactics. In a way, the Government wants the problem to continue.

Although not clearly mentioned by many, the MSP is a class conflict problem between mercantile system versus farming community; and

the State appears to have gone on the side of industry and trade. Going by the profit consideration, profits are as essential to the farmers as to the trade and industry. The consuming society wants all the three sectors to function well. The challenge is for the Government to respond to the challenge in a democratic and peaceful manner. Election to the Parliament in 2024 is the available time limit. But the sustenance and progress of the 55-60 percent rural population is at stake, needs to be noted.

Privatisation of Public Sector

During the pre-Independence period, industrialization was very little and confined to urban area and to private sector, and was working within the limits allowed by the imperial government. During the struggle for Independence, the top leaders were thinking about the future industrialization of India. It was a clear and logical choice that in an exploited economy, for removal of mass poverty and for generating employment (1) native industrialization was necessary, (2) the private sector had no capital so that government had to take a lead, (3) Since private sector works only for profit to the shareholders, public sector industry working for a broader public welfare was necessary, and (4) if welfare of the exploited masses was to be increased in a time-bound manner, public sector must play a dominant role. Keeping all this in view, the mixed indus-

trialization policy was arrived at.

But the present central government, right from 2014 has adopted a policy of rapidly privatizing the public sector enterprises, preferably before 2024. If completed, India will have a distinction of going back to a purely capitalistic economy. There have been distinct advantages of the working of the public sector in India: steady and planned improvement in industrialization and employment (especially of women); higher wage levels have been achieved and maintained, and its contribution to improvement of peoples' welfare has been significant. But the present government has turned a blind eye to all these benefits and decided to privatise the public sector fast.

Taking the interesting case of privatization of public sector banks, a study by the Banking Research Division of the RBI, published in RBI Bulletin in August 2022 under the title 'Privatization of Public Sector Banks : An Alternative Approach' should be an eye-opener to the government. The paper has cautioned that "...a big bang approach of privatization of the public sector banks may do more harm than good", because the PSBs are socially more relevant, are more cost-effective and are more inclusive to social sectors.

The economic battle lines are clear, with a proviso that the voters need to be more informed and more concerned about themselves.

Bihar Govt Must Expose Corrupt BJP Leaders: CPI

Communist Party of India (CPI) national council secretary Atul Kumar Anjaan demanded that a 'white paper' on the 'ill-gotten' wealth of BJP leaders in Bihar be brought out to debunk the notion that 'only other parties are corrupt'.

He asked the Mahagathbandhan government in the state, which the CPI is supporting from outside, to use bulldozers against leaders of the BJP in the state. "Let chief minister Nitish Kumar and deputy chief minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav instruct officials concerned to identify and raze structures belonging to BJP leaders which are found to be encroaching upon public land. Bulldozers should now be used against the party," he told

reporters in Patna on August 27, 2022.

"If Nitish and Tejashwi baulk, we will take it as a lack of moral courage (naitik saahas) on their part," said Anjaan.

The CPI leader said his party was still open to joining the cabinet in the state. "But we have received no offer so far. And we do not want ministerial berths at the cost of unity among alliance partners," he said.

Replying to a query, the CPI leader said the party believes that Chief minister Nitish Kumar will play an 'important role' in forging unity among opposition parties in the country.

He, however, evaded pointed queries about Nitish Kumar being 'prime minister material' saying, "we shall cross the bridge



when we reach it. Let us not try to name the child even before it is born."

Anjaan, however, added that a weak Congress had 'emboldened' the BJP and "its Ashvamedha yajna has hit a roadblock in Bihar, the very land where Advani's Rath Yatra was stopped".

Lalu Prasad Yadav, RJD chief and the then chief minister of Bihar, had stopped Advani's Ram

Rath Yatra at Samastipur in October 1990.

The CPI leader stressed the need for combating communalism which was being manifested in "denigration of the Prophet on one hand and cries of 'sartan se juda' (beheading) on the other".

He also charged the Narendra Modi government at the Centre with having wrecked the economy and indulging in

'window dressing' in the face of depleting foreign exchange reserves and the rupee in a state of free fall.

Asserting that CPI was committed to protecting the national interest even vis-a-vis communist China, Anjaan blamed Modi government for a skewed balance of payments and challenged it to bring a 'white paper' on territory allegedly encroached upon by the neighbouring country.

What the Others Say...

Distress of the vulnerable

After contracting in 2020-21, the Indian economy rebounded sharply in 2021-22, ending the year 1.5 per cent above its pre-pandemic level. This year the RBI expects it to grow at 7.2 per cent, making India one of the fastest growing economies in the world during this period. But the recovery from the pandemic lows has been anything but even. Beyond the headline numbers, there are indicators of the unabated pain stemming from the pandemic and the continuing distress in parts of the economy.

One possible indication of the scale of the distress comes from data on households/ individuals who have worked under MGNREGA. In 2019-20, the year prior to the pandemic, 7.88 crore individuals worked under the scheme. In 2020-21, the first year of the pandemic, this number rose to 11.19 crore. While in the subsequent year it dipped to 10.62 crore, the number of individuals working under the scheme remained considerably higher than in the pre-pandemic period. In fact, so far this year, 6.29 crore individuals have already worked under the scheme as compared to 6.21 crore in the entire year of 2014-15. This growing reliance on MGNREGA likely indicates that other more remunerative employment opportunities remain limited. Another pointer to the economic distress at the lower end of the income distribution scale comes from the National Crime Records Bureau report — there has been a rise in suicides by daily wage earners and in 2021, daily wage earners accounted for a fourth of suicides in the country. In 2021-22 over 2.3 crore life insurance policies were surrendered way ahead of their maturity by policy holders — this was more than thrice the number of policies surrendered the previous year. Other indicators point to subdued household purchasing power. As per data from SIAM, in 2021-22, sales of two-wheelers were lower than their 2019-20 levels by almost a quarter. Similarly, as per CRISIL, sales of cars priced below Rs 10 lakh grew by a mere seven per cent in 2021-22, while those priced above Rs

10 lakh (the premium segment) grew by 38 per cent.

The bigger picture that emerges is one of pain at the lower and middle levels of income distribution. As policymakers navigate the tumultuous global macroeconomic environment, they must be mindful of the highly uneven nature of the recovery, and take measures to address the distress of the most vulnerable.

Courtesy; The Indian Express

Killer on the road

With 2021 logging the highest ever count of road fatalities — 1.56 lakh deaths — the awful prospect of these senselessly tragic deaths repeating in greater numbers in coming years looms large. The grim number suggests governments at all levels aren't doing enough. Two-wheelers accounted for 44.5 per cent of deaths, up from 35 per cent in 2018, and pedestrian deaths have doubled since then to 12 per cent of deaths. While the NCRB report blames over-speeding for 60% deaths and dangerous/careless driving for 26% deaths, the latest Union ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) road accidents report is more nuanced.

The Motor Vehicles Act amended in 2019 has made seat belts and helmets compulsory. But enforcement is lax. Equally importantly, a 2020 IIT Delhi study on road safety has suggested more focus on street and highway design and enforcement rather than the current overwhelming focus on motor vehicle safety.

Predictable and uniform design of medians, intersections, lanes, shoulders and pedestrian paths are absent in most urban centres. Most highways still lack enough safe crossing facilities for motorists and pedestrians while illegal openings in medians are a constant nightmare. Techniques like rumble strips aren't employed adequately. There are a few governance innovations. In February, Tamil Nadu claimed a 70% drop in fatalities — although road accidents didn't go down — in January against the same period in 2019 following a scheme offering Rs 1 lakh accident cover to ensure private and public medical care within the golden hour. And let's recognise that careful driving and courteousness to other road users aren't an Indian habit in general. We can start with us.

Courtesy: The Times of India

Even Limited Nuke War to Lead Unprecedented Climate Crisis

Call for Global Movement Against Nuke Weapons

The war between Russia and Ukraine with an overt involvement of the NATO has killed thousands, pushed millions to refugee status and caused immense destruction of resources. Much in danger are the nuclear power plants in Ukraine which if damaged by intentional attack, accident, technology failure or cybercrime, would become potential nuclear bomb. The Plant at Zaporhizhzhia which has been occupied by the Russian forces can be a flash point. Ukraine has a history of dreadful Chernobyl nuclear accident.

More over the danger of a use of nuclear weapons in case the war continues is real as both NATO and Russia have threatened each other with the use of these weapons if the situation arises. They have till date not explicitly declared that in any case nuclear weapons would not be used. The collateral damage in such a situation will be catastrophic. An evidence based new scientific study "Nuclear Famine-Even a "limited" nuclear war would cause abrupt climate disruption and global Starvation" highlights the gravity of humanitarian consequences in case of use of nuclear weapons even at a smaller scale.

This report released on August 15, 2022 and published in Peer Reviewed Journal 'Nature Food' summarizes the latest scientific work by Lili Xia and Alan Robock of Rutgers University together with colleagues around the globe. It shows just how dangerous even a "limited" nuclear war in one part of the world would be. The

report says that 'a so-called "limited" or "regional" nuclear war would be neither limited nor regional. On the contrary, it would be a planetary-scale event. In fact, it would be far more dangerous than we understood even a few years ago. A war that detonated less than 1/20th of the world's nuclear weapons would still crash the climate, the global food supply chains, and likely public order. Famines and unrest would kill hundreds of millions, perhaps even billions'.



When a nuclear weapon detonates, it briefly creates temperatures four times hotter than at the centre of the Sun. Such detonation would start firestorms, injecting large amounts of soot into the upper atmosphere, which would spread globally and rapidly cool the planet. An abrupt cooling event of 1.3°C that would follow after sun rays to the earth are blocked due to soot and smoke in the atmosphere would be a massive planetary shock. It is important to know that latest ice age peaked about 20,000 years ago, when global temperatures were likely about 10°F (5°C) colder than today.

Added to this, damage to the Ozone layer would increase levels of UV radiation. This would cause more sunburns, cancers, cataracts, immunosuppression, and

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photo-aging (skin damage that includes wrinkles, loss of skin tone, and pigmentation spots). Perhaps more importantly, increased UV radiation would also hinder crop growth.

All this would lead to crop failure leading to extreme starvation worldwide. As a result unprecedented global famine would follow. Total available food calories would decline precipitously for the next

seven to eight years affecting 1,911 kcals/day, which is a starvation cut-off. During the Great Bengal Famine in 1943, available food decreased only five percent – but panic-buying ensued, food prices soared and three million people starved to death. That resulted from a drop in available food of five percent. One can only imagine how unevenly life-sustaining food would be distributed in a world where available food had dropped 23 percent, 33 percent, 41 percent or 48 percent.

The Rutgers-led international team that modelled expected starvation deaths after a regional India-Pakistan nuclear war, who are supposed to have 160 nuclear weapons each, has also calculated, for the first time, the deaths that would result from the even worse mass famine that would follow

a full-scale nuclear conflict between Russia and the United States. They estimate that 5 billion people out of 6.7 billion worldwide would be dead within two years.

Assuming the weapons and targets are of similar size, the consequences would be similar in the event of a nuclear exchange in any part of the world. It has been calculated that if 100 nuclear weapons of 15 kilotons each are detonated, would push 5 Tg of soot into the atmosphere. This would lead to 27 million direct fatalities and 260 million deaths as a result of nuclear famine at the end of two years. But in case of nuclear exchange between major powers 500 nuclear weapons of 100 kilotons each if detonated would push 47 Tg of soot into the atmosphere would lead to 164 million direct fatalities and 2.5 billion deaths after the end of two years as a result of nuclear famine.

(The researchers used a 2010 population dataset that assumed a total world population of 6.7 billion people. Total world population estimates today are higher at about eight billion people). The calculated death tolls of up to 2.6 billion people indicate that a nuclear war between India and Pakistan could kill up to every 3rd human.)

There is thus need to build a strong narrative globally for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) has been vociferously raising the issue of humanitarian consequences of nuclear war. This was the mainstay for the adoption of

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) passed by the UN General Assembly on 7th July 2017. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded Nobel Peace Prize for this. The treaty delegitimizes and declares illegal the production possession, trade or use of the nuclear weapons in any form. This is the only multi-lateral treaty for nuclear weapons' abolition. It is an opportunity for the global community particularly the nuclear weapons possessing countries to join the treaty and prove their intent for nuclear weapons free world.

It is unfortunate that after four weeks of meetings, the 10th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference has failed. Nuclear weapons possessing countries lacked seriousness on the implementation of Article VI according to which 'Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control'. The five major nuclear powers, the P5 failed to answer what they have done till date in the last 52 years to full fill their obligations on article VI.

If the world does not learn lesson now we would enter into a point of no return. Nuclear weapons if present on earth will always pose the danger of being used resulting into catastrophic collateral damage for which medical science has no remedy to offer.

Freebies to Poor Must Not Be Rejected

Currently a debate is taking place in the country on “freebies” given to poor. The controversy was first initiated by PM Narendra Modi himself who warned the youth against being influenced by a “revdiculture”. Soon Upadhyaya, a BJP leader and a lawyer, known for his communal hate speeches, moved a petition in the Supreme Court to prevent ‘freebies’ from being given. Supreme Court immediately took up this petition and appointed a three-member committee to examine the issue in consultation with various political parties. This in spite of dozens of piled up pending cases such as controversial citizenship bill or draconian labor code petitions. Interestingly the “freebies” listed in the petition include various subsidies given to poor and farmers such as cheap ration distributed (PDS) under food security act, rural employment scheme, MNREGA, electricity, support prices for crops, malnutrition combating for young children and others schemes. Ironically this list does not include various tax concessions, waiver of bank loans worth of lakhs of crore rupees being gifted to corporate houses by the same government.

Prime minister Narendra Modi is an expert in flagging new controversies and turning them in to a major debate, thus masking his government’s failures in economy, huge price rise, unemployment, foreign policy, damage to democracy and secular fabric of the nation.

In fact it’s wrong to term various welfare schemes listed above as “freebies” while not talking about actual Freebies of different tax conces-

sions, freeland, water, tax incentives and waiver of bank loans of multi lakh crores of rupees regularly showering on big corporates.

Attack on Rights

India though became the sixth largest country with nearly three trillion sized economy and sixty billionaires, yet it remains a very poor country. Not just in Asia but lags behind among other South Asian neighbors in human development index. Despite our gloated world power status, the country ranks 101 of 116 nations for hunger index. Suffering of people also increased in last three decades of implementation of neoliberal economic policies, especially during last seven and half years.

Public discontent and deteriorating living conditions of toiling people in towns and villages and the militant struggles led by CPI and other left parties led to provision of cheap ration (under Food security act), implementation of rural employment scheme that is MNREGA, subsidized electricity and certain level of support prices to crops and other schemes. These demands must be unleashed as a struggle for rights. These measures are giving certain level of relief to poor that are suffering from high food prices and escalating rural unemployment and farm distress.

Some relief was provided to poor during COVID pandemic by provision of life saving food grains and work under MNREGA for millions of urban workers emigrated to villages. In fact these measures, though negligible, provided relief from

Dr Soma Marla

unimaginable miseries of people. These and some other subsidies are not Rewadis or freebies gifted by prime minister but a result of hard earned street battles won for enactment of the laws.

Who Pays

In fact the toilers of this country in spite of low wages and shrinking employment and social security, worked hard to produce wealth in turning the country the sixth largest economy in the world. In return present government vehemently refuses the very right to live by resorting to scrap the minimum subsidized relief now available.

It should be noted that a bulk of the government’s revenue earnings that is up to two thirds comes through indirect taxes of GST, Central excise on petrol, oil and income taxes. The poor and middle classes in the country pay taxes when they go to market or avail services. Here a poor man and billionaire Adani pay the same tax while purchasing goods.

While a common man pays high GST and excise taxes on food items on diesel and petrol the tax on diamonds range between 0.5 to 3.0 percent. The Corporate tax was lowered to 20 from 30 percent for big companies during COVID times. Late FM Arun Jaitley in 2017 even abolished wealth and inheritance taxes to rich corporate houses. Lowering of corporate tax only brought a loss of 1.53 lakh crore rupees during FY 2021-22 alone. Besides various companies and Western

MNCs are provided free land, water, electricity and tax holidays for certain period to establish factories. In COVID days, a period when demand was low for automobiles, two wheelers, even for biscuits, the corporates were endowed with bailouts of 2.56 lakh crores of rupees by finance minister Nirmala Seetharaman. Apart from this, during the last seven years the government waived a huge sum of nearly 10 lakh crore borrowed by big corporates mostly from public sector banks. Any way rich in our country get away without paying inheritance and wealth taxes at all. All these concessions are responsible for loss of revenues to Union budget resulting in a fiscal deficit as high as 6.7 percent during the current financial year.

While all various tax concessions gifted to corporate houses (amounting to nearly 5.0 L cr rupees) and 10 L cr worth of waived loans, the expenditure on provision of cheap ration and free food under PM Garib Anna Yojana and MNREGA together amounts to only 2.69 L Crore rupees. Hence provision of freebies or subsidized food rations, electricity to farmers and under Ujwala to poor is very much justified as they pay taxes and fill the coffers for government budgets. They are not “Rewadis” or “gifts” given by governments.

Class Nature of “Rewadis”

Successive governments are faithfully obeying the imperialist financial dictates (from WTO, IMF) and implementing neoliberal economic policies in the country for the past 35

years. Budget priorities have been to benefit rich corporates and Western MNCs. Central government never hesitates to spend thousands of crore of rupees on building new airports and bullet trains and on corporate loan waivers to benefit super rich. But ironically hesitates spending a few hundred crores on much needed subsidies and grudgingly treat the later as Rewadis. Pro rich wrongful priorities have led the country during COVID epidemic in to serious health, food crisis. Lack of proper health infrastructure (availability of hospital beds, medicines, oxygen supply) caused loss of lakhs innocent lives. In our budget allocations for health, education per head are so small that India stands only next to a half dozen Sub Saharan African nations. In all developed and middle sized countries provision of universal health (including free vaccines) and education facilities to citizens is the prime responsibility of their governments.

BJP has won the UP assembly election mostly by distribution of free ration to the tune of 376 Metric tonnes under PM Grib Kalyan Anna Yojana to millions of poor and succeeded in winning the election. This fact itself demonstrates extent of hunger prevailing in our villages. After PM Modi made use of them now he questions the usefulness of welfare schemes or Rewadis.

Discussion on viability of Subsidies or Freebies is nothing but a ploy to reject peoples rights struggles for respectful living for citizens. Even with shrinking tax revenue

On Page 12

Massive Corruption in Karnataka Schools

Corruption is rampant in Karnataka in the field of Education. The Union government is interested in implementing the new National Education Policy (NEP). NEP is nothing but communalisation and commercialisation of education depriving and marginalising the poor people from attaining education. Narendra Modi's education minister in Karnataka is directly involved in corruption in the schools of the state. Here is an instance below.

The association of unaided private schools has released an audio clip, which they allege is that of an education department officer asking for a bribe from a school official.

The Karnataka unit of the Registered Unaided Private Schools Management Association (RUPSA) has alleged corruption in the education department. After road contractors, it was RUPSA's turn, and the organisation wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking for intervention and demanding action against BC Nagesh, Primary and Higher Education Minister of Karnataka.

Speaking to TNM, Lokesh Talikatte, President of Karnataka RUPSA alleged that officials at the education department demand bribes of up to 30 to 40 per cent for various approvals. According to the allegation, twenty per cent of the Right to Education (RTE) reimbursement fee is taken by the Deputy Director of Public Instruction. As per Section 12 (2) of the RTE Act, the government is obligated to reimburse all private unaided schools for allocating 25

per cent of their entry-level seats to students from economically disadvantaged groups (EWS/DG). As per the Act, schools that provide free education to the students are eligible to be reimbursed the expenditure incurred per child, or the actual amount charged from the child, whichever is lesser.

Twenty per cent of the fee we have to get from the government is taken by the Block Education Office (BEO) allegation was added. Alleging that the corruption has increased owing to the majority of tasks being online, "They have set a price for each authorisation or ap-



proval," he said. In a phone call recording shared by RUPSA, a BEO official is heard asking for a bribe from a school official. The conversation starts with the voice that purportedly belongs to the school official asking about the updates on renewals. To this, the alleged BEO official says, "You were supposed to meet me." The school official says that he will send '15' in the hands of the school headmaster. Though they don't mention the denomination properly, the conversation further goes on with the BEO official demanding '25'. After a few negotiations, the BEO official agrees to being paid '20'.

The officials in the department take bribes primarily for two rea-

sons, for releasing the RTE amount and for renewal of recognition. It has become infeasible to run schools as the bribes are more than what the schools earn. The officials say they pay the ministry in lakhs to secure a transfer and they make that money back by asking bribes from the school owners.

In a letter to PM Narendra Modi, RUPSA demanded action against BC Nagesh as the situation is detrimental to the expansion of the state's educational system. A few leaders, under your leadership, have failed to understand the spirit of your functioning. They behave like an un-

crowned king. The education minister for Primary and Higher Secondary Education of Karnataka is one such, the letter reads.

The letter further states, "You are aware of the effects of COVID-19 on education. Students have suffered due to a lack of education continuously for two years. To add to this, child marriage, child labour etc. crept in again. Instead of giving attention to such challenging issues, our education minister is involved in the controversial issue of textbook revision".

Adding that the government is unable to supply textbooks to schools, "It was uncalled for. The result is even after two months of schools reopening, the

government is not in a position to supply textbooks," it added. Calling BC Nagesh, a "National Education Policy (NEP) scarecrow", the letter stated, the state government has not allocated any funds for NEP implementation. The responsible Education Minister has simply indulged in loose talks for two years and has become a laughing stock in the society. Lastly, the letter stated that RUPSA was ready to provide proof and evidence in respect of the above allegations.

Teachers raise objections to Savarkar's glorification in Karnataka textbook

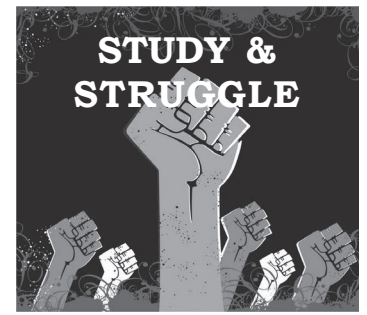
An extract saying that the Hindutva ideologue flew on a bird is a figure of speech, clarifies state's textbook revision panel.

Several teachers and the state opposition political parties including Left parties have objected to the alleged glorification of Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Savarkar in a Class 8 Kannada textbook.

The paragraph that is being scrutinised is taken from KT Gatti's travelogue, Kalavannu Geddavaru, in which the author visits the Andaman cellular jail and describes Savarkar's life in prison.

The paragraph says, "There was not even a keyhole in the cell where Savarkar was incarcerated. But, bulbul birds used to visit the room and Savarkar used to sit on their wings and fly out and visit the motherland every day." It replaces an earlier lesson called Blood Group by Vijayamala Ranganath.

The now-dissolved Karnataka Textbook Revision Committee said that the



C. Adhikesavan

paragraph was a metaphor. However, some teachers have claimed that the paragraph is written in the literal sense, making it difficult to explain in class.

"If the writer has praised Savarkar metaphorically, there is no objection," a teacher said. "But the lines are written as if it is a literal fact. It is very difficult to explain this to the students. In case the students ask questions and seek proof about this, how do we do it?" But the line does not sound like a metaphor.

The Karnataka Textbook Revision Committee also said it had received oral complaints regarding the paragraphs. Rohith Chakratirtha, the chairperson of the Karnataka Textbook Revision Committee, said that the intellect of a few people has sunk so low that they cannot understand the meaning of a figure of speech.

"Any connoisseur will know that in the sentence Savarkar used to go to the motherland sitting on the wings of a bird, it does not mean that Savarkar used to sit on the wings of a bird himself," he said. "But, our so-called intellectuals have found a problem in this sentence, it means that there is something wrong with their intellectuality."

Karnataka's Education Minister BC Nagesh said that what the writer has described in that lesson is accurate. "Savarkar is a great freedom fighter," Nagesh had told. "No matter how glorified he is, it is not adequate for his sacrifice."

Ramanand Agrawal was born on May 3, 1919 in village Balwari, tehsil Rewari, Gurgaon district. His father's name was Surajbhan and mother's Kaushalya Devi. His father died about three months before his birth, and so his mother brought him up in her parental village Bawal, where he spent his childhood.

After primary education in Bawal, he was sent to Rewari for further education. After completing high school in 1936, he shifted to Delhi for college education and got admitted in Hindu College. He graduated from college in flying colours in first division in 1940 and was ranked second overall. He attended a conference of Students' Federation in Delhi in 1936.

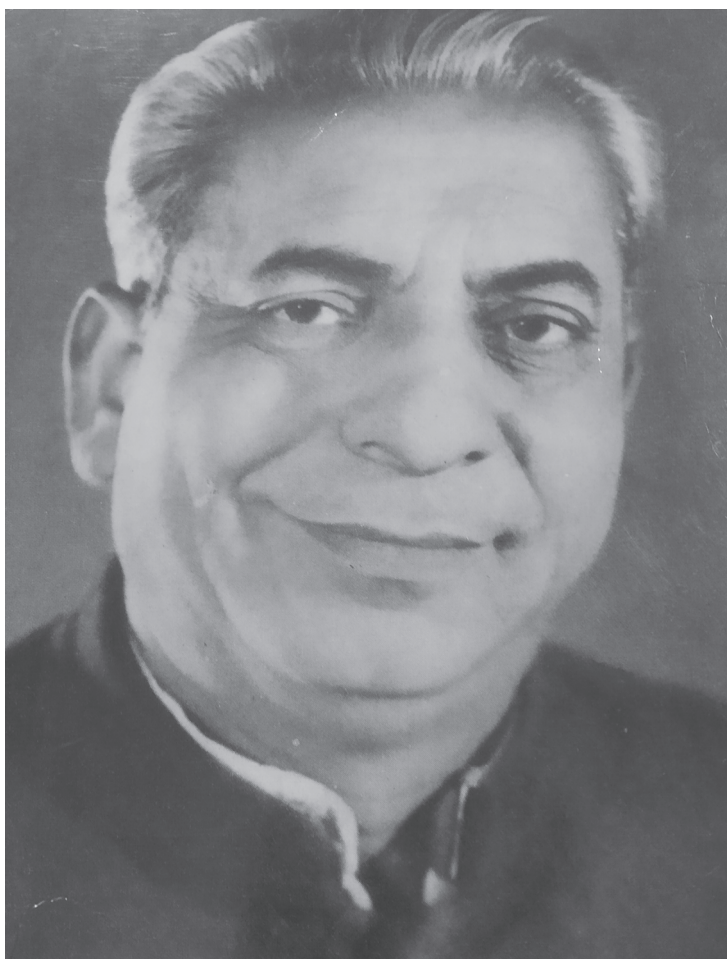
In politics

Delhi was the political centre of freedom movement those days. Congress was elected in nine provinces out of 11 in the 1937 elections. Ramanand came in contact with Congress activists, and began to participate in the student movement. He took an active part in the relief work for the victims of floods in Sabi river when only 15.

After completing his BA, he shifted to Lahore in the Punjab University. He passed his LLB in 1943 from there in First Class and got a Gold Medal. He created a record, scoring the highest marks. He also got a Diploma in Journalism from Lahore. He got involved in socio-political activities while in Lahore. He founded a Humanist Society in Lahore along with his friends. It worked for the

improvement of education and social status of Harijans and other down-trodden.

He did active relief work for the victims of the Great Bengal Famine of 1943. He came in contact with the Communists during this period and was deeply influenced by them. He also took part in the movements demanding release of the prisoners of the 1942 movement.



After completing his studies he returned home. The family members wanted him to undertake legal practice, but he got an offer for manager's post in Birla Textile Mills in Gwalior at 13 000 rupees per year. He worked for there for a while then left it and started legal practice in Gurgaon, but after some time lost interest. He was getting attracted to and got involved in the political struggles.

Struggles in princely states

Congress decided to

launch struggles for responsible governments in the princely states. Ramanand took part in these movements. He became active in the Praja Mandal, which was the organ to fight against the feudal princely states. He helped organize a committee in Gurgaon to fight for responsible governments and merger with India in the princely states of Bangar and Rath. He also began to work for

the merger of Patiala, Nabha, Pataudi, Faridkot and other states with India. He led a procession against the Nawab of Pataudi in 1945, along with Dr Shanti Swaroop Data. They went to the Palace to present a memorandum. Police threatened to fire upon the demonstrators. Ramanand challenged them to fire, upon which the police beat a hasty retreat. He also took part in Faridkot satyagraha in 1946.

He got married with Kanti Agrawal of Rewari in 1946.

The elder brother of Ramanand shifted to Alwar in 1941 for business. Alwar was an important trade as well as political centre. Ramanand shifted to Alwar to help his brother and worked in his oil mill as brother's partner.

The provisional government of India was established in September 1946 with Jawaharlal Nehru as the Prime Minister.

India's independence was approaching. Yet, the ruler of the princely state of Alwar was not prepared to accept independence of India, and wanted to perpetuate his feudal rule. He offered some sop to the Prajamandal led by Hiralal Shastri, who refused to fall for it.

Ramanand began to take part actively in the work of the Prajamandal demanding responsible government. He contacted weavers, down-trodden, Harijans, leather workers, etc and visited their mohallas. He established night schools for them. He founded Kisan Panchayats. Along with Narayan Dutt he established Sarvodaya Press. He also established a cooperative to arrange for cheap yarn for the weavers.

India's freedom and Alwar

India became free on August 15, 1947. Praja Mandal of Alwar exhorted the citizens to celebrate it by lighting their homes, as on Diwali. It was also a protest against the attitude of the princely rulers, who did not recognize India's freedom and refused to celebrate it.

Ramanand and his associates went door to door and shop to shop to distribute the earthen lamps. The Maharaja made a feeble announcement that a responsible government would be established within two years, but nobody believed them.

Ramanand founded Prajamandal Seva Dal consisting of youths in October 1947. He organized a camp for the training of youths including arms training but was not allowed.

Gandhiji's assassination

Gandhiji was assassinated on January 30, 1948. The involvement of Hindu Mahasabha and RSS in the events leading up to his murder is well-known, but the rulers of Alwar were also suspected of being involved in the conspiracy. People got very angry and processions were taken out against the rulers. Ramanand took active part in them. Under pressure, the Alwar ruler was called to Delhi. Government of India asked the ruler to sign surrender and merger papers. He refused. Consequently, he was arrested and interned. Central armies were sent to Alwar. KB Lal was appointed the administrator on behalf of the central government.

'Matsya Sangh'

In March 1948, a 'Matsya Sangh' was constituted, consisting of the feudal princely states of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dhaulpur and Karauli, with Alwar as the capital. Babu Shobharam of the Praja Mandal was appointed prime minister.

Communist Movement in Princely States

He was the editor of Swatantra Bharat.

A conference of Praja Mandal and Congress of these states was held in November 1948 in Alwar, and Matsya Congress was formed, with Ramanand Agrawal as one of its general secretaries. The first session of Congress after independence was held in Jaipur. Congress Seva Dal was given the responsibility of organizing it. A three-member committee was formed for this purpose. Ramanand was one among them.

Ramanand did not join any official post. He even carried on mass struggles for people's demands against his own government. His struggles were successful.

After the partition, a large number of refugees arrived from Punjab, Sindh, Bahawalpur, Frontier Province etc into Alwar and Bharatpur. Ramanand along with Lala Kashiram Gupta worked for their rehabilitation.

Matsya Sangh was merged with Rajasthan in May 1949. Ramanand launched struggles for distribution of land among the peasants, against their alienation and for pattas. Consequently, the peasants stood firmly with him and later joined the Communist Party.

He took part in the struggle against fees increase of the students in 1950. The same year he participated in the Nasik session of the Congress. Purushottam Das Tandon was elected Congress president against the wishes of Nehru.

Ramanand supported Nehru. The internal differences became sharper.

In Communist Party

Communist Party was established in Alwar in May 1951. Kripa Dayal Mathur and Phool Chand Gotharia of Congress joined the CPI in 1952, just before the first general elections. Ramanand was of the opinion that it was not correct to leave Congress before elections in view of activities of the deep-rooted feudal forces.

ber 1954. Ramanand was selected in-charge of the reception committee. He was included in the state party leadership. The same year he was elected secretary of Alwar CPI.

In 1953, elections to the city corporation of Alwar were held. Ramanand Agrawal initiated formation of 'Azad Morcha', which won 15 out of 24 seats. Congress lost heavily, including the former chairman of the Corporation.

Ramanand sat on a dharna and satyagraha

tion, with 19 seats.

He won the 1962 Assembly elections by a margin of 4000 votes. A huge procession was brought out, the biggest after independence. Five CPI members were elected to the Assembly; Ramanand was elected CPI group leader.

CPI-supported independent candidate won the Lok Sabha seat from Lakshmangarh. Ramanand emerged as a popular and effective speaker in the Assembly. Among others, his proposal for pension to the helpless senior citizens and physically disabled was passed by the Assembly. He raised several other problems and got some of them resolved officially.

Ramanand again won the Assembly elections in 1972.

Mass struggles

Among the important movements led by Ramanand was the 'Rundh struggle' in 1966. During the feudal princely days, vast tracts of lands used to be reserved for hunting by the royal family. That included agricultural land also. It was called the 'Rundh'. Ramanand and CPI demanded abolition of such lands and their distribution among the landless. Many were arrested. The struggle ended in victory and in disbandment of the 'rundhs'.

Many other land struggles were conducted in which Ramanand actively took part. He fought for the post-graduate classes in local colleges. He was part of the land distribu-

tion committee of the Assembly. A Political Conference to deliberate the problems of the district was held in 1964. It was also addressed by SA Dange and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia. A 25-member struggle committee was formed.

Ramanand led huge movements of Kishengarh peasants, protesting their displacement. He led a huge demonstration before the Assembly in 1961 under the banner of 'Purusharthi Kisan Sabha'. He organized Anti-Fascist Conferences to oppose JP Movement, and also led big movements against the policies of Sanjay Gandhi during emergency.

Positions in party

After split in CPI in 1964, Ramanand Agrawal chose to remain in CPI. He was elected to the National Council of CPI in 1964, and state party secretary in 1968. He was re-elected party secretary in 1971. He attended, among others, Bhatinda congress of CPI (1978), despite ill-health.

He organized Kitab Ghar and then Rajasthan People's Publishing House, becoming its managing director. He also helped build Swami Kumaranand Bhavan in Jaipur.

He suffered serious heart problems in the late 1970s. He became seriously ill in 1977, and then again in 1979. He was taken to hospital but passed away on May 16, 1979.

Biographies of Communist Leaders-72

— Anil Rajimwale —

Ramanand Agrawal resigned from Congress and joined the CPI just after the elections, in March 1952. His services to the Congress were highly appreciated. He launched big mass struggles on corruption, on coarse grains for the people, refugees from Pakistan etc. He formed an Anti-Corruption Front.

Ramanand led a protest demonstration of the refugee kisans for allotment of land. It was severely lathi-charged in which Ramanand was grievously injured. He was arrested along with Harumal Tolani, Narayan Dutt, Bakshi Wazirchand, etc. They were ill-treated in the jail.

The second conference of Rajasthan Communist Party was held in Alwar in Septem-

ber 1954. Ramanand was selected in-charge of the reception committee. He was included in the state party leadership. The same year he was elected secretary of Alwar CPI.

Contesting elections

Ramanand Agrawal fought state Assembly elections from Alwar seat for the first time in 1957. CPI contested four Assembly seats in the district and got 16.6 per cent votes. Ramanand polled 40.9 per cent votes and lost to Congress by just 1500 votes. Harumal Tolani lost in Ramgarh by just 1440 votes. CPI became the main opposition in Alwar district.

Ramanand-led Citizens' Front won the elections to the corpora-

All Parties Must Unite...

From Front Page

gional parties to express their stand towards BJP. In Bihar till recently Nitish Kumar was with the BJP but at present after coming out of NDA, he has joined Mahagathbandhan again. This is a welcome move. He also explained how several regional parties are coming out of NDA. In Andhra Pradesh young chief minister Jaganmohan Reddy is still with Modi though the prime minister has not implemented the assurances given at the time of bifurcation of the state. Jaganmohan should have put pressure on the Centre for granting special status to Andhra Pradesh. Even after Bihar developments if Jaganmohan does not realise his mistake, people of Andhra Pradesh will teach him an appropriate lesson, D Raja said.

Raja concluded by saying that the 24th Party Congress of CPI is going to be held at Vijayawada from October 14 to 18. This conference will have special significance in view of the recent developments in Indian political arena.

Party national council secretary Dr K Ramakrishna addressing the public meeting stated that the BJP government is ruling the country most dictatorially and undemocratically. So far Modi has destabilised nine state governments in the most undemocratic way. The apex court of India is discussing on freebies but why the same Supreme Court is not discussing the waiving of loans taken by industrialists, worth Rs 2 lakh 93,000 in the last five years.

K Ramakrishna, state secretary, CPI, in his address, stated that in the last eight years Modi has done nothing except dismantling the constitutional bodies. In the state also Jagan has not taken up even a single development programme. The chief minister is behaving like a dictator and is not tolerating even peaceful demonstrations. In view of the chief minister's visit of Vizag, flexis and flags are not being allowed on the occasion of state confer-

ence of the party. Even leader of opposition, Chandrababu Naidu, also has faced many difficulties even to tour his own constituency.

The meeting was attended by Annie Raja, national executive member, Muppalla Nageshwera Rao, state assistant secretary, state secretariat members Ravula Venkaiah, PJ Chandrashekara Rao, G Obulesu, Jalli Wilson, Akkineni Vanaja, P Harinath Reddy, G

PJ Chandrashekar Rao, former MLC and state secretariat member hoisted party flag at the venue of the conference.

Delegate Session

D Raja inaugurating the delegate session on August 27 said that reunification of the communist parties is the need of the hour. In order to dethrone dictatorial and barbaric Modi government, unity of left, secular and democratic forces is vital. In the eight years' regime of Modi, we have achieved

In the regime of NDA, poor are becoming poorer whereas the rich are becoming richer. That is the reason why India has gone down below in the international human development index, Raja pointed out. Minimum necessities like education, health, employment, shelter, land, etc, are not in the reach of poor. At present the government is busy in providing employment to BJP and RSS volunteers in the name of Agnipath.

In order to suppress the farming community, Modi had brought three new Agricultural Acts against which farmers had

dead bodies. In India under the BJP government poverty is increasing day by day. The number of poor below the poverty line reached up to eight crores. As Modi government has failed in all sectors, all democratic forces must unitedly dethrone Modi government in forthcoming elections.

The report also said that the Centre has shown injustice to Andhra Pradesh in all fronts. All political parties have to question the Union government in regard to the special status promised, implementation of assurances given at the time of bifurcation, railway zone, and special package to backward regions etc. Though chief minister Jaganmohan Reddy promised that he would force Modi to accept all demands, he has surrendered to Modi and Amit Shah.

Jaganmohan Reddy has assured that as soon as he comes to power, he will scrap contributory pension scheme but till now he has not done anything. In fact he has started another drama of GPS. Everybody is having right to protest in a democratic country but in Vijayawada, police is making house arrests of teachers. RC books of vehicles are being seized and domestic women are also being harassed in order to foil forthcoming teachers' procession.

CPI has extended full support to teachers' strike. Jaganmohan Reddy should take all party delegation to Modi for getting funds for Polavaram. So far problems of displaced persons have not been solved. Ramakrishna also criticised Jaganmohan Reddy for not developing Amaravati and his failure to not get funds for Polavaram, which would solve the problems of irrigation, drinking water and also industrial necessities as well.

A presidium consisting Muppalla Nageshwera Rao, P Harinath Reddy, Vimala, Bheem Rao and Afsar conducted the proceedings.

The conference elected K Ramakrishna state secretary, J V Satyanarayana Murthy, and Muppalla Nageshwar Rao as assistant secretaries and 27-member executive.



Front view of the mahila red volunteers' procession

E a s h w a r a i a h , Vandemataram Srinivas, Films Music director, state executive members Thatipaka Madhu, Jangala Ajoy Kumar, AJ Stalin, Donepudi Shankar, M L Narayana, Jagadish, R a m a n j a n e y u l u , Ramanaidu, Penmetsa Durgabhavani, D. Adinarayana and others. Paidi Raju, Vizag district party secretary welcomed the leaders to the d a i s . C u l t u r a l programmes under the leadership of Chandra Nayak, Penchalaiah and R Pitchaiah (IPTA) enthused all. Revolutionary songs by Vandemataram Srinivas enthused the audience and even the audience danced to the tunes of Vandemataram's revolutionary songs.

Earlier a huge procession was taken out with 100 metres length party flag carried by red shirt volunteers. Young girls and women wearing red attire followed by red shirt men volunteers and cultural troupes were in the rally. Raja inaugurated the procession.

nothing except debts. Profitable PSUs are being handed over to his corporate friends at throw away prices.

He explained in detail the international, national and state political situation. While speaking on international situation, he explained the background of war between Russia and Ukraine, expansionism of NATO with the encouragement from US, economic crisis in Sri Lanka and peoples revolt etc. During Covid pandemic period, socialist countries like Cuba and Vietnam have faced efficiently whereas Modi has miserably failed to control it. As Modi has imposed lockdown without any preparation and refused to take notice of migrant workers who had to walk hundreds of miles to reach their native places as there were no transport facilities. Many have died due to lack of food. Many of their kith and kin could not participate in last rites of their relatives. There were heaps of dead bodies at the banks of Ganga river.

organised long drawn struggle in which 700 farmers laid down their lives. Ultimately Modi government was compelled to take back those black Acts. Modi government is not at all paying attention to the farmers demand of giving legal protection to Minimum Support Price to the farm produce.

Congress party which has to fight vehemently against BJP is very busy with their internal clashes and factional fights. At least now it has to change its political attitude. In 2024 general elections, everybody should put in efforts to defeat Modi and BJP. Raja finally appealed to all parties to become partners in this mission.

Ramakrishna in his report presented to the conference stated that Modi government did not implement his election promises. He did not bring back the black money stacked in foreign banks. There are no correct statistics for deaths due to Covid. Every country is having statistics except India. In the banks of river Ganga there were thousands of

Impact of Bolshevik Revolution on Sindh, Balochistan

Allover the world, the impact of the Bolshevik Revolution was such that it filled the hearts of every freedom-loving individual with new enthusiasm and fervour. In the regions of Sindh and Balochistan, the influence of this remarkable revolution began right after it had taken place, in its very initial stages.

If we talk of Balochistan in the initial months of 1918, under the leadership and guidance of Sardar Kareem Khan of the Zarbindi tribe connected to the western Balochistan, several members of this tribe reached Soviet Union and in Turkmenistan they joined the groups of the Red army to fight the anti-revolutionary forces.

Later on, these members of the Baloch tribe and now part of the Red army were allotted land in the Merv region of Turkmenistan and they acquired the citizenship of this region settling down permanently. According to the reports of the British sources Zafar Khan Baloch also helped the Soviet forces and another youth of Balochistan Tarachand also reached Soviet Union and later played a key role in the initiation of the communist movement in India.

Under the leadership of Misri Khan, a contingent of five Baloch men participated in the 'Congress of the Eastern Countries' held in the city of Baku in Azerbaijan in September 1920. In this Congress it was decided that communist literature would be translated into Balochi language besides the other eastern languages. After the Baku Congress, the Baloch delegates returned to Kabul where

they participated in the formation of the first revolutionary party of India.

In 1928, to take forward their revolutionary political ideology, some government employees of the Kalat state got together and formed an underground group. Seeing the political activities and atmosphere of the state they decided to wait for an opportune moment which came in the arrival of Mir Yusuf Ali Khan Magsi. During his years of education in Lahore Yusuf Magsi had

Aslam Khwaja

was constantly followed and the British authorities kept a close watch on all his activities.

Sometime after his release Yusuf Magsi got together with Mir Aziz Kurd, Malik Faiz M o h a m m e d , Mohammad Hassain Anqa, Naseem Talvi, Abdul Kareem Shorash and Mohammed Aazim Shahaani. Together they changed the name and texture of the already existing organisation

has republished this pamphlet in the monthly 'Sangat' that he edits. Through this re-publication he has brought it back to memory and high-lighted other pamphlets published by different groups.

The same year Yusuf Magsi was made the chief of his tribe. He gave away a large portion of his tribal inheritance for the service of the Baloch nationalism and for creation of awareness against the exploiting classes. He began to finance and support the

Magsi Chair of Balochistan University. A year later, another conference of the same nature was held in Hyderabad, Sindh. Both these conferences stressed the importance of freedom from both the British imperialists and the local chieftains and their agents and highlighted the need to organize against these forces.

Right from the beginning, the Bolshevik Revolution became the guiding light for the political workers, labourers, farming classes and the intellectuals of Sindh. We can see the initial glimpse of this in the 1919 daily paper 'Hindwaasi'. It is also very much present in the jail diary of this paper's editor Jethmal Parasram. Named 'Tarang Jo Teerath', the author appreciates the struggle and rebellion of the workers and farmers and claims that revolution is an important outcome of different classes to find their voice.

Some researchers believe that in 1919, the home department of India decided to check and confiscate the propaganda material of the Bolshevik ideology. They also believed that one of the prime reasons for growing spread of this ideology was the articles being published in Daily 'Hindwasi' which was initially published from Hyderabad and then Karachi.

So, a restriction was brought about on the publication and distribution of Bolshevik literature. To keep an eye on the Bolshevik activities, recruitment was made to the branch of secret police which had been formed to keep an eye on all political activities of the left.

On Page 12



made a deep study of the politics of the Indian sub-continent.

Mir Yusuf Ali had contributed an article in the November 17, 1929 issue of 'Hamdard', Lahore. In this article he had held the British administration to account for all the contemporary problems being faced by the Baloch people. In this article he gave a call to the people of Balochistan to unite, organize and struggle for independence.

Kalat state government arrested him on his return to Balochistan on July 17, 1930 from Sibi. A tribal Jirga, or court was held and he was punished with a sentence of one-year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 20,000. In 1931, on his release he

'Young Baloch Organization' to 'Anjuman Etihaad Balochan'. This organization had been formed in 1920. The purpose of this organization was struggle for the rights of the local government servants.

This was the first secular, non-tribal organization to be formed in this region. On November 20, 1931, this organization brought out a pamphlet that detailed the corruption, dishonesty and oppression of the Prime Minister Sham Shah and called it 'Shamsgardi'. This pamphlet was written by Mir Aziz Kurd, who was arrested and sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Recently in Quetta, Dr Shah Mohammed Marri

publications in Urdu on the literature, on class struggles and on organizing the masses against the oppression of the landed class.

On the night between May 30-31, 1935, Quetta was shaken by a severe earthquake that destroyed the city and killed Yusuf Magsi. The Baloch community lost an enlightened leader and a committed worker for progress and freedom.

Anjuman Etihaad-e-Balochan (Association for the Unity of Baloch) held an All India Baloch Conference in the City of Jacobabad, Sindh, on September 27-29, 1937. The report and minutes of this conference have recently been re-published by the Yusuf

CPI Condoles Demise of Mikhail Gorbachev

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following message on August 31, 2022, conveying party's condolences at the demise of Mikhail Gorbachev:

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India expresses its deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences at the demise of former general secretary of Communist Party of Soviet Union (CPSU) and head of state of former Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev. He died at the age of 91 after a serious and protracted illness.

The National Secretariat conveys its deep-est anguish to his family and friends and shares their grief.

Core Sector Growth...

From Page 2

Cement production (weight: 5.37 per cent) increased by 2.1 per cent in July, 2022 over July, 2021. Its cumulative index increased by 13.3 per cent during April to July, 2022-23 over the corre-

sponding period of previous year.

Electricity generation (weight: 19.85 per cent) increased by 2.2 per cent in July, 2022 over July, 2021. Its cumulative index increased by 13.1 per cent during April to July,

2022-23 over the corresponding period of previous year.

However, the production of crude oil and natural gas declined during the month when compared with the same month of the last year.

Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 per cent) declined by 3.8 per cent in July, 2022 over July, 2021. Its cumulative index declined by 0.5 per cent during April to July, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88 per cent) declined by 0.3 per cent in July, 2022 over July, 2021. Its cumulative index increased by 3.5 per cent during April to July, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Freebies to Poor...

From Page 06

base states such as Kerala and Tamilnadu are wonderfully implementing PDS and MNREGA or primary health schemes and it is laudable. Even during Kerala Left Front government's record distribution of cheap rations and successful management of COVID crisis was exemplary. It has been appreciated by one and all. Ruling BJP government, unable to tackle basic issues of food availability, education, creation of jobs with its neoliberal developmental priorities is simply masking its failures by waging war on welfare schemes.

People should unitedly wage struggles against the pro rich and anti-people neo liberal economic policies implemented by the present NDA rulers at the Centre.

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Impact of Bolshevik Revolution...

From Page 11

Jethmal Parasram, together with GMSyed and Jamshed Mehta, in the year 1930 formed the first 'Sindh Haari (Peasant) Association' and was its first Secretary. This is the same organisation that later came to be known as 'Sindh Hari Committee'. Everyone is aware of the history and struggles of this organization of farmers. Jethmal Parasram published two books from Hyderabad: 'Socialism-Saamyavaad' in 1926 and 'The Life-story of Karl Marx' in 1928. Both of these booklets were republished in 2018 by Kitab Publishers, Karachi.

In 1919 and 1921 in Karachi and Sukkur, the workers of Postal and Telegraph formed a union and Railway Workers Union was also formed.

The inaugural function of All India Trade Union was held in

Bombay in 1920. In this inaugural function, 107 trade unions from all over India participated. Few of them were also from Sindh.

As a result of the agitation by political workers, especially by the leaders of the trade unions, the government began, in May 1921 to collect the documents related to the industrial agitations. Under this plan, the details of the unrest, protests and strikes, etc, began to be published in the Labour Gazette, Government of Bombay (Sindh was part of Bombay residency till 1936). During this period, the labour department took a decision to remove the difference between a strike and a lockdown, closure of any factory beyond 24 hours was made illegal and participation of more than ten workers in a closure was pronounced unlawful. This forced the workers to go

on strike and protests and strike were held in Karachi, Kotri, Hyderabad and Sukkur.

Most of the workers strikes were centred round political demands. A surge in political activities among the working class, spread of socialist ideology, formation of initial communist groups was all connected with the mass struggle against the British Imperialism. The group of exiled Indians in the decade of the 1920s formed the first Indian communist group. In this initial group were also members from Sindh. When these exiled Indians began to return, many of them were arrested though some escaped arrest and began underground work for the spread of the communist ideology.

In 1928 with the efforts of Comrade Jamaluddin Bukhari, Karachi Seamen Union was formed. To

strengthen the activities of the union, Comrade Bukhari joined the Haunsley Shipping Company. In 1925 Comrade Bukhari was elected the divisional secretary of North Western Railways Workers Union, Karachi, he also played a key role in the formation and functioning of Karachi Dockyard and Karachi Tramway workers union. Comrade Jamaluddin Bukhari was also the secretary of the CPI Sindh. Soon after, Sindh Workers Association and Karachi Port Workers Union were formed.

In the decade of 1920, reformist trade union leadership emerged, nevertheless, in February 1928, the Simon Commission faced protests and demonstrations in Karachi, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Shikarpur and other towns of Sindh.

These agitations and protests in a way once again handed over the leadership of workers into the hands of the com-

munist.

On March 30, 1931, All India Mazdoor Kissan Party, held its All-India session in Karachi. Comrade Dasaunda Singh presided over the gathering in which the members from Bengal and Mumbai also participated.

When communist leaders Muzaffar Ahmed, S A Dange, Shaikat Usmani and other comrades were arrested and charged in the Meerut conspiracy case and sentenced long prison terms there were protest demonstrations held in various cities and towns of Sindh.

In early 1940s, first Sindhi translation of the Communist Manifesto was published from Karachi. Since early 1920s, British administration in Sindh started proscribing publications including of communist and nationalist literature.

(Translated from Urdu by Dr Noor Zaheer)

The Worst Problem is Free Market

Need for Heavy State Intervention in Policymaking

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

The world is facing from crises after crises. The capitalist free market system can't minimise the crisis — now the capitalists have slowly understood that only massive state intervention in the economy can. The state intervention has become unavoidable, for which the capitalists have been accusing the socialist and communist systems.

The mainstream political parties and its politicians these days are constantly looking for excuses to justify their divergence from market dogma. From the pandemic to the energy crisis, the war in Ukraine and growing inflation, ever-new crises are forcing policymakers to use heavy state intervention, which neoliberals saw as their sworn enemy, to prop up markets.

These interventions are justified as emergency measures necessary to guarantee continued economic operations before a coveted return to market normality — which is, however, always postponed. Just witness the European Central Bank saying in April it would stop purchasing bonds, only to announce a new bond-buying to address ballooning borrowing costs in countries like Italy.

To date, the state interventionism we have seen coming from both center left and center right over the last decade and more clearly since the explosion of the COVID pandemic has closely followed this logic of facilitating a return to "normal market conditions." By now, however, it has become apparent that there is no way to go back to the old normal; economic conditions have drastically changed and the premises and expectations that accompanied the era of neoliberal globalisation do not offer any credible guidance anymore. Faced with this farcical attempt by the political parties to use state interventionism to restore

market society and protect wealth, the Left should use this opportunity to reclaim the socialist tradition of progressive state interventionism, as a means to transform society and shift power relations.

In fact, the proactive use of the state as a means to construct a new society was common to different strands of the Left. It was not just an idea supported by communists who aimed to construct a command economy with state ownership covering virtually every sector but also held in different ways by social

water" that it would be stupid to try to reverse, while Barack Obama in 2016 framed it in similar terms as "a fact of nature." Politics was presented as the management of the necessity of globalisation, with economic decisions limited to those acceptable to international investors, with some sections of the moderate and soft left broadly accepting these ideological premises.

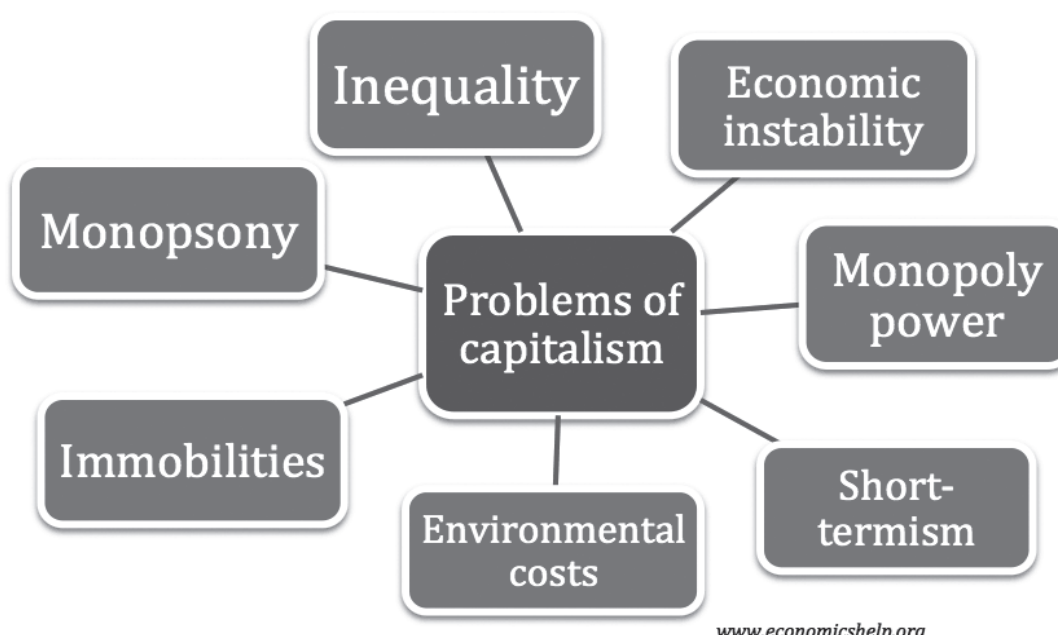
Yet we now find ourselves at a juncture when this vision of globalization as inevitable and permanent and of the state as a

ceive and know the world. In fact, contrary to the neoliberal gospel, the state and state interventionism never really went away. As many political economists have shown, the neoliberal project and the very existence of globalisation were always premised on state patronage, for example by establishing the necessary regulatory frameworks and repressing protest. But at the rhetorical level this narrative of the "weak state" had important ideological implications: it served to restrict the range

decisions appear immediately as political decisions, hence ones where different interests are at stake, and where all too often the interests of business continue to be put before the interests of workers. This was evident with Bidenomics, where the infrastructure package that was in the interest of companies was passed, while the social measures part of the so-called Build Back Better package were stopped in Congress — because of the opposition of Democratic centrists who expressed major worries at state aid to the poor, while at the same time applauding state aid for entrepreneurs.

The strategic challenge now is to match this economic reality in which heavy state interventionism has become the new normal, with a vision in which this intervention is not seen just as a piecemeal and last-ditch measure to revive the market. Socialists need to reclaim a constructive view of the state.

There are all too many issues that call for immediate state intervention: from the cost-of-living crisis calling for a return of price controls and wages that are indexed to inflation to climate change that demands an acceleration in investments and actions geared at reduction of emissions and climate adaptation. But besides specific measures, what is called for is also a new vision of how state interventionism can be used not only as a stop-gap against immediate emergencies but also as part of a long-term plan to achieve that economic and environmental security that the market is not able to provide — and to redistribute power away from the economic oligarchies that have condemned our society to permanent chaos and toward workers and ordinary citizens.



democrats, who led the transformation of the old liberal states into welfare states, nationalised strategic firms, and applied indicative planning to reorganise the economy and guide it toward socially desirable ends. The state was understood as a "battlefield of class struggle," as Nicos Poulantzas famously put it, and the point of the Left was conquering new trenches in the sprawling state apparatus while radically democratising it.

The neoliberal revolution managed to convince citizens in a globalising world that state intervention was doomed. Neoliberal politicians like Bill Clinton presented globalisation as "the economic equivalent of a force of nature, like wind or

weakling creature have been patently demonstrated to be empirically dubious and historically anachronistic. During the pandemic, politicians of both the center left and center right were forced to create new emergency social welfare provisions in order to help unemployed workers, and now they are forced — much against their beliefs — to apply forms of price control and to set aside funds to fight against the cost-of-living crisis. Emergency state interventionism has become the new normal, and the return to normal market society is continuously postponed.

Part of the change we are witnessing is not so much practical as epistemic — namely, it has to do with how we per-

of acceptable policies to those that were in the interest of international capital. This fiction was aided by the peculiar conditions of the "Great Moderation," the era between the mid-1980s and 2000s marked by limited macroeconomic volatility, low inflation, and low interest rates.

Under the illusion of stability of the "long '90s," economic policy appeared as if on automatic pilot, amounting to limited interventions: small "nudges" to the market, which could be presented as limited exercises in "course correction" — technical rather than political decisions. However, the crisis of capitalism is now so profound that it is not any more possible to maintain this pretence. Economic

Women Must Intensify...

From Last Page

report which was discussed by delegates and adopted unanimously. Session was attended by Ustela Srujana president, Manda Sadalaxmi state working president, B Chaayadevi Devi and Potu Kalavati, vice presidents Nalini, treasurer Lata Devi and others.

Subsequently Chada Venkata Reddy and Annie Raja were felicitated by Tourism Contract and Outsourcing Employees Union.

On the concluding

third day Annie Raja addressing a public meeting said that the BJP government is making all efforts to convert Bharat into Manuvadi state. In eight years of regime of Modi, atrocities and attacks on women have increased many folds.

He is only shedding crocodile tears towards women community as a whole. She was addressing a public meeting in Chennai in a Kamalam Prangana (Hanamkonda Arts and Science college grounds).

Annie Raja, further said that ours is a secular and democratic country but the present BJP government is trying to convert it into theocratic state. At present NDA government is under full control of RSS and Sangh parivar. It is polarising Indian people on communal lines. It is also creating communal tensions. After Modi's coming to power, attacks on women and minorities have increased.

On the occasion of 75th year of our independence, eleven rapists have been re-

leased and they have given warm welcome outside the prison. Credit goes to Modi's government. Forty four labour laws are being converted into four labour codes to favour the corporate bosses. PSUs are being sold to corporate houses in throw away prices. Modi government is continuously hiking the prices of petrol, diesel, gas cylinders and all other essential commodities. It is heaping burden on common man. Hence women have to raise their voice against Modi.

NFIW is in the forefront in fighting for rights of women and one third reservation to women in all legislative bodies. That spirit has to be continued with more zeal, she underlined.

In the public meeting Dr K Rajini, national secretary, NFIW, Nedunoori Jyothi, state general secretary, Ustela Srujana state president, Manda Sadalaxmi, working president, vice presidents B Chaaya Devi, Jangamma, Famida, Lata Devi, Nalini and treasurer J Laxmi and others took part.

(From Ram Narsimha Rao)

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Muslim Wrestler Gave Baroda First Public Ganesha Celebration

VADODARA: One of the earliest public celebrations of Ganeshotsav was initiated by a 107-year-old Muslim wrestler some 120 years ago. Jumma Dada, a famed wrestler in the erstwhile princely state of Baroda, started Sarvajanik Ganesh Mahotsav at his akhada in 1901 to instil a sense of patriotism and brotherhood in the youth.

"Jumma Dada organised the public Ganesha festival to bring youngsters together and instil in them a sense of patriotism," Rajendra Harpale, managing trustee of Prof Manekrao's Jumma Dada Vyayam Mandir, says a report.

City-based historian Chandrashekhar Patil said: "Jumma Dada was the first to organise a public Ganesha festival on a large scale to usher in communal harmony and unity among people. Before his initiative, some temples used to organise community Ganesha festivals. His disciple, Prof Manekrao, continued the tradition and it lives on."

"Freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak had started the Sarvajanik Ganesh festival in Maharashtra. Tilak regularly visited Baroda to meet Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III. During his visits, he learned about Jumma Dada. The 107-

year-old was inspired by Tilak," Harpale explained.

After their meeting, Jumma Dada started a public Ganesh festival at his Vyayam Mandir, which he had established in 1880, and was immensely popular with young boys and girls. Vyayam Mandir even gave shelter to freedom fighters during British rule.

He also set a tradition of installing a clay idol. "We have continued with the same looks and size of the idol till now," said Harpale, who still has pamphlets of that era that mention how sword fights and wrestling were organised during the festival at the akhada.

Com Lanka Govinda Rajulu is No More

Com Govinda Rajulu (91) is no more. He breathed his last on August 18, 2022. He was Vijayawada city secretary for 15 years. His three brothers are also in the communist party. He was survived by three sons and one daughter. He was former mayor of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. He had struggled a lot for the poor shelterless people. He had also visited the then Soviet Union. He was an ideal communist.



Though he was mayor of the city, he led a simple life. He could ensure that marriages of his sons were ideal ones. While communist party was under the ban, he was in Vijayawada, Nuziveedu and Rajahmundry jails. Though he had studied only up to 5th class, he could understand Marxism well. He had worked along with Dasari Nagabhushana Rao, T Venkateshwer Rao and Tammina Potharaju.

CPI former general secretary S Sudhakar Reddy and national council secretary Dr K Narayana conveyed party's and their condolences to the bereaved family members.

On Record ...

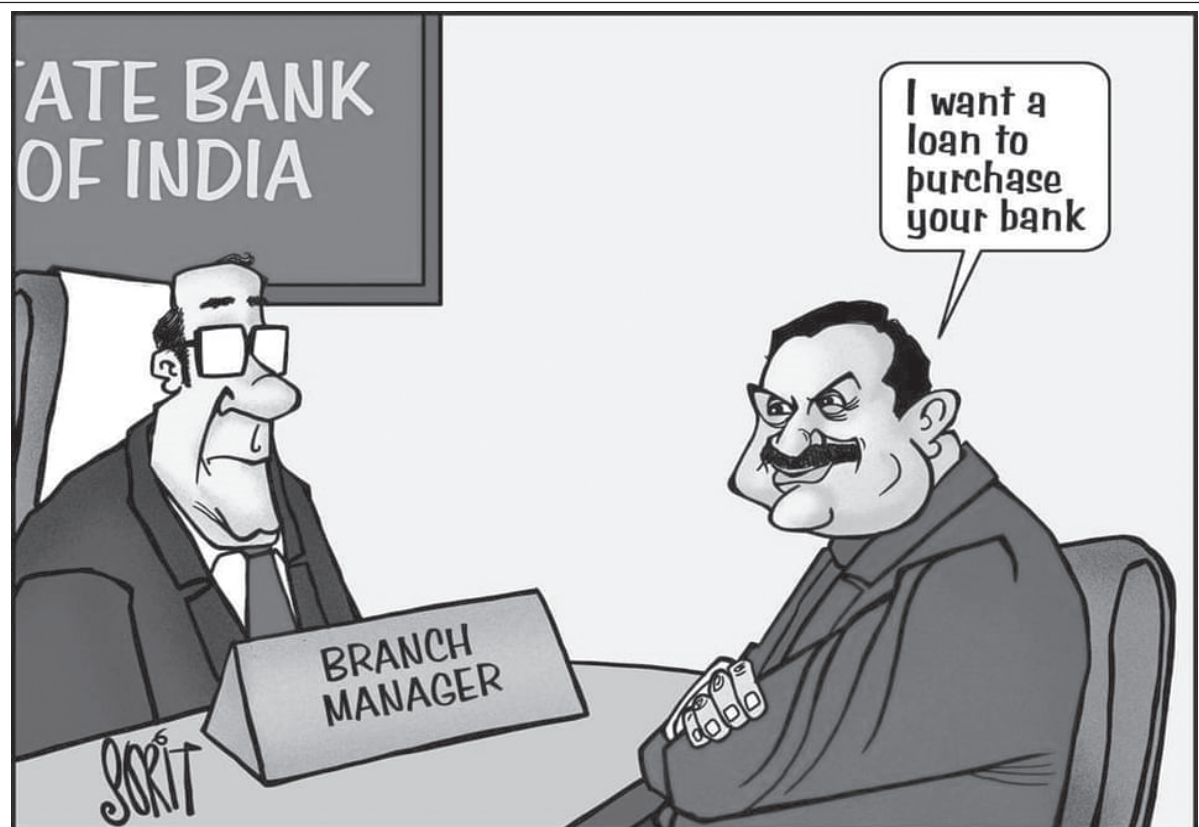
Daily wagers biggest group among suicide victims, 'self-employed persons' registered biggest rise in deaths by suicide in 2021: NCRB. The report – "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India" – shows that daily wage earners remained the largest profession-wise group among suicide victims in 2021, accounting for 42,004 suicides (25.6 per cent).

The report – "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India" – shows that daily wage earners remained the largest profession-wise group among #suicide victims in 2021, accounting for 42,004 suicides (25.6%). Marking a steady increase since 2014, the share of daily wagers among those who die by suicide in the country has crossed the quarter mark for the first time, according to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) – one in four of the recorded 1,64,033 suicide victims during 2021 was a daily wage earner.

Significantly, while the number of suicides committed by "farmer/cultivator" has dipped – 5,579 in 2020 and 5,957 in 2019 – those by "agriculture labourers" has risen sharply from 5,098 in 2020 and 4,324 in 2019. – *The Indian Express*, August 30.

Following the delay in declaration of CBSE results, issues with the conduct of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) have added to the woes of students who cleared Class 12 in 2022 and are now looking to enrol in undergraduate courses.

The second phase of the nationwide CUET, scheduled to conclude on 10 August, has been pushed back to 28 August owing to technical glitches at several exam cen-



tres. Professors at universities across India claim that, as a result, the admission process and the academic term (2022-23) are likely to be pushed back to October. Previously, admissions for undergraduate courses would conclude between June and the first half of July, with the academic session commencing either in the second half of July or August.

The two-month delay, according to professors, could lead to shorter vacations, and curtailed academic sessions, while also adding to the pressure students face in completing large parts of their course in lesser time. – *The Print*, August 18.

Corporate tax cut lowers tax intake by Rs 1.84 lakh-crore in 2 years. The estimated shortfall was Rs 87,835 crore in 2019-20 and 96,400 crore in 2020-21, notes a report by Parliamentary panel. The Central exchequer has lost

tax revenue worth nearly Rs 1.84 lakh-crore in two financial years due to lower rate of corporate tax announced by the government.

The figures for 2021-22 have not been revealed but are estimated to be over Rs 1 lakh-crore. There has also been a decline in the targets of gross and net tax collections at the BE and RE stages with actual even before the concessional tax rate for corporate was announced. The actual were at a healthy 100.7 per cent above the gross tax collection in 2016-17 and 101.2 per cent above the net tax collection. But these figures declined to 98.6 per cent and 97.9 per cent, respectively, in 2017-18. The intake declined further to 92.5 per cent and 88.7 per cent in 2018-19. It was 92.9 per cent and 90.1 per cent in 2019-20. – *The Tribune*, August 11. – *Compiled by C. Adhikesavan*

NFIW Telangana State Conference

WOMEN MUST INTENSIFY STRUGGLE FOR THEIR RIGHTS

CPI Telangana state council secretary Chada Venkata Reddy said that women should intensify their struggles on the problems pertaining to them. They should wage militant battles drawing inspiration from the heroic role played by Arutla Kamala Devi and Chaakali Ailamma in the historic glorious Telangana armed struggle. He was addressing the delegates after formally inaugurating the second conference of Telangana state unit of NFIW, held on August 28, 2022 in Kankanaala Vasumathi Nagar (Haritha Kaakateeya hotel premises), Hanmakonda. Prior to inauguration, Chada Pushpamala, senior leader of Hanmakonda district unit of NFIW hoisted the NFIW flag.

Chada Venkata Reddy appealed to women to fight against increasing attacks, atrocities, indiscrimination and suppression of women. Though there are many laws pertaining to women, their implementation is not taking place because of certain lacunas. NFIW has been fighting for one third reservation for women in all legislative bodies. He suggested NFIW must also agitate for social justice. He pointed out that the country is in the grip of communal fascist regime and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working overtime to serve the interests of Adanis and Ambanis.

Under Modi's regime, prices of essential commodities including petrol, diesel and gas cylinders are shooting up. The price of gas cylinders was Rs 400 which has shot up now to Rs 1,200. The Union govern-

ment has imposed GST even on handloom clothes and exploiting people of this country. BJP is distorting the history of Telangana armed struggle. It is trying to hoist saffron flag on the land of Telangana where it is soaked with blood of Telangana martyrs. As heirs of Telangana armed struggle, we will not allow the dramas of BJP. That is the reason why CPI is supporting TRS in order to defeat BJP.

In the state women have to fight for the implementation of assurances given by KCR. They have to bring pressure on KCR through waging militant battles for double bed room houses, unemployment relief, pensions and house sites, issues pertaining to Anganwadi workers and Mid-day meal employees. In coming days, women of the state have to fight in or-



NFIW general secretary Annie Raja addressing the state conference

der to strengthen the organisation. Hence along with women issues, NFIW must also organise struggles on local issues, Chada appealed to the delegates and also assured that the support of CPI will always be there for the struggles of women.

In the inaugural session, Dr Rajini, national secretary, NFIW, Ustela Srujana and Nedhunoori Jyothi, president and general secretary, Manda Sadalaxmi working president, B Chaaya Devi, Potu Kalavathi, vice presidents, Padala Nalini, treasurer, Potharaju Saaraiah former MLA, Karre Bixapathi, Hanamkonda party district secretary, Latha Devi, Laxmi, Sugunamma, Thota Chandrakala, Korimi Suguna, Manchala Ramadevi, M Sambalaxmi, Rasamalla

Dheena, Vaishnavi, T Rachel, R Sri Vidya, Suvarna, Anasuya participated. Revolutionary songs of IPTA enthused the audience.

On the second day, Gandra Jyothi, chairperson, Zilla Parishad, Warangal, addressing the delegates session said though women are occupying top positions in all fronts, discrimination is still continuing. Women constitute half of the population and therefore without women development, society cannot develop. Above all without women there is no society at all. In the past women have fought for their rights but still they have to fight for unsolved grievances.

Annie Raja, national general secretary, NFIW, while addressing criticised Narendra Modi government which

is exhibiting crocodile tears towards women. In the Centre fascist and Manuvadi government is in power. In the Bilkis Bano case, the BJP government of Gujarat got acquitted 11 rapists from jail. At the same time, Teesta Setalwad was sent behind bars by suppressing democratic rights. Annie Raja also criticised that atrocities and attacks on women have increased after BJP's coming to power. The Modi government is heaping heavy burden on the common man while handing over PSUs and natural resources to Adanis and Ambanis at cheaper rate. Hence women of this country have to raise their voice against Modi.

Nedunoori Jyothi state general secretary introduced secretary's

On Page 14