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## CPI General Secretary D Raja Challenges Waqf Act in SC

*The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued on April 9, 2025 the following statement:*

Communist Party of India (CPI), through its General Secretary Thiru D. Raja has filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India today viz. April 9, 2025 through advocate Ram Sankar, challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 and the provisions inserted and omitted by it in the Waqf Act, 1995.

The Communist Party of India, the revolutionary vanguard of socialism and communism has perpetually worked for the socio-economic development of minorities, backward

and marginalised classes in the country. The Communist Party of India in alliance with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) had supported a resolution dated 27 March, 2025 moved by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin in the Legislative Assembly urging the Union Government to withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 as it had adverse effect on the fundamental rights of Muslim's community in India.

Despite the opposition from the masses, the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025 was passed by the Union Government without proper consideration of the objections raised by the members of the JPC and

the other stakeholders. The points raised by the members of parliament of the Communist Party of India were also not considered.

Since the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 has been notified on 06.04.2025, as the fundamental rights of the Muslim minority community have been affected severely and the immediate implementation of the Act infringes and prejudices the rights of about 50 lakh Muslims in Tamil Nadu and 20 crore Muslims in the other parts of the country, the CPI (DMK) has challenged the provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, before the Supreme Court of India.

## Waqf Act and its Implications

Finally Modi government, true to its evil intentions, passed the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, in both the houses of Parliament with the help of TDP, JDU and other allies. The immediate signature of the President of India was not unexpected and the Act came into effect on April 8. The Act is preceded by 1913, 1923, 1954 and 1995 Acts. The Act falsely claims transparency, accountability and efficient management which is totally wrong.

On the contrary it may

Azeez Pasha

usurp its valuable properties meant for charitable and philanthropic use. It maintains graveyards, mosques, schools, madrasahs, hospitals and other charitable institutions. All religious institutions are having assets and charitable properties but why only Waqf properties are the target? Those with hard Hindutva thinking believe that by targeting Muslims and their reli-

gious assets, they can polarise the society and consolidate its hold on Hindu community and fetch positive results for them. But a considerable section among the majority community does not endorse their narrow sectarian approach.

The election results in 2024 Parliament elections are a great testimony to their calculations, as they got only 36.6 percent in 2024 parliamentary elections as against 37.3 percent in 2019.

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## CPI Rejects Waqf Legislation

*The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued on April 4, 2025, the following statement:*

The Communist Party of India rejects the Waqf legislation in its entirety, which is an assault on secularism and equality in the garb of reform. This Bill strips away key legal protections, centralizes control and enables state interference in religious endowments, violating fundamental rights. The legislation is not only unfair but also unconstitutional as it violates Article 14 by selectively imposing restrictions on Waqf, infringes on Article 25 by allowing the State to determine who can create Waqf and Disregards Article 26 by undermining the autonomy of religious institutions. Beyond its legal flaws, the Bill is a diversionary tactic to stir communal tensions and distract from real issues like economic distress and unemployment.

The BJP's strategy is clear — manufacture controversies to demonize minorities. The removal of 'Waqf by User' provision is a direct attack on community rights, enabling land grabs. The new eligibility criteria for creating Waqf, practicing Islam for 5 years, is an intrusive and arbitrary rule that in violation of the secular credentials of the Indian state. Transfer of dispute resolution to Collectors places decisions in the hands of government-controlled bureaucrats instead of tribunals. The restructuring of the Waqf Council is an unfair intrusion in minority institutions. This Bill reinforces the false narrative that Waqf properties are illegitimate and seeks to alienate minorities from their own country. The CPI warns that such interference can set a precedent for controlling other religious institutions, including churches, gurdwaras, viharas and temples of minority sects. We call upon the government to uphold India's secular values by ensuring equality and fairness for all religious institutions. If genuine reform is the objective, it must be done through democratic consultation and respect for constitutional rights

## CPI Condemns the Raid at the Residence of Manish Kunjam in Sukma, Chhattisgarh

*The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued today (April 10, 2025) the following statement:*

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India strongly condemns the raid conducted by ACB (Anti Corruption Bureau) and EOW (Economic Offence Wing) of Chhattisgarh Government in the residence of Manish Kunjam in Sukma, member of the National Executive of the Party and leader of Adivasi Mahasabha. Manish Kunjam has been in the forefront of the fight against corruption.

CPI is of the view that the raid is politically motivated, just after the defeat of BJP in the local body elections. The Party will fight it politically.

# Waqf Act: A Divisive Step

“Who are you threatening? Waqf Act will be law, and all will have to obey,” declared home minister Amit Shah. It was almost prophetic, leaving no uncertainties. Autocracy was spreading its wings with brutal intolerance against any voices raised in opposition.

The initiative itself reflects not only a move towards diluting the Constitution, but also to defame and disenfranchise the minorities and thus divide the society itself, and accomplish the dream that the ruling party had been nurturing since long. In a bid to polarize the society further, the minority affairs minister said that claims of the drawbacks in the parent act are misleading. But in reality the Act itself has potential enough to release the floodgates of disagreements and disputes in the country. But that is not all. The Act has also got anti-terror law (UAPA) in its provisions. Opposition also enquired whether UAPA would be exclusive for Waqf or other religious, charitable Acts and state boards. Concern has also been raised about clause three that has tried to define Muslims as those who had been practicing Islam for at least six years. The step amounts to question the very religious identity of Muslim minorities. It can be resolved only when the government certifies them so. Do they require any identification proof for being the citizens of this country? History itself is witness to it. The soil of this country has been soaked in their blood and bravery. In the first war of independence unleashed in 1857, they faced the firing squad fearlessly. It was Hasrat Mohani who had demanded complete independence in 1921, reiterated later by Indian National Congress in 1929 in Lahore as Poorna Swaraj during its session.

Today the Waqf (Amendment) Act is an assault on the Constitution also. The language of the Act subtly reveals an ideological bias under the layers of neutrality. By emphasizing centralized control during historical “Muslim rule,” the Act justifies contemporary state overreach. Furthermore, it seeks to redefine Waqf from a faith-based community institution to a bureaucratic real estate system, facilitating the appropriation of

religious spaces belonging to marginalized communities. The state’s demand for modern legal documentation ignores the centuries-old tradition of Waqf, to help those in need. It carries the heritage of Islamic Philanthropy, as a verse in Quran says, “And in their wealth, the beggar and deprived had due share.” (XXXVI:19) Capitalism cannot accommodate such greatness and also openness since it is in direct contrast to it.

The Waqf (Amendment) Act violates the Constitution’s Article 25, which guarantees the Right to Freedom of Religion. There is a concern about the centralized digital database for Waqf properties as it may facilitate surveillance of Muslim institutions, with no equivalent system for other religious groups. This constitutes discriminatory digital disenfranchisement, especially in an environment of rising Islamophobia.

## Editorial

Furthermore, the Act infringes upon Article 26, which protects religious denominations’ right to manage their own affairs. The inclusion of non-Muslims on Waqf Boards and the transfer of responsibilities to district collectors are essentially the state overreach, allowing the government to redefine minority religious affairs. This violates the principle of state neutrality in religious matters, instead establishing the state as the arbiter of religious practice.

The Waqf (Amendment) Act is a tool for the systemic marginalization of Muslims, posing a significant threat to their personal laws and property rights. Traditionally, Waqf properties have been integral to Muslim community life in India, funding essential services like education, healthcare, and religious institutions. These properties represent more than mere assets; they embody collective autonomy and faith-based community care. The Act’s centralizing control, disregard for established customary usage, and emphasis on registration as the sole determinant of legality creates a framework for potential dispossession. Nearly all major Waqf Boards have voiced strong opposition to the Act’s proposal to expand the executive

authority into religious matters. They specifically have criticized the removal of the “waqf by user” doctrine, which acknowledges properties dedicated to community welfare through continuous use, even without formal documentation.

The timing of this legislation, amidst concerns about the ideological neutrality of Indian bureaucracy, particularly in the context of demolitions targeting Muslim properties, raises further alarm. The bill reflects a shift from constitutional secularism to a regime of disenfranchisement and communal impoverishment, where minority communities are denied autonomy over their religious institutions. This is a form of land grab and the dispossession of a community.

The Act has come at a time when India has been confronting a political project that seeks to promote Hindu authoritarianism by subjugating minorities. Muslims have been particularly targeted. The project is premised on the same old idea of RSS that India must be a Hindu Rashtra and minorities must subscribe to Hindu primacy — a position that threatens the very foundation of Indian democracy in which all citizens of every faith have equal standing.

The period since BJP first got absolute majority in the Lok Sabha in 2014 and Narendra Modi became the prime minister has witnessed massive efforts to steer the national discourse to treat Muslims as the ‘other’. Hate speeches, overt Islamophobia, lynchings and violent attacks on Muslims in the name of cow protection and ‘love jihad’ have become frequent. These as well as the BJP government’s efforts to push forward its Hindu majoritarian agenda, including a citizenship law seen to directly discriminate against Muslims, have started eroding and subjugating the secular, democratic vision of the Constitution.

For the first time since Independence, the Sangh’s objective of denying Muslims citizens’ rights is being lived out, from the legislature to the rhythms of their daily lives. Efforts of the RSS and the BJP to direct hate towards the minority community as a means of consolidating political power have marginalized and ghettoized Muslims on the ground. Its effects are vast, the terror it spreads enormous.



# A Glorious Visit to Cuba

*Dr. Bhalchandra Kango, along with K. Sreenivas Reddy, in India were invited to take part in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium of Journalists, held in Havana, Cuba from March 17 to 19, 2025. The occasion was to celebrate 20 years of completion of Television channel "Telesur" and 133 years of publications of "Patria", a newspaper started by great freedom fighter Jose Matri.*

It was a great success as more than four hundred journalists from more than forty seven countries took part in the event. There were journalists from China, Vietnam, Russia, Kazakhstan, Spain, Belgium, Nigeria and almost all Latin American countries were represented besides India.

In the meeting, themes discussed were related to challenges posed by new technological advances in AI, Robotics and Information Technology. The President of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel Bremudez attended the inaugural as well as valedictory functions. The functions were held in the hall of University of Havana.

The inauguration took place in front of the University Square where a memorial to honour the Communist Youth leader 'Mella' who was killed in 1925, is erected. It was a reminder that fight against neo-colonialism, imperialism and true democracy is still continuing and many such heroic sacrifices would be needed to achieve success.

Telesur, a TV channel in Spanish, was started with an idea to reach out to Spanish speaking people all over the world, but mostly from South America and Mexico. This was the

idea of President Chavez of Venezuela and Fidel Castro of Cuba which was executed by Cuba 20 years ago. It is working successfully to combat fake imperialist news and propaganda unleashed by US government to confuse the people of America.

One must commend that Cuban people who face lot of hardships due to US blockade are deter-



mined to fight for freedom and dignity and to protect socialist economy which is very different from that of the US. In fact one is amazed to witness total lack of consumerist culture when one visits Cuba. Education and health is free for all. We did not find a single beggar or homeless person in Havana city. People have a simple life and live happily. In fact, talking to the students in Havana University, we were told that students are prepared to face hardship for 100 more years but will not compromise the freedom and dignity.

*Dr BhalChandra Kango, K. Sreenivas Reddy*

There is a shortage of electricity due to blockade and as most of the infrastructure needs replacement or repairs which is difficult due to blockade. However, with the help of Chinese, Cubans are planning to meet more than 40 percent of their electrical needs from solar energy within a period of two to three years. This should be a great relief to the people.

Absence of racialism is something to be lauded as more than sixty per-

cent. There are more than 50000 students studying in Havana University. In fact, most of the Spanish speaking students from Latin American countries prefer to study in Havana as education is free. Cuban government also encourages students from Latin American to come and study.

Cuba's advances in the field of medicine are attracting people from all over the world. Cuban doctors go all over the world to help people in need and during the time of crisis. In the Corona period when all over the world, crisis prevailed, Cuban doctors were a great help. Doctors for oil is very effective scheme run by Cuban doctors to help in rural areas of Venezuela for oil which is badly needed by Cuba. UNESCO and WHO have praised the advances made by Cuba in medicine. During the crisis even USA was helped by Cuba. It is unfortunate that in spite of this USA blockade prevented export of respirators needed during the Corona period.

Cuban revolution is basically a nationalist revolution but because of international situation prevailing at that time became a part of international revolutionary process against the imperialist designs of USA and thus became a part of socialist block. Many in USA and world over felt that with the collapse of socialist soviet block Cuba also will collapse but that did not happen. Then many felt that after Fidel Castro's death it will collapse but that also

did not happen. This is due to the brave resistance and love for freedom of Cuban people.

Cuba and India had very good relationship during non-alignment movement, in fact it was in 1982 that the chairmanship of NAM was handed over by Fidel Castro to then prime minister Indira Gandhi in Delhi. Cuban people still remember that. We were reminded of that relationship whenever people met us. Cuba needs international support and cooperation and through their international support Cubans have resisted the US aggression so far. During the regime of President Obama, more than one million American tourists visited Cuba and learned about the real Cuba but all this stopped ever since Donald Trump became the President. Soon came the adoption of hard line against Cuba.

Many Indian mass organisations are collecting funds to help Cuba which is in crisis.

Cuba's life expectancy is around 79.5 Years, with males living up to 76 Years and females up to 81 Years on average. This is impressive, especially considering the economic challenges they are facing. As for per capita income, Cuba's average income is approximately 9,010 dollar per year. However, it's essential to note that the cost of living in Cuba is relatively low.

Regarding relations with America, Cuba and

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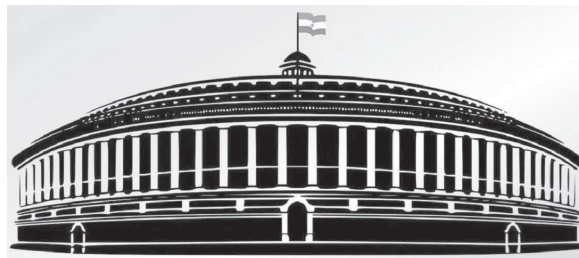
# CPI Opposes Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

*K. Subbarayan, CPI MP in Lok Sabha, participated in the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 debate. He opposed the bill on behalf of CPI for two reasons.*

On the one hand, this Bill categorically rejects the Constitutional provisions. On the other hand, since the conception of this Bill, the government's approach has been undemocratic and dictatorial. While considering these two aspects, I strongly oppose this Bill in the real sense.

The current government's ideological mentor, Golwalkar, the RSS leader, taut that there are three internal enemies of the Hindu nation: Muslims, Christians, and Communists. He taught them about these

three enemies of India from their perspective. Out of which, they have targeted their first enemy, the Muslims, through the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. The government is creating divisions among minorities. This



CPI IN PARLIAMENT- LOK SABHA

includes their actions of making divisions among minorities in the name of Christians, Sikhs, Jains, etc. This shows their sadistic

Third, the transfer of Waqf dispute resolution from Tribunals to District Collectors places decision-making solely in the hands of the Government-controlled bureaucrats. The Collector is also the top Revenue Officer of a district. In case of conflict between the Government and the Waqf, it is not difficult to guess in whose favour the Collector will decide.

Fourth, restructuring the Waqf Council to include non-Muslims and increasing Government interference is an unjustified overreach. This is selective interference to target minorities and not a reform. Tomorrow, the same thing can happen to churches, gurudwaras, Buddhist viharas and temples of minority sects. Everyone should understand that the current Government has no



CPI IN PARLIAMENT- RAJYA SABHA

respect for any religion. Its only religion is clinging to power. The Munambam issue arose with the support of the Central Government to create a communal conflict in Kerala. In reality, all the political parties share the same opinion in resolving this issue. The LDF Government is committed to providing land to all eligible residents and ensuring it is done.

The bill is not about fairness or better management of Waqf properties, as the BJP claims. It is about alienation. It reinforces the false narrative that Waqf properties are illegitimate and that the minorities are outsiders in their own country. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, the Home Minister said anyone aggrieved by the Bill should go to the judiciary. The judiciary is here to do justice.

attitude of getting happiness by harassing minorities.

He warned that the people of India will teach you a befitting lesson in the next Election itself. They will give a suitable judgement. He questioned the Home Minister on his silence regarding Temple lands. Lakhs of acres of land are attached to Hindu temples. Poor people have been ploughing these lands as slaves for decades together. They do not have rights in these lands. I urge this Union Cabinet to bring legislation to provide land to these landless labourers so that they have their own homes.

I want to ask the Home Minister and the House whether we are here to do injustice!

In conclusion, I would say that India's secular definition is clear. The State's job is to ensure fairness to all religions. With these words, on behalf of the CPI, I demand that this Bill be withdrawn. If the Government truly believes in reforms, let it consult the stakeholders, respect their autonomy and uphold constitutional values that protect every Indian regardless of faith.

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## Demand for Kendriya Vidyalaya in Mattannur, Kannur

*During the discussion, Santosh Kumar, P CPI MP demanded that the government sanction a new Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) in Mattannur, near the Kannur International Airport in Kerala.*

As of now, there is no KV that can benefit the aspiring students who belong to the hilly region of North Malabar. The nearest KV is in Kannur, 25 km away from Mattannur. Due to the lack of opportunities for affordable education under the CBSE Board, parents from the hilly region of Kannur send their children to private schools. Since many Central Government and State Government offices are near the area, a KV would be immensely helpful to many aspiring students. This would provide affordable education for the children of inter-State migrant workers as well. There is adequate land available to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Mattannur. Considering the urgency and importance of the matter, I humbly request the Union Government to take the necessary steps to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Mattannur.

*Participating in the debate on the Waqf Amendment Bill in Rajya Sabha, CPIMP, PP Suneer, said that the bill is not about reform or management but is about dis-possession.*

It is not a cure; it is an attempt to capture. CPI reject this Bill in its entirety because it is an assault on secularism and equality, the core values of our Constitution. The Waqf system has existed for centuries, serving as an institution for religious and social welfare. By taking away key legal protections and centralising control, this Bill paves the way for State interference in religious endowments, violating many fundamental rights.

The Waqf Bill violates Article 14 by selectively imposing restrictions on Waqf. It infringes upon Article 25 by allowing the State to decide who qualifies to create a Waqf. It disregards Article 26, which guarantees religious denominations the right to manage their affairs. This Bill is not only unfair, but it is also clearly unconstitutional. More than that, this Bill is a diversion. During the economic crisis and mass unemployment, this government created communal controversies. Yesterday, it was Aurangzeb. Today, it is Waqf. The aim is precise: keep the people divided and distracted by demonising minorities.

Now, regarding the provisions of the Bill, the removal of the 'Waqf by User' provision is an assault on community rights. This provision has for long protected properties used for religious and charitable purposes. Its removal clears the way for land grabs and capture.

Second, the new eligibility criterion is that only those practising Islam for five years can declare Waqf as an arbitrary and intrusive rule. Faith is a matter of personal belief, not bureaucratic certification. No truly secular State should distribute certificates of who is a believer and who is not.



# Resist Trump's Tariffs on Agriculture

*Dr Soma Marla*

Our farmers for the last four years are waging relentless struggle for legal guarantee for crop MSPs and against corporate control of markets and their land. Imposition of Trump's reciprocal tariffs there will be a serious blow to our agriculture. President Donald Trump is threatening to change the world trade that is existing since the last several decades. There will be a shift in structural balance in world markets.

Trump termed second April, the Liberation day, and claims that American industry has been experiencing severe losses from US imports from other nations. He is imposing reciprocal tariffs charged equally to match duties other nations imposing on US imports to compensate losses incurred by American industries. Nations around the world are upset and scrambling to ease the trade to lessen the losses to national economies. According to New Delhi based Trade Research think tank, GTRI, India will be severely impacted by tariffs. With exports to United States ranging from garments, jewelry, electronic goods, rice, prawns and sea food valuing 78 billion dollars in 2023-24, is severely stressed. Despite its farm surplus in bilateral trade with USA, the manpower intensive sectors like agriculture, garment, automobile spare parts, jewelry and other small and medium industries may suffer severe losses from Trump's recent trade policies.

Bilateral farm trade between India and the US is modest, at just 8bn dollars, leaving United States with trade deficit. India mainly exports rice, shrimp, honey, vegetable extracts, castor oil and black pepper, while the US sends almonds, walnuts, pistachios, apples and lentils. So far, India has been imposing import taxes and certain controls as per the WTO norms to protect Indian farmers from dumping cheap foreign farm products. However, as part of the new reciprocal tariffs, we

will be obliged to import wheat, maize, pulses, chicken meat dairy and several and other products. And seriously challenges the very livelihood of farmers and food security of the nation.

Currently as the income from crop cultivation is declining rapidly women farmers are supporting the family with dairy. Now India is the top producer of milk in the world. But with imposition of 38.29 percent of Trump's tariffs a kilogram of desi ghee costing Rs 600 presently will rise to Rs 760 per kilo. But increased price of Rs. 160 will be directly remitted to American agribusiness MNCs, making the farmer poorer. Similarly Andhra Pradesh is a major exporter of fresh water prawns to United States. With new 26 percent of tariff a kilogram of prawns will fetch in American super markets Rs 180 only against their cultivation cost of Rs 250 for a kilogram in Andhra. In America, cost of production of a quintal of wheat is Rs 1,700 (nearly 200/Q) per quintal compared to MSP announced by government is Rs 2,425 in India.

Howard Lutnick, US commerce secretary in his recent visit to New Delhi questioned in threatening voice why India is not buying even a single bushel of corn from America and wanted the 140 crore Indian consumer market opened to American agribusiness. Average Indian farmer holding is below 1 ha. Imagine his fate if domestic wheat and paddy markets are exposed to four major grain trading American multinationals like Cargil, Bunge and others. President Trump claims the trade with other nations has been highly disadvantageous, even America is being looted and ripped off.

Hence, to remedy this situation he announced tariffs on

American imports calculated based on trade deficit. Imposed reciprocal tariffs range from average 10 percent to 120 percentage points splashed on nearly 140 nations. Even poorest African nation Lesotho was imposed 50 percent tariff and similar is the case with Myanmar and Bangladesh. The reality is very much different from what President Trump claims. The formula taken for computing deficits is unscientific. Unlike in the past few centuries imperialist powers have shifted from territorial occupation to economic dominance employing trade wars and dollar currency manipulations to maintain unequal balance of commodity prices.

Institutions such as World Bank, IMF were created to regulate capital flows around the world. High interest rates to third world developing nations are often tied to military and political restrictions.

World trade was manipulated using GATT (Agreement on terms of trade) to WTO to legalize balance of payments favoring the West and the trade barriers and sanctions were erected long before Trump's reciprocal tariffs, mainly to control trade with developing nations.

Trade tariffs are nothing but maintaining price imbalance (in favor of affluent West) and continuation of neoliberal economic policies. Any increase in tariffs will make India's exports to the US less competitive. Trump's reciprocal tariffs will make Indian agricultural, seafood and processed foods 31 percent more expensive in the US. That will make an American consumer to switch from costly Indian shrimp and rice to cheaper alternative products. Washington now wants to push its major farm exports - wheat, cotton, corn, soya and chicken meat to narrow its 45bn dollars trade deficit with India.

Suggesting India to lower

farm subsidies, cut price support that is scrap crop MSPs and open up to genetically modified (GM) crops, American butter, chicken legs and dairy ignores the fundamental asymmetry in global agriculture.

India complains recommendations of World Trade Organization (WTO) and by imposing a certain level of import taxes. India and other developing nations were permitted by WTO (under amber box) certain concessions and subsidies to some crops so as to protect domestic farmers from unprecedented dumping of crop imports by other nations. For example for every acre of cotton crop India subsidises (under amber box) up to 8 percent (amounting to Rs 8,000) while US, for instance, heavily subsidises its agriculture and protects farmers through crop insurance. An American farmer gets up to 110 percent of cultivation expenses on every acre of cotton crop manipulating WTO's Green box terms.

Though the terms of trade and price imbalance persisted the trade sustained during the last three decades. But with Trump's reciprocal tariffs WTO has become irrelevant making world trade subjugated to American terms. With exposure of Indian markets to American imports, poor Indian farmer has to match his prices with dumped cheap American cotton and eventually could devastate India's smallholder farmers.

India has emerged the number one producer of rice, milk, cotton, sugarcane and other products. However, with imposed new reciprocal tariffs we are forced to import even cotton, wheat, corn, dairy and other products from United States. Similar is the vegetable oil import story. Till 1990 India was self sufficient in oil seeds production. However, we were forced to import vegetable oils

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## On Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025

*P. P. Suneer, CPI MP, raised serious concerns regarding the "Tribhuvan" Sahkari University Bill. While the University is meant to serve the cooperative sector, its governance structure tells a different story.*

In true BJP fashion, decision-making is excessively centralised. The proposed governing board is packed with bureaucrats, and not a single expert from the field of education has been included. What does this reveal? A Government that is short-sighted and does not recognise the importance of educational

expertise in running a university, let alone one dedicated to the cooperative movement!

The story of the man after whom this University is named, Tribhuvandas Kishbhai Patel, is a story of grassroots empowerment. He laid the foundations of Amul, and the technological innovations and social entrepreneurship of Dr. Verghese Kurien and Shri H.M. Dalaya transformed it into a globally recognised branch.

Dr. Verghese Kurien strengthened the cooperative movement with technology and innova-

tion and paved the way for India's self-sufficiency in the dairy sector. That same spirit is the need of the hour - aligning the cooperative



movement with technological innovations. While the government has pat itself on the back for the rise in startups in recent years, how many of these start-ups follow a cooperative ownership model? What incentives has the Government provided to promote

cooperative-based start-ups? The answer remains unclear.

How does the Government plan to integrate technological advancements with the cooperative movement? That, too, remains unanswered.

Further, suppose the Government is genuinely committed to honouring the cooperative movement. Why has the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) Anand not been named after Dr Verghese Kurien, the architect of India's White Revolution? His contributions transformed India into a

self-sufficient dairy nation. I demand that the Institute of Rural Management Anand be named after its founder, Dr. Verghese Kurien, as part of the Bill.

The cooperative sector cannot be strengthened through mere slogans and bureaucratic control. It needs real investment, innovation and participation from those who understand education and cooperatives. A university in name alone will not serve the movement unless it is structured to embody the true spirit of cooperation and democracy.

## Resist Trump's Tariffs ...

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from other WTO nations by drastically reducing import taxes. Dumping of imported cheap palm, sunflower and other oil made cultivation of oil seeds unprofitable for our farmers and left cultivation. This led to severe shortages of vegetable oils and government currently incurs sums touching \$ 16 bn every year. Similar will be the case with maize, sorghum and pulses, the lifeline for cultivation of our dry-land small farmers.

Imagine a similar scenario with dumping of cheap wheat, rice, cotton and dairy products from America to narrow its \$45 bn trade deficit with India.

Price falls in markets below the cost of cultivation thus bankrupting our small farmers increasing rural distress. Mere four multinationals - Cargil, Burge, Louis Dreyfus control world grain trade. They will be the major

beneficiaries of 140 crore Indian consumer market. This not only destroys livelihoods of millions of small farmers but also severely destabilizes food security and Public Distribution system in the country.

For the last four years farmers across the country are holding protests for guaranteed prices for their crops and corporate control over the markets and their land.

### Unequal Partners

Trump wants India to lower tariffs on American goods and also buy more from it saying both countries match each other in trade with equal tariffs. The US has commercial agriculture, while India relies on intensive, subsistence farming. It's a question of the livelihoods of millions of small Indian farmers versus the interests of US agribusiness.

American agriculture is commercial with 8,000 big farmers while India with 85 percent of small farmers practice sustain-

able farming for their livelihoods. American farmers for all crops are heavily subsidized by their Federal government, while Indian farmers receive below 8 percent of subsidies on cultivation expenses. Keeping view of asymmetry, there can never be equal partners in trade. Hence matching reciprocal tariffs can not be applied to Indian farmers.

### Why this silence?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Washington and met President Trump. In his presence Trump

had not criticized Indian trade policies and even demanded to lower import taxes and open the market for American agribusiness. PM Modi sat all through the meeting silently and did not even raise the issue of humiliating treatment of handcuffed illegal deportees in a military aircraft. Even after nearly a month, neither the PM, Commerce minister

nor Finance minister speak to the nation. Also in the Parliament no discussion on tariffs was allowed. People suspect that there is a reason behind this mysterious silence. Perhaps PM Modi wants to rescue his crony capitalist friend Gautam Adani from arrest and prosecution in United States. Surrendering before a bully President and sacrificing national interests is unpardonable.

What Government has to do:

- Negotiate for low tariffs

- Compensate our farmers for loss of price incurred due to dumped imported farm products.

- Forge united front with European Union and BRICS nations to stand against US tariffs

- Alternatively start negotiating with other blocks such as BRICS, European Union, ASEAN,

Middle East and other nations and enter bilateral trade agreements.

- Focus on agricultural research, food

processing to rise crop productivity and farmers incomes to make our agriculture more competitive in world markets. Our crop productivity lags behind world averages.

On April 7, 2025, stocks in India, and also in European, American and Asian countries have fallen drastically in response to Tariffs. Wide discontent is brewing against Trump administration in American public and huge.

Demonstrations were held in almost all 50 states of USA. Hence, this is time to forge an united front with other blocks of nations and resist the unfair trade practices. Farmers should club struggle for crop MSP with American imperialism.

Above all India must prioritise its national interest and protect its rural economy. Trade cooperation should not come at the cost of our farmers, food sovereignty or policy autonomy.

*Dr. Soma Marla, Principal Scientist (retired), ICAR, New Delhi.*



# Waqf Bill : Secular State's Communal Reckoning

*The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, has sparked significant debate in India, with critics arguing that it violates several constitutional norms. Below is an analysis of how the bill is perceived to contravene the Indian Constitution, based on concerns raised by opposition leaders, legal experts, and Muslim organizations:*

## Violation of Article 14 (Right to Equality)

Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws. Critics argue that the bill introduces arbitrary distinctions by imposing a requirement that only individuals practicing Islam for at least five years can create a waqf. This creates an unequal classification between Muslims based on the duration of their religious practice, a condition not imposed on other religious communities for managing their endowments (e.g., Hindu trusts under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882).

The lack of a clear public purpose for this differentiation is seen as a breach of the “reasonable classification” test under Article 14, which requires that any distinction must serve a legitimate objective and have a rational nexus to that goal. Opponents question why recent converts or those practicing for less than five years are excluded, calling it discriminatory and arbitrary.

## Violation of Article 25 (Freedom of Religion)

Article 25 ensures the freedom to profess, practice, and propagate religion. The bill's provisions, such as restricting who can create a waqf and increasing government oversight (e.g., empowering District Collectors to deter-

mine waqf property status), are viewed as undue interference in religious practices.

Waqf is a religious and charitable institution under Islamic law, and its creation and management are considered integral to Muslim religious practice. By imposing state control and conditions not aligned with Islamic law (e.g., the five-year practice rule), the bill is accused of infringing on the autonomy of Muslims to practice their faith freely.



## Violation of Article 26 (Freedom to Manage Religious Affairs)

Article 26 grants religious denominations the right to manage their own affairs in matters of religion, including establishing and maintaining institutions for religious and charitable purposes. The inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf Boards and the Central Waqf Council, as mandated by the bill, is seen as a direct violation of this right.

Critics assert that allowing non-Muslims to govern waqf properties—while no similar provision exists for Hindu temples or Sikh gurdwaras—undermines the Muslim community's autonomy to administer its religious institutions. This selective intervention is viewed

as an attack on the constitutional protection of minority rights to self-governance in religious matters.

## Violation of Article 15 (Prohibition of Discrimination on Grounds of Religion)

Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. The bill's focus on waqf properties, exclusive to Muslims, without equivalent reforms for other religious endowments, is perceived as

targeting one religious community.

Opponents argue that the bill singles out Muslim institutions for increased regulation and control, while Hindu, Sikh, or Christian religious bodies face no parallel legislative overhaul. This selective targeting is seen as discriminatory and a breach of the secular fabric of the Constitution.

## Violation of Federalism (Division of Legislative Powers)

The Constitution delineates powers between the Union and State governments. Charitable and religious institutions fall under the Concurrent List (Entry 28), allowing both to legislate, but critics argue that the bill cen-

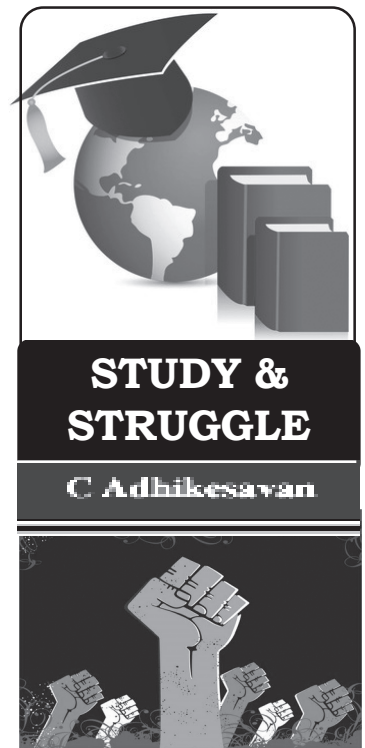
tralizes control over waqf properties, encroaching on state authority.

Provisions like empowering the Central Government to regulate waqf registration, audits, and property surveys, and transferring powers from Waqf Boards to District Collectors (state officials under central influence), are seen as undermining federalism. This shift reduces the autonomy of State Waqf Boards, which were established to manage waqf properties locally.

## Violation of Article 300A (Right to Property)

Although the right to property is no longer a fundamental right, Article 300A protects individuals from being deprived of property except by authority of law. The bill's removal of “waqf by user” (recognition of waqf based on long-term use) and the potential for government reclamation of disputed properties raise concerns.

Critics contend that properties historically used as waqf, often without formal documentation, could be reclassified or seized, effectively depriving Muslim communities of their property rights. This is particularly contentious in cases where waqf



status has been recognized for generations.

## Broader Constitutional Implications

**Secularism:** As a basic feature of the Constitution, secularism requires the state to remain neutral in religious matters. The bill's perceived targeting of Muslim institutions, without similar interventions in other faiths, is argued to erode this principle.

**Basic Structure Doctrine:** Opposition leaders have claimed that the bill attacks the basic structure of the Constitution by diluting secularism, equality, and federalism, potentially rendering it unconstitutional under the landmark Kesavananda Bharati judgment.

The contention that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill violates constitutional norms hinges on its perceived overreach into religious autonomy, discriminatory treatment of Muslims, and disruption of federal balance. Critics see it as a politically motivated move that undermines equality and secularism, while supporters view it as a necessary reform. The debate reflects broader tensions between state regulation and religious freedom in India's constitutional framework. Legal challenges, including petitions in the Supreme Court, may ultimately determine its constitutional validity.



# US Shifts Recessionary Crisis onto World

*In a declaration of universal 'war' on the world, the US finance-driven economy is shifting its recessionary crisis onto the planet. US imperialist-financial policy has negotiated a full circle: it began by forcing GATT and WTO upon the world three decades ago; today it is trying to escape the same!*

The so-called 'liberation day' for the US is turning out the beginning of crisis for itself and for the whole world. Practically every country has attacked the Trump-led US trade and tariff (T&T) policies. India is also slapped a 27 percent tariff, China 34 percent, Pakistan 29 percent, Vietnam 46 percent, EU 20 percent, Sri Lanka 44 percent and a basic tariff of 10 percent from all the countries into the US.

'Liberation Day' stands exposed as 'international bloodbath': for the US, stock after stock crashed. World's most valuable company the Apple has crashed 16 percent, having been caught in the 'Trump Pincers'! A self-goal indeed!!

China assembles about 80 percent of the 220 million iPhones world over. After being hit by 54 percent 'Trump tariffs', prices are likely to rise 40 percent.

Global businesses are being forced to reorganize their supply chains. Apple made 'unusually high' number of shipments to the US on April 6, from factories in India and China, to partially offset the retail price-hike.

Vietnam has been hit with a 49 percent tariff, being forced to protect itself. It has a trade surplus of 123.46

billion dollars, compared to India's 45.66 billion dollars. They both will have to rework their strategies.

## US markets biggest losers

Financial markets the world over were reeling on and after April 4: the US DOW Jones crashed nearly 1400 points, S&P was down 4.2 percent, Russell crashed, sending business and investment into a spin. Sensex in India tumbled 1400 points, IT stocks slumped down 10 percent, FPI sold in disorderly panic. Rs 3.5 lakh crore were lost in a day on the BSE.

The bloodbath continued on the subsequent days. Dalal Street of Mumbai became 'The Lal Street': Sensex down 2227 points or 3 percent, investors lost Rs 14.2 lakh crore. It was like a nuclear economic war: markets from Japan to US spun out of control. Nifty down 743 points or 3.2 percent, Euro Stoxx 4.31 percent, IBEX 35 fell 5.14 percent, Hang Seng (Hongkong stock) 13.22 percent, Shanghai Composite 7.34%, Nikkei 7.83%, and so on.

Worldwide \$6.6 trillion were lost.

Overblown markets deflated rapidly.

## Outrageous American demands

US National Trade Estimates report, 2025, demands from India on March 31: A 'reform' of the MSP for rice and wheat; allow GM food imports; lower tariffs on farm products; amend Patents Act; allow Walmart and Amazon to sell directly to Indian consumers; access to US firms to government contracts including in

defence, etc.

The US wants major portion of Indian sovereignty itself! This is GATT/WTO without them!

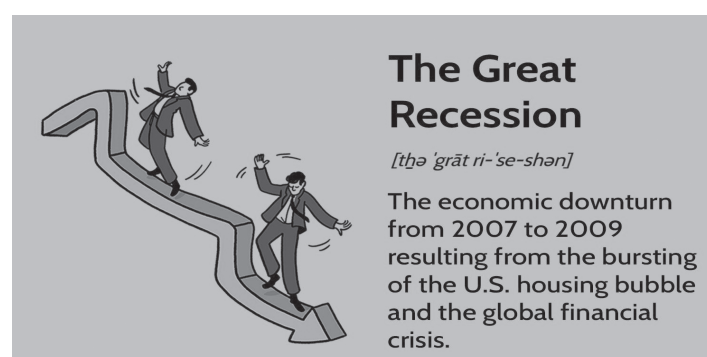
## Trump acting victim

Trump hypocritically claims: "For decades our country has been looted, pillaged, raped and plundered by nations near and far—both friend and foe alike."!!! A pathetic statement from a country, which has been exploiting and pillaging the whole world for decades and centuries! He accused that the 'foreign cheaters' (!) have been ransacking the American

sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, Latin America, Asia and even the EU, developing a powerful financial monopoly system based on liquid money. Time came when US could not convert money into productive capital.

## Reversal: third world fights back

Events did not evolve exactly as per US imperialist logic. Countries decided not to take the US threat lying down. They joined the WTO en masse, rather than keep out and decided to fight back from within. China insisted on not only join-



factories and economy; in fact it was the US which did it.

The US imposed GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) and WTO (World Trade Organisation) upon world economy, particularly the developing one, dictating unilateral tariffs under the infamous Dunkel Proposals four decades ago. GATT was transformed into WTO under the US aegis in 1994.

US used GATT, WTO, IMF and the World Bank as the arms-twisters against developing countries, destroying their intellectual property and agricultural, leading to decimation of land and nature, with millions starving.

The US LPG ravaged vast tracts in Saharan and

ing but even leading the WTO. India and many others challenged US domination repeatedly in WTO Court, where US lost the majority of cases.

Organisations like Shanghai Cooperation Council and BRICS emerged in the meantime, covering 40% of world economy. US was put on the defensive, losing markets to China, EU and the developing economies including India.

## US economic collapse, 2008: a rehearsal

US economy went into recession and then collapse in 2007-08, as top five financial giants like Lehmann Brothers etc imploded overnight, reflecting extreme financialisation at the cost of productive activity. Economy lost sight of

Anil Rajimwale

who was lending to whom and who was borrowing from where! The economy became an insoluble mesh of mortgages.

## Acting as imperialist/neo-colonial bully

Once the US controlled 3/4<sup>th</sup> of world economy, and could afford large deposits of dollars in other countries. Dollar was the control tool. But things recoiled on the US, the dollar losing control.

Trump presidency is a reflection of this recoil and the resultant crisis of recession, over-production, balance of payments crisis, and conversion of the product into money and finance capital. Karl Marx, and then Lenin, penetratingly analysed monetisation and financialisation of capital, enabling Frederic Engels predict a world war. Subsequent history confirmed the scientific Marxist analyses. Progressive forces and Communists need to restore this tool of analysis.

In the midst of around financialisation, Trump administration is trying to resort to the traditional as well as 'neo'-colonial methods of bullying and suppressing. US imperialism has treated the world as its playground, where it could play 'games', including play with the lives of the people.

US thinks using traditional and 'new' colonial threats, it can force Iceland, Greenland, Canada and so on to follow its dictates and take over their lands and econo-



mies. But US forgets that it is not the inter-Wars (between the two world wars) world. Columbia sent back the US plane with its shackled 'illegal' citizens, and brought them back in its own plane, with dignity, even if they had committed mistakes.

But our own government meekly surrendered and accepted the shackled, humiliated Indian citizens in the US planes, not once but twice! So much for the much touted official 'nationalism', forgetting the lofty ideals of our freedom struggle.

India following hazy tactics, walking tight-rope, giving up tradition of bold anti-imperialism, is trying to 'justify' US 'T&T'!

The US economy is in one of the deepest recessionary crises.

### **Deposits, wars and people**

Michael T Klare in his revealing work the Resource Wars: the new landscape of global conflict predictively unveils the US going after the world oil and mineral deposits, tuning its foreign policy in military direction covered up by suitable ideology. The US embroiled the Middle-east and the Arab countries in long wars to weaken and destroy them and then to take over oil deposits and markets. It deployed its foreign policy constituents in Central Asia post-USSR, in Africa, in Latin America and elsewhere. Just now it is engaged in making Venezuela and Guyana fight each other after huge deposits were found off the Guyanese coast.

Howard Zinn in his penetrating A People's

History of the United States shows how the US used the so-called 'security concerns' to land troops to the farthest corners of the earth: today it has 70-plus military bases to 'secure itself'!

The nasty tactics of militarization and of building up a massive military-industrial complex are covered up by the geo-political ideology of 'peace, security, liberalism'. US has always been under 'threat' from various forces, be it the former USSR, Vietnam, Cuba, India, Afghanistan, Latin American countries to the smallest Grenada (!) with a tiny population of a few tens of thousands and with no military, just and a minuscule police force! Grenada had only two planes! Yet the US found ways to intervene there too!!

US has no respect for independence and sovereignty of any country, big or small. Its security is so threatened that it has complained to Greenland that the latter has not done enough for US security! Greenland boycotted the US vice-president so completely that he confined himself to the US military camp.

US is funding and supplying arms for the mass killing of children, women and men in the Gaza Strip, even justifying it on the flimsiest grounds. It has declared obnoxiously that it would transform Gaza into a 'beautiful' sea view, by helping Israel kill thousands. The reality is that it wants to grab the mineral deposits lying under there and elsewhere.

The US continues to fan the flames of war in the Ukraine simply because the country has the

deposits of mineral and other materials. Other countries too, the NATO and EU countries as also Russia are interested in the similar deposits.

After all, war is the continuation of politics of economics! Human lives do not matter at all, particularly for the US.

### **New phase of imperialism**

The US tariff attacks show both the strength and the weaknesses of US imperialism in the context of the new phase of tech revolution and ultra-fast signaling system. Imperialism finds it difficult to sustain its momentum and is unable to profitably use the new technology.

### **How recessionary is US economy?**

A recession is a general downward trend in the economy. Manufacturing has shown a constant downward trend in the US and has failed to pick up since 2008.

There is hardly any scope for productive investments, which have shown constant downward tendencies since the 1980s, further exacerbating in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is because of accelerating conversion of productive into finance capital in the US and other advanced economies. Consumer goods demand has fallen, unemployment has risen, market in general has shrunk, people are forced to take up more than one job, and in general prices have risen. The growth rate in the US has fallen drastically.

The recession in the US is a serious development for both the US and the world. Most of the world, particularly the developing one, has shown greater growth rates,

even three times that of the US. Even India has achieved faster rates. In such situation, the US has two options: either to increase its growth of and investments in manufacture and production, or, shift the recession onto the world economy. Being a financial-imperialist economy, it has chosen the latter course.

'Imperialism' not just a policy, it is a system

Imperialist policies are the product of imperialist system and neo-colonialism. It is a socioeconomic system, which finds it 'painful' to invest in production! Lenin pointed out in his famous Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism that imperialism is a higher socio-economic order that does away with competition and flies away from production, marked by the transition from "domination of capital in general to the domination of finance capital." (p45) The US has resorted to the following typically imperialist measures to overcome its crisis.

Money capital separates from productive one, and an entire system of securities, derivatives, mortgages, dividends, commissions and speculation is formed as the source of profits (that is 'redistribution of profits').

The US is trying to protect itself and grow without investing in industry. This is typical of the modern 21<sup>st</sup> century imperialism, wherein high 'walls' of tariffs and trade (T&T) barriers are raised to profits from world economy; raise the price of trade; grab the raw materials abroad;

increase war tensions to garner military profits; use blackmail and intimidate others.

The US leadership has stooped very low as never before in behavior and language.

Yet it has forgotten one new reality. World today is a truly international market, and as such commodities are international, not produced in one country. High tariff affects big global business too, and as such is counter-productive. The giant companies themselves are adversely and negatively affected, the process coiling back on the US economy.

### **Imperialist ideology**

The US has created a veil of ideology to hide, not so successfully, its expansionist intentions and economic system. Ideology is the product of economic system. The US has spread false, imperialist, narratives of the 'end of ideology', clash of civilizations (itself being 'superior'), security threat, 'America first', offence in the garb of 'national security', selecting world regions arbitrarily for its well-being, with unlimited rights to intervene anywhere and everywhere, raising the question of immigration in a chauvinist racist manner, and so on. Its ideological trappings are taking on new forms and structures with imperialist content.

Working in the depths of the ideological trappings are the economic processes unleashed by centralization of capital and its conversion into monopoly finance capital.

US imperialist ideology and its economic financial roots need to be exposed and the world restructured.



# CPI Candidate Nellikanti Sathyam Elected MLC in Telangana

In Telangana State, Nellikanti Sathyam, a candidate from the Communist Party of India (CPI), was unanimously elected as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC). He is the first CPI member to be elected to the Legislative Council since the formation of Telangana in 2014.

Sathyam serves as a CPI Telangana State Executive member and is the CPI Nalgonda District Secretary. He began his political journey with the All India Students Federation (AISF) and later joined the CPI, participating in various agitations in the Nalgonda District.

Nellikanti Sathyam took the oath of office on Monday in the Legislative Council. Several ministers and CPI Na-

tional Council member Palla Venkat Reddy attended the oath-taking ceremony, during which Council Chairman G. Sukhender Reddy ad-

**Kiran Kumar  
Bommagani**

Assembly General Elections as part of an agreement with the Con-

cate two MLC (Member of Legislative Council) seats to the CPI in exchange for their decision to limit their contest to just one seat. K.

ency.

Recently, six MLCs from the MLA quota retired, prompting the announcement of biennial elections. As part of their agreement, the Congress Party consented to give one MLC seat to the CPI. The CPI selected Nellikanti Sathyam, a dedicated party member from a Backward Community, for this position. He expressed his gratitude to CPI General Secretary D. Raja, Secretaries Dr K. Narayana and Syed Aziz Pasha, State Secretary K. Sambasiva Rao, National Council member Palla Venkat Reddy, and the entire party for this opportunity. Sathyam promised to advocate for the voice of the poor in the Upper House of Telangana.



*Nellikanti Sathyam taking oath as MLC, Telangana*

ministered the oath to Sathyam.

In 2023, the CPI contested only one seat in the

gress Party. In this arrangement, the Congress Party promised to allo-

Sambasiva Rao, the CPI State Secretary, won the MLA seat from the Kothagudem Constitu-

*With Best Compliments  
On the Occasion of*  
**Communist Party of India (CPI)**  
*Centenary Celebrations*



*From*



**Nellikanti Satyam, Newly Elected CPI MLC, Telangana State**



# Political Ripples on Passage of Waqf Act

*Passage of Waqf Bill in the both houses of the Parliament of India has immediately created political ripples that was felt across India, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, and from Gujarat to Assam. Political parties on both sides – INDIA bloc and BJP led NDA – are trying to derive maximum political mileage out of it, but both sides will have also to readjust themselves to the new challenges that is likely to emerge.*

First casualty is suffered by JD(U) in Bihar, which is BJP's NDA ally in the state, which is going to polls later this year. Two senior JD(U) leaders have announced their resignations, and large number of the party's rank and file among Muslim communities are likely to desert the party since they have lost their faith in the party. JD(U) had supported the Waqf Bill in the Parliament.

Senior JD(U) leader Mohammed Qasim Ansari and party's minority wing's state secretary Mohammed Shah Nawaz Malik, have written separate letters to JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar and said that Muslims have lost trust in the party, which they believed earlier that it was a secular party.

Shah Nawaz Malik wrote, "Millions of Indian Muslims like us had unwavering faith that you are the flag bearer of a purely secular ideology. But now, this belief has been shattered. Millions of dedicated Indian Muslims and activists like us are deeply shocked by JDU's stand regarding the Waqf Bill Amendment Act 2024."

Mohammed Qasim Ansari wrote that the Waqf Bill was "against Indian Muslims" and could not be accepted

"under any circumstances" adding that "This bill violates many fundamental rights of the Constitution. Through this bill, Indian Muslims are being humiliated and insulted. Neither you nor your party realises this. I regret that I gave many years of my life to the party."

Though, JD(U) national spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan Prasad tried to downplay the resignations by saying that they were not in the party's official structure, no one can deny that party's minority support base is most likely to desert JD(U). The matter does not stop here, since another NDA ally Chirag Paswan led LJP(RV) may also lose its minority support. If it happens, NDA stands to lose considerably in Bihar.

RJD and Congress may be gainer in Bihar, they are currently part of the Mahagathbandhan alliance in Bihar, which is INDIA bloc at national level. Desertion from LJP and JD(U) is only to increase their respective political strength in the state. The caste politics in Bihar, and INDIA bloc's demand for OBC reservation may also have additional impact, since they believe that Nitish Kumar has sold himself to the BJP which has been continuously opposing

**Dr Gyan Pathak**

the caste census in the state, though it was done under the Chief Ministership of Nitish Kumar, after which he switched over to BJP by deserting the RJD.

Other important NDA allies TDP and JSP in Andhra Pradesh have already started feeling the heat against them. Both of them have supported the Waqf bill, while the chief opposition political party YSRCP has condemned the bill saying it violated constitutional guarantees and minority rights. TDP and JSP both are facing the risk of losing their minority support base on this account.

In Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister and DMK president M K Stalin is one of the strongest critics of Waqf bill. He came in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on April 3 wearing a black badge against the passage of the Bill. He has also announced that his government will challenge the Bill in the Supreme Court of India. He also said how BJP government both at the Centre and the states are targeting the minority Muslim community. Tamil Nadu will also be going to poll next year.

While entire INDIA bloc was in opposition to the Waqf Bill, the BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Amendment brought by UPA government in 2013 was

"extreme" and another "appeasement" exercise. Prime Minister of India called the passage of Waqf bill a watershed moment, and claimed that it would help marginalized Muslims.

BJP thus not only pushed its Hindutva politics for greater Hindu polarization in favour of the BJP, but also is trying to gain some favour by dividing the Muslim community themselves emphasizing that the new bill is for the benefit of the marginalized Muslims.

Congress also made a scathing attack on the government for passage of Waqf Bill. "Our Party's position is clear – the bill is a brazen assault on the Constitution itself. It is part of the BJP's deliberate strategy to keep our society in a state of permanent polarization," adding that BJP is "dragging the country into an abyss where our Constitution will remain on paper."

Congress even plans to challenge the Consti-

tutionality of the Waqf Bill in the Supreme Court of India.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav warned about the political impact of Waqf Bill on India's secular image.

Though BJP believes to gain from the Waqf politics by way of polarizing more Hindu votes against their favour, their allies in NDA are facing the risk of losing their minority support base. Without allies, BJP is also facing the risk of losing its strength, especially when their survival at present depends on coalition politics.

Entire INDIA bloc was seen united in the parliament in opposition to Waqf Bill, which opens the way of joint political fight against the BJP-RSS dominance in the country.

The country may expect political churning in 2025 as a follow up of the passing of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in both houses of Parliament.

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## Waqf Act and its...

*From Front Page*

Their dream of 400 paar is nowhere to be seen and hence opening the new front on Waqf with the fond hope that it will intrigue a larger section resulting in the vote consolidation. Now it is being challenged in the highest court of the Country and CPI general secretary D Raja has also submitted a petition challenging its validity and unconstitutional provisions. Further, the Party has given a call on April 21,

through out the country to protest against this abhorred Waqf Act. The reason for taking and invoking waqf matters by BJP after a lapse of several years suddenly is to protect Ambanis' illegal grab of Waqf land in Mumbai which is bound to lose in the High court and that is the prime motivation to change the basics of Waqf Act 1995 and to give undue advantage to Ambanis case. Modi Government is very keen to help him.

Eventhough, the Act

contains several anti-constitutional provisions while contravening 14, 15, 21, 25, 26, 300A. The only aim is to destroy properties instead of so called transparency, accountability and effective management of Waqf lands as claimed repeatedly by Kiran Rijjuji inside and outside the Parliament which is absurd and wrong. If we study closely the new Act, it has introduced several abominable steps like abolition of Waqf by user, abolition of Waqf tribunal where experts used to interpret and

give final verdict. Compare it with the companies Act 2013 and Electricity Act of 2003 the appallent tribunals are required to have technical experts in addition to judicial members. Now the New Act gave powers to district collector/megistrate to finalise the litigation, which creates discontent. The induction of two non-Muslims in the Waqf council and introduction of sections D and E which cancels the Waqf monuments covered under Archeology is totally partial and unjust. The Act has removed Waqf in order to

snatch a larger proportion of the land from the Waqf itself. Several graveyards, mosques and dargahs which was included as Waqf properties due to its long use is terminated baselessly. The Act is projected by government to bring transparency, accountability and effecient management in the Waqf... which is totally false and baseless. The Act will be opposed with tooth and nail by all secular sections, as it is attempting to usurp the Waqf property and contravening several Acts of Constitution.

## A Glorious Visit...

*From Page 3*

the United States have had a complex history. The two countries have been at odds since the Cuban Revolution in 1959, which led to US trade embargo. President Trump recently has imposed stricter sanctions against Cuba, reversing the relaxed sanctions implemented by the previous administration. Here are the key developments.

Re-designations as the State itself was sponsoring Terrorism: Cuba has been put back on the list, imposing tighter controls on US exports, restrictions on foreign aid, stricter US visa requirements, and freeze on Cuba's international financial transactions. Revival of the "Restricted List, which bans US companies and individuals from transacting business with 231 entities, or state related companies.

In Cuba, the voting right is granted to citizens who are at least 16 years old. This means that once a Cuban turns

16, they are eligible to participate in the country's democratic processes'. As for the marriage age, it's a bit more complex. According to Cuban law, girls can get married as young as 14 years old, while boys must be at least 16 years old. However, both parties must obtain parental consent, and in some cases, judicial approval may also be required!

Cuba has been ruled by various powers throughout its history. Initially, the island was inhabited by indigenous peoples, including the Taino and Ciboney, before Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492. Following the arrival of Columbus, Spain conquered Cuba and appointed Spanish governors to rule in Havana. The Spanish ruled Cuba for nearly four centuries, until the Spanish-American War in 1898, when Spain withdrew from the island! After Spain's withdrawal, Cuba was under US military rule for three

and a half years, until it gained formal independence in 1902.

In 1959, a revolution led by Fidel Castro overthrew the dictator Fulgencio Batista, establishing a socialist government aligned with the Soviet Union. Since then, Cuba has been ruled by the Communist Party of Cuba, with Fidel Castro serving as Prime Minister and later President, followed by his brother Raúl Castro, and currently Miguel Díaz-Cane.

Cuba has a complex history with influences from indigenous people. Spanish colonizers, African slaves and American investors. Cuban culture is a unique blend of African, Spanish and indigenous. Cuba prioritises education and health, recognising their importance for the well-being and development of its citizens immediately after the revolution. Cuba is also recognised for its medical research, particularly in the fields of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. ■

## AIKS State Conference...

*From Page 15*

government's "anti-farmer" stance. He also criticised the Modi-led NDA government over the passage of the Waqf Bill, saying it amounted to interference in Muslim religious matters. "This violates constitutional rights and disturbs communal harmony," Pasha added.

CPI State Secretary G.M. Mizrab urged the government to implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission instead of pursuing policies that disempower farmers. He accused the government of dispossessing cultivators of their land under the guise of development. "New rail lines are being developed not to create opportunities but to take away farmers' livelihoods," he said.

During the conference, speakers also urged the government to develop a robust marketing system backed by financial and logistical support to safeguard the interests of fruit growers. They emphasised the need to enhance cold storage capacity and establish additional pack houses across major fruit-producing areas of Kashmir. Stressing the importance of climate-resilient agriculture, the participants proposed introducing frost-resistant crop varieties and protective shelters to shield produce from extreme weather conditions. The conference also highlighted the need for regular training programmes, better access to government schemes, and support for sustainable farming practices to improve crop yields. Furthermore, the delegates advocated for crop diversification, the introduction of effective market intervention mechanisms, and comprehensive crop insurance schemes to reduce farmers' vulnerability and ensure economic stability. Advocate Ghulam Mohammad Bhat was elected as the state president of AIKS, Khursheed Ahmad as general secretary, and Bashir Ahmad Bhat as treasurer at the state conference.



# Striking at the Foundation of Crony Capitalism



*Diary of  
International  
Events*

*C. Adhikesavan*

On March 29, 2025, protests erupted across the U.S., Australia and Europe, targeting Tesla showrooms in a coordinated “Tesla Takedown.” Demonstrators rallied against Elon Musk, Tesla’s CEO, for his role in the Trump administration’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Spanning nearly every U.S. state and cities like London, Berlin, and Paris, over 200 events aimed to economically pressure Musk by hitting Tesla, the core of his \$340 billion fortune. This global action marked a sharp escalation in backlash against Musk’s push to dismantle federal agencies and cut spending.

The “Tesla Takedown” arose from Musk’s DOGE appointment after Trump’s January 20, 2025, inauguration. DOGE, an unofficial agency created by executive order, tasked Musk with streamlining government. Critics accuse him of overstepping, citing layoffs, agency closures, and data breaches. Protesters decried cuts to the Social Security Administration and Department of Education, arguing they threaten welfare and democracy. U.S. rallies drew crowds in San Francisco, New York, and Austin, Texas — Musk’s base — ranging from dozens to hundreds.

The protests aimed to hurt Musk financially. Organizers pushed boycotts of Tesla products, vehicle sales, and stock divestment. Signs read “Honk if you hate Elon” and “Fight the billionaire brologarchy,” with chants of “Elon Musk has got to go” outside showrooms. In London, a protester in a T-Rex costume held a sign: “You thought the Nazis were extinct. Don’t buy a Swastika,” referencing Musk’s controversial inauguration gesture, seen as a Nazi salute, fueling authoritarian accusations.

Tesla, once beloved by eco-conscious buyers, has turned divisive since Musk’s political

shift. Its stock surged 70 per cent post-Trump’s November 2024 election but crashed by late March 2025 amid slumping sales in the U.S., Europe, and China, worsened by protests. Edmunds reported Tesla trade-ins tripled in early 2025. High-profile figures like Sheryl Crow ditched their Teslas, with Crow donating proceeds to NPR, claiming it was “under threat by President Musk.”

Most protests were peaceful, but violence shadowed the movement. Since January, Tesla sites faced arson in Nevada and Missouri, graffiti in Massachusetts and Maryland, and gunfire in Oregon. The FBI and DHS noted these as lone acts, not organized. Trump called it “do-



mestic terrorism” at a White House Tesla event, while Attorney General Pam Bondi promised tough prosecution, charging three for attacks with Molotov cocktails and gunfire.

The “Tesla Takedown” united diverse groups — ex-Tesla owners, environmentalists, and Democrats like Rep. Jasmine Crockett, who urged street action, and Rep. Pramila Jayapal, who joined Seattle’s rally. In Los Angeles, 65-year-old Phil Ansell cited democracy, while 72-year-old Francine Coeytaux fought Social Security cuts for her daughter. Organizer Joel Lava stressed targeting Musk’s wealth to curb his unelected

influence.

Musk dismissed the protests in a March 20 address to Tesla staff, predicting the Model Y would reclaim its top spot, aiming for 10 million sales by 2026 from 7 million. Analysts like Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities warned of a “brand tornado crisis,” citing Musk’s DOGE focus and Tesla’s 2024 sales drop amid competition from China’s BYD.

Counter-protesters with American flags and DOGE banners clashed verbally in places like Dublin, California. Berlin’s rally joined the March 29 global action, with organizers vowing more protests. The movement tests Tesla’s resilience and Musk’s image in a polarized world.

These protests strike at crony capitalism’s foundation — where business thrives on government ties, not just merit. Musk’s DOGE role and Tesla’s past 3 billion dollar in U.S. subsidies, plus SpaceX’s 4 billion dollar in contracts. Protesters see him rigging policy for profit, like deregulation favouring Tesla. Chants of “brologarchy” and boycotts reflect anger at billionaire privilege.

Yet, this isn’t crony capitalism collapsing. Tesla’s struggles — sales dips, stock volatility — tie to protests, competition, and Musk’s persona, not just government links. Cronyism typically fails when the state can’t prop up

favourites or scandals erode trust. DOGE’s cuts haven’t proven unsustainable, and Tesla’s woes predate Musk’s political role. This may be a perception crisis — cronyism’s optics sparking rage, not its mechanics failing.

Data shows growing distrust. A 2024 Pew survey found 62 per cent of Americans see corporations as too powerful, up from 54 per cent in 2019. Edelman’s 2025 Trust Barometer flagged business-government collusion as a top worry in 14 of 28 countries. The “Tesla Takedown” taps this global unease, targeting Musk’s wealth as a political tool. But a true crisis needs systemic breakdown — bankruptcies or policy flops — which hasn’t hit. Trump’s early 2025 administration doubles down on this model, with Musk as a symbol, not a victim.

Musk’s backers say this is capitalism rewarding innovation — Tesla’s EV breakthroughs predated DOGE, and his wealth reflects market bets, not just cronyism. Protests may reflect ideological pushback against his rightward turn, not a failing system. Violence hints at personal grudges, not structural rot.

This is a warning, not a collapse. The protests expose cronyism’s weak spot — public distrust in a rigged game. If Tesla sinks or DOGE’s cuts backfire (e.g., a Social Security crisis), it could escalate, revealing cronyism’s limits. For now, it’s a loud symptom, not proof of breakdown. The test is whether this fury drives lasting change or fades.



# CPI Condemns LPG Price Hike, Demands Subsidy Restoration

*The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued on April 8, 2025, the following statement:*

CPI condemns the Modi government’s decision to hike the price of LPG by rupees 50 per cylinder. This increase raises the burden on Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries from rupees 500 to rupees 550, and on general consumers from rupees 803 to rupees 853. At a time when millions are already struggling under soaring food inflation, high fuel costs and falling income, this move is yet another attack on the livelihood of the working people.

Ever since the BJP came to power, LPG prices have seen a consistent rise, even during periods when global crude oil prices have remained historically low. Instead of passing the benefit to the people, the Modi regime has diverted it to benefit oil companies and private corporates. The complete erosion of the LPG subsidy system has left the poor and middle classes vulnerable to market volatility and state apathy.

Adding to this, the government has once again hiked excise duties on petrol and diesel, even as the economy is facing turmoil. The recent stock market crash, triggered by global recession fears and the Trump administration’s tariff threats reflects the government’s failure to protect India’s economy from external shocks.

The CPI demands that a consumer-oriented subsidy of rupees 250 per LPG cylinder be reinstated for general consumers immediately. For those under the Below Poverty Line category and enrolled in the PM Ujjwala Scheme, at least six cylinders per year must be provided without payment. Access to cooking fuel is not a luxury – it is a basic necessity and a right.

The Modi government’s anti-people economic policies are deepening inequality, fuelling mass distress and pushing millions into hardship. The CPI calls upon all progressive and democratic forces to unite in opposing this assault on the common people.

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## J&K AIKS Slams Centre Over Anti-farmer Policies

AIKS held a day-long state conference in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Sunday, drawing hundreds of farmers — particularly apple growers — from the Valley's major fruit-producing regions. The conference served as a platform for farmer leaders and political representatives to strongly criticise the Central government's agricultural policies, which they said were detrimental to the interests of Kashmiri apple cultivators and other farmers. Speakers highlighted the adverse impact of large-scale apple imports, lack of infrastructure support, and what they described as anti-farmer legislation while raising concerns over political interference in religious matters.

Addressing the gathering, AIKS president Rajan Kshirsagar said the Central government had succumbed to pressure from the United States by agreeing to import 5 lakh tons of apples, which, he warned, was severely affecting local growers. He said reducing import duties on Washington apples would undercut domestic produce and further harm the struggling apple industry. "Instead of yielding to American imperialism, the government should give a befitting reply," Kshirsagar said. He also criticised the National Policy Framework on



Agricultural Marketing, arguing that it was forcibly imposed and would negatively affect apple cultivators in Kashmir and other fruit-producing states. He further pointed out the government's failure to establish cooperative

cold storage facilities in Kashmir.

Former Rajya Sabha member and CPI National Secretary Aziz Pasha echoed Kshirsagar's concerns, citing poor transportation and post-harvest management as key chal-

lenges Kashmiri farmers face. "Sometimes, they are not even able to recoup their input costs," Pasha said. Despite producing high-quality apples, he noted, farmers continue to incur losses due to the

On Page 12

### On Record ...

A meeting of legislature party leaders chaired here by Chief Minister MK Stalin to deliberate an action plan to secure exemption for Tamil Nadu from NEET decided unanimously to pursue all necessary legal steps, including challenging it in the Supreme Court afresh.

A resolution, moved by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin in this regard was adopted unanimously in the meeting. — *The Telegraph*, April 9.

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Years after a Twitter account impersonating him and posting on contentious political issues disappeared, Dr John Camm, a UK-based cardiologist and professor of clinical cardiology at St George's University of London, thought the worst was behind him. Though the Twitter account was taken down, the impersonator has now landed in the police net as cops in Madhya Pradesh begin their probe into the past of "Dr Narendra John Camm", who is accused of forging his medical qualifications and getting a job at Damoh's Mission Hospital. The Child Welfare Committee has red-flagged claims that at least seven patients died under his care, and police are investigating whether Narendra John

Camm is, in fact, an individual named Narendra Vikramaditya Yadav, who allegedly stole the identity of the UK-based cardiologist. — *The Indian Express*, April 9.

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New Delhi, Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) has issued a show cause notice to Kaustav Banerjee, an associate professor at the School of Global Affairs, for allegedly in-



citing disorder and spoiling the academic environment during a student-led protest. The notice, dated March 28, was issued by the Registrar's office and claimed that Banerjee's actions "reflect doubtful integrity, against the interest of the institution, disturbing public order, decency and morality and contrary to the rules, regulations and established practices of the institution and lacking

professionalism." The university recently implemented a ban on protests in its administrative zone, further fuelling student discontent. It has since designated a separate area for "peaceful gatherings" that require prior approval from the Proctor's office. — *ET Education.com*, April 3.

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The University of Hyderabad (UoH) is in the news again. Students, alumni, faculty and other stakeholders have been voicing concerns over the bulldozing of nearly 400 acres of forest within the beautiful campus by the Congress-led Telangana government. The Telangana government is planning to hand over these 400 acres for corporate use which will bring an estimated revenue of Rs 10-15,000 crores. Unfortunately, this is not the first time the government has eyed the forest land allotted to UoH. Hyderabad University gave one that confidence. It has produced many civil servants, scientists, academics, politicians, business entrepreneurs and educators, leaving its trace across chosen lives and professions. Being a public university, it provides quality education at meagre fees. Students thus believe in paying back to society. — *The Wire*, April 3.

— Compiled by C. Adhikesavan



## AIKS Calls for Agrarian Reforms in Kurnool

The National Farmers Conference, held in Kurnool from April 1-4, 2025, called for unity and policy reforms to protect farmers' rights. Farmers, activists, and political leaders from across the country gathered for the National Farmers Conference in Kurnool, where they emphasised the urgent need for agricultural reforms and strongly criticised the Central Government's "anti-farmer" policies – the conference called for systemic changes to address the severe agrarian crisis. The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) in Andhra Pradesh organised this event as a precursor to the AIKS National Conference scheduled in Tamil Nadu on April 15, 2025.

The conference unanimously demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing (NPFAM) and called for a legal guarantee of Minimum

Support Price (MSP) for all crops to ensure farmers receive fair compensation. Additionally, they urged full implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, primarily to establish MSP at 1.5 times the total cost of production.

The conference also advocated for farmers aged 60 and above to receive a monthly pension of 10,000 rupees, providing social security for older farmers. A complete waiver of farmers' loans was demanded to relieve them from the debt burden. Moreover, participants suggested linking the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with agricultural work to stabilise rural livelihoods and address seasonal unemployment.

Speakers at the conference highlighted the



need to hold the Central Government accountable for the agrarian crisis, including the tragic issue of farmer suicides and corporate exploitation. P. Prasad, the Agriculture Minister of Kerala, criticised the Central Government's policies and cited the Kerala Government's loan waiver and farmer welfare schemes as positive examples.

Ravula Venkaiah, the National General Secretary of AIKS, condemned the Modi Government's "pro-corporate agenda" and the increasing number of farmer suicides. He demanded a bonus of Rs. 2,010 per quintal for paddy farmers, along with a legal guarantee of MSP. Raghuveer Reddy,

a former Union Minister, praised the pro-farmer actions of CPI and referenced previous loan waiver schemes under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as examples of effective farmer relief.

CPI State Secretary K. Ramakrishna accused the BJP of diverting attention from the problems faced by farmers through communal politics. He emphasised that only secular forces can safeguard farmers' interests and ensure the country's food security.

The conference concluded with a strong message: farmers' rights should precede political differences. The leaders reiterated the need for legal recognition of the

DACH (Draft Agricultural Credit and Livelihoods Bill), implementation of the Swaminathan Report, and greater government accountability concerning the agrarian crisis. They urged the Central Government to immediately reverse policies that favour corporations at the expense of farmers.

Farmer leaders and activists participated in large numbers, calling for nationwide unity among farmers, civil society, and opposition parties. They warned that protests would intensify if their demands were not met. The organisers emphasised that the future of India's farmers is intrinsically linked to the future of India itself.

## AIYF National Council Prepares Roadmap for 17<sup>th</sup> National Conference

The All-India Youth Federation General Council meeting was held in New Delhi on April 3-4, 2025. The meeting was presided over by National President Sukhjinder Maheswari. AITUC General Secretary Amarjeet Kaur briefly reported the country's current political situation. AIYF General Secretary Thirumalai Raman pro-

posed agendas and future tasks and placed conference documents. National Office Bearers T.T. Jissmon, Lenin Babu, Syed Vali Ullah Khadri, and Roshan Kumar Sinha participated in the meeting. Thirumalai Raman, General Secretary and President, placed the political and organisational reports. The conference report was adopted after good



deliberation and input from GC members.

The General Council members from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra

Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar, Punjab, Chhattisgarh,