

WHAT THREATENS OUR INDEPENDENCE?

As the country is celebrating the 75th anniversary of independence, it's an irony of history that the RSS, which remained loyal to the British, is now trying to appropriate the legacy of our secular and inclusive struggle for independence. Seventy-five years ago, our country reached an important milestone, when people of the country got liberated from the clutches of British colonialism. Our independence was the result of a century-long sustained mass struggle, with many streams of political thoughts and ideologies merging in opposition to British rule and liberated the masses from British oppression.

Our struggle for independence was not just a movement to remove the British but it also had an agenda for our country's future. That agenda of social reforms and to liberate our country from poverty and inequality was the result of a dialogue between the major ideological currents fighting for our independence. Most important of them were the school of thought represented by Mahatma Gandhi through the policy and programme of the Congress Party, the Communists and Socialists and advocates of social reforms best represented in the work of Dr Ambedkar.

Dialogue and debate

between these streams produced the values that best defined our struggle against colonialism and gave a coherent shape to the future republic and state with secularism and welfarism at its core. These values are under threat from an organization today that played no role in our long fight for independence and sided with the British, the RSS. To recognize what values came to constitute our freedom and what is under threat, we need to examine the ideological foundations of this nefarious organization and how it is against everything our founding leaders strived for.

When we achieved political independence,

D Raja

what form of government India should opt for was a much-debated issue. It should be kept in mind that there still were more than 550 princely states to be fully integrated with the emergent Republic and discussions around the Westminster system or the American system were common. Parlia-

mentary democracy was preferred by most of the leaders and it was adopted in our Constitution. Elaborating on this conscious choice made by the constitution makers including Dr Ambedkar, President K R Narayanan in his address to the nation on the 50th anniversary of independence said "that the Drafting Committee in choosing the parliamentary system for India, preferred more responsibility to more stability, a system under which the government will be on the anvil every day." This idea of collective responsibility is under great strain today due to the encroachments made

by executive on other branches of the state under direct influence from the RSS. Attempts are on to make Parliament redundant and ineffective. During the freedom struggle itself, the RSS, which is essentially undemocratic, was not pleased with representative democracy and constitutional safeguards. The RSS's

subservience to the one 'Supreme Leader', making them unfit for a democratic polity. Herein lies the RSS's contempt for democratic rules, norms and representation. When we say that democracy itself is under threat from RSS-BJP, the germs of that can be found in the very foundation and functioning of the RSS.

Another example can be taken by considering the case of secularism, an important foundational value of our freedom movement. Hindus and Muslims fought shoulder to shoulder in our fight against the British. However, it is widely known and clear from the writings of RSS leaders and ideologues that their objective is to establish a hierarchical, exclusionary and discriminatory Hindu Rashtra. Dr Ambedkar warned about this menace and said: "If Hindu Raj does become a fact, it will, no doubt, be the greatest calamity for this country." Substantial portions of the Constitution are devoted to the state following a secular and pro-social justice model. This fell to deaf ears of the RSS leaders.

The second Sanghchalak M S Golwalkar, a proponent of divide and strife in society wrote "the foreign races in Hindusthan must either adopt Hindu culture and language, must learn to respect and hold in reverence Hindu religion, must entertain no idea but those of the glorification of the Hindu

The RSS's admiration of the fascists in Europe and their emphasis on the leader principle made the organization incompatible with the very functioning of a democratic society. B S Moonje, the mentor to RSS founder K B Hedgewar met Mussolini in Italy and told him that "I shall have no hesitation to raise my voice from the public platform both in India and England whenever occasion may arise in praise of your Balilla and fascist organizations. I wish them good luck and every success."

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The RSS still follows the rule of eka chalanuvaritva or

CPI Welcomes JD (U), BJP Break-Up

Communist Party of India General Secretary D Raja issued the following statement today (on August 9, 2022) welcoming the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's snapping of ties with BJP:

CPI welcomes the decision of the JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to snap ties with BJP. We understand that he has sought an appointment with the governor to submit his resignation as the Chief Minister.

The Party welcomes the development and feels that this will have a serious impact on the politics of the Hindi region. The development, leading to realignment of political forces, will also get reflected in the 2024 General Elections.

Editorial

On Bihar Developments

Indian politics takes a new turn with the fall of the BJP-led government in Bihar. The BJP-led NDA crumbled down there when the JD(U) bid farewell to BJP. Even though for several months, the conflict between BJP and JD(U) was brewing, nobody expected that it would pull down their government so swiftly. Within the timespan of 24 hours, the BJP-led government was ousted and the Mahagathbandhan government came into power. This nature of the political churning process in India has its own lessons for the students of political science to learn. The socio-economic crisis that was deepening in the country exploded into a political change in Bihar. The bigwigs in RSS-BJP never thought that it would make such a turn so unexpectedly. They were in the midst of celebrating the Maharashtra victory where they engineered a split in Shiv Sena and enthroned a government of their choice. The setback of BJP in Bihar is a shock to the Sangh Parivar forces. To that extent it can be considered as a shot in the arms of anti-BJP forces.

It is roughly one month back the national executive meeting of the BJP held in Hyderabad boasted about their supremacy in power for the coming 40 years. And the BJP president openly expressed their craving for single party rule. Their ideological mooring for everlasting power and single party rule is not a secret. Still the BJP has nurtured a special sort of cunningness to hide their intentions wherever needed. They have no hesitation to pose as the champions of coalition politics when it suits their political game plans. In Goa, Manipur and various other north-eastern states, they have formed governments with need-based alliances and cooked up a majority. Speaking too much about political morality, they go to any extent to capture power and cling to it. Constitutional authorities and government agencies are deployed lav-

ishly to meet their undemocratic immoral political ends.

Coalition politics warrants a democratic political culture from its partners. BJP, because of its fascist political character, lacks this culture. For tactical reasons they may swear loyalty to the partners. But all their moves would be against its spirit. RSS has implanted hidden and unhidden agenda into the political and administrative projects of the BJP everywhere. Any government with the partnership of BJP has to tread through that path only. Nitish Kumar and his party has experienced it since the beginning of 2000, of course with small intervals. For any political party having little allegiance to secularism, sharing power with the BJP would be a matter of constant conflict. All along these years, Nitish Kumar would have undergone this conflict in his conscience. The happenings in Maharashtra, where the BJP absorbed a major portion of Shiv Sena and made them to play according to their tunes is said to be the immediate reason for the JD(U) to snap its alliance with the BJP.

Other reasons with socio-political dimensions also have its role in shaping the new political developments in Bihar. The struggle against Agnipath, the issue of caste census, etc, are important among them. The resignation of former JD(U) president and former Union minister R C P Singh might have signaled new dangers to him. Reports are there saying that the BJP has approached certain JD(U) ministers and MLAs to enact the Maharashtra model. All these came together to evolve the new political developments in Patna. The statement by Nitish Kumar immediately after the swearing in as the chief minister of Mahagathbandhan is noticeable. He stated that 2024 will not be like 2014. It has clear warning for Narendra Modi who came to power in 2014 and desires to continue in power in 2024. Bihar developments have its own specific features with its own strength and weakness akin to the politics of India today. The theory that BJP is unbeatable has failed once more in Bihar. The success of Modi is not

due to the merits of his policies but due to the disunity among the opposition. RSS-BJP has the talents to make use of this disunity in their favour. The personal whims and egos of several leaders in the opposition also cater to this disunity which in turn will help only the BJP. The people of India have proved that if there were a reliable alternative against BJP, they would prefer to vote for them. The realities of life have taught them that the promises of *ache din* were nothing but a lie. The people need a change. They are poor and voiceless. But they are wise enough to take appropriate decisions at the appropriate moment. This is the challenge before the opposition forces in the complex Indian conditions today. The battle for 2024 becomes most significant, as the RSS-BJP is hell-bent to mould India according to their hindutva schemes. The sociology and economics of hindutva proclaim that it is only another name for the Indian version of fascism. To fight such an evil enemy, higher levels of political conviction and preparedness are needed.

Bihar is a crucial arena in the battle for India. It reflects the mood of the common people of the Hindi heartland. Now a new government has come to power with its proclaimed stance against the ideology and politics of BJP. That is the strength of the new formation. It is not the outcome of peoples struggles for political change. A common minimum programme based on people's aspirations is yet to be realized. These are its weaknesses. But undoubtedly it is a positive development that has a far-reaching impact on the Indian political landscape. Keeping this in mind, the Left will play its distinctive role in chartering the course of the new government. The left would unitedly and independently mobilise the masses to strengthen the foundations of the new government and to make it trustworthy to the common people's dreams.

Communist Party of India national council secretary Binoy Viswam said on August 2, 2022 that had powerful speeches the capacity to control the prices, the prices would have come down on August 1 itself when the Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a very powerful speech on the so-called robust economy of ours. He was participating in the short-term discussion in Rajya Sabha on the issue of rising prices of essential commodities.

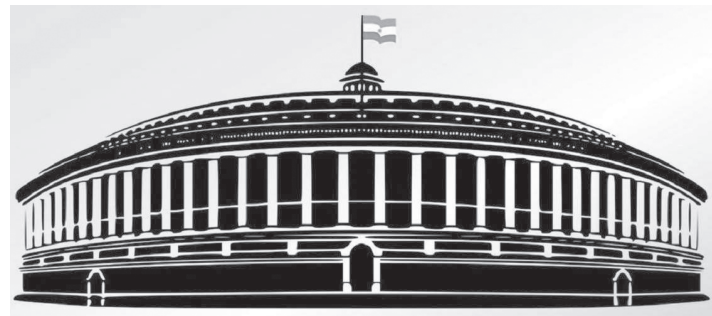
Despite being unwell due to Covid reasons, the Union finance minister on August 1 made a powerful speech on our economy on August 1 in Lok Sabha. Had the powerful speeches the capacity to control prices, it could have happened then. "If promises in large numbers could bring in robust economy, our country could have reached *achhe din* much, much earlier but the reality is just the opposite. Everybody knows what the BJP government says and what is happening in the country are diametrically opposite. Their words go in one direction and the country's life goes in the opposite direction."

In her speech the Union finance minister also wondered why we are comparing our economy with that of Sri Lanka or of Bangladesh. She wanted that it should be compared with that of the US. Now let us compare India's economy with that of the US and we will find that when in the US one per cent of the total population controls 37 per cent of the national wealth, in India, it is 77 per cent that is being controlled by the one per cent. Similarly, he said, if we compare the US

Prices on Rise Despite Assurances by Govt: CPI

currency, dollar, with the Indian currency, rupee, it can be easily predicted that within a couple of weeks our rupee could touch hundred per dollar.

She also talked about the banking system, the NPA and how her government has got it reduced. If so, it is a magic. He pointed out that the NPA is very much there but is covered by haircuts. Haircuts are nothing but giving concessions one after another to the looters



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and in that way, they claim that they have reduced the NPA. The entire exercise of the government in the economy is like that and the real sufferers are the people and the country. He wanted the government to tell the House the prices of vanaspati, soya oil, sunflower oil, palm oil, packaged salt, potato, tomato, wheat, atta, groundnut oil. Even in *achhe din* the prices are on the rise.

He concluded by requesting the finance minister to inform the House while replying to the debate the present state of affairs as far as MGNREGS is concerned as the government has reduced the funds for it. Even sectors like health and education need more funds. He wanted the fi-

nance minister to read the manifesto of the BJP as well as the BMS resolution.

On National Anti-Doping Bill

Taking part in the discussion on the Anti-Doping Bill on August 3, Binoy Viswam said that today is a unique day in House when members cutting across party affiliations remained united and took a common united stand. The House devoted the day for sport and its val-

House. That too is a pride moment. On this day, when a new Bill on sports has been introduced, we have reasons to say that this is a moment of great hope also because India is going ahead in the field of sports. We learned about our victories, medals and all those things. He recalled that he once met the mother of Chanu, the girl who won the gold medal recently in the Commonwealth Games in Imphal. She is from a very poor family and they are the working people. From that family, a daughter emerged as a national figure to win the gold medal.

Now, when we discuss the Anti-Doping Bill, it should be noted that sports have become a big money affair. Rich people, people claiming for riches, made the sports as a stepping stone for that. And, there are agencies and groups to help them to win this, for acquiring money. We have to save sports from the greed for money though it is not very easy, he said. General Vats here, as a sportsman, talked in detail in the House on promoting sports. He talked of inter-caste marriages. The ruling government must think about it seriously as to why it is opposing interreligious marriages, which will also help Indians to have a more efficient, more powerful young generation who can win more and more medals.

Coming over to the Bill, there is a little problem with the National

Boards. We talk about an agency, a statutory agency which will now overtake the earlier society. That also is good. But, when we come to the Board, the Board is trying to become a State within the State, as General Vats mentioned. The Board has certain powers, and that power many a times is crossing the powers of the agency.

Binoy Viswam requested the minister to think of calling this as an 'authority', instead of an 'agency', the National Anti-Doping Authority? That can be more meaningful, he added.

Repeal Aadhaar Linkage

Raising during zero hour on August 3, the issue of exclusion of many children in age group of 0-5 years from PMPOSHAN scheme due to mandatory linkage of aadhaar, the CPI leader said that the Pradhanmantri Poshan Yojana is a good scheme, meant to assist the children from poor families to have healthy growth. But in many cases, a new directive by the government of linking with aadhaar is causing problems. In many families, in villages and in poor families, the mothers or the parents don't have aadhaar cards. That means the children of those families, those parents, are denied this right.

He said since linkage of aadhaar in this case is a wrong step, the government must repeal it immediately.

Memorial Meet Pays Rich Tributes to Com Balan

A memorial meeting organised in the CPI central headquarters, Ajoy Bhavan, on August 4, 2022 recalled the valuable services Com P K Balakrishnan Nair, fondly called as Com Balan, rendered to the party national council, its leaders and all those who wanted to know in detail the party history, the stand taken by the party on various issues and at various times. He was associated with the central party office for last almost six decades.

The memorial meeting began with the offering of floral tributes to the portrait of Com Balan. Party general secretary D Raja along with all the participants offered flowers. This was followed by introductory remarks by party national council member Anil Rajimwale.

Party general secretary D Raja addressing the par-

ticipants said that the demise of Com Balan has caused an irreparable loss and it will be very difficult to get soon a person of his calibre, talent, experience and interest to run the library and look after the documents of the party. He had been associated with the party and had worked with all national leaders of the party. He was able to give any detail or document immediately on request. In case he could not, he would look for it, locate the same and handover the same to the person concerned without much delay.

Raja recalled that he was closely associated with Com Balan and often used to get a lot of reference material and detailed documents from the library. No doubt he was a great asset for anybody interested in learning party history. He used to help one and all without any inhibi-

tion. He was instrumental in organizing the library and building the same into a renowned reference centre. Till his last days, he used to come to Ajoy Bhavan regularly and look after the library despite his failing health.

Party national council secretary Amarjeet Kaur recalled that Com Balan was not just a librarian. He was in fact an encyclopedia on party history as well as the developments that took place within the party for many decades. Despite all these rare qualities, he used to be very simple readily accessible.

Anil Rajimwale, a long-time associate of Com Balan, said that he took all the pains to build up the library into a world class one. He used to collect materials from wherever possible and created a treasure house of party documents and its stand



D Raja paying floral tributes to Com. Balan

on various issues. Kritika with Com Balan spoke who joined the library very about the pains he used to recently and has worked take in training somebody.

What the Others Say...

Break and make

Nitish Kumar has switched sides yet again. It's a story of a leader who played a historic role in braiding the agenda of social justice with the language and infrastructure of development — in Bihar, the cleavage and even outright antagonism between "samajik nyaya" and "vikas" had been the unfortunate left-over of Lalu Prasad's 15-year rule which gave the backward castes a political voice. But the leader who scripted "Nootan Bihar" where "sushasan (good governance)" was given its due place remained, despite his great achievements, afraid to go it alone. And at some point, his asserting and writhing in the alliances he struck with others overshadowed his plateauing governance story. Nitish's latest about-turn, walking out of the alliance with the BJP after walking back into it in 2017, after walking out of it, 17 years on, in 2013, also comes at a time when a larger story is unfolding — in the national Opposition space, to break the prolonged standstill in the time of Modi.

Nitish's resignation as chief minister, his march to Raj Bhawan along with Tejashwi Yadav, his staking of claim to form another government, inaugurates a new chapter that is likely to resonate as much outside Bihar as inside it. With the next parliamentary election only two years away, and with Bihar still the north Indian state where the BJP has considerable scope to grow, unlike in next-door UP, where it has all but peaked, what happens in Patna could well be crucial for what happens in Delhi. Nitish's reputation and legacy so far, despite his stop-start equations with the BJP and RJD, and in spite of the signs of his government running of ideas, manifested in the ham-handed enforcement of prohibition, rest on several past laurels.

A JD(U)-RJD alliance has taken on the BJP once before — the Mahagathbandhan romped home in the 2015 polls. But the BJP, in Bihar, as elsewhere, is constantly learning, evolving and strategising to conquer. In the run-up to 2024, then, it may seem

that the Opposition has added weight in terms of numbers in Bihar. But it will need to work much harder to stitch a shared story that speaks to the people and lifts it off the ground.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

Power plays

GoI introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Bill in Parliament on Monday, accompanied by a request that it be sent to the relevant parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny. Both the bill's introduction and its proposed scrutiny are welcome steps. Electricity distribution reform is a tricky area, with the Modi government trying it since 2014. This bill seeks to refine the landmark electricity reform legislation of 2003. The 2003 legislation tried to overlay a new architecture to promote competition in a system defined by a maze of cross-subsidies.

The main mechanism to foster competition in the 2003 law was open access, which means a customer is not limited to a single supplier. In practice, open access was really limited to industrial units. Therein lay the challenge. Cross-subsidies given by states depended on using industrial consumers to subsidise households and farmers. Consequently, open access has a mixed record. Fairly good in the case of inter-state access but unsatisfactory for intra-state, said a parliamentary panel in 2015. Also, open access has been stymied by states using barriers such as cross-subsidy surcharge to make switching costly. Their defence is that long-term power purchase agreements leave them with stranded fixed costs every time their best customers switch out.

GoI's current bill hinges on its power to set rules to open the distribution chain. States' distribution infrastructure can be opened up to all licensees in the area. It's a way of segregating carriage and content to circumvent the conflict of interest state discoms face — by simultaneously owning distribution infrastructure and retailing. There's also a provision to pare cross-subsidies. Unsurprisingly, this is a political minefield as electricity is in the Constitution's concurrent list. That said, this phase of evolution is overdue. Now, the standing committee needs to get cracking.

Courtesy: The Times of India

Make Health A Fundamental Right: CPI

CPI leader Sandosh Kumar P demanded in the Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2022 that the right to health must be made a fundamental right. He was participating in the resumed discussion on the private member's, the Right to Health Bill, 2021.

Supporting the bill to make health one of the fundamental rights, Sandosh Kumar said that he does not understand why some of the members are opposing it even when the same is a universal concept. The World Health Organisation itself way back in the year 1946 had highlighted the importance of making health a fundamental right. And, there are many other international conventions also supporting the same. In our country, our Directive Principles of State Policy speak about those things. A number of upper court rulings are also there. So, there is no point in opposing the suggestion to make health a fundamental right.

He pointed out that we all know what the Indian reality is. According to the reports released by the World Health Organization, 55 million Indians were pushed into poverty due to medical expenses. This is not an exaggerated figure. Of course, it is alarming and is a reality. Moreover, if one has to spend Rs 100 for medical expenditure, he or she has to spend Rs 63 out of his/ her pockets. Also, it is a fact that compared to many other countries, our medical expenditure is very high. Hence, we have to find a remedy. The only remedy is to make health a fundamental right and the government will have to spend more on health care.

Now, we are spending just 2.1 percentage of the

GDP on healthcare. This is shockingly low, Sandosh Kumar said. One understands that the government is not having any financial crunch and of course has enough resources to provide for healthcare. Instead of making use of the funds properly for the Indian needs, the government has brought in Ayushman Bharat with lot of fanfare. The scheme is just a mechanical copying of the Obama Care Project, which was established in America.

In fact, what we need is an urgent revisit of our health policies. This calls for more allocations on health, at least six or seven per cent of the GDP on healthcare. The CPI member observed that the Preamble of the Constitution itself highlights on dignified life. Health is very important if one has to lead a dignified life. Secondly, as we all know there is a nexus among the pharma companies, testing labs and big corporate hospitals. The nexus should be exposed as the nexus is actually preventing the public health system from developing. This has to be done with all seriousness.

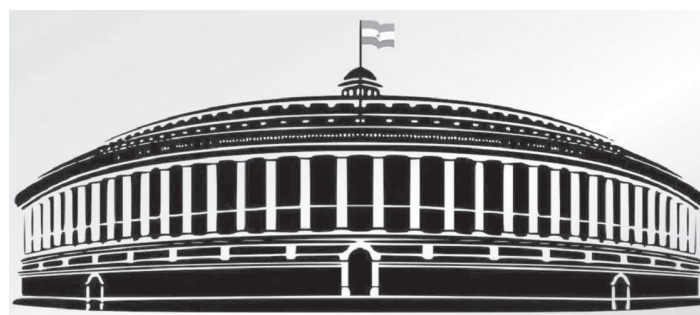
He drew the attention of the members to the prevalent reality regarding the health-related superstitions in the country. Without naming anybody, he said some of the political luminaries were actively advocating the usage of cow dung, gomutra, etc. Though such superstitions will not help, one is free to use them, of course. He wanted that one should not propagate such superstitious faith as our

people will take it seriously. He asked the government to control the spread of such superstitions.

He summed up by saying that taking into account all those factors, we need to revisit our health policy and health must be given a top priority. It must be made one of the fundamental rights in the Constitution of India.

Concern over High Medical Costs

Earlier on August 3, Sandosh Kumar raised



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during the zero hour, the matter regarding the high cost of medical treatment in the country and expressed concern over it. It is a harsh Indian reality that we are facing medical inflation. No one can deny this. It is a matter of fact that India is the third largest manufacturer of medicines, and we have the lowest production cost also. But, unfortunately, the medical inflation in our country is very high and is 14 per cent. It is very high when compared with other Asian countries.

Secondly, according to a report of the ministry of statistics, in this year itself, it shot up by 7.21 per cent. Other than what the figures convey, the reality is that it is very difficult for an ordinary Indian to afford medical costs. We have 355 essential medicines which are

listed in the National List of Essential Medicines and the prices of all those medicines are steeply hiked. Sixty-three per cent of the treatment expenditure is only on medicines and the lower middle-income groups find it very difficult to meet such expenses. There we need to rethink about our medical policies. We need to spend more on healthcare, and pharma companies must be controlled at any cost.

He recalled that the Supreme Court has pro-

nounced a verdict which says that medical companies are giving freebies to doctors which are banned by law but even then, they are claiming tax exemption also. No one is opposing these medical companies to earn profits but they are getting abnormally high profits. These are the realities. Therefore, he urged the government to make health a fundamental right. Also, the government has to control the pharma companies and spend much more on healthcare.

Withdraw Amends to Flag Code

Sandosh Kumar on August 2, demanded roll back of the amendments to National Flag Code. He was addressing the House after raising the matter as a special men-

The CPI leader said that we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of our Independence and our tricolor, the National Flag is the proud representation of India's great legacy. Ever since the adoption of the National Flag, the material used for manufacturing the flag was exclusively khadi because like our national flag, khadi also symbolizes the struggle against imperialism and colonialism. Khadi always upheld our spirit of self-reliance and economic independence.

Gandhiji used khadi and swadeshi as effective tools to awaken the national consciousness. But now the government has amended the flag code of India and has allowed the use of machine-made and polyester national flags. Earlier, the flag code permitted only flags made by 'hand-spun and woven wool or cotton or silk khadi' and the import of machine-made flags was banned in 2019. Hence, the new code that allows machine-made and polyester imported flags is against our national legacy of swadeshi and khadi.

More importantly, this happens at a time when the 1.4 crore khadi workers are struggling to make both ends meet, he said. If the government had given the order to manufacture khadi flags in advance, these units would be able to increase their production as well as profit. Therefore, he urged the government to withdraw the amendments to the National Flag Code that allow the manufacture and import of machine-made polyester flags.

Labour Market Condition to Deteriorate Further Globally

Gyan Pathak

The number of hours worked in the world fell in the first quarter of 2022 and remained 3.8 per cent below the level of the fourth quarter of 2019 – and that is equivalent to the loss of 112 million full-time jobs. The latest ILO estimate has maintained that this represented a significant setback in the global labour market recovery process with the warning that the heightened turbulence and monetary policy tightening is likely to have a broader impact in months to come. “There is a growing risk of a further deterioration in labour markets over the course of 2022,” the ILO Director-General has said.

Furthermore, great divergences in employment and labour income persist. By the end of

2021, employment had returned to pre-crisis levels or even exceeded them in the majority of high-income countries, while deficits persisted in most middle-income economies. In 2021, three out of five workers lived in countries where labour incomes had not yet recovered to their pre-crisis level.

Global inflation, mainly driven by increases in food and energy prices and supply disruptions, adds further risks to the recovery and an erosion of real incomes for workers and their families. In the absence of commensurate wage increases, aggre-

gate demand could fall significantly, and in so doing threaten economic growth and employment. the ILO Director-General while addressing Eight BRICS Labour and Employment Ministerial meeting has served this warning at a time when multiple global crises are unfolding in the world.

Increasing inequalities between and within countries is hampering our efforts more than ever before to make labour market more inclusive, sustainable and

resilient. It is an issue to be addressed urgently in the backdrop of the climate change. Additionally, the last two and half years of the pandemic has underlined the importance of green recovery for which green employment is being promoted as a key for addressing climate change and accelerating green, low-carbon sustainable development. True, promoting green employment has very high potential for the creation of quality employment, however, it could be realized only if the right policies are adopted.

There are also several other issues related to green employment including ensuring a just transition for the workers who will be affected in the process. Large investment would be required in developing the skills that would enable them to harness the opportunities of the green transition. “Working together towards a better measurement and statistical definition of green jobs will support the attainment of these objective,” the ILO Director-General has said. “Investing in skills development for a resilient

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race and culture, that is of the Hindu nation and must lose their separate existence to merge in the Hindu race, or may stay in the country, wholly subordinated to the Hindu Nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment – not even citizen’s rights.”

When the nation was uniting to drive away the British, the RSS was busy finding the “enemy within”. Taking inspiration from the extremely exclusionary and divisive ideology of Hitler and Mussolini, they soon found the Muslim-bogey to unite the Hindus under their divisive hold. This has led RSS to declare an open war with the country’s past as they continue to run pillar-to-post in their attempts at demonizing Muslims. It should be kept in mind that among the galaxy of leaders our freedom movement pro-

duced, no one of repute dubbed the Mughals as invaders and looters but projecting a long-drawn strife and discord was essential for the RSS.

Sardar Patel, whom the RSS is trying hard to appropriate, in his historical presidential speech at the Karachi Session of the Congress referred to “continued exploitation of India for close on two centuries”. For the RSS, this exploitation and servitude extends to the Sultanate and Mughal periods while the loyalty for the British stand solid. For the nation, the enemy was British colonialism. For the communal sectarian RSS, it was Muslims. The difference in identifying what we are fighting against made a crucial difference between Indian nationalism and RSS’s narrow Hindutva nationalism. As is clear, RSS was against the nation at this crucial point too.

As mentioned above, social reform was integral to our fight for independence. Two major components of this reform program were related to caste and the status of women in society. The Manusmriti, consisting of the ordinances of Manu, was held responsible for the caste system in India by none other than Dr B R Ambedkar. To protest against the ignominy of caste, Dr Ambedkar publicly burnt copies of Manusmriti on December 25, 1927. Dr Ambedkar fought hard and established political equality, along with safeguards for the historically deprived sections through our Constitution. However, for the Brahmanical RSS, Manusmriti remained a source of authority and law in society and equality was impossible to digest. Less than a week after the ratification of our Constitution, the RSS

mouthpiece Organiser lamented on November 30, 1949: “To this day his (Manu’s) laws as enunciated in the Manusmriti excite the admiration of the world and elicit spontaneous obedience and conformity. But to our constitutional pundits that means nothing.”

Dr Ambedkar roared in the Constituent Assembly that “the castes are anti-national. In the first place because they bring about separation in social life. They are anti-national also because they generate jealousy and antipathy between caste and caste.” By upholding the casteist and discriminatory Manusmriti, the RSS again proved true to its anti-national character.

As we celebrate 75 years of independence, we should recollect what freedom from British rule meant for generations of freedom fighters. To what end they made supreme sacrifices and

what they wanted for a free India. It should be underlined repeatedly that from Gandhi, Subhas Bose to Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad, none sacrificed their lives for a theocratic Hindu Rashtra. They all lived and died for a secular, democratic, egalitarian and inclusive India. We should identify the values independent India represented, who sacrificed for them and who is threatening them to know the true gravity of freedom. Democracy, secularism and equality underpins our freedom and whoever threatens them is anti-national in the true sense.

Ironically, British stooges are now trying to redefine what freedom meant and distributing certificates of patriotism. Thus, it is on us to recognize what constitutes our freedom and fight to protect it. As a society, we should revisit the great hardships our forefathers endured to get us freedom and we need to isolate the elements which threatens that freedom.

Education, Healthcare and Employment are Fundamental Rights

Education must be made a fundamental right in India. Free education should be considered a basic right, not freebies. The prime minister is spreading negative campaign saying the welfare measures are nothing but freebies. By saying this the PM is insulting the Indian citizens and he is unwilling to provide even the basic necessities of the people.

Opining that the country doesn't suffer from lack of potential, hard-work or intelligence, the governments all must pledge to provide the highest-quality of education to every child of the country irrespective of their economic status.

The All India Students Federation has been advocating for making free education, healthcare and employment for all fundamental rights. These are not freebies but the duty of a responsible government.

There is a need to eradicate the politics of nepotism and favouritism. And there must be an honest government both at the Union level as well as state level. The parties till today have exploiting its power by spending public money to benefit a handful of people only. The public money is meant to generate employment, give free education and healthcare.

On the 75th Independence Day, we all must pledge to make India the number one country of the world. There are several such nations that attained independence after us yet surpassed our growth despite all the potential and hard-work of our working people.

The governments have to pledge to de-

velop such a system where free excellent education, world-class healthcare and 100 per cent employment become fundamental rights of the citizens.

The Indian masses will have to defend the welfare measures which the PM is terming it as freebies during elections since Prime Minister



Modi, carrying out a negative campaign he preached people against what he called as "revadi culture" of offering freebies for garnering votes, and called it "very dangerous" for the development of the country.

The Chief Minister hoisted the 166-ft high flag to the tunes of a Home Guard Band and raised 'Bharat Mata ki Jai, Inquilab Zindabad and Vande Mataram' slogans before beginning his address.

Opining that the country doesn't suffer from lack of potential, hard-work or intelligence, the country is suffering from lack of political willingness and intent.

The youth must take the matter into our own hands to make India the strongest and the greatest nation of the world. But how will this country progress? For the young generation - youth and students must pledge to provide the highest-quality of education to every child of the

country irrespective of their economic status.

There is a need for the best possible healthcare treatment to every citizen of the country and employment to youth. The country can't progress until these basic necessities aren't fulfilled. The PM wants to commercialise and privatise education in

India. So he is on the way to destroy public education and healthcare system. He wants to stop by saying that the provision of free education must be stopped. Giving quality education or public healthcare for free is not a freebie. It is a duty of a responsible government.

JNU teachers' organisation demands restoration of university's own admission procedure

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association (JNUTA) has expressed concerns over the delay in admissions and demanded that the institution restore its time-tested admission procedure.

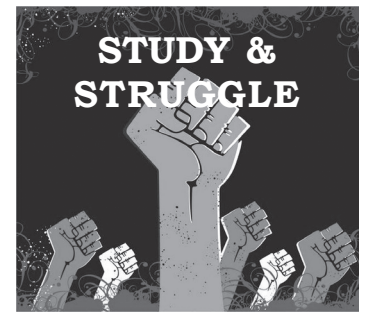
JNUTA has expressed concerns over the delay in admissions and demanded that the institution restore its time-tested admission procedure instead of relying on the National Testing Agency. This comes amid the rescheduling of the Common University Entrance Test

(CUET)-UG, conducted by the NTA.

The CUET-UG, which was scheduled to end on August 20, will now conclude on August 28. The JNU teachers' organisation passed a resolution during its general body Meeting, urging the university to withdraw from the agreement with the NTA. Previously, JNU used to admit students to undergraduate courses through subjective exams conducted by it. From 2019 however, it started admitting students through the JNU Entrance Examination conducted by the NTA.

The university announced earlier this year that it would conduct admissions to all undergraduate and postgraduate courses through the CUET. The JNUTA said the university's reliance on the NTA for conducting admission tests has resulted in repeated delays. The GBM demands that the university withdraw from the agreement with the NTA and immediately restore JNU's own time-tested admission procedures and institutional structures such as the Standing Committee on Admissions.

The second phase of CUET-Undergraduate, which began, was marred with glitches, causing trouble to students who were sent back from exam centres. The first shift of the exam was cancelled at several centres across 17 states, while the second shift was cancelled at all 489 centres. The exam was cancelled at 50 centres. Anticipating a similar situation on Saturday, the agency cancelled the CUET-UG for the day at 53 centres.



C. Adhikesavan

Children lost social skills, get easily distracted

According to a survey on learning loss and education recovery, at least 58 per cent of teachers think that students lost social skills during Covid-caused school closures and get distracted easily because of lower attention spans.

"Fifty-eight per cent of the teachers were of the opinion that children have missed on social skills and now get distracted easily. Their attention span has gone low (been shortened)," the survey stated.

In the poll carried out by the Smile Foundation, more than 48,000 students took part. It covered urban, rural, and aspirational areas in 22 states.

Based on the survey, experts have recommended in the report that creating opportunities and spaces for "increased ownership of children in their learning process" as well as in school functioning through various means such as formation of student council (Bal Sansad), hobby clubs, student-driven initiatives such as campaigns etc., is imperative.

This will ensure improved participation in the learning process and their wholesome development. In order to promote and leverage the participation of community volunteers, the report recommends creating a cadre of local volunteers - 'Shikshamitras' - to cater to the learning needs of students.

Kranti Simha Nana Patil: The Lion who Heralded Revolution

On August 9, 1942, the Indian people warned the British rulers through the Quit India movement that it was time they left the country. It was the call issued by Mahatma Gandhi for the British colonialists and masses in the country responded hugely. The slogan was literally accepted by people in Satara district of Maharashtra and agitation was started from the very next day overthrowing the yoke of the British rule in their land.

The Quit India movement began, as Gandhi had suggested, in a non-violent manner. But the British rulers opted for barbarism killing eleven patriots at five different places in Satara district. With the backing of the repressive police force, the feudal lords and their local armies of criminals and thugs, the British colonialists managed to suppress the rebellion, but only for a brief moment, since the entire initiative to resort to oppose the British represented an expression of the Indian peoples' tremendous urge for liberation from cruel political and socially repressive power structures in society. It was not possible to continue with repressive measures for long. The masses were led under the heroic leadership of Nana Patil, who kept stoking the fire in the hearts of people and spearheaded the rebellion with a renewed vigour. Nana Patil was born on August 3, 1900. He passed away on December 6, 1976.

Nana Patil developed many forms of revolutionary struggle in the

Indian soil throughout his life.

This rebellion was far more radical than the other agitations taking place in India at that time. On the one hand there were individuals who did individual Satyagrahas. On the other hand, there were many who organized efforts to overthrow the British rule. There emerged diverse forms of struggle. Agitations were taking place in places like Bhagalpur, Balia, Midnapore, Cumilla (now in Bangladesh), Champaran among others.

In 1930, the textile workers in Solapur district of Maharashtra had liberated the city of Solapur from the clutches of the British for a few days. The creation of the Solapur Commune was a huge experiment carried out by the workers of Solapur under the leadership of Mallappa Dhanshetty, Shrikrishna Sarada, Qurban Hussein and Jagannath Shinde, who were later hanged. The Solapur Commune was a response to the Bolshevik Revolution and reminded the whole world of the Paris Commune.

The winds of change seen in the Solapur agitation, however, were limited to a lone city. Later on, they transformed into a huge hurricane in the neighbouring Satara district. Nana Patil, a live wire of an individual, successfully ignited the people's dormant desire for liberation into a huge force. Nana Patil created a massive rural commune with people's

participation for a period of no less than three years, from August 1943 to May 1946. Nana Patil's movement was distinctly different from all the other rebellions in that he managed to liberate hundreds of villages from the yoke of British rule despite the British forces that had surrounded them. This was no less than a miracle. This movement is known as the Prati Sarkar movement, meaning the



Movement of an Alternative Government.

In order to understand the distinctiveness of this movement, one has to understand the history and geography of this region. The region had witnessed the rule of a just and forthright king Shivaji Maharaj. It also contained villages like Katgun and Naygaon, the birthplaces of Mahatma Phule and Savitribai Phule respectively. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, the great reformer in the 19th century, was born in Tembhu in this region. It represented the traditions of the liberation

struggle of Shivaji against the Mughals on the one hand, and on the other the anti-caste struggle of the Satyashodhak movement in the social arena. A new consciousness was spreading in society against British imperialism, as well as the feudal structures in society and the oppressive caste system. The region had witnessed a social transformation created by Karmaveer Bhaurao

Patil and his tremendous efforts to educate the masses including the lower castes through his network of schools. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar also had lived in Satara for his education. Karmaveer Vitthal Ramji Shinde had organized the masses for eradication of the caste system in the same region. Com V V Chitale was organizing the rural masses under the Red Flag of the Communist Party India. All these movements had created a very sustainable atmosphere for liberation movements. Nana Patil represented the amalgamation of all

these forces of liberation and ushered in an age of revolution.

The Prati Sarkar movement took up cudgels against the established power structures that had repressed people for a long time. It would be rare to find a movement comparable to this, which caused a huge upheaval in rural society and challenged the dominant power structures and their repressive practices. The aim of this movement was to create a new society under the leadership of the peasants and workers in which there would be no exploitation on the basis of class, caste, gender and religion.

One may even compare the tremendous changes this revolutionary movement brought about with those that the Enlightenment had brought about in Europe. Nana Patil was inspired by Bhagat Singh's essay on the Structure of National Liberation and the struggles against the fascist forces of Hitler in Europe. He realized that to win the fight against the British empire, he had to identify the centres where this power was concentrated and strike them down. He identified the police stations, the feudal lords in the region and their armies of crooks and criminals as the three power centres through which the British operated. Like the seasoned wrestler that he was, he knew that if these power centres were attacked and destroyed, the British rule would collapse. Thus, he managed to oust the power centres of the British rule in hundreds of villages.

Firstly, he organized young men into a disciplined army called Toofan Sena, which would attack the police stations, imprison policemen and take hold of their weapons. Another technique in this struggle was to loot the government coffers. In those times, huge funds collected through taxes and the funds for the salary of government employees would be sent by trains. The revolutionaries would attack the trains, take the money in the treasury boxes, and use it to fund their rebellious activities. Such attacks spread from Dhule district to small villages like Kundal in Satara district. The revolutionaries would also burn down railway stations. These activities sent shock waves in the British rulers and weakened their confidence.

Several feudal lords in the region worked as the agents of the British and oppressed the poor farmers in collaboration with the British. This section of toiling farmers became the soldiers of the revolutionary liberation army of Nana Patil. Before their attacks, the government officials and Watandars like Patils, Deshmukhs and others were reduced to a weakened state. The Satyashodhak movement had already weakened the Bhat-Bhikshukshahi (the rule of the Brahmin priests and preachers).

The liberation army of Kranti Singh Nana Patil attacked the domination of the money lenders, who had tied the poor farmers in the monstrous trap of loans. The Prati Sarkar movement attacked the houses of the money lenders and destroyed the files and documents of loans

given to farmers. They declared that the farmers were free of these loans. The year 1936 saw the establishment of the All India Kisan Sabha, which had given a call for cancellation of loans and equitable distribution of land to the landless. The Prati Sarkar took up these demands and immediately put them into practice. This gave the farmers a sense of self confidence. The Prati Sarkar would also distribute the government funds looted from the trains among the poor.

Apart from this, another major work the Prati Sarkar movement

alternative cultural front that challenged the traditional forms.

Thus the Prati Sarkar was a complete revolution that embraced political, economic, social and cultural aspects of people's lives. It spoke to people in their own language. They made tremendous efforts to reach the ideas of Marx, Lenin, Phule and Ambedkar in the popular language of saint poets and people loved it. As a result, the Tricolour of Indian freedom flew over each Chawdi, the village level office of the British administration for months

Bahirji Naik Committee, a committee for spreading news among people, a committee for communication, schools for people and for training of their cadre.

The most famous and popular among them was the Toofan Sena. They established groups of activists, sometimes their number would be small and sometimes there would be as many as 150. The groups had clusters with their own leaders. There would be senior level leaders and at the top would be their controllers which they would call 'Dictators'. This was

staunch leader of the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement. He became a leader of the CPI and was also elected President of the All Indian Kisan Sabha in 1955. He was so popular that he was elected as a member of Parliament from Satara in 1957 and also in 1967 from Beed, a district in the far away Marathwada region.

The Prati Sarkar movement gave stalwarts and great leaders like Kranti Agrani G D Bapu Lad, Krantiveer Nagnath Anna Naikwadi, Barde Master, Sheikh Kaka, Babuji Patankar who was martyred, D G Deshpande, Shantaram Garud among others.

The struggle against exploitation continues in this land even today. The tradition of the ideology and practice of the Prati Sarkar continues through these efforts. Their commitment to the farmers is significant in these difficult times. It is this inheritance of the Nana Patil tradition that stands out against the background of the terribly regressive and increasingly fascistic state in the country today.

The Prati Sarkar of Nana Patil and his comrades represented a beautiful socialistic dream that Maharashtra saw in the times of struggle against imperialism and exploitation. Our socialist movement will follow in the footsteps of these great leaders. Red Salute to Nana Patil and his comrades in this 75th Year of Indian Independence!

He was the first Lok Sabha member to speak in Marathi in Lok Sabha.

(From the pages of freedom struggle, compiled by AIKS)

Several feudal lords in the region worked as the agents of the British and oppressed the poor farmers in collaboration with the British. This section of toiling farmers became the soldiers of the revolutionary liberation army of Nana Patil. Before their attacks, the government officials and Watandars like Patils, Deshmukhs and others were reduced to a weakened state.

did was related to social reform. They addressed issues such as the eradication of the caste system, conducted inter-caste marriages, widow remarriages, prohibition of alcohol, and release of prisoners. They actively organized programmes where they put their ideas into practice. They also evolved various cultural forms for the spread of their ideas. They formed groups of young artists, singers and actors which would perform various Jalsas (musical programmes with songs and music), and created among the people a new consciousness through their cultural programmes. This was a conscious attempt to create an

together.

The Prati Sarkar was not just a poet's dream, nor was it an aberration. It represented the rule of people in the true sense of the term. The movement had a strong foundation of scientific thinking. There were many organizations that were created for the new State. There was an army of committed soldiers that were adept at guerilla warfare. Then there was a treasury department created for people's uplift. There was an organizing committee that supervised work done among people. There was a system for dispensing justice through judges that handled cases in a just manner. Then there was the

the structure of their government and administration. And that worked perfectly well. With all of these systems at work at various levels of the organization, the Prati Sarkar movement presented a model of governance for people. It was an exercise in creating a system that sought to eradicate exploitation.

Nana Patil continued this tradition even after India became independent. He provided help to the farmers in the Telangana struggle by sending them arms, a scintillating example of his deep commitment to the communist revolution. He also helped the movements for the liberation of Goa as well as Hyderabad. He was a

Stir for House Sites Enters 100th Day at Warangal



Takkalapally Srinivas Rao addressing the protesters

The land struggle for house sites by landless poor led by CPI at Warangal reaches 100 days. The TRS government is losing ground due to its anti-people policies, CPI State secretary Takkalapally Srinivas Rao said.

Speaking at the 100th day protest of the Bhu Poratam (struggle for land) near Nimmayicheruvu (Mattewada) on August 9, 2022, he predicted the fall of the TRS government. "The poor who have been waiting for housing sites or double bedroom

houses were vexed by the laxity of the government in keeping its election promise," Rao said

He demanded the government to issue land pattas under the GO 58 to the shelterless poor who occupied land (Survey No 126) on May 1. It's been more than three months since the poor have been staging protests demanding land rights, but the government has blithe concern towards their plea, he said. He accused the government of turning a blind eye to the encroachments. "The officials keep mum when

Takkalapally Srinivas Rao

the realtors encroach the government land. The same officials quickly swing into action when the poor occupies State's land," Rao alleged.

Rao said that chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had promised three acres

promised to provide free KG to PG education but he failed to fulfil any of them, Takkalapally said. He also recalled that KCR during his first visit to Warangal after he became the chief minister promised to provide double bedroom houses to those living in the slums, but it too remained unfulfilled.

Takkalapally said

house. CPI Warangal district secretary Mekala Ravi, senior leaders Bussa Ravinder, Gunde Badri, Jannu Ravi, P Ramesh, T Rahela, K Narsaiah, B Ramesh, Venkanna, Devaraju and Swapna were among others present. The 100th day protest of the Bhu Poratam (struggle for land) near Nimmayicheruvu



land to Dalits and tribals during his election campaign in 2014. KCR also

that the CPI will continue to support the shelterless poor until they get a

(Mattewada) on August 9, he predicted the fall of the TRS government.

Labour Market Condition...

From Page 06

recovery and to make workers future ready in the face of digitalization, demographic shifts and decarbonisation is equally imperative."

The pandemic has underlined the need for protection for workers which is paramount for an inclusive and human-centred future of work. If the world is going to promote green employment, the workers in this new form of employment must also be supported by providing adequate social protection, actively promoting appropriate regulation, and improving public services for those workers to decent work for all in rapidly changing circumstances.

The ILO Monitor on the World of Work says that conflict in Ukraine has hit

the global economy by increasing inflation, especially in food and energy prices. It has disrupted the global supply chain, and heightened financial turbulence. Monetary policy tightening is likely to have a broader impact on labour markets around the world in months to come. There is a growing, but uncertain risks of a further deterioration in hours worked over 2022.

The gender gap in hours worked remains large, it pointed out, despite positive developments in high-income countries. Women globally now spend 18.9 hours weekly in employment while men spend on an average 33.4 hours. The gap was already considerable in pre-COVID-19 era which further widened during the crisis. Informal

jobs suffered twice the impact registered in formal employment, and the informal women workers have been hit harder than males.

There is a great divergence in employment and labour income. The overall global data that says that global labour income has surpassed its pre-crisis level by 0.9 per cent actually conceals the considerable disparities, since it included the high-income countries where employment had returned to pre-crisis levels or even exceeded in majority of them by the end of 2021. Employment deficit persisted in most of the middle-income countries, and it must be kept in mind that three out of five workers lived in these countries.

Though in advanced countries, the sharp increase in job vacancies was

witnessed at the end of 2021 and in the beginning of 2022, there is no strong evidence that labour markets are generally overheated, as the pool of unemployed and underutilize labour continues to be considerable in most of the countries (mostly advanced) analysed. Furthermore, developing economies continue to suffer significant labour market slack.

Global inflation, mainly driven by increases in food and energy prices and supply disruptions, adds further risks to the recovery and an erosion of real incomes for workers and their families. In the absence of commensurate wage increases, aggregate demand could fall significantly, thereby threatening economic growth and employment, ILO monitor has said. Based on countries with available data, real wages grew in 2020–21 by 1.6 per

cent in the median country, which is 0.7 percentage points below the median growth in 2019. Despite tighter labour markets, therefore, the overall risk of a wage-price spiral currently remains low.

In this scenario, there is no way out but to listen to the ILO's call to "Action for a Human-Centred Recovery" that was adopted in June 2021. It would also require a comprehensive approach and international coordination as exemplified in the UN Secretary-General's initiative, the Global Accelerator for jobs and Social Protection for just transition.

Timely and effective support to maintain purchasing power of labour income is imperative, along with careful readjustment of macroeconomic policy stance, and realtime monitoring of the labour market condition.

Taiwan is an Integral Part of 'One China'

The US Congress Speaker Nancy Pelosi has finally visited Taiwan for a day disrespecting China's sovereignty and territorial integrity over Taiwan and ignoring the advices from US President. Though the US President expressed his opposition of her visit to Taiwan, at the same time his foreign secretary said she can visit as US citizen. This exposed once again the double standard of US administration, which ultimately wants to create tension and instability in Taiwan strait. And all these attempts are part of the US strategy of military domination and expansion in Asia-Pacific region.

In 1949, when the revolution led by Mao won against China under the rule of Chiang Kai-shek, Chiang fled to Taiwan with American support and tried to rule China from there. But in the year 1971 on October 25, United Nations recognised People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representative of China to UN. UN resolution No 2758 clearly mentioned that it "decides to restore all its right to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it."

This 'one China' policy was also recognized by the Carter government in 1979. Even though Taiwan is an integral part of China, the United States has often created conflicts between China and Taiwan by selling arms to Taiwan and indirectly establishing American relations with Taiwan through company trade.

Few days before her visit, Chinese President Xi Jing Ping warned President Biden in a telephone conversation that her wanting to come is like touching a fire and that fire must be extinguished. With this warning, Pelosi has tem-

Buddiga Zamindar

porarily postponed her visit to Taiwan and only announced the names of Singapore, Malaysia, Ja-

pan and South Korea as part of her Asia-Pacific tour. But Pelosi finally visited Taiwan and created a havoc in terms of China-US relations as well as peace and stability in Asia-Pacific region.

The American aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan, along with its associated group of warplanes, ships, submarines, guided missile destroyers and a cruise ship, sailed from Singapore through the South China Sea towards Taiwan two days ago. Amidst these exciting developments, Pelosi had to land in pitch darkness at the Taiwan airport at night with the lights off. In response to her visit, China didn't go to war, didn't shoot down planes, but surrounded Taiwan from six corners by sea and had four-day military exercises and at the same time declared trade sanctions and ban on exports of international exchange goods and stopping off all important negotiations with the US.



If the war between China and America

tate to fight (war) and will fight no matter what." Chinese officials have hinted that they will go to war against Taiwan. He warned that China's military will not sit idly by and watch.

But international community is expressing its concern. The countries in this region are very much concerned. In recent meeting the ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Phnom Penh

warned against "provocative action". They said that "ASEAN is concerned with the international and regional volatility, especially in the recent development in the area adjacent with the ASEAN region, which could destabilise the region and eventually could lead to miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts and unpredictable consequences among major powers. ASEAN

the world. Ninety two percent of the world's advanced semiconductors are manufactured here. Many high-tech products such as I-phone, I-pad, advanced computers, artificial intelligence, computer vision processors, etc, are manufactured here. The software needed for the American auto industry, electric vehicles and driverless vehicles are made here.

Such development was possible due to brotherly relations between Taiwan and mainland China. But the day US former President Obama declared administration's 2012 "Pivot to East Asia" regional strategy, from then the problems started. US already from military alliance AKUS, is trying to form other formation known as Quad and want to use Taiwan for its military supremacy ignoring the opposition from many countries in this region and China.

The war atmosphere should be stopped immediately and Taiwan should be recognized as an integral part of China and adhere to the 'One China' principle to defuse the military tension in Taiwan strait.

calls for maximum restraint, refrain from provocative action and for upholding the principles enshrined in United Nations Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). We reiterate ASEAN Member States' support for their respective One-China Policy".

Taiwan is an island with less than 100 miles in diameter. It is known as the most important financial check point in

CPI Lauds Indian Players' Performance

Communist Party of India appreciates the notable performances by Indian players in the Commonwealth Games and the credit for the great success goes both to the players and their coaches.

Commonwealth games 2022 will be remembered for its better performance, winning 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals. No doubt this became possible only because of the continuous practice of the players and the guidance of coaches, said CPI national council secretary Atul Kumar Anjaan on August 9, 2022. The country feels proud of them. Apart from the coaches, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has also contributed a lot in the last one decade. They played a cardinal role in encouraging and training the young players, which must be appreciated by all.

The country hopes that the players will carry forward the victory in the Commonwealth Games and do better in the coming Olympic Games.

Demand to Increase MGNREGA...

From Last Page

Goria said that public sector units are constantly being privatized and the corporate house are being made richer by the Modi government. In the private sector, the government is not ready to give reservation, nor is the backlog being filled in jobs. The old age and widow pension have been rendered a joke by the central government. The government is not ready to give even Rs 5,000 per month pension for farm labourers. The homeless people are being given false promises under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana through publicity.

The land reforms have been put on hold by the central and state governments. The government is not doing anything to increase the wages of farm labourers, nor is the supply of essential commodities being ensured under the public distribution system.

Attacks on Dalits and women are increasing constantly after the advent of Modi government. The central government is still not ready to enact a comprehensive central law to improve the lives of the farm labourers. No

scheme is being brought to provide free education of good quality to the children of farm labourers, yet education and health are being commercialized.

Stipends are not being given to the children of the Scheduled Castes. The farm labourers are constantly being pushed

business afresh. On the other hand, these farm labourers are being robbed by microfinance companies through exorbitant interest rates.

Goria said that the central and state governments should pay attention to the legitimate demands of the farm laborers. If nothing



BKMU general secretary Gulzar Singh Goria addressing the protesters

towards poverty due to bad health facilities. The central and state governments are not ready to waive the loans of the farm labourers, nor is there any plan to give loans on low interest and no guaranteed basis through commercial banks and government societies to pursue the

is done in this direction, then in future, country-wide movements will be unleashed by the farm laborers and their organisations.

On August 1, demand charters were sent to the President of the country by more than 500 district centres after holding protests and dharnas. In Punjab, protests were held in Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Mansa, Ferozepur, Bathinda, Ludhiana, Sangrur, Shahkot, Kartarpur, Jalalabad, Fatehgarh Sahib, Barnala, Gurdaspur, Muktsar, Fazilka, Nawanshahr etc. These demonstrations were addressed by Gulzar Singh Goriya, Devi Kumari, Krishna Chauhan, besides other activists. During these demonstrations, no administrative officer came to Shahkot to collect the demand letter.

When the farm labourers expressed their anger against this, the district administration filed a false case against two farm labour leaders Charanjit Thamuwal and Gyan Shaidpuri, a senior journalist. There is anger in the area against this and there is a demand to immediately cancel the falsely registered cases.

Bihar

Protesters demonstrated in 25 district centres including Samastipur, Begusarai, Gaya, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Saharsa in Bihar. Apart from Janki Paswan, Ram Naresh Pandey, Suryakant Paswan MLA, Rajinder Sahni and other activists addressed them.

Rajasthan

Angry demonstrations were held in Barmer, Dungarpur, Dausa, Karauli, Bharatpur, Tonk, Alwar, Jhunjhunu, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Dholpur, Udaipur, Bhilwara, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh, Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan. They were addressed by Avtar Singh Ramgarhia, Ajay Kumar Dausa, Rashmi, Gopal Krishna Meena, Roshan Rathore, Sandeep Meena, Raj Kumar Udaipur etc.

West Bengal

Protests were held in 23 district centres of West Bengal including Murshidabad, Bankura, East Midnapore, North 24 Parganas, Siliguri and Darjeeling. These were addressed by leaders including Tapan Ganguly, Kundan Chatterjee etc.

Madhya Pradesh

Apart from Vidisha, Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, demonstrations were also held in other district centers which were addressed by Sanjeev Rajput and Kailash Kushwaha.

Apart from these, there are reports of protests from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Pondicherry, Orissa etc. This call of the National Platform of Khet Mazdoor Organisations has got huge public support across the country. The struggle for these demands will be further intensified in the times to come, said the BKMU leaders.

Uttar Pradesh

Demand charters were sent to the central government through protests in 60 district centres of Uttar Pradesh. These include Bhadohi, Sonbhadra, Ghazipur, Pratappur, Kushinagar, Deoria, Azamgarh districts etc. These demonstrations were addressed by Phoolchand Yadav, Ram Krishna Hegde, Phoolchand Pal, Rajan Kumar Sharma and Chandrakrishna Azad.

Haryana

In Haryana, memorandums were submitted at 15 district headquarters including Panipat, Karnal, Jind, Kaithal, Fatehabad, Yamuna Nagar, Kurukshetra, Gannaur, Hisar. The protesters were addressed by Dariyav Singh Kashyap, Vikram Singh, Arun Kumar, etc.

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Global Appeal for Peace on Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day

*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

There was the fear that the world would end because of atom bomb, but still there is bloodshed throughout the world without using atom bomb. Now the fear about the danger of Nuclear War. Israel is attacking Palestine. America is enrolling more and more countries into its trap through NATO. Hiroshima Day is observed on August 6 and Nagasaki day on 9th August to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945, at the end of World War II.

On July 16, 1945, a light "brighter than a thousand suns," filled the valley. As the now familiar mushroom cloud rose in to the sky, Oppenheimer quoted from Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad-gita, "Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds." The world had entered the nuclear age.

Hiroshima Day is observed on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9 to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945, at the end of World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named "Little Boy", on the town of Hiroshima in Japan. 2022 marks the 77th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing. The day, which is observed at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Japan, highlights the effects of nuclear wars, pays respect to those who got killed, discourages nuclear proliferation and promotes world peace.

During the 2nd World War which was active in 1939- 1945, the world's first deployed atomic

bomb with more than 9000 pounds of uranium-235 was loaded and US B-29 bomber aircraft, the Enola Gay attacked the Japanese city of Hiroshima on 6th August 1945. The explosion was so huge that it immediately killed 70,000 people wiping 90 per cent of the city and later on around 10,000 people died due to the effect of radiation exposure. The United States secretly developed the Atomic Bomb technology under the Manhattan Project, led by Nuclear Physicist Robert Oppenheimer. Eventually, the atom bombs nick-

month. He is being arrested for holding a demonstration in May in violation of a court order.

Scores of others have already been remanded in custody by police on charges of damage to public property during months of protests which peaked with the storming of Rajapaksa's palace on July 9.

Tens of thousands of people incensed by the island nation's economic crisis stormed Rajapaksa's palace and his seafront office – forcing him to flee the country and later resign.



named "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" were dropped on Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities on August 6 and August 9, 1945, respectively. Japan surrendered, ending World War II.

Sri Lanka arrests protest leader Joseph Stalin

A top Sri Lankan trade union leader in the forefront of protests which led to the ousting of Gotabaya Rajapaksa from the presidency was arrested. Joseph Stalin, the secretary of the Sri Lanka Teachers' Union, becomes the senior most activist to be arrested in a crackdown against protesters forced Rajapaksa to flee last

The palace was occupied for about 10 days before it was handed back to the authorities.

Last week, police arrested another trade union activist from the Colombo port for removing two official flags from the palace and using them as a bedsheet and a sarong. He was identified from the videos he had shared on social media.

Sri Lanka's 22 million people have endured months of lengthy blackouts, record inflation and shortages of food, fuel and petrol.

Rajapaksa had been blamed by protesters for mismanaging the nation's

finances and public anger had simmered for months before the mass demonstrations that forced his ouster.

Soon after protesters overran the Presidential Palace, there were social media posts of them frolicking in the presidential pool and bouncing on four-poster beds inside the sprawling compound.

But protesters also turned over to authorities around 17.5 million rupees (\$46,000) in crisp banknotes that had been found in one of the presidential palace's rooms.

The military late last month demolished a protest camp outside the president's office that had campaigned for Rajapaksa's ouster – a move that drew international condemnation accusing troops of using excessive force on unarmed demonstrators.

Bangladesh hikes fuel prices, stokes inflation fears

The Bangladesh government on 5 August, announced the increase in fuel prices by up to 51.7 per cent. Bangladesh has announced around a 50 per cent hike in fuel prices which came into effect from 6 August. It is reportedly the country's highest increase in fuel price since the time Bangladesh got independence in 1971. The people rushed to the fuel filling stations, just after the government announced the new fuel rates.

The Ministry of Power, Energy Resources in an official notification informed that a litre of octane would now be available at a price of 135 taka, which is 51.7 percent higher than the previous price of 89

taka. Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in a statement noted that they faced a loss of 8,014.51 Taka from February to July by selling fuel at less price. Several fuel filling stations in Dhaka's Mohammodpur, Agargaon, Malibagh, and other areas reportedly suspended their operations and announced that their sales would resume after midnight when the decision regarding new prices would come into effect. It is worth mentioning that the war between Russia and Ukraine as well as COVID-19 pandemic has affected the fuel price. Notably, Russia exports the largest amount of oil and gas to the entire world.

The inflation in Bangladesh has witnessed a drop from 7.56 per cent in June to 7.48 per cent in July, Xinhua cited data, Bangladeshi Planning Minister MA Mannan has announced about the rate of inflation in his nation. Mannan called the reduction in the Consumer Price Index a 'good news' for the government and stressed that they had made efforts to control inflation in line with the budgetary target. As per the Xinhua report, inflation has witnessed a rise from the same month in 2021. The inflation in Bangladesh in July 2021 stood at 5.36 per cent, however, the inflation has now reached 7.48 per cent, as per the Xinhua report. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), informed that the food inflation has witnessed a drop from 8.37 per cent in June to 8.19 per cent in July. The non-food items inflation witnessed a rise from 6.33 per cent in June to 6.39 per cent in July.

Service Sector to Fall Behind Industry in Economic Growth

The rate of urbanisation in India has so far been slower than other emerging countries. But this is expected to change drastically in the coming decades. So much so that in the next two decades, the country is expected to add a new city of the size of Los Angeles every year.

According to current estimates, some 270 million people are likely to be added to India's urban population up to 2040. Most of the buildings that will exist in India in 2040 are yet to be built. Urbanisation underpins a massive increase in total residential floor space from less than 20 billion square metres today to more than 50 billion in two de-

cadecades time.

These are some of the assumptions used by International Energy Agency to project India's energy pattern in the coming decades. According to IEA, the Covid pandemic has introduced major new uncertainties into the outlook for India's energy sector, although it has not altered the key underlying drivers.

Chief among them are urbanisation and industrialisation. Until now, India's economic growth has been driven mainly by the services sector, rather than the more energy-intensive industry sector. Urbanisation

K Raveendran

prompts huge growth in demand for energy-intensive building materials, with the demand for steel expected to more than double and that for cement nearly triple. Also projected is a transition in household energy use away from solid biomass and towards electricity.

Rising ownership of appliances and demand for air conditioners mean that the share of energy demand taken by electricity in India's buildings sector rises from a quarter today to around half by 2040. There is considerable

scope for India to expand the application of its Energy Conservation Building Codes and further tighten appliance standards to limit future strains on its energy system.

Transport is currently the fastest-growing end-use sector in terms of energy demand, and urbanisation is expected to foster further growth. In many Indian cities, increasing demand for transport has so far led to much congestion and poor air quality. This has prompted a range of policy initiatives on fuel efficiency and quality, mass transit, and the electrification of

transport. However, today's policy settings are not yet enough to avoid a large projected increase in oil demand for road transport, which doubles by 2040.

Industry is the end-use sector that currently uses most energy, and its share in total final consumption is anticipated to rise from 36 percent today to 41 percent by 2040. As coal use for power generation flattens out, industry accounts for almost two-thirds of the growth in India's coal demand and becomes the major source of growth in emissions. Moreover, since the majority of goods

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transported in India move by road, industrial expansion translates into rapid growth in diesel use for road freight, despite initiatives to shift more of the freight market onto the railways.

Efforts to promote energy efficiency and material efficiency, and greater use of natural gas and electricity, in particular for lighter manufacturing, all mitigate the rise in industrial energy use, but there is considerable potential for further efficiency gains. Alongside improved air quality and enhanced energy access, India sees an early peak in energy-related CO2 emissions and a rapid subsequent decline, putting the country on track for net zero emissions by the mid-2060s, says IEA.

The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated many of the challenges facing fuel suppliers and electricity generators. To some degree this has worked to India's advantage, as lower prices ease its fuel import bills. But strained balance sheets and uncertainties over demand also affect the prospects for domestic energy investment and supply.

Despite the shock from Covid-19, India's electricity demand is still projected to grow by almost 5 percent per year to 2040, which is nearly double the rate of energy demand as a whole. India adds capacity the size of that of the European Union to its installed base over the next two decades, with solar PV and wind accounting for more than three-quarters of the capacity additions as their

costs fall. By 2030, new solar PV, whether alone or paired with battery storage, becomes competitive with existing coal-fired power.

The rise in demand for electricity is expected to bring with it much greater variability in both supply and demand. On the supply side, this reflects the growth in solar PV and wind. On the demand side it is related in large part to a six-fold increase in peak daily electricity consumption for air conditioning to 2040; higher efficiency standards for this equipment could remove the need for \$9 billion to \$15 billion of investment in peaking plant capacity.

According to IEA, India's requirement for power system flexibility rises faster than anywhere else in the world. The achievement of ambitious

Service Sector...

renewable energy targets which call for 450 GW of non-hydro capacity by 2030 has to be accompanied by a transformation of the power system in order to accommodate this growth, and this requires flexible operation of the coal-fired fleet, robust grids, and battery storage and demand-side response.

India's ambition to become a 'gas-based economy' comes at a time of ample international supply. However, price remains a very sensitive issue for Indian consumers, especially given the complex patchwork of additional charges and tariffs that turn an average wholesale cost of gas in 2019 to an estimated average end user price that is double. If all proposed gas infrastructure were to be

built, some 70 percent of India's population would have access to gas, up from around 3 percent today, but there remain a host of permitting and financing challenges.

India's ambitions to reduce import dependence for oil and coal rest in part on expanding domestic supply. Despite ongoing efforts to improve the investment framework, this is challenging in the oil sector because of the complexity and the relatively limited size of the domestic resource base. In the case of coal, the domestic resource base is large enough to support increased production, but today's steep coal production targets are difficult to reconcile with India's evolving energy needs and environmental priorities, according to IEA.

On Record ...

The maximum spike in the number of cases was reported under the cruelty by husband category (section 498-A/406 of the Indian Penal Code). Cases under this category reported a nearly 30% spike. While 2,096 such cases were registered in 2021, this year the number went up to 2,704. Overall, the city reported a 16.9% increase in cases of crime against women, compared to the last year till July 15. Delhi reported more cases of rape, molestation, kidnapping and cruelty by husband till July 15 this year, compared to the same duration last year, according to the latest data shared by the Delhi Police. - *The Hindustan Times*, August 11.

Actor and politician Prakash Raj alleged the ruling BJP of betraying the Khadi workers by distributing polyester national flags for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. He also said the nationalism of the BJP government doesn't make any sense. Raj said, "I do not get the BJP's idea of nationalism and their love for the country. If they love India so much, they must focus on bringing down the inflated prices and creating employment opportunities for the country's youth. Ever since our Independence, the khadi workers in the country have been making our national flags and now the polyester flags distributed by the BJP government will only daunt their livelihood." - *The Hindustan Times*, August 11.



As India is gearing up to celebrate the 75th year of Independence, a video surfaced on social media that shows several people alleging that they were forced to buy the Tricolour for Rs 20 when they went to ration stores. - *India Today*, August 11.

Banks have written off loans worth about Rs. 10 lakh crore in the last five financial years, Parliament was informed. During 2021-22, the write-off amount came down to Rs. 1,57,096 crore compared to Rs. 2,02,781 crore in the previous year, Minister of state Finance Bhagwat K Karad said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

In 2019-20, the write-off was worth Rs. 2,34,170 crore, down from Rs. 2,36,265 crore, the highest in five years recorded in 2018-19. During 2017-18, the write-off by banks

stood at Rs. 1,61,328 crore. In all, the Minister said bank loans to the tune of Rs. 9,91,640 crore have been written off in the last five years - 2017-18 to 2021-22. - as per report presented by the Minister in Parliament, August 8.

The Union government has a voting right of about 33 per cent (in the GST Council) and all the other states have 2 per cent each. All states have only 2 per cent, whether it is a big state or a small state. In such a structure, if any decision regarding GST tax imposition is to be stopped by the state government, it requires the full support of 25 states or the support of the Union government. - Tamil Nadu Finance Minister exposing Nirmala's propaganda, August 5.

- Compiled by C. Adhikesavan

JD(U)-Mahagathbandhan Takes Over in Bihar

JD(U) leader and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar after snapping ties with BJP has joined hands with Mahagathbandhan to form a new government in the state. He along with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav took oath on August 10, 2022. While Nitish Kumar will be the chief minister, Tejashwi Yadav will be the deputy chief minister. The left parties – CPI, CPI(M) and CPI (ML) – have extended support to the new government. They will not be

joining the government but will be supporting it from outside.

The CPI and CPI(M) have two MLAs each and the CPI(ML) 12. CPI general secretary D Raja congratulated both Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav on taking over the affairs in the state. In his congratulatory message, he said: "We hope that Bihar will present a model of pro-people development and boost opposition unity to counter the RSS-BJP offensive on secularism, our Con-

stitution and democracy itself."

Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office to the two leaders at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan attended by former chief minister Rabri Devi and prominent leaders of RJD, JD(U) and the Left.

After the swearing in ceremony, Nitish Kumar announced that the names of other members of the cabinet will be announced soon.

Agri Workers Protest Nationwide

Demand to Increase MGNREGA Wages and Working Days

Agricultural workers observed joint protest all over the country on August 1, 2022 in front of the central government offices. This was in response to the call given by the unions affiliated to the left parties. They were demanding, among others, strengthening of employment guarantee scheme, ensuring 200 days of work and payment of a minimum of Rs 600 per month, providing monthly pension of Rs 5,000 to all agricultural workers who have crossed 55 years of age, introduction of land reforms throughout the country, etc.

The call for nation-wide agitation was given by Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union (BKMU), All India Agricultural Workers' Union (AIAWU), All India Agricultural and Rural Labourers Association (AIARLA), AISKS and AIAKSU. Reports reaching us speak of good response to the call.

Kerala

In Kerala in all the districts, agricultural workers protested in front of the central government offices under the joint banner of BKMU and Kerala State Karshaka Thozilali Union (KSKTU). BKMU national vice-president

Gulzar Singh Gorla

in front of Raj Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram KSKTU state secretary N Chandran, inaugurated the protest.

In Ernakulam district in front of the Head Post office at Aluva, KSKTU

in Kozhikode CPI(M) district secretary P Mohanan were the leaders who inaugurated the protest march.

The leaders urged the protesters in all the places to wage relentless united struggles to force the government to accept their genuine demands.

Mazdoor Union (BKMU) general secretary Gulzar Singh Gorla said that the central and state governments should make provisions for the livelihood of the agricultural labourers, as they do not get work in the fields throughout the year. Consequently, their income is falling rapidly. Due to the rapidly increasing inflation and taxes being imposed on essential commodities by the central government, it has become difficult for them to survive. Under the Central Government Employment Act, at least 200 days of work and Rs 600 should be



BKMU national vice-president K E Ismail inaugurating the protest

K E Ismail inaugurated the protest march in front of the Head Post Office in Kollam.

In Trissur, BKMU state general secretary P K Krishnan, in Malappuram state president A K Chandran, in Kattappana in Idukki district CPI district secretary K Sivaraman and

state president N R Balan, in Kannur, Anavoor Nagappan, in Kottayam A D Kunjachan, in Alappuzha P K Biju, in Kalpetta in Wayanad V K Rajan, in Pathanamthitta N Ravindran, in Kanhangad K K Dinesan, in Palakkad Devadarsan,

Punjab

A demand charter was sent to the Prime Minister of the country after a huge march near the office of Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, on behalf of the joint platform of farm labourers. Addressing the dharna, Bhartiya Khet

given under MGNREGA. The central government has cut the budget by more than 25 per cent in the current year, due to which even today the dues of MGNREGA worth crores of rupees have not been paid, leading to stoppages in further work.

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