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## CRISIS IN MANIPUR: A CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



**CPI national secretary Pallab Sengupta addressing the meeting**

*Manipur state council meeting of the Communist Party of India was held on November 15, 2024 in the midst of all the turmoil the state is going through. Almost every state council member attended the meeting and took active part in the discussions.*

The topics were centered around mainly on present political developments, organizational issues and preparations for the foundation and centenary celebrations of CPI. The meeting felt that ongoing turmoil in Manipur has reached alarming levels, drawing widespread concern across the nation. The situation, marked by escalating violence, killings, deepening mistrust, and increasing human suffering, underscores the urgent need

for a decisive and empathetic approach to bring the state back to peace and stability. These were the main concern for the meeting.

Manipur has been grappling with a complex socio-political crisis that has its roots in ethnic tensions, economic disparities, and political mismanagement. Over recent months, violence has intensified, leading to loss of lives, displacement of communities, and a general sense of insecurity among the

*Pallab Sengupta*

people. Along with these unfortunate developments, demands for greater Mizoram or a Christian nation brings the nefarious plan for destabilizing not only Manipur further but also providing foreign powers to play their dirty games.

The India-Myanmar-Bangladesh border area is home to multiple ethnic communities, including Kukis, Nagas, Chins, Mizos, and others. While some share cultural or linguistic similarities, there are historical tensions and competition over land and resources. A demand for a Christian nation based on Kuki identity risks alienating other groups, further complicating inter-ethnic relations in already volatile Manipur. Instead of addressing these issues, the state government, led by chief minister N. Biren Singh remains inattentive towards poor crisis

management. It has remained simply inactive. This has eroded public confidence and amplified calls for his resignation.

At the central level, the silence and perceived indifference of prime minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah have been stark. Their lack of timely intervention and visible efforts to de-escalate the crisis has been seen as a betrayal to the people of Manipur. This inaction has allowed the situation to spiral further, deepening divisions and alienating affected communities.

The double engines governments without trying for finding an appropriate political solution, once again imposed the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which grants sweeping powers to the armed forces in disturbed areas. While its stated objective is to maintain law and order, AFSPA has often been criticized for fostering a climate of impunity

and exacerbating tensions. The people of Manipur have consistently opposed this draconian law, which they believe undermines their rights and dignity. Its presence has only fueled distrust between the state and its citizens, making reconciliation and peace building even more challenging.

Our Party believes that resolving the crisis in Manipur requires a multi-pronged approach that prioritizes dialogue, justice, and long-term peace building. The CPI has outlined several steps that should be taken immediately:

\* The government must initiate an inclusive dialogue involving all political parties, community leaders, and civil society organizations. The objective should be to address the root causes of the conflict and find sustainable solutions that respect the rights and aspirations of all communities.

\* Removing AFSPA from Manipur would

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# In Defence of Indian Constitution

On November 26, 1949, our Constitution was adopted and became operative on January 26, 1950.

On December 18, 1976, by 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, the term secular was incorporated in the Preamble. It was one of the fundamentals on which the idea of India blossomed with a civil libertarian, democratic, secular and socially radical society. All the religions were to be equally respected. In fact there is no state religion, says our Constitution. All the citizens are allowed to profess, practice and propagate their own religion. Explaining the meaning of secularism, Alexander Owics wrote, "Secularism is a part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution and it means freedom to all, and respect for all religions." It was a vision combined with anti-colonial ideology.

The framing of Constitution by a Constituent Assembly, elected indirectly by the members of the Provincial Assemblies on the basis of a limited adult franchise, became a popular demand during the nationalist movement. The British Government, coming under a huge pressure, finally accepted to form the Constituent Assembly in 1946. Hence, it would not be an exaggeration to note that our Constitution was a result of a long drawn desire of the Indian people, fighting to free the country from their colonial masters. In fact, the spirit and ideas of democracy, liberty, freedom etc., all of which serve as the basic foundational principles of our Constitution, were inculcated among the people during the process of the Nationalist movement.

In fact in the Preamble itself, the guiding philosophy of our Constitution, is woven based on the famous Objective Resolution drafted by Nehru and adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947, with a promise to all the citizens to secure

right to get "Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all, Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the nation." The Preamble of our Constitution provides India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic and Republic country. An important part of our Constitution resides in the fact that it ensures certain Fundamental Rights, which are protected by the state. The Fundamental Rights such as the right to equality, to freedom against exploitation, accept one's own religion, right to constitutional remedies that are aimed to protect individual and minority groups from arbitrary state action. The Directive Principles of State Policy, on the other hand, seems to work as guidelines to the leg-



islatures and state to "promote welfare of the people". Thus, the basic guiding principles of our Constitution seem to create objective conditions for building of a modern, progressive, secular and egalitarian society, based on individual freedom and liberty.

Constitution with its Preamble ensures for each one in the country a world of composite culture, a fact that symbolizes the unity in diversity, mutual love and respect. But the forces of right are keen to destroy its spirit which is almost the first and last brick on which our secular democratic system is built. It was expressed in the wide spread mass participation in the freedom struggle. It could be noted that the basic features of secularism, as enshrined in Indian Constitution, have also been targeted in the recent past, primarily from the RSS. Ever since the Constitution came in force upholding a modern, secular worldview, the

RSS found it objectionable. The RSS organ Organizer came out with an editorial on November 30, 1949 titled 'Constitution' declaring that "the worst about the new Constitution of Bharat is that there is nothing Bharatiya about it... There is no trace of ancient Bharatiya constitutional laws, institutions, nomenclatures and phraseology in it... Manu's Laws were written long before Lycurgus of Sparta or Solon of Persia. To this day his 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." Thus marched the ideology of Hindutva the RSS imagined India to be ruled by.

For last ten years, India has witnessed considerable erosion, especially in the ideals propagated in our Constitution and nurtured for years. Of late, many BJP leaders have publicly expressed their desire to do away with the present Constitution and replace it with a new one.

It is true that our Constitution is today 75-year old, but its relevance has not faded at all. Also it was not a free gift. Gandhiji had said, "It was a treasure to be purchased with nation's best blood."

The legacy of our Constitution that we had earned after tragic sacrifices even before independence is under threat today. The only way to protect it is unity among all secular forces.

While the vision of the framers of the Constitution, which became effective on 26 January 1950, was secular and democratic, the reality of India today is very different. The rss, which has established control of the government, is out there to assault the core features of the Constitution. In its place, the RSS wants to make Hindutva the unofficial ideology of the government.

## Crisis in Manipur...

*From Front Page*

signal a commitment to a more humane and democratic approach to governance. It would help rebuild trust between the state and its citizens, creating a conducive environment for reconciliation.

\* Resignation of chief minister N. Biren Singh, for his government's failure to address the crisis. His inability to foster

dialogue, ensure security, and rebuild trust among communities has left the state in a precarious situation. The chief minister's departure would pave the way for a more inclusive and competent leadership capable of managing the crisis effectively.

\* The prime minister must break his silence and take a hands-on approach to resolving the

crisis. This includes visiting Manipur, meeting with affected communities, and overseeing the implementation of peace measures.

\* Immediately holding of the Local self governments like Municipalities and Panchayat to strengthen local governance structures and providing adequate resources for community-led inclusive development that can help to overcome

economic and social disparities.

\* To take serious steps and take stern actions against those groups that are dreaming for a Christian state challenging territorial integrity of our country.

The situation in Manipur is a stark reminder of the cost of neglect and poor governance. The CPI's demand for the resignation of the chief minister, the withdrawal of AFSPA, and

immediate central intervention reflects the urgency of the crisis. Beyond addressing the immediate challenges, the state and central governments must commit to building a Manipur where justice, peace, and dignity prevail. Only through inclusive dialogue, empathetic governance, and accountability can the people of Manipur hope for a brighter and more harmonious future. ■

# Unequal Relief Allocation in Non-BJP States

*The British colonial government implemented a discriminatory taxation system aimed at maximizing profits. This approach disproportionately benefited certain provinces like Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta, as they were vital trade hubs for the colonial regime.*

Meanwhile, other regions were economically exploited to sustain the British Empire's revenue needs. Such discriminatory policies fueled long-term economic disparities across India. During the Constituent Assembly debates, Biswanath Das, a lawyer from Odisha, raised concerns about these inequities, emphasizing the need for a just revenue distribution system.

Even after 75 years of independence, India continues to grapple with similar challenges. The BJP-led Union government appears to follow a pattern where the allocation of funds to states depends less on necessity and more on political calculations. This mirrors the colonial era's profit-driven mindset, with disaster relief funding emerging as one of the most glaring examples of this bias.

## Discrimination in Disaster Relief: A Persistent Issue

Kerala has often been at the receiving end of this inequity. Landslides in areas such as Mundakai, PUNCHIRITHATAM, and Chooralmala occurred three months ago, leaving widespread devastation in their wake. Despite this, the Union government has yet to release adequate relief funds.

Although Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Suresh Gopi visited the affected areas, these visits have amounted to little more than token gestures. The state government has continued to provide assistance to affected individuals, but Union government aid remains minimal. This marks the third consecutive

**Jeslo Immanuel Joy**

instance of Kerala being overlooked during a natural disaster.

A comparison with other states makes this disparity starkly evident. For instance, when floods recently devastated parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Union government responded swiftly, allocating Rs3,448 crore for relief.

Of this, Andhra Pradesh received Rs1,036 crore, and Telangana Rs416.80 crore. Similarly, Gujarat, a BJP-ruled state, received Rs600 crore without significant delays following floods. In contrast, Kerala submitted a detailed memorandum seeking Rs2,000 crore in aid after the landslides. Despite



waiting for three months, the state received only Rs145.6 crore.

This neglect is not new. During the catastrophic floods of 2018, Kerala faced one of its most severe natural disasters. When the state government sought assistance from the center, the response was inadequate. Fewer helicopters and rescue teams were deployed than what the state requested. Kerala was also forced to procure food grains worth Rs205.81 crore from the Food Corporation of

India (FCI), and the cost was deducted from the state's food subsidy. Similarly, the 2019 floods inflicted losses of Rs2,101 crore on Kerala, yet the Union government failed to provide any financial assistance.

## Role of Media in Spreading Misinformation

Certain media outlets have compounded the challenges faced by Kerala through misinformation campaigns. After the Wayanad landslide, Kerala submitted a memorandum detailing its relief requirements. However, right-wing media organizations misrepresented the memorandum, accusing the state government of inflating costs and engaging in corruption. These baseless allegations, amplified by media narratives, undermined public confidence

included Rs2.76 crore for similar expenses. Despite adhering to the norms set by the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), Kerala's estimates faced unwarranted scrutiny.

The difference in treatment becomes even more apparent when considering Odisha's political context. In 2019, Odisha was governed by Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD), a party that maintained a cordial relationship with the BJP. This political alignment likely influenced the Union government's decision to release substantial funds for Odisha. In contrast, Kerala, ruled by a Left Democratic Front (LDF) government critical of the BJP, has consistently faced discrimination in fund allocation.

## Discrimination Against Op-

position-ruled States

Kerala is not the only opposition-ruled state to experience this neglect. Tamil Nadu provides another glaring example. In December 2023, Cyclone Mandous wreaked havoc across the state, causing widespread flooding and damage in northern districts. Tamil Nadu sought Rs 37,907 crore in relief funds from the Union government. However, despite the severity of the disaster, no immediate assistance was

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# Agriculture Workers, Tenant Farmers will Join Worker-Farmer Protests

(The following press statement was released by Platform of Agricultural Workers and Tenant Farmers and Samyukt Kisan Morcha on November 16, 2024)



Workers and Farmers Demands Alternative Development policy based on collectives and cooperatives for agriculture production, procurement, storage, agro-processing and value addition, branded marketing, credit,

insurance along with institutional support from public sector in the context of acute agrarian crisis, peasant suicides, Indebtedness and massive rural to urban distress migration.

Agricultural workers and

tenant farmers will join the protest demonstrations in districts on November 26, 2024 as called by SKM and JPCTUs/ Independent / Sectoral Federations/ Associations. They will also join campaigns including

Padayatra, cycle Jatha, motorcycle Jatha and House to House distribution of leaflets and notices.

This decision was arrived at in the ever first joint consultation meeting of the Platform of Agricultural Workers' Organizations and Tenant Farmers Associations and Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) held on November 15, 2024 at HKS Surjeet Bhawan, New Delhi.

The meeting was presided over by V.S. Nirmal (BKMU) and Dr. Darshan Pal (SKM). A total of 18 participants spoke during the meeting. Hannan Mollah welcomed the participants and Prem Singh Gehlawat placed a vote of thanks.

Three independent platforms of agricultural workers and tenant farmers, Samyukta Kisan Morcha and Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions, Independent/sectoral federations while working independently will ensure joint and coordinated actions based on commonly agreed issues and concrete demands to resist the corporatization of agriculture and assault on livelihoods of the working people.

The joint demand charter adopted on August 23, 2023 in the ever first all India convention of workers and farmers convened jointly by SKM and JPCTU's had covered demands including minimum wage, employment for all, 200 days' work and Rs.600 daily wage under MNREGA, Protection of PDS and control price rise etc.

A comprehensive demand charter including Union level legislation for agricultural workers and tenant farmers, end social discrimination and violence, alternative development policy based on developing collectives and cooperatives for agriculture production, procurement, storage, agro-processing and value addition, branded marketing, credit, insurance along with institutional support from public sector will be developed especially in the grave situation of the acute agrarian crisis and the pauperization of the peasantry and resultant phenomena of massive rural to urban distress migration.

All the three platforms will ensure regular coordination at the all India level as well as at state, district up to village level to ensure larger worker-farmer unity and intensify the united struggles against the pro-corporate and communal policies of the NDA government till all the genuine demands are met with, replace the pro-corporate policy of developments with alternative policy for development of the working people that will ensure minimum wage for labor, minimum support price for crops, employment for all and social security. ■

## Immediately Revoke AFSPA in Manipur: CPI

(The national secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on November 17, 2024)

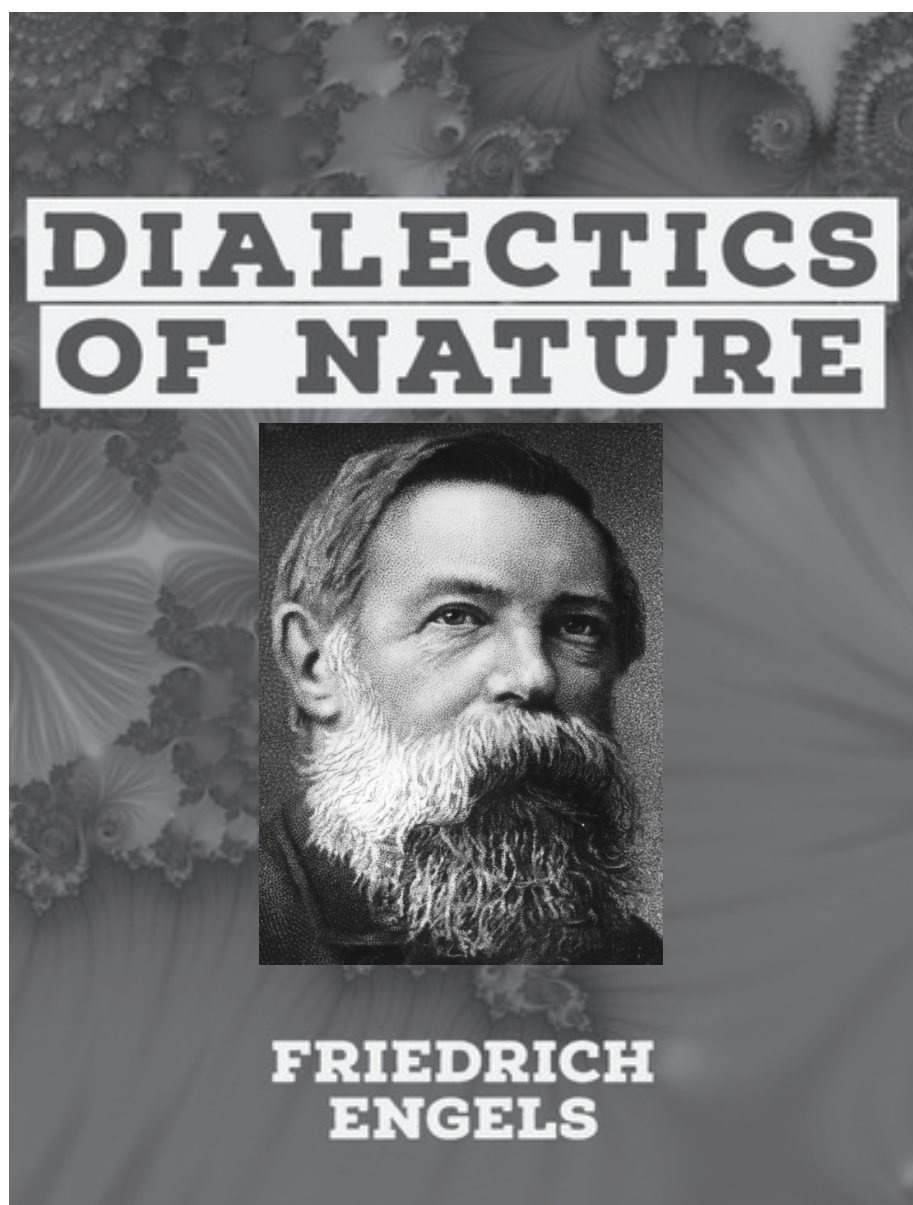
The national secretariat of the Communist Party of India is deeply concerned by the ongoing situation in Manipur, where violence, unrest, and human suffering continue to escalate. The state's current turmoil highlights the total inaction and failures of the state and central governments, especially the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, in addressing and resolving the crisis.

Once again, the imposition of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has only exacerbated tensions, fueling distrust and resentment among the local population. The people of Manipur always opposed this draconian law as it never brought peace but had instead contributed to a cycle of vio-

lence and impunity. CPI strongly condemns the role of the Prime Minister and Home Minister for their failure to effectively manage and de-escalate the situation in Manipur. Their silence and inaction have further alienated the affected communities, allowing the crisis to deepen without meaningful intervention.

In light of these developments, CPI demands the immediate withdrawal of AFSPA from Manipur and the resignation of the Chief Minister. It is imperative for the government to seek a political solution involving all political parties to restore peace, ensure justice, and rebuild trust among the people of Manipur.

# Fredric Engels: The Great Naturalist



Human society has progressed thus far because of the serious work done by innumerable scientists who made serious efforts to understand our world in the proper way and then take the knowledge so acquired, to the common people. Right from the first homo sapiens who found out the secret of igniting 'fire' to the modern space scientists, everyone has contributed to this great journey of discovery and knowledge, which makes us, the Sapiens, the most advanced species on the earth.

Marx and Engels created a milestone of history when they wrote 'Communist Manifesto' in the year 1848 and paved way for an alternate socio-economic model. Within a century the first socialist revolution took place and the idea of a welfare state became a universal idea, so much so that fierce opponents of socialism also started implementing these ideas just to keep the revolution away! Marxism had become a

powerful idea.

Although Marxism is an ideology that is named after the greatest intellectual of the twentieth century, Karl Marx, its domain includes the ideas of Fredric Engels also. The two are inseparable. Born on November 28 1820, Fredric Engels was a German philosopher, political theorist, historian, journalist and a revolutionary leader of the German Socialist Democratic Movement. He wrote extensively on natural science. His major work was on the topic of 'Dialectics of Nature'. Engels salutes the ingenuity of the scientists when he writes in 'Introduction to Dialectics of Nature': "It was the greatest progressive revolution that mankind had so far experienced.... There was hardly any man of importance then living who had not travelled extensively, who did not command four or five languages, who did not shine in a number of fields."

Giving a powerful support

*Dr. Yugal Rayalu*

to scientific temperament, Engels is clearly speaking about the importance of the efforts to seek the truth. Getting connected to the real world is important. In the same article Engels writes further, "It is to the highest credit of philosophy of the time that it did not let itself be led astray by the limited state of contemporary natural knowledge, that from Spinoza to the great French materialists - it insisted on explaining the world from the world itself and left the justification in detail to the natural science of the future"

We can understand the application of dialectics here. "Explaining the world from world itself". All scientists explain the world from within. From the Galaxies to an atom, and from amoeba to man, the material world has to be understood from within. No heavenly intervention! Further in the article Engels pays rich tributes to Darwin, who was his contemporary. "... it was characteristic that, almost simultaneously with Kant's attack on the eternity of the solar system, C. F. Wolf in 1759 launched the first attack on the fixity of the species and proclaimed the theory of descent. But what in his case was still only a brilliant anticipation took firm shape in the hands of Oken. Lamarck, Baer and was victoriously carried through by Darwin in 1859, exactly a hundred years later." It should be noted that no scientist works in isolation. Exchange of ideas between scientists helps the better understanding of new domains. Some people unnecessarily speak about the superiority of one group of people over other groups. The truth is that science develops together. Even at the nascent stage of development, sapiens were learning

from each other. The acquired knowledge of one generation was passed to the next generation. None was ever born with a programmed brain.

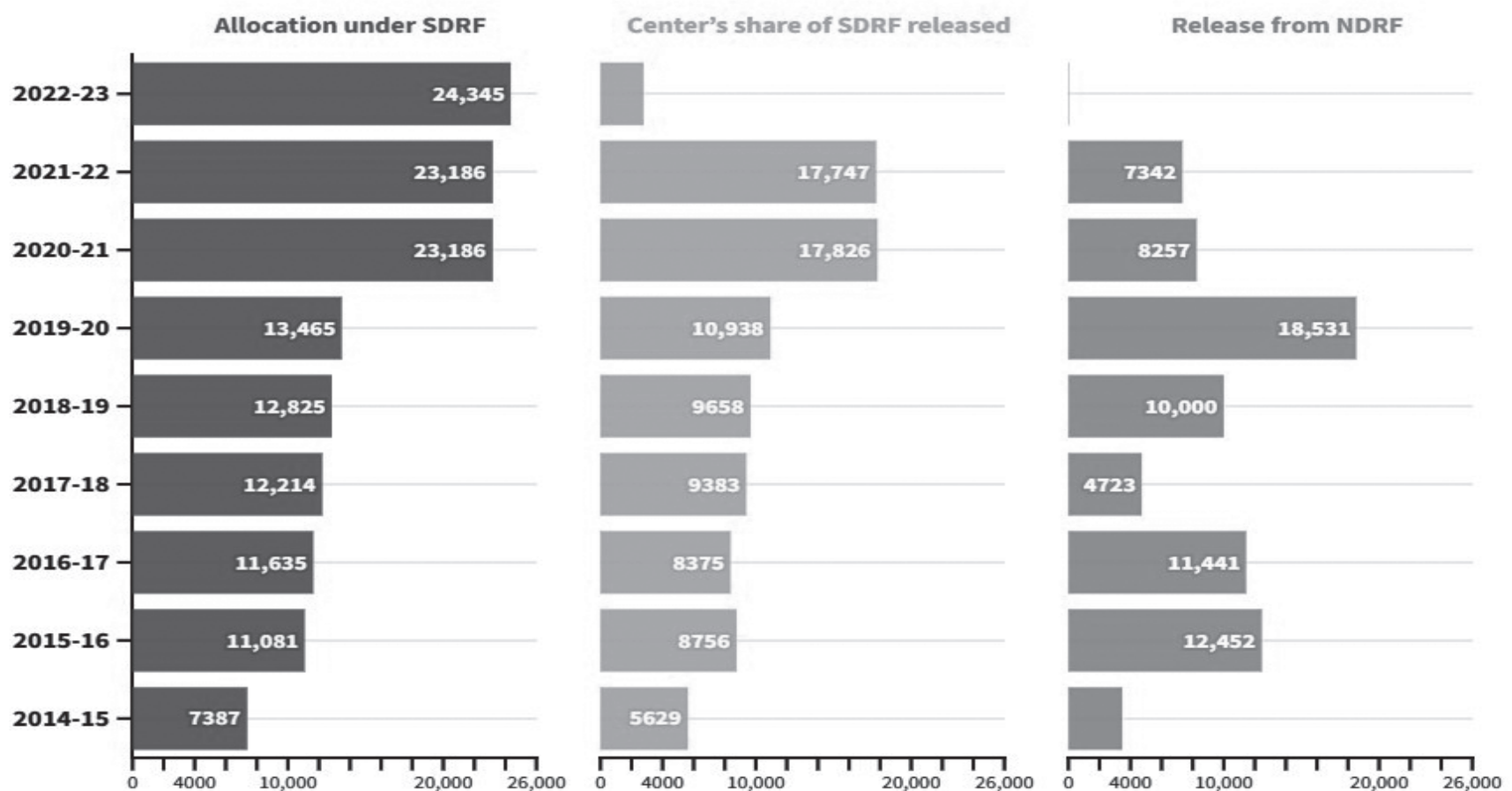
Engels gives credit to every scientist who worked for the development of knowledge. His core area being dialectics of nature. Writing about the development of Man as different from the ape, Engels wrote, "Man too arises by differentiation. Not only individually, differentiated out of a single egg cell to the most complicated organism that nature produces. When after thousands of years of struggle the differentiation of hand from foot, and erect gait, were finally established, man became distinct from the ape and the basis was laid for the development of articulate speech and the mighty development of the brain that has since made the gulf between man and ape unbridgeable. The specialisation of the hand - this implies the tool, and the tool implies specifically human activity, the transforming reaction of man on nature, production."

Being a materialist, Engels always based his writings on the material evidence in nature and in history. He opines, "the only certainty is that the matter remains eternally the same in all its transformations". While Darwin gave us the insight into the evolution of the Man (Ape to Sapiens), it was Engels who explained to us the social journey of human society. In his book, 'Origin of Family, Private Property and State' Engels explains the material conditions that propelled humanity from the point of savagery to the level of capitalism through different stages of production relationship. He categorically rules out any divine intervention in these changes. In fact, he is trying to explain the

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**DATA POINT***Allocation and Release of Funds Under SDRF and NDRF*

(Amount in Crores as of 12 July 2022)

**Unequal Relief Allocation...***From Page 03*

provided. The state eventually had to approach the Supreme Court, after which Rs276.10 crore was sanctioned – a fraction of the requested amount.

This neglect extends beyond disaster relief. In the 2024 Union Budget, the Union government allocated Rs11,500 crore and Rs15,000 crore for disaster management in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, respectively. Both states are politically significant for the BJP, with the potential to deliver crucial Lok Sabha seats in upcoming elections. Meanwhile, Congress-ruled Himachal Pradesh, which suffered devastating floods and landslides, received no such support. Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which have faced recurrent natural disasters, were similarly ignored.

*New Age Weekly***Role of Sangh Parivar in Undermining Kerala**

Kerala's challenges are further exacerbated by coordinated campaigns led by the Sangh Parivar and right-wing media outlets. During the Wayanad disaster, these groups spread misinformation about the state government's relief efforts, accusing it of corruption and inefficiency.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had to publicly clarify the details of the expenditure, presenting a line-by-line breakdown of the relief memorandum. However, such clarifications often go unreported or are deliberately downplayed.

For instance, Revenue Minister K. Rajan later revealed that only Rs19.67 lakh was spent on burial expenses, contrary to the exaggerated

claims circulated by the media. Despite this, right-wing narratives continue to dominate public discourse, discrediting Kerala's efforts and diverting attention from the Union government's shortcomings.

**A Call for Equitable Disaster Management**

The National Disaster Management Act was enacted to ensure fair and timely support for disaster-affected regions. However, the current Union government has weaponized disaster relief to serve its political agenda. This approach undermines the very principles of federalism and compassion that should guide disaster management. Natural disasters strike indiscriminately, destroying lives and livelihoods in an instant.

In such times, the Union government has a

moral and constitutional duty to support affected states, regardless of political affiliations. Symbolic gestures, such as visiting disaster-hit areas or posting photographs on social media, are no substitute for meaningful action. Disaster-affected communities need tangible assistance to rebuild their lives, not hollow assurances or partisan neglect.

The Union government's selective generosity not only deepens regional disparities but also erodes public trust in India's federal structure. Disaster relief is not a privilege or favor – it is a fundamental right of every citizen affected by calamities. Denying this right based on political considerations is both unethical and unconstitutional.

**Conclusion**

As climate change continues to increase the frequency and intensity

of natural disasters, India must adopt a more equitable and transparent approach to disaster management.

The Union government must rise above partisan politics and prioritize the well-being of all citizens. Allocating disaster relief funds based on need rather than political calculations is not just a matter of policy – it is a moral imperative. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, and other opposition-ruled states have repeatedly demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity.

However, resilience alone cannot rebuild communities devastated by disasters. It is the responsibility of the Union government to ensure that every state receives the support it deserves. Only then can India truly embody the spirit of unity and solidarity that its Constitution promises. ■

# Persisting Cases of Discrimination, Atrocities against Dalits



**STUDY & STRUGGLE**

C Adhikesavan



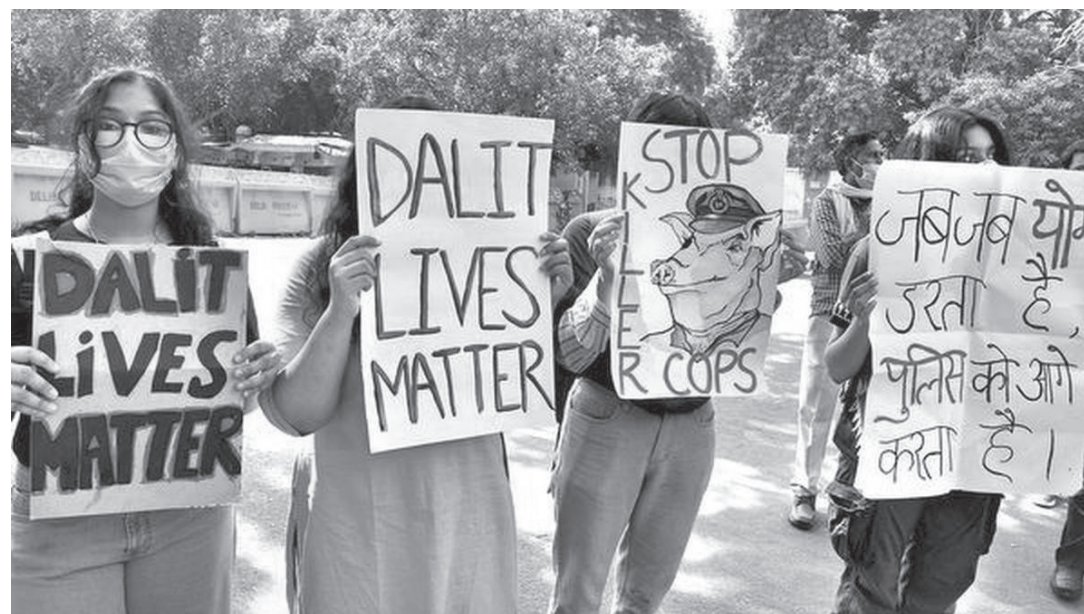
On one side of the Hinduva RSS-BJP is strongly talking about the unity of Hindus with the divisive slogan such as “batenge katenge” slogan on the other side the Dalits and Adivasis are discriminated who are also considered as Hindus.

This slogan is completely against the Muslim community and against the caste survey being proposed by the Opposition parties. The RSS-BJP combine is trying to polarise the voters on both caste and communal lines. On one hand the Hinduva RSS-BJP want to consolidate upper caste votes by terrorising the Dalits and Adivasis and on the other hand they citing the fear of Muslim minorities want to unite all the Hindus for Hinduva vote bank.

This slogan is nothing but to counter the caste census the demand of the INDIA alliance. Whereas, the INDIA alliance talks about the unity of the Indian masses following the term “unity in diversity” projecting secular values enshrined in the Indian Constitution. INDIA alliance says “Ek Hai to Safe Hai” and “Daroge toh Maroge” slogans as per the Constitution. The RSS-BJP has already communalised all the institutions.

The RSS-BJP ruled states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh top in cases of atrocities on Dalits. Of the 51,656 cases registered under the law for

Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 2022, Uttar Pradesh accounted for 23.78 per cent of the total cases with 12,287, followed by Rajasthan at 8,651 (16.75 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh at 7,732 (14.97 per cent). Among the SC-related cases, 60.38 per cent led to charge sheets being filed while 14.78 per cent were concluded with final reports due to reasons such as false claims or lack of evidence. For ST-related cases, 63.32 per cent re-



sulted in charge sheets being filed while 14.71 per cent ended with final reports. Image for representation.

Dalits have had a long history of subordination and have been victims of both direct and structural violence. This has, however, also led to the emergence of Dalit movements for self-respect and assertion of their rights. Despite constitutional and legislative safeguards for their rights, cases of violence against Dalits persist.

An analysis of the rate of crime against Dalits in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh, based

on the statistics available in the National Crime Records Bureau reports of 2017–21, reveals that the frequency and intensity of crimes is inversely proportional to the degree of resistance mounted by the Dalits.

The student, a third-year BA Hindi Honours student, claimed the incident caused him mental trauma and defamation. A Dalit student at Delhi University's Shaheed Bhagat Singh College has filed a police

complaint alleging that the principal of the college hurled casteist slurs and assaulted him after he was falsely accused of sending obscene messages on the official WhatsApp group of his department.

Principal Arun Kumar Attri denied the allegations, claiming the student was being manipulated by a faculty member against whom an inquiry is underway for taking appointment and promotion on fake and fabricated experience certificate. Students from other universities like JNU gathered at the college demanding the principal's resignation. He has also written to the

University Vice-Chancellor and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, seeking action against those involved.

In his complaint, the student detailed the events, stating that on October 24, a classmate's phone was allegedly hacked, and objectionable content, including links to obscene videos, was shared in the department's WhatsApp group. He claimed to have helped fix the

classmate's phone to prevent further misuse. However, during a preliminary investigation initiated by the principal he was accused by some students of sending the messages.

The student has fully cooperated despite he was subjected to intense scrutiny, including having his phone searched without his consent, which violated his right to privacy. The student alleged that some teachers pressured him to admit to the allegations and threatened him with expulsion.

When he refused to accept the false charges, Principal Arun Kumar Attri physically as-

saulted him. He also made casteist remarks, asking why he disclosed his Dalit identity and threatened to expel him if he spoke about the incident.

The student added that he faced severe humiliation when he returned to college, with peers treating him as a criminal, which affected his mental health. These actions have hurt his self-esteem. He is under immense mental tension and have even had suicidal thoughts. He is requesting urgent legal action.

Some left students' units of JNU and DU gheraoed the principal's office in Shaheed Bhagat Singh College demanding action. The protests reportedly disrupted classes, prompting the college to announce a shift to online teaching. In a notification, the administration cited “deteriorating air pollution” as the reason for the move.

In another incident, Baburam, a Dalit died on November 9 in Uttar Pradesh. Some villagers were booked for casteist slurs again. A village head and three others disturbed the Dalits funeral in Bhensi village.

# Hanuman Singh: Builder of the Communist movement in Gujarat

Hanuman Singh was born on December 12, 1916, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. His ancestors belonged to the district Pratapgarh of UP. His father, Bajrang Singh, was a security officer in Indore Jail. His mother's sister also was a security officer in the same jail. Therefore, the family shifted to Indore. His mother died soon after his birth. Consequently, their mother's sister looked after him. He appeared in the intermediate exams. He was outstanding in English and mathematics, getting good marks in exams.

**H**e was married to Phulmati Devi of Bhaddi village in Pratapgarh. Because of the adverse financial conditions of the family, he had to take up a job and give up his studies. He worked in the Indore Samachar, a Hindi newspaper in Indore. He had also to write an editorial without his name. Indore was a princely state ruled by the Holkars during those days. Nothing could be published against the rulers. The whole atmosphere was too suffocating for Hanuman Singh, and he had to resign from the paper.

## In the trade union movement

Indore was an essential centre of the textile industry. There were four textile mills, with some 4 thousand workers each. A Mazdoor Mandal was also established, run by one Jeejeebhoy. It wasn't easy to run unions in those days in Indore. The leaders of this union were arrested, which led to protests and demonstrations in solidarity. Workers went on strike. There was a firing, and one worker died.

## 1942 movement

The Quit India movement started in August 1942 and soon engulfed the country. Mass demonstrations, strikes and

processions became the order of the day. Besides, a section of the people began to uproot the rails, telegraph poles and communication lines. In Indore, too, there were active protests against the British Raj. They decided to plant a bomb in the Collectorate office building, but it exploded near the car of the Collector near his feet. The Police immediately became alert. The government issued warrants for the arrests of several freedom fighters and revolutionaries. Hanuman Singh was already on the wanted list. But he slipped out of the police net, quietly left Indore and went to Nagpur.

While in Nagpur, he adopted the name Bahadur Singh and took up a small job in the mill weaving department. But his heart was not in the work. He mixed with the workers, organised and led them, and prepared a demand charter. Failing compromise, he led them on a strike. Police got the wind that somebody related to the bomb case in Indore had come to Nagpur. They began to look for. The fact that the textile workers' strike in Nagpur had taken place strengthened their suspicion of Hanuman Singh. But he disappeared before po-

lice could get hold of him. He surfaced in Bombay. Then, he shifted to Kutch in Gujarat.

However, Kutch was not a suitable place for the workers' movement. So he shifted to Ahmedabad in 1944-45. There were a lot of workers from UP, MP, and Rajasthan in the Chamanpura area of Ahmedabad. Attar Singh of Indore recognised him. He had taught weaving to Hanuman in Nagpur. He took Hanuman to his house. Hanuman got a job at Sarangpur Mills. After 8 hours, he moved around among the workers, organising them and spreading political consciousness. He lived in Chamanpura and worked in the mill ten km away. He worked hard in the trade union movement and became a popular leader. Later, his family members and wife came to Ahmedabad. Wife stayed with him.

## During BTR period

The party adopted a self-defeating adventurist line during 1948-50 under the leadership of BT Ranadive, known as the 'BTR Line', which harmed the Communist movement, totally isolating it from the mainstream politics of India. This line was adopted in the second congress of CPI in 1948. As implementation of this line, BTR called for

an all-India indefinite strike of the railway and other workers in March 1949, expecting the revolution to happen. In Gujarat, the party also got ready to organise the strike, which failed badly due to adventurism. Many comrades were arrested, including Hanuman Singh, a front-ranking leader.

They were sent to the Sabarmati Central Jail, where a large number of Communists were lodged. They used to hold classes and discussions there. The jail authorities thought they were taking undue advantage of being together in such large numbers. So, they decided to lodge them in different jails. At that time, the party ordered the comrades in jails to adopt a policy of confrontation with the authorities on various issues, even if it meant sacrificing life. It was a form of conducting a 'class struggle' against the police and warders with whatever materials and objects were available in jail, even if they were plates and jugs!

Thus, the comrades decided to oppose the transfer move. Jayanti Parekh was the party secretary of the jail committee. He was opposed to the party's adventurist line. Yet, as party secretary, he decided to implement it. In the party meeting, he asked those comrades opposed to the party line in jail to go to other barracks. Many went away.

At midnight of August 13, 1949, the police entered the barracks to force their transfer to other jails. On resistance, they began to beat the prisoners. The comrades were ready with pepper powder and burning sticks. They attacked the police with whatever they could lay their hands on. Jayanti Parekh and Jamna Das Modi were shot dead on the spot. Hanuman Singh was severely beaten and broke both his arms. A bullet touched his spinal cord. Cases were instituted against them. Advocate DM Sant and Advocate Thakore Godivala fought their cases. Hanuman Singh was also sentenced along with others. He was lodged in Sabarmati and then in Baroda Jail. Former MP Ehsan Jaffri was also in the same jail along with him. Jaffri wrote in his memoirs that Hanuman Singh was very popular in the prison.

## Release

The jail life took its toll on the health of Hanuman Singh. He became ill and found it difficult even to sit correctly. After some time, he tried to get a job in mills, but nobody was ready to employ him as he was already well-known as a Communist and trade union leader. Then, he became a whole-timer at a wage of Rs 60 per month.

## State party plenum

By the middle of 1950, CPI began to give up its adventurist line and adopt realistic positions.





State or provincial-level party plenums were organised throughout the country in this connection. The Gujarat plenum was held in the party office on January 13, 14 and 15, 1951. The meeting elected a 5-member POC or Provincial Organising Committee. Hanuman Singh was also elected to it and was No.2 on the list. Chandrakant Azad was elected the secretary of the POC, but he lived in Baroda. So, practically, Hanuman Singh looked after the provincial party work.

#### 1952 elections

Gujarat party decided to contest four seats to the then Bombay Assembly in the 1952 elections, including Hanuman Singh from Chamanpura, Dinkar Mehta from Shahpur and Magan Patel from Maninagar. Though the party could not win any seats, it made a good impact and created a compelling image of itself through mass campaigns. Hanuman Singh's main work was in the trade union field. His centre of work was in Ahmedabad. The condition of the party and trade unions was terrible at the time.

Therefore, he had to work hard and take up the responsibility of the party work. He fell ill again.

#### Linguistic reorganisation of states

The Congress accepted the principle of the linguistic reorganisation of states even before independence. Parties like the CPI also supported this principle and conducted a struggle to achieve it. It was an issue even in the election campaign of 1946. After freedom, the demand for it gathered speed. The States Reorganisation Commission recommended the formation of Gujarat state, but the government made Gujarat a part of the bilingual Bombay State without consulting the people.

The students met the Congress leaders in Ahmedabad in August 1956 in the Congress House in the centre of Ahmedabad. They protested against the formation of a bilingual state. The Congress leaders refused to meet them. The situation became tense. It ultimately led to firing upon the students, in which several students were killed. The CPI sharply condemned the

firings and killings. When the bodies of the students were taken to the civil hospital, the CPI members led by Hanuman Singh protested against the police firings through procession and meeting. The police arrested Hanuman Singh. Chief Minister Morarji Desai justified the firings and the use of firearms. He said the police used them 'very properly and legitimately'. He said in the Assembly that the police did so in 'self-defence'! Mahagujarat Vidyarthi Samiti was a prominent student organisation affected by this agitation.

#### Mahagujarat Janata Parishad

Mahagujarat Janata Parishad was a mass organisation fighting to form a separate Gujarat state. It was formed in 1948. Indulal Yagnik was its unquestioned leader and its president. He was very close to the Communists. Hanuman Singh played a prominent role in this agitation. The agitation was successful. Gujarat state came into being on May 1, 1960. After the state was formed, most of the other leaders decided to dissolve the Parishad. But Hanuman Singh was against its dissolution.

#### Chinese aggression of 1962

China attacked India in 1962. Hanuman Singh was active in explaining party policy. CPI criticised China's aggression. Yet Hanuman Singh was arrested. That was when the workers' movement was high, and Hanuman Singh was its leader.

#### Party split, 1964

The CPI was split in 1964. This created a big

crisis in the CPI, disrupting its work. The party had to be reorganised, and a new secretariat had to be formed. Hanuman Singh had to join the secretariat, though he did not want to be part of such high-level leadership.

#### Workers' Struggle in Ahmedabad

A public workers' meeting was held at Chaumunda Chowk near Swadeshi Mill in Ahmedabad on August 4, 1964. It was a big meeting of all the mills. While he was speaking, a courier approached him and gently told him that his young son had died suddenly. Hanuman Singh calmly asked to bring his dead body to the Chaumunda burning ghat. He then continued his speech. After finishing the speech, he quietly left the place, went to the burning ghat, and returned after the whole thing was over.

People were looking for him. Indulal Yagnik was shocked to learn the details. He admonished him sharply: you should have told us; we all would have accompanied you. Hanuman replied: my son would not have returned; why so many sons here should have suffered? Everybody was shocked. The industrial working class struggles were going on, and Hanuman Singh was among the leading figures. He was the general secretary of the union. He was highly respected, and everybody addressed him as 'chacha' (uncle). There was a statewide struggle to raise DA, which continued for a long time.

But his arrest in 1964-65 proved to be serious for his health. He became so frail that it was difficult even to recognise

him. He refused to take a rest. The elections to Ahmedabad Corporation took place in 1964. The CPI had performed well in the elections of 1956-57 and 1962. This time, the party set up Hanuman Singh as its candidate. He was elected to Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Mahagujarat Janata Parishad got a majority. But his physical condition worsened. He was admitted to the hospital and was operated upon for a stomach ulcer, but without result. It was necessary to attend the corporation's meetings; absence would lead to loss of membership. Therefore, he used to participate in its meetings on a stretcher! The party decided to send him to Moscow for treatment. Thousands of people saw him off at the Ahmedabad railway station amid rousing slogans. This was October 1965.

#### In Moscow

Hanuman Singh was given the necessary treatment in Moscow. But he could not recover. He passed away on September 24, 1966. The workers went on a spontaneous strike when the news of his death reached Ahmedabad. When his ashes were brought from Moscow, the workers again came out in procession. His ashes were immersed in the Sabarmati River.

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation named the road from Chamanpura to Om Nagar Hanuman Singh Marg.

Hanuman Singh occupies a unique place in the history of the Communist movement of Gujarat.

*(The author is indebted for inputs from Ramsagar Singh Parihar, Gujarat CPI)*

# AIFUCTO Protest at Jantar Mantar

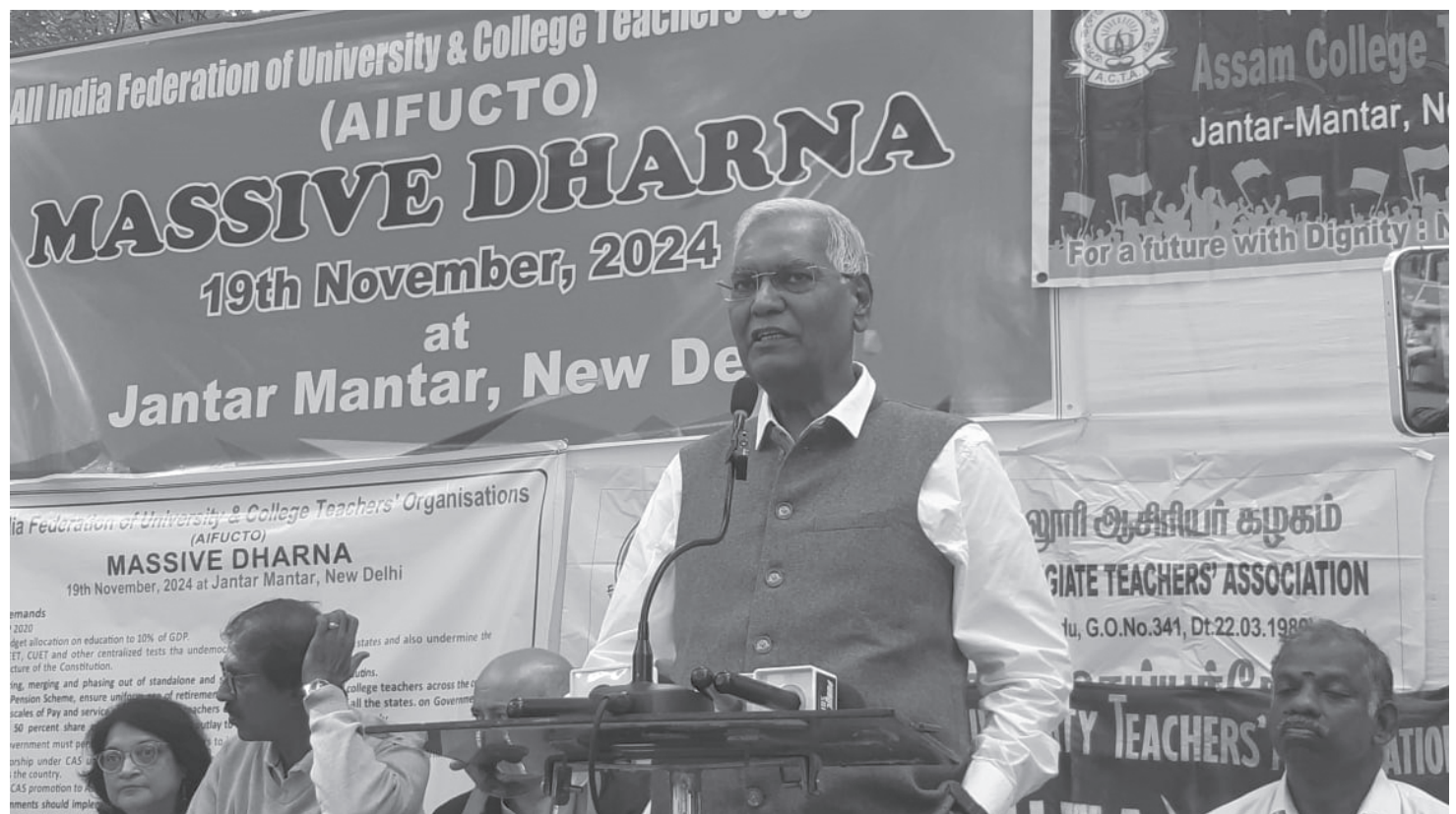
All India Federation of University & College Teachers' Organisations (AIFUCTO) conducted Parliament march and dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on November 19, 2024 demanding raising many issues in higher education sector.

Massive participation of university and college teachers across the country participated in the march and dharna. Prof Dr Nagarajan M, President of AIFUCTO presided over the dharna. AIFUCTO general secretary Prof Dr Arunkumar delivered welcome speech and explained the demands.

CPI general secretary D Raja addressed the meeting and declared solidarity with AIFUCTO. He strongly criticized the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, calling it a "sinister design" aimed at centralizing, privatizing, and communalizing education. Speaking in solidarity with ongoing protests against the NEP, D Raja reaffirmed CPI's commitment to fighting against the policy both inside and outside Parliament.

He expressed doubts about the Modi government's willingness to address the concerns raised by protesters. The NEP is not in the interest of the country, its people, and the marginalized sections of society. It must be repealed. CPI is consistent in supporting AIFUCTO's demands and stands firmly in solidarity with your struggle.

D Raja emphasized the need for a sustained and comprehensive struggle against the NEP, urging not only students



CPI general secretary D Raja addressing the protesters

and teachers but also ordinary citizens to pressure the government.

If the government refuses to repeal the NEP, we must prepare the people to unseat this regime from power. This struggle is about ensuring that education remains equitable, secular, and inclusive. Highlighting the inadequacies in India's



budgetary priorities he called for a significant increase in funding for education and healthcare.

D Raja said that we are demanding that 10 per cent of the GDP be allocated to the education sector. Decades ago, the Kothari Commission

**Rakesh Viswakarma**

recommended 6 per cent of GDP for education.

Today, even 10 per cent may not be enough to address the growing needs of public education and healthcare. He criticized the Modi government for its claims of economic achievements, contrasting them with

India's poor rankings on global Human Development Indexes.

He concluded by reiterating the CPI's unwavering support for the movement against NEP. CPI stands with you in this fight to repeal the NEP. This is a collective battle for a just, inclusive, and secular education

system that serves the interests of the people, not private entities or communal agendas.

CPI's stance underscores its broader commitment to resisting policies it views as undermining secularism and social justice while advocating for a stronger focus on public investment in critical sectors like education and health.

Prof Nandita Narayan, Chairperson, JFME, Prof. Amiya Mohanty, general secretary, JFME, AIKS general secretary Vijoo Krishnan, Veerendra Singh Chouhan, president, UP federation of College Teachers, Vivek Dwivedi, national secretary, Dr Mojpai Singh,

vice president, DKumar, Treasurer, FedCUTA general secretary Dr Moshmy, Dr C Padmanabhan, national executive committee member also addressed the protest. The leaders of the organisation visited UGC and Ministry and submitted the representation.

The following are the demands raised by the organisation:

- Repeal NEP 2020
- Increase budget allocation on education to 10%
- Abolish NEET, CUET and other centralized tests that undemocratically minimize the role of states and also undermine the federal structure of the Constitution
- Stop clustering, merging and phasing out of standalone and single stream educational institutions
- Restore Old Pension Scheme, ensure uniform age of retirement at 65 for all universities and college teachers across the country

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# Explainer on COP29–Azerbaijan

## What is COP?

COP, or the Conference of Parties, is the annual meeting held by the members of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This international agreement, signed in 1992, is the foundation for climate negotiations. The UNFCCC requires its members – currently 198 parties, including 197 countries and the European Union – to work together to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations at levels that prevent dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system.

One of the critical responsibilities of COP is to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by member states. According to the UNFCCC's website, "based on this information, COP assesses the effects of the measures taken by parties and the progress made in achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention."

The 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) is being held from November 11 to November 22 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Delegates from around 200 countries, business leaders, climate scientists, Indigenous Peoples, journalists, and other experts and stakeholders are expected to participate in the summit.

## Why is COP29 important?

The primary goal of COP29 is to unite countries in developing a shared plan to combat further global warming. The conference will also emphasise the importance of increasing climate finance to assist developing nations in addressing the adverse effects of climate change.

COP29 has been labelled the "finance COP" because it aims to boost funding for lower-income countries to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The UN-backed report indicates that emerging countries, excluding China, will require investments significantly exceeding \$2 trillion annually by 2030 to halt global warming effectively. This raises the question: who should pay for it? This issue has caused divisions in the past.

An analysis commissioned by the UK and Egypt suggests that one trillion dollars should come from wealthy countries, investors, and multilateral development banks – the remaining approximately \$1.4 trillion must be generated domestically

from private and public sources. In 2009, more prosperous nations pledged to provide \$100 billion annually in climate financing for developing countries by 2020, achieving this goal two years later.

Now, poorer nations are advocating for a new target of at least \$1 trillion annually. Current donors are also urging countries like China, the world's largest annual emitter of greenhouse gases, and the UAE, a significant fossil fuel producer, to contribute to the fund despite their classification as developing nations.

Discussions on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from all

nance, equity, and technology transfer.

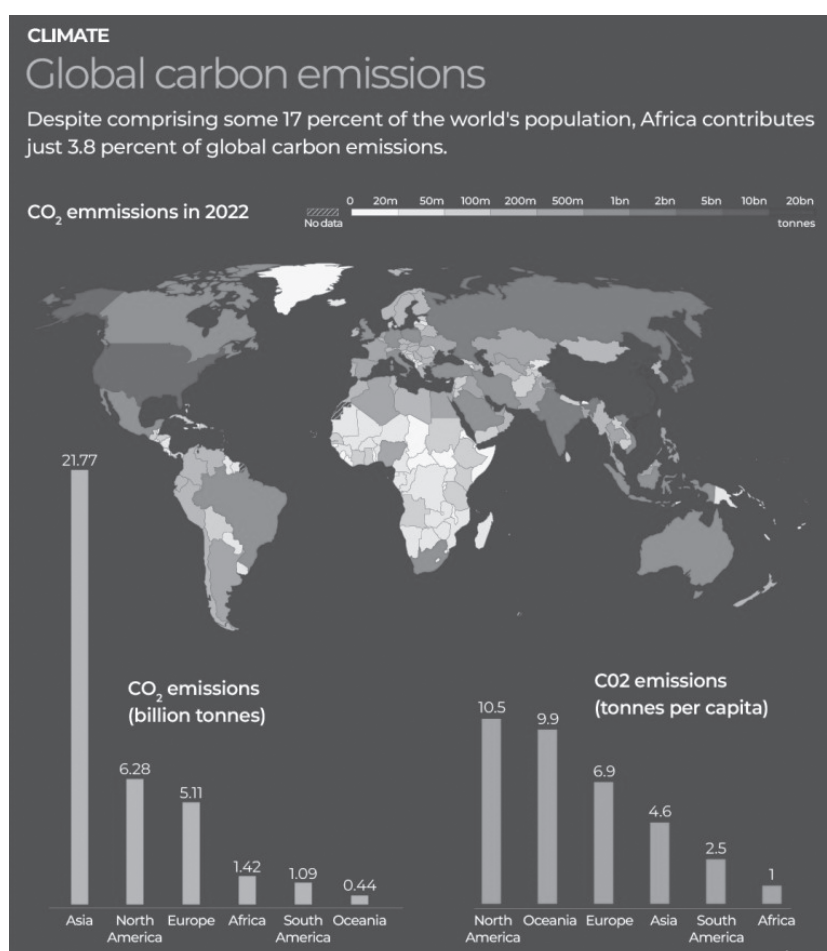
As a member of the Like-Minded Developing Countries bloc, India has strongly called for equitable financial support from developed nations during the ongoing COP29 climate negotiations. Concerns have been raised that nearly 69 per cent of reported funding consists of loans, which burdens already vulnerable countries.

The G77 and China, representing about 130 countries at the U.N. climate talks, have rejected the draft text for a framework to negotiate a new climate finance goal. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is the central issue at this year's climate summit as countries work together to control global greenhouse gas emissions.

During the negotiations, the LMDCs emphasised the "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) principle to address the urgent financial gaps that hinder effective climate action. In discussions focused on long-term climate finance, the LMDCs, along with the African Group and the Arab Group, questioned the accountability of developed nations in achieving the USD 100 billion annual climate finance goal set years ago, which remains a contentious issue.

The LMDCs argued that fulfilling this financial commitment and establishing a transparent accounting methodology is essential for building trust among parties. Concerns were raised that nearly 69 per cent of reported finance came in the form of loans, which add burdens rather than alleviate them, according to a negotiator from the LMDC grouping. Additionally, the LMDCs expressed strong reservations about new financing principles that might impose strict investment goals, which they believe would favour countries with established investment infrastructures.

This stance, reinforced by India and other LMDC members, underscores a broader push at COP29 for sustainable climate finance that ensures accessibility for all developing nations. The LMDCs continued to advocate for a multilaterally agreed definition of climate finance, emphasising consistency and transparency in financial commitments. Negotiations on this issue are expected to be rigorous, with the LMDCs promoting an approach that prioritises fairness and flexibility in meeting the climate needs of developing countries.



participating countries will be a significant agenda focus. An NDC is a country's national climate action plan that outlines targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goals set in the Paris Agreement. NDCs must be updated every five years, and with the next round due in early 2025, this year's summit presents an ideal opportunity to finalise each member country's goals.

## What is India's and other developing countries' position in COP29?

India actively participates in key groupings at the annual climate talks, such as the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), the G77 and China, and BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China). India collaborates with other developing nations in these forums to advocate for climate fi-

## CPI Commemorates Martyrdom Day ...

### From Last Page

solidate power and suppress opposition.

"The very institutions that are supposed to protect the rights of citizens are being systematically weakened. The judiciary, which should act as a check on executive power, is under increasing pressure," she added.

### Communal Polarization and Historical Distortions

In her speech, Annie Raja also raised alarm about what she described as the growing communal polarization in the country. She claimed that the government was attempting to divide the Indian populace along religious lines by spreading lies, distorting historical facts, and altering school curricula to promote a biased narrative.

The government is trying to create divisions within society by distorting our history and changing what our children are taught in schools. The aim is to polarize the masses and divert attention from the real issues," she said. "By doing so, they hope to consolidate a monolithic vote bank based on religious identity, rather than on the issues that actually matter to the people." She also pointed to the increased pressure on India's educational institutions, particularly universities, where dissent is increasingly being met with repression. "Those who dare to speak up against the government's policies are being labeled as anti-national or unpatriotic," she said.

### Neglect of Dalits and Marginalized Communities

CPI national executive member Gulzar Singh Gorla, took the stage next and focused

his speech on the plight of Dalits and other marginalized communities under the current government. He emphasized the increasing neglect of these communities, with the central government failing to allocate sufficient funds for welfare schemes. He particularly highlighted the cuts to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which provides a safety net for rural workers.

"Dalits, Adivasis, and other marginalized sections of society are being completely ignored," Gorla said. "There have been severe budget cuts to crucial schemes like MGNREGA, which has left many workers without jobs or any means of earning a livelihood. This has led to a rise in suicides, particularly among agricultural laborers, poor farmers, and workers who have no other means of survival."

Gulzar Singh Gorla expressed deep concern over the government's indifference to the suffering of these communities, accusing it of pushing policies that exacerbate their marginalization. "The government's economic policies are creating a two-tier society, where the rich get richer, and the poor are left to fend for themselves with no support from the state," he said.

### Attack on Federalism and State Autonomy

CPI Punjab state council secretary Bant Singh Brar, spoke on the central government's increasing encroachment on the federal structure of the country. He pointed to several key

issues in Punjab, such as the ongoing water dispute with neighboring Haryana, the controversial transfer of land in Chandigarh.

"There is a concerted effort to undermine the federal structure of our country and create a monolithic society that conforms to the central government's agenda," Brar stated. "The central government is trying to undermine Punjab's rights, particularly in relation to the sharing of water resources and the management of our borders. We will not allow this to happen."

He also criticized the government's policies on national security, particularly the decision to extend central control over border security areas up to 50 kilometers from the international border. "This is a clear violation of Punjab's rights, and we will continue to oppose it," Brar emphasized.

### State Government's Failure to Tackle Law and Order Issues

CPI Ludhiana district secretary D.P. Maur also spoke at the rally, pointing out the Punjab state government's failure to maintain law and order. He noted the rampant drug trade, the land and sand mafias, and the government's inability to protect the people from these criminal activities.

"Law and order in Punjab is a mess. The drug dealers and the land mafias operate with impunity, while the police seem powerless to stop them," Maur said. He also criticized the state government for its lack of action on issues such as inadequate recruitment in government jobs

and cuts to pensions for retired government employees. "In addition to this, wages for many workers have not been revised for over 12 years," Maur added. "This is an affront to the workers who have given their lives to the service of the state. The government has failed to support them in any meaningful way."

### Demand for Better Wages and Worker Regularization

M.S. Bhatia, another prominent CPI leader, used his speech to call for the regularization of workers employed under various government schemes, such as ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and Mid-Day Meal workers. He also demanded that the minimum wage be increased to Rs. 26,000 per month, citing the rising cost of living and the fact that many of these workers continue to work under precarious conditions without any job security or adequate compensation.

"The government must take immediate steps to ensure that the workers who provide essential services to our communities are paid fair wages and given proper job security," Bhatia said. "We also demand that the government increase the minimum wage to a level that reflects the realities of today's economy."

### Honoring Martyrs and Village Leaders

In a symbolic gesture of solidarity, the rally also paid tribute to the families of CPI martyrs from Ludhiana district who had given their lives in defense of India's sov-

ereignty and integrity. The families of comrades Gurmail Singh Hunjan, Joginder Singh, Harpal Singh Majalian, Labh Singh Raur, and Waryam Singh Oberoi were honored for their sacrifices. These martyrs had fought against the colonial oppression and defended the country's independence and unity.

The village's Sarpanch, Mrs. Kamaaljeet Kaur, her husband Colonel (Retd) Mandeep Singh, and other members of the Panchayat were also recognized for their contributions to the community and their support for the event.

The rally concluded with a cultural program presented by a group from Moga, showcasing traditional Punjabi music and dance. The proceedings were compered by Dr. Rajinder Pal Singh, a well-known CPI member from the region.

CPI's rally in memory of Kartar Singh Sarabha was not only a tribute to the sacrifices made by freedom fighters but also a strong statement of protest against the Modi government's policies. The party continues to campaign against the government's economic, social, and political agenda, and is calling on the people to join the struggle for justice, equality, and the preservation of India's federal structure. The success of the rally highlighted the ongoing discontent with the current political leadership, particularly in Punjab, and reaffirmed the CPI's commitment to the struggles of the working class and marginalized communities. ■

# EU's Economic War on China: A Big Blunder

Protectionist measures could backfire on European Union. European Union countries have agreed to impose new tariffs of up to 35 per cent on electric cars from China that is on top of the existing 10 per cent duties. Immediately regrets for its decision for the war.

European commission's latest decision to impose additional tariffs as high as 35.3 per cent against Chinese made EVs. The EU is slapping the new import tariffs of up to 38.1 per cent on Chinese electric vehicles. The EU is trying to be China in electric cars. Have they forgotten who they are up against? China the same country that dominates global manufacturing holds the keys to critical raw materials and outpaces everyone in electric vehicle EV technology. What is going on here is the EU desperately protecting its car makers or is this the opening Salvo in a much larger economic conflict? Let's find out.

The EU's latest electric model is being outsold in the Home Market by Sleek Tech loaded Chinese that cost significantly less. Panic has set in shareholders want answers and suddenly the EU decides to help in imposing tariffs of up to 35.3 per cent on Chinese electric vehicles but China wasn't about to let that slide almost immediately Beijing fired back by filing a complaint with the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

China's was clear if the EU thinks it can protect its local by raising trade barriers then it's about to learn a harsh lesson in an increasingly interconnected world no one emerges unscathed from a trade War. Let's be honest here the EU's move to impose tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles is nothing short of a high stake gamble on the surface it looks like a defensive measure to protect European car makers who are

these tariffs are necessary to counteract alleged subsidies that give Chinese automakers an unfair advantage but here is the catch. Several EU member states are not exactly thrilled about this decision. They know that hiking up tariffs on Chinese imports could lead to higher prices for consumers and let's not forget that EU is already grappling with inflation and economic slow-downs. So, are they

right they went after one of Europe's most beloved luxury products. Why Brandy you ask? Well it's not just about the booze. This move hits at the heart of Europe's Luxury goods market, particularly France. By going after Brandy China is sending a message that it's not afraid to retaliate in ways that hurt. This isn't just about EVs anymore. It is shot across the bow of the EU's broader economy.



struggling to keep up with the China's Relentless push into the EV Market but beneath that surface there's a lot more going on Europe's automakers think Volkswagen, BMW and Renault have long dominated the roads but the transition to electric vehicles hasn't been kind to them. Chinese Brands like BYD, NIO and Expen have swooped in offering cheaper high-tech EVs that are just as good if not better than their European counter parts. For the EU it is not just about saving jobs it's about saving face.

The EU claims that

prepared to make their citizens pay more for the sake of protecting local industries? China on the other hand was not going to take this lying down. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce immediately the EU's move as protectionist and unjust buy they didn't stop there in classic counter move Beijing file a complaint with the WTO accusing the EU of violating International Trade rules and this is where the plot thickens within days Beijing launched anti-dumping investigations into European exports targeting wait for it. Brandy. That's

Think about it European exports to China especially high-end goods like Brandy, cheese and fashion are a significant source of Revenue by targeting these products. China is essentially saying if you mess with our cars we will mess with your lifestyle. It is a strategic play that show China understands the EU's pressure points and must not ignore the bigger picture here. China is how far the EU is willing to go. If the EU can't stand the heat it might have to back off but it doubles down we could be looking at an escalating trade war



*Diary of  
International  
Events*

*C. Adhikesavan*

beyond cars and Brandy. It is a game of chicken and neither side wants to blink first. Here is where things get even messier. The EU's decision to impose tariffs on Chinese EVs might seem like a straightforward protectionist move but it could have unintended consequences that ripple across global supply chains. The automobile industry is one of the most interconnected sectors in the world. Parts are sourced from everywhere China, Germany, Japan and the United States. Disruptions in one part of the chain can cause chaos everywhere else. China is a critical player in the supply chain for EVs especially when it comes to batteries. The country controls a significant share of the global supply of Lithium, Cobalt and rare earth metals. Materials essential for making electric vehicle batteries if China decides to restrict exports of these materials. European automakers could find themselves in a tough spot scrambling to secure alternative sources.

That Gap is explained by potential subsidies that the Chinese government is giving to its companies but also it is explained by higher economies of scale. ■

# Fredric Engels...

From Page 05

journey of human society from within.

Appreciating the depiction of social conditions in literature, Engels quotes Iliad written by Homer that reflects barbarism at its zenith and how he tells us the story with the help of improved iron tools, the bellows and the potter's wheel. Engels beautifully connects the different dots between one stage of society production relationship to the other stage. According to Engels even mythology takes the cognizance of these developments. Some people erroneously talk of the ideal family in the bygone era. Engels breaks this myth too. With his systematic research

on the subject of 'Consanguineous marriage', Engels traces the history of man-woman relationship through ages. The truth that he divulges is unbelievable. There is no common formula about man-woman relationship. Every society has its own ethics, sometimes contradictory to others. Again, a matter of evolution.

Writing about how old methods go into oblivion without any one's intention. Engels writes, "The domestication of animals and the breeding of herds had developed a hitherto unsuspected source of wealth and created entirely new relationships. ...With herds of horses, camels, donkeys, oxen, sheep, goats and pigs the advancing

pastoral people -the Aryans in the Indian land of five rivers, acquired possessions demanding merely supervision and most elementary care in order to propagate in ever-increasing numbers and to yield the richest nutriment in milk and meat. All previous means of procuring food now sank into the background. Hunting, once a necessity, now became a luxury."

Those in India who erroneously tell us that Marxism doesn't address the issues and situations of our country must read the above passage written by Engels who analyzed the changing production relationship in the great land of Indus. This was the time when pastoral life was the way in the land of confluence of five rivers. His contention that all previous production relationships pale

into oblivion when new production relationship takes over, stood the test of time. Engels adopted only the scientific methods for analysis.

All great scientists have a world vision. They have always worked for the betterment of humanity. Engels explained the relationship between the human society and the environment that created the human society. He has expertly brought out the fact that human being (like all other life forms) is ultimately a product of nature and nothing else. All modern understanding of life is based on this important fact. We must thank the great naturalist Fredric Engels for making us understand that we all have come through the same journey of learning and understanding nature that is the ultimate source of all life. ■

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# AIFUCTO Protest...

From Page 10

- Extend UGC scales of Pay and service conditions to all teachers of grants-in-aid institutions of all the states
- Union Government must disburse the 50 percent share of the 7th pay revision outlay to the state government immediately
- The Union Government must persuade the state governments to implement the recommendations of the 7th pay revision in totality
- Grant professorship under CAS upon fulfilment of requisite criteria, to all teachers in government, and govern-

- ment aided colleges across the country
- Delink PhD for CAS promotion to Associate Professor and Professor
- All state governments should implement UGC direction of the extension of date for RC/OC
- M.Phil. program must continue and increments for Ph.D.; M.Phil. must not be done away with
- Improve service conditions of teachers in adhoc/ part time/ guest lecturers/ block grant teachers
- Restore the faculty development programme for college teachers

- Amend UGC (minimum standard and procedure for award of Ph.D degree) regulation 2022 in such a way to accord research supervisor for all affiliated UG a college
- Amend UGC (minimum standards and procedures for award of Ph.D degree) regulations, 2022 to permit the supervisors to take new research scholars on or before the date of retirement.
- Filling up of all teaching and non-teaching posts in a permanent and regular mode
- Protect secular, scientific, democratic and

- federal character of education
- Provide consultative status to all Teachers' Organisations in the country
- States should have full control of framing the syllabus of the subjects taught at UG and PG levels
- Ensure proper implementation of the constitution mandated reservations policy for SC/ST/OBC/PWS in higher education institutions; re-instate all scholarship for minorities and SC/ST/OBC such as Maulana Azad National Scholarship and Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship
- Tuition fees for SC, ST, OBC and girl stu-

- dents to be waived for creating their better access to education
- Faculty members must have full autonomy in framing the education curriculum in Higher Education
- Autonomy and democratic functioning in higher educational institutions across the country must be strengthened
- The Eighth Pay Commission for central government employees should be set up immediately
- Parity of Director, Physical Education with Professor/ Associate including Age of Retirement. ■

## On Record ...

As authorities in the Delhi-NCR impose restrictions to combat the worsening air quality in the region, the brunt of the anti-pollution measures is being faced by daily wage workers involved in construction activities whose lives have to a standstill.

Workers who depend on daily earnings to survive said they are worried their children will starve to death. Construction and demolition activities (C&D) are banned under the current GRAP-IV measures that came into effect after many parts of Delhi reported "severe-plus" air quality (Air Quality Index above 450).

Suman, a 45-year-old mother of two, says, "If we sit at home, what will we eat? What do we feed our children?" - *The Telegraph*, November 19.

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A day before the Maharashtra Assembly elections, BJP National General Secretary Vinod Tawde was accused by the rival Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) of distributing cash for votes.

BVA leader Hitendra Thakur accused Tawde of distributing money to voters in a constituency in Palghar district. The Election Commission has filed an FIR against Tawde. Speaking to reporters, Thakur claimed, "Some BJP leaders informed me that BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde is coming to Virar to disburse Rs 5 crore to influence voters. I thought a national leader like him would not stoop to such a level. But I saw him

## TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU



here. I urge the Election Commission to take action against him and the BJP." The BVA legislator alleged the hotel Tawde was staying had shut down the CCTV cameras. - *The New Indian Express*, November 19.

\*\*\*

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin launched a scathing critique of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for what he termed the "imposition of Hindi" on the state-owned insurer's website.

His remarks followed criticism after the LIC homepage unexpectedly defaulted to Hindi, leaving users sparking a debate on cultural and linguistic diversity in India. In the afternoon, the LIC issued a clarification on X: "Our corporate website was not shuffling the language page due to some technical problem. The issue is resolved now, and the website is available in English/Hindi language. Inconvenience caused is deeply

- Compiled by C. Adhikesavan

# CPI COMMEMORATES MARTYRDOM DAY OF KARTAR SINGH SARABHA



**CPI national secretary Annie Raja addressing the rally**

*Communist Party of India (CPI) held a significant rally in Kartar Singh Sarabha's native village to commemorate the Martyrdom Day of the revolutionary freedom fighter. Sarabha, a prominent member of the Ghadar Party, was executed by British colonial authorities in 1915, alongside six other revolutionaries.*

The rally, organized as part of a series of five zonal rallies across Punjab, aimed not only

to honor Sarabha's sacrifice but also to raise awareness about the current government's failure to address pressing is-

sues facing the people, particularly in the areas of health, education, jobs, and social justice.

The gathering in the village of Sarabha, located in Punjab, was attended by thousands of CPI supporters, party workers, and local leaders, who rallied under the banner of highlighting the growing discontent with the policies of the Union government. The five zonal rallies being organized across the state are part of a broader campaign by CPI to hold the government accountable for its neglect of the common people, especially those belonging to vulnerable sections of society.

### **Rising Discontent and Criticism of the Modi Government**

CPI national secretary Annie Raja, was among the prominent speakers at the rally. She strongly criticized the central government's economic policies, accusing it of

*M. S. Bhatia*

favoring corporate interests at the expense of the working class and marginalized communities. She pointed out that while the government provided tax concessions and loan waivers to big corporations, it imposed harsh taxes on everyday goods, which disproportionately affected the poor and middle class.

Health and education have become increasingly out of reach for the common man. The government's push for privatization and corporatization in these sectors is pushing them further beyond the means of ordinary citizens. What was once considered a basic right is now becoming a privilege for the wealthy and the elite.

Annie Raja also expressed concern over the alarming rise in unemployment across the

country, pointing out that despite promises of job creation, the central government has failed to provide adequate employment opportunities for the youth. She further condemned the government's authoritarian approach to dissent, saying that the state machinery, including agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the police, is being misused to suppress the people's voices.

"The government's response to growing discontent has been to silence dissent through intimidation, rather than addressing the root causes of people's grievances," she said. Annie Raja also accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of deliberately undermining constitutional institutions, including the judiciary, in order to con-

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