

**THUS SPAKE
SUBHAS**

"Forget not that the grossest crime is to compromise with injustice and wrong. Remember the eternal law: You must give, if you want to get."

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The three new criminal laws need proper and thorough discussions

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) was enacted on December 25, 2023, repealing and replacing the Indian Penal Code, (1860) IPC as the new penal code of the country. The Three new laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshva Adhivam have come into effect from July 1, 2024. The government view was that the IPC continued as a relic of pre-independence British-era housing outdated provisions that did not align with the evolving modern rights and inclusion based discourse. The major political leaders, scholars, law experts and significant analysts had

expressed deep concerns. After the political and moral defeat in the just concluded Lok Sabha election PM Modi is pretending to respect the dignity of the Constitution. Just recall the truth. The truth is that the three laws of the criminal justice system that are being implemented now were forcibly passed by suspending 150 Members of Parliament. Our Parliamentary system was badly affected but it will be intolerable to face such coercive measures to topple the dignity of Sansad and the people of India. Infact the three criminal laws to replace the IPC, Crpc and Indian Evidence Act are mostly same as more than 90 percent of the new laws are cut and paste only, then how

G. DEVARAJAN
General Secretary
All India Forward Bloc

it can be proper to say that new laws will free us from the colonial mind-set? There are many retrograde provisions. Some changes are prima facie unconstitutional. The Standing Committee members have expressed deep concerns over the provisions and had written detailed dissent notes to the three Bills. But the government ignored and did not answer any of the criticisms written in the dissent notes. There was no debate in the Parliament and 150 members of the parliament were ousted. Several analysts, Law

scholars, judges and lawyers have written enough articles and conducted many seminars to point out the grave deficiencies in the three new laws.

This process of modifying criminal laws were initiated when Modi Government was in clear majority and had planned to retain political power at any cost. Now we will see this Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bharatiya Nagarita Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that had replaced the previous one will allow for using draconian police powers for political vested interests. This BNS allows for police custody from 15 up to 60 or 90 days. In this way opponents are going to be crushed and will be silenced ruthlessly.

Lawyers, academics and civil society activists gathered on February 26, 2024 at the India International Centre to flag the three new criminal laws and stated that the object of the legislation is not to undo coloniality but to suppress dissent. That is why it was passed after suspending 150 MPs as the ruling side is unable to face debate. Recently lawyers and activists are calling on PM Modi's government to halt the implementation of new criminal laws, arguing they will increase litigation in an overburdened justice system and grant excessive powers to police. Lawyers fear old cases could continue to drag on as the ruling deadlines apply to new

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70th Anniversary of Panchasheel

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Panchasheel of peaceful co-existence. Chinese Embassy in Delhi organized a seminar on this occasion. Leaders of AIFB, CPI(M), CPI and other civil society organizations participated in the seminar. Remarks by Com. G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the All India Forward Bloc in the Seminar being organised by



the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence on 4th July 2024. H.E. Hu Feihong, Chinese

Ambassador to India, Dear Comrades and Friends, In the complex landscape of international relations, the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect have often served as a bedrock for fostering stable

and cooperative relationships between nations. For India and China, the Panchsheel Agreement of 1954 stands as a testament to such principles, encapsulating the essence of mutual understanding, non-

interference, and respect for sovereignty. As these two ancient civilizations navigate their roles in the contemporary global arena, the relevance of Panchsheel remains undiminished, offering a framework for constructive engagement and conflict resolution. First and foremost, the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect for sovereignty remain pertinent in the

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Editorial

Bypolls to 13 assembly seats in seven states, held on July 10, were necessitated following vacancies created due to deaths or resignations of incumbent MLAs from different parties. The general Lok Sabha election result had reflected the downfall of Modi era as they bagged 240 seats and clearly INDIA bloc gained strength. This bypolls are seen as significant test for the opposition INDIA bloc after June 4 result. This time the INDIA bloc emerged as a major gainer. INDIA bloc won 10 seats, while the BJP won only 2 seats. One seat was won by an independent candidate.

Trinmool Congress won all four seats of West Bengal, the Congress party has gained four seats -two each in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. The Aam Aadmi Party won the lone seat in Punjab. An independent candidate won Bihar's Rupauli seat. The BJP has bagged one seat each in Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh with thin margin.

There are clear messages that can be concluded

By-polls result: Modi regime is eroding fast

after seeing this bypolls result. Modi regime is eroding fast and erosion is continued. Our country cannot be governed by authoritarian and centralised manner. Article 1 of the Constitution reads, "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of states." Instead of using the word 'federalism' our fore-fathers gave prominence to the states through several means (provisions) under the 7th Schedule. This basic lesson was not learnt by the BJP. The BJP in his previous two terms narrated and imposed its concept of 'one nation, one election,..... This is rejected by the people.

The another message is that it is no longer possible to ignore the young generation. Unemployment has to be tackled otherwise it will erupt as volcano. Majority has to face the problem of high inflation of basic commodities, the absence of comprehensive health and education accessibility. Our agriculture sector is about to collapse and

farmer's issue cannot be ignored. This is the next message.

This bypolls results clarified the end of Modi-raj and the upcoming combined effort of INDIA bloc means that the powers of the states mentioned in the Constitution, must be saved. The results from the seven states reflects the same trend and defines the political will that opposition ruled states are vital for the development of India's economy. Recently On July 2 PM have discussed the competitive cooperative federalism but his discriminatory treatment and double or triple engine government model have dented enough to our basic structure.

In short we can summarise this result as the victory of combined effort, as the victory of our Constitution, as the victory of people over power, and as the victory of masses over authoritarian rule. These results bear testimony to the rise of the INDIA bloc's electoral success in several states (pan-India) is moving on and this journey is continued with more acceleration. The pro-people policies are the need of the hour and our opposition has to work more vigorously now.

70th Anniversary of Panchasheel

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bilateral relationship. Both India and China are ancient civilizations with rich cultural heritages and diverse societal structures. The acknowledgement of each other's sovereignty and commitment to non-interference are crucial in fostering an atmosphere of trust and understanding. As both nations continue to evolve and assert their roles on the global stage, adherence to these principles helps in managing differences and preventing conflicts. Therefore, the Panchsheel Agreement holds enduring relevance in the contemporary context of Sino-Indian relations, despite the geopolitical shifts and challenges over the decades. Furthermore, the principle of mutual benefit underscores the potential for cooperation in economic and developmental spheres. India and China are among the

world's fastest-growing economies, with significant global influence. Collaborative efforts under the Panchsheel principles can facilitate joint ventures, trade partnerships, and technological exchanges that benefit not only both countries but also contribute positively to regional and global stability.

Moreover, in the face of contemporary global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and pandemics, cooperation between India and China becomes imperative. Both nations have immense populations and ecological footprints, making collaboration on environmental protection and sustainable development crucial. The Panchsheel principles provide a moral and ethical framework that encourages both nations to work together towards common goals that benefit humanity as a whole.

With the diplomatic framework provided by Panchsheel, we believe that the need of the hour is to strengthen the mutual friendship between the peoples of India and China. Educational exchanges, academic research collaborations, and media partnerships play vital roles in bridging societal gaps and fostering a shared vision of cooperation and mutual respect. These interactions foster empathy, dispel stereotypes, and build a foundation of trust that transcends political differences.

The significance of people-to-people relations becomes even more pronounced in times of geopolitical tension or diplomatic challenges. While governments may grapple with policy differences or strategic concerns, grassroots connections forged through cultural exchange programs, academic partnerships, and

youth exchanges can act as stabilizing forces. These interactions cultivate a shared sense of belonging and solidarity among citizens, encouraging dialogue and constructive engagement even during periods of diplomatic strain. Enhanced people-to-people relations facilitate greater economic cooperation, paving the way for joint ventures, infrastructure projects, and business collaborations that benefit both societies and contribute positively to regional and global prosperity.

The relevance of the Panchsheel Agreement between India and China lies not merely in its historical significance but in its adaptability to contemporary challenges. As both nations navigate their roles in a rapidly changing world order, the principles of Panchsheel provide a compass for fostering stability, cooperation, and mutual

understanding. Moreover, investing in robust people-to-people relations ensures that the bonds of friendship between the peoples of India and China remain resilient and enduring, contributing to a more harmonious and prosperous world order. As both nations look towards the future, the synergy between Panchsheel and people-to-people relations offers a promising pathway for sustainable cooperation and shared development in the 21st century and beyond. on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, I wish all success and prosperity to the people of China and India and I am confident that the fraternal relationship between the people of both countries will strengthen further in the coming days. Long Live the fraternal relationship between the people of China and India. Thank you all.

Subhas Chandra Bose's Contribution in Sending Indian Medical Mission to China

India and China have been neighboring countries and maintaining cultural, religious, and educational relations for the last two thousand years. In the last one hundred years, two countries continued exchanges in several areas. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Rabindranath Tagore's visit to China in 1924 restored bilateral cultural talks. In the Second World War, Chinese people faced distress against Japanese imperialism, created sympathy in India. Subhas Chandra Bose protested against Japanese behavior and extended his support to China. All India Congress Committee (AICC) Working Committee decided to help China on three core issues: One, Chinese people's fight against Japan and offering sympathy to the Chinese people; Two, Boycott Japanese goods in India; and Three, Sending a Medical Ambulance to China with doctors, nurses, medicines and clothes. In February 1938, Subhas Chandra Bose became Congress President, and he primarily took the whole responsibility of sending Medical Mission to China.

Members of the Medical Mission to China: AICC Working Committee meeting held on 29 – 31 October 1937 in Calcutta recommended resolutions against Japan for their aggression in China. The Committee expressed deep admiration for the brave and heroic struggle which the Chinese people fought against Japan. The Working Committee decided to observe "All India China Day" on 12 September and 26 September 1937 throughout the country. The Committee decided to accept applications from qualified medical men who

would like to join the medical Mission to China and should undertake to serve for at least one year. It decided that the expenses of equipment, board, and lodging in China and a small pocket allowance will be provided for the doctors, will pay no salary. Finally, five doctors were selected who were:

1. Dr. Madan Mohan Lal Atal, Age 52 (Leader of the Mission);
 2. Dr. Moreswar Ram Chaudre Cholker, Age 58 (Deputy Leader of the Mission);
 3. Dr. Dwarakanath Shantaram Kotnis, Age 28 (Member of the Mission);
 4. Dr. Debesh Chandra Mukhopadhaya, Age 26 (Member of the Mission);
 5. Dr. Bijay Kumar Basu, Age (Member of the Mission)
- Dr. Bijay Kumar Bose was selected in the final moment as a member of the Chinese Medical Mission in place of Ranendra Sen Gupta as he denied a passport to China (The Indian Express, 26.08.1938).

Subhas Chandra Bose's Initiative for Sending Medical Mission to China:

In the 51st session of the Indian National Congress held at Vithalnagar, Haripura of Gujrat, during 19 – 21 February 1938, Subhas Chandra Bose became President. In the Presidential Address, Subhas Chandra Bose stressed the desirability and necessity of developing closer cultural relations with our neighbors like Persia, Afghanistan, Nepal, China, Burma, Siam, Malaya States, East Indies, and Ceylon.

Subhas Chandra Bose wrote a letter to Tan Yunshan, on 23 April 1938 where he expressed deep regards for Tan Yunshan and the Chinese people. Tan Yunshan was Director of the Cheena-Bhavana of the Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan

Dr. Anirban Ghosh

which was established in 14th April, 1937 as Sino-Indian Research Centre as well as Office of the Sino-Indian Cultural Society. Bose was aware of the activities of the Sino-Indian Cultural Society in India and Tan Yunshan's attachment with it. "You have been in India sufficiently long to be able to realize how deep is our affection and regard for the Chinese people and their ancient culture. Your close association with our great men must have convinced you that we shall follow with the closest interest and sympathy your national struggle during one of the darkest periods in your History", wrote Subhas Bose to Tan. He also mentioned in a letter about Indian National Congress's unanimous resolution to show sympathy with the Chinese people during their struggle against Japan and sought his support.

Subhas Chandra Bose convened a meeting during May 15 – 19, 1938, in Bombay, where a Subcommittee formed for sending Ambulance to China. Committee members were Dr. Jivraj Mehta (President), Dr. Sunil Chandra Bose, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Shri G.P. Hatheesingh (Convenor), and Subhas Chandra Bose himself. It was decided to take the necessary steps to send a motor ambulance with doctors and nurses to China, where Dr. Madan Mohan Atal led the team. On 12 June 1938, All India China Day was observed mainly in Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Nagpur etc., to raise funds for the Chinese people and held several meetings. Subhas Chandra Bose called people to celebrate 'China' Day on 18 June 1938.

Subhas Chandra Bose issued

a press statement in support of the ambulance corps for China. "Ever since the Japanese aggression in China began last year, the Indian National Congress has repeatedly expressed its sympathy for the Chinese people in their struggle for freedom and peace. Apart from resolutions of sympathy passed, pro-Chinese demonstrations were held all over the country", he said. Eight thousand rupees were collected to support this program and sent qualified doctors, preferably experienced surgeons, with a fully equipped motor ambulance. The subcommittee took an objective of collecting rupees twenty-two thousand. Subhas Bose urged all Congress organizations to observe 12 June 1938 as 'All-India China Day' to collect funds for the Medical Mission apart from organizing meetings and processions. Bose urged medical stores, and appliances to help the distressed and injured Chinese people. To gather more funds, Bose further declared to observe All-Indian China Day on July 7-9, 1938.

On 12 August 1938, a meeting was organized by the University Institute in honor of renowned Chinese Social Worker Tao Xingzhi where Subhas Chandra Bose greeted him. Subhas Chandra expressed support for the Chinese people's war against Japan. He also mentioned sending a Medical Mission to China by the INC is a token of friendship to the Chinese people. Tao Xingzhi conveyed thanks to Subhas Bose as Chinese people feel not alone in their fight against Japan (Jugantar Patrika, 13.08.1938).

A farewell ceremony was organized on 14 August 1938 at the University

Institute Hall of Calcutta, where Subhas Chandra Bose chaired the session. Bengali members of the Medical Mission, like Dr. Haridas Mukherji and Dr. Debesh Mukherji were present in the farewell ceremony (Jugantar Patrika, 13.08.1938). "In the history of our country, we are opening a new epoch. We are no more interested in our hearts and homes. We are keeping in touch with international affairs, with those trying either to safeguard their freedom or earn it. We, as a subject nation, know what freedom means", said Subhas Bose when he was presiding over a public meeting farewell programme of Ranendranath Sen and Dr. Debesh Mukherji. So preparations for supporting China in her distress situation began in 1937, but the final work of sending Medical Mission was done in 1938 when Subhas Chandra was holding the Party's top position.

Furthermore, Subhas Bose took the initiative of sending China 5,000 pieces of new dresses for helpless and needy children. In addition to this initiative, Mrs. Amrit Kaur announced to send 10,000 chaddars or wrappers, blankets, and women's clothing sewn according to Chinese patterns for the distressed Chinese (The Indian Express, 30.08.1938). A fundraising program for aiding Chinese people was organized through a film show program on 23 April 1939 in the Chitra and 30 April in the Purna Theatre in Calcutta. A China – aid Progressive Film Committee formed Rabindra Nath Tagore and Subhas Chandra Bose.

Before the departure of the Medical Mission towards China, The Bombay Pradesh

3 new criminal laws need to be withdrawn

(The following statement was issued by the Platform of CTUs on three new criminal laws on 8th July 2024.)

The common people are likely to be unaware of the far-reaching implications of the 3 new criminal laws that have been implemented from 1st July 2024.

It is to be noted that:

These laws have been forced on the people without proper consultation, even ignoring suggestions given by the Parliamentary Committee, without making the draft publicly available.

The justification that these are meant to replace the British-era laws, is false as it retains all the provisions of the earlier laws, making some of them even more stringent. For example, Section 124 of IPC,

which is meant to punish sedition (a typical British Raj enactment) has been retained and its provision for 3 years imprisonment, has been enhanced to 7 years! Any gathering of people and the leaders of the gatherings can be declared terrorists. All Trade Union activities can be brought under this provision. Moreover, various sections have been renumbered, which will lead to confusion and may cause a huge pendency of cases - with the present 6.4 crore cases pending in the lower courts already becoming unmanageable - over the next few years.

The case law, built up over more than 100 years of use of the laws which were replaced, will be of no use and the litigants, the lawyers,

and the judges will be struggling to reach Constitutional conclusions.

The SHOs have been vested with all the powers to register an FIR, i.e. to register one, will also be at their discretion, unlike the earlier provision, under which it was the right of every citizen to file an FIR. The police custody duration is increased from existing 15 days to 90 days. The police are empowered to book cases against peaceful protestors and Gheraoing workers for their genuine demands. This may usher in a Police Raj to suit the oppressive designs of the ruling dispensation and its mentors. Even the prevailing term in the definition clauses "Court of Justice" to depict courts is just re-termed to be only "Court".

Already it had a backlash from truck drivers across the country due to severe provisions related to hit-and-run cases, the government had to step back and say that those sections will not be implemented, but they have not repealed them.

There is also an objection that Hindi is being imposed on people who do not have that as their language. Even Article 348 of the Constitution and the Official Languages Act mandate that the texts of all enactments of Parliament and legislatures should be in English.

It has even been suggested that instead of the mess created, a five-page document could have been circulated, suggesting amendments to the existing laws.

In short, this is another chicken-brained step by this government, similar to the demonetisation in 2016, only more dangerous, to suit the interests of neo-liberal forces unleashing onslaughts on the rights of people restructuring criminal jurisprudence.

The Platform of the Central Trade Unions, independent Federations and Associations urge the government to scrap these laws and revert back to the earlier laws. Any changes proposed should be discussed in the public domain before adopting and implementing them.

The joint statement was signed by the leaders of INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF, UTUC and Sectoral Federations/Associations.

Subhas Chandra Bose's Contribution in Sending...

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Congress Committee arranged a special meeting for the farewell program. Subhas Chandra Bose was supposed to reach Bombay on 28 August 1938 and preside over that meeting. But due to his busy schedule in South India, Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel had presided over the meeting (Jugantar Patrika, 25.08.1938). As Bose had received numerous invitations from the various centers in South India, especially Kerala, he had to cancel the plan to be present in the send-off of a program of the Medical Mission team to China in Bombay (The Indian Express, 22.08.1938). Dr. Atal sent a message to Congress President Subhas Bose, thanking him for his entire effort and confirming that they will try to maintain the dignity of the Indian flag (Jugantar Patrika 02.09.1938).

Letters, Articles, and Messages regarding Subhas

Chandra Bose and China: In Modern Review Journal, Subhas Chandra Bose wrote an article on Japan's role in the Far East and denounced the assault on China in 1937. "We wish you all success in your noble task for that will be India's glory", Congress President Subhas Chandra Bose sent a message too Dr. Atal on the eve of the departure of the Indian Medical Mission. "In the most critical hour in China's history when she fights for life and liberty, you and your comrades are being sent by the Indian National Congress as the symbol of India's goodwill, esteem, and sympathy for the great Chinese nation. At considerable risk and inconvenience, you will embark tomorrow on your Mission of service and love. The missionary zeal with which you are animated is redolent of the spirit that inspired India's old Missionaries. May you, by your work, bring credit and honor to the country you

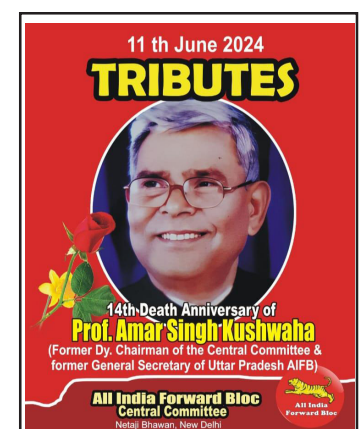
belong to and help link her up with another oppressed nation. We wish you all success in your noble task, for that will be India's glory (The Indian Express, 01.09.1938). The Indian Express newspaper brought out a small article titled 'A Goodwill Offering' on 3 September 1938, which mentioned the role of the Congress Party and two Presidents (Nehru and Subhas Bose) in sending Medical Mission to China. 'An Indian ambulance unit has left for China brought into being at the initiative of one Congress President (Nehru), started on its Mission by another (Bose), and carrying the good wishes of a third. The article mentioned that Dr. Atal, the unit leader, is a restless Samaritan bent on carrying relief wherever people are in distress (The Indian Express, 03.09.1938). "We are confident that by your service you are offering relief to suffering Chinese brothers and bringing glory to India",

Subhas Chandra Bose sent a message to Dr. Atal on 8 April, 1939.

Conclusion:

Subhas Chandra Bose served as Congress President for a short period. After 1939, his political career went on with different goals, and problems increased day by day. But his intention about maintaining good relations with China and Asian neighbours was evident from his work. He intended to visit China in 1939. Dr. Huang Chaojin was Consul in the Consulate Office of Calcutta during 1939-1942. In 1966, he came again in Calcutta. In his view, Netaji feared that the British Government could arrest him. Therefore, he met with Dr. Huang and asked whether it could take political asylum in the Capital city Chong Qing. But Dr. Huang said that he needs to take permission from the Chinese Government. After a couple of days, Bose himself called him and told him that he had changed his plan. Perhaps sending

Medical Mission to China prompted him to visit China for continuing political and revolutionary works. Subhas Bose's political career did not last long in India after 1939. Therefore, his rich contributions towards sending Medical Mission overshadowed in the historical writings and books. It is impossible to record all documents, facts, and figures regarding Subhas Chandra Bose's contribution. Had he not left early from India to abroad, he could have stayed with regular day-to-day political activities. In that case, perhaps the history of the Indian Medical Mission in China could have been written differently.





The Ordnance Factory Employees Union, Dehu Road, Pune has organized a gate meeting on 10th July 2024 on various issues being confronted by the defence employees. Com. Indu Prakash Menon, President of TUCC addressed the gathering.

The Bengal government should also be included in the Teesta water treaty negotiations

(The following statement has been issued by Com. G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the AIFB on Teesta Water Treaty on 25th June 2024)
 The All India Forward Bloc urges upon the Union government to include the Government of West Bengal in the discussion about the Teesta water and Farakka Treaty between India and Bangladesh. Unilateral negotiations between India and Bangladesh without involving the Government of Bengal are against the interests of Bengal and are also a violation of the subordinations as per the previous understanding. A Tri-Partite discussion is needed in this regard.
 The stand taken by the West Bengal Government in this matter is appreciable and reasonable.
 Many outstanding issues are pending between India and Bangladesh. At the same time, both countries have been able to find solutions on some issues. Agreement on the exchange of enclaves is one among them. The All India Forward Bloc played a crucial role in safeguarding the interests of the State in general and the people of North Bengal in particular during the

discussion of the exchange of enclaves.
 It is imperative to remember the discussion of the Nehru-Noon Agreement, 1958 without involving the West Bengal government headed by Congress leader Dr. B.C. Roy. Dr. Roy opposed such a unilateral move and adopted a resolution against the union government in the West Bengal Assembly.
 The Teesta Irrigation Project was started in 1976. But half a decade after its inception, only 25% of the project has been completed. As the project was not completed and the Teesta water treaty was hanging like the sword of Damocles, the entire agricultural activity in North Bengal was severely affected.
 In Sikkim, where the Teesta River originates and in other northeastern states, landslides occur very often, causing the river water level to rise, resulting in severe floods being experienced in the region every monsoon.
 Several popular movements are working for the overall development of North Bengal. The West Bengal government should consult all the stakeholders before engaging in any sort of discussion.



The leaders of the left and secular parties of Assam met on 26th June 2024 and decided to organize joint program against price rise, unemployment and agrarian issues. Com. Mihir Nandi, Chairman of AIFB Assam State Committee attended the meeting on behalf of the AIFB.

The three new criminal...

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 cases. There is confusion which laws - old or new-will apply to cases registered after July 1 for a crime committed before that date.
 Two lawyers associations with more than 13,000 members of Tamil Nadu had boycotted court work on 8 July in protest against the laws. In South India people are more concerned the Hindi nomenclature of new laws. They realised the new laws as the imposition of Hindi on them. This is a big concern that cannot be overlooked.
 The UAPA has been criticised for being misused by authorities to target human rights defenders, activists and dissenters. Now UAPA will be applied on individual level. New laws have more stringent provisions.
Conclusion: The legal fraternity of the country is opposing these new criminal laws. The process of making

it law was done unconstitutional way. Several bar councils of states and bar associations have registered protests through letters and seminars. Now it has become necessary that proper and thorough discussions must be started once in the parliament. The views and arguments related with the legal fraternity and the general public must be taken into account to make these laws acceptable. Human rights group Amnesty says Indian authorities must "immediately repeal" the new laws as they could allow for police abuse. Unfortunately, the new three laws do very little to decolonise Indian criminal laws. They exhibit the continuation and intensification of colonial type extension of powers. Government's intention is clear. People have to decide that such draconian laws are not the need of the hour. We have to rebuild our society with fresh democratic air and for that laws must be made to benefit the societal psych in right direction. For that we have to oppose these new laws as they are enacted and imposed on as law to which Parliament hasnot applied its mind and now our life and liberty will not be protected. They are in danger.



AIFB Party units across the country celebrated the 104th Birthday of People's leader Com. Ashok Ghosh. Party Comrades, sympathizers and leaders of Mass Fronts paid rich tributes to the memories of our beloved leader Com. Ashok Ghosh.



85th foundation day of the party celebrated across the country

AIFB units nationwide commemorated the 85th foundation day of the party on June 22, 2024, with spectacular and dignified celebrations.



AIFB Purulia District Committee (West Bengal) has decided to plant 50000 trees across the district on the occasion of the 85th foundation day of the All India Forward Bloc.



The Kerala State Committee of AIFB met at Netaji Bhawan, Kollam, on 6-7 July 2024. Com. B. Rajendran Nair, Senior leader and Finance Secretary of the State Committee presided and Com. T. Manoj Kumar, General Secretary of the State Committee submitted the Organisational report. Com. G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the Central Committee explained the decisions of the Central Committee meeting held in New Delhi on 19-20 June 2024.



The Bengal Committee of AIFB met at Hemanta Basu Bhawan, Kolkata on 29-30 June 2024. Com. Gobinda Roy, Chairman of the Bengal Committee presided and Com. Naren Chatterjee, General Secretary of the Bengal Committee submitted the organisational report. Com. G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the Central Committee explained the decisions of the Central Committee meeting held at New Delhi on 19-20 June 2024



The AIFB Bhadohi (Uttar Pradesh) unit has organized a mass dharna on 16th July 2024 against price rise, unemployment, and agrarian crisis.



(The following statement has been issued by Com. G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the AIFB after the Central Committee meeting of the party on 23rd June 2024)

The All India Forward Bloc will hoist the National Flag in the party meetings. This decision has been taken by its Central Committee meeting held on the 19th and 20th at New Delhi.

Earlier, the party used to hoist only the party flag in its Conferences, Council Meetings and special days such as party foundation day (22 June), the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (23 January), the foundation day of Azad Hind Government (21 October)

Forward Bloc Will Hoist The National Flag In Party Meetings

etc. In 2022, the Forward Bloc removed the Hammer and Sickle from its flag and kept the leaping tiger on the Red Flag.

The meeting reviewed the election results 2024 and opined that the result is a decisive mandate to protect the Constitution, democracy and secular character of the nation. In a resolution adopted by the committee opined that there was no national-level unity among the Left, and no Left party made any attempt at it. All the left parties tried to stand with someone to somehow reach the parliament. But while



doing so, each party forgot to maintain left unity. Everyone tried to use their influence to get seats from other parties.

The Left could not achieve anything in this election because it was unable to maintain unity and was

unwilling to adopt a cohesive approach. Due to this, the Left Parties did not get the benefit of the anti-fascist struggle waged by the Left Parties and its mass organizations across the country. The Left's presence in Parliament can only

increase if the unity demonstrated in protests and seminars is sincerely reflected in the elections as well. Therefore, the left parties should do some serious introspection.

The meeting asked the state committees to review the elections at the state level and give a detailed report.

The meeting asked the government not to implement the amendments of the IPC, CrPC and Indian Evidence Act in haste and to have adequate discussions in the Parliament in this regard.

The meeting demanded the cancellation of the Agniveer scheme and also demanded to cancel the NEET-UG exam and a new exam should be conducted immediately.

CTUs Submitted a Joint Memorandum...

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to the benefit of private employers in the name of skill India should be totally replaced by statutory obligation of the private employers to engage requisite number of apprentices in respective establishments on their own with a clear provision of phased placement of them in regular employment.

Increased allocation for MNREGS to ensure 200 days work with statutory minimum wages. Extend the scheme to urban areas as per the unanimous recommendation in 43rd ILC. Immediate payment of all pending wages.

Adequate Budgetary allocation should be made for conducting the survey and issuance of vending license under the street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014 and ensure climate resilient markets.

5) **NPS:** New Pension Scheme must be scrapped and benefit defined old pension scheme must be restored.

6) **8th Pay Commission should be constituted immediately.**

7) **Labour Codes Should be repealed:** All the 4

Labour Codes enacted repealing 29 labour statutes must be repealed and scrapped. The said 29 labour statutes should be restored. Minimum wages of not less than Rs.26000 per month with indexation must be fixed in line with consensus recommendation of Indian Labour Conference in which Govt of India is a party. Call the ILC immediately as per the requisite of ILO convention 144.

8) **Privatisation of PSU must be stopped:**

Privatisation of PSU's and its latest format—National Monetisation pipeline process should be stopped forthwith. Privatisation in different ways in production and service in Railways, privatisation process in Defence sector by formation of companies and their merger etc., Privatisation in Coal and auction of coal blocks, Privatisation in large scale in Port and docks, in power generation and transmission etc are going on in an unbridled manner. All these must be stopped immediately. Move to sell off the assets of BSNL and RINL to be stopped immediately. Stop privatisation of RINL (Vaizag Steel Plant). All public sector units must be strengthened.

Stop privatisation of electricity through different means. Withdraw the Electricity Bill. Scrap Smart Pre-paid Electricity Meter Scheme.

Privatization of the Door-to-door waste collection system should be stopped and ensure employment to traditional waste recyclers and their technology and skills upgradation.

9) **Loot and Plunder of public sector banks and public exchequer and privatisation of insurance sector should be stopped:**

The loan waiver of defaulting corporates in the form of write offs and also Insolvency Bankruptcy Code route, Production Linked Incentive, Capital investment incentive etc must be discontinued as they are delivering no worthwhile result in terms of regular employment generation.

10) **Stop the move to privatise LIC and GIC:** Stop privatisation of LIC and GIC through different moves like LIC-IPO to the larger interest of the common people and the nation.

11) **Social Sector :** Stop privatisation of social and service sectors like food/nutrition, health and education. Increase allocation for basic services

in health and education. Adequate allocation for drinking water, sanitation, housing etc. Budget allocation for SC/ST Sub plan and gender budgeting must be increased.

Reinstate the concessions for the senior citizens, differently abled in the railways.

12) **Price Rise:** The increase in the prices of petroleum products induced increase of duties and essential services should be immediately contained with concrete ameliorative measures. Speculative forward trading and hoarding of food items has to be curbed and universal public distribution system should be strengthened to contain price rise.

13) **Scheme Workers:** Scheme Workers viz. Anganwadi, Mid-Day-Meal, ASHA workers, block facilitators, para teachers and other scheme workers should be regularised as workers with attendant rights of increased statutory minimum wage, social security and other benefits including pension in accordance with consensus recommendation of ILC. Increase the allocations for all central schemes providing the basic services like ICDS, MDMS, NHM etc.

Strengthen the schemes to ensure quality services of nutrition, health and education as well as child care services to all, especially the unorganised sector workers.

14) **EPF:** Rescind the recent gazette notifications of reduction of penal charges on defaulting employers in remitting the contributions to the PF, EPS and EDLI schemes. Ensure minimum pension of Rs.9000 and above under EPS. Increase the coverage to cover all workers. Discriminatory representation in the board of trustees of EPFO must be rectified immediately.

15) **ESIC :** Strengthen the ESIC services to ensure quality services with coverage of all work areas and enhanced coverage limit.

16) **MSP:** Ensure Statutory Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all the farm produce as per recommendations of Dr.M.S.Swaminathan Commission with guaranteed procurement.

The joint Memorandum was signed by the leaders of INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF, UTUC and Sectoral Federations/Associations

CTUs Submitted a Joint Memorandum to the Finance Minister

Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman, the Finance Minister of India has convened a pre-budget discussion with the leaders of the Central Trade Unions on 24th June 2024 at her office, North Block, New Delhi. Com. Indu Prakash Menon, President of TUCC, Central Committee attended the meeting and submitted the opinion of the TUCC. The CTUs have submitted a joint memorandum to the Finance Minister, which is as follows:



To,
The Hon'ble Minister of Finance
Government of India
North Block,
New Delhi-110 001
Sub: CTU's view points on issues to be considered for framing budget for the year 2024-2025

Madam,
We, the representatives of the wealth creators, the working class of the country are participating in this pre-budget consultations only out of our confidence in the democracy and constitution of the country. We are compelled to state this as not a single suggestion by the trade unions was considered while preparing the budget or any policy of your previous governments.

It is going to be one decade since the highest tripartite forum, the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) has been called under the NDA governments. You may please recall that the main recommendation of the one and only ILC held under the NDA government was to

implement the recommendations of the earlier ILCs, which again has fallen on deaf ears.

Not only that our suggestions and demands are ignored, your governments have been implementing policies diametrically opposite to those bypassing all tripartite bipartite democratic mechanisms and institutions. The latest example is the notification published by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, drastically reducing the rates of penalty levied against defaulting employers in EPF. This has been done keeping the Central Board of Trustees of EPFO in the dark and without any consultation with the unions whatsoever.

We hope that the new NDA government will learn from the experience where such policies have only helped a few corporates and took the country to huge disparities and alarming levels of unemployment, hunger and malnutrition which are evident from the world hunger index.

Considering the larger interest of the people and the

grave situation faced by the economy, we expect you to take measures to increase the purchasing power of the people.

The CTUs puts forward these concrete suggestions for the Budget 2024-2025.

1) **Resource Mobilisation:** The resource mobilisation has to be done by increasing the corporate tax, wealth tax and introducing inheritance tax instead of burdening common masses with the GST on essential food items and medicine. Over the decades, corporate tax rates have been slashed down unjustly and at the same time increasing indirect tax burden on common people resulted in an utterly regressive tax structure. That must be corrected in the interests of fairness, equity and propriety. Even one percent inheritance tax on the super-rich with the ceiling can fetch huge amount to the budget receipts. It can be used to finance the education, health and other social sectors. Hence immediately GST on essential food items and medicine has to be drastically reduced.

2) **Income Tax Rebate for**

Salaried Class: The ceiling limit for the income tax rebate for the salaried class on their salary and Gratuity must be substantially raised.

3) **Social Security Fund:** The Union Govt sponsored social security fund for the unorganised workers and agricultural workers has to be set up to provide them with defined universal social security schemes including minimum pension of Rs.9000 per month and other medical, educational benefits. Special Schemes to ensure occupational health and safety measures for workers, especially for the vulnerable trades like waste recyclers, salt pan workers, glass bangle makers and so on.

Income/wage loss compensation during the lean sessions and in the event of natural calamities including heat & cold waves, unseasonal rains, floods, cyclones and such others. Set up climate resilience funds to cover the losses incurred by the workers due to these natural calamities especially in the background of the climate change.

All the unorganised workers

should be enrolled on E Shram portal and extended these schemes. Monetary benefits under current schemes have to be raised as they are inadequate. Necessary fund to compensate the loss due to repeal of Beedi Cess Act as promised while GST was rolled out must be provided. Extending ESI to the workers of the unorganized sector.

The small farmers/agriculture workers/ share croppers should also be included under the Kisan Sanmaan Yojana. Similarly, the agriculture workers/ share croppers should also be included under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Budget should be allocated to ensure technical coherence and interstate management mechanisms to ensure portability of ration cards and other identity cards. This will enable the migrant workers to entitled social security benefits at their source and destinations

4) **Jobs Creation:** All existing vacancies in the Central Govt departments and PSU's must be filled immediately. The practice of contract and out sourcing should be stopped and instead, regular employment has to be ensured. Ensure equal pay for equal work. Agniveer, Ayudveer, Koylaveer and such fixed term employments should be stopped and replaced by regular employment in all those areas. The scheme of Govt funded apprenticeship

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TOWARDS SOCIALISM

If undelivered please return to :

ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC

Netaji Bhavan, T-2235/2, Ashok Nagar,

Faiz Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

Ph.:011-28754273

e-mail : biswasd.aifb@yahoo.co.in

Website : www.forwardbloc.org

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