

**THUS SPAKE
SUBHAS**

“It is only on the basis of undiluted Nationalism and of perfect justice and impartiality that the Indian Army of Liberation can be built up”

TOWARDS SOCIALISM



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We need a secular democratic set-up to survive

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address from the ramparts of the historical Red Fort exposed that he is trying to pose his control over the government as earlier. Throughout his previous two tenures he was critical and non-democratic towards regional political parties. He repeated or boasted again 'Viksit Bharat 2047'! He talked about the agriculture sector, farmer's well-being, women's safety, instability in the country but what had he done in the past ten years, we all had seen the sufferings of farmers, women safety issue and complete lackness of seriousness on unprecedented unemployment issues.

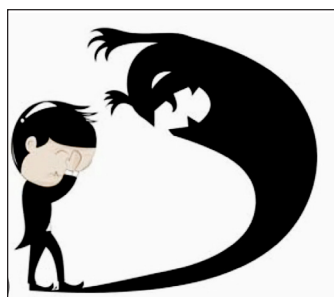
Invoking the Constitution and the Supreme Court, PM asked for the Uniform Civil Code, saying it's time the country moves towards a civil code that is 'secular' and not 'communal' and

'discriminatory' as the existing one. In his address he said: "In our country, the Supreme Court has repeatedly discussed the Uniform Civil Code. Many times orders have been given because a large section of the country believes - and there is a truth in it - that the Civil Code that we are living with it is actually a kind of Communal Civil Code, a discriminatory civil code."

Such typical address from the ramparts of the Red Fort means that the Prime Minister, the BJP and the RSS have no respect to the Constitution of India, the great freedom fighters, the Constituent Assembly and recorded long debates, the values of freedom movement and our fore-fathers struggles and the main architect of constitution Dr B.R. Ambedkar. Our opposition political parties means "INDIA BLOC" criticised Mr Modi for seeking

G. DEVARAJAN
General Secretary
All India Forward Bloc

a "Secular, Civil Code," while calling the existing one "Communal" and "discriminatory". Our opposition parties are sharply



criticising such objectionable remarks and observed "a gross insult" to our fore-fathers and constitution makers. Prominent opposition leaders referred the PM's speech irresponsible and maligning of freedom struggle.

It was the 11th time, as the PM of India, Mr Modi had addressed but after such a

long period he failed to understand that he is the Prime Minister of more than 140 crores of Indians which consists of the both segment of population who had voted for the BJP and voted for the opposition both. Mr Modi must know the importance of the date and place. Historical Lal Kila was well known for the famous INA trial and then a fresh wave of freedom movement erupted and including Naval revolt, country wide strike with civil unrest boosted the National Movement. He is always living in electoral battle mood and has failed to behave as the guardian of the nation as a whole. He is promoting divisive politics and engages his oratory to polarise people which is in line with the divisive agenda of the RSS. He boasted about 2047, but unable to tackle the unemployment issue and failed to address the issues of plurality and diversity of the

nation. He is trying to check the power of diversity by imposing uniformity on us under the name of 'secular.' Mr Modi added that the government's commitment to reforms is "not for a few days of appreciation" but with the intention of strengthening the country. That is why, I can say that our path to reforms is the blueprint of growth in a way. This reform, this growth, this change is not just a matter of discussion for debate clubs, intellectual societies and experts. We did not do this for political compulsions..... we have just one resolve - Nation First'. Our countrymen have no faith in his words. Throughout his past two terms he had damaged the social and cultural fabrics of our great nation. His arrogant attitude and non-democratic way of functioning is well exhibited to all of us many

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The Union Budget for 2024-25 placed by Nirmala Sitaraman, the Finance Minister is an unbalanced one and fails to align with the economic realities outlined in the 2023-24 economy survey.

The Finance Minister's announcement of special financial assistance to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh for political reasons disregards the federal character guaranteed by the Constitution, while completely rejecting the demands of other states. The budget lacks creative

AN UNBALANCED BUDGET

and long-term proposals to address the serious socio-economic issues facing the country. On the one hand, the budget has no proposals to curb the soaring prices of essential commodities, and on the other hand, it has reduced subsidies mainly on fuel, food and fertilizer, which will push up prices further. The finance minister is unwilling to increase government spending proportionately, despite high revenue, in order to reduce the fiscal deficit in the budget. It is not a logical

argument to suggest that the government will create jobs without increasing spending. There is no benefit in reducing import duty or expecting foreign investment without taking measures to increase the purchasing power of the people.

The marginal increase in the allocation for agriculture and allied sectors will not provide much relief to the farmers. There is no concrete proposal to address the grievances of the struggling farmers, such as loan waivers, legal

minimum support price (MSP), marketing and storage facilities, as well as issues faced by farmers in animal husbandry, fishing, and poultry. The finance minister's rejection of all proposals put forth by Central Trade Unions (CTUs) is a direct blow to the rights of workers and reflects a negative attitude towards the true generators of the GDP. The budget reiterates the importance of a separate Railway budget as this budget has no concrete

proposals to address the grievances of railway passengers. There is no proposal in the budget to improve railway safety, enhance travel facilities, and fill vacancies in the railways despite the daily occurrences of train accidents. The corporate sector is the main beneficiary of this budget, while once again, it is the general public who will bear the brunt. The All India Forward Bloc urges people from all walks of life to raise voice against the anti-people proposals of the Budget.

Editorial

Our diversity in culture and way of life is our beautiful aspect to generate inherent strength that withstand against the Imperialist British Empire. But the British were able to rule us by the policy of 'Divide and rule'. This imperialist tool still persist and the imperialist forces are ruling on us till today. They are dividing every age group and kind of working class so sharply that we are feeling helpless on proper education and schooling and then missing employment opportunity. We are still agriculture based country and our capability to attain quality, education and life is mostly based on our community based on agricultural activities. Nevertheless, the BJP was shocked by the result of the election in June this year. The BJP thought the masses would be impressed by GDP figure and computerised delivery of welfare services. But, in true sense, bread-and-butter economics prevailed. The 65% of our population is young and they want employment with better wages, they want social security and they need better future prospects. Our struggling farmers want fair prices and higher returns from their agricultural activities and produce.

Dilemma of 'Viksit Bharat'

Here brain drain has become another significant concern due to the steady departure of talented individuals seeking better opportunities abroad. Such outflow benefits host countries but brings numerous challenges for India. The annual migration of 2.5 million people, reported by the ministry of external affairs, threatens India's growth by depleting its skilled human capital. Furthermore, the departure of approximately 23,000 Indian millionaires between 2014 and 2018, as reported by the World Bank (2018) and the migration of 2% of India's high-net-worth individuals in 2020, underscore the gravity of the situation. We are not providing better research and development work and proper working field here and unable to upgrade the education system. More needs to be done to create employment opportunities and an attractive environment for skilled individuals. Remittance sent by the Indian diaspora have positive systemic effects on the Balance of Payments (BOP), which help to bridge a wider trade deficits. But now the character of this comprised group is changing and the

unfavourable environment of the country forces them to settle finally abroad.

Within the boundry, we are facing the divisive policies and the Modi's 'Viksit Bharat' is just a slogan to lure us. Divide & rule, polarise Hindu votes is the agenda then how can we unite all to empower better opportunity. Infact, a cause that will unite Indians across religions and caste is justice for the working classes. The ruling side has no any comprehensive work policy to do in the right way. They have to say something and to do the other thing (RSS agenda). In such a dilemma, we have to ponder right political way to come out and act accordingly to justify before our young generation.

We must harness the talent potential within its borders, crafting policies and initiatives that not only anchor our gifted populace but also transform the nation into a global beacon of opportunity and progress. In this way we will not only stem the flow of brain drain but also forge a new narrative of brain gain apart from this we will create enough space for our educated young generation to develop 'Viksit India' in real sense, otherwise it is a drama only to lure masses. For that strong will power is needed and that is missing in present system and the ruling class.

We need a secular...

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Beyond political divisive act he has destabilised the economic structure of the country and we are at the verge of big fall. About 65% of the population is young and needs work and employment. There is big a gap is his words and deeds and sometimes his words are not up to the mark and or rude to say and refer here. Infact, it is a big time for a nation to celebrate its freedom and thus to distribute pleasure to its citizens. Mr Modi had lost this occasion and it would hadbeen better if he had explained the budgetary promises and its implementation in detail on this auspicious day of 15th August.

Issue of Credibility: Mr Modi's magic is missing. He is heading the first time a minority government and his discomfort level to run the government is quite visible as the bills concerning Waqf board and the new broadcasting are being halted. The issue of credibility of Modi's act of functioning, his jumlas and gap between words and deeds are big enough that despite his all efforts the BJP has lost its majority. In this coalition government the Modi- Shah

duo's clout has eroded. The TDP and JD (U) have made it clear they cannot be taken for granted. Rise of the strong opposition, in parliament and outside has acquired the momentum to analyse decisions of the ruling side and effectively challenge it. Instead of such visible changes, the Modi government is bent on going ahead with RSS agenda to communalise further the remaing space of our political, social, educational and cultural zones.

Lastly: Unlike the previous two terms, this time the opposition has been able to successfully dominate Parliament proceedings and government found itself on the defensive. This is the right moment to mobilise masses to recognise the danger that the country is facing inside. We need a secular democratic set-up to survive and for that enough work has to be done. Three pillars of democracy must be saved and re-established with fearless unbiased media. Unemployment issue, farmer's problems, fast privatisation of PSUs, education sector with health sector must be checked as early as possible and for that we have to move ahead.

Protest Against Israeli Genocide of Palestinians

In the light of the brazen violations of the UN resolution, the ICJ rulings against the genocide by Israel in Gaza and the escalation of such genocide against the people of Palestine, the Left Parties in India – CPI(M), CPI CPI-ML, AIFB and RSP call upon the Indian people to express their solidarity with the Palestinian people and against the genocide and atrocities being carried out by Israel backed by the United States of America. The Left Parties demand:

- immediate ceasefire and recognition of Palestinian State with pre-1947 borders and East Jerusalem as the capital.
- Impose an immediate military embargo on Israel and on the import and export of weapons and military equipment and stop all forms of military cooperation.
- Immediately impose sanctions on cooperation and movement of Indian labour for industrial activity in Israel.
- Impose legal sanctions on Israel including diplomatic financial and economic sanctions.



• Invoke the UN's special committee against apartheid to terminate the apartheid regime of Israel and hold the perpetrators accountable. Further, we demand from the Government of India:

1. To cancel all export licenses and permissions to various Indian companies for the supply of military arms and ammunition to Israel.
2. Halt all arms imports from Israel.
3. End all forms of complicity with Israel's illegal military occupation and genocide, based on principles of colonial apartheid.
4. End all sorts of complicity with Israel's illegal military occupation and genocide based on principles of colonial apartheid. The Left Parties also urge the people to ensure political and

diplomatic resistance by the Indian government, in keeping with our legacy since before independence. The Left Parties believe that the situation in West Asia has reached a stage where global democratic opinion must assert itself to defend peace and dignity. The Left Parties urge all our respective party units across the country to jointly and independently unite the Indian people effectively on the 3rd of August.

(Sd/- Sitaram Yechuri (General Secretary, CPI(M)) D. Raja (General Secretary, CPI) G. Devarajan (General Secretary, AIFB) Manoj Bhattacharyya (General Secretary, RSP) Dipankar Bhattacharyya (General Secretary, CPIML (L))

Death of Nguyen Phu Trong General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam

(Interview with Com. G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the All India Forward Bloc, Central Committee by Vietnam News Agency, 19th July 2024, New Delhi)

Q.No.1: How do you evaluate the role and contribution of General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong to the party, State and people of Vietnam: building and developing the country, taking care of people's lives, building and rectifying the Party, fighting corruption...?

Ans: Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), has been a pivotal figure in the nation's political landscape. Since assuming office in 2011, his tenure has been marked by significant efforts to strengthen the CPV, drive economic development, combat corruption, and enhance the well-being of the Vietnamese people.

Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong's leadership has been instrumental in reinforcing the ideological foundation and organizational integrity of the CPV. Recognizing the importance of maintaining the party's legitimacy and effectiveness in a rapidly changing world, Comrade Trong has emphasized the need for adherence to Marxist-Leninist principles while adapting to contemporary challenges.

Under his leadership, the CPV has pursued a strategy of "self-reform" to address internal weaknesses. Comrade Trong has championed a series of resolutions aimed at improving the party's governance capabilities and internal discipline. Notably, the CPV's Resolution 4 on Party Building, enacted in 2011, sought to address issues of political decay and corruption within the party itself. Comrade Trong has spearheaded these efforts, calling for a "clean" and "strong" party, which has included efforts to streamline

AN ERA HAS ENDED

the party's structure, enhance its accountability mechanisms, and ensure the implementation of its policies and resolutions.

Comrade Trong's tenure has coincided with Vietnam's continued economic rise on the global stage. While the direct responsibility for economic policies falls under the Prime Minister and the economic ministries, the General Secretary's role in setting the strategic direction and overarching policies is crucial. Comrade Trong has supported economic reforms aimed at sustaining growth while balancing modernization with socialist principles.

He has endorsed the concept of a "market economy with socialist orientation," which seeks to harmonize economic growth with social justice and national sovereignty. Comrade Trong has emphasized the need for infrastructural development, foreign investment, and industrial advancement while ensuring that economic benefits are equitably distributed across different segments of society. His leadership has also fostered Vietnam's increasing integration into the global economy, evidenced by numerous free trade agreements and a growing presence in international markets.

Perhaps one of Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong's most notable contributions has been his vigorous anti-corruption campaign (Blazing Furnaces). Comrade Trong's administration has adopted a zero-tolerance stance towards corruption, reflecting his belief that corruption undermines the CPV's legitimacy and the state's effectiveness.

Comrade Trong's anti-corruption efforts have been characterized by a high-profile campaign that has targeted both high-ranking officials and lower-level

bureaucrats.

The establishment of the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption, which he chairs, has been central to this campaign. Under his direction, the committee has overseen numerous investigations, resulting in the prosecution of prominent figures and the implementation of stricter regulations and oversight mechanisms. This campaign has been credited with not only reducing corruption but also restoring public trust in the government's commitment to justice and integrity.

Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong's focus on enhancing the quality of life for Vietnamese citizens reflects a broader commitment to social justice. His administration has prioritized initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, improving healthcare and education, and addressing environmental concerns.

Comrade Trong has advocated for policies that aim to provide equitable opportunities for all citizens. Efforts under his leadership have included increased investment in social welfare programs, such as expanding access to quality education and healthcare services. The government has also made strides in addressing environmental issues, including initiatives to combat pollution and promote sustainable development.

Through these efforts, Comrade Trong has sought to ensure that Vietnam's economic success translates into tangible improvements in the daily lives of its people. Through his leadership, Comrade Trong has navigated the complexities of modern governance while striving to uphold the principles of socialism and ensure that economic progress benefits all Vietnamese citizens. His administration's successes

and challenges offer valuable insights into the role of leadership in a developing socialist state, illustrating the delicate balance between ideological fidelity and pragmatic governance in the pursuit of national prosperity and social justice.

Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong's contributions represent both the opportunities and constraints faced by leaders in transitioning societies, and his legacy will likely be assessed in the context of both the achievements and the ongoing challenges of Vietnam's development.

Q.No.2: How do you evaluate the theoretical contributions of General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong to issues of socialism and a socialist-oriented market economy as a basis for other countries to learn from?

Ans: Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), has played a crucial role in shaping the theoretical foundations of socialism in Vietnam, particularly in the context of developing a socialist-oriented market economy. His contributions reflect a nuanced approach to adapting Marxist-Leninist principles to Vietnam's unique socio-economic and political conditions. Comrade Trong has advocated for a pragmatic yet principled approach to socialism that emphasizes the necessity of reform without abandoning core socialist values.

Comrade Trong has reinforced the idea that Marxist-Leninist theory must be adapted to the concrete realities of Vietnamese society. He has argued that the CPV must maintain the foundational principles of socialism while responding to the evolving socio-economic landscape. This includes a balance between state-led

economic development and market mechanisms, a concept articulated in his speeches and writings based on "Doi Moi". His approach aligns with the theory of "socialist market economy," which seeks to integrate market efficiency with socialist goals of equity and justice.

Under Comrade Trong's leadership, Resolution 4 of the 11th Central Committee emphasized the need for ideological purity and self-reform within the CPV. The theoretical underpinning of Resolution 4 reflects Comrade Trong's belief that a strong, disciplined party is essential for effective socialist governance. He advocates for the ongoing renewal of party principles to prevent ideological deviation and corruption, demonstrating a commitment to theoretical rigour in maintaining socialist principles. Comrade Trong has theorized that the state plays a crucial role in guiding the economy, which is a key aspect of the socialist market economy model. He posits that while market forces are important for economic growth, the state must intervene to ensure that growth benefits the whole society and adheres to socialist ideals. This perspective is a theoretical innovation that seeks to harmonize market efficiency with state-led development strategies. This concept integrates market mechanisms with socialist principles and provides a framework for economic development that other countries might find instructive.

Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong's theoretical contributions offer several lessons for other countries that are exploring or refining their own versions of socialism and market economies. His work presents a model that other socialist-oriented countries might adapt to their own contexts.

(will continue in next issue)

AN OBSTINATE REFUSAL TO FOCUS ON WELFARE

The Union Budget has drawn stern criticism from several quarters of the populace for a variety of reasons. On the welfare front, the government has, yet again, failed to increase expenditure on critical welfare schemes that support the marginalized in the country. The government's obstinate refusal to focus on welfare is perplexing to say the least, in a country where, according to the government's own data, about 34% of the population survives on less than ₹ 100 a day and over 81 crore people require free foodgrains to get by. The National Democratic (NDA) now, or NDA 3.0, appears to continue the trend the alliance set in the two previous terms by reducing welfare allocation – as shown in the analysis below based on Budget papers.

Key welfare schemes, an underfunding

Two of the government's biggest welfare schemes, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the National Food Security Act (AFSA) (Food Subsidy) have seen their Budget allocations continuously fall as a share of GDP since 2014-15, for the COVID-19 pandemic years when the government had to rely on these two schemes to avert a major disaster. MGNREGA guarantees every rural household 100 days of employment whereas the Food Subsidy is responsible for providing free foodgrains to about two-third of the population.

The NFSA had an expenditure of 0.72% of GDP last year, whereas this year, it has fallen to 0.63% of GDP. A truly bizarre decision in a country where over 100 crore people cannot afford a healthy diet and where just about 50% have three meals a day.

Similarly, the allocated budget for MGNREGA this year is 0.26% of GDP as compared to the 0.29% allocated last year. As a share of GDP these two schemes today have a 25% lesser combined Budget allocation than did in 2014-15

when the NDA first assumed power. With stagnating rural real wages and systematic underfunding of MGNREGA, it is no wonder that rural distress is spiking across the country.

Vulnerable groups such as widows, the elderly, and disabled individuals below the poverty line too were ignored in the Budget. The National Social Assistance Programme, which provides monetary support to the groups mentioned well as families who have lost their breadwinner, saw no increase in its allocation in the Budget. Its Budget allocation this year is exactly the same as last year in nominal terms. Its expenditure as a share of GDP has halved since 2014-15, from 0.06% to 0.03%.

The scheme provides paltry pensions of ₹ 200 a month to the elderly and ₹ 300 a month to widows – an amount that has not increased since 2006 despite repeated requests from dozens of economists. Even at a poverty line of ₹ 30 a day, these vulnerable groups would be living at least 66% below the poverty line if left solely to the devices of the state.

Welfare and nutrition schemes

Recently, the Women and Child Development Minister admitted in Parliament that more than 50% of children under the age of five in India suffer from chronic malnutrition. Moreover, anaemia rates in Indian women and children are 20% and 15% higher, respectively, than the global average. Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a welfare scheme which aims to tackle child malnutrition and hunger. The Anganwadi programme was merged with the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan and a nutrition scheme for adolescent girls in 2021-22. However, even with additions, the Budget allocated for the same has declined by more than half since 2014-15 from 0.13% of GDP then to

Mohit Verma & Shравan M.K.

0.06% of GDP in the recent Budget.

To address malnutrition and hunger among school-going children, the government runs the mid-day meal (MDM) programme. The MDM programme covers about 12 crore children in the country. Despite the programme's many successes in increasing class attendance, and educational as well as nutritional outcomes, the funds meant for it have halved since 2014-15 as a share of GDP. Further, the Ministry of Finance rejected a plan for breakfast at school in 2021 citing a lack of funds despite the promise it has shown in Tamil Nadu.

In the face of an acute malnutrition crisis facing our children, it is imperative that we increase the coverage of these programmes and provide more nutritious food to our children.

The share in GDP of central expenditure on education (primary and secondary) has also declined this year to 0.22% from 0.25% last year. Although primary education

enrolment rates are high, we still have a long way to go when it comes to education quality and basic infrastructure among other things. Thus, it is concerning when education's share in GDP falls from 0.37% in 2014-15 to 0.22% today.

The only saving grace here seems to be the Budget allocation for health, which saw a slight increase. Since 2014-15, the share of the Budget allocated to the Health Ministry in terms of GDP has increased from 0.25% then to 0.28% this year. The increase, however, is far from enough in a country where out-of-pocket expenditure on health remains very high and pushes millions into poverty every year.

The Budget allocation for all the mentioned schemes/departments has gone down from 2.1% as a share of GDP in 2014-15 to just 1.53% this year. The fact that the same was nearly thrice of what it is today 4.31% of GDP – in the COVID-19 pandemic year of 2020-21, underlines the vitality of these schemes.

According to one estimate, the government has foregone tax revenue of over ₹ 8 lakh

crore since it slashed corporate tax rates in 2019. It appears that it is the poor and the vulnerable who have been sacrificed to accommodate the resulting reduction in fiscal space due to tax cuts.

It is no wonder then that India has a poor Human Development Index rank of 132, and that today it is more unequal than it was during British rule, according to a new report by the World Inequality Lab.

In contrast, the UPA era If the NDA government is serious about its Viksit Bharat dreams then it must realise that the way to a developed society is through the stomachs and pens of its poorest citizens. No civilized society could be considered developed if a large portion of its population is unable to afford a life of dignity. Perhaps, the NDA government would do well to follow the example of the United Progressive Alliance governments which not only saw the introduction of new welfare schemes but also a steady increase in their Budget allocations over time. (Courtesy: The Hindu)

The demand to bring back Netaji's alleged mortal remains is ill-intentioned

The All India Forward Bloc is of the opinion that the latest demand to bring back Netaji's alleged mortal remains is ill-motive, malicious and part of a bigger conspiracy.

The issue has been debated by the country for decades and dismissed as baseless. But it is undeniable that some centres bring up this issue from time to time due to vested interests and selfish motives.

It is a fact that the last inquiry commission on Netaji's disappearance, headed by Justice Manoj Kumar Mukherjee (former Supreme Court Judge), emphatically proved that Netaji did not die in the alleged plane crash. This

conclusion was drawn because there was no air crash on 18th August 1945 at Taihoku Airport, now in Taiwan. The commission's report includes the Taiwan government's official records as proof. Furthermore, it was reported that there were no plane crashes even before and after one week from the 18th of August 1945. The ashes kept at Renkoji Temple were also found to be unrelated to Netaji, as they were identified as the remains of Ichiro Okura, a Taiwanese army man who died in August 1945. The Commission's extensive investigation, which involved visits to Japan, Taiwan, Russia, and England, led to the conclusion that Netaji did not die in the plane crash on

18th August 1945.

The All India Forward Bloc, the party founded by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose urges the Union Government to accept the report of the Justice Mukherjee Commission and put an end to all speculations and conspiracies. The party also demands the constitution of a Commission to uncover the truth about what happened to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose after August 18, 1945, and the establishment of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to declassify the documents held by the Union government and various state governments on Netaji, Forward Bloc, INA, and Azad Hind Sarkar without any further delay.

PEACE MUST BE RESTORED IN BANGLADESH

(G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the AIFB has issued the following statement on 6th August 2024)

The students' protest on reservation sparked significant political developments in Bangladesh. Later, it was observed that the protest initiated by the students was eventually taken over by the public. The increasing unemployment, soaring prices, and widespread poverty in the country intensified the protest.

Instead of dealing with the protest democratically, the government tried to suppress it by using the army and the police. The government was deluded that it could quash the strike by imposing a curfew, arresting opposition leaders and resorting to force. Hundreds of protesters died in the firing. As the government's repressive measures escalated, the protesters fervently called for the immediate resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Eventually, the protesters stormed the Prime Minister's residence.

The sudden resignation and run away of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from Bangladesh amid escalating political turmoil has raised significant concerns regarding

the stability of the country. As political tensions rise, it is imperative for all stakeholders to engage in dialogue and seek peaceful resolutions to the crisis. Restoring peace in Bangladesh is a multifaceted endeavour that requires collaboration, commitment,



and compassion from all sectors of society. By fostering dialogue, strengthening democratic institutions, addressing socioeconomic challenges and promoting social cohesion, Bangladesh can pave the way for a stable future.

To stabilize the political landscape, it is essential to reinforce the rule of law and uphold democratic norms. Ensuring that law enforcement operates impartially and protects citizens' rights is crucial for rebuilding public trust. Independent judicial processes must be prioritized to hold accountable those responsible for political

violence and human rights violations.

Bangladesh is a nation rich in cultural diversity, and promoting social cohesion is vital for long-term peace. Efforts to foster understanding and respect among different ethnic, religious, and cultural communities can mitigate tensions and build a stronger national identity.

When there is a serious socio-political crisis in the country, the people should be prepared to be vigilant against malicious attempts to destabilize the country by fostering religious rivalry. The demolition of party offices and religious institutions and the destruction of the statue of the founding Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Mujib Rahman are not only reprehensible actions but will only serve to increase the tension in the country. Extreme vigilance is also needed against interference by imperialist forces with vested interests.

The All India Forward Bloc urges everyone, especially those living in the border areas of Bangladesh, to be careful not to fall into the trap of creating news that is spread with the ulterior motive of creating division among the people.

AIFB Andhra Pradesh State Workers Convention: AIFB Demands Fulfilment of Reorganisation Act Rights



The All India Forward Bloc general Secretary G. Devarajan has warned the Union and State Governments to fulfil all rights due to the AP state according to the Repatriation Act or face a people's movement. He was addressing the State Workers meeting held at IMA Hall, Kadappa on 4th August 2024.

He expressed disappointment that no leader has raised the demand for special status in recent Assembly and Parliament Sessions. Devarajan emphasised that special status would bring more industries, employment opportunities, and overall development to the State. He criticised the decision to privatise Visakhapatnam steel industry and lamented neglecting Visakha railway zone and Kadappa steel industry in the Repatriation

Act.

He urged for a cross-party movement to secure special status and establish Visakha steel industry in Rayalaseema, which would provide better employment opportunities and alleviate migration, famine and suicide in the region.

Com. Subhas Chandra Reddy presided over the meeting. Com. P.V. Sundara Ramaraju placed the organizational and political report. Com. Asim Basha, Com. Jayavardhana, Com. (Dr.) Pravallika, Com. Chaitanya, Com. Subbamma, Com. Ravindranath, Com. Radhakrishna, J.V. Narasimha Moorthy, Com. V.V.M. Raju, Com. Raj Naidu etc spoke in the Meeting. AIFB Leaders from 11 districts and the leaders of Mass Fronts participated.

Death of Comrade Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee: A GREAT LOSS TO THE LEFT AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF THE COUNTRY

The Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc place on record its deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Comrade Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Senior leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and former Chief Minister of West Bengal. Comrade Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee was a prominent leftist figure in Bengal's political landscape. He played an important role in the functioning of the left-front governments of West Bengal. The measures taken for the agro-industrial development of Bengal during

his tenure as Chief Minister will always be remembered. As the Chief Minister of West Bengal and a Cabinet Minister for various portfolios, he never compromised his principles and upheld the esteem of the position.

As a CPI (M) Leader he always maintained secular credentials and his accommodative nature and uncompromised attitude towards the poor and working-class attracted the people irrespective of their political ideologies. His vision and commitment to social justice inspired many. His contributions to strengthening



the left unity in Bengal will be remembered forever. His dedication to the principles of Marxism and socialism and his tireless efforts for the people of West Bengal have left an indelible mark on our society. His legacy will

continue to guide and influence future generations in the pursuit of equality and progress.

The passing of Comrade Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, whose impact on the vibrant cultural realm of Bengal was profound, has undeniably left a monumental void in that sphere.

He was a gentleman and a fighter at the core. He maintained a very cordial relationship with many senior leaders of the All India Forward Bloc particularly with Comrade (late) Ashok Ghosh. His relationship with Comrade (late) Ashok Ghosh

was closer to brotherhood than colleagues. The new generation should learn from the discussions and suggestions made by both of them on the occasions when they have to take decisive political decisions.

His death is a great loss not only to the CPI (M) but also to the left and progressive movement of the country. The All India Forward Bloc while cherishing the illustrious memories of Comrade Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee pays rich tributes and joins the sorrow of entire the rank and file of CPI (M) and all those who mourn his loss.



The Left Parties organised a Seminar on Religious fanaticism at Sundarayya Kala Kendra, Hyderabad, Telangana on 31st July 2024.



AISB activists of Kadappa and Nellor of Andhra Pradesh organised dharna on various issues of the student community.



Government Civil Hospital Workers of Karim Nagar District, Telangana under the banner of TUCC started indefinite strike on 2nd August 2024



The Joint Action Committee of Central Trade Unions including TUCC has organized a Convention of Unorganized & Contract Workers at Pune on 3rd August 2024.



Kisan Sabhas including our All India Agragami Kisan Sabha organized a Kisan Rally in front of the DM office Badhoji, Uttar Pradesh on 2nd August 2024 on various demands of the farmers and agriculture workers.



Tributes to the brave freedom fighters on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day. A special function was held at Netaji Bhawan, the headquarters of AIFB, New Delhi. Jai Hind.



All India Agragami Mahila Samiti Bengal State Committee meeting held at Hemanta Basu Bhawan, Kolkata on 3rd August 2024.



The Uttar Banga Unnayan Sangram Committee (The North Bengal Development Action Committee under the auspices of AIFB has organized a meeting on different developmental issues of North Bengal at Jalpaiguri Netaji Foundation on 4th August 2024 and demanded the formation of the Statutory North Bengal Development Council and other demands for inclusive and comprehensive development in all spheres of North Bengal. Representatives of North Bengal Districts participated.



Netaji Exhibition in Malda (West Bengal) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) on 15-16 August 2024.



AIFB, AISB, AIYL and AIAMS activists of Bengal and Andhra Pradesh participated in large numbers in the rallies against the brutal murder at RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata on 16th and 17th August 2024.



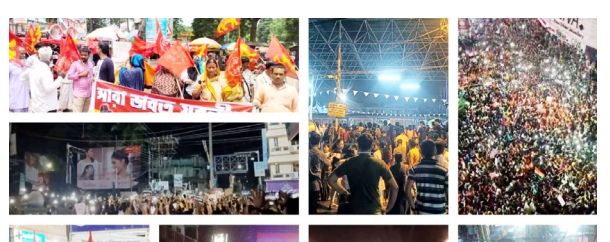
Karnataka food and civil supply corporations loading and unloading labours gadag district conference 28-07-2024



August Kranti Day (9th August) is observed across the country by CTUs, progressive forces, political parties and civil society organizations. The AIFB and TUCC units participated in the joint movement in Pune, Delhi, Kolkata, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Silchar (Assam), Guwahati, Dinhat (Bengal), Lucknow, Madurai(Tamilnadu), Kochi (Kerala), Bombay etc. More reports are awaiting.



All India Agragami Mahila Samiti Kerala State Committee meeting held at Trivandrum on 18th August 2024.



Spontaneous mass protests, particularly by women, erupted across the country against the brutal rape and killing of a young lady doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College in Kolkata on 9th August 2024. Activists from AIYL, AIAMS, and AISB are actively participating in all the protest programs throughout Bengal. Women and girls rallied in the cities of Bengal at midnight on 14th August, demanding justice for the victim. In Delhi, a mass protest was held in front of the AIIMS on 14th August midnight.

Condolence Message to the Communist Party of Vietnam

To
The Central Committee,
Communist Party of Vietnam.
Dated 20th July 2024

Dear Comrades,

It is with profound sadness and a heavy heart that the All India Forward Bloc Central Committee conveys its deepest condolences to the Communist Party of Vietnam and the people of Vietnam on the passing of our esteemed comrade, General Secretary Nguyễn Phú Trọng.

Comrade Nguyễn Phú Trọng was a towering figure in the global socialist movement, a steadfast leader whose vision, dedication, and unwavering commitment to Marxist-Leninist principles guided the Communist Party of Vietnam through a period of profound transformation and advancement. His leadership was marked by a deep ideological integrity, strategic foresight, and a compassionate commitment to the well-being of the Vietnamese people and the

broader global community. Under Comrade Trọng's stewardship, Vietnam experienced a remarkable era of development and progress. His dedication to the principles of socialism, coupled with a pragmatic approach to economic reform, led to the implementation of a "socialist-oriented market economy" that harmonized market efficiency with socialist ideals of equity and justice. This innovative model served not only as a pathway for Vietnam's growth but also as an inspiring example for other nations striving to reconcile socialist principles with the demands of a modern economy.

Comrade Trọng's tireless efforts in combating corruption, advocating for transparency, and ensuring the ideological purity of the Communist Party of Vietnam were central to his leadership. His anti-corruption campaign, which targeted high-level corruption with resolute

determination, stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice and accountability in governance. His work in this regard has been a beacon for progressive movements worldwide, demonstrating that principled leadership can address the most daunting challenges



faced by any socialist government.

In the realm of international diplomacy, Comrade Trọng was a revered statesman who championed multilateralism, global solidarity, and cultural diplomacy. His efforts to strengthen Vietnam's

relationships with major global powers, advocate for regional integration through ASEAN, and promote cultural exchanges and international cooperation have left a lasting impact on the global stage. Through these endeavours, Comrade Trọng reinforced the importance of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and collective action in addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

The death of Comrade Nguyễn Phú Trọng is an immense loss not only for the Communist Party of Vietnam but for the entire global socialist movement. His passing leaves a void that will be felt deeply by all who have been inspired by his leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to the ideals of socialism and justice.

As we mourn the loss of our esteemed comrade, we also celebrate his legacy—a legacy defined by principled leadership, innovative

governance, and a steadfast dedication to the cause of socialism. Comrade Trọng's contributions will continue to inspire and guide future generations of socialists and progressives around the world. In this time of sorrow, we extend our heartfelt solidarity and support to the Communist Party of Vietnam and the people of Vietnam. We stand with you in honouring the memory of General Secretary Nguyễn Phú Trọng and in continuing his work to build a just, equitable, and socialist future for all.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his legacy continue to shine as a guiding light for all those who strive for a better world.

We dip our flag and banner on the exalted memories of Comrade Nguyễn Phú Trọng. Long Live Comrade Nguyễn Phú Trọng.

Regards,

Sd/-

(G. DEVARAJAN)

General Secretary

R.G. KAR BRUTAL MURDER: A NATIONAL SHAME

A 31-year-old postgraduate doctor was brutally raped and murdered inside the seminar hall of the Government R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata on August 9, sparking national outrage. Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer, has been arrested. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is under fire over her government's handling of the case. On 13 August 2024, the Calcutta High Court, unsatisfied with the police's handling of the investigation, assigned the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). They also flagged the possibility of destruction of evidence if the state police continued with their investigation. Taking *suo moto cognizance*, a Supreme Court bench has expressed deep concern over the "horrific" rape and murder of the trainee doctor and constituted a 9-member task force to work out modalities for the safety of doctors at workplaces.

The parents of the murdered young doctor say that they got a call from the department, saying their daughter had committed suicide. The mother said that by looking at the body, anybody could tell it was a murder. However, the police claimed that they never called it a suicide. The autopsy revealed grievous injury marks on the victim's body. Based on these findings, some doctors concluded there could be an involvement of more than one person.

The victim's parents said that they were made to wait for hours before they could see their daughter's body. The victim's mother alleged that the police were trying to close the investigation hastily. The father of the victim also revealed that her daughter's body was cremated in haste. He said there were three bodies at the crematorium but his daughter's body was cremated first.

Even as the probe was underway, renovation work reportedly began near the



crime scene. The timing of the renovation, during a crucial investigation, was questioned by the public and the Calcutta High Court. Some doctors also raised doubts whether this was a move to destroy the evidence.

During a peaceful protest on August 14, the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital was vandalised while the police allegedly ran for cover. The counsel of the murdered doctor's family blamed the chief minister, saying those involved in the attack were goons from the TMC.

Fearing protests, the Kolkata Police cancelled a football match between

Mohun Bagan and East Bengal at the Salt Lake stadium. This was seen as an attempt to suppress public dissent. Despite the cancellation of the game, the supporters of both the arch-rivals hit the ground and joined the doctors in their protests against the state government. However, the police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the crowd.

In the past few days, the Kolkata Police have sent notices to hundreds of people who posted content related to protests and the murder case. The police even summoned TMC MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, who sought custodial

interrogation of the police commissioner and ex-principal of the medical college.

The nation stands united in condemning this heinous and diabolical murder. People from all walks of life – in politics, society, the arts, sports, and literature – are raising their voices against this injustice. Youth, student and women's organizations are also continuing the protest. Forward Bloc and its mass organizations are protesting across the country.

The All India Forward Bloc demands that an impartial investigation be conducted under the supervision of the court and that the culprits be brought before the law as soon as possible, and that prompt action be taken to punish them in an exemplary manner and to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. The party also demands that a national law be made to ensure the safety of women at the workplace.

CTU's Representation to the LoP and MPs of INDIA Bloc

Address The Issues of Workers

“We the platform of ten Central Trade Unions, independent Sectoral Federations/Associations as signed below are putting forth the following issues to seek your support in the deliberations in the Loksabha and Rajya Sabha by the party representatives of INDIA bloc.

1. Indian Labour Conference (ILC), a tripartite body has not met for last 9 years (The last time it met was in 2015.)

All the changes in labour laws and codification of 29 central laws were proceeded without passing through ILC. Code on wages was passed in 2019 itself without any democratic exercise. Three codes were introduced when the nation was grappling with Covid virus and the workers were among the worst victims. On top of that, whole opposition was on boycott in both the houses on demand of reinstatement of its colleagues from Rajya Sabha. So no discussions happened on labour codes in Parliament. It was treasury bench proposing Bill on Codes and they themselves adopting these. They made mockery of democracy and betrayed about 57 crore workforce in the country.

The rule framing was also carried in fraudulent manner through online where the central trade unions were forced to boycott the camaflouge.

*Our demand for holding the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) immediately.

*Scrap the Labour Codes and start dialogue in ILC for changes in laws to the satisfaction of all concerned.

2. The jobloss, and no recruitments in sanctioned posts, dangerously growing unemployment are our concern. The outsourcing, contractorisation and casualisation are making workers vulnerable leading to extreme exploitation. Fix term employment is another method

of bringing uncertainty in the lives of workforce.

*We demand for withdrawal of Fix term employment.

*The process should begin forthwith for recruitments of sanctioned posts and also to revive the lapsed posts.

*The creation of new jobs should be priority of Government to address the unprecedented unemployment.

*Agnipath scheme to be scrapped and regular recruitment to be started at the earliest.

3. The workplace safety is a major issue. Every day workers die or get disabled at work places. Most of them on contract and single bread earners in the family do not get compensated and the families struggle for survival. Two conventions of ILO no.155 and 187 are brought to the Fundamental Principles of Rights at Work (FPRW) by ILO in its conference in 2022.

*These conventions must be taken into consideration while framing any laws on occupational safety and health issues of workers.

4. The Public sector enterprises and undertakings of our country in mining, exploration, excavation, manufacturing and service sector have played tremendous role in the development of our country. The public services through government departments were advanced in our country to the advantage of common people. But last ten years all the PSUs/PSEs and the Public services are being privatised as detriment to inclusive growth. National Monetisation Pipeline Scheme (NMP) is another instrument to sell national assets to the chosen corporates.

*We want immediate halt to privatisation in the national interest.

*The NMP Scheme to be scrapped

5. The defense ordinance factories, 41 have been corporatised into seven companies despite the total opposition to the move by almost total workforce which went to strike action as well. The government is further contemplating to reduce it to three corporations. The private sector entities are the beneficiaries. The defence sector is vital for national security and it should be in the government sector.

*Our demand is for role back of the corporatisation of Ordnance Factories.

6. The budgets on education and health have been reducing in real term taking inflation into consideration. This area needs serious attention. The New Education Policy is meant to encourage commercialisation in education making it unaffordable for poor, lower and even middle income groups of society. The intention behind NEP is also to communalise the education in detriment to the core values of Indian constitution.

*We demand the scrap of NEP and promotion of education as a right to all.

*The budget allocation to be 10 percent to address the backlog also.

*The budget on health be raised to 6 percent.

*The public health system be expanded and strengthened.

7. The basic civik services are deteriorating. The workers' basties are worst affected and they get sick very often and loose their workdays.

*Special attention to be paid on this for minimum life needs of the people.

*Contractorisation in these services be ended.

8. The minimum wages are very low. We have been looking forward to the implementation of constitutional concept of living wages. However even minimum wage calculation as per 15th ILC recommendation and the recommendation of Supreme Court in Raptakos case are not

implemented.

*Our demand for minimum Rs 26000/- as minimum wage.

*Regular revision every five years with price indexation.

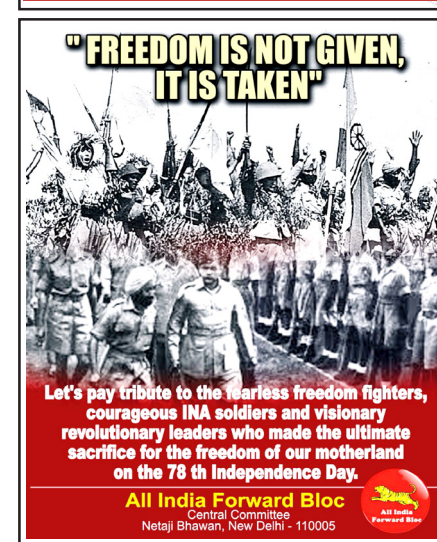
*8th pay commission should be constituted at the earliest.

9. The pensionary benefits to be extended to all the senior citizens for dignified living. The pension be treated as a right.

*Scrap contributory New Pension Scheme and Restore non contributory Old Pension Scheme.

*Those covered under EPS 95 be given minimum of Rs.9000/-

*Those not covered under any scheme be given Rs.6000/- per month by creating special fund corpus through share of budgets of the states and the centre.”



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TOWARDS SOCIALISM

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