

**THUS SPAKE
SUBHAS**

"Reality is, after all, too big for our frail understanding to fully comprehend. Nevertheless, we have to build our life on the theory which contains the maximum truth." -Netaji

TOWARDS SOCIALISM



Vol. 23

Issue - 10

October - 2024

English Monthly

RNI Reg. No. DELENG/2002/06389

Combined approach with concrete plan is the only way to counter the BJP

Recently concluded Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana assembly election results are different than expectations. The National Conference secured 42 out of 51 seats in J&K while the BJP won 29 seats. The NC-Congress alliance achieved a remarkable victory in J&K winning 48 of the 90 seats and this credit goes to mostly to NC and not the congress that performed extremely poor in Jammu Part. Even young party AAP celebrated its debut in the J&K assembly. AAP opened its account in fifth state. Mehraj Malik, a District Development Council member defeated BJP's Gajay Singh Rana in Doda, polling 23, 228 voter to Rana's 18, 690 voter. The disappointing performance of the Congress in Jammu region and the rise

of the BJP as the second-largest party with 29 seats, a better tally from its 25 seats in the 2014 elections. Here independents secured 7 seats and the PDP won 3 seats but the Congress did not perform as per expectations.

Another set-back to INDIA alliance is the Haryana assembly result where the BJP clinched a stunning hat-trick victory overcoming anti-incumbency and upsetting Congress's hopes for a comeback. This BJP aims to maintain further improve its prospects for upcoming polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi. This time in Haryana the BJP won 48 seats compare to 41 seats in 2019. This victory also helps the party recover from a significant setback in the Lok Sabha elections where its tally dropped from 10 to 5

G. DEVARAJAN
General Secretary
All India Forward Bloc

seats.

This way we say that the NDA or the BJP is on the way to regain strength and the INDIA - alliance or the Congress is on the way to lose its generated momentum during the General Lok Sabha election.

The primary aim or objective of the INDIA alliance was declared to fight collectively and defeat the BJP in order to save the nation to protect the Constitution and federalism. The two terms of Mr. Modi was enough to tolerate and it was felt that the Paradigm of the country would not be alive. We as a nation was in a great trouble as facing multiple crises and the nation had to be liberated from the clutches of the BJP-

RSS dominance. Then it was decided that the primary objective of the opposition was to stand together and advance collectively under the leadership of the Congress party. This was the design set by opposition leaders to consolidate around 63 percent of voters. This was fact and such comprehensive strategy gained momentum but that momentum is not uniform. The major responsibility of the Congress party to keep the alliance vibrant by accommodating small political partners but that did not happen in the Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh assembly election. This attitude of the Congress party is unhealthy for the prospect of the INDIA - alliance and the latest example of J&K and the Haryana assembly

election results. Such short comings are being sorted out now by the Congress just before the forthcoming Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly election.

Lessons to learn:

There are 10 to 11 states where the BJP and the Congress have head to head fight and there is no any significant regional forces. Election management efficiency of BJP is stronger than the congress. To manage anti-incumbency sentiment is tough and the BJP did so. In Haryana this BJP was able to soften the anger of the farmers. They launched the 'apna fasal apna app' to help farmers. They have also controlled the anger concerning Agniveer scheme and manage to improve its prospects after the loss of 5

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End the War in Gaza, Solidarity with Palestine

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, All India Forward Bloc and Revolutionary Socialist Party have observed the 7th of October across the country with a call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and reemphasised their solidarity with the fighting people of Palestine.

October 7, marks the completion of one year of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. In the name of retaliating against the Hamas for the latter's attack within Israel on October 7, last year, the Israeli armed forces have conducted a brutal and indiscriminate attack on Palestinians in Gaza. As a result of this war nearly 42,000 Palestinians, mainly women and children have died. Thousands more are buried under the rubble.



Israel has not spared residential buildings, schools and hospitals from their savage aerial and ground bombardment. The reputed medical journal *The Lancet*, estimates that the death toll from Israel's aggression could be above 85,000 (as of 6 August), counting both the direct and indirect deaths. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) had in January this year termed the Israeli actions as leading to possible genocide and called upon Israel to cease military actions in Gaza. Israel has so far scuttled all meaningful talks for a ceasefire. Not only that, Israel has mounted attacks on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank throughout the year. Israel has used pagers and other communications on a mass scale to trigger bombs, escalating and expanding the

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Editorial

The Supreme Court ruled that caste-based discrimination in prisons is unconstitutional. The court's verdict struck down several provisions in state prison manuals that reinforce caste differences and violate the fundamental rights of prisoners. The court's decision was based on a petition filed by journalist Sukanya Shantha, who highlighted discriminatory practices in the prison systems of several states and Union Territories. The Supreme Court invalidated several provisions already mentioned in State prison manuals that upheld caste distinctions, declaring them a violation of prisoners' fundamental rights. The repealed Criminal Tribes Act 1871 allowed the British colonial regime to label certain marginalised communities as criminal tribes, as they were considered born criminals. After the Act's repeal, these communities were reclassified as denotified tribes. Prison manuals continued to categorize them as habitual offenders.

The Supreme Court observed that this continued classification reinforces colonial-era caste-based discrimination, worsening the social and economic marginalisation of these groups. Denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes are

Supreme Court Judgment on 'Castiest' Prison Manuals and Rules

known as "Vimukt Jatis" and are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Denotified communities were labelled as born criminals during British rule (1871 Act) and were officially denotified by the Indian Government in 1952.

Historically, Nomadic tribes and De-notified tribes never had access to private land or home ownership. The most DNTs are spread across the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. Some DNTs are not categorised into any of the SC, ST, or OBC categories. The Supreme Court emphasised that caste can only be used as a classification criterion if it benefits victims of caste discrimination, for example, caste-based affirmative action (reservation). Segregating prisoners based on caste reinforces caste differences, and animosity should be eliminated. The prison manuals remained biased and thus violated Article 14 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court mentioned both direct as well as indirect discrimination.

Assigning cleaning and sweeping jobs to lower castes while allowing higher castes to perform tasks

like cooking is a clear example of direct discrimination under Article 15 (1). The allocating of certain tasks to these communities based on traditional roles, rather than offering them more skilled or dignified work results in indirect discrimination. The SC highlighted prison rules that mandate food be cooked by a suitable caste or assign menial duties to certain communities, classifying these practices as untouchability, which is prohibited under Article 17. The Supreme Court underscored that prison rules restricting the reformation of marginalised prisoners violate their right to life and deprive them of dignity and equal treatment, further marginalising them.

The Supreme Court's recent ruling to abolish discriminatory practices marks a significant step towards attaining substantive equality to prisons. By mandating the removal of caste references, revising outdated definitions and addressing common and absurd biases against marginalised communities, the honourable Supreme Court has reinforced the importance of dignity, fairness and essential reforms for all prisoners. In this way, this decision paves the way for a more just and inclusive correctional framework in India and, thus a right approach to social justice.

Combined approach with concrete plan...

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parliamentary seats. In another analysis, we have seen nice congress victory in the Karnataka assembly election but the Congress was not able to repeat its performance in the Lok Sabha election in the same Karnataka. The Congress party is the leader of INDIA-alliance so they must realize their responsibilities. They have failed miserably in the M.P., Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh in the assembly election as well as Lok Sabha elections.

Next lesson is that the voters especially rural voters have demonstrated that they are the true sovereigns and that they cannot be taken for granted. Also there can be no link between the outcome of one election and other that follows. This is the beauty and the vibrant character of our democracy.

Indian voters take each election by itself and cast vote going by their wisdom-driven judgement of candidates and political outfits. The effort to

polarize the majority just before the election is a permanent tool and the opposition political parties are still not able to check such religious and communal divide.

Way ahead: The people of Haryana only a few days back had outright not supported the political narrative that the Congress party under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and senior leader Hooda, had tried to set. This victory to BJP and Modi is of vital dose to regain ground again. The General Lok Sabha election reflected the gradual loss of Modi's magic but Mr. Modi and the BJP behind him will try to maintain this slight improvement during the forthcoming Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly election. Assembly election in Maharashtra will be in a single phase on November 20 while Jharkhand will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20. The number of seats in Maharashtra are 288 at least three time more than 81 seats

of Jharkhand. Such schedule of holding of a single phase election puts question mark on the intention of Election Commission. For both Mr Modi and Rahul the outcome of these two states result is vital for their future. The Congress party is leading the INDIA—alliance and the whole consolidated anti BJP votes has to survive and to fulfill the dream of 67% of voters to save the political, social and cultural future of India. We all have seen that people mood is against the BJP during the Lok Sabha and present Haryana and J&K election. EVM manipulation will be seen again, communal cards will be used again by the BJP and malpractices of official machineries will be repeated. In this typical situation it is essential to all opposition parties to be full alert and mobilise people to cast votes in big number to maintain big gap between NDA and INDIA. Combined and enthusiastic approach with concrete plan is the only way for INDIA—alliance to prosper.

End the War in Gaza...

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conflict into Lebanon. All around the world, millions of people have been protesting against the Israeli genocidal war and calling for an end to the war. On the first anniversary of this barbarous war, the peace-loving people of India demand an immediate end to the war. The left parties urged upon the Indian government to halt all arms exports to Israel and

to work for a two-state solution, whereby an independent Palestinian State can come into existence.

A protest rally and meeting was held at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi in which Prakash Karat (CPI-M), D. Raja (CPI), G. Devarajan (Forward Bloc), Dipankar Bhattacharya (CPI-ML), R.S. Dagar (RSP) and the leaders of different mass organizations addressed.

"SUBHASISM IS THE FUTURE"

21st
OCTOBER
2024

81st Anniversary of
"AZAD HIND SARKAR"

Established by
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

"Netaji's India, Socialist India"

All India Forward Bloc
Central Committee
Netaji Bhawan, New Delhi

A break from the past, a new beginning in Sri Lanka

The swearing-in of Anura Kumara Disanayake as Sri Lanka's newly elected president on September 23, 2024, marks a new beginning of historical significance. It symbolizes a dramatic in the class bases of political power—from a privileged minority Coalition of non-elite social forces. If Sri Lanka's electoral democracy since its independence in 1948 had guaranteed the dominant elites unbroken continuity in political power, it has now produced a break with the past; a moment of the magic that democracy and free and fair election can occasionally produce. Significantly, the election outcome also marks a peaceful and bloodless transfer of power. The new President obtained his popular mandate with the promise of overhauling a corrupt and rotten system of government that had remained the birthright of the privileged social classes for nearly seven decades. The class monopoly of political power that has been institutionalized through democracy has now been ruptured by the demos themselves.

Transition and political rise
The National People's Power (NPP), the political movement which Sri-Lanka's new President leads, has short but transformative history. It was formed in 2019 as an electoral front of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP-People's Liberation Front) with a moderate and centrist reform ideology. Mr. Disanayake was the NPP's presidential candidate in that year. Until 2019, he was leading the JVP. The JVP had been formed in the 1960s, which was period of the New Left throughout world. The JVP emerged as a left radical underground movement with a commitment to armed struggle to establish a South Asian version of revolutionary socialism. Parallel to similar radical movements in other parts of South Asia, the JVP's early ideology and political programme was influenced by Marxism and Maoism.

The JVP tried out two armed insurrections in 1971 and 1987-89. After the costly defeat in the last armed struggle, a new generation of JVP leaders, who abandoned the goal of socialism through the armed struggle, transformed the JVP into a parliamentary party. Mr. Disanayake belongs to this new band of 'JVP-ers' committed at the time to the goal of socialism through electoral and parliamentary politics.

The JVP'S transition to democratic politics did not bring much success in terms of parliamentary seats. In most instances, it remained a small opposition party. Its experiments with forming electoral alliance with the two main parties, the Sri Lanka freedom Party (SLFP) and United National Party (UNP), did not enable the JVP to secure its goal of being a 'third force' in Sri Lanka's dominant two- system. The formation of a socially broad-based and ideologically non-dogmatic NPP in 2019 was the JVP leadership's response to this political deadlock it repeatedly encountered.

Despite the NPP's participation in the presidential election in 2019 and parliamentary elections in 2020, it could secure only a litter over 3% of votes and three parliamentary seats.

Catalysed by two developments
The NPP's Rapid rise to become a major political force, weakening the traditional UNP and SLPP, and successfully making claims to be the new ruling party in 2024 is direct outcome of two developments. The first is the economic crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. The second id the deep social and political crisis that exploded as the Aragalaya or the citizens' protest movement, of 2022. Meanwhile, the management of the debt crisis since 2023 by the Sri Lanka government, by means of a harsh austerity programme as prescribed by the Monetary Fund, created



widespread social discontent and anger against the Ranil Wickremesinghe administration. People saw the new tax policies and the dismantling if the welfare programmes as policy measures that benefited the rich and the wealthy business classes while exacerbating the crisis of the economic survival of the poor and the middle classes.

Growing poverty, income inequalities and increasing polarisation between the haves and have-nots have generated a clear shift in the people's political loyalties—away the traditional elite parties. It is in this context that the NPP's reform proposal for a corruption-free and pro-poor government could secure a positive response in urban and rural electoral constituencies.

The political space for Mr Disanayake and the NPP to have emerged as a leading reformist political force so rapidly within two years had already been created by the *Aragalaya*. Its powerful slogan of 'system change' and the hopes it envisioned for a new generation of politicians, committed to eliminating corruption, cronyism and tyrannical government, fitted perfectly well with the NPP's agenda of reforming Sri Lanka's politics, political culture and practices of governance. Thus, Mr. Disanayake's victory is a slightly delayed political outcome of the *Aragalaya*.

The NPP's rapid journey to become Sri Lanka's newest ruling party has also coincided with the consolidation of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya

(SJB-Unified People's Force) as the leading opposition party. The combined presence of the NPP and the SJB in Sri Lanka's parliamentary and electoral politics signals the onset of a major transformation of Sri Lanka's political party system as well. The UNP, and the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), the three main political parties founded and managed by the political class of Sri Lankan elites, have been so weakened that they can remain only as small opposition parties.

Thus, the emerging frame of political polarization in Sri Lanka appears to be between the NPP and SJB – the SJB filling the space right-wing party caused by the decline of the UNP as a mass party.

Getting down to business will not be easy

The new President will have a set of unusual challenges and tasks before him. Since he has only three Members of Parliament in Parliament, holding early parliamentary elections is a major imperative for the new President. To form his own government, the President is likely to form a caretaker cabinet. Headed by the President, the caretaker cabinet will have three other Ministers. The dissolution of Parliament is most likely to occur before or next week so that an election can be held ideally in late November.

To consolidate his government, the new President will need a comfortable parliamentary majority, of over 113 MPs. The presidential election has clearly exposed a major lacunae in his electoral base. The NPP has a rather weak presence in the districts with sizeable Tamil and Muslim ethnic minorities. The fact that Mr. Disanayake's victory has been ensured primarily by Sinhalese voters is an issue that demands early corrective action. Making the NPP ethnically pluralistic will enable the NPP government to be inclusivist of all of Sri Lanka's ethnic and cultural communities, while also

securing a clear parliamentary majority.

Two other tasks will test the resolve and capacities of the new President and his government. The first is about repaying the external debt while taking the country's economy back to the path of rapid growth, this time with social justice and equity as normative social goals. This will call for a re-working of the austerity programme which the previous government has agreed with the IMF. This is the only way to prevent the recurrence of social discontent and protests by vast sections of the affected people.

The second is about purifying public life and the culture of governance. Mr. Disanayake won the presidency on the strength of hopes he had generated for a corruption-free system of government. Eradicating corruption is easier said in an election campaign than actually done after the election because corruption is a highly institutionalised, internationalised and sophisticated vocation. Yet, the issue of corruption will be a crucial test of the new President's political success as well as his credibility.

What the people seem to expect from the new President is a new beginning that will lead to a 'genuine change' (*saba wenasak*, in Sinhala). At the presidential election, Sri Lanka's people took the first major step in that direction by effecting an unusually radical change in who governs. It is now up to President Disanayake and his NPP government to prove that they - representatives of the non-elite social classes - are better rulers and better democrats with greater sensitivity to people's expectations for 'genuine change'.

(By Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)

CTUs WRITES TO THE MINISTER ON EMPLOYMENT LINKED...

Continuing from the last issue...

b) The claim that these Employment Linked Incentive schemes will encourage employers to recruit new workers or generate new jobs may not be accurate. A significant number of employers already hire eligible workers without registering them under EPFO. The Central Trade Unions (CTUs) have long raised this concern, advocating for a robust and stringent inspection mechanism to ensure at least partial accountability of private employers regarding their basic statutory obligations toward workers. Unfortunately, this essential tool for holding employers accountable has been further weakened under the new Labour Codes. As a result, enrolling a segment of currently employed but unregistered workers into EPFO may allow employers to access the benefits of the scheme without necessarily creating new jobs.

c) A critical concern is that companies must recruit new employees each year to continue availing the benefits of these schemes. This will inevitably lead to the retrenchment of workers after just one or two years, effectively treating them as fixed-term employees. Such a practice will worsen the cycle of mass hiring and firing of the emerging workforce, reinforcing a temporary or fixed-term employment model rather than promoting long-term job security. This approach undermines net employment generation and job stability.

d) The internship scheme will transfer ₹ 56,000 crore directly to the top 500 companies, subsidizing a significant portion of their labour costs. Simultaneously, it promotes the deployment of workers under insecure conditions, using internships as a means to circumvent labour laws, such as the Apprentices Act of 1961, and other statutory protections.

e) This will drive employment relations towards more fragility where the fresh batches of interns, with the state-of-the-art knowledge of automation and technology and skill to learn fast will be burdened with the whole core responsibility of the production process, but denied of the basic statutory wages, benefits and rights.

e) This trend will push employment relations towards even greater instability, where new interns—armed with cutting-edge knowledge of automation and technology and an ability to quickly learn—will shoulder core production responsibilities. However, they will be denied basic statutory wages, benefits, and rights, further eroding the quality and security of employment for India's workforce. We urge the government to reconsider the long-term implications of these schemes on job stability and labour rights, and to ensure that measures designed to stimulate employment do not perpetuate precarious working conditions.

f) The proposed schemes risk creating a continuous cycle where a large reserve of unemployed or vocationally educated youth are perpetually waiting to replace outgoing workers each year. Instead of genuinely addressing unemployment, these schemes merely expand the subsidy circuit for the top 500 private companies. By channelling public funds to these corporations under the pretence of economic incentivization, the schemes primarily serve corporate interests, rather than delivering real benefits to the workforce or addressing the fundamental issues of job creation and economic stability.

g) Many companies,

including major ones like BOSCH in Bengaluru, have phased out On-Job Training (OJT) schemes and Long-Term Trainee Employee (LTTE) programs, which previously offered a pathway for trainees to transition into regular employment. These programs, along with Skill India initiatives such as NEEM, NETAP, NAPS, and SITA, were once active but have now largely been discontinued. The new internship program, which aims to place most likely an average of 4,000 interns per year with 500 companies over five years, does not require employers to offer these interns permanent positions. This lack of obligation is likely to exacerbate the trend of dismantling existing OJT schemes and further erode the opportunities for trainees to secure stable, long-term employment.

h) The proposed ELI scheme is severely lacking in terms of a comprehensive accountability mechanism, which is often dismissed as a "disincentive" for employers. The scheme contains numerous loopholes that enable employers to circumvent their basic obligations, despite being funded entirely by public funds. Relying on employers' adherence to the scheme's objectives without stringent oversight is likely to undermine its effectiveness. Rather than achieving its goal of generating sustainable, quality employment, the ELI scheme is more likely to exacerbate the trend of temporary employment in the manufacturing sector, failing to deliver on its promises and ultimately benefiting corporate interests at the expense of long-term job security for workers.

i) The growing trend of replacing regular employees with Fixed-Term Employees through Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS), Early Retirement Schemes (ERS),

and Employment Separation Schemes (ESS) is deeply concerning. This practice, especially prevalent in the corporate manufacturing sector across the nation, is leading to an increase in precarious and unstable job conditions. The shift towards fixed-term contracts not only undermines job security but also contributes to a more volatile and uncertain employment landscape, further destabilizing the workforce and diminishing long-term employment prospects.

The redirection of public funds into private corporate coffers will not address the unemployment crisis but will instead serve to boost production-linked profits by expanding the use of unpaid or underpaid labour. The ELI and internship schemes will put free labour at the disposal of the corporates, creating a hidden channel for public resources to benefit both domestic and foreign private entities. These schemes do not ensure genuine net employment generation and are unlikely to deliver the meaningful, sustainable job creation that is desperately needed.

The ongoing decline in aggregate demand, driven by decreasing purchasing power among the populace, is negatively impacting net sales and reducing production-linked profits. This trend is discouraging private investment in productive activities. Instead, corporate income is increasingly being diverted towards speculative and expropriative ventures rather than towards job-creating investments. While the government may provide subsidies to corporations, such measures are unlikely to improve the overall state of the economy or the conditions of the people. In fact, these schemes may exacerbate existing economic challenges and further deteriorate the economic situation for ordinary citizens.

Thus, these schemes, which are touted as a 'win-win' by corporate leaders, are unlikely to lead to an increase in private investment or genuine employment generation. In reality, they primarily benefit the corporations while failing to address the broader economic needs of the nation. For the working people and unemployed youth of our country, these schemes represent not a victory but a deepening of economic hardship and job insecurity. We have consistently advocated for critical measures to address the agrarian crisis, including safeguarding the livelihoods of millions, increasing funding for MGNREGA with an extended number of workdays, and raising the minimum wage for workers. Additionally, we have called for the implementation of an urban development employment guarantee scheme to tackle urban unemployment, and for the urgent filling of vacant sanctioned posts within central and state governments, as well as public sector and public service roles.

Nelson Mandela has rightly said "It always seems impossible until it's done." Let us remember that true progress is measured not by the funds allocated, but by the lives uplifted and the jobs created. The worth of our policies lies in their ability to serve the people, not just the corporate balance sheets.

We urge the Labour Ministry to prioritize these demands as an essential first step towards addressing the youth unemployment crisis. Immediate and focused action on these issues is crucial for creating meaningful job opportunities and improving the economic stability of our workforce.

(The letter was signed by the leaders of INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC.)

South India Leadership Meet of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) held at Bangalore

Samyukta Kisan Morcha [SKM] had a two-day South India leadership Meet on 7th and 8th of October in Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru. 300 Kissan leaders from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka attended this very important meeting. National Secretariat Members of SKM Darshan Pal, Krishna Prasad, Dr. Sunilam, Viju Krishnan, Ravula Venkiah, V. Venkataramiah and many other important National leaders attended this meeting. Samyukta Horata Karnataka hosted this Meet.

Two days meeting elaborately discussed the present political situation and the situation of the movement. Opinions were collected from all the farmer's organisations about how to intensify the movement and how to consolidate samyukta kisan morcha at the state level and also at the National level. 68 key suggestions came from the states which were sent to the National secretariat.

Decisions of the South SKM Meet:

The main focus of South farmer's organisations is Strengthening SKM at the State level and unleashing mass struggles to achieve our demands. To make it happen,

Each State will hold leadership meet/ conventions of all farmer's organisations of the state within 15th November 2024.

Coordinate with and include maximum Kisan and Agricultural Worker Organisations based on the main demands- Each SCC's has to work out the policy for wider unity of the farmers and agricultural workers -

Main demands of MSP@C2+50% with guaranteed procurement for all crops, Comprehensive Loan waiver, No privatization of electricity, Crop Insurance Public, and Farmers Pension – local demands will be added by the respective State units with priority on-end indiscriminate land acquisition and other burning issues -

Make the 26th November 2024 mass action at the district level, remarkable in the history of South India.

16th October 2024 GB Meeting is going to be held at New Delhi. This GB is going to take the future course of the movement. All the state units of the south are requested to send at least two members from each state.

Immediate States Special Emphasis

The SKM South Indian Leadership meet resolves to fight resolutely against the pro-corporate policies being pursued by the BJP-led union government and different state governments. The meeting unanimously resolved that:

The indiscriminate land grab being promoted in violation of the 2013 Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act and Forest Rights Act in different states should be stopped forthwith. We support the struggles of farmers and people in different states against forcible land acquisition. SKM salutes the brave struggles in Channarayapattana, Karnataka, and the struggles in Tamil Nadu and other parts of India.

The Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices and State Agricultural Prices Commissions should be



made statutory bodies by including farmers' representatives and ensure fixing of MSP@C2+50 as well as assured procurement.

Grains for PDS, ICDS and other government schemes should be directly procured from farmers at MSP.

Changes to the Land Reforms Act made in states like Karnataka to remove ceilings and allow corporate to take-over of farmland should be reversed.

The Agricultural Produce Markets should be strengthened and states should waive any market tax or cess on farmers.

The exploitation by private money lenders and Micro Financing Institutions should be stopped. Interest-free loans to poor farmers, landless, agricultural workers and tenants should be ensured.

Special Resolution on Palestine

Samyukta Kisan Morcha strongly condemns the Genocide of the Israeli Government and stands in Solidarity with the People of Palestine. Israel stands guilty of widespread acts of genocide, including massacring defenceless women and children. SKM also strongly opposes the Indian Government's support to the Government of Israel, bolstering Israel's grossly offensive acts.

Stop the War. We call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

We demand that the Indian Government stop all Arms supplies and Trade Deals with Israel.

We oppose the fact that the government of India is sending thousands of Indian construction workers to Palestine. They are replacing Palestinian workers from the West Bank & Gaza, we oppose this policy.

- Israeli leaders must be prosecuted for war crimes that they have committed as per the rulings of the International Court of Justice & the International Criminal Court.

- We call for the Establishment of an INDEPENDENT & SOVEREIGN STATE OF PALESTINE.

- We appeal to all the People's Movements & Political Parties committed to the legacy of our Freedom Movement and anti-colonial liberation Movements to stand with the Palestinian people in their quest for freedom from the Israel- US Colonial occupation.

- We call for a Boycott of all Israeli products. We must build an all-India campaign to build support for the Palestinian cause in India and the world.

- We stand with the Farmers of Palestine who are suffering various atrocities by the Israeli occupation. Their lands are stolen, and their crops and their wells and water systems are destroyed.

Victory to the Kissan Movement
Victory to the People of this Country.

Victory to the Humanity.

Punishment for Opoverty

Public Sector Banks Squeezed Out Rs. 8,500 Crores as Penalty for not maintaining Minimum Balance.

No.	Name of the Bank	Amount (in Crores)
1	Bank of Baroda	1250.63
2	Bank of India	827.53
3	Bank of Maharashtra	470.79
4	Canara Bank	1157.89
5	Central Bank of India	587.21
6	Indian Bank	1466.35
7	Indian Overseas Bank	19.75
8	Punjab & Sind Bank	55.24
9	Punjab National Bank	1537.87
10	State Bank of India	640.19
11	UCO Bank	66.44
12	Union Bank of India	414.93

(Source: Lok Sabha. August 2024)



The leaders of AIFB, AIAMS, AIYL and AISB visited the residence of the 10 year old girl who was brutally raped and murdered in Kultali, South 24-Parganas District of West Bengal on 5th October 2024.



Palestine Solidarity Day was observed across the country on the call of the left parties on 7th October 2024. Rallies were held in Kolkata, Coochbehar (West Bengal), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Guwahati, Silchar, Sivasagar (Assam). Reports from other states are awaiting.



AIAKS Varanasi District (Uttar Pradesh) Meeting was held on 6th October 2024 and the leaders of the Anganwadi and Mid-Day meal workers Union submitted a memorandum on various issues of the workers to the authorities concerned in Lucknow.



The Maharashtra State Committee of the AIFB met at Ravi Bhawan, Nagpur on 6th October 2024. Com. G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the AIFB attended. The meeting decided to intensify the preparation for the ensuing Assembly elections. A number of new Comrades from different districts of Maharashtra joined the party including Dr. Somdeve, former Magistrate and Ex. Principal of a Law College from Ramtek District.



The Reception Committee For the 10th National Conference of the AIAKS met at Patna on 6th October 2024. Com. Gobinda Roy, Chairman of the AIAKS National Coordination Committee attended. The preparation for the Conference is in full swing.



Condolence meetings on the sad and sudden demise of Comrade Sitaram Yechuri, General Secretary of CPI (M) were held in Bangalore (Karnataka), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Silchar (Assam). Com. GR Shivashankar, Com. Udaynath Singh and Com. Mihir Nandi attended and addressed the meetings respectively on 6th October 2024.



A commemorative meeting was organised at Netaji Bhawan, New Delhi on 5th October 2024 on the occasion of the 27th Death Anniversary of Com. Chitta Basu, former General Secretary of AIFB and the 129th Birth Anniversary of Com. Hemanta Basu, former Chairman of the Party. Com. G. Devarajan, General Secretary of the AIFB and the leaders of the party Delhi unit have paid floral tributes to the departed leaders.



AIAKS and SKM organised a dharna at Machgao, Chitrakut in Madhya Pradesh on 1st October 2024 and submitted a memorandum to the DM.



AIAKS rally and dharna in different blocks of Purulia, West Bengal on 1st October 2024.



India ranks 105th out of the 127 countries in the Global Hunger Index, 2024

The 2024 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report has placed India at a concerning 105th position out of 127 countries, with a score of 27.3, indicating a “serious” level of hunger. This ranking is a stark reminder of the persistent challenges India faces in ensuring food security and nutrition for its population. The GHI score is calculated based on four key indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality. India’s performance in these areas highlights significant areas of concern and calls for urgent action.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a peer-reviewed report, published on an annual basis by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide. In 2024, the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr-University Bochum has joined the cooperation as academic partner who will calculate and develop the Index going

forward. The GHI is a tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels, reflecting multiple dimensions of hunger over time. The report aims to raise awareness and understanding of the struggle against hunger, provide a way to compare levels of hunger between countries and regions, and call attention to those areas of the world where hunger levels are highest and where the need for additional efforts to eliminate hunger is greatest.

Undernourishment and Child Stunting.

The report reveals that 13.7% of India’s population is undernourished, meaning they do not have sufficient caloric intake². This is a critical issue as it directly impacts the overall health and productivity of the population. Additionally, 35.5% of children under five are stunted, which means they have low height for their age due to chronic undernutrition.

Stunting is not just a health issue; it has long-term implications on cognitive development and future economic potential.

Child Wasting and Mortality. Child wasting, defined as low weight for height due to acute undernutrition, affects 18.7% of children under five in India². This is the highest childwasting rate globally, indicating a severe and immediate crisis².

Furthermore, the under-five mortality rate stands at 2.9%, reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments. These statistics are alarming and underscore the need for comprehensive interventions to address malnutrition and improve child health outcomes.

Economic Disparities and Social Inequalities.

Despite India’s reported economic growth, the GHI report highlights that economic disparities and social inequalities continue to hinder equitable access to

food resources. The relationship between per capita GDP growth and low levels of hunger are not always direct or guaranteed. This means that economic growth alone is insufficient to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

Policies must focus on pro-poor development and addressing social and economic inequalities to ensure that the benefits of growth reach the most vulnerable sections of society.

Government Initiatives and Recommendations.

The report acknowledges India’s significant political will to transform the food and nutrition landscape, pointing to initiatives such as the National Food Security Act, Poshan Abhiyan (National Nutrition Mission), PM Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKAY),

and National Mission for Natural Farming². However, it also emphasizes that there is room for improvement.

The report proposes a multifaceted approach, including improved access to social safety nets, investments in agriculture, and a holistic food systems approach that promotes diversified, nutritious, and ecological food production.

India’s 2024 GHI ranking is a wakeup call for policymakers, stakeholders, and society at large. It highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions to address undernourishment, child stunting, wasting, and mortality. While government initiatives are a step in the right direction, a more comprehensive and inclusive approach is required to tackle the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

Achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030 remains a daunting challenge but with concerted efforts and a focus on social equity, it is a goal that can be achieved.

Undemocratic and Against...

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9. India is the largest democracy in the world. Therefore maintain and protecting our democratic tradition and values should not be reviewed on the basis of economic cost. Elections should not be considered as cost effective.

10. It is a proven fact that the issues of State Assembly elections and the Lok Sabha elections are entirely different from each other. More local issues will get importance to the Assembly elections and Lok Sabha election will debate particularly on national issues with extra focus on unity and integrity of the nation. Anti-incumbency factors will be different in the state and the country as a

whole.

11. We are in favour of comprehensive electoral reforms including proportionate representation system. We are prepared to submit detailed proposals in this regard as and when such situation arises.

We shall be able to explain more on these points and to add more opinion on this vital subject when get the opportunity to meet your good self.

I would like to inform you that on behalf of our party, the All India Forward Bloc, Com. G. Devarajan, Secretary, Central Committee will appear before you for further interaction as proposed by you either on 7th July or 8th July 2018. Kindly inform the

time of meeting with you, to our representative. His Phone No. is 9312228144.

AIFB’s 2nd Letter to the Law Commission of India on the issue of One Nation One Election dated 11th July 2018, signed by Com. Debabrata Biswas, Ex. M.P. and the then General Secretary of the Party.

Dear Sir,

In continuation with our earlier letter dated 2nd July 2018 addressed to you and the meeting with our representative Mr. G. Devarajan, Secretary, Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc, I on behalf of our party would like to put on record the following points additionally in order to substantiate our opinion that conducting simultaneous

elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies is against the federal character of the nation and democratic traditions.

1. When many of the democracies in the world are seriously engaged in making laws and debating on the ‘Right To Re-call’ how the largest democracy in the world – India can go to the primitive stage of democracy, which denies the rights of the people to choose their representative as and when required?

2. The argument that due to the implementation of ‘code of conduct’, the developmental activities are come to a standstill. It has no logic. That the code of conduct is only for the new projects initiative after

announcing the election dates. There is no bar in implementing the ongoing schemes and projects. Many parties are promising many new schemes in their election manifestoes also.

3. Election is an opportunity in democracy to gauge the people’s aspirations and their thoughts about the future of society. Therefore the people should not be deprived of their democratic rights.

4. We are of the opinion that simultaneous elections will cost more than the current method of elections.

5. Instead of debating on simultaneous elections, the Law Commission of India should also think loudly about comprehensive electoral reforms including proportionate representation etc.

One Nation- One Election: Undemocratic and Against Federalism

The Union Government has approved the report of the high-powered committee and started moving forward with it in a situation where the accusation that 'one country, one election' is the agenda of the Sangh Parivar has been raised from many quarters. The High Power Committee was formed by the Central Government on September 2, 2023. The committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind submitted the 18,626-page Report on 14th March 2024.

Since 2014, Narendra Modi had started using the slogan 'One Country One Election'. In 2020, he said, "This should not be subject to discussion, but it is the imperative of the country." This was reiterated in the BJP 2024 manifesto. There are other motives behind the recent acceptance of the single election proposal which requires several constitutional amendments without a majority in the Lok Sabha alone. This is a continuation of the RSS slogan 'One Country, One Language, One Culture, One Religion'. The Union Cabinet hastily approved the report, which is the beginning of the destruction of the country's federal and democratic systems.

The AIFB is of the opinion that the 'one country, one election' system put forward by the RSS and the BJP is a move to create a centralized dictatorship by handing over all power to one leader.

(Resolution adopted by the 18th Party Congress of the All India Forward Bloc held at Kolkata on 12-16 December 2018.)

1.1 Simultaneous Polls: Undemocratic Move. The Election Commission of India has announced that it is logistically equipped to hold simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. The BJP and Prime Minister Narendra

Modi have supported this proposal. In fact, it is the Union government mooted this proposal. It is not just a decision to be taken by the government or Election Commission. Elections in India involve all political parties and the people.

1.2 This idea of conducting simultaneous polls is against the fundamentals of democracy where the people are the last word. Federalism is a key feature of our Constitution. It envisages the free and independent political development of the Centre and the state. The imposition of a uniform electoral pattern on the entire nation violates that idea. As per the proposal, if a state government loses its majority in the assembly, the people of the state may have to wait for a representative government till the next simultaneous election. If the central Government loses its majority in the Parliament, either it has to wait for the next simultaneous polls or it will force all the state governments to dissolve the assemblies and go for polls. This is unfair and undemocratic. It is to be mentioned here that there is no provision for President's rule at the centre.

1.3 It is also a fact that the issues for parliament and assembly elections are different. If the elections are held simultaneously, the Prime Ministerial candidate, the ruling party at the centre and the issues at the national level will dominate the campaign. It will undermine the issues of the states and will negate the importance and relevance of smaller parties whereas the multi-party system is the strength and beauty of Indian democracy. The Election Commission and the government have no right to distort the people's choices by mixing up issues.

1.4 The idea of fixed tenure of a government is against the grain of

democracy. The high cost of frequent elections, increasing election expenditure, problems of political funding, constraints due to model code of conducts are issues. But the current proposal is not the solution for these issues. Comprehensive and scientific electoral reforms based on federalism and democracy is due in our country. In a democracy, the people's unfettered right to elect a government of their own is more important than anything else whatever may be its cost. The All India Forward Bloc strongly opposes the proposal of the government and the Election Commission.

AIFB Letter to the Law Commission of India on the issue of One Nation One Election dated 29th June 2018, signed by Com. Debabrata Biswas, Ex. M.P. and the then General Secretary of the Party.

To
Dr. Justice B.S. Chauhan,
Chairman, Law Commission of India,
Ministry of Law & Justice,
Government of India,
Room No.405, 4th Floor, 'B' Wing,
Lok Nayak Bhavan, Khan Market,
New Delhi 110 003

Dear Sir,
I am in receipt of your letter D.O.No.6(3)322/2018-LC(LS) dated 14th June 2018 regarding seeking our opinion about the Union government's proposal of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures. While appreciating the initiative taken by the Law Commission of India to seek the opinion of the political parties, the major stakeholders in the process of election, we would like to put on record our concerted views in this important subject.

1. We are of the opinion that forceful synchronization of elections to the Lok Sabha and State legislatures is against the real spirit of our time-tested

federal system.

2. The purpose and procedure of the proposal is against the Constitution and the Parliamentary system, which ensures the right of the state to form its own government or to elect its legislators as and when required.

3. If the state legislators have failed to form a government, it will ultimately lead to President's rule, which is clear negation of people's right envisaged in the constitution.

4. The said proposal will dilute the spirit of Representation of People Act, 1951 in many counts. It will lead to political and administrative corruption.

5. In the era of coalition politics, there is no guarantee that the elected government will remain in power for the full term of five years. Opposition may unite to defeat the incumbent government on a confidence/non-confidence motion. But that does not mean that the opposition will unite to form another government.

6. It is a fact that multi-party electoral system is the strength of our democracy particularly in a country having huge diversity in all matters. We should learn from the experience of other countries that attained freedom along with us in conducting elections and forming governments.

7. Fixed-term government will definitely hamper the voice of opposition as the government is insulated constitutionally from all opposition threats. It is detrimental to the democracy. The elected representative is entitled to get justice from the government for the sake of his or her voters.

8. If the Union government falls and the opposition is not in a position to form another government, then is it feasible to dismiss all the state governments and to conduct simultaneous election?

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TOWARDS SOCIALISM

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To,