



25th Party Congress of CPI Concludes with Overwhelming Enthusiasm

Stronger Determination Towards Greater Cause

The following is the Press Communiqué issued by Communist Party of India general secretary D RAJA to the Media on September 29, 2025:

The Communist Party of India successfully concluded its 25th Party Congress at SuravaramSudhakar Reddy Nagar, Chandigarh, from September 21 to 25, 2025. With the participation of more than 700 delegates from all states and union territories, the Party Congress once again reaffirmed the all-India character of the CPI and its ability to mobilise and speak for the people across the length and breadth of the country.

The Congress began with a mammoth rally on September 21, attended by

thousands of people from all districts of Punjab. Despite the devastating floods that had ravaged the state, the rally was marked by extraordinary enthusiasm and determination, reflecting the commitment of the Party cadre and the trust people continue to repose in the CPI.

The venue itself embodied the Party's rich history and legacy of sacrifice. The venue was named SuravaramSudhakar Reddy Nagar after our beloved former General Secretary, who passed away recently.

The entry gate was named KanamRajendranDwar after



CPI General Secretary D Raja and National Secretary Dr B K Kango briefing the press on September 29, 2025

the late stalwart from Kerala; the Congress Hall was named after Atul Kumar Anjaan, the late party leader

and farmers' leader; the A.B. Bardhan Exhibition Premise displayed the Party's glorious history; the hall named

after Darshan Singh Canadian recalled the CPI's role in resisting extremism and fa-

From Page 11



Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi Celebrated in Ajoy Bhavan

"Mahatma Gandhi was the very embodiment of humanism, religious and secular values and communal unity," said CPI general secretary D Raja while speaking at the celebration meeting on 156th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the CPI Headquarters, Ajoy Bhavan, New Delhi. Gandhiji was born on October 2, 1869, and went on to become 'Father of the Nation', leading India's struggle for freedom successfully, with the country gaining freedom on August 15, 1947.

This was an anachronism, as the RSS had been opposed to the freedom movement led by the Mahatma. The assassin of Mahatma Gandhi

was RSS man called Nathuram Godse, and yet RSS is being glorified by the government as it has released a hundred rupee coin. RSS had never taken part in the freedom movement, and constantly opposed the positions of Gandhiji, said CPI general secretary and said, "Today we pledge to carry forward the legacy of Gandhiji and of the freedom movement."

The other speaker was Dr BK Kango, national secretariat member of CPI.

The meeting ended with slogans and distributions of sweets.

Relevance of Bapu Today

“He (Gandhi) stopped at the threshold of the huts of thousands of the dispossessed, dressed like one of their own. He spoke to them in their language, here was living truth at last, not quotations from books. For this reason, the ‘Mahatma’, the name given to him by people of India, is his real name. Who else has felt like him that all Indians were his flesh and blood?...When love came to the door of India, that door was open wide –at Gandhi’s call, India blossomed forth to new greatness, just as once before in earlier time, when Buddha proclaimed the truth of fellow feeling, and compassion among all living creatures.” The words are from Rabindranath Tagore, and in history, there were only very few like him, as Albert Einstein wrote about Gandhi, “Generations to come, will scarce believe that such a one as this, in flesh and blood, walked upon this earth..”

Every year, the second October has been an auspicious day for both India and the rest of the globe. Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi, the father of the nation, was born on this day, and it is also recognized as the International Day for Non-violence to honor Gandhiji’s lifelong promotion of the real spirit of non-violence. Gandhism begins with the well-known phrase, “Simple living and high thinking,” and seeks to improve both the individual and the community. Gandhiji’s contributions to the idea of nonviolent conflict, also known as civil resistance, make up the majority of what is known as Gandhism.

Second October is here, and yet the transition that has followed offers us today a world that is far from the same that we have lived in. Prime minister Narendra Modi, on his 75th birthday, has come up to celebrate the day with a film that has been asked to be screened from September 17 to October 2, birthday of our Bapu, made on the life and childhood of PM Modi. The ministry of Education has asked all schools under the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), as well as the Centrally-run Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, to screen the non-feature film *Chalo Jeete Hain*, which is loosely based on Modi’s childhood.

It is ironical that the ministry thought that not the life story of Mahatma Gandhi but that of Modi would teach students “moral reasoning” and help them “reflect on character, service, responsibility”. All the values and virtues the ministry associated with the film on Modi are essentially those that have been taught by Mahatma Gandhi through his words and deeds and are far from the reality of the days we are living in.

“Department of School Education and Literacy, MoE is implementing Prerana: An Experiential Learning Program which has successfully completed 65 batches covering 650 districts across the country. It is conducted from the historic Vernacular School of Vadnagar, Gujarat, established in 1888, the very institution where PM Narendra Modi began his educational journey,” the letter said.

gan his educational journey,” the letter said.

The film, which was released seven years ago, was awarded the National Award for Best Non-Feature Film on Family Values at the 66th National Film Awards, the letter said. “To promote experiential learning among participants, pedagogical tools such as value-based sessions, story telling, indigenous games, hands-on activities and audio-visual learning are being used in Prerana. One such tool is film screenings which help bring abstract values, life stories, historical contexts, ethical dilemmas and human emotions to life,” it added.

In fact, the entire initiative appears to be an insistent effort to mop out the influence our Bapu has left on us, though packaging is almost Gandhian except the direction and purpose, which is dreadfully in contrast.

The values that are the legacy of Bapu are relevant even across the borders. They have a continual relevance to our thinking and action on a broad sweep of issues, from environment to promoting justice, from education to equality. His teachings lead us towards themes that are eternally fresh and thought-provoking. The courage to take up the challenges in creating a culture of peace, in proving the effectiveness of non-violent non-cooperation, and drawing the world’s attention to the gap between what we do and what we are capable of doing and then his emphasis on the importance of facing up to the truth with courage would be the living legacy he has left for us.

Bapu had the vision that included the inter-connectedness and the unity between all things, as well as the contrast among them. His political achievements included leading the movement that ended colonial rule in India, using peace, love and integrity to prevail. But his vision went far beyond politics to encompass human rights and sustainable development for all. He took up the theme of non-violence not just as a philosophy and a political strategy, but as a means to achieve justice and change.

Whatever we are witnessing since last more than one decade is the continual effort to promote Hindu authoritarianism. It is almost same as Nazi anti-Semitism, in contrast to Bapu’s universal love, assimilating entire human kind, without any dividing line. Yet the political system of the Right is premised on the same old idea that India is a Hindu state and minorities must subscribe to Hindu primacy – a position that goes against the very idea of Mahatma Gandhi who believed that all citizens of every faith have equal standing.

The period has witnessed massive efforts to steer the national discourse to treat Muslims as the ‘other’ by way of speeches. There is an attempt to push forward its Hindu majoritarian agenda, including a 2019 citizenship law seen to directly discriminate against Muslims as it fast-tracks citizenship for immigrants of six faiths but excludes Islam, have started eroding and subjugating Gandhi’s vision of amity in a secular India with equal rights for all religions.

Editorial

Newly Elected National Secretaries



D. RAJA
GENERAL SECRETARY



AMARJEET KAUR



DR. BK KANGO



RAMA KRUSHNA PANDA



ANNIE RAJA



DR. GIRISH SHARMA

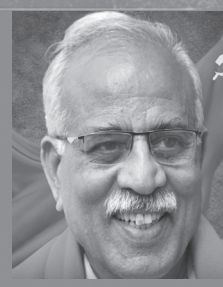


K. PREKASH BABU



P. SANDOSH KUMAR

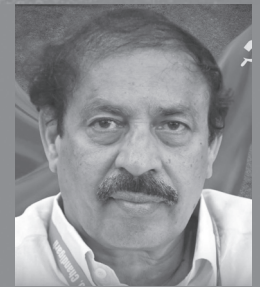
PUNJAB
(VACANT)



Palla Venkat Reddy



Sanjay Kumar



K. Ramakrishna (Invite)

25th Party Congress Resolutions-II

On Indian Federalism under

Threat India is basically a federal state, having in its Constitution the separation of powers between the Union and the State Governments. The seventh schedule of the Constitution divides the legislative judiciary and executive powers and responsibilities among the Union Government and State Governments. In the 1973 KesavanandaBharathi Case, the 13 member Constitution bench evolved the Basic Structure doctrine which cannot be amended under Article 368 by the Parliament, includes Federalism also. But now under the BJP regime Indian Federalism is under threat, as the SanghParivar leadership does not accept the federal principles.

The tax devolution under Article 280 ensures the fiscal federalism which promotes financial autonomy of the state and provides resources to meet the service needs of the States. The 14th Finance Commission (2015-20) recommended for 42 per cent share of the central divisible pool to the states. The 15th Finance Commission decreased it to 41per cent and the present 16th Finance Commission headed by AravindPanagiriya recommended further decrease in the divisive pool, as such the share of the stands at 40per cent.

At the same time, as the Indian Constitution envisages the devolution of taxes, to avoid the Devolution, the Union Government is increasing the Cess and Surcharges levied by the Union Government. In 2010-11, the share of surcharge and Cess were only 10.4per cent but in 2021-22 it is increased to 20per cent and now it stands at 23.43 per cent. This helps the Union Government. to take away therevenue to their pocket and to avoid the finance devolution and thus financially destabilize the State governments.

Union government declares many Centrally sponsored schemes for the States. But now under the Modi regime, the Union Government is decreasing their contribution to the ongoing Schemes unilaterally, which adversely affect the schemes and at the same time enhances the financial burden of the States.

The Union Government occasionally but purposefully encroaches the powers delegated to State Government as per the 7th schedule of the Constitution of India. Co-operation is an item enlisted in the state list in the above schedule, but at the expense of the multi- state co-operatives, the Union Government formulated a co-operation portfolio in the Union Cabinet and they are continuously persuading the State co-operatives to come under their umbrella so that they will help the State financially. Even though the Supreme Court declared the formulation of the portfolio unconstitutional, they are going forward by disregarding the verdict. Imposing of single language system is also used by the Union Government to sabotage the federal system. Labour is in the concurrent list but four Labour Codes formulated by the Union Government are being forced on the states for implementation. By all these unilateralmeasures of the Union Government,states

get gripped by financial crisis and the fiscal federalismgets in peril.

Further the Union Government politically instrumentalises the Post of Governor to sabotage the non BJP ruled States. The Constitution of India and the Supreme Court in various occasions clarified that except in the spheres where the governor is to act in his discretion, the Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in the exercise of his powers and functions, and is not required to act personally against such aid and advices. But in non- BJP ruled states, especially in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and West Bengal, the Governors who act only for and on behalf of the Union government are evading their responsibility to give assent to the bills passed by the State Legislature. The enormous and irrational delay caused litigation in the Supreme Court also. The Union Government is forcing the Governor to act and run a parallel government system to the elected State government.

This will also impair the smooth functioning of a democratic federal republic. We the CPI is for the abolition of Governorship.

Hence the 25th Party Congress of the CPI expresses its grave concern and urges the Party to organize mass struggles movements and campaigns alongwith other Left, Democratic and Regional parties to save the federal structure of the Nation.

Against Privatisation of Defence Production at the cost of National Security and Self Reliance of our Country

The 25th Congress of the Communist Party of India being held at Chandigarh from September 21-25, 2025 has taken a very serious note of the policies being implemented by the BJP led NDA Government in the field of Defence Production and Defence preparedness of our country. Post Independence the successive Governments after the bitter experience in the China border during the 1960s realised the importance of achieving self reliance in Defence Production for the Defence preparedness of our country, started giving the thrust for indigenisation of Defence Production especially in establishing Research and development in the field of Defence. USSR, the then Socialist country, extended a great support to India in this regard establishing the Defence Research and Development organisation, new Ordnance Factories and Defence Public sector Industries. These Government owned Defence Industries played a vital role in all the Wars India won including the Bangladesh liberation war, the Kargil war and latest operation Sindoor.

The Privatisation Policy being aggressively followed by the present BJP led NDA government has not spared the Defence Industry also. Friends of the present government Adani, Ambani and other corporates started claiming a major share of the defence procurement budget which is at present about Rs. 1,80,000 crore which is 26.43per cent of the total defence budget of Rs.

6,81,210.27crore for the financial year 2025-26. The BJP government has raised the cap on FDI in defence to 100 per cent and also announced the policy of total privatisation in defence R and D, and Defence Production and started issuing licences to the private sector to manufacture Arms and Ammunition, etc. Defence Corridors are established by allotting thousands of acres of lands in Tamilnadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh for establishing privatedefence manufacturing industries. Adani has already established a major defence equipments manufacturing complex near Kanpur in U.P. All these are at the cost of the government owned defence industries. The 41 Ordnance Factories are splintered into 7 non viable corporations forcing them to compete with private sector and not providing work to them.

Ultimately the motive of the government is either to close down the Ordnance Factories or to privatise them in due course. 25per cent of the defence R and D budget is allotted to the private sector and the doors of the DRDO laboratories are opened to the private sector toutilise the facilities developed by the tax payers money. Intention of the government is to convert our peace loving country into an Arms markets. There are reports that India has supplied arms and ammunition to Ukraine indirectly through unknown sources. In the name of “Make in India” the entire defence production activities are being handed over to Private Corporates. This drift in policy will have serious impact on the Defence preparedness of our country and the Armed Forces will be forced to depend on these profit minting private corporates for their requirements to defend the border of the country. More over there is a danger of leaking the information regarding defence preparedness to the enemy countries.

The 25th Congress of the CPI condemns the Defence Production Policy being followed bythe BJP government which will have a serious threat on the security and defence preparedness of our country. The CPI urges upon the Government of India to withdraw its defencePrivatisation Policy and to strengthen, expand and develop the government owned defence industry to achieve self reliance in defence in its true perspective.

Against privatization of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is a Navaratna Public Sector Undertaking (7.2 MT capacity), which was built with the sacrifice of 32 lives and resignation of MPs and MLAs of the united Andhra Pradesh. It is a symbol of national pride and self-reliance.

The plant has consistently contributed over 50 thousand crores to India's GDP. It directly and indirectly provides employment to lakhs of families. And has driven the local economy.

The Central Government announced 100per cent strategic sale of RNL on January 27, 2021. From there, the government first took steps like stopping raw materials and reducing production levels.

Later, employees were laid off in the name of VARIs. About 5000 contract workers were also laid off. Even regular employees have been paid their salaries partially for the last six months. Interested parties have already been called to give 34 sections to private (TMC and EoI) Economic progress through comprehensive development of Visakhapatnam.

After the bifurcation of the state, the only big city left to us is Visakhapatnam. The city itself has become a small district in the changes in districts. It has a population of more than 26 lakh people. However, there is no development to that extent. Except for the name of the state's financial capital, the truth about it has been made like ghee in a neti beer.

The pieces are moving fast for the privatization of steel plants in the public sector. The alliance has exposed its deceitful attitude after coming to power. Even after a year, no clear plans have been formulated for the development of Visakhapatnam city. Slums have grown in the heart of the city. Sanitation has become chaotic. People are not getting clean drinking water, steps should be taken to create basic facilities in line with the growing city population.

There is no progress in the work of Visakhapatnam Railway Zone. The ambiguity over Waltair division, the property dispute between East Coast and South Central Railways, and the allocation of employees should be resolved and the zone operations should be started on a war footing with Rs. 9,138 crore.

The poor who do not have a nest in the city should be identified and houses should be built on two cents of land immediately.

Thousands of TIDCO houses are lying vacant around the city and infrastructure should be provided there immediately.

Visakhapatnam, which has many opportunities for the development of the IT sector, is being neglected. Some companies that have come to exploit hundreds of acres are cheating without starting their operations. The same is happening under the coalition government. A special policy should be formulated for the IT sector in Visakhapatnam and it should be developed with solid plans.

Law and order in Visakhapatnam is deteriorating day by day. Crime is increasing, murders and atrocities against women have increased. The CPI should solve these problems and prepare for struggles for the comprehensive development of Visakhapatnam. We request that the proposed resolution be strengthened to this extent.

Against Privatization of Power Sector

The Modi government after coming to power is continuously trying to enact. Electricity (Amendment) Bill with a sole intention to privatize the whole power sector of India. The anti - people, anti - consumers, anti- employees and anti-states legislature was firstly placed in Parliament in the year 2014. All CPI, left parties and power sector employees vehemently opposed the bill. Power sector employees and engineers resorted to all India strike in 2014 which compelled the government to withdraw the Bill.

For the benefits of corporates Adani, Ambani, Torrent, Tata, etc the power ministry again placed the bill to Parliament in the year 2014, 2018, 2020, 2022. A.I.T.U.C., SamyuktaKisanMorcha and National Coordination Committee of electricity employees and engineers opposed the bill staging all India level agitation. Hundreds of KisanSabha unions, consumers their associations resented and the legislature sent to Standing Committee, without passing in Parliament.

Support to 295 days continued agitation by Uttar Pradesh Employees

U.P. power workers and engineers are since 295 days agitating against privatization of Uttaranchal; DakshinanchalVidyut Nigam to Goenka Company who has taken over Chandigarh power utility. Prepaid smart meters project amounting to Rs. 33 Lac crore is setup by Modi government for the benefit of Adani power Mumbai, who got more than 50 thousand crore contracts. Recently the NDA government in Bihar has allotted 1050 acre of land on rent of Rs. 1 to Adani Power at Bhagalpur to install 2400 Megawatt thermal Power Plant - which is enroad privatization in generation also.

The 25th Congress of Communist Party of India held at Chandigarh from September 21 to 25, 2025, unanimously resolved to oppose the privatization policy of the Modi government and to declare its full support to agitating power workers of Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere in states.

For proper implementation of MGNREGA

The 25th Party Congress of the Communist Party of India held at Chandigarh on September 21 to 25, 2025 has noted that MGNREGA is the life line for rural workers. It may continue to serve the rural poor as a credible social security mechanism. This is historic legislation which for the first time provided the right to employment for rural workers, gave the right to equal wages for men and women. But the government is weakening of this law unfairly. The Party Congress expresses its anguish over such an attitude of the government.

Party believes that such weakening of this scheme destroys its demand-based character. The government is continuously reducing the budget for MGNREGA and doesn't release fund in time, due to which there is delay in payment of wages. There is denial and delay in payment of unemployment allowance also. The wages under MGNREGA are lower than statutory minimum wages. The workers do not get wages in time. When the government is not provided jobs on demand, workers are entitled for unemployment allowance but they are not getting it. This is a violation of the Act.

Regarding MGNREGA, this Party Congress expresses in its demands that - MGNREGA should be allocated sufficient budget, money for schemes should be released to states in times so that workers may be provided jobs on demand. The government should not belittle the role of Panchayats in the process of formulation of schemes and their implementation.

■ It should be ensured that MGNREGA wages are equal to the statutory minimum wage in the

concerned states. Paying wage less than statutory minimum wages is unconstitutional.

■ Yearly indexation and increase in MGNREGA should be ensured. Two hundred days of work in a year and Rs.800 daily wages should be provided.

■ For proper implementation of MGNREGA, corruption should be strictly prohibited.

■ Enactment of Urban Employment Guarantee Act should be ensured. The 25th Party Congress calls upon its unites to intervene for proper implementation of the provisions of the Act and mobilize the masses for a strong resistance.

On Dalit Atrocities

The continuation of the practice of untouchability of various forms and the discrimination and violence to which Dalits are subjected in most parts of India is a blot on our society and a total violation of the Constitution of India. What is of great concern is that all these forms of discrimination and violation have been increasing in the last decade since 2014. The BJP is a political party controlled by the RSS which has made no secret of its rejection of the Constitution of India and its commitment to Manusmriti as the basis of the legal framework of our country. The Manusmriti is a text devoted to the promotion of birth-based inequality, the Varna Ashram Dharma. It justified caste oppression along with gender oppression and denial of rights to all working people. In the states where there are BJP led NDA government, that is there are double engine governments, such incidents are very high.

The recent (2020) statistics of the National Crime records Bureau shows ' that the country has gradually escalated violence against Dalits. For example, in 2018, the total number of atrocities reported against Dalits was 42747, which then increased to 45876 in 2019, and by 2020, it further rose to 50202. In states such as Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, there is a systematic escalation of atrocities against Dalits.

In 2020 alone, a total number of 12714 such cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh related to Dalit atrocities, of which only 3955 people got convicted. In the case of Telangana, 1959 cases were reported in the same year, and of such cases, only 25 persons were convicted.

The situation in other states, the figures of atrocities and convictions are as follows: Haryana (1210/12), Jharkhand (666/15), Madhya Pradesh (6899/791), Maharashtra (2569/87), Odisha (2046/5), and Rajasthan (7017/886) as a disproportion exists between the number of reported cases and the number of convicted indulged in violence against Dalits. This lower rate of conviction of persons engaged in atrocities against dalits would create the feeling of impunity in society, which is way or the other would aid and abet higher caste/class people to go ahead with their caste-oriented discriminatory practices would eventually lead to unleashing brutal violence against the marginalized Dalits. Likewise, a meticulous examination of the statistics published by NCRB also shows that the

attacks and atrocities against Dalits continued unabated under the regime of the BJP-led NDA government with the figures being from 38613 in 2015 to 50202 in 2020. These increasing incidents are due to non-implementation of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. These increasing incidents are a gross violation of Articles 15 and 17 of the Constitution. Many cases of such incidents are pending in the courts. But the Union Government took note of this even though the members of Parliament asked repeated questions in the Upper House.

The gruesome attacks on Dalits are difficult to believe. For example in the year 2022, a nine-year-old Dalit boy died after he was allegedly beaten up by a teacher for drinking water from a pot in a private school in the Jalore district of Rajasthan. A Dalit man was assaulted, urinated and spat on for asking his wages on October 4, 2024 in Bihar, Muzaffarpur district. A man urinated on the face of a Dalit labourer while he was taking an afternoon nap in Lucknow.

Rajkumar Rawat was sleeping after his work when the accused, Sanjay Maurya, urinated on his face to wake him up. On April 26, 2023, Pravesh Shukla, representative of BJP -MLA in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh, urinated on the face of a tribal youth sitting on the roadside, the video of which also went viral.

The second week of September this month, a Dalit man was murdered by people of Brahmin caste in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh.

New reports often come that the Dalit bridegrooms are not allowed to ride a horse. In Karakthal village in Ahmedabad district in Gujarat, a Dalit youth was thrashed for daring to sport a moustache. In Chikkmangaluru in Karnataka, a Dalit youngster was tortured and subjected to degrading treatment in police custody. In Madhya Pradesh, the wife of a Dalit labourer, five months pregnant, was raped before her children over her refusal to chop some trees. A white paper should be immediately introduced in Parliament and State Assemblies on the Atrocities against Dalits.

This Party Congress demands the government take stringent and exemplary action against the accused and take all steps to prevent such incidents in the future. At the same time our organization and other like-minded organizations should unite and come forward to defend the victims of such crimes and ensure the destruction of the caste system both through their propaganda and actions in the Communities they belong to or work by reaching out to the victims and encouraging them to join them in defending themselves against such savage practices.

On Women

Despite progress since independence, gender equality in India has faced major setbacks in recent years. India ranks one of the lowest in Global Gender Gap Index, 2025, with a position of 131 out of 148 countries, reflecting growing gender gaps in health, education, and economic participation. This alarming scenario demands urgent and united action to challenge regressive ideologies, expose systemic failures, and advocate for transformative change.

Patriarchy remains deeply entrenched in Indian society, and women have been facing a whole range of physical, psychological, emotional, sexual and financial violence, in visible and invisible forms, most of which are even normalised. Under the Manuwadi RSS-BJP regime, patriarchy has become more institutionalized, hollowing out slogans of “Nari Shakti” and “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao”. Majority of women in India today continue to be anaemic, work double shifts, managing home along with low paying, precarious jobs, with high health and safety risks and no social security.

Economic hardship has also pushed out many more girls from schools to take on caregiving or income-generating work. The pandemic, and the push towards digital learning, also exacerbated the gender education divide, as girls from poorer sections have lacked access to devices or digital literacy. It was during that time that the government began to enforce the extremely unpopular New Economic Policy that lay the burden of children’s education, security, nutrition and well-being on women. The outcome remains a skewed educational system that is excluding girls, and children from marginalized communities to date.

Further, women’s safety in homes, work and public spaces continues to be compromised as in the last few years, as the number of reported crimes against women of all age groups have gone up significantly, while conviction rates at an all-time low. Many BJP leaders routinely issue misogynistic statements and when involved in crimes against women, granted easy impunity. Although we have many stringent criminal laws, the government has done little to ensure greater accountability of the police, reform of the judicial system, or improved measures to rehabilitate and empower survivors of violence.

On the face of it, the demand for political representation has been granted by the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, women’s reservation Bill, which was passed in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in September 2023, after decades long activism of NFIW, and particularly due to pressure from Supreme Court on a writ petition, but it comes with two conditions; it can only be implemented after the completion of census and electoral delimitation.

Rather, in the name of empowerment, the regime, via its state governments has been doling out schemes of giving token monthly amount to women, treating them as beneficiaries of charity rather than as equal citizens. They fail to point out that money for these schemes as well as others comes from direct and indirect taxes that the government collects from its citizens.

As such, budget allocations for women from marginalised sections including, Dalits, Adivasis, and minorities have declined. These women face compounded discrimination based on gender, as also class, caste or religion. NCRB data (2014–2022) shows a sharp rise in atrocities against Dalit women, including gang rapes and murders. The conviction rate under the Prevention of Atrocities Act remains low, with systemic failures in prosecution and protection.

Despite decriminalisation of homosexuality and

recognition of transgender persons by the Supreme Court, the queer community, especially women and trans people, continue to face stigma and discrimination. Social exclusion, lack of job opportunities, and safety concerns remain widespread.

In this scenario, we call upon all democratic forces to join us in building an inclusive, just, and gender-equal India.

We continue our struggle under the banners: “Denial of justice is violence.” And “Women’s rights are human rights” We resolve to take up the following issues in a campaign mode:

- Continuing struggle against the escalating communal hatred and violence against religious minorities, especially the Muslim and Christian communities, whose worst victims are women and children.

- Implementation of women’s reservation with immediate effect, without any conditions attached, in both the houses of Parliament as well as State Assemblies and Legislative Councils.

- Provision of decent employment opportunities and recognition of unpaid domestic work, universal access to public education, scholarships, and hostels for girls, expansion of public healthcare, especially reproductive and mental health

- Strengthening schemes like PDS, MGNREGA, JSY, Anganwadi/ASHA services

- Strengthening the implementation of legislations on crimes against women and children – such as Domestic Violence Act, POSH and POCSO Acts. Full accountability of all investigative agencies. Improved women’s helplines and proper utilization of Nirbhaya Funds, training of police for sensitive response, time-bound prosecution and punishment in all violence cases, legal aid, protection, and socio-economic support for survivors.

- Restoration and proper allocation of SC/ST budgets Solidarity with the struggles of women, queer and trans-people, for equality and dignity.

On Ecology

Analysing aggressive industrialisation and the plight of the working class, Marx while elaborating upon the idea of alienation noted the possible emergence of contradiction between human and nature. Studying the theft of labour and profiteering, Marx predicted the collapse of nature.

Similarly, Engels forewarned about nature’s revenge. Much of this stands as the very brutal, very tangible reality for the planet today. Worldwide, we are witnessing a large scale ecological crisis which is rapidly becoming a crisis of existence for all especially the poor and working class. The ill-effects are further magnified for those at the margins of society upon whom crisis is compounded by caste, gender, and race.

India is a tropical country which means that it is an ecologically fragile region from the very beginning. This ecological vulnerability when read together with the effects of colonialism and its extractive model of industrialization presents far reaching damning effects.

To be Concluded....

Newly Elected National Secretariat, National Executive and National Council

The 25th Party Congress of the CPI concluded with the election of Com. D. Raja as General Secretary, along with an 11-member National Secretariat, a 31-Member National Executive, National Council (*available list*), 13 Candidate Members, and an 11-Member Central Control Commission

National Secretariat

1. D. Raja, *General Secretary*
2. Amarjeet Kaur
3. Dr. B.K. Kango
4. Rama Krushna Panda
5. Annie Raja
6. Girish Sharma
7. K. Prekash Babu
8. P. Sandosh Kumar
9. Sanjay Kumar
10. Palla Venkat Reddy
11. Punjab (*Vacant*)
12. K. Ramakrishna (*Invitee*)

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National Executive

1. D. Raja, *General Secretary*
2. Amarjeet Kaur
3. Dr. B.K. Kango
4. Rama Krushna Panda
5. Annie Raja
6. Dr. Girish Sharma
7. Prekash Babu
8. P. Sandosh Kumar
9. R. Venkaiah
10. Gulzar Singh Gorla
11. Binoy Viswam
12. K.P. Rajendran
13. M. Veerapandian
14. T.M. Murthi
15. K. Ramakrishna
16. A. Vanaja
17. AP State Secretary (*Vacant*)
18. K. Sambasiva Rao
19. Palla Venkat Reddy
20. Pasya Padma
21. Swapan Banerjee
22. Ram Naresh Pandey
23. Janaki Paswan
24. Sanjay Kumar
25. Arvind Raj Swarup
26. Punjab State Secretary (*Vacant*)
27. A.M. Saleem
28. Saathi Sundaresh
29. Kanak Gogoi
30. Nisha Sidhu
31. Dinesh Varshney

—

National Council Members

1. D. Raja, *General Secretary*
2. Amarjeet Kaur
3. B. K. Kango
4. Rama Krushna Panda
5. Annie Raja
6. Girish Sharma
7. P. Sandosh Kumar
8. K. Prekash Babu
9. R. Venkaiah (*Kisan Front*)
10. Rajan Kshirsagar (*Kisan Front*)
11. Kunal Rawat (*Trade Union Front*)
12. Babli Rawat (*Trade Union Front*)
13. Party Education (*Vacant*)
14. Krishna Jha (*New Age*)
15. Mahesh Rathi (*Mukti Sangharsh*)
16. Nisha Sidhu (*Women Front*)
17. Gulzar Singh Gorla (*Khet Mazdoor Front*)
18. Dr. A.A. Khan (*INSAAF*)
19. Dinesh Seerangaraj (*Student Front*)
20. Sukhjinder Mahesari (*Youth Front*)
21. Roykutty (*Office*)
22. Teacher Front (*Vacant*)
23. Pashupathy Kaol (*Tribal front*)
24. V.S. Nirmal (*Dalit front*)
25. K. Ramakrishna (*Andhra Pradesh*)
26. Muppala Nageswara Rao
27. J.V. Satyanarayana Murthy
28. A. Vanaja
29. T. Madhu
30. G. Eswaraiiah
31. P. Harnatha Reddy
32. R. Ravindranath
33. Kanak Gogoi (*Assam*)
34. Ramen Das
35. Ram Naresh Pandey (*Bihar*)
36. Janki Paswan
37. Sanjay Kumar
38. Pramod Prabhakar
39. Om Prakash Narayan
40. Mithilesh Kumar Jha
41. Abdhesh Kumar Ray
42. Rajshree Kiran
43. Lalita Kumari
44. Ajay Kumar Singh
45. Vacant

46. K. Saji (*Chhattisgarh*)
47. Manju Kawasi
48. Adv. Lakhan Singh
49. Prof. Dinesh Chandra Varshney (*Delhi*)
50. Christopher Fonseca (*Goa*)
51. Ram Sagar Singh Parihar (*Gujarat*)
52. Dariyav Singh Kashyab (*Haryana*)
53. Bhag Singh Chaudhary (*Himachal Pradesh*)
54. Mahendra Pathak (*Jharkhand*)
55. Pramod Kumar Pandey
56. Kanaai Mal Chand Pahadia
57. Mahadeo Ram
58. Saathi Sundaresh (*Karnataka*)
59. Karnataka (*Vacant*)
60. Binoy Viswam (*Kerala*)
61. K.P. Rajendran
62. P.P. Suneer
63. K. Rajan
64. P. Prasad
65. G. R. Anil
66. J. Chinchurani
67. Adv. P. Vasantham
68. Rajaji Mathew Thomas
69. Chittayam Gopakumar
70. T. J. Anjalose
71. Govindan Pallikkappil
72. Shailendra Shaili (*Madhya Pradesh*)
73. Haridwar Singh
74. Subhash Lande (*Maharashtra*)
75. Raju Desle
76. Shyam Kale
77. Milind Ranade
78. A. Naba Chandra Singh (*Manipur*)
79. Dr. P. Khogendro Singh
80. Dr. Prasanta Kumar Mishra (*Odisha*)
81. Kshirod Singdeo
82. N. Narayan Reddy
83. Jayanta Das
84. A.M. Saleem (*Puducherry*)
85. I. Dinesh Ponniah
86. Punjab (*NC positions kept vacant*)
87. Narendra Acharya (*Rajasthan*)
88. Suraj Bhan Singh
89. M. Veerapandian (*Tamil Nadu*)
90. T.M. Murthy
91. N. Periyasamy

On Page 12

Make in India

A Decade of Slogans over Substance?

Eleven years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched “Make in India” on September 25, 2014, aiming to transform India into a global manufacturing hub, the initiative’s promise to raise the sector’s GDP share from 16 percent to 25 percent by 2022 remains unfulfilled. Modi’s recent claim, “from chip to ship, we want to manufacture in India,” underscores persistent rhetoric amid faltering results. Critics call it a jumla or rhetoric – an empty promise – as data highlights the need for “Make in India 2.0.”

The origins of Make in India trace to the post-2008 global financial crisis, when India’s service-led economy, driven by IT and BPO booms, faced a flood of cheap Chinese goods, exposing vulnerabilities. In 2011, the UPA government’s National Manufacturing Policy set a 25 percent GDP target, but scandals stalled progress. Post-2014, the BJP repackaged it with simplified business processes and a focus on ease of doing business, propelling India from 142nd to 63rd in the World Bank’s rankings by 2019 – a paper victory later discontinued amid rank-gaming allegations.

Initially, 2015-16 saw 10.8 percent manufacturing growth, and India briefly surpassed China and the US as the top FDI destination, amassing 184.15 billion dollar in manufacturing FDI by March 2025. Slogans like Atmanirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local, and Make for Global gained traction post-COVID, reviving Swadeshi echoes from the independence era.

Yet, by 2023-24, manufacturing’s GDP share fell to 15.9 percent from 16.7 percent in 2013-14, per government data. The 2022 target slipped to 2025, then quietly to 2047, with a revised 23 percent goal. Annual

growth averaged 4 percent over the last five years, far below the promised 12-14 percent. India’s 2.6 percent share of global manufacturing output ranks sixth, trailing far behind leaders. Employment, the initiative’s crown jewel, and fared worse: RBI data shows the manufacturing workforce share dropped from 11.6 percent in 2013-14 to 10.6 percent by 2022-23. Jobs plummeted from 5.1 crore to 2.73 crore between 2016-21 – a 50 percent loss, only partly due

locations.

The trade deficit with China swelled from 50 billion dollar in 2014 to 99.2 billion dollar in 2024-25, with imports at 113.5 billion dollar against 14.25 billion dollar in exports.

Despite Galwan clashes and “boycott China” fervour, dependence deepened: 70 percent of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), 70 percent of drone components, and 90 percent of solar cells (down to 56 percent via tariffs) remain Chinese. Even

fold to 23,622 crore in 2024-25, up 12 percent year-on-year, with DPSUs jumping 42.85 percent.

Electronics FDI rose 18 percent to 19.04 billion dollar in FY25; smartphone assembly hit 99 percent local; and semiconductors saw ¹ 1.3 lakh crore approvals. PLI commitments reached ¹ 1.76 lakh crore by March 2025, generating 6.78 lakh jobs and ¹ 16.5 lakh crore in sales. Budget 2025 doubled PLI outlay by 108 percent, signalling resolve.



to COVID, with recovery lagging peers.

The promised 100 million new jobs by 2022 remain a mirage, leaving youth unemployment high as factories fail to absorb the demographic dividend.

Foreign investment, once a bright spot, signals waning confidence. Net FDI crashed 96.5 percent to 353 million dollar in FY25 from 10 billion dollar the prior year, with 49 billion dollar in outflows, driven by IPO exits like Hyundai and Swiggy. FDI’s share in capital formation fell from 8.8 percent in 2020 to 2.3 percent in 2024. Companies pursuing China’s “China+1” strategy favoured Vietnam, Indonesia, and Laos over India, despite headlines touting 1,000 re-

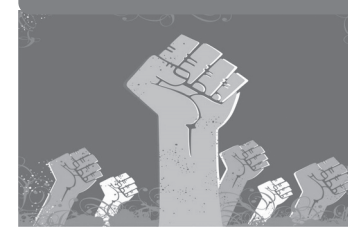
smartphones, a 15 billion dollar export success in 2023-24, rely on Chinese parts, with local value addition under 10 percent. “Assembly in India, but soul from China,” quips an industry analyst.

MSMEs, contributing 35 percent of manufacturing output, are crumbling. Of 6.3 crore units, 75,000 shuttered in five years, including 35,567 last year – nearly double 2023-24’s tally – with 3 lakh jobs lost, per parliamentary replies. Sectors like steel, textiles, and auto parts missed Production Linked Incentive (PLI) targets, while pharma’s dedicated scheme flopped. Yet, glimmers persist: the 2020 PLI scheme, a 2 lakh crore course-correction across 14 sectors, and boosted defense exports 30-

The shortfall stems from multiple failures. Demonetization in 2016 devastated cash-dependent MSMEs, slashing growth to 7.9 percent; GST’s botched rollout further dropped it to 3-5 percent. Policy contradictions – Swadeshi rhetoric versus foreign capital reliance – and unrealistic 12-14 percent growth targets ignored historical 3-4 percent caps under License Raj. Implementation deficits, marked by grand announcements without ground-level follow-through, persist, as economists note.

Global headwinds, from Trump’s tariffs to pandemics, compounded woes, but domestic distractions – divisive “us versus them” narratives – diverted focus from eco-

STUDY & STRUGGLE



C. Adhikesvan

nomie priorities.

Make in India echoes post-independence socialism’s closed economy, which capped growth at 3-4 percent amid corruption, and 1991’s LPG reforms, which unleashed the middle class and 5 trillion dollar ambitions.

Without manufacturing ballast, services alone can’t sustain growth. Critics demand Make in India 2.0, starting with admitting failures, akin to GST reforms. Anti-corruption measures are critical: electoral bonds’ ¹ 100 crore irregularities erode trust; severe penalties for graft could lure investors.

Ground-up ease of business must curb GST inspector raj – “ask any owner,” an entrepreneur vented. Beyond A1-A2 paper reforms, foster 10-100 more through risk ecosystems for innovation, design, and thinking in India.

India must emulate China’s decade-old Thousand Talents Plan to attract global brains. Leaders should lead by example: cabinet kin studying abroad undermine the “stay and build” ethos. Ditch small-minded narratives for vishwa guru-scale thinking.

Budget 2025’s National Manufacturing Mission targets solar cells, EV batteries, and electrolyzers for a 25 percent GDP revival. With a 99.2 billion dollar China deficit, 75,000 MSME closures, and a 15.9 percent GDP share, Make in India 1.0 demands a reckoning.

Version 2.0 isn’t optional – it’s the pivot from jumla to juggernaut. Will Modi heed data over WhatsApp lore? The factory floor awaits.

New Age Weekly

K Baladandayudham: A Builder of Communist Movement in South, Outstanding Intellectual

Popularly known as 'Balan', K Baladandayudham was an outstanding builder of Communist movement in Tamilnadu and in South in general. He also was a popular student leader and builder of student movements.

Baladandayudham was born on April 2, 1918 in village Makkeenampatti near Pollachi. He was born as the fourth child and first son to MR Kalahasti Mudaliar and Subbathal. They were middle farmers. He finished high school in Pollachi at the age of 15 only, where his family settled down ultimately. It was a town two miles away from the village.

Rebel nature

Balan was 13 years old when studying in 9th Standard in High School. At that time, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged. As a protest this young boy tied his hands and feet with iron chains and went in a procession in the streets of Pollachi to pay homage.

Balan became the leader of Balar Sangam (Student Association) in the school. He took part in picketing of toddy, arrack and rice shops as a Congress volunteer. Foreign cloth was being boycotted at the call of Mahatma Gandhi. He could not be sent to jail because of his young age.

As children they picketed tobacco and textile shops. The seeds of nationalism were already sown there. Then he did his Intermediate in St Joseph College, Trichy. He joined the Annamalai University for BSc.

While studying in school, Balan started a Radical Youth Association.

It was in the University that he came in contact with the leftwing and Communist ideas. He was at this time a Gandhian. Gandhism and Marxism were the two major trends at the time among the youth, the conflict reflecting in his transition.

Subramania Sharma was a prominent student and Communist leader of Annamalai University. Balan came in con-

tact with him. All India Students Federation (AISF) had been founded in 1936 in Lucknow. It was a united common student organization, consisting of various political trends. A unit of the AISF was also formed in the Annamalai University. Besides, the Communists formed a 'Comrades' Club' in the campus in 1937. It included P Manickam, Subramania Sharma and Balan. The vice-chancellor of the University Srinivas Shastri got irked by these activities and suspended six students including Balan. In protest the students boycotted the classes for two months.

These developments brought Balan closer to the Communists.

In support of Republican Spain

Jawaharlal Nehru gave a countrywide call for funds collection in support of the Republican Spain fighting against the fascist General Franco. The student responsible for collection made a false complaint against Balan. Balan and five others were expelled from the University, prohibited from entering and were even jailed for a few days.

Students' strike

The first major student strike in Tamilnadu took place in 1938 in Annamalai University. It lasted for two months. Till then it was the longest student strike. Except Balan, all others were permitted to appear in the exams. Balan was the only one to be victimized. At the time he was only 20 years of age. He was a very good student and excellent organizer.

Because of Balan's involvement in the student struggle, his father refused him entry into the house. His parents stopped supporting his studies, and as a result his studies stopped altogether. He was forced to live with his friends.

Soon he fell in love with an Anglo-Indian girl Gladys Wills from Kerala. They were got married during the strike itself.

Along with Singaravelu

Baladandayudham came in

contact with the workers' and trade union movement in Madras. He got to know the prominent leaders like Ghate, Singaravelu, Kalyansundaram and many others. He got involved in the railway workers' movement and worked in the Golden Rock area of the railway workers' trade union. Balan worked as a sub-editor along with the famous Kalyansundaram in the trade union journal titled Tholizarasi. Soon he got involved in the workers' strikes and struggles.

He was arrested several times,



being sent to the jails of Coimbatore and Vellore. His mother came under mental stress due to all these events and fell ill. She died soon after his release and meeting with her.

Contact with Ghate

With the arrival of SV Ghate, the Communist activities got a big boost in Madras city as well as in the province. He gave a lead both on organization and on issues all over the province. He kept links with the all India party centre in Bombay. The Labour Protection League functioned from 50, Thatha Mutiappan Street, Madras, later shifting to 2/65 Broadway (in fact a narrow lane!). It came to be known as the 'Strike Office'. It was visited by Nehru, who was a close friend of Ghate. Other comrades, young and old, also visited the place regularly. Among them were Baladandayudham from Annamalai University, Ramchandra Reddy and others, who sought Ghate's advice.

Ghate brought together students, intellectuals, workers and others.

A Communist unit was formed, with CS Subramaniam as its first secretary.

In Congress Socialist Party

Balan had a private residence in Trichy. He joined the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) there. Besides, they made him the general secretary of district Forward Bloc without consulting him. At that time, the Left Consolidation was active within the Congress, so he was able to be within both at the same time.

About Forward Bloc

During this period, Balan came in contact with the leaders of the Forward Bloc. He was friendly with its leader Muthuramalinga Thevar. But a wrong impression has been created that Baladandayudham joined the Forward Bloc. This is not correct. In an article later, he clarified that he never joined it; his name was enrolled as a member of the Forward Bloc without his consent.

WW II and workers' movement

He also worked temporarily as a clerk in Trichy. With the approach of the Second World War (WW II) the anti-War sentiments began to spread rapidly. Balan addressed an anti-War meeting in 1938. In the eyes of the British colonial rulers, this was a big 'crime'! He was consequently arrested and sentenced to one and a half years of RI. He had to leave behind his wife in a desperate condition. He left her in the care of Rathinavelu Thevar. Rathinavelu was a friend of Muthuramalingam Thevar, the Forward Bloc leader.

He was released at the end of 1940 but rearrested at the prison gate! His wife Gladys was waiting for him impatiently. He was ultimately released in 1942.

Mass activities, journalism

CPI was illegal when the WW II broke out in 1939. Balan was also arrested and detained in Vellore Jail from 1939 to 1942.

After release in June 1942, Balan worked among the railway

workers. He became the editor of their journal the *Railway Worker*. He was also in the editorial board of *Janasakti*. He started the Soviet Friends Academy in 1943 and became its secretary. He wrote profusely in the journal and addressed several public meetings. He even acted in the dramas to collect party funds.

The first provincial conference of the FSU was held in Madurai in 1945, with Rajaji as the Chief Guest.

Balan worked in the *Janasakti* till the end of 1945, being stationed in Madras. In 1945 he was sent to Tirunelveli for party work. NK Krishnan, as incharge of Tamilnad PC on behalf of the Central Committee, was very impressed with Baladandayudham.

The Friends of Soviet Union was formed during 1942-43. Baladandayudham was its secretary and Thiru Vi Ka (Thiru V Kalyanasundaram) was the president of the its committee.

In the course of all these upheavals, his wife got fed up. Gladys asked him to give up politics altogether. She had waited for him at the jail gate, when he was immediately rearrested. She wanted to take him away to Kerala and take up a job. But he refused to give up politics and there was a break up. She got her marriage annulled and remarried. Balan said that the news of her remarriage made him happy.

Since 1942 Balan worked at the railway yard in Ponmalai.

Struggles in 1946

RIN revolt took place in February 1946 in Bombay. The working class of Madras Province rose as one man in support and went on strike in all the major cities. Balan at this time was working as party organizer in Trichy. He played a big role in solidarity with the Naval Revolt along with Jeevanandam, Kalyanasundaram, Ramamoorthy and others.

Balan mobilized support for the strike of the railway workers in 1946. A warrant was issued against him and he went into hiding. The warrant was cancelled after August 15, 1947 and he came out. He also led the food

movement in Tuticorin. There he also led a boat workers' struggle. These workers worked on the boats plying from Tuticorin to Colombo, which was practically the only transport at the time.

Balan also led the strike of the workers of Vikramsinghapuram textile industry, fighting the police and the black-legs.

Balan was very active in Tirunelveli district, and helped the CPI to grow into a powerful force among the working class and other sections such as the students.

Madurai Conspiracy Case

In 1943 the Communists formed a trade union separate from those loyal to the manage-

ment. In 1946 the management dismissed 27 workers on the grounds of their alleged anti-management activities. Finally the arbiter ordered reinstatement of the workers and union elections, which were won by the Communists. The British government fabricated a case against the Communists, known as the Madurai Conspiracy Case. The provincial leaders of CPI were arrested including Baladandayudham and tried in it on the charges of creating unrest and conspiring to murder labour leaders! Balan went underground and came out only after India gained freedom on August 15, 1947.

BTR Period

CPI went through a traumatic period under the leadership of BTR, who followed a self-destructive adventurist line of armed overthrow of Nehru government. This harmful line seriously affected the functioning of the party in Madras province and Tamilnad also. Party was in disarray and cadres underground or killed in repressions and self-destructive actions.

Balan attended the Second

Party Congress of 1948 held in Calcutta. A warrant was again issued and he went into hiding. He came via very complicated and involved route, following Ahmedabad, Bombay, central India, places in Madras province.

Many including Balan went underground. He remained underground in Tirunelveli during 1948-50 and in Madras in 1950-52. He was arrested in the latter half of 1952. He then had to spend nine years in jail till early 1962, when he was released.

He was very sorry to learn of the death of his mentor and friend Ponnu, at whose house in Tuticorin he stayed before his arrest.

He was shifted to several jails

such as Tirunelveli, Madurai, Madras, Nagpur and Coimbatore. He was suddenly shifted to Nagpur Jail, remaining there for a long time, also undergoing medical treatment.

Marriage

He was briefly released in 1952. After release, he married a second time to Thulga Rani in 1953. She was the sister of a party comrade. After a few months he had to go to the prison again, to come only after nine years.

Second Tirunelveli Conspiracy Case, 1954

K Baladandayudham and V Meenakshinatan were awarded life sentences on November 2, 1954. They were tried, along with Arunachalam, a mill worker, in the 'offences' related to 1948-49. The prisoners refused to be handcuffed. As a result, the police brutally beat them throughout the 100 miles truck journey. They were forcibly handcuffed and thrown down.

United action by all the political parties secured his release.

He never wasted his time in jail. He planned his whole future life and activities seriously and

in a disciplined manner. He did a lot of serious study, did systematic translations, did a lot of gardening and experimented in Botany!

After 1962

Balan jumped into activities again after release in 1962. He was made the party secretary of Madras district. There were not many to match his oratory and persuasive powers. He was arrested several times, the last in the land struggle of 1970. He used to write crisp and lucid Tamil.

Party and public posts

Balan was elected to the National Council of CPI in 1964 at Bombay congress. He was reelected at Patna (1968) and Cochin (1971) party congresses. He did lot of work against the splitting activities to save the party.

He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore in 1971 elections. He made his mark as an able parliamentarian.

When he was the MP, he brought out a "Music Album of CPI". It included songs of prominent cine singers like KJ Yesudas, AL Raghavan and LR Easwari.

Writings

Balan was a prolific writer. His writings included: 1. Biography of P Jeevanantham; 2. 'My Reminiscences of Life Imprisonment'; 3. Why we demand bank nationalization? 4. What is Marxism? 5. Crisis in Textile Industry; 6. October Revolution and Our Freedom Struggle, and some other books. They were mostly in Tamil.

Death

K Baladandayudham met with a very unfortunate death. He was returning by Indian Airlines Flight 440 to Delhi on May 31, 1973 along with AITUC general secretary Satish Loomba, Union minister Mohan Kumaramangalam and BKMU leader Bhan Singh Bhaura. The plane crashed and the first three died instantaneously. Bhaura escaped with burn injuries as he was thrown out of the plane.

Baladandayudham was returning from a seminar he attended on behalf of AITUC in Sri Lanka on population problems held by ILO. He was only 55 when he died.

Biographies of Communist Leaders-138

Anil Rajimwale

Cotton Import, Duty Exemption and the Farmers

The United States has imposed a 50 per cent import duty on Indian textile products effective from August 27, 2025, which is likely to impact approximately 48 billion dollar worth of exports. However, an important point to note is that exports to the United States account for only six percent of India's total textile exports and less than 1.5 per cent of the value in total industry.

This crisis highlights the need for India to strengthen its domestic economy instead of relying on export-oriented policies. Within the country, the struggle for freedom developed alongside the spinning of cotton yarn.

The spinning wheel (charkha) and Mahatma Gandhi became important symbols of the freedom struggle. The mill workers, who wove this same yarn into cloth, were pioneers in the struggle for a united Maharashtra. To prevent the exploitation in the procurement of this same cotton, the pressure from farmers rallies forced even the British Raj to establish the country's first agricultural Produce Market Committee. Similarly, the Cotton Monopoly Scheme in the post-independence era in Maharashtra was once considered the state's pride.

However, in the era of globalization, has this same cotton thread become a noose for the farmers? Because the highest number of suicides are among cotton-producing farmers. A serious question that has arisen is what further crises will cotton-producing farmers have to face due to the increasing cotton imports, a result of the Central Government reducing the import duty on cotton from 11 per cent to zero?

Cotton farming is the economic backbone of rural India, directly supporting approximately 60 lakh (6 million) farmers and indirectly supporting another 4 crore (40 million) people in related activities like processing, trade, and the textile industry. With a

contribution of about 25 per cent to global cotton production and cultivation on 120.55 lakh hectares (36 per cent of the global cotton area), India holds a distinct position as the world's largest cotton producer. Despite this prominent position, Indian cotton farmers face policy neglect and market defeat, forcing cotton-producing farmers into a severe crisis. The Central Government decision to abolish the 11 per cent import duty on cotton is the next step in a series of anti-farmer measures that prioritize international trade relations and industrial interests over farmers.

The crisis on cotton-producing farmers has become extremely severe, with farmer

Rajan Kshirsagar

MSP, based on all actual production costs plus a 50 per cent profit margin (the C2+50 per cent formula), was recommended by the National Farmers' Commission (Swaminathan Commission). The farmers' movement in the country has insisted on making this (C2+50 per cent formula) the law for agricultural MSP. Regarding this, the Central Government even gave a written assurance to the agitators on December 9, 2021. The committee appointed by the government on this matter held 23 meetings but took no action.

The government has avoided giving legal backing

This is only 34 per cent of the total cotton production. Besides this, other farmers had to sell their cotton at prices even lower than this. If the total loss to farmers across the country due to not getting the price as per the C2+50 per cent formula in cotton production is calculated, even if done according to the MSP rate, this amount can be firmly stated to be more than ₹ 36,518.38 Crore, based on the raw cotton production of 154.41 lakh metric tons.

(According to the Central Government's press release dated April 8, 2025, CCI purchased 52.5 lakh metric tons of cotton in the 2024-25 season, which is 34 per cent of the total cot-

ton production of one hectare of cotton incurred a loss of Rs.33,000 in the year 2024-25. The Narendra Modi government often pats itself on the back for the Rs.6000 annual amount distributed to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman.

However, if the Central government had implemented the Swaminathan Commission's formula, every cotton farmer could have earned an income of Rs.25,000 per hectare even after donating Rs.6000!!

Abolishing Import Duty and its Consequences

The abolition of the 11 per cent import duty on cotton on August 19, 2025, is a devastating policy decision. It was initially announced to be applicable only until the end of September. As soon as Trump announced the 50 per cent import duty on August 27, on D 28 August, the same decision was again announced to be applicable until December 31. This will have a devastating impact on domestic cotton producers. This decision, coming just before the new cotton harvesting season, is opening up the Indian market to subsidized cotton, especially American cotton. Imported American cotton is likely to be sold at 20-25 per cent lower prices compared to domestic cotton. The central government claims that this is a measure against the 50 per cent import duty imposed by the US and aims to provide cheap raw material to the domestic textile industry. However, the government is completely ignoring that this is endangering the very existence of cotton-producing farmers.

The US provides huge subsidies to its cotton producers and tries to capture the global market through them, creating unfair competition. Between 1995-2020, the US government gave 40.10 billion Dollars (3,52,880 Crore) in subsidies for cotton, and in 2024 alone, it gave 9.3 billion Dollars (81,840 Crore) for

On Page 12



suicides in cotton belts like Marathwada and Vidarbha reaching their limit. A special investigation committee of the Maharashtra Government has termed Bt Cotton a killer due to its association with the majority of farmer death cases. This article will provide a detailed analysis of the reasons behind this situation, the steps that should be taken against this situation threatening the very existence of farmers, and the demands made by farmers' organizations for policy changes to prevent further damage to India's sovereignty and farmer's livelihoods.

The Central Government sets the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 23 types of agricultural produce. The method for determining this

to farmers' rights. This has made farmers unstable and insecure, vulnerable to the fluctuations of market prices.

According to information based on government sources, the MSP for medium staple cotton for 2025-26 is ₹ 7,710 per quintal, whereas according to the C2+50 per cent formula, this MSP should be ₹ 10,075 per quintal, resulting in a deficit of ₹ 2,365 per quintal that farmers have to bear. If this deficit is calculated against the total production nationwide, the cotton purchased by CCI in 2024-25 is 52.5 lakh metric tons. The potential loss to farmers on this production is: 52,500,000 quintals x ₹ 2,365/quintal = ₹ 124,162,500,000 (₹ 12416.25 Crore) that farmers have to bear.

ton production)

This clearly shows the significant economic impact of the disparity between the MSP and the recommended price of C2+50 per cent on Indian cotton-producing farmers. The current method of calculating MSP based on A2+FL is unjust to farmers. Also, not all cotton is sold at MSP prices, and actual market prices vary. The average price in the open market is in the range of Rs.5500 to Rs.6500, and if the average price is taken as Rs.6000/quintal, the estimated loss for just the year 2024-25 could be Rs.36,903 Crore. Please consider the cumulative loss borne by cotton-producing farmers over the last 11 years.

Based on estimates, a

Stronger Determination...

From Front Page

naticism in Punjab; and the JoginderDayal Food Complex was a tribute to the Punjab stalwart of the CPI.

On September 22, the proceedings began with the election of the Presidium under the convenorship of Amarjeet Kaur. The Congress was formally inaugurated by General Secretary D. Raja, who, on behalf of all delegates, placed on record the warmth and hospitality of the CPI's Punjab unit, which had hosted the Congress in a manner befitting the Centenary of the Communist Party of India. Leaders of fraternal Left parties joined the inaugural session to express their solidarity. M. A. Baby, General Secretary of the CPI(M), Dipankar Bhattacharya, General Secretary of the CPI(ML)-Liberation, G. Devarajan, General Secretary of

the AIFB, and Manoj Bhattacharya, General Secretary of the RSP, addressed the delegates and reaffirmed the importance of Left unity in the present context.

In his presentation of the Draft Political Report, General Secretary D. Raja placed before the Congress the political context in which the 25th Congress was taking place. He warned that India's secular, democratic, republican character is facing an unprecedented threat from the RSS-BJP combine, forces contemptuous of the Constitution, seeking to dismantle democratic institutions and impose a fascist, hierarchical Hindu Rashtra. Raja explained that the most consistent opposition to this agenda has always come from the Communists and the Left.

At such a juncture, the role of the CPI and other Left forces becomes pivotal, for it is the Left that can present a cohesive ideological and political alternative to the BJP-RSS, one capable of uniting other secular and

democratic forces. The central task before the Party and the Left, he emphasised, is to strengthen themselves, unite, establish a strong Left pole in national politics, and lead the broad secular and democratic camp in defeating the BJP.

The Draft Report on Organisation was presented by CPI National Secretary Dr. K. Narayana, and the Draft Political Review Report was presented by CPI National Secretary Dr. B.K. Kango. Delegates

were engaged in two days of detailed deliberations, on September 23 and 24, both in plenary sessions and in three commissions dedicated to the reports. Suggestions, criticisms, and amendments were extensively discussed and responded to by the leadership, underlining the Party's democratic spirit and collective functioning.

A special solidarity session with Palestine and Cuba was held on September 22, moderated by CPI National Secretary Pallab Sengupta.

The Ambassadors of Palestine and Cuba explained the imperialist aggression faced by their peoples and exposed the hypocrisy of the so-called Western "rules-based order." The Congress extended its firm solidarity to their struggles for sovereignty, peace, and justice.

After two days of deliberations, the Congress took up and adopted multiple resolutions on issues of national and international importance in accordance with the CPI's principled positions on the pressing challenges of the time. On the final day, September 25, the Congress also passed a special resolution commemorating A.B. Bardhan, one of the tallest leaders of the Left in the post-independence era, whose 25th Party Congress of CPI Concludes on a Positive Note.

In Commitment to Fight against Fascist Forces centenary celebrations



concluded on that day. The delegates paid tribute to Bardhan's lifelong contributions in building the Party and shaping the Left movement in the country.

After the adoption of the reports and resolutions, General Secretary D. Raja placed before the Congress the names for the new National Council, which were unanimously approved by the delegates. A 125-member National Council, along with 13 candidate members, was elected. In its first meeting, the National Council elected a 31-member National Executive Committee and an 11-member National Secretariat, with one permanent invitee, and unanimously re-elected Comrade D. Raja as General Secretary of the Party. The Congress witnessed a generational shift in leadership. Four senior members of the outgoing Secretariat—Dr. K. Narayana, Pallab Sengupta, Nagendranath Ojha, and Syed Azeez Pasha—voluntarily stepped down to make way for new leadership. Binoy Viswam, Secretary of the CPI Kerala State Council, also stepped down from the Secretariat to devote himself to Kerala affairs in view of the upcoming elections. The Congress unanimously resolved that Pallab Sengupta, President of the World Peace Council and long-time in-charge of the Party's

international department, would remain a permanent invitee to all higher bodies of the Party. An 11-member Central Control Commission was also elected by the delegates, which, in its first meeting, chose Dr. K. Narayana as its Chairman. The new National Council also elected Mitra Vashu as Treasurer of the Party.

In his concluding address, General Secretary D. Raja underlined that the 25th Congress had not only reaffirmed the unity of the Party but had also provided clarity on the road ahead. The challenges before the CPI are formidable: the RSS-BJP combine has entrenched itself in state power and is working systematically to erode democratic institutions, communalise society, centralise authority, and hand over national resources to corporate interests. Combating this requires the CPI to expand its reach, strengthen its organisation at all levels, deepen its ideological clarity, and sharpen its political interventions. Raja reminded the delegates that the task of strengthening the CPI is not merely an organisational question but a political necessity for the survival of India's secular democratic republic. Only a strong CPI, united with other Left forces and acting as a cohesive pole in national politics, can give shape to a broad secular-democratic alternative capable of defeating the BJP.

Raja emphasised that this centenary year of the Communist Party of India must be a year of resolve and rejuvenation. It must be used to strengthen the Party ideologically, politically, and organisationally, to reach out to the youth, workers, peasants, women, and all oppressed

sections of society, and to rekindle faith in the socialist alternative. He called upon the delegates to take the message of the Congress to every state and district, to build wider unity with Left and democratic forces, and to prepare for decisive struggles in the coming period. The centenary year will culminate in a mammoth rally in Khammam, Telangana, in December 2025, and an international meeting of Communist and Workers Parties at Vijayawada, (Andhra Pradesh) symbolising the determination of the CPI to advance with renewed strength.

The 25th Congress of the CPI thus concluded with a clear roadmap, a generationally renewed leadership, and a clarion call to intensify the struggle against authoritarianism, communalism, and corporate exploitation, and to strengthen the CPI as the vanguard of the working people for a sovereign, democratic, secular, and socialist India.

Newly Elected National Secretariat...

From Page 06

92. K. Santhanam
93. Vahidha Nizam
94. V. Selvaraj
95. M. Kannagi
96. M. Arumugam
97. T. Ramachandran
98. Dr. G. R. Ravindra Nath
99. M. Selvaraj
100. K. Sambasiva Rao (Telangana)
101. P. Padma
102. Palla Venkat Reddy
103. T. Srinivas Rao
104. E.T. Narasimha
105. B. Hemant Rao
106. K. Shankar
107. M. Balanarasimha
108. S. K. Shabir Pasha
109. Arvind Raj Swarup (Uttar Pradesh)
110. Smt. Kanti Mishra
111. Dr. Ram Chandra Saras

112. Ashok Tiwari
113. Jagdish Kuliya (Uttarakhand)
114. Swapan Banerji (West Bengal)
115. Prabir Dev
116. Bharanti Adhikari
117. Tapan Ganguly
118. Srikumar Mukherjee
119. Gautam Roy
120. Biplab Bhatta
-
- Elected Candidate Members
121. Delhi (Vacant)
122. Milan Baidya, Tripura
123. Samudra Gupta
124. Jammu (Vacant)
125. Kashmir (Vacant)
126. T T Jismon
127. P. Jangaiha
128. Mitra Vashu (Office)
129. Woman Department (Vacant)
130. Virraaj Devang (Student Front)

131. Raushan Kumar (Youth Front)
132. IPTA/PWA (Vacant)
133. Vivek Sharma
-

Central Control Commission

1. K. Narayana (Chairman)
2. Hardev Singh Arshi
3. Md. Yusuf
4. Kalyan Banerjee
5. P. Durga Bhavani
6. R. Muthurasan
7. Ram Baheti
8. Imtiyaz Ahmed
9. Sathyan Mokeri
10. C.H. Venkatachalam
11. Ram Ratan Singh
-

Pallab Sengupta, President, World Peace Council and in-charge of the International Department of CPI for several years, will be a permanent invitee to all the higher bodies of the Party.

Mitra Vashu was elected as Treasurer.

Cotton Import, Duty Exemption...

From Page 10

commodity crop subsidies. These subsidies allow American farmers to sell cotton at prices below their production cost, paving the way to capture the Indian market in such a manner. This will make domestic cotton cultivation economically unviable. The Trump administration's recent budget announced a 60 billion Dollar (5.29 Lakh Crore) increase in agricultural subsidies over the next decade, which could establish a monopoly by eliminating competition.

The timing and process of this decision reveal the anti-farmer stance of the government. The decision to abolish the import duty, announced without any consultation with farmer representatives or state governments on the eve of the new season's cotton arrival in the market, is an attack on farmer interests.

As a result, when farmers bring their year's hard work, their cotton, to the market, prices will crash. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is also likely to incur a

loss of approximately ¹ 700 Crore on its available stock, painting a clear picture of this ill-advised decision.

In truth, this is an attack by the US on India's sovereignty. Instead of finding ways to resist this pressure, the Indian government has sacrificed the interests of its farmers to maintain diplomatic relations with the Trump administration. In fact, many small countries are seen resisting US pressure. The government also did not attempt to challenge the US's unfair trade practices through WTO mechanisms. It showed no readiness to use its position as the world's largest cotton producer to form a strong bloc with other Global South and developing countries. This shows that agricultural policy has become fodder for foreign policy objectives instead of farmer welfare.

Previously, the free trade agreement with Australia similarly attacked cotton producers. The agreement with Australia allows the duty-free import of about 5 lakh bales of cotton annually during the period 2023-2027, forcing direct cotton produc-

ers to sell cotton at prices even lower than the declared support price.

India's textile industry is the sixth-largest exporter globally, contributing 8.21% to the country's total exports in 2023-24. This industry provides direct employment to 4.5 crore (45 million) people and indirectly supports the livelihoods of over 10 crore (100 million) people. In 2024, India's textile and apparel industry was worth ¹ 1,513,850 Crore, of which ¹ 1,234,400 Crore was from the domestic market. The export market is worth ¹ 321,900 Crore, with exports to the USA being only ¹ 20,984 Crore. The huge size of the domestic market (¹ 12 Lakh Crore) indicates that the foundation of the economy must be laid to meet local needs and increase the purchasing power of farmers and workers.

Denying cotton-producing farmers the minimum basic price (MSP) of ¹ 10,075 per quintal as per the Swaminathan formula has caused an estimated loss to 60 lakh cotton farmers of around ¹ 36,903 Crore, as mentioned above, which is

approximately double the value. If farmers are instead paid prices according to the C2+50 percent formula, increasing their purchasing power, the need to rely on exports would actually diminish.

The meaning is clear: instead of prioritizing agricultural development through government policy and developing a thriving economy by increasing the purchasing power of the working farmers and laborers, the government and the barons of capitalism are chasing the mirage of "export-oriented development"; In this, the Central government has surrendered to the policies of neoliberalism that trap one in the imperialist snare.

Even if the domestic economy is capable of absorbing the disparity in exports to the US, under the pretext of the import duty crisis, monopoly trade and industrial corporate houses, with the support of the Modi government, are trying to break the backs of cotton farmers.

Increasing the purchasing power of the majority of India's population (which

largely includes farmers and workers) is the way to overcome the export crisis. In this direction, providing farmers with a profitable Minimum Support Price (MSP) of C2+50 percent and providing workers with a minimum living wage are essential policies to strengthen the domestic economy, which will also be useful for competing in the global market. MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), especially handlooms and power looms, need to be supplied with cheap and subsidized cotton, which will enable them to compete in the export market and also increase domestic trade. To liberate cotton farmers from this injustice, workers, organizations and farmers must jointly present this demand before workers and the public to put pressure on state and central governments. The Central government should not allow cheap imports in the name of incentivizing the textile sector for the monopoly corporate companies in the textile industry and trade, as it will destroy cotton farmers.

Imperial Shadows Again

US Aggression in Venezuela



*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

The United States' recent military manoeuvres off Venezuela's coast expose a stark revival of imperial ambition, cloaked in the guise of a crusade against "narco-terrorists." Eight guided-missile destroyers, surveillance planes, and a nuclear-powered attack submarine patrol the southern Caribbean, casting a menacing shadow over a nation already battered by sanctions and economic collapse. This is not about drugs; it is a calculated escalation of American imperialism, driven by a thirst for regime change, resource control, and geopolitical dominance. Venezuela's sovereignty is under siege, and the world must recognize this provocation for what it is: a dangerous replay of a century-old playbook of subjugation.

In late August, President Donald Trump deployed this naval flotilla, including the USS Gravelly, USS Jason Dunham, and USS Sampson, carrying over 4,500 sailors and Marines. The stated mission targets Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang and the alleged Cartel de los Soles, accused of funnelling drugs to the U.S. Washington doubled the bounty on President Nicolás Maduro to 50 million dollar, branding him a "fugitive drug lord." By September, U.S. forces sank speedboats off Venezuela's coast, killing 17 people in interdictions labeled as anti-drug operations. Trump boasted on Truth Social: "Be warned—If you are transporting drugs that can kill Americans, we are hunting you!" Yet, Venezuelan investigations found no cartel links among the victims, many of whom were impoverished fishermen from villages like San Juan de Unare. These strikes, lacking transparent evidence, serve as a flimsy pretext for broader ambitions: toppling Maduro and securing Venezuela's strategic assets.

Maduro, in his third term after contested 2024 elections, denounced the deployment as an "extravagant, unjustifiable, immoral, and absolutely criminal" threat aimed at regime change. Venezuela's response has been defiant: 15,000 troops mobilized to the Colombian border, warships and drones patrolling the coast, and 4.5 million militiamen called up. On September 29, Vice President Delcy Rodríguez declared a state of external emergency, granting Maduro sweeping powers to counter any incursion. Maduro's warnings of a "regional threat" echo a grim history of U.S. intervention in Latin

America, where sovereignty has long been trampled under the banner of American interests.

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823, initially a warning to European powers, was twisted by 1904 into Theodore Roosevelt's Corollary, claiming U.S. "international police power" to intervene in the Americas. This "Big Stick" policy justified occupations in Cuba (1906), Nicaragua (1911), Haiti (1915), and the Dominican Republic (1916), where Marines installed puppet regimes and extracted economic concessions. Latin American intellectuals like Rubén Darío scorned it as a "Doc-

China, who have invested heavily in Venezuelan oil and infrastructure, threatens U.S. hegemony in the Western Hemisphere. Beijing's 60 billion dollar in loans since 2007 and purchases of discounted crude challenge America's "backyard" dominance. Venezuela's gold, lithium, and strategic position amplify its value in a new Cold War, making it a prize Washington seeks to reclaim through coercion.

Domestic politics fuels this imperial gambit. Trump's "America First" rhetoric casts the anti-drug offensive as a vote-winner, blaming cartels for U.S. opioid deaths—over 100,000 annually. But the focus on Venezu-



trine of Destiny"—a euphemism for plunder. Modern parallels are stark: the U.S.-backed 2002 coup attempt against Hugo Chávez and the 2019 recognition of Juan Guaidó as "interim president" to oust Maduro reflect a consistent pattern of destabilisation dressed as democracy promotion. The current naval escalation is merely the latest chapter, wielding military might to intimidate a defiant government.

Oil is the beating heart of this aggression. Venezuela holds 17-18 percent of global proven reserves, surpassing Saudi Arabia's Orinoco Belt. U.S. sanctions since 2017 have crippled Venezuela's exports by 99 percent, triggering hyperinflation that reached 1.7 million percent in 2018. Yet, Chevron's recent return to Venezuelan fields under U.S. license reveals the hypocrisy: Washington starves Caracas while eyeing its black gold. Maduro's pivot to Russia and

ela is a misdirection: fentanyl flows primarily from Mexico, and cocaine originates in Andean nations. Warships are ill-suited for drug interdiction, and strikes without due process expose the operation as electoral theatre. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, a fervent advocate of regime change, pushes for escalation, with whispers of drone strikes on Venezuelan soil. This sabre-rattling sacrifices regional stability for domestic applause, prioritizing MAGA optics over Latin American lives.

The cost falls heaviest on Venezuela's 28 million people, trapped by sanctions, economic ruin, and now the spectre of invasion. Hyperinflation has slashed wages to 3 monthly dollar; 7.7 million have fled since 2014, creating Latin America's largest exodus. Contested elections, with opposition claims of 67 percent support for Edmundo González, deepen internal strife, but U.S. strikes

only inflame chaos. Coastal families mourn sons killed as "traffickers" without trial, while militias swell with desperate patriots. An American onslaught would unleash catastrophic fallout: refugee surges overwhelming Colombia and Brazil, oil shocks spiking global prices to 100 dollar per barrel, and a failed state ripe for corporate exploitation. The Global South, including nations like India reliant on Venezuelan crude, would bear the economic brunt.

This intervention violates the UN Charter's principle of sovereignty, casting the U.S. as a self-appointed hemispheric enforcer. While ignoring domestic cartels like Sinaloa and MS-13, Washington targets a nation guilty of defying its economic and political orbit. History warns of the consequences: Iraq's phantom WMDs spawned ISIS; Libya's "humanitarian" intervention birthed chaos. Venezuela risks becoming another fractured state, partitioned for profit under the guise of liberation.

The international community must resist this overreach. The UN Security Council, though often paralysed, should demand de-escalation; CELAC and the Non-Aligned Movement must amplify calls for withdrawal. Brazil's Lula and Colombia's Petro have urged restraint; their voices need global support. Diplomacy, not gunboats, offers a path forward: sanctions relief tied to transparent elections could stabilize Venezuela without bloodshed.

As Venezuelan drones patrol the horizon, Maduro's government stands as a defiant underdog against America's naval Goliath. But empires crumble under the weight of their arrogance. The U.S. must withdraw its fleet, respect Venezuela's sovereignty, and abandon its imperial designs. Failure risks not just regional catastrophe but the erosion of a post-colonial order built on the principle of self-determination. The Caribbean's waves carry a timeless warning: imperialism's tide leaves only wreckage in its wake.

Karur Stampede Tragedy

KARUR: During the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, (TVK) Party president and actor Vijay’s political campaign meeting at Karur, Tamilnadu, 41 persons including 18 women, 13 men, 5 boys, and 5 girls were killed in a stampede.

More than 110 people injured in the stampede and admitted in hospitals. Fifty one people have been discharged, while 60 remain hospitalised — 51 at the Government Medical College and Hospital and others at few private hospitals.

This tragedy occurred because of Vijay’s 8 hours delay in arriving at the venue ,where the campaing took place.Poor arrangements made by the organisers,overwhelming crowd, narrow space, indiscipline of TVK party’s youths and TVK leaders violations of

M.Veerapandian

conditions stipulated by police also led to this tragedy. Vijay should take moral responsibility for this stampede deaths.

AIDMK , BJP and NDA parties are doing politics in this matter. They want to get political gain out of this tragedy.

TamilnaduState Secretary of Communist Party of India M. Veerapandian acted immediately and visitedKarur on September 28, 2025 and consoled the individuals admitted to the hospitals after being caught in the stampede at the Karur TVK campaign.

He also met with the families of the deceased and offered his condolences and paid homage to the victims. M.Veerapandian was accom-

panied by State executive committee members N. Periyasamy, Tiruppur M. Ravi, M. Selvaraj, A. Mohan, Karur CPI district secretary K. Kalarani, Trichy City secre-

tary S. Siva, Trichy Suburban secretary Rajkumar, Tiruppur Suburban secretary Isaac, Erode South secretary S.D. Prabhakaran, Namakkal district secretary Anbumani, All India Youth Federation state president Ra. Tamilperumal, All India Students Federa-

tion state secretary P. Dinesh state president K. Ibrahim,Tiruppur City executive Committee member Katte C. Ramasamy, K.N. Natrayan, and others.

They offered food and relief materials to the victims, in getting treatement at hospitals.



Tamil Nadu state secretary M.Veerapandian visits the Karur stampede victims

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CPI Decries Arrest of Sonam Wangchuk, Also Misuse of NSA in Ladakh

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued on September 27, 2025 the following statement:

The Communist Party of India strongly condemns the arrest of noted educationist and activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act following the recent protests in Ladakh. Invoking such a harsh law against a citizen peacefully raising democratic demands for statehood and Constitutional safeguards represents an unacceptable misuse of state power. This not only undermines the rights of the people of Ladakh but also reflects a dangerous trend of criminalising dissent and silencing democratic voices.

The CPI demands the immediate release of Sonam Wangchuk and all other activists detained in connection

with the protests, along with the unconditional withdrawal of all false and fabricated charges against them. The Party further demands an independent and transparent inquiry into the firing incident in Leh, which led to the tragic loss of lives and injuries, ensuring that those responsible are held accountable.

The BJP government, unilaterally abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories, bears direct responsibility for the turmoil and hardships faced by the people in this strategically sensitive region and should be held accountable. At the same time, the CPI urges the Government to initiate meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders in Ladakh and take urgent steps to bring back normalcy, peace, and confidence among the people.



Glimpses of the 25th Party Congress



On Record ...

Social entrepreneur Gitanjali J Angmo, the wife of jailed Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk, has rejected all allegations of her husband being an 'anti-national'. Four people died and over 50 were injured in Leh after Wangchuk's hunger strike spiraled into clashes. Wangchuk has faced allegations of being "anti-national" after the protests turned violent.

Angmo has pushed back online, highlighting her husband's work for the Indian armed forces. Wangchuk, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee and education reformer, has been charged under the National Security Act (NSA), which allows detention without trial for up to a year. — *thetelegraph.com*, September 30.

TVK chief and actor-politician Vijay "deliberately" reached late at Velusampuram in Karur district, leading to overcrowding and restlessness among the people, gathered to attend his rally on September 27, according to an FIR into the stampede in which at least 41 people have died and 60 were injured. While the FIR didn't name the TVK chief and was against three party office-bearers: Mathiyalagan (Karur district secretary), Bussy N Anand (state general secretary), and CTR Nirmal Kumar (state joint secretary), it said Vijay held roadshows without permission be-

fore reaching Velusampuram, and his vehicle halted amidst a crowd there. It also said TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) party functionaries did not regulate their cadres or heed police warnings against overcrowding. "Cadres perched atop tin sheets and tree branches, by throwing caution to the wind, fell on people standing below, and as a result, many choked, leading to an abnormal situation", police said in the First Information Report (FIR). — *thetelegraph.com*, September 30.

The final Bihar voter list published Tuesday has 7.42 voters, about 6 per cent less than 7.89 crore as on June 24 this year, the day the Election Commission of India announced a three-month Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state. While the Commission and Bihar Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) did not disclose how many foreigners were removed from the electoral roll, sources in Bihar told The Indian Express that nearly 99 per cent of the deletions were on account of death,

permanent migration and duplication, which probably suggests there were not many of them at first place. In the SIR, as many as 68.6 lakh names were struck off, of which 65 lakh were removed when the draft roll was published on August 1, and another 3.66 lakh during the claims and objections stage — the period when citizens can contest deletions or seek corrections in the draft roll. Alongside, 21.53 lakh new electors were added. — *theindianexpress.com*, September 30.

— Compiled by C. Adhikesavan



25TH CONGRESS COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE



D. RAJA
GENERAL SECRETARY



AMARJEET KAUR



DR. BK KANGO



RAMA KRUSHNA PANDA



ANNIE RAJA



DR. GIRISH SHARMA



K. PREKASH BABU



P. SANDOSH KUMAR



R. VENKAIAH



GULZAR GORIA



BINOY VISWAM



KP RAJENDRAN



M. VEERAPANDIAN



TM MURTHY



K. RAMAKRISHNA



A. VANAJA



K. SAMBASIVA RAO



PALLA VENKAT REDDY



PASYA PADMA



SWAPAN BANERJEE



RAMNARESH PANDEY



JANKI PASWAN



SANJAY KUMAR



ARVIND RAJ SWARUP



AM SALEEM



SAATHI SUNDARESH



KANAK GOGOI



NISHA SIDHU



PROF. DINESH VARSHNEY



Two positions in the National Council have been kept vacant for Punjab and Andhra Pradesh