



“Party ideology should be taken into the very depths of the society in order to resist atrocities of RSS and BJP. In Bihar state Assembly elections, BJP, headed by Modi, made a mockery of Election commission. It also made use of constitutional bodies as their puppets. The lesson should be taught to them by spreading our party into many new areas and sectors,” appealed D Raja, General Secretary, CPI, to all party ranks while addressing general body meeting of AP state council, CPI, at Dasari Bhavan, Vijayawada on Wednesday.

The meeting was presided over by Gujjula Eashwaraiah, newly elected AP state secretary, CPI. In the beginning D Raja congratulated K Ramakrishna and Palla Venkata Reddy elected as national secretaries, CPI, and Gujjula Eashwaraiah elected as AP state secretary, and finally other state secretariat members of CPI.

D Raja, further addressing, stated that BJP and RSS are weakening the democracy and secularism and making every attempt to dismantle Federalism in the country through which snatching away the rights of the states. Ultimately the result is that democracy in our country is getting destroyed. He also expressed concern that parliamentary system and

RESIST THE RIGHTIST FORCES, STRENGTHEN THE PARTY: CPI



D Raja, General Secretary, CPI, addressing the general body meeting

social justice are also facing the threat.

D Raja in his address spoke on struggles launched by the CPI and its victories, in the century that it has com-

While further addressing he made it clear that the role of Election commission has become questionable. In Bihar elections for voter registration the parents birth

Special Investigation Revision of voters list is nothing but to remove more votes against BJP and its allies. He has also demanded speedy electoral reforms in the coun-

organisation towards freedom struggle. They have not even registered the organisation. They never honoured tri-colour flag and Indian Constitution. They want to replace it with Manusmriti that preaches fundamental chauvinism.

D Raja while further addressing on Bihar elections shared concern on defeat of INDIA bloc. He reiterated that major party of bloc should have more adjusting stand in sharing of seats which would have led to victories to Congress and other partners of the bloc. Left parties should also introspect their stand in their ranks. Their subjective feelings should have been kept aside. Now the next target of BJP will be West Bengal followed by

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pleted after accomplishing foundation and future tasks.

certificates are also being demanded which is most unwanted. In Bihar, elections Election commission has imposed many hurdles to voters by demanding more certificates.

try. Raja also has pointed out that on the occasion of centenary celebrations of RSS, Modi has unveiled postage stamp featuring RSS symbols on the occasion but the fact is there is no role of saffron



Annie Raja, national secretary CPI, addressing the general body meeting



CPI General Secretary D Raja releasing a book named "Career Guidance" published by AIYF

Why Trump is Targeting India

India has a strong anti-imperialist history stemming from its freedom struggle against British rule. After independence, this led to a policy of non-alignment, maintaining distance from imperialist forces and aligning with the socialist bloc, while still pursuing a mixed economy. India's joining of BRICS similarly reflects anti-imperialist motives. However, over the years, China has benefited more from BRICS, as indicated by recent declarations by Russia, China, and Brazil's decision to substitute the dollar as an international currency has threatened US imperialism.

China, with its strong economy, has emerged as the second-largest economy and is becoming a manufacturing hub in the world. This has threatened the USA.

Russia and the former Soviet Union were always against US domination and interests. Brazil is always anti-USA because of the expansionist policies and dominance of the USA in South America. India, with its mixed economy and dependence on foreign aid and technology from developed imperialist countries, has a long-standing border dispute with China. Hence, the USA finds it easy to target India. At present, India is being ruled by a party which has no history in the freedom struggle, and its parent organisation, RSS, has always been against socialism and pro-USA. It has no relation to anti-imperialist struggle and always criticises India for its policies of non-alignment. In addition, the ruling party, which is the BJP and RSS, are dependent on the support of the

upper class and upper caste. Both these groups are enamoured of the USA. Hence, the USA rulers know the Indian rulers will do anything to have a good relationship to counter China, and hence, though they need the Indian market, they are pressurising the Indian ruling class to get a favourable deal by increasing tariffs, targeting H1b visas and student visas, as most Indians seek these routes to migrate to the USA.

Despite the anti-India stance of the US administration, our PM remains silent. The commerce ministry keeps assuring us that soon a favourable trade deal will be signed with the USA. The American president has confirmed this as well.

Editorial

Recent reports in India show that soybean, maize, and milk products will soon be imported from the USA. This will adversely affect our farmers. Already, because of US pressure, taxes on cotton exports have been reduced and are adversely affecting our cotton-growing farmers.

India faces a complex challenge. The rise of China requires stronger relations with the United States, yet the US often prioritises its own economic interests in India. Therefore, it is essential to pursue a foreign policy that safeguards Indian interests. Since the BJP assumed office, India's defence ties with Israel have strengthened. In fact, some of the defence products produced in India are being used by the Israeli army to attack Gaza. We are not saying anything about this. The

privatisation of our defence industry and increase in our defence exports tell a story of us becoming a part of the military industrial complex of imperialist countries. Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh boasted that our defence exports have reached 27,000 crore. On this background, our image of a peace-loving country is being tarnished. This militarisation suits hyper nationalism pursued by fascist rulers.

Dependence on multinational firms like Google, Microsoft, Facebook, etc. is obvious and a challenge. We need to develop indigenous technology; otherwise, our sovereignty in this interconnected world will be compromised, affecting our independent foreign policy.

For historical reasons, our defence is dependent on ex-Soviet and present Russian technology. India is a huge defence market, and the USA and other imperialist forces want their share in it. Hence, our relations with Russia are being targeted. The Indian government will have to navigate skilfully and shrewdly in future to maintain our independence.

The recent move by our PM to visit China for Shanghai Cooperation meeting was a correct move to counter US pressure, but more such efforts are needed to improve and strengthen our relationship with Russia, China and BRICS. Of course, that does not mean that we have a confrontationist attitude towards the USA and other developed countries, but we must balance our foreign policy as Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru did during his time. —**Dr B K Kango**

Resist the Rightist Forces...

From Front Page

Tamilnadu and Kerala. The constituent parties of INDIA bloc should introspect deeply. Big brother attitude should have been kept aside and adjust with small parties and groups in the interest of defending parliamentary system, democracy, secularism and above all Indian Constitution drafted by Baba Saheb Dr BR Ambedkar.

While addressing on party organisation he asked the party ranks to strengthen mass organisations, build up most disciplined and dedicated cadres at all levels. We

should create confidence among people that communists alone only stand by workers, farmers, and other toiling sections of our society.

Annie Raja, National secretary, CPI, in her address stated that she has worked in Bihar elections and visited many villages for 15 days. According to her observation through Special intensive Revision in Bihar lakhs of voters names were removed from voters lists, mainly of Dalits, Adivasis and minorities. She has appealed party ranks to be alert whenever SIR rep-

resentatives visit the state.

Palla Venkata Reddy, national secretary, CPI while addressing stated that entire world is looking towards victory of communists. Communist president got elected in Sri Lanka. In Nepal, all varieties of communists got united and merged into a single party and came to power. In New York city a communist got elected as Mayor of the city. Gujjula Eashwaraiah became state secretary.

CPI has given a call to observe on November 18 a huge protest against atrocities on Dalits, Adivasis and

minorities. On that theme massive demonstrations should take place in every center wherever our party unit exist. We should see to it that these extremely exploited classes should come to us for whom we are relentlessly working.

Muppalla Nageshwera Rao, national council member, CPI, in his address stated that on the occasion of centenary celebrations in every district, memorial be erected. On the occasion of culmination from every center, people be mobilised in big numbers to Khammam rally.

The meeting was attended by K Ramakrishna, National secretary, CPI, Akkineni

Vanaja, National executive member, CPI, State secretariat members Jangala Ajoy Kumar, Dega Prabhakar, Penumatsa Durga Bhavani, K Ramanjaneyulu, Thatipaka Madhu, and Jalli Wilson, chairman state control commission, Donepudi Shankar, NTR district party secretary. Earlier G Koteshwara Rao, Vijayawada party secretary, welcomed the guests and the audience. IPTA squad led by Chandra Nayak, and Penchalaiah, state president and general secretary, R pitchaiah, treasurer, state IPTA, have enthused the audience with revolutionary songs. D Raja released a book named "career guidance" published by AIYF.

— **Ramnarsimha Rao**

Engels: The Co-Founder of Marxism

Friedrich Engels was the one without whom Marxism could not have been complete. Born on November 28, 1820 in Barmen, in the Rhine province of the Kingdom of Prussia, Engels was inseparable from Marx. His father was a manufacturer. He was forced to leave his studies and join a commercial house in Barmen and yet he became one among the finest scholars and teachers of the modern proletariat. Lenin had written in his short biographical note on Engels, "From the time...the two friends came together, they devoted their life's work to a common cause. And to understand what Engels had done for the proletariat one must have a clear idea of the significance of Marx's teaching and work for the development of the contemporary working class movement." In fact Marx and Engels were the pioneers of the working class movement, which they explained as a class struggle to liberate the proletariat from the evils that keep the exploitation alive in the modern society.

Class struggle is the life line that leads society further. Engels had said that every class struggle is political, and hence conscious and organized since it is directed against the exploitative system itself. This brings a shift with the end of class domi-

nation over the other. It also ends the private property and anarchic social production. These ideas of Engels and Marx were taken up by a large section of the populace. They were also involved in producing socialist literature. As the social movements became wide spread, all of them were not scientifically oriented. Many of them were keen to change the society but failed to agree with the reality that there was a clash of interest between the proletariat and



the bourgeoisie. They also did not want to engage in violence as their understanding was that the ruling classes were unaware of the crisis the working class was facing. They were also horrified at the growth of the working class along with the capitalists. This led them to believe that industry must be stopped from developing further, and thus the wheels of history must be stopped. While clarifying these, Lenin said while writing about Engels that along with Marx, he put his efforts to make the working class

Krishna Jha

aware of itself and its strength. Engels and Marx substantiated the dreams of the proletariat with science.

It was a time when Hegel dominated the world of philosophy. Engels also became his follower though not for long. Hegel had admired the prevailing autocracy, but his teachings were revolutionary. The basics of his ideas were that entire universe is con-

stantly changing. There were some of those who implied these ideas of constant change, that was also explained as end of one and coming of the another, as a system of eternal change. Hegel was idealist and considered idea as the source of entire reality, including human and social relations. Engels, along with Marx stood up against these formulations, and also the absolute idea. They believed in material forces that help evolve nature. It was at this time that Engels wrote the book called

"The condition of the working class in England" in 1845. It was Engels who was the first to state that proletariat was not only suffering under acute deprivation, there is more to it. Their suffering forces them to rise against these adverse conditions and compels them to come up and fight for total emancipation. The revolt against the rulers for total emancipation gives rise to political movement of the working class and ultimately makes them realize that socialism only could be the solution. Lenin said about the book written by Engels as "a Terrible indictment of capitalism and the bourgeoisie, and has created a profound impression". Lenin also wrote that neither before 1845 nor after had there appeared so striking and truthful picture — a picture of the misery of the working class. Engels became a socialist after he came to England and in Manchester, he came in contact with labour movement leaders. By this time Marx too had become socialist. Jointly they wrote "The Holy Family, or Critique of Critical Criticism". This book contains the basics of revolutionary materialist socialism. From 1845 to 1847, Engels was in Brussels and Paris. Here they came in touch with secret German Communist League and were

requested to write on the main principles of the socialism they had both worked out by then. Thus came the Manifesto of the Communist Party, with principles of communism.

Marx settled in London and Engels became a clerk and then a share holder in a Manchester Commercial firm. Both were jointly working on scientific socialism. Here soon they both together got engaged in joint intellectual work, as Engels shifted to London in 1870. Of Engels's works, mostly polemical, were about the scientific issues, and written with materialist conception of history. They worked hard till 1883 when Marx died. His greatest work, three volumes of Capital, which was edited and same time rewritten by Engels, was brought out. Marx had left the world even before he could manage the final touches. The other books written by Engels were Ludwig Feuerbach and the End of Classical German Philosophy, as Feuerbach had stressed on materialism, not on dialectics. He also wrote "On The History of early Christianity," "Anti Dühring", with three component parts of Marxism, two great articles on housing question, Dialectics of Nature etc. Engels had also specialized on Natural sciences and military affairs. He was also founder of Second International!

Nearly 2.7 million workers have been locked out of the digital framework of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA), the only employment guarantee scheme for the poor rural workers, between October 10 and November 14, 2025. Their names have been ultimately deleted from the MGNREGA database, rendering them jobless, which is unkindest cut of all. Draft Shram Shakti Niti 2025, if accepted, is likely to digitally lock out millions of workers both in urban and rural areas, the experts have warned.

It should be recalled that the Union Ministry of Labour

have published the Draft of the Shram Shakti Niti 2025 - National Labour and Employment Policy of India on October 8, and invited the stakeholders, institutions, and members of the public to submit their feedback, comments, and suggestion within 20 days by October 27, 2025. Internet Freedom Federation (IFF) had submitted its objection warning that the digital framework without protection may lock

out informal workers, rural labourers, and migrant workers from the employment system of the country.

The deletion of names of 2.7 million MGNREGA workers in just one month, has vindicated the IFF's objection, and this is just beginning even under the older digital framework being implemented by the Union Government. During this period only 10.5 lakh additions were made.

Dr Gyan Pathak

The deletion coincides with the Union Government's making e-KYC (electronically know your customer) process mandatory, purportedly to weed out ineligible beneficiaries, and to put break on corruption. Nevertheless, the officials of the Union Ministry of Rural Development have been quoted ruling out any correlation be-

tween the e-KYC drive and the deletions.

The Officials said that verification of the MGNREGA job cards is a continuous process and the onus is on the State governments and ultimately, the gram panchayats, to carry this out. One thing which they did not say that it was the digital framework which is used to prevent workers from get-

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New Age Weekly

An Unkindest Cut for MNREGA Workers

Draft Shram Shakti Niti 2025 if Accepted May Lock out Millions

After reading the names and seeing the photographs published in newspapers, it has become clear that those killed in the Delhi bomb blast included both Hindus and Muslims. The explosion occurred at Gate No. 1 of the LalQila (Red Fort) metro station — an area that is always crowded and frequented by people from all communities.

According to reports so far, 13 people have been killed and many others injured. It is being said that the terrorists had planned a large-scale massacre but failed to carry it out. In the past few days, weapons and explosive materials have been seized from various parts of the country.

It is deeply distressing that a significant number of doctors are reportedly involved in this conspiracy. The duty of doctors is to save lives, serve the injured, treat the sick, and create conditions that prevent disease. How can anyone who has taken the oath to heal humanity turn to violence and destruction? Such actions are a complete betrayal of medical ethics and human values.

The Government of India had claimed that once Article 370 was abrogated, terrorism would end. Similar promises were made during demonetization and after the Pulwama attack. All these statements have proved to be hollow political slogans and false propaganda.

Through continuous media campaigns, the government succeeded in convincing many people of these claims. At the same time, the RSS-BJP government also managed to spread hatred among Hindus against Kashmiris, particularly Muslims. Later, certain films further deepened these prejudices, and — in line with a well-planned political strategy — an atmosphere of hatred and communal poison was deliberately fostered to maintain political power.

When 26 people were killed in Pahalgam — including one Muslim — the RSS and its affiliated organizations once again launched a campaign of communal propaganda. The Prime Minister then declared that any such incident in the future would be treated as an attack on the nation, and all those involved in or supporting terrorism would be completely destroyed. The Delhi bomb blast, therefore, could have dangerous consequences.

A deeper international conspiracy behind it linked to

forces interested in destabilizing South Asia cannot be ruled out. Arms manufacturing companies, especially from the United States, may have an interest in fomenting unrest in the region.

It is true that there was anger among the people of Kashmir after the removal of Article 370. However, after the Pahalgam incident, the people of Kashmir stood united against terrorism — not only condemning it verbally but also taking to the streets in protest. Sadly, the government failed to build on this positive sentiment.

After “Operation Sindoor,” teams were sent abroad to seek international support, but no tangible outcome was achieved. The risk, therefore, remains that “Operation Sindoor” could be repeated.

On the same day as the Delhi blast, a bomb explosion in Islamabad, Pakistan, killed 12 people. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, without any evidence, blamed India for the attack. This shows that terrorists are willing to strike anywhere — they have no respect for human life.

Communal Poison Deliberately Spread to Maintain Power

Dr Arun Mitra

If war now breaks out between India and Pakistan, it will not end within days. Large numbers of soldiers and civilians would be killed, and both already impoverished nations would be driven toward ruin and instability.

An even more dangerous development is taking place in Pakistan. Under a recent constitutional amendment bill, the army chief will hold all powers — including control over the nuclear button. Concentrating such immense power in a single individual poses a grave risk, as one wrong decision could lead to catastrophe.

In today’s environment of religious extremism and hostility between nations, the risk of nuclear confrontation has increased dramatically. Studies suggest that the use of nuclear weapons could kill as many as two billion people — an unimaginable human tragedy.

India’s nuclear doctrine states that the country will not be the first to use nuclear weapons. However, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has

stated that this policy could be revised if necessary. Pakistan’s doctrine, by contrast, allows the use of nuclear weapons even in response to a conventional attack. This makes it clear that even a limited conventional war could escalate into a nuclear conflict — the consequences of which would be catastrophic for the entire region and the world.

In these tense circumstances, utmost restraint is required from all sides. People must maintain peace and communal harmony. It must be understood that terrorism has no religion.

Educated young men and women turning toward terrorism is an alarming trend — and while the causes may not be economic, it is vital to understand why such extremist, hate-driven mindsets are developing.

Governments too must act with restraint. Pakistan remains under strong military influence, and India must not fall into the trap of emotional or aggressive reactions. Given the changed situation in Bangladesh, China’s immense military power, and the looming nuclear threat, avoiding war at all costs is not just prudent — it is essential for the survival of humanity.

Draft Shram Shakti ...

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ting jobs under the scheme, and allegation that has been raised by the MGNREGA workers organisation ever since it was launched in May 21, 2021 as pilot project, using the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app. It was made mandatory for all worksites, except individual beneficiary scheme) from January 1, 2023.

There have been many rules under which works are denied to MGNREGA workers. According to the rules, job cards must be renewed every five years. The officials have been quoted saying that this exercise is

currently underway, adding “We have also issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) for the deletion of any job card, which includes putting out the job cards finalised for deletion in public domain, allowing time for the beneficiaries to file an appeal, and a final approval from the Gram Sabha.”

The Centre has mandated e-KYC, and had issued a 13-page note to the state government on July 8, 2025. The e-KYC process requires the mates, or MGNREGA supervisors, to click pictures of each of the workers and upload them on the NMMS, to match their photographs with their Aadhaar data. Under

NMMS, geo-tagged photographs of the workers are to be uploaded twice a day. It has been problematic due to poor connectivity locking many workers out from the employment system.

Nevertheless, the Union Ministry of Rural Development note stated that “irrelevant or unrelated photographs” were being uploaded. In many cases “photo-to-photo capturing instead of live work images” was being done. There was also “mismatch in actual vs recorded count.”

After the NMMS system, the Centre has made the Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS) mandatory

from the beginning of 2023. Any discrepancy in worker’s name, photo, Aadhaar card, job card, and bank account, is enough to deny them work. It is in spite of the fact that the government documents themselves contain many errors, for which no official is accountable. It makes genuine workers suffer.

The consortium of activists and academicians Lib Tech, has just flagged this “unusual” rate of deletion from the MGNREGA database. It said that over the last six months, deletions added up to about 15 lakh. However, in just one month, they shot up to 27 lakh, nearly double in previous six-month. In the first six month of the financial year 2025-26, the scheme had net additions of

83.6 lakh workers. Total addition was 98.8 lakh as against deletion of 15.2 lakh.

The Lib Tech said that by mid-November, the net additions had fallen to 66.5 lakh, effectively wiping out 17 lakh workers in a month. It is very distressing for the 6 lakh active workers whose names were deleted, who have worked at least one day in the past three years, making them eligible beneficiaries.

The current deletion of the names of workers is the outcome of implementation of all these digital frameworks, without providing protection to genuine workers. MGNREGA digital framework shows how workers are being locked out from digital framework based employment system. ●

The state cabinet of Telangana is proposing to enact the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025 mandating transparency in the algorithmic management of gig workers. The law would prohibit arbitrary termination, requiring a seven-day notice period before deactivation except in safety-related cases. By compelling algorithmic disclosure in task allocation, bonuses, and ratings, Telangana's proposed framework is expected to become India's most comprehensive legislative measure for gig worker protection, surpassing similar initiatives in Karnataka, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan.

This state-level intervention reveals two crucial insights. On one hand, it suggests that contemporary labour protection increasingly entails the regulation of technology, and on the other hand, it underscores that the national law governing technology and data, namely, the Digital Personal Data Protection ('DPDP') Act, 2023 does not incorporate labour law principles to harmoniously protect the interest of gig workers, arguably, the most vulnerable stakeholders in India's expanding digital economy.

The DPDP Act was one of the many major outcomes of the Puttuswamy Judgement (2017), which held that privacy is a fundamental right rooted in human dignity and autonomy. The Act contains suggestions made by the Srikrishna Committee Report, incorporating the principles of free and fair consent, data minimization and mechanism of data fiduciaries and significant data fiduciaries

This paper argues that the Act fails to protect the most vulnerable actors in the digital economy: gig-workers. While the Act incorporates the graded nature of privacy and data protection, it does not address data protection requirements for the gig workers. Further this essay

Gig Workers Need Labour Sensitive Data Protection Law

*Sophy K.J.,
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aims to elaborate on different data protection measures required within the DPDP framework to safeguard the interests of gig workers.

Section 6 of the DPDP Act specifies that "consent" has to be free, specific, informed and unambiguous. However, these standards do not apply to gig workers since they are bound by stringent contractual prescriptions. For instance, when a gig worker clicks on "I agree" to the terms and conditions of an aggregator platform like Ola or Uber, they agree to the aggregator's absolute control over both the labour process and personal data. The platform uses data for profiteering businesses in the market.

is intervened through protective measures. The absolute contractual positioning of gig workers creates a disguise of fair consent. Data protection law is supposed to balance the asymmetry in information between the individual and the data processors. But the DPDP Act does not look at the asymmetry in information and bargaining power between the aggregator and the gig worker. Therefore, its reliance on the consent of the gig workers makes them more vulnerable.

Academics M.J. Taylor and J. M. Paterson have

asymmetry between the aggregators and gig workers compels the workers to agree to any form of control over their data and therefore, the concept of fairness is flawed in such a relationship from the beginning. Moreover, aggregators as profit oriented corporate entities function on extraction and commercialisation of data. This contradicts their obligation to be a fair data fiduciary of the gig workers.

The data fiduciary model is centered on the principle of data minimization accepted in both the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') and the DPDP Act. The principle of Data Minimisation prohibits indiscriminate and unlimited use

retained post-contract termination for targeted advertising or street mapping. Take Uber's privacy policy, for instance, which allows third parties like Meta to access worker data for targeted advertising, without notifying the worker each time such data is shared.

It is for this reason that the issue of additional protection of worker's data was raised in the ILO Code of Practice in 1997 which noted that workers' data should be processed only for "reasons directly relevant to the employment..." In practice, this would mean that gig workers should have the right to refuse data collection, or transfer of data to third parties for purposes not directly connected to their work. What data is collected, how much and how long should be determined by what is directly relevant to employment.

Some contemporary frameworks apply these principles in limited form. For instance, the California Consumer Privacy Rights Act, enacted in 2020, extended to employees the right to request information about the personal data collected and used by their employers, a right previously available only to consumers. This marks a move towards transparency, aligning more closely with the ILO's 1997 Code and the fiduciary conception under GDPR. This is a best practice that can be transplanted into the DPDP Act.

To understand working conditions within the platform economy, we need to look at the mechanics of remote-control. Algorithmic Management is what makes it possible. It refers to automated or semi-automated decision-making tools which rely on data collection and surveillance of workers. It

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This makes gig workers more vulnerable than consumers. While a consumer logs into Netflix or Facebook to access a service, a gig-worker logs into Uber or Swiggy to access means of livelihood. This dependency for livelihood warrants more protection for gig workers.

This is where labour law and data protection law intersect. Labour law equates power imbalances between employers and workers through the collective bargaining framework. This ensures that the voices of workers are heard and social power of the employer

hailed the data fiduciary model as an alternative to the consent-centric model of data protection. According to former model, aggregators should act in fiduciary capacities, handling the data of gig workers for their benefit. The fiduciary capacity of the aggregators imply that platforms are not mere intermediaries collecting and processing data but have an absolute obligation to ensure fairness and transparency in handling data of the workers.

However, the fiduciary model fails in the context of gig workers. The power

of data for any purpose. In the landmark case of Maximilian Schrems v Meta Platforms Ireland Ltd (2024), the Court of Justice of the European Union explained that this principle precludes any personal data from being aggregated, analysed and processed for any purpose without restrictions of time and data types.

While in theory, the principle of data minimization is a good procedural safeguard, in practice gig worker's data collection is pervasive. Gig worker's daily routine is kept under watch, led and the data collected is used and often

Curtailment of Punjab's Power Sparks Outcry

Why do the people of Punjab feel that the state's powers, hold, and authority are being curtailed? What indications reflect this impression? Aredismantling the structure of the Punjab University Senate, weakening Punjab's role in Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), controlling the clutch, gears, brakes and race of is Chandigarh administration by the centre, downsizing Punjab's share in its functioning, merely a coincidence? Probably not, these actions themselves speak about some conspiracy. Political observers think so. Punjab political leaders, setting aside their affiliations, also allege on the same line.

Supporting the students, who are agitating over the issue of downsizing the Senate of Punjab University (PU) by the centre, Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, while stating on 10th November, alleged, "From Parliament to our Universities, the BJP is dismantling every democratic space and replacing it with control, nomination, and blind obedience. Punjab University was built on the spirit of autonomy, debate, and academic freedom — values that the BJP cannot tolerate. This is not reform. This is the death of democracy on our campuses."

"The youth of Punjab will not allow Punjab University, a living emblem of our intellectual and cultural legacy — to become a pawn in the BJP's political game," he said, "If the Centre continues this undemocratic interference, it will face stiff and united resistance from the people of Punjab, Bajwa warned."

On 15 November, Shiromani Akali Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal called on all political parties and social organisations to set aside partisan interests and support the issue concerning Panjab University.

Jag Mohan Thaken

Raising an alarm for the future step of the BJP-led central government to bring the Chandigarh administration system under its clutches, Badal said, "PU issue is the first attempt to capture a prestigious institute of Punjab, and that after this, attempts are lined up to change the character of Chandigarh."

He said that he had learnt that a separate recruitment policy for Chandigarh was being prepared. He said that when the state was reorganised in 1966, it was decided to post officers in a ratio of 60:40 from Punjab and Haryana, and now, attempts are being made to create a separate cadre for Chandigarh along the lines of other UTs.

Commenting on the posting of outsiders in Chandigarh by the centre, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann raised the issue of maintaining the status quo of the 60:40 ratio in the intake of service personnel from Punjab and Haryana in the functioning of the UT of

Chandigarh, and said that it is the need of the hour. He said that it is a matter of grave concern that officers of the IAS and the PCS have been excluded from key positions in the Chandigarh administration. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that posts in departments such as Excise, Education, Finance, and Health are being opened to cadres like the state UT cadre (DANICS), thereby adversely affecting the role of the state of Punjab in the effective functioning of the UT administration.

Why is Punjab Chief Minister and SAD Supremo Sukhbir Singh Badal showing concern about the outsiders' entry in the Chandigarh administration? Is Punjab's share of officers in Chandigarh administration being decreased by the centre? Indian Express (IE) on

its website edition dated 6th November, reports, "Once regarded as a close-knit force run by homegrown officers deeply familiar with the city's pulse, the Chandigarh Police today function under a markedly different structure — one increasingly steered by officers from outside cadres."

"Over the past decade, the city's more than 6,000-personnel-strong police force has undergone a quiet yet defining transformation, with key command posts now largely held by officers from the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territory) and DANIPS (Delhi Andaman and Nicobar Islands Police Service) cadres, reducing the once dominant role of Chandigarh Police Service (CPS) officers. Either the IGP (Inspector General of Police) or DGP (Director General of Police) — who have always been the IPS officers from the AGMUT cadre — heads the Chandigarh Police.

Eight IPS (Indian Police Service) officers currently serve in the Chandigarh Police; of these, six top posts are headed by AGMUT officers, and two others — SSP (Chandigarh Police) and SSP (Traffic and Security) — are headed by officers of Punjab and Haryana, respectively. Another top post — SP (Crime and Commandant IRBn) — is headed by a DANIPS cadre officer", adds IE.

On the issue of Panjab University, the state Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann also pleads that the university has a deep connection with the people of Punjab, adding that it is only Punjab which has been supporting and nurturing this University for the last 50 years. Now, at this stage, he said that we do not understand why Haryana wants to affiliate its colleges with Panjab University, when they have already been affiliated for the last 50 years

with Kurukshetra University, an A+ NAAC-accredited university. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that he fails to understand what has changed for Haryana to now seek this affiliation, having ignored Panjab University for the last 50 years.

The Chief Minister said that as far as the funding of Punjab University is concerned, Punjab has always financially supported this University and is committed to doing this in the future, also as per a mutually consultative process. He said that the Centre's recent attempts to restructure the university governance have been seen as interference in Punjab's rights and to its state identity and autonomy. Bhagwant Singh Mann cautioned that Punjab University is not just an academic institution but forms an integral part of Punjabi identity, adding that he urged the restoration of democratic processes, including the announcement of elections for the original 91-member Senate.

Punjab Chief Minister has also raised his voice, where he is smelling that the role of Punjab is being shortened. He has vehemently reiterated his claim over Chandigarh, Punjab University, river waters, besides advocating a genuine federal structure in the country before the Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held on November 17, 2025.

Flagging the issues, the Chief Minister said that the Indian Constitution clearly demarcated areas in which the Union and the States have to function to exercise their respective authority. He said that Federalism remains one of the basic pillars of our Constitution, but unfortunately, there has been a trend towards centralisation of authority during the past 75 years. Mann underlined that the state governments, being at the cutting edge, are in a much better position to understand, address, and solve the problems of their people. Vehemently pleading for handing over Chandigarh to the state of Punjab, the

Chief Minister said that after the reorganisation of the state Indira Gandhi Agreement of 1970 explicitly stated that the capital project area of Chandigarh will, as a whole, go to Punjab, which was a clear commitment from the Central Government. He said that the Rajiv-Longowal Accord signed on July 24th, 1985, between the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, explicitly reaffirmed that Chandigarh will be transferred to Punjab. However, C M Mann bemoaned that despite all promises, Chandigarh was not transferred to Punjab, which has bruised the psyche of every Punjabi.

Voicing the issue of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), the Chief Minister forcefully opposed the proposal to appoint a whole-time Member in BBMB from Rajasthan, as the board is a body constituted under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, which concerns only the successor states of Punjab and Haryana. He said that Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh are already represented as ex officio members, and creating additional whole-time posts will only increase expenditure, most of which is borne by Punjab, without serving any useful purpose. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Punjab has already submitted a panel for the Appointment of Members, and the Government of India should continue with the original arrangement of one Member each from Punjab and The Chief Minister said that Punjab is always at the mercy of BBMB and its bureaucratic controls, adding that in case the control of the headworks is also taken away from Punjab will be facing huge difficulties in controlling floods.

Do these steps of the central government to curtail the hold of Punjab, as alleged, in different institutions, reflect indications of some political vendetta? Is there any dense smoke of conspiracy being aired over Punjab to make the atmosphere of the state hazy?

India's Electoral Integrity at Crossroads

Allegations, Deletions and the Battle to Reclaim Democratic Trust

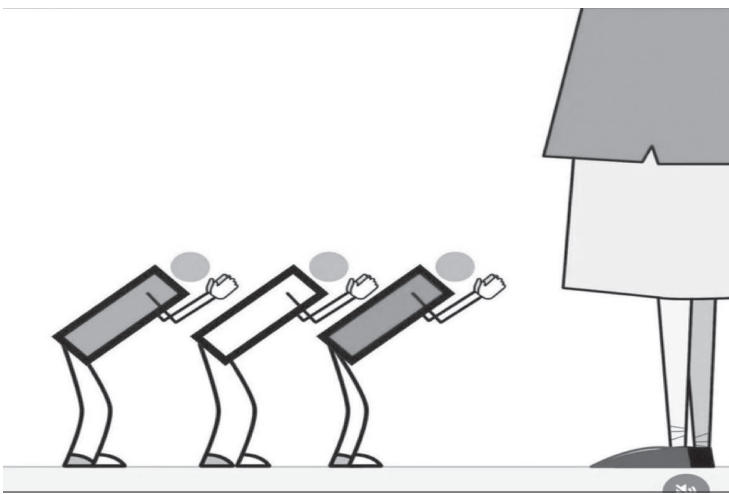
India's electoral democracy, once celebrated as the world's largest, now faces a critical juncture. Mounting allegations of manipulation, institutional opacity, and eroding public trust have cast a shadow over the integrity of the electoral process. The Election Commission of India (ECI), long regarded as the guardian of fair elections, is under unprecedented scrutiny for its handling of voter rolls, transparency, and institutional independence. As the nation prepares for crucial state and national polls, the debate over electoral safeguards has become central to the broader project of democratic nation-building.

The controversy erupted in Haryana's October 2024 assembly elections, where Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged a massive "vote chori" (vote theft) involving 25 lakh fake or duplicate voters—roughly one in eight of the state's 2 crore electorate. These included duplicate entries, invalid addresses, and bulk voting at single locations. Gandhi cited a viral case in which the photo of Brazilian model Larissa Nery appeared 22 times under different names across 10 polling booths, enabling proxy voting. He argued that this manipulation flipped a projected Congress landslide into a narrow 22,779-vote victory for the BJP.

The ECI's response was procedural: it pointed out that no formal objections were filed by Congress agents during the revision process and demanded sworn affidavits before launching any inquiry. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar dismissed the allegations as unsubstantiated, emphasizing that voter lists are dynamic and subject to local verification. However, critics

argue that the burden of proof is unfairly shifted to challengers, especially when ECI data remains inaccessible. An NDTV probe in the Rai constituency uncovered anomalies such as deleted legitimate voters and house number "0" entries, suggesting centralized tampering.

Central to these disputes is Form 17C, a statutory record from each polling station that details votes cast via EVMs, total voters, and turn-



out percentages. While this form is shared with polling agents, it is not made public. Petitions by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and others sought booth-wise uploads of Form 17C within 48 hours of polling, arguing that this would prevent discrepancies like the 5-9% national turnout hikes seen in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Supreme Court declined interim relief, noting no malice proven, but ongoing suits highlight the ECI's "higher responsibility" to ensure transparency.

The ECI defends its position by citing logistical challenges: with over 10 lakh polling booths, real-time uploads risk errors, and data is already available to agents. However, critics see this as deflection, especially when searchable voter lists lack photos, making it difficult to detect duplicates. The Brazilian model case in Haryana illustrated this problem: pho-

tos were removed after the allegation surfaced, frustrating efforts to verify the claims.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, piloted in Bihar and now rolling out nationally, aims to "purify" lists by removing deceased, shifted, or ineligible entries. In Bihar, the draft rolls excluded 65.13 lakh voters—a 4.3% drop from the previous 7.9 crore—exceeding the ECI's projection by 3.66 lakh. Border districts

like West Champaran saw higher deletion rates, hinting at targeted impacts on transient populations.

The SIR process relies on house-to-house verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who are often party-affiliated. Critics argue that this creates opportunities for partisan bias, especially when Aadhaar is rejected in some cases despite ECI directives. The lack of machine-readable 2003 data forces manual searches, hindering duplicate detection via AI tools the ECI possesses but underuses. Absentee notices and appeals remain notification-deficient, discovered only at polling time.

The ECI's autonomy is further questioned by its appointment mechanism. A March 2023 Supreme Court verdict mandated a committee of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and Chief Justice of India for appointments, aiming for neutrality. However, the gov-

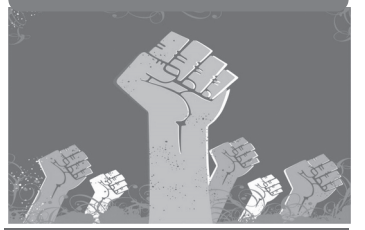
ernment swiftly replaced the CJI with a Cabinet Minister, yielding a 2:1 ruling-party edge. This has been used to appoint recent commissioners, raising concerns about institutional capture.

Compounding this, December 2024 amendments to Rule 93(2)(b) barred public inspection of CCTV, webcasts, and candidate videos, ostensibly for privacy but timed after Punjab-Haryana High Court orders for Haryana footage. Documents reveal lightning-speed clearance despite law officers' objections, with the ECI citing misuse risks like deepfakes. Former CEC S.Y. Quraishi called it a "setback to transparency," while Kumar defended it as protecting "bahus and betis."

Perceptions of ECI partiality are compounded by selective enforcement. In Bihar, ¹ 10,000 Maiya Samman payments to 1.5 crore women—mere days before Phase-I polling—evaded bribery probes, unlike similar schemes in Tamil Nadu. Full-page election-day ads and communal rhetoric by ruling figures breached the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), yet faced no censure, contrasting with swift notices to opposition speakers. Videos of BJP-funded "voter trains" in Bihar circulated unchecked, while Haryana's "H-Files" (evidence dossiers) prompted rule tweaks denying CCTV access post-high court orders.

These lapses have far-reaching consequences. In Haryana, the BJP's 48-seat win hinged on a 22,779-vote margin, where fake votes could tip the scales. In Bihar, with 74 million voters, Phase-I's 64.66% turnout masks exclusions, with the NDA favored for 150+ seats. Globally, parallels to U.S. 2020 or Brazil's 2022 disputes

STUDY & STRUGGLE



C. Adhikesvan

warn of legitimacy erosion; domestically, they fuel abstention among youth and minorities.

Marginalized groups bear the brunt: poor Hindus and Muslims alike lack passports/birth certificates (held by <10%), while the Citizenship Amendment Act's non-Muslim bias fails uptake (few Assam applicants). The ECI's 800-staff limit relies on state machinery, but without oversight, it invites capture. Research from ADR highlights 4-5% annual ghost voters pre-SIR, yet post-revision opacity invites more distrust.

Path Forward: Audits, Tech, and Accountability

Reform blueprints emphasize community safeguards: booth-level social audits—public hearings video-recorded and online, cross-verifying names via gram sabhas—offer grassroots purity, as piloted in Kerala. Proactive transparency mandates machine-readable rolls for AI de-duping (names/photos/addresses) and real-time Form 17C uploads (turnout logs). Independent oversight—multi-party panels or civil society monitors—could enforce MCC equitably.

Supreme Court dockets signal momentum: August 2025 rulings curbed deletions sans cause; October probes eyed Haryana; November adjourns SIR constitutionality. Civil actions, like RTIs yielding BLO biases, amplify pressure. As Bihar's polls peak (Phase-V on November 20), 66.91% projected turnout demands verifiable integrity. Ultimately, restoring faith hinges on an ECI that prioritizes voters over vectors—ensuring rolls reflect India's plural pulse, not partisan prisms.

CPI Observes Social Justice Day Across the Country

On the nationwide call of the Communist Party of India (CPI), Social Justice Day was observed across the country on 18 November 2025. Protests, sit-ins, and demonstrations were organised to raise voices against injustice towards Dalits, women, and other marginalised groups.

Delhi

As part of the CPI's all-India protest day against attacks on Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, and women, a sit-in was organised on 18 November 2025 by the West Delhi district unit at Shyam Colony, Sector-23, Rohini Bus Stand. The event was addressed by CPI State Secretary Dinesh Varshney, Shankarlal (District Secretary and State Secretariat Member), Mukesh Kashyap (AITUC Deputy General Secretary, Delhi State), Sujit Gandhi, and Brijbhushan Tiwari. While addressing the gathering, Varshney appealed to the people to unite and fight against communal and fascist attacks targeting Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, and women.

Uttar Pradesh

The programme was also carried out on a large scale in Uttar Pradesh. Recently, on 16 October as well, the party had raised these issues—along with farmers' issues—across the state. On 18 November, too, CPI district leaders, workers, and party officials organised demonstrations, sit-ins, marches, and memorandum submissions in various districts.

In the memoranda submitted and, in their speeches, party leaders said that Uttar Pradesh, the largest state in India with more than 240 million people, continues to witness unending atrocities against Dalits, women, and minorities. According to the



National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports, UP ranked first in crimes against SC/ST communities and women in 2023. Atrocities against Dalits remain at their peak under the BJP government in the state.

Right under the nose of the state government, an elderly man from the Pasi community was insulted in a temple near Lucknow and

such incidents can be listed. Expressing sorrow over the victims' suffering, the statement took a dig at the government, saying that in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's state, bulldozers are never sent to the houses of criminals and strongmen; bulldozers are used only against the homes of citizens belonging to oppressed communities.

alleged religious conversion, sometimes over graveyards. Any issue is picked up and then publicised 24 hours a day through the lapdog media. The values of a secular Constitution are trampled upon. Those who speak about constitutional values are accused of "appeasement."

In reality, this is a Manuvadi, anti-minority agenda being pushed under

their veins, and they look up to Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Shaheed Bhagat Singh, numerous social reformers, revolutionaries, Gautam Buddha, and Karl Marx as their ideals. All these great personalities taught people to struggle for their rights and for a dignified life.

By the time of writing this report, information regarding the programmes had been received from the districts of Bhadohi, Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Pilibhit, Jalaun, Agra, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Varanasi, Azamgarh, Kanpur Nagar, Hathras, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Mau, Mathura, Sonbhadra, Bulandshahr, Deoria, Barabanki, Lucknow, Mirzapur, Chitrakoot, Bareilly, Banda, Fatehpur, Bahraich, Faizabad–Ayodhya, Allahabad, Sultanpur, Kanpur Dehat, Kaushambi, Farrukhabad and others.

Khaga (Fatehpur)

Under its nationwide call, the Communist Party of India, Fatehpur (Uttar Pradesh) held a sit-in and demonstration at the Khaga Tehsil and sent a 17-point memorandum to the Hon'ble President of India through the Tehsildar of Khaga. Before the demonstration, the Agricultural Labourers Union held a sit-in and meeting near the Dak Bungalow in Khaga. After this, a march was taken out, and the memorandum was submitted.

The movement was led by District Secretary Ram Prakash and District President of the Agricultural Labourers Union, Suman Singh Chauhan. On this occasion, Party State Executive Member Motilal (Advocate), State Council Member Phoolchand Pal, Ramchandra, Ram Avatar Singh, Party Assistant Secretary Ramkrishna Hegde,



was forced to lick his own urine. In Banthra, a Class 11 student was raped. In Raebareli, a young man from the Valmiki community was beaten to death. Countless

Minorities are constantly kept under communal attack—sometimes in the name of "love jihad", sometimes for wearing a cap, sometimes for their attire, sometimes for

the cover of Hindutva. The statement further said that communists have learned the lessons of socialism and equality; the opposition to casteism and injustice runs in

District Council Member Pooranlal, Kamla Devi, Meena Devi, Usha Devi, Jagdev Bhai, Jagannath, Advocate Nem Singh, Ram Sumer Singh Yadav, Advocate Vinod Kumar, Advocate Gyanendra Singh, Advocate Jung Bahadur Singh, Amar Singh, Ram Shankar Sharma, Ramnaresh Nishad, Kaleshwar Kori, Chhote Lal Kori, Kamta Prasad, Madanlal, Harishchandra, Gaya Prasad and many others were present.

Chitrakoot

As part of the CPI's nationwide protest day, hundreds of workers of the CPI District Council, Chitrakoot, under the leadership of District Secretary Amit Yadav, took out a procession from the camp office, raising slogans such as "Long live farmer-labour unity!", "Give compensation for crops damaged by natural calamities!", "Corrupt officials, come to your senses!", and "Inquilab Zindabad!" The march proceeded from the court premises to the district headquarters, where a meeting was held and a protest demonstration was conducted.

Sushil Singh, a member of the CPI District Secretariat, said that the suffering and pain of innocent Dalits, who have fallen victim to the atrocities of a casteist, manuvadi, hierarchical, patriarchal, authoritarian society, has reached its peak.

Atrocities against Dalits in Uttar Pradesh are at their highest under the BJP government. Assistant Secretary Sandeep Pandey expressed concern over the recent unseasonal rains that destroyed paddy crops and the condition of farmers, demanding that the government provide appropriate compensation while protecting the interests of sharecroppers, and ensure adequate supply of essential fertilisers and seeds in time for the sowing of Rabi crops.

After the meeting, a 25-point memorandum addressed to the Hon'ble President of India was sub-

mitted to the Naib Tehsildar of Karvi, Himanshu Dwivedi. Among those present in the protest were Rajendra Kumar, Shiv Naresh Singh, Kamlesh, Revati Raman, Ramchandra, Nanku,

Secretary Naseem Ansari. Prominent participants included Anand Malviya, Sheetla Prasad Vishwakarma, Mustakeem Ahmad, Jitendranath Prajapati, Ganesh Prasad,



UP

Baldev Vishwakarma, Shivbaran, Kamalakant, Hanuman, Pradyum Kumar, Lallu Ram, Ram Vijay, Rajnarayan, Dinesh, Mumtaz Ali, Lotan, Ram Nirajan, Chandra Mohan Gupta, Bhaiya Lal, Natthu Yadav, along with hundreds of others.

Prayagraj

On the nationwide call of the Communist Party of India (CPI), 'Social Justice Day' was observed at district headquarters across the country. Under this slogan, the party strongly condemned the atrocities and violence being committed against Dalits, Adivasis, women, minorities, and other vulnerable sections of society — including mob lynching, rape, and brutal killings. The memorandum appealed to the Hon'ble President to direct the Central and State governments to curb such incidents. It also demanded adequate financial assistance for farmers whose paddy crops were severely damaged due to untimely rains. The 21-point memorandum was received by the ADM City, who assured that it would be forwarded to the President.

The sit-in and demonstration were led by District

Pradeep, Sudhir Kumar, Ashok Rao, and Munna.

Seoni

CPI Madhya Pradesh State Executive Member Yeeshu Prakash issued a press release stating that on 18 November, under the CPI's nationwide call, a sit-in was held at Ambedkar Chowk in Seoni under the leadership of District Secretary Omprakash Burde. CPI members expressed their solidarity against the atrocities and oppression faced by Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, and women in the country. The sit-in programme was chaired by senior leader Dr. B.C. Uke and conducted by D.D. Vasanik. The demonstration was addressed by speakers including Omprakash Burde, Pawan Sanodiya, Teerath Gajbhiye, Gendal Bhalavi, Deepak Karosia, Yeeshu Prakash, Rahul Vasanik, among others. Participants included Dhaniram Bandewar, Pooja Karosia, Mahesh Sanodiya, Angad Singh Baghel, Ramkumar Sanodiya, Manju Kakodiya, Pooja Karosia, Sandeep Bhalekar, and other workers.

Udaipur

A CPI delegation submitted a memorandum on 18 November 2025, drawing the Hon'ble President's attention to the issues of social justice and equality, caste

stitutional rights must be safeguarded.

It requested the Hon'ble President, as the principal guardian of the Constitution, to direct the Central and State governments to protect citizens' constitutional rights, ensure that these rights are not violated under any circumstances, and take appropriate measures to end the injustices faced by women.

Panipat (Haryana)

On the nationwide call of the Communist Party of India (CPI), party workers staged a sit-in outside the Deputy Commissioner's office and held a strong protest. The sit-in was chaired by senior CPI leader Mamchand Saini and conducted by District Secretary Pawan Kumar Saini.

CPI State Secretary Dariyav Singh Kashyap, addressing the protesters, said that atrocities against Dalits, backward classes, and women are continuously rising across the country. In every district, some young man or woman, distressed by social harassment, is being forced to take the extreme step of suicide, yet despite suicide notes being found, the police administration merely covers up such cases instead of taking strict action. District Secretary Pawan Kumar Saini (Advocate) stated that the funds from the SC Sub-Plan are not used for the development of the Dalit community.

The MGNREGA budget is being reduced every year, whereas its scope should be expanded to urban areas. Senior employee leaders Mangal Singh

On Page 12



Chile: Communist Jara Tops First Round

The Left coalition candidate and the Communist Party leader Jeannette Jara took the leading position in Presidential elections in Chile held on Sunday, November 16, by getting 26 per cent of the votes as against his rival far far-right candidate Jose Antonio Kast, who got 24 per cent. Since no candidate got 50 per cent of the votes, the Chileans will vote for a runoff on December 14 this year to choose the President from Jara and Kast.

An analysis of the election results reveals that though the Left coalition candidate Jara won in the first round, her rival in the runoff, Kast, was down by only two per cent, while the other two prominent right-wing candidates in the first round, Johannes Kaiser, got 14 per cent, and Evelyn Matthei got 13 per cent. Already, Matthei has announced that he is supporting Kast in the runoff and has asked his supporters to vote accordingly. Kaiser has also said that Jara has to be defeated in the December 14 runoff.

In Chile, voting is now compulsory. The Sunday elections show the total votes of the three right candidates

Satyaki Chakraborty

at a total of 51 per cent. As against this, the Left candidate Jara does not have much prospect of a significant addition of votes as all left-wing groups are united under the present Left-wing coalition led by President Gabriel Boric. Even if Jara gets a few



more votes added to number, that is not sufficient to take on the far-right candidate, Antonio Kast, if there is a right-wing consolidation.

The only way the Left candidate can win in the runoff is by drawing huge votes from the right camp through campaigning on the popular issues, which are equally important for the underprivileged sections of the right camp. The Communist leader, a former

labour minister of the Boric government, is expected to use her personal charisma and Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York mayoral polls to ensure the miracle.

Jose Antonio Kast, 59, is making his third run for Chile's presidency, having lost to Boric in 2021, and has built his campaign around two key

promises: combating crime and immigration.

One of Kast's Trumpian plans – called Escudo Fronterizo (Border Shield) – foresees the construction of miles of ditches, barriers and walls along Chile's northern border to keep migrants out. More than half a million Venezuelans have come to Chile in recent years as a result of their country's economic collapse. These Venezuelans

are anti-communists in general, but they are apprehensive of Kast's victory since Kast is committed to driving them out. Despite economic meltdown in recent months, Chile is still having the most stable economy in the Latin American region, with growth in industry.

Kast's emergence as the main rival of Jara and the possibility of his win in the runoff have been welcomed in Washington. Kast is a supporter of Trump, and he is fashioning his economic programme on the lines of MAGA, like Make Chile Great Again, by driving out the Left from power. The US administration is now focusing on regime change in Latin American pro-Left governments. That way, Washington will do everything to see that Jeannette Jara is defeated in the December 14 runoff and Antonio Kast is elected. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is reported to be in touch with all three right-wing leaders to ensure that they remain united to organise voting for Kast in the December 14 runoff.

The Trump administration has reasons to be happy with the recent developments in the Latin American nations, which went to the polls in 2025. Ecuador elected a right-wing President. The neighbouring Bolivia elected a centre-right president after 20 years of socialist rule. Right-wing candidates look well placed to win presidential elections in Colombia and Peru next year, while the leftwing veteran Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva faces a tough battle to retain the Presidency in the 2026 polls. Chile's GDP is expected to grow 2.5 per cent this year. However, a slowdown in global growth, especially in relation to downshifts in global trade, has depressed growth in Chile. When the mining sector is removed from economic projections, Chile's economic growth this year is virtually zero. In the first two years of the Boric regime, the reforms took place along with

firm measures to deal with rising prices. But in the last year, the economic situation has deteriorated. The popularity of President Boric has dipped to 40 per cent. This has come as a big issue in Jara's campaign. She is trying her best to deal with the issue through her own personal record as a labour minister.

The Chilean Communist Party, which is the leading constituent of the Gabriel Boric-led coalition, carries a glorious tradition of the fight against the fascist regime of Pinochet. After fighting the fascist regime for decades, the Chilean communists took a lead role in forming a coalition of the left and socialist forces to get into power. This year in April, a young Communist Party Deputy, Karol Cariola, was elected as the new President of the 155-member Chamber of Deputies after winning by 76 to 75 votes in a gruelling fight between the combined Left and the Right. The right-wing parties have a majority in the chamber with 78 members as against 76 of the left-wing coalition headed by the Marxist president Gabriel Boric, but in the final voting, the Left nominee won by just one vote.

The Communist Party of Chile is assessing the ground-level political reality in light of the results. Four weeks are left for the runoff on December 14. The party, along with the other left partners of the coalition, has planned for a massive campaign to draw the workers, peasants, women and youth who supported the Right parties in the first round. The task is tough as the national media and the big corporations are supporting the far-right candidate. But both the young Marxist President Gabriel Boric and the Chilean communists are determined to do their utmost to retain the Presidency. In polarised Chile, the outcome of the December 14 battle is sure to have an impact on the coming elections in other Latin American countries.

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Key Question of AMU Judgement Still Unanswered Even after a Year

It has been one year since the Supreme Court pronounced its verdict on Aligarh Muslim University's ('AMU') minority status. Yet the crucial six-decade old question - Whether AMU is a minority institution or not? remains unanswered till date.

The judgment doesn't so much resolve the legal dispute as it does pirouette around its core, shadowboxing with half-arguments while leaving the heart of the matter suspended in mid-air for a 3-Judge Bench to factually determine the minority status of AMU by applying the parameters laid down in the 7-Judge Bench judgment.

However, till date, no such 3-Judge Bench has been constituted to put a quietus to the issue. This essay will focus on two fundamental aspects that have remained unanswered by the Court for decades, whilst also tracing the legislative history of the issue. First, that the AMU Act, 1920 was the legal recognition of the extension of an existing community-led institution (MAO College) and not its creation. Second, the erosion of AMU's minority character could further marginalise an already under-represented community.

AMU originated from the MAO College established in 1875 at Aligarh by the nineteenth century educationist and social reformer Sir Syed Ahmad Khan with the support of the Muslim elite (and some Hindu benefactors as well) and the British Government's grant. After Sir Syed's death in 1898, the campaign for the upgradation of the MAO College into a University gained momentum. Aligarh Movement included financial contributions from Muslim nobles, landed gentry (including some Hindus as well), princely rulers and the British Government; culminating into the enactment of AMU Act, 1920 and eventual incorporation of AMU.

Apart from the financial contributions, the campaign

**Aman Alam,
Maimuna Siddiqui**

also included vehement efforts of the leaders of Aligarh Movement in petitioning the British authorities as well as rallying within the Imperial Legislature.

In 1951, after India became a republic, certain amendments were made to the 1920 Act to bring it in accordance with the Constitution. Primarily, it abolished the condition that only a Muslim could be a Member of the University Court (the general and supreme governing body of AMU) and made it open for all. Secondly, religious instruction was to be imparted only to those who wished to receive it, as provided under Article 28(3) of the Constitution.

In April 1965, disturbances occurred in the AMU campus after a student protest turned violent, following which the University was closed sine die. A few months later, the Government of India brought in another Amendment, which it referred to as "an emergency measure" until a long-term legislation was brought. Under the new Amendment, the powers of the Court were drastically curtailed and it became an advisory body, with its membership also reduced. The Executive Council was reconstituted and made more powerful. The Vice-Chancellor and Registrar were vested with wide powers.

The 1965 Amendment was challenged before the Supreme Court in the much debated *S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India* (1967) case, wherein a 5-Judge Constitution Bench upheld the Amendment and ruled that AMU was not a minority institution, as it was not established by the Muslims but by an Act of Imperial Legislature; thus marking the beginning of the minority character controversy.

In 1972, the AMU Act was further amended, ostensibly to address the concerns of the Muslim community, but far from assuaging such concerns, it seems to have only heightened them. A key feature of the Act was the further reduction in the powers of the Court which was now only a deliberative body and could not overrule the decisions of the Executive Council. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor were to be appointed by the Visitor (President of India) out of a panel of names submitted by the Executive Council, instead of being elected by the Court.

After much uproar, the Government brought in another amendment in 1981 to "restore" AMU's minority character. This amendment changed the preamble of the 1920 Act and the definition of "University" to explicitly state that the University was established by Muslims thus, undoing the effect of *Azeez Basha* judgement. The Court's status as the supreme governing body of the University was restored, along with some of its previous powers. The University was also empowered to promote the educational and cultural advancement of Indian Muslims.

The question of AMU's minority status re-emerged in 2005 when the Allahabad High Court, while relying on *Azeez Basha*, ruled that the 1981 amendment had not restored AMU's minority status and hence the University could not reserve 50 percent seats for Muslims. This was later affirmed by a Division Bench of the High Court. Subsequently, both AMU and the Central Government appealed to the Supreme Court, although the latter withdrew its appeal in 2019. In 2020, a 3-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court doubted the correctness of *Azeez Basha*, and the matter was referred to a larger Bench which ultimately delivered its judgement on

November 8, 2024.

The Supreme Court has, in the present judgment, laid down three crucial factors for determining the minority character of an institution— first, the idea of establishment must have stemmed from the minority community, second, the institution must be established predominantly for the benefit of the minority community, and third, steps for the implementation of the idea must have been taken by the member(s) of the minority community. Perhaps, a historical enquiry into the establishment of AMU may answer whether or not it satisfies these criteria.

The campaign for the establishment of AMU started soon after Sir Syed's death in January 1898, with the establishment of the Sir Syed Memorial Fund to raise Rs 10 lakh. By May 1899, Rs. 60,000 had been promised, the major contribution coming from the Nawab of Rampur.

The proposals for the establishment of a Muslim university were deliberated at various sessions of the Muhammad Educational Conference, a pan-India body of Muslims, held at Lahore (1898), Calcutta (1899), Madras (1901) and Delhi (1903). Early donors included Badruddin Tyabji and Sir Syed Ameer Ali. By the end of 1898, the Fund had received pledges for about Rs. 1.25 lakhs, as Nawab Mohsinul Mulk and other delegates visited major Indian cities, and Aligarh alumni also canvassed subscriptions. Aligarh District alone pledged a contribution of Rs. 25,000, with donations also coming from Punjab, the North West Frontier Province, Bengal and the Central Provinces.

The Supreme Court, while disagreeing with *Azeez Basha's* interpretation that AMU was established by an Act of Imperial Legislature and not by Muslims, held that the words "establish" and "incorporate" (as

mentioned in the Preamble of the 1920 Act) should be read conjointly. In fact, Viceroy of India Lord Curzon had approved of a Muslim university on the condition that it was merely a continuation of the Aligarh College.

In 1910, Sir Agha Khan and Syed Shaukat Ali travelled across India and were able to secure donations of Rs. 2.5 lacs in just 5 months and Rs. 4 lacs by August, 1911, while the amount pledged was nearly Rs. 25 lacs. Similarly, Maharaja Sir Mohammad Ali Mohammad Khan of Mahmudabad (later the first Vice-Chancellor of AMU) pledged Rs. 1 lac, while the Rajas of Jahangirabad and Pirpur also contributed significantly to rallying.

Mahmudabad along with Nawab Viqar-ul-Mulk, Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan and Maulana Shibli Nomani, also travelled widely across India, seeking donations. Subsequently, in April, 1911, a committee was set up to draft a constitution for the proposed university, with Mahmudabad as its chairman and Syed Ali Bilgrami as draftsman. In May 1911, a deputation consisting of Mahmudabad, Viqar-ul-Mulk, Aftab Ahmad Khan and Sir Zia Uddin met Sir Harcourt Butler (then Education Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council) in Shimla, presenting the draft constitution.

In precincts of the Imperial Legislative Council, Muslims not only propelled the AMU Act but also played a key role in its drafting and subsequent deliberations. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, the pioneer of Banaras Hindu University ('BHU'), while addressing the October 1, 1915 session of the Imperial Legislative Council, praised the Agha Khan for touring India (to raise funds for AMU) and the Raja of Mahmudabad for his correspondence with the British Government which bore fruit towards the establishment of a 'denominational university'. For him, BHU and AMU would be sister institutions for

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Key Question of AMU...

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promoting Hindu-Muslim unity and progression.

While introducing the AMU Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council on August 27, 1920, Sir Mian Muhammad Shafi (Education Member of Viceroy's Executive Council) highlighted the role of the Raja of Mahmudabad and the Muslim University Association in the establishment of AMU and significantly remarked that on June 10, 1911, the Government of India communicated to the Secretary of State the desire of the Muslim community for the establishment of AMU and eventually sanctioned the proposed negotiations with the Association.

The bill was then referred to a select committee consisting of 5 Europeans, 5 Muslims and 1 Hindu member, respectively. It was finally passed on September 9, 1920, with Viceroy of India Lord Chelmsford congratulating the Muslim community.

What flows from the above discussion is that Mus-

lims played a pivotal role not only in the establishment of AMU but were also central in the enactment of the AMU Act. AzeezBasha's ratio, insofar as it states that AMU was established by an act of legislature and not by Muslims, is therefore tantamount to saying that the candle burns only due to its wick and the wax has no role to play! In fact, the Supreme Court, in the present judgement, has itself negated AzeezBasha's view by ruling that fundamental rights would be made subservient if it was declared that AMU was established by Parliament merely because the long title and preamble mention the word "establish".

Despite being the largest minority in India and making up over 14 percent of the country's total population, Muslims fall far behind other marginalised groups. According to the 2006 Sachar Committee report, in 2001, Muslims' literacy rate was 59.1 percent, lower than the national average of 64.8 percent, with the biggest disparity being in metropolitan areas. Even so, it was still greater

than SCs and STs in several states. Due to the pandemic-induced postponement of the 2021 census, the latest data is from 2011, when the Muslim literacy rate was only 68.3 percent. This suggests that between 2001 and 2011, the literacy rate rose by an average of only 1.46 percent a year.

More than a decade after the Sachar Committee brought attention to the problem, National Statistical Office research reveals that Muslims continue to face severe educational marginalisation, often on par with or worse than SCs and STs.

The situation is even more dire when it comes to higher education. According to a report created by analyzing data from the All India Survey of Higher Education ('AISHE') and the Unified District Information System for Education Plus ('UDISE+'), enrolment in higher education among Muslim students in the 18–23 age range fell by more than 8.5 percent in 2020–21. The number of Muslim students

enrolled in higher education decreased from 21 lakh in 2019–20 to 19.21 lakh in 2020–21. Alarming, only 2.76 percent of Muslims in India have completed education up to graduation or above.

Against this backdrop of systemic exclusion, institutions like AMU play a crucial role in bridging these educational gaps. For decades, and even today, Muslims from all across India—including Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar—have turned to AMU to pursue higher education, which has served to fulfil the goal of AMU's founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, to pull the community out of backwardness.

In this context, the principle of beneficiary legislation must be applied to ensure that AMU's minority status is interpreted in a manner that upholds justice and equity. A well-established rule of statutory interpretation is that laws designed to protect vulnerable or marginalised groups must be construed in a way that advances their intended objectives rather than undermining them.

Based on this premise, the key legal test would be to determine whether AMU's administrative structure supports its minority status. This requires evaluating the institution's foundational purpose, control and administration, and its beneficiaries. Since Article 30(1) confers special rights on administration as a result of establishment, it is not essential to demonstrate that the minority governs the administration.

Making administrative control an essential requirement for minority status would unjustly change a guaranteed right into a prerequisite that has to be fulfilled, which is contrary to the intent of the legislation.

To complete the test, we must also evaluate the profile of its beneficiaries. Although AMU welcomes students from all backgrounds, a sizable percentage (77.39 percent) of its beneficiaries, both students and faculty, are Muslim. Nonetheless, the Centre has argued that a constitutionally designated

institution of national importance had to represent the national structure. However, such a claim ignores the fact that AMU's status under the Seventh Schedule does not supersede its fundamental right to minority protection under Article 30(1).

The university was set up through Muslim contributions and has historically reflected to serve the educational needs of Muslims, any ambiguity in the law should be interpreted in a way that preserves and strengthens this objective.

In 2016, the Union government withdrew its own Appeal before the Supreme Court. On the other hand, previous governments had defended AMU's minority status, recognizing its constitutional and historical significance. However, for the first time, the Union government took a stance against a statute that it itself had enacted.

AMU has long been considered a benchmark of minority institutions in India. Revoking its minority status could set off a legal domino effect, as other institutions run by religious and linguistic minorities across the country may also face obstacles. This concern is not unjustified, as we have witnessed growing scrutiny of madrasas and other Islamic educational institutions in recent years, with state governments advocating for tighter oversight and even shutdowns in some cases.

The unanswered question of AMU's minority status has somewhat resulted in a waste of judicial time and efforts, more so when the issue of pendency is one of the foremost problems of India's legal system. When it comes to this case, the adage "justice delayed is justice denied" is true. The agony caused by this hiatus has been rightly pointed out by Justice Dipankar Datta in his dissenting opinion that it pricked his conscience to send the matter back once again to an another bench after both sides had exhaustively argued, only for it to be re-agitated, when such time could be well utilised in answering other pressing questions of law.

[Courtesy: The Leaflet]

CPI Observes Social Justice...

From Page 09

Dilawari, Mamchand Saini, and Bhupendra Kashyap also addressed the gathering. After the protest, a 10-point memorandum addressed to the Hon'ble President was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner. Those present at the sit-in included Jitendra Pal Saini, Seva Singh Malik, Rambir Kashyap, Om Prakash, Sannovar Rana, Rupesh Saini, Nanha Ram Kabdi, Juneb Rana, Krishna Giri, Jaipal Kashyap, Ram Singh, Sahabad Rana, Satish Kumar Yadav, Bhupendra Kashyap, Mohammad Aslam, Bhullan, Om Prakash Yadav and others.

Yamunanagar

On 18 November, the Communist Party of India, Yamunanagar, staged a sit-in outside the SDM's office against atrocities being committed on Dalits and women. *New Age Weekly*

Party leaders and workers demanded that the government protect the rights of Dalits and women and put an end to the violence against them. Local issues were also raised during the protest, such as problems caused by errors in Family ID records, difficulties faced by ration card holders, and demands for resolving these issues. Those who led the protest included Neelam Sandhu from the Haryana Mahila Sabha, Arun Shakkarwal, Agricultural Labour Union leader Harishchandra, Assistant District Secretary Ramkaran Sharma, Jaychand, and CPI Yamunanagar District Secretary Harbhajan Singh Sandhu.

Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)

At Nehru Chowk in Bilaspur, a joint one-day sit-in and protest meeting was organised by the Communist

Party of India, other left parties (CPIM, CPI(ML)), and the Kisan-Mazdoor Mahasangh. A memorandum addressed to the Governor and Chief Minister was submitted through the Collector. Those present in the protest included representatives of CPI, CPIM, CPI(ML), the Congress Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, and the Kisan-Mazdoor Mahasangh from Bilaspur: Pavan Sharma, Shyam Moorat Kaushik, Nand Kashyap, Lallan Singh, Sukhau Nishad, Ravi Banerjee, Abhay Narayan Rai, Sardar Jasbir Singh, Annapurna Dhruv, Dr. Raghu Sahu, Ganesh Nishad, Dheeraj Sharma, Vikrant Sharma, Suman Markam, Bharatlal Dhuri, Purain Sahu, Shiv Maurya, Raju Lodhi, Sadhram Dhuri, Sant Kumar Nirala, Powell, Vinay, Sanjay, Indrajit Rajput, Satish Barmann, along with hundreds of others. ■

Is the AI Frenzy a Ticking Time Bomb?

Global Economy Heading for Next Big Crash?

In the three years since OpenAI unveiled ChatGPT, artificial intelligence has exploded from a niche tech topic into a global obsession. Startups slap “AI-powered” on everything from grocery apps to chatbots, drawing billions in investments. Nvidia, the king of AI chips, now boasts a market value of 5 trillion dollar—bigger than India’s entire economy. But beneath the buzz, warning signs flash: a recent MIT study reveals that 95 percent of generative AI investments have yielded zero returns. As hype meets hard numbers, experts whisper of a familiar tale—a tech bubble ready to pop, much like the dot-com crash of 2000.

The story starts with ChatGPT’s meteoric rise in late 2022. It hit 1 million users in its first week and 100 million within months, the fastest-growing digital product ever. Suddenly, AI wasn’t just sci-fi; it was a marketing must-have. From Silicon Valley to Bengaluru, companies raced to rebrand as “AI-enabled.” Global corporate spending on AI topped \$330 billion this year, with 71 percent of first-quarter venture capital funneled into AI startups. Slap an AI label on your product, and valuations jump 40 percent—even if revenues are flat.

India hasn’t escaped the fever. Generative AI startups here raised nearly 500 dollar million in the first seven months of 2025, the highest in five years. Yet, as one economist puts it, “Money is pouring in, but profits? Not so much.”

This isn’t blind panic. Economists Brent Goldfarb and David Kirsch laid out the blueprint in their 2022 book *Bubbles and Crashes*. They identified four red flags that turn genuine innovation into reckless speculation. AI, they argue, checks every box.

First: Uncertainty. No one agrees on AI’s winning business model. Giants like OpenAI and Anthropic have burned billions on training massive language models, but profits remain elusive. ChatGPT itself loses money on every query due to sky-high computing costs. The MIT survey drives it home: 95 percent of AI-adopting firms see no financial gains. Investments keep climbing anyway—logic be damned.

Second: Pure plays. These are start-ups betting everything on AI, with no backup plan. In Q1 2025, 60 percent of global VC cash went to them. But instead of fuelling real R&D, much of it loops back into the ecosystem, propping up valuations in a closed circle.

That circle is the scandal at the heart of the hype. A viral chart circulating online maps it out: Nvidia pumps 100 billion dollar into OpenAI, which buys Nvidia’s chips to train models. OpenAI inks a 300 billion dollar cloud deal with Oracle, which also needs Nvidia hardware for its



data centers. Elon Musk’s xAI, France’s Mistral, and robotics firm Figure AI all feed the loop. Economists call this “mutual leverage feedback”—one firm’s numbers inflate another’s, overheating the market. Nvidia’s stock has surged 1,300 percent in five years, representing 8 percent of global stock value. But if the AI firms flop, who buys the chips?

Third: Retail frenzy. Everyday investors are piling in, just like in 2000 when folks snapped up shares in Pets.com without a second thought. Nvidia topped retail buying lists in 2024 and 2025, with U.S. small investors alone injecting \$30 billion. Apps like Robinhood push AI stocks as “trending.” Pension funds and private credit are even tying safe bets to shaky AI debt.

Fourth: Narrative hype. Tech titans like Sam Altman, Mark Zuckerberg, Sundar Pichai, and Elon Musk peddle the dream: AI will cure

cancer, fix climate change, and reshape jobs. It’s FOMO fuel—“Invest now or regret forever.” This story echoes the internet gold rush, when the web promised to “change everything.” It did, eventually—but not before wiping out \$5 trillion in market value.

Look at the numbers: Seven “Magnificent” tech firms—Microsoft, Apple, Nvidia, Tesla, and others—now control a third of the S&P 500’s value, mirroring dot-com peaks. Back then, the Nasdaq soared 500 percent in five years before cratering 800 percent. Amazon plunged 90 per-

cent, but survivors like Google emerged stronger. Today, a single bad earnings report from Nvidia could ripple worldwide.

If the bubble bursts, the fallout could rival 2008’s financial crisis—minus the subprime mortgages, plus machine-learning models. Expect:

- **Stock wipe-outs:** Trillions in “paper wealth” evaporate as valuations crash.

- **Frozen spending:** AI infrastructure—750 billion dollar in data centres and GPUs from 2024–2026—grinds to a halt, hitting semiconductors and power grids. A “GPU glut” looms, with supply outpacing demand.

- **Credit chaos:** Loans to AI start-ups trigger defaults, freezing liquidity.

- **Job shocks:** Ironically, automation won’t pause. Firms like Amazon are already cutting 30,000 roles to fund more AI, targeting data entry, customer service, and junior coding.



*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

For India, the blast won’t be direct but seismic. We’re not AI’s epi-centre, but we’re deep in its supply chain. IT bellwethers like TCS, Infosys, Wipro, and HCL thrive on U.S. and European contracts for AI rollouts. A Western crash means slashed budgets—early signs show Infosys and Wipro’s AI project renewals slowing by mid-2025.

Funding taps could dry up too. Tiger Global and SoftBank are already trimming bets on Indian AI deals. And jobs? India’s 5–6 million IT and BPO workers face the axe from AI tools gobbling low-skill tasks. One hand: U.S. funding crash. The other: relentless automation.

Yet, silver linings lurk. India trails the U.S. by 4–5 years in AI adoption—a “watch and learn” buffer. Post-dot-com, cheap U.S. internet tech sparked India’s outsourcing boom. Similarly, a bust could flood India with affordable, proven AI for healthcare, farming, logistics, and education—tailored to local needs.

AI isn’t a dud. It’s already reshaping tools we use daily, from writing aids to image generators. The tech will endure, winnowing hype from substance, much like the internet did. But the bubble? It’s real, and bursting seems inevitable.

As Deshbhakt host Akash Banerjee warns in his latest episode, “This winter is coming.” For investors, it’s a cue to scrutinize beyond buzzwords. For India, it’s a push to spotlight our edges—think UPI’s fintech lead or Aadhaar’s digital ID—while bracing for ripples.

The dot-com crash birthed giants like Amazon. An AI reckoning could do the same. The question: Who survives, and at what cost? In a world chasing the next big thing, one truth holds: Bubbles burst. Preparation doesn’t. ■

Jaathaas Launched from...

From Last Page

Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, Telangana state secretary, CPI, MLA, while addressing at Jodeghat, pointed out that peoples can be protected if communists are strengthened. People are willing that communists get more seats in all legislative bodies. Since hundreds of years communists are waging militant battles for achieving demands of people from all walks of society. CPI is launching struggles under the red flag for people in general and primarily among poorer sections. KomramBheemAdivasi martyr fought along with communist ideology. Sambasiva Rao made it clear that left, democratic and secular forces are willing unity of communists.

Apart from Kunamneni,

TakkallapalliSreenivas Rao, State assistant secretary, Chadavenkata Reddy and Kalaveni Shankar, state secretariat members, Anil kumar, state president DHPS,



Manikanta Reddy, state president, AISF, along with BhadriSatyanarayana,, AatmakuriChiranjeevi, BhogaUpender also took part.

“CPI has played vital role

while protecting people’s rights in the last hundred years,” said Pasya Padma, national executive member, CPI. She was the chief guest, and addressed public meet-

ing at Nizamabad on the occasion of arrival of the Jaatha. She was speaking on behalf of poor from Baasara. In her address, she stated that people cannot forget the role of CPI

in freedom struggle. She also said that through this jaatha, party will take its ideology to people and explain the struggles it has launched. CPI is the party fighting against the anti- people policies of Central government. CPI has fought for eight hours work-

tral government has been imposing burden on common man through price rise and on the other side concessions are being given to corporates at the rate of crores of rupees.

Syed Azeez Pasha, former MP, and also former national secretary of CPI, stated in his address that through glorious historic Telangana armed struggle, CPI has distributed 10 lakhs of acres of cultivable land. eradicated bonded labour and fought against Nizam’s aristocracy. Azeez pasha also stated that on December 26, in the Khammam rally nearly 40 communist leaders from foreign countries will take part. AIYF state president Waliullah Quadri was also among the speakers. Sudhakar, district secretary, CPI, presided over the meeting . DG Narendra Prasad, Omaiah, Rajeshwer, Rajanna, Swarooparani and Raghuram also attended the meeting and took part.



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Gig Workers Need Labour...

From Page 05

determines who gets the tasks, earns bonuses, or even be subject to penalties or removal from the platform. These decisions are, in absence of any regulation, highly opaque, swift and unexplained.

The GDPR acknowledges the risks of such practices by providing for the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing which significantly affects individuals (under Article 22(1)). However, this right includes exceptions for contract performance, legal authorisation or explicit consent (under Article 22(2)).

For gig workers, relying on consent defeats the core logic of this protection. The ILO Code, from the lens of worker protection, removes the exceptions to declare that “decisions concerning a worker should not be based solely on the automated pro-

cessing of that worker’s personal data” and that “personal data collected by electronic monitoring should not be the only factors in evaluating worker performance” (under Articles 5.5 and 5.6).

The recent EU Directive on Improving the Working Conditions of Platform Workers, 2024 further reinforces this protection by establishing the first EU-level rules on algorithmic management in the workplace. It requires transparency, human oversight, and accountability in automated decision-making systems used by platforms, thereby operationalising Article 22 GDPR principles in platform work. By introducing a presumption of employment and regulating the use of artificial intelligence in managing workers, the Directive moves closer to the protective spirit embodied in the ILO Code, rejecting the idea that automated decisions and opaque

algorithmic evaluations can dictate worker’s livelihoods.

The DPDP Act on the other hand contains no comparable safeguards against automated decision-making or algorithmic control. For gig workers, this absence means their pay, task allocation, and working conditions are governed by opaque systems that remain beyond their challenge. This leaves a fundamental feature of their work relationship unaddressed by India’s data protection framework.

The DPDP Act recognises a graded scheme of data protection, prescribing higher thresholds of protection based on the nature of data and the vulnerability of the data principal. Yet, its framework, designed around the consumer/data-subject binary, fails to respond to the evolving nature of work and value creation in the digital economy.

Gig workers stand at the centre of this new economy, their data serving simultaneously as the means and the product of work. However, the law continues to treat them merely as individual data principals, ignoring the structural dependence and power asymmetry that characterise their relationship with digital platforms.

The Act’s consent-based model and its fiduciary framework are inadequate to address the realities of algorithmic management where data-driven control determines work allocation, evaluation, and termination. The absence of safeguards against automated decision-making within the DPDP Act stands in sharp contrast to global standards under the ILO Code of Practice, 1997 and the EU Directive on Improving the Working Conditions of Platform Workers, 2024. Telangana’s proposed legislation demonstrates the state’s attempt to regulate algorithmic control against

arbitrary termination and mandatory disclosure in task allocation. These developments reveal an emerging consensus: that contemporary labour protection must necessarily entail the regulation of technology.

It is in this context, it is argued that the DPDP Act must move beyond abstract consent-centric model towards a labour-sensitive approach that embeds labour protection within data protection. The equitarian approach of labour law cannot be negated when the implications of the DPDP Act have close connection with the question of autonomy of workers. The Telangana Bill shows that protecting gig workers in the platform age means safeguarding their work, dignity, and their livelihood through regulation of algorithms. Only then we can ensure that neither the gig worker nor their data remains invisible in India’s digital economy.

Courtesy: The Leaflet

On Record ...

A year ago, the Department of Justice under President Joe Biden surprised India by indicting Gautam Adani, the country’s most prominent businessperson with personal ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on charges of wire and securities fraud.

Since then, there has been nearly nothing to show. The case against Adani, whose indictment was announced Nov. 20 last year, two weeks after President Donald Trump won reelection, has remained dormant on the federal docket. While little has changed about the case, the relationship between the United States and India has shifted drastically under Trump. India’s archrival, Pakistan, is suddenly favored in the White House. The United States imposed witheringly high tariffs on India’s exports, including a special penalty for India’s purchase of Russian oil. In addition, the Justice Department has flipped its personnel, its priorities and, according to lawyers who have left, its very purpose. — *The Telegraph online*, November 19.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are apprehensive about travelling outside the Union Territory as they are being seen as suspects for the violent acts of a few.

Speaking at an event in Kulgam, Abdullah said, “A few people are responsible for what happened in Delhi, but a perception is being

created where all Kashmiris are being looked at with suspicion.”

“In the prevailing circumstances after the blast near Red Fort on November 10, parents will not like to send their children outside. When we are looked at with suspicion, when we are defamed

Poliloquy R PRASAD

UP govt to withdraw charges in Dadri lynching case



Apparently, the cow ate the case file!

for someone else’s wrongdoing, then it is obvious that it will be very difficult for us to leave Kashmir,” he said. — *The Indian Express*, November 19.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin accused the Centre of deliberately blocking Metro rail projects for Coimbatore and Madurai as political retaliation, saying that the state will “fight and win”, in a strongly worded statement timed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Coimbatore.

Stalin said the Union government had denied Metro rail for “temple city Madurai” and for “South India’s Manchester, Coimbatore,” on flimsy grounds, adding that the decision reflected a deeper hostility toward a state that would “never accept such a distortion of federal principles”.

“A government exists to serve people without bias. Yet the Union BJP (government) treats Tamil Nadu’s democratic choice as a reason to take revenge. Pushing such a political custom, in which BJP ruled states get Metros for smaller Tier II cities while opposition ruled States are deprived, is a disgraceful approach,” he wrote. — *The Indian Express*, November 19.

A comparison of employment generated under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from April to September 2025 with the corresponding periods in the previous two financial years, 2024-25 and 2023-24, points to a declining trend, according to the biannual tracker released by Lib Tech, a consortium of academics and activists. — *The Hindu*, November 19.

— Compiled by C. Adhikesavan

On Conclusion of Centenary Celebrations of Foundation of CPI JAATHAAS LAUNCHED FROM THREE CORNERS

Three jaathaas from three corners of Telangana have been launched to announce the conclusion of centenary celebrations of the foundation of CPI. These jaathaas were started under the auspices of CPI state council on November 17, on Saturday. The jaathas are from Gadwal, Jodeghat(Tribal area).

PallaVenkata Reddy, national secretary, CPI, inaugurated jaatha from Gadwal, and KunamneniSambasiva Rao, Telangana state secretary, CPI, inaugurated it at Jodeghat. Pasya Padma, national executive member, CPI inaugurated the jaatha at Baasara. These jaathas are to cover most of the villages, towns and cities of Telangana propagating about forth coming conclusion of centenary celebrations of CPI foundation through out a week.

In Gadwal, a huge meeting was held presided by Anjaneyulu district secretary, CPI. Along with PallaVenkata Reddy, National secretary, CPI, Nellikanti Satyam, MLC, M Balnarsimha, state secretariat member, CPI



were in the jaatha.

In Jodeghatjaatha, KunamneniSambasiva Rao, Telangana state secretary, CPI, paid tributes to KomaramBheem, tribal martyr by garlanding his statue. The leaders also visited Museum and looked at traditional and agricultural tools and weapons. Along with Sambasiva Rao, TakkalaPalliSrinivas Rao, state assistant secretary, CPI, ChadaVenkata Reddy, Kalaveni Shankar, all state secretariat members, were also present. In Basara along with PasyaPadma, National

Ramnarsimha Rao

executive member, CPI, Syed Azeez Pasha, former MP and KanjarlaBhoomaiah also participated.

Along with jaathaas, cultural squads of state IPTA also followed and performed under the leadership of Sreenivas and PalleNarsimha, state president and general secretary of IPTA.

PallaVenkata Reddy, National Secretary, CPI while inaugurating said that Gadwal was the fortress of

many struggles. CPI had launched many heroic struggles on behalf of poor farmers, agricultural labourers and other toiling sections. CPI has fought against British imperialism and feudalism of Nizam's aristocracy for the liberation of the workers from their bondages. CPI is still continuing its struggle against the issues that has been hurting the masses.

At present BJP government is trying to collaborate with the corporate sharks and handing over public sector companies and assets of our nation to them. BJP under the

leadership of Modi is trying to perpetuate the saffron power in the country through its majority. They want to achieve this majority by dividing people on communal lines and create communal tensions. But communists want people to keep their unity. They also want to lead their struggles under the banner of unity.

On December 26, a huge rally has been planned, that would culminate in a public meeting. In the rally and public meeting, it is expected that almost five lakh people will take part. Above all leaders of communist parties from all over the world together with intellectuals, will witness the rally and give messages on the occasion of conclusion of centenary celebrations of foundation of CPI.

Ranganna, Aashanna, NagardoddiVenkatramulu, Paramesh(AIYF), AISF leaders Praveen, Veeresh, Bharath, Guruswamy, Bheemesh, Tirumalesh, trade union leaders Narayana, prabhudas and Thimmappa were also present and participated in the program.

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