

Modi Meeting Trump

Global Right Wing Consolidation Poses Challenge

More than a century back, Comrade Lenin described Imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism, an outcome of the decay in capitalism. His analysis stands the test of time when we see a crisis-ridden capitalist order, which has failed to improve lives globally, opting for desperate measures to ensure its own survival, without any concern for humanity.

The consolidation of right-wing and far-right political forces had started blaming the regulations in order to divert people's rising anger against neoliberal policies of post financial meltdown in first decade of 21st century, a sign of the cyclic failures of capitalism. Attempts were made to get scapegoats like immigrants or minorities to get rid of the complications.

The neo-liberal order oscillated from centrist to right positions, as it failed ideologically to deal with the situation. It also failed to forge broader alliances with imperialism to check the growth of the far right leading to decadent capitalist order. In its imperialist form, it was accompanied by the right-wing's assault on labour rights, social security and general harmony in society. Now the situation has worsened even further as there are signs of emergence of a global right-wing alliance with an aggressive disdain for democratic norms. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US and his meeting with US President Donald Trump gave certain hints about this consolidation.

The outcomes of the meeting of prime minister Modi with US President

D Raja

Indian deportees – reflects a broader failure of his administration to uphold Indian sovereignty and the rights of its people. Meanwhile, Trump's aggressive approach towards trade and his threats to multilateral institutions such as BRICS reveal a larger imperialist agenda that aims to consolidate US hegemony.

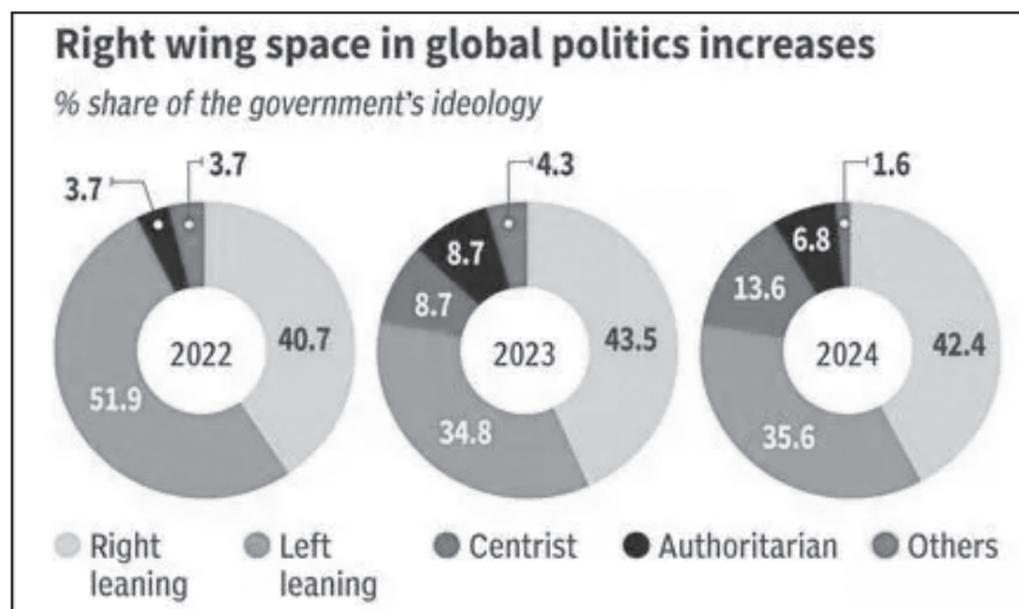
While Modi and his supporters back home have dubbed the visit as a great triumph of Trump's protectionist policies, that will eventually harm India, the reality tells a different

parts. Further, Trump's attempts at concentrating manufacturing in the US will be detrimental to Indian manufacturing as well, which is already critical due to Modi Government's mismanagement. Despite these overtly aggressive trade practices, Modi has refrained from taking a strong stance or even publicly addressing the issue. This is the outcome of reducing diplomacy to hand-shakes and hugs. A casual glance at headlines after Modi's visit will reveal the anxieties in official circles regarding Trump. Whether it is MEA, Dr Jaishankar's admission of India-China

the whole world speaking about World War III.

One of the most glaring failures of Modi's visit was his complete silence on the appalling treatment of Indian deportees by US authorities. Under Trump administration's immigration policies, hundreds of Indians – many of them skilled workers and asylum seekers – have been subjected to humiliating treatment. Reports of detainees being held in inhumane conditions, denied legal rights and getting deported in shackles have emerged, yet Modi chose not to raise these concerns during his meetings with Trump and the mistreatment continues. By not standing up to Trump's trade war and the gross human rights violations with Indians, Modi has demonstrated a troubling willingness to appease Washington at the cost of Indian interests. In other words, PM Modi has sacrificed the interests of the country he leads at the altar of global right-wing consolidation and a few candid photographs.

Trump's aggressive economic and foreign policies indicate a concerted effort to dismantle multilateral alliances like BRICS, which were conceived to stand up to US hegemony. The BRICS bloc was established to give a valid expression to emerging multi-polarity at a global scale, to create a more balanced global economic



statements and celebratory events, there were deep-seated issues that expose the exploitative nature of the current global political and economic order. Modi's reluctance to confront Trump on critical concerns, ranging from unjust tariff measures against India to the inhuman treatment of

story. Away from the photo-ops, the Government of India is well aware of this reality. The Trump administration is trying to impose a series of tariffs and trade restrictions against India. These measures will harm Indian exports, particularly in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles and automobile

cooperation to preserve G20 or India's resumption of trade talks with the UK and the EU, they all tell the same story, Trump in Oval Office marks the new level of warmongering and the exploitative character of imperialism.

In stead of questioning the role of NATO in Russia-Ukraine conflict and war, Trump started frightening

Corporate capitalism in India is today in the grip of crisis. Economy keeps falling deeper. Data predicts further sliding to be a four year low of 6.4 per cent in 2024-25, mainly on account of a poor showing in the manufacturing and services sectors, according to government data released on January 8, 2025.

There is huge concentration of wealth and capital in a few hands led by Ambani and Adani. The small and medium enterprises that contribute maximum to national economy as well as creation of employment are in deeper crisis and are getting destroyed. This situation has emerged because India has been allowed to become a play ground for the finance capital, which is nothing but merger of banking and industrial capital.

An analysis of the institution-wise investment data for FY24 reveals that private sector investments declined to a three-year low of 11.2 percent of GDP, which in fact, is lower than the pre-Covid average of 11.8 percent between fiscals 2016 and 2020, indicating weak investment sentiments of the private sector, India Ratings said in a note on March 5, 2025.

Despite the necessary allurements like the presumed success of the various PLI schemes and the other government push for investments by the private sector, it remains the same.

According to the Economic Survey 2025 for the country to reach a developed nation target by 2047, the economy must grow at 8 percent plus on a sustained basis for two decades. This requires an investment rate of at least 35 percent, with the private sector chipping in a leading way. But this looks challenging given the elevated geopolitical risks stemming from renewed tariff wars which may keep investment decisions of private players cautious, along with the falling savings rate of households.

The investment rate, measured by the proportion of gross capital formation to GDP, had languished at 29.9 percent during FY16-FY20 due to a variety of reasons such as difficulties faced in the implementation of projects, high non-performing assets of banks, a weakening domestic/external demand etc. This further slumped to a two-decadal low

Corporate Capitalism in Deep Crisis

of 27.5 percent FY21 due to the pandemic. Though post pandemic the investments improved during FY22-FY23, it moderated to 32 percent in FY24.

A glance at the sectoral composition indicates that the slowdown in overall investment rate in FY24 was due to services and industrial sectors. While the investments into the services sector declined to 19.3 percent, in the industrial sector it slid to 10.1 percent in FY24. The investment rate in these sectors declined to 3.1 percent and 6.2 percent in FY24 from 4.3 percent and 6.7 percent in FY23, respectively.

The National Statistical Office has provided detailed data for gross capital formation by households, government, public and private sector and FY24 investment decline was due to the poor show by private and household

Editorial

sectors. It may be pointed out that while investment rate of the private sector was declining, investment by households moderated to 12.8 percent in FY24.

On the other hand, the overall savings rate, which is the nominal gross savings as a proportion of nominal GDP, remained flat at 30.7 percent in FY24. Barring the government, households, private and public sector saw a moderation in their savings rate. Households savings rate has been on a declining trend after reaching a recent peak of 22.7 percent in FY21 and fell to a seven-year low of 18.1 percent in FY24.

Another dampening factor for household savings is the rising financial liabilities, which climbed to a 17-year high of 6.2 percent of GDP in FY24.

According to studies, it has been predicted that this downward trend is likely to continue into fiscal year 2025, with private sector investments potentially dropping below 11 percent of GDP. The overall investment rate for FY25 has also been projected to decrease to 31.1 percent, as indicated by the second

advance estimates for the year.

The fall of private sector capital expenditure in India in the fiscal year 2024 highlights that weak investment sentiments among private sector players contributed significantly to this decline.

The sluggish performance in these sectors reflects broader challenges in revitalising private sector investment, which is essential for sustainable economic growth.

The combination of factors underscores the need for policy interventions to bolster investment and savings rates across sectors to support India's long-term economic ambitions.

It may be pointed out that India's Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 56.3 in February 2025 from 57.7 in January, marking the slowest expansion since December 2023. The decline was driven by weaker growth in output and sales, along with a slowdown in input purchasing to a 14-month low.

Before taking up fall in investment, it may be considered that India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.2 per cent in the October-December quarter of financial year 2024-25 (Q3 FY25), an increase from the previous quarter's 5.6 per cent growth. The rise comes after GDP growth fell to a seven-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in Q2 FY25, significantly below estimates. This uptick was primarily driven by heightened government and consumer spending, bolstered by a robust Kharif crop output and a revival in rural demand.

However the facts bring to light that ninety percent of people in India have no discretionary spending power. The top 10 percent of India's population remains the primary driver of consumption and economic growth, Indus Valley Annual Report 2025 by Blume Ventures states.

The report notes that this "consuming class" in Asia's third-largest economy is not expanding in size but rather becoming wealthier, meaning the rich are getting richer while the overall number of wealthy individuals remains stagnant, according to a BBC analysis of the report.

TN Transport Workers' Long Drawn Struggle for Fair Wages

The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) workers are engaged in a prolonged battle for fair wages and improved working conditions, as the 15th wage settlement negotiations remain stalled. The 14th wage settlement, which ended in August 2023, saw

several unfulfilled commitments, deviations by the management, and a unilateral increase in tenure from three to four years.

Despite rising living costs, the Tamil Nadu government has delayed negotiations to avoid additional financial burdens. The delay has

Arumugam

placed a significant strain on workers, particularly retirees, who have not received their terminal benefits for over two years. The situation worsened when even after a High Court directive, the government failed to pay

the updated Dearness Allowance (DA) from 2016, in line with TNSTC pension rules and state government employees' benefits.

In response, the TNSTC AITUC Federation and other trade unions formed a Joint Action Committee (JAC) to intensify their struggle. The JAC

organized multiple conciliatory meetings with the Transport Secretary, Managing Directors, and eventually, the Transport Minister. Despite assurances that the settlement would be finalized, negotiations have been repeatedly postponed.

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Postpone Delimitation for Thirty Yrs : TN

Politics in South India, especially in Tamil Nadu, has become hotter on the issue of delimitation of constituencies in India, after the first Census to be completed after 2026. Census process is yet to be started, though it was to be started in early 2025, a process which takes about 18 months to be completed. Registrar General and Census Commissioner's tenure was extended until August 2026, which was an indication that the Centre had planned the Census process to be completed by that time. Centre plans to complete the delimitation process by 2028 and the Lok Sabha General Election 2029 to be held as per new delimitation order. However, a new twist has come after the all-party meeting in Tamil Nadu on March 5, 2025, when Chief Minister M K Stalin demanded postponement of delimitation for the next 30 years.

Only a week before Union Minister of Home Amit Shah had assured in an event on February 26 in Tamil Nadu, "Today a meeting will be held to ensure the South does not suffer on account of delimitation. The public in Tamil Nadu is disturbed. This is why the Tamil Nadu CM (Stalin) and his son (Udhayanidhi) are trying to distract the public. Stalin, the Modi government has made it clear in Lok Sabha that after delimitation, on pro rata basis, not a single seat will be reduced in any southern state. And I want to reassure the public of South India that Modi ji has kept your interest in mind to make sure that not even one seat is reduced pro rata. And whatever increase is there, southern states will get a fair share, there is no reason to doubt this."

Only a day earlier, CM Stalin described the delimitation process as a "sword hanging over the head of South India." He had warned that Tamil Nadu could lose up to eight of its 39 Lok Sabha constituencies due to the delimitations exercise, potentially reducing its seats to 31. He had called for all party meeting on the issues on March 5, 2025.

The outcome of the meeting held a week after

Amit Shah's assurance suggests that there were no takers of his assurance. Barring the BJP and its ally TMC, all the political parties of the state participated in the meeting. The meeting passed a resolution demanding that the freeze on the number of seats in Lok Sabha based on the

Dr Gyan Pathak

punished for effectively implementing population control measures, adding, "Delimitation exercise solely based on population figures will be a gross injustice to Tamil Nadu and other Southern States. We are not against Delimitation exercise, but we want justice to be rendered to us."

South Indian states have serious apprehension about the real intentions of PM Narendra Modi led BJP government suspecting them of trying to establish political hegemony of the BJP through increase of Lok Sabha seats from the Hindi belt states, chiefly Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

we have altogether 543 MPs, which works out to be one MP representing about 10 lakh people. The delimitation was based on the 1971 population.

Population of the country has been something around 142 crore in 2025. The increase of seats in Parliament building is indicative of the government intention to increase the number of MPs. If we decide one MP for 20 lakh population there would be 707 seats. If we decide for one MP in 15 lakh population, total seats would be 942. As per the 2024 Lok Sabha election figures, each Lok Sabha Constituency had 17.84 lakh voters on projected population of 25.8 lakh.

During a parliamentary debate in September 2023,

concern of losing their representation in the Parliament of India.

If one MP per 20 lakh population is adopted Tamil Nadu's seats would remain the same at 39, while seats in Uttar Pradesh including Uttarakhand would increase from current 85 to 126 and Bihar including Jharkhand would increase for 54 to 85.

On projected population of 142 crore, Lok Sabha Constituencies are to rise to 848. In that case the number of seats in Uttar Pradesh would increase from 80 to 143, Bihar from 40 to 79, Rajasthan from 25 to 50 and Madhya Pradesh from 29 to 52. On the other hand, in the southern states in Tamil Nadu it would increase from 39 to 49, Andhra and Telangana from 42 to 45, Karnataka from 28 to 41. As for Kerala is concerned its seat will remain at 20.

Southern states say that in that case the party who will win in Hindi belt states would be able to form government at the centre, which would bring them under the dominant political party in the Hindi belt states - UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. BJP is interested to establish its permanent government in India on the basis of new delimitation order before the Lok Sabha election 2029.

In this situation, one can expect more twists in the delimitation row, in the coming months when the issue of reservation of seats for SCs, STs, and Women will bring some more trouble and rows. The million dollar question remains - Could India be able to complete delimitation process before Lok Sabha election 2029?

CM Stalin said that Tamil Nadu and Southern states should not be punished for effectively implementing population control measures, adding, "Delimitation exercise solely based on population figures will be a gross injustice to Tamil Nadu and other Southern States. We are not against Delimitation exercise, but we want justice to be rendered to us."

1971 Census should be extended for another 30 years. A joint committee of MPs from all parties in South India has also been proposed to draft a joint response to the issue.

CM Stalin said that Tamil Nadu and Southern states should not be

The basis of delimitation is yet to be worked out, but there are speculations on the basis of certain indication, such as the increase of seats in the new Parliament building in New Delhi. The New Parliament building has 888 seats. Currently,

on Women's Reservation Bill, the implementation of which was also linked to delimitation on the first Census after 2026, the issues of parliamentary seats was discussed, in which MPs for Southern states have raised the issue and expressed their

Warm Reception to CPRF Delegation by Central, State Leadership



also met CPI-M central leadership and also had discussions with representatives from the Delhi CPI and CPI(M) state committees. The delegation is supposed to visit Kerala and departed to Trivandrum on the evening of the 12th.

On 11th The CRPF leaders visited CPI Delhi State Council office and was welcomed by party leaders. Upon arrival, the delegates were greeted by Prof. Dinesh Varshney, Secretary of the CPI Delhi State Council and National Council Member.

A two-member delegation from the Communist Party of Russian Federation headed by Zubrilin Nikolay, leader of the Communist Party faction in the Moscow City Duma and Member of the Central Committee of CRPF, and Timokhov Sergei, Head of staff of the Communist Party faction in the Moscow City Duma were in Delhi from March 10th to 12th on an official visit.

The CPRF delegation visited Ajoy bhavan, CPI headquarters and met and had a warm discussion



with D. Raja, General Secretary and party secretariat members Pallab Sengupta and Rama Krushna Panda. The discussions covered various topics, including the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, the CPRF's understanding of the current situation in Russia, and issues related to the international communist movement. D. Raja provided insights into the current situation in India and the role of the CPI in the national politics.

The Russian delegation

He briefed a comprehensive overview of Delhi's history, the establishment of the CPI Delhi State committee in 1939 and its significant contribution to India's freedom struggle.

The delegates were received and garlanded by Shankarlal, Kehar Singh, Ramraj, Absar Ahmed, and Sanjeev Kumar Rana. Trade Union, Youth Federation, Students federation, Women federation, PWA activists and leaders were also present in the function.

Stock Market Crisis : A Marxist Perspective

Steep fall in stock market has caused a whopping loss of Rs 95 lakh crores, pauperizing nearly a million small shareholder investors. Nifty and BSE Sensex (Bombay stock exchange) tumbled and lost over 4,000 and 13,000 points respectively. Foreign investors have withdrawn a total of FPI equity outflows of 1,12,601 crore (\$15 bln) so far. Nearly \$ 17 bln FDI investments are withdrawn, in February alone, due to concerns of slowdown of economy. In United States, stocks plunged on March 10th after the US President Donald Trump's statements on economy after fears of looming recession. Amidst the aggressive tariff policies, even the technology stocks like those of NVidia and Tesla have lost up to 15 percentage points.

As most of the losers are middle class investors, who of late started investing in share market, after even withdrawing from fixed deposits in the banks or taking out retirement pension funds for investments in the share markets. While people are distressed amidst share market shocks, our Prime Minister chose to visit temples and lion safari showing no concern for economy.

Let's examine the reasons for this huge market meltdown. A company's stock price should reflect the former's financial health and future promise of profitability. In normal times, short term losses are common, but a sharp fall of this proportion rarely occurs, and indicates the ongoing crisis in Indian economy. Now, we are in midst of a massive economic crisis, when growth is slowing, wages remain stagnant, private investment has been sluggish and job creation isn't keeping pace. Many new investors, lured by the earlier soaring markets, are now grappling with unexpected losses.

Economists say the present market meltdown is from market imperfections or some external factors such as Russia-Ukraine war or American tariffs or

imbalance between supply and demand. In fact, it is the economy itself which is slowing down and is not at all in a good shape. Common people do not have money in their pockets and so the demand for goods is sluggish, leading to low rates of manufacturing. The share of manufacturing in GDP has recently fallen (2024, December) to 14 percent from 21 percent in 2023-24. In spite of several schemes to boost investment: tax reductions, productivity-linked incentives etc.), the share of manufacturing continues to decline, primarily due to lack of demand for industrial and consumer goods. Private sector sees no hope of market revival in near future, and has stopped investing in manufacturing sector. Our industry has gladly accepted the various financial handouts doled out by the finance minister. Nevertheless, they do not want to invest. Instead, they are diverting their wealth into the stock markets, buying shares etc. Instead of putting money in hands of people, our government is doing quite the opposite: instead of asking the industry to increase the production of commodities, the government is encouraging the

Soma Marla

speculative side of the economy. Today's stock market meltdown is an indicator of nation's poor financial health.

Marx on economic crisis

The ongoing turmoil in financial markets should be analysed on the basis of contradictions in the capitalist economy. Tracing the circuit of capital, Karl Marx explained the crises occurring periodically in the capitalist mode of production. 'Circuit of capital' is the process of capital turnover from production to exchange: process of labour,



reproduction and accumulation of capital. The tendency of falling rate of profit is an objective law of capitalism. Marx postulates the imbalance as the reason for periodic occurrences of crises in capitalist mode of production.

In the present neoliberal economic order, unproductive (fictitious) capital dominates, quite often, over real or productive capital. Hence there is no scope for production of real economy in the capital cycle. This fictitious capital,

which does not add real value, can actually have adverse effects on the real economy. Capitalists often borrow money from banks, to gain a quick financial returns from rented capital, they invest in speculation such as stock markets.

As huge sums of fictitious capital is invested in speculative share markets, the natural capital circuit breaks down. This aberration results in a financial crisis.

The consequence is the fall of living standards of millions of people, even while creating unprecedented wealth for a capitalist oligarchy, or as Marx put it, the accumulation of wealth at one pole, amid poverty, misery and degradation at

developments in turn lead to lowering of wages (or laying off workers) in order to widen the difference between value of labour power and value created by him during the work day. Today with increased automation in assembly lines and entry of Artificial Intelligence (AI), wages are lowered to below the value of labour power through creation of surplus workforce.

In spite of improvement in productive forces and intensive labour exploitation, capitalism cannot arrest falling profits and low rates of capital accumulation. It resorts to high credit flows (borrowed from banks or bond mobilization) and invests this fictitious capital in speculation (in share markets). Investment of huge sums in share markets without meaningful manufacturing activity and real value will have adverse affects on economy. This is the prime reason for current stock market meltdown.

Measures needed by government

Union government should step in to boost consumption by putting money in the pockets of common people. This can be done by strict implementation of minimum wages in informal sector, one time loan waiver for farmers, increase funds to rural employment, large-scale recruitments in railways and other public sector units, controlling prices of cooking oils, pulses and other measures.

Ultimately, the replacement of capitalist mode of production by socialism is the only solution.

Falling rates of profit and crisis

To resolve the underlying contradictions of capital circuit and to avert falling profit rates, capitalism continuously develops productive forces using modern science and technology. These

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order, reducing reliance on Western financial institutions. However, Trump's administration is threatening this coalition through economic coercion and diplomatic manoeuvring, PM Modi of India, a prominent member of BRICS keeps mum. By forcing trade deals that isolate BRICS members, slapping sanctions on nations that challenge US economic supremacy and using tariffs as a weapon, Trump is attempting to push the world towards a unipolar order dominated by the US. Modi's reluctance to push back against these actions risks India's sovereignty and its long-term economic interests. Further, the resilience of multi-lateral institutions is on test in front of the right-wing assault. It is not merely BRICS, but as it was suggested in MEA in Dr S Jaishankar's admission, integrity of blocs like the G20, whose summit India hosted with much fanfare, is at stakes today.

While Modi and Trump's interactions may seem like an exercise in diplomacy, they also signal the growing



consolidation of global right-wing forces. This strand of thought was given further clear expression by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni who is said to be a leader representing the legacy of Benito Mussolini. She said that a new "collaborative conservative movement" is emerging globally and cited US President Donald Trump, Argentine President Javier Milei, herself and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as global representatives of this alliance. This alliance

shares a common vision: protectionism for capital, suppression of labor rights and a disdain for migrants and minorities. Championing the free movement of capital, these right-wing forces are aggressively restricting the mobility of labor. Trump's anti-immigration policies, coupled with Modi's silence on visa restrictions affecting Indian professionals, demonstrate a shared contempt for workers while enabling corporate profit-making. The right-

wing economic model, which prioritises the interests of large businesses over the welfare of the working class, is exacerbating global economic inequality.

If this right-wing coalition continues to strengthen, the consequences will be disastrous for the global working class, migrants and climate justice movements. Restricting labor mobility while promoting corporate expansion will further entrench poverty in certain regions while funneling wealth into the hands of a few. Workers in the Global South will face shrinking job opportunities, and migrants will continue to be scapegoated for economic issues caused by neoliberal policies. Furthermore, right-wing leaders like Trump and Modi have shown little commitment to tackling climate change. Trump's withdrawal from international climate agreements and Modi's focus on pro-corporate environmental policies indicate that the interests of big business will always take precedence over sustainable development.

Imperialist interests will cause and promote conflicts to move funds away from dire needs of populations towards the coffers of the military-industrial complex. If global policies continue down this path, overall degradation in standards of living for the majority and the environment will accelerate, disproportionately impacting the poorer nations and the poor in the wealthier nations.

To counteract this nefarious right-wing agenda, the world must look towards a pro-people alternative that challenges exploitative capitalism and US-led imperialism. Countries in the Global South must strengthen regional cooperation, invest in worker-centric policies and reject neo-liberal frameworks that serve Western economic interests at the expense of local development. A renewed focus on strengthening multilateral institutions such as BRICS, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and regional trade agreements outside US influence is necessary. Additionally, global trade policies must be restructured to prioritise fair labor practices, environmental protection and economic justice for developing nations. The struggle against right-wing authoritarianism is not just an economic battle – it is a fight for dignity, justice and human rights. Progressive forces worldwide must unite against this dangerous tide, advocating for policies that uplift workers, protect minorities and ensure sustainable economic development. Only by rejecting the aggressive neoliberal policies of the Global Right-Wing forces, can we hope to build a more just and equitable world for future generations.

(Author is general secretary, Communist Party of India)

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Transforming Dharavi : Development or Displacement?

The Dharavi Redevelopment Project is one of India's most ambitious urban renewal initiatives, with the aim of transforming the densely populated and vibrant Dharavi slum in Mumbai into a modern, thriving urban centre. Dharavi, despite its challenging living conditions, is a hub of economic activity and community spirit. The project seeks to enhance the quality of life for its residents by providing improved housing, infrastructure, and economic opportunities, while acknowledging the complexities inherent in such a large-scale transformation. A significant challenge involves the proposed relocation of some residents to areas near the Deonar dumping ground, raising concerns about potential health risks and ethical considerations.

The Adani group has backed India's largest redevelopment project, with a bid of Rs. 5,069 crore. Will the image of Dharavi change which occupies a population of 10 lac. Spanning approximately 590 acres, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project represents a substantial investment, estimated at between Rs 2 to 3 lakh crore. This financial commitment reflects the scale of the project and its potential impact on Mumbai's urban landscape. The project aims to rehabilitate an estimated 1.4 to 1.5 lakh units, encompassing residential, commercial, and industrial spaces. This initiative signals the government's intent to address urban challenges and improve living conditions for a significant population.

Central to the project's planning is the strategic allocation of land. Recognizing the importance of balancing development with environmental considerations and community needs, approximately 35-40 per cent of the land will be used for construction. The remaining area will be dedicated to infrastructure, green spaces, and public amenities. This approach

aims to create a sustainable and liveable urban environment, fostering a sense of community and enhancing the overall quality of life for Dharavi's residents.

One of the most sensitive aspects of the Dharavi Redevelopment Project is the proposed relocation of some residents to areas near the Deonar dumping ground. This raises significant concerns due to the potential health risks associated with proximity



to a major waste disposal site.

The Deonar dumping ground is one of Asia's largest, posing various environmental and health hazards. Residents living nearby face exposure to toxic gases, pollutants, and other harmful substances. Reports suggest that life expectancy in the vicinity of the Deonar dumping ground is significantly lower than the average for

Mumbai, underscoring the urgency of addressing relocation strategies. The ethical implications of potentially exposing residents to such health risks cannot be ignored.

The legal framework governing urban redevelopment projects in India emphasizes fair compensation, rehabilitation, and public participation. It is crucial that the Dharavi Redevelopment Project adheres to these principles, ensuring that all residents are treated fairly and their rights are protected. The Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) plays a vital role in overseeing the project and ensuring compliance with legal and ethical standards. Transparency in the planning and execution processes is essential to building trust and mitigating potential conflicts.

To address the concerns surrounding relocation, it

is important to explore alternative sites that do not pose significant health risks. Identifying safer areas within the city or developing new housing options in less polluted locations should be prioritized. Engaging with residents and involving them in the decision-making process is crucial to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed effectively. A collaborative approach can help foster

a sense of ownership and ensure that the project aligns with the aspirations of the community.

Public participation is a critical component of successful urban development projects. While the master plan may have limited opportunities for objections at this stage, future detailed layouts should allow for meaningful public input. Ensuring that residents' voices are heard and their needs are met is essential for the project's success. Transparency in the planning and execution process can help build trust among stakeholders and mitigate potential conflicts.

The Dharavi Redevelopment Project also presents significant economic opportunities. By transforming the area into a modern urban hub, the project aims to boost economic activity, create jobs, and improve livelihoods. However, it is crucial to preserve the economic vibrancy that already exists in Dharavi, particularly its thriving informal economy.

Preserving economic activity requires careful planning and strategic support for small businesses and artisans. Providing suitable spaces for them to operate, offering training programs, and facilitating access to financial resources can help to maintain Dharavi's economic vitality while enhancing living conditions.

Successful redevelopment hinges on genuine community engagement. Including residents in planning, addressing concerns, and promoting their involvement in decision-making will drive positive outcomes. The incorporation of green



STUDY & STRUGGLE

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technologies, modern waste management solutions, and promoting eco-friendly construction practices are pivotal for ensuring the project contributes to a sustainable urban ecosystem.

The Dharavi Redevelopment Project has the potential to serve as a model for urban renewal in India. By addressing the challenges associated with relocation, prioritizing environmental sustainability, and ensuring economic inclusion, the project can set a new standard for how cities are transformed to improve the lives of their residents. Its success will depend on a commitment to balancing development with the well-being of the community, creating a more equitable and sustainable future for Dharavi.

In conclusion, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project is a complex and ambitious undertaking that requires careful planning and execution. By prioritizing residents' health and well-being, engaging in transparent processes, and fostering economic opportunities, the project can achieve its goals and serve as a beacon for urban renewal across the nation. Its ultimate success will depend on finding the right balance between modernization and preserving the unique character and spirit of the Dharavi community.

Intensify Struggle for Gender Equality

International Women's Day on March 8 stands as a marker to rate the evolution of mankind. In every socio-economic formation, the extent to which the other half is deprived shows the level of progress and achievements of a particular society. Women have fought against the injustices meted out to them since centuries. The movements of women have been organized for their cause, like to limit the working hours and improve living conditions for toiling sections of women, against their discrimination and adult suffrage. Serious efforts are being made to reduce its significance by organising fashion parades or such trivial programs on International Women's Day.

Getting into the background of the International Women's Day, it may be pointed out that for their rights, though women have been struggling since long, but they became aware of their conditions, about the rationale behind such a plight since extreme exploitation came only in the industrial age. It was with all this clarity that women took to street demanding justice and freedom.

Her place was always in the kitchen. Even if she slogged in the factories engaged as a worker, she had to perform her duties that could be cooking, feeding, get the food served and keep the house running along with her maternal duties. But she was never allowed to take any decision on her own or go anywhere according to her own free will. Within four walls she had to stay and slog.

The reality was that she was the first slave when slavery had not even started.

Today women are getting organized and rise for not only their own demands but also for the entire society. This year, on the International Day for women, the call has been issued on the theme of "Inspire Inclusion" meaning that only in unity, our struggle can end in victory. In this context it is imperative to know the background of International Women's

Day. With the process of industrialization that began in 19th century, came several changes in the context of new emerging working class in the society. Along with men, working women also emerged in big numbers.

In England in 1853, management of a garment factory forced Annewakler, young working women, to work 30 hours on sewing machine, even without a lunch break. The result of over work led her to death. Working women in shoes and garment factories of America and Europe had got organised spontaneously. This news of barbaric exploitation spread among working women in other countries also. Women rebelled and the flames spread all over.

The working women of garments factories started organizing themselves, launched strikes and poured on main streets of prominent cities of America. Soon police was everywhere to crush the movement. On Demonstrators, they used lathi charges and tear-gas shells and many lost their lives. They got arrested also. There was also increased workload and several fell sick because of over work. At this stage came the strike in Layman silks. These incidents had inspired many women in general and also working women in particular. Many among them sacrificed their lives during Paris commune of 1871.

Vanaja Akkineni

Communist manifesto which was written by Marx and Engels in 1848 became a weapon and compass in the hands of workers. The working class in its movements started to take up the issues of women also. Many working women went on strike and held demonstrations on the streets of many cities of America on March 8, 1904, despite the ruthless attacks by the authorities. Working women were arrested and tortured. In this situation Rosa Luxemburg gave a clarion call to observe March 8 as International Women's Day. Women problems were discussed on various platforms of international labour organisations. In

gave a call to observe International women's day every year. Since then the day was observed in America, Latin America and Asia. Through demonstrations, women all over the globe started demanding equality and do away with discrimination. There were many other issues too concerning women. In 1913, it was again decided to move the International Day for Women to March 8.

In 1917, in Russia, the great socialist revolution was accomplished under the leadership of Com Lenin. Com Lenin also declared March 8 as International Women's Day in 1922 as recognition to their role in the great socialist revolution in 1917. March 8 was declared as a holiday also. March 8 was also declared as a Day for struggles to achieve

historical. In Bombay working women took part in the strikes and struggles and were in the forefront. Among others, in different parts of the country, were Parvathi Krishnan, Renu Chakravarti, Geetha Mukherji, Usha Tai, Laxmi Sehgal and others. In 1950, our Constitution gave equal opportunities, right to education, liberty and equal opportunities to those that are discriminated against. This was a great effort. The maker of our Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar stated that social development can be measured with conditions of women in a particular society. Mahatma Gandhi also stressed that society should evolve to a stage where women should be able to roam around on the streets even in the midnight. Jawahar Lal Nehru said



1907 first socialist women conference was held in Germany, where it was resolved to demand voting right for women.

On August 1910, second international socialist women's conference was held at Copenhagen in Denmark. It was also decided in this meeting to hold the first International Day for women on March 19, 1911. Prominent women leaders like Clara Jetkin, Alexandra Kollontai, Rosa Luxemburg and many others had attended and

minimum working hours, equal wages, voting rights, maternity benefits, health, and finally a dignified life, with liberty and equality.

In many countries against colonialism and for freedom, women had participated in huge numbers as they did not want "to lag behind". In India with the inspiration of the great October socialist Revolution, Indian women have participated in the struggles without caring even for their lives. The role of women in general and working women in particular was

that country can develop only if women develop. Lenin pointed out that women have to become part and parcel of production process. In fact a day will come when women will rewrite the history.

Women's movement in Europe and America for reduction of working hours has led the women to fight for social justice, equality, political partnership and economic empowerment etc.

Since the decade of 1970s, governments all over the world have



started discussing discrimination, the security conditions for women outside home and also sometime at home. In this background in 1972, in the women's session in the UN, women's international democratic Federation proposed March 8 be declared as International Women's Day. UN approved the proposal and declared the year of 1975 as the year for Women and the day of March 8 as International Women's Year. In 1975, UN summit, held in Mexico, declared 1975-1985 as international women's decade for international women's day. We have to see that in 1949, UN had resolved to end the discrimination towards women in many issues. This is a great turn in the world history.

In 1989 in Nairobi and in 1995 in Beijing women Summits took place. Beijing summit was attended by 70000 women leaders representing 189 countries. This summit recognised 12 main issues. Including Hillary Clinton all delegates gave the slogan of "Women's rights are human rights." The entire program was so empathetic and realistic that it was to be seen with women's eyes only. It was also pointedly brought out that women get justice only in a society which has its roots in justice. The goal should be political and women must have economic empowerment. Women summits have given priorities to multi-dimensional development of women. UN has given certain warnings and

suggestions to nations of this planet. In 2000, United Nations spelt out the goals of Millennium Development, and listed in it infant care, health care of women, eradication of poverty, education and creation of employment potential among women. UN not only suggested the nations from all over the world, it brought lot of pressure on them to meet these commitments. UN also has stated that if at all women has to get 30 percent representation in all fronts, the basis will always be equality. UNDB



also assessed that as women representation in employment sector is not there, Asia and Pacific nations are losing an amount of 4 lakh crores of dollars. If employment rate of these countries goes up, then Gross Domestic Product will also additionally increase.

In 2025, UN gave a call to all nations of the Globe to intensify efforts to achieve gender equality. Still the situation stands unchanged. Gender equality means women and men should have equal opportunities, rights

and responsibilities. Gender equality is in different stages in different countries. In this process World Economic Forum is releasing report of gender gap every year. As per 2024 gender gap report, Ireland, Norway, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden are in the forefront so far as gender equality is concerned. These countries are providing equal opportunities to women, men and women's health, education, employment, and political economic empowerment.

According to 2024

world economic forum report, if the same speed is continued it will take 134 years to achieve gender equality. In this report, 146 countries are being divided into four zones in order to analyse.

The assessment has been made in regard to economic partnership, achievement in complete literacy, health and political empowerment. Ireland could achieve 93.5 percent gender equality successively in 15 years in first rank as per the report of 2024.

India has been concerned and in past few years some progress is made in gender equality but still progress is yet to be achieved. In the fronts like education, health, political representation etc in order to increase women's participation, governments, women organisations, voluntary organisations and society itself have to work together. In order to achieve gender equality even at personal level as well and in view of family also change has to be made. In order to achieve gender equality, every individual

has to play his own role. That way we can build up balanced society. We have to democratise society and our thinking.

India in 2024, in gender equality is concerned is

In 129 th position. In 2023 it was in 127 th rank.

It has fallen down two ranks. Bangladesh (99th rank), Nepal (117 th rank), Sri Lanka (122), Bhutan (124 th rank), are in improved position. Pakistan (145) and Maldives (132) ranks .

India compared to 2023 just increased it's position 0.1 percent. Though there is little progress in education and health fronts, but political and economic fronts there are much inequalities. There are many inequalities in govt policies, thinking, and implementation . Budget allotted to women & child welfare is also not being used for the said purpose.

Though international women's day which started in 1910 has gained many victories in the past but in the background of globalisation women are facing many pathetic conditions. woman has become a commodity in the market. toxic culture, economic burden, domestic violence, influence of feudal mentality, insecurity, dominated society's influence are challenges are being facing by women. problems of women have to be looked into as social problem. Women are to be get ready for relentless struggles for achieving women and child rights, against all kinds of violence, discrimination, all kinds of exploitation, and for full pledged human rights. Above all gender equality be encouraged." Decent and dignified life is not a benevolence of any body but it is women's right. With this slogan women have to fight. This is the oath women have to take on International women's day.

(The author is National executive member, CPI)

Sliding Down of Crude Oil Begins, Tariffs Take Time to Sink

Oil prices have hit their lowest since October and by all indications the downward move is far from over. Brent has already dipped below 70 dollars per barrel as the market is feeling the weight of a supply overhang, with OPEC+ barrels set to flood an already well-supplied system, keeping a lid on any meaningful price recovery.

This is despite the fact that the anticipated supply losses from US President Trump's sanctions and tariffs are yet to be considered serious given the administration's flip-flop. The prices have already had a salutary effect on Asian consumers, with Saudi Arabia announcing a cut in the Asia prices further, as the producers seek to protect their market shares even in the face of declining prices.

Analysts highlight that the oil market is grappling with bearish sentiments due to OPEC+'s gradual return of barrels and the uncertain impacts of U.S. tariffs. The sensitive balance between policy uncertainty and oversupply suggests that

prices may struggle to recover unless demand improves or production is curtailed.

The commencement of U.S. tariffs, particularly President Trump's fluctuating tariff policies, has created significant market volatility and investor uncertainty. The U.S. dollar weakened, contributing to the euro experiencing its largest weekly rise since the financial crisis. In Europe, stock markets dipped, reflecting broader economic concerns exacerbated by soft factory data in Germany and tariff-related anxieties. Global trade tensions have also impacted China, with its imports falling

K Raveendran

substantially amid growing trade war fears, further affecting global economic stability.

Prices experienced a brief rebound following comments by Russia's deputy prime minister, suggesting that OPEC+ might reverse its decision to increase oil production. Despite plans to start pumping more oil in April, Brent crude prices surged to over \$71 a barrel. The U.S. intention to purchase \$20 billion in oil to refill its strategic petroleum reserve also boosted prices. Kazakhstan's vow to cut production following an increase in its output added to the market's complexity.

But this could not be sustained as concerns over a potential oil glut and the impact of U.S. economic health and trade tariffs persisted. Analysts note

that U.S. growth and Chinese demand are uncertain, with China's oil imports dropping 5 percent in early 2025. Despite this, a thin Chinese stockpile might prevent a significant price drop.

Despite recent U.S. policy measures against Iran, including plans to halt its oil exports, the market faces downside risks due to increased supply from OPEC+ and non-OPEC producers. OPEC+ announced an output increase of 138,000 barrels per day starting in April, contributing to the oversupply concerns.

Prices have slipped as markets reacted to U.S. tariff threats on Mexico and Canada and OPEC+ confirming its plan to turn the production taps back on in April. The tariffs, initially set to take effect, have now been put on ice, leading to a slight rebound in prices, but crude remains under pressure.

Canadian retaliatory tariffs are still in place and China will act on retaliatory tariffs next week.

The market is feeling the weight of a supply overhang, with OPEC+ barrels set to flood an already well-supplied system, keeping a lid on any meaningful price recovery.

OPEC+ is banking on demand holding steady but adding more oil at this point risks tipping the market further out of balance and runs the risk of the market flipping into contango.

The tariff threats sent shockwaves through markets, not just because of potential trade disruptions, but also due to fears of retaliatory moves that could ripple through energy supply chains.

While the delay in tariffs has provided a brief sigh of relief, the market is still walking a tightrope between policy uncertainty and oversupply concerns.

OPEC+ now faces a high-stakes balancing act—member states need higher revenues, but if supply outpaces demand, prices could come under even more pressure.

Macroeconomic indicators will be the compass for the market in the weeks ahead, with inflation trends, interest rate decisions, and global GDP growth determining whether demand strengthens or weakens.

For now, crude remains in a fragile position, and unless demand picks up or production is reined in by OPEC+, prices may struggle to find solid footing.

TN Transport Workers' Long Drawn ...

From Page 02

Frustrated with the inaction, thousands of transport workers staged a massive protest march to the Tamil Nadu Secretariat in Chennai, on March 6, 2025, pressing the government to address their demands. The key issues include:

- Immediate finalization of the 15th wage settlement.
- Restoration of the old pension scheme for employees appointed after April 2003.
- Government budgetary allocation for State Transport Undertakings (STUs).

- An end to the practice of hiring private buses during festive seasons.

- Procurement of new buses through soft loans for fleet expansion and replacement.

- Filling 30,000 vacancies through employment exchanges.

- Stopping the contractual employment of drivers and conductors.

- Clearing pending terminal benefits of retirees.

- Payment of frozen Dearness Allowance (DA) from 2016.

- Expanding job opportunities for legal heirs beyond driver and conductor roles.

A Larger Crisis in Public Transport

The struggle of TNSTC workers highlights the broader crisis in Tamil Nadu's public transport sector. Years of financial mismanagement, lack of government support, and increasing privatization have pushed the sector into turmoil. The overworked and underpaid workforce is expected to sustain a failing system without adequate resources or recognition.

Experts argue that sustainable public transport requires substantial government intervention. A dedicated budget for STUs, regular recruitment, modernized

fleets, and fair employee benefits are essential to ensure efficiency and service quality. The ongoing protest serves as a reminder that without immediate action, the state's public transport system may face further deterioration, affecting millions of daily commuters.

The ball is now in the government's court. Will Tamil Nadu address the legitimate concerns of transport workers, or will it continue to sideline their demands? The answer will shape the future of the state's public transport system.

(Author is secretary, NTW, Tamilnadu)

Corporate Tax must be Levied at 70 percent: CPI

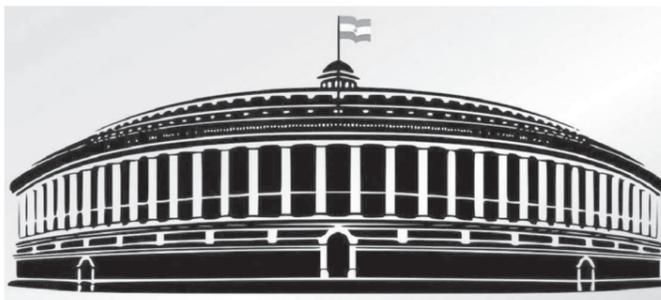
“Manipur has become a riot prone land. Those responsible for changing Manipur to a riot hit State should find a solution for this issue. That is the natural way of finding solution. The ruling dispensation always claimed that if there is Double Engine Government, there will be growth and development in all those States. But I wish to remind you that Manipur has become an example for how the governance would fail if there is a Double Engine Sarcar,” said K Subbarayan, taking part in taking part in the joint discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants and the Budget for the State of Manipur.

Continuing “Those who are responsible for this should also find the solution. Prime Minister has the political responsibility to bring harmony among the two Groups of people of Manipur. I urge that Prime

Minister should directly intervene in this matter and bring peace and normalcy in the State of Manipur,” said the CPI leader from Tiruppur.

He also reminded that as regards the Supplementary Demands for Grants, those in power have forgotten the people of this country, they are concerned only about furthering the interest of corporates. There is a large gap between the poor people and the millionaires, he pointed out. K Subbarayan urged that the corporate tax should be levied at the rate of 70 percent. Then only, this gap can be reduced a little bit and bridged. He said the Government should act on this.

On Farming and farmers, he pointed out that since the inception of the new economic policy in the year 1991, the Union Government should submit a White paper on the functioning of the two important sectors such as MSMEs and farming.



CPI IN PARLIAMENT- LOK SABHA

Contract system of labourers should be abolished. There should not be any contract system of labourers for jobs of permanent nature. This is a crime. The Government should legislate a suitable law to abolish contract system of labourers or workers in all the departments.

CPI leader Subbarayan said that he also has some demands to put before this Government. MPLADS funds meant for the MP Local Area Development. This is Rs 5 Crore for one Parliamentary constituency having six assembly segments. In Tamil Nadu, chief minister of Tamil Nadu allocates Rs 3 Crore for one Assembly constituency. In that way, a Parliamentary

constituency consisting of 6 Assembly Constituencies get Rs 18 Crore altogether. But our Union Government is allocating only Rs 5 Crore per Parliamentary constituency. This is gross injustice. This amount should be enhanced. He said that finance minister must announce the increase in MPLAD Funds from Rs 5 Crore to Rs 18 Crore per year. Reacting to the targeting of Tamilnadu by those in power, Subbarayan said, “How did they forget to see this? You are showing different perspectives to us. Would they be removing this disparity and bring justice to the MPs as regards enhancement of MPLAD funds. I urge that Finance Minister should

clarify about this in her reply to the discussion. The Union Government should accept and implement the Old Pension Scheme. As promised in the election manifesto released during elections, Old Pension Scheme should be implemented for all. Unified Pension Scheme is not required.”

Summing up, he said, “There is no need for considering the Unified Pension scheme. Tamil Nadu remains as an example for the entire country. From North India, especially from different States of North India unemployed labourers come in lakhs to places like Tiruppur, Coimbatore and Erode of Tamil Nadu in search of employment. As a result of this, the infrastructure of Tiruppur is totally disturbed. I urge upon the Finance Minister to announce a special package for Tiruppur which earns a lot of foreign exchange to our country.”

Railway (Amendment) Bill, 2024

P. Sandosh Kumar, CPI MP, during the discussion on the budget for 2025-2026, urged the Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav, and other relevant officials to focus more on rail safety rather than reels. He highlighted that there have been 678 railway accidents over the past ten years of the NDA regime, with at least 68 accidents occurring each year. From April 2024 to March, there were 29 accidents, indicating a worrying trend of increasing railway accidents.

One significant factor contributing to this rise is that at least 15 percent of security-related positions

in Indian Railways are currently vacant. He requested that the railway minister take immediate action to fill these vacancies.

Additionally, he suggested including a provision for the removal of board members in the bill concerning the reconstitution of the board. Currently, the bill, which is concise with only four clauses, does not address this aspect. By adding provisions for both resignation and removal, the bill would be strengthened, creating a more comprehensive framework for board governance.

He also urged for the restoration of earlier



CPI IN PARLIAMENT- RAJYA SABHA

benefits for senior citizens. Furthermore, he emphasized the need to at least double the number of ladies' coaches in Indian Railways, as safety has become a serious concern recently. According to the Economic Survey, passenger traffic has grown by 8 percent over the past year. This trend is expected to continue, as many people have no other option but to rely on railways for travel.

Therefore, he requested to prioritize railway safety.

Furthermore, he spoke about the Vande Bharat service. Indian Railways has historically undertaken numerous initiatives to enhance travel experiences. In the past, the Rajdhani Express was synonymous with luxury; however, with the introduction of various advancements, we are now witnessing the era of

Vande Bharat. Unfortunately, this development has led to the cancellation or delay of many trains that serve the needs of ordinary passengers. He stated that this trend is unacceptable. The fare for Vande Bharat is prohibitively high for the average citizen, leaving many passengers to endure extended waiting times for alternative services. This issue is particularly pronounced in Kerala, but it is also indicative of conditions across much of the nation.

While the introduction of Vande Bharat marks a significant step forward, Indian Railways must continue to prioritize the

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New Age Weekly

BKMU calls for National day of Protest ...

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Government had not submitted its reports on time.

However, we assert that the Central Government cannot withhold funds on the grounds of alleged irregularities in the implementation of MGNREGA. The BKMU also highlights that the Central Government is misusing Section 27 of the MGNREGA. We maintain that the Central Government cannot continue this practice indefinitely. The Act stipulates that "appropriate remedial measures must be instituted for proper implementation within a reasonable timeframe."

The BKMU General Council Meeting asserts that MGNREGA is an act rather than just a program. The government is obligated to employ job cardholders within 15 days; otherwise, they are required to pay an unemployment allowance. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution states that "the right to life" is a fundamental right, and no government can disregard it. The BKMU General Council Meeting voices its concerns regarding the shortcomings of the Modi

Government, highlighting the government's reluctance to empower agricultural workers.

According to a report from the World Bank, at least 1.7 percent of GDP should be invested in employment-related programs. However, the budget for 2024-25 allocates only 0.26 percent of GDP for this purpose. Various survey reports indicate that the most affected groups due to the non-implementation of MGNREGA are Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities, minorities, and women workers.

From various survey reports, it has been observed that the groups most affected by the non-implementation of MGNREGA are the SC/ST communities, minorities, and women workers. In states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the Central Government has not been sending funds for MGNREGA over the past few months, which is a situation echoed in several other states as well. The BKMU General Council Meeting emphasizes that "100 days of work" is a fundamental right that no government can undermine. They demand a guarantee of 100 days of



work, which should be extended to 200 days, with wages linked to the consumer price index, ensuring at least Rs. 700 per day.

Additionally, the BKMU advocates for a minimum social security pension of Rs. 6000 per month for individuals aged 60 and above, as well as the enactment of Central legislation for agricultural workers. They call for the implementation of land ceiling laws, the distribution of government land and surplus land to landless agricultural workers, and the provision of land Pattas. There is also a demand for reservation in the private sector for SC, ST, and OBC groups.

The BKMU General Council Meeting insists on the immediate implementation of

agreements pending since 2021, particularly regarding the caste census and the proper implementation of SC/ST sub-programmes.

Furthermore, the Council has resolved that the BKMU will fully participate in a Jatha on May 23, 2025, to honor Shaheed Bhagat Singh's contributions to the freedom struggle and his vision for a Socialist India, as well as the observance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birthday on April 14, 2025. A nationwide campaign will take place on June 10, organized by the BKMU, to promote the proper implementation of MGNREGA.

The General Council Meeting was inaugurated by CPI General Secretary D. Raja, who presented a

grave picture of the current situation, claiming that the Modi Government is pursuing anti-constitutional policies and curtailing constitutional rights. Allegations were made that the government is implementing fascist policies and fostering division among communities, particularly between Hindus and Muslims, while also engaging in actions against SC/ST and Dalit populations. In response, the BKMU aims to mobilize across India to combat these anti-people policies. The meeting resolved that "the earth is ours; the sky is ours — come and join us" in the fight for agricultural workers' rights. D. Raja was appointed as Vice President of the BKMU.



Tensions Intensify in US - China Relations



Diary of International Events

C. Adhikesavan

The U.S. under President Donald Trump has ignited a global firestorm with its push for reciprocal tariffs, impacting markets and triggering sharp reactions worldwide. China, in particular, has responded angrily, signalling readiness for any form of conflict with the United States. The Chinese Embassy in Washington posted on the platform X, stating, "If war is what the U.S. wants – be it a tariff war, a trade war, or any other type of war – we are ready to fight till the end."

This escalation was triggered by Trump's speech to the U.S. Congress, where he accused multiple countries, including China, India, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and the European Union, of exploiting the U.S. with unfair trade practices. Trump noted that these countries charge the U.S. higher tariffs than the U.S. charges them. For instance, India's auto tariffs are over 100 per cent,

with India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's visit to the U.S. for discussions on advancing bilateral trade agreements.

The trade war poses significant challenges to both economies. China's readiness to engage in any form of conflict highlights its determination to resist U.S. pressure. Economically, the tariffs are expected to increase costs for American businesses already struggling with inflation and supply chain disruptions. Financial markets worldwide are reeling, with investors pulling back amid fears of an all-out trade war. The S&P 500 has dropped to its lowest level since before the 2024 election, reflecting investor concerns.

Canada, Mexico, and the European Union are also preparing retaliatory measures. Canada has implemented 25 per cent tariffs on 155 billion dollar worth of U.S. goods. Both Canada

country's resolve to resist U.S. pressure. The ongoing trade conflict poses significant economic risks and could destabilize global trade, with no clear resolution in sight. Trump's gamble to use tariffs as leverage may strain diplomatic ties and threaten the stability of an already fragile global economy. Whether this strategy will pay off or spiral out of control remains to be seen.

Rebuilding Gaza: Arab Plan vs Trump's 'Riviera' Vision

Trump proposed a bold vision to turn Gaza into a luxury destination, but his plan to relocate Palestinians made it dead on arrival. Now, Arab leaders have unveiled a 53 billion dollar counterplan – Gaza 2030 – focused on rebuilding homes, infrastructure, and industry while keeping Palestinians on their land.

aims to rebuild Gaza without displacing its 2.1 million residents, countering former President Donald Trump's controversial plan to relocate Palestinians and transform the area into a U.S.-owned "Riviera." The Arab plan envisions international peacekeepers, an interim governance committee, and eventual handover to a reformed Palestinian Authority.

However, the U.S. and Israel dismissed the Arab proposal as unrealistic, citing Gaza's current conditions and the absence of a strategy to eliminate Hamas' influence. Israel's Foreign Ministry stated that the plan "ignores the reality on the ground" and fails to address the need to disarm Hamas. The Israeli government has been standing by Trump's alternative plan, which includes relocating Palestinians to neighbouring countries like Egypt and Jordan.

Arab leaders, led by Egypt, argue that displacement is unjust and emphasize maintaining Palestinian rights within their homeland. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi described the Arab plan as a "just and sustainable solution" and called for international support. The initiative includes phased reconstruction efforts, modern infrastructure development, and economic revitalization through investments from global entities.

Hamas has welcomed the Arab plan but refuses to disarm until an independent Palestinian state is established. This stance complicates efforts to implement the proposal or stabilize the fragile ceasefire in Gaza. The Arab plan suggests deploying international peacekeepers under the UN umbrella, with Arab troops potentially involved in securing Gaza before handing over to a new Palestinian police force trained by Egypt and Jordan.



while China's average tariff on U.S. products is twice what the U.S. charges China.

In response, Trump doubled levies on Chinese goods from 10 per cent to 20 per cent and announced that the U.S. would implement reciprocal tariffs starting April 2. This means that any tariff imposed on U.S. exports would be met with an equal tariff on imports from those countries. Trump's comments also coincided

and China have taken the tariff matter to the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the U.S. Financial analysts caution that the real damage could come in the months ahead as companies scramble to adapt and international trade slows down. A full-blown trade war could push the world into recession with no clear winners.

In conclusion, while China's readiness for conflict is largely rhetorical, it underscores the

But will Israel and Hamas agree? With Washington rejecting the Arab proposal and Israel favouring Trump's vision, the region faces two competing futures. Can Gaza truly be rebuilt, or is peace still out of reach?

The United States and Israel have rejected an Arab reconstruction plan for Gaza, endorsed by the Arab League at a Cairo summit. The proposal, valued at over 53 billion dollar,

On Maritime Business Bill

About the maritime business Bill, CPI MP V Selvaraj told the house that to ensure a robust and strong economy in the country the need of the time are as follows:

(i) Improving the digital commerce platforms; (ii) Creating and improving e-commerce platforms providing the best connectivity between the Producers and Consumers by using India's biggest IT sector; (iii) Strengthening the maritime trade; (iv) Concentrating in providing an improved shipping connectivity with the international centres of trade, particularly

ensuring transportation of high value products such as drugs and technology; (v) Encouraging innovation in technology; (vi) Encouraging high technology in production by providing incentives for research and development activities in the fields such as Renewable energy and Biotechnology; (vii) Providing subsidy to Start-ups and SMEs besides simplification of Government policies as well as tax exemptions; (viii) Providing infrastructure development for economic development in two-third of the Cities and attempting to reduce regional imbalances; (ix)

Improving the National Distribution network and its capacity by setting up equipment manufacturing centres in the less developed areas; expansion of trade through different measures by supporting innovation; and (x) Giving impetus to economy by way of encouraging and ensuring competitiveness in the world arena.

He said that it was his duty to give some suggestions regarding this Bill. There is a proverb in Tamil Nadu. "Thaladaiyuliyavillad" which means we should venture out to foreign nations situated across seas to seek wealth. My

fellow MP and dear friend Dr. Kalanidhi Veerasamy quoted the lines of Mahakavi Bharathi. I too want to quote those lines. "Vellaimathukavomai-makathunappidu On" The meaning in English goes like this. "Let us roam across the snow-covered silver mountains-Let us send our ships across the seas of the western countries." Similarly, we have a great history regarding participation of Tamils in the freedom struggle of our country. Shri V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, the first Tamil to own a shipping company in India, and his sacrifices during the freedom struggle are adorable. It is

said that there were three flags, the flag of the Congress party, the flag of the Communist Party and the flag of the Indian Union Muslim League flying high in the ship operated by V.O.C. Such is the great and historic background of Tamils.

Mentioning about few facts of history, he said, "In my Nagappattinam Constituency, during the period of Cholas, there were large scale trade with the world countries. We have had direct trade connections with Sri Lanka. I urge that the existing harbour in Nagappattinam should be developed. Particularly,

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On Maritime Business... Railway (Amendment) ...

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the ship transport is being operated between India and Sri Lanka through a company named Subham Carriers. This travel service should be improved upon besides starting freight carrying activities between India and Sri Lanka. Consultative meetings are being held in this regard. Particularly there is a demand for deepening this harbour. For air transport, 5per cent GST is levied for economy class and 12per cent GST is levied for Business class. Whereas 18 per cent GST is levied for transports through ships. In order to improve tradethrough shipping

activities, I urge that the GST should be brought down to 5per cent. I urge that the Nagappattinamharbour should be deepened by 5 metres and an estuary should be developed there for a length of 300 metres."

Mentioning the visit of TN chief minister, M K Stalin, CPI MP said, "He expressed concerns about the difficulties faced by fishermen of Tamil Nadu. During last 10 years after Union Government came to power, 3,656 fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. As many as 611 boats of fishermen were confiscated by them. There were 736 attacks by Sri Lankan Navy on our

fishermen. What is the action taken on these incidents? How the fishermen of Tamil Nadu are looked upon by the Union Government? Whether they are seen as fishermen of Tamil Nadu or fishermen of India? Is Tamil Nadu not a part of India? Why is this partisan approach from the Union Government? This should not take place. I accuse the Union Government for taking forward hatred politics and partisan approach. In order to find a solution, there should be talks with the Sri Lankan government and every possible action should be taken up by the Union Government to protect our fishermen."

safety and travel experience of the common man. The implementation of Vande Bharat should not compromise the accessibility of rail travel for the average passenger. He respectfully requested that the railway minister to consider referring this Bill to a select committee for further examination.

Affordable cancer care treatment for weaker sections.

Sandosh Kumar also raised the concern regarding the need to provide affordable cancer treatment to economically weaker sections. He urged the government to establish a nodal agency for cancer care. In 2022 alone, there was an addition of 19 to 20 lakh patients. There is an alarming increase in cancer patients, and the burden of these cancer patients would increase to 45 lakhs in the coming 4 to 5 years. Because of this, there is a need to step up the awareness programme and accessibility to the latest treatment. Targeted therapies, which can increase survival rates significantly, should be made widely available. A nodal agency could be a big step towards this. The success seen in HIV control through the establishment of the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) is a role model. The authority serves as a promising model for similar advancement in cancer care.

On Record ...

Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin renewed his attack on the National Education Policy (NEP), saying that it was a "saffron policy" aimed at developing Hindi. He further claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), through the proposed delimitation exercise, was "attempting to sustain power by winning in northern states." Stalin alleged that the BJP was trying to increase the number of its MPs in states of their influence and thereby develop their party and asserted that the DMK would stop it. - The Hindustan Times, March 12.

Several Opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha accused the government of violating the Constitution by discontinuing funds to the states that have not implemented the National Education Policy and "imposing" Hindi on the states that do not want to follow the three-language formula. During the discussion on the functioning of the education ministry, members of the

Congress, DMK, CPI, CPM, Trinamool Congress and the Samajwadi Party slammed the Centre for stalling grants under the SamagraShikshaAbhiyan (SSA) for not implementing the PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme. - The Telegraph, March 12.



The Centre has told Parliament that there are 82,065 vacancies for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and 131,244 vacancies for Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) in the country as of 2024-25. The highest vacancies were reported in Uttar Pradesh, with 29,858 vacant AWW positions and 26,007 vacant AWH

positions. Other states facing significant shortages include West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar. Bihar has 2,915 vacant AWW positions and 11,868 vacant AWH positions, while Gujarat faces shortages of 3,181 AWWs and 6,895 AWHs. - The Hindustan Times, March 12.

Thousands of schools in Uttarakhand have been functioning without principals or with just one teacher since last April, a state government report said. "Around 3,504 schools rely on a single teacher, and out of 17,787 schools, 10,470 (approximately 59%) are without a principal, the 210-page report published on March 10 by the state rural development and migration commission said. The report, throwing light on the challenges in the education sector of the state, revealed around

263 schools lack teachers for various subjects, with 249 of these located in hill districts. Additionally, in 180 schools, 242 teachers are each teaching only one student. - The Hindustan Times, March 12.

- Compiled by C. Adhikesavan

BKMU calls for National Day of Protest on June 10th



The General Council of the Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union (BKMU), convened in New Delhi from March 8th to 10th, 2025, decisively proclaimed June 10th, 2025, as a national day of protest. Farmers across the nation will unequivocally voice their anger, anguish, and defiance against the oppressive policies of the BJP government. The General Council has firmly denounced the BJP as the primary agent of destruction for MGNREGA, the world's largest social security scheme. It has made an unyielding commitment to thwart the BJP's relentless attempts to dismantle this vital program.

Under the leadership of BKMU President N. Periyasamy, the meeting was attended by General Council members from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Together, we stand united in our resolve to protect the rights of farmers and uphold the integrity of MGNREGA.

At the General Council Meeting, D. Raja, the General Secretary of CPI, addressed the attendees. He emphasized that the Indian state should function as a welfare state,

prioritizing the needs of the most marginalized sections of society. He expressed concern over the growing influence of corporate interests and crony capitalism, which he believes is detrimental to rural agricultural workers, who are in a critical situation. Raja pointed out that the central government is not providing adequate funds for MGNREGA and other welfare schemes. He urged the BKMU to advocate fiercely for their essential demands and to uphold the dignity of life for rural agricultural workers, who, he noted, have nothing to lose but their chains. He stressed

Gulzar Singh Gorla

the importance of strong organization, stating that "our organization is stronger than weapons." Without a robust grassroots organization, no campaign can succeed. Therefore, he concluded that establishing strong grassroots organizations and forming village committees is crucial at this moment.

Nagendra Nath Ojha emphasized that we have many achievements, and it is essential for us to engage with the community through a fresh perspective and self-reflection in light of the changing circumstances. The youth in our movement are no longer willing to tolerate continued atrocities against them.

Gulzar Singh Gorla, the General Secretary of BKMU, presented the report on activities since the Chennai General

Council meeting, along with plans for future tasks. After thorough discussion and valuable suggestions, the report was adopted unanimously.

The following resolutions were established as future tasks:

The General Council of BKMU has called for a national protest day on June 10, 2025. The Khet Mazdoor will organize demonstrations to express their anger and protest against the anti-people policies of the Modi Government, which are undermining the MGNREGA. They will mobilize at the district level and send a memorandum to the President of India.

BKMU also condemned the Central Government's guidelines that dilute MGNREGA, which guarantees a minimum of 100 days of work and restricts work allocation based solely on demand. The inadequate allocation of funds and the delayed release of wages create a critical situation for workers.

The BKMU meeting called for a caste-wise census and the enactment of a law to remove the 50 percent cap on reservations for SC, ST, OBC, and other categories. The Central Government is attempting to undermine the Right to Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). In West Bengal, the Central Government has not sent funds for the 100 Days of Work Guarantee Act for the past three years, with the last funds dispatched in December 2021. The Modi Government has not addressed the outstanding payments owed to Job Card holders. According to estimates from the West Bengal Government, the total amount owed is approximately Rs. 7,500 crores.

A Central team has visited West Bengal three times to investigate alleged violations regarding MGNREGA. The team reported issues with poor record-keeping and noted that the West Bengal

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