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Condemn Killings of Civilians in Pahalgam; Full Facts Should Be Brought Before The People

On April 22, 2025 civilian tourists were killed in mass killings in an attack in Pahalgam district in Jammu & Kashmir. The attack took place in the hilltop meadow of Baisaran, a famous tourist spot. 26 persons are reported killed and several others injured. CPI(ML)-New Democracy strongly condemns these killings of innocents, expresses deep sympathies with and offers condolences to the families of killed in this terror attack. These killings neither serve the struggle of Kashmiris for their democratic aspirations nor are in the interest of any religion. It is noteworthy that people in Kashmir, especially Muslims, have come on the streets against killings in this heinous attack.

This attack is a glaring example of political and administrative failure of RSS-BJP Govt. which holds complete control over the security forces deployed in J&K as J&K is a Union Territory. RSS-BJP had claimed that the root causes of the militancy in J&K were Article 370 and Article 35A before annulling them on August 5, 2019. But these steps have increased alienation of people of J&K and all claims of restoring normalcy have proved to be false. Union Govt. have spared no repressive acts to suppress the democratic aspirations including large-scale indiscriminate arrests and total suppression including that of media. But their claims of success of these steps have been proved false. Hence, responsibility of failure to protect tourists lies squarely with the Union Govt.

It has also drawn attention that these mass killings of Hindu tourists in Pahalgam have taken place while the US Vice-President is visiting India. Earlier mass killings of Sikhs in Chittisinghpura had taken place when the then US President Clinton visited India and Pulwama killings of security forces took place before parliamentary elections. The timing of these mass killings which make the circumstances suspicious also make it absolutely necessary that a full enquiry into Pahalgam killings and failure to protect civilians be taken up and completed. This enquiry should be conducted at highest level, a Judicial Enquiry so that all facts related to these killings are brought before the people of the country.

Leaders of RSS-BJP, under whose rule these killings have taken place, are rushing to capitalize it by deepening communal division despite condemnation from all religious groups. The same RSS-BJP Govt. have not paid any serious attention to killings of civilians on ethnic ground in the state of Manipur for a long time and Prime Minister Modi has not even visited the state. It has given rise to apprehension that present ruling dispensation is motivated by ability to politically exploit the situation. Hence, it is the duty of all progressive, democratic and peace-loving forces to foil the attempts to deepen communal division in the country and they must not allow these killings to be used to

spread communal poison and division. Such polarization will only benefit communal fascist forces.

It is pertinent to point out the plight of people of J&K. Statehood to J&K has not been restored despite promise to do so. Abrogation of Article 35A has increased apprehension among people of J&K about loss of their lands. In this respect, the plight of farmers of J&K should be noted. Of the 1.5 million agricultural holdings, reportedly over 81% are marginal farmers. Peasants are not getting remunerative prices, rather repeated road blocks make their crops rot and bring them untold sufferings. Yet they are not willing to part with their lands like peasants at most places. It is creating hurdles for the Govt. which wants to help its corporate friends with land in J&K, once described as a paradise on earth. Besides woeful conditions of peasantry, the attack on tourism also hampers shopkeepers and small owners.

Progressive and democratic forces must rise to demand justice to the innocents killed in this attack, for bringing full facts relating to the attack before the people and foil attempts to use these killings for communal polarization while guarding against further attacks on the democratic rights of the people which are already under serious attack.

Central Committee,

CPI (ML)-New Democracy

April 23, 2025

PDSU-PSU All India Coordination Condemns Attacks On Kashmiri Youth In Uttarakhand

[Kashmiri Muslims helped victims of attack in Pahalgam in every possible way including taking people to safety, taking injured to hospitals. A Kashmiri youth, Adil, was killed by the gunmen for pleading that the lives of the tourists be spared. Adil belonged to a poor family. His family is devastated. Despite this, Hindutva organizations are attacking Kashmiri students, forcing many of them to flee from places across India where they were studying. We are here publishing a statement issued by Ranvir, spokesperson of PDSU-PSU Coordination against the attack on Kashmiri students in Uttarakhand. – Editor)

On Wednesday, a day after 26 civilians, primarily tourists, were shot dead by attackers in Baisaran Meadow in Pahalgam, a 20-year-old Kashmiri student at Baba Farid Institute of Technology was jeered at by several locals as he left his Dehradun campus as

usual. He claims that the fact that these individuals knew him since he enrolled in the college two years prior was what startled him the most.

He claims that if he and a few other Kashmiri students continue to stay here, the locals have implied that the students would be in danger. Later, the students were persuaded to leave after seeing a video of the Hindu Raksha Dal issuing an ultimatum.

This was followed by a sort of exodus of Kashmiri students pursuing different courses in Uttarakhand. The way that the Hindu Raksha Dal's threatening videos have gone viral and unchecked, with no action taken against them despite the Police Superintendent's assurances and the efforts of many professors to assist the students, hardly gives Kashmiri students and their parents any sense of confidence.

This is a grave time when the entire country is shocked and saddened. This dreadful act of murder of 26 people cannot but be condemned. But using it as a handle to spread hatred against a particular religion is unacceptable. The heinous act cannot be used to blame all Muslims or Kashmiri Muslims. This type of targeting disregards the fact that it was local Kashmiri Muslims who helped people after the attack. They helped them to move out, gave them shelter and food. It was a Kashmiri Muslim youth who lost his life trying to protect the people.

It is a time to support and help each other rather than spreading venom. It is a time to demand that the Government act against the killers and protect all the citizens irrespective of region or religion.

In view of the above, we demand

1. Sufficient and appropriate protection should be provided to the Kashmiri students in Uttarakhand.
2. It should be ensured that their studies can be completed without hindrance and fear.
3. Action should be taken against people spreading hatred and fear.

Trump's Tariff War

Deepening economic crisis of Imperialism could not be staved off by debt driven economic growth which has characterized the economies of most of the imperialist countries in the period since explosion of the financial economic crisis in 2008. The leading imperialist power, America, witnessed sharp growth in its debt which had reached 36.22 trillion US dollars by February 2025, corresponding to over 121% of its GDP. There has been a continuous increase in this debt, which is rooted both in increase in trade deficit but more importantly, in rising domestic expenditure over the revenue collected by the Govt. By the end of the year 2023, US national debt was US \$ 33.1 trillion which had increased by the end of year 2024 to US \$ 35.46 trillion, an increase of US \$ 2.36 trillion. According to US Bureau of Economic Analysis, US trade deficit in the year 2024 amounted to US \$918.4 billion. Exports were US \$ 3,191.6 billion while imports were worth US \$ 4110.0 billion dollars in 2024 and while both had increased over 2023, but imports had increased more. From this it is clear that of the 2.36 trillion \$ increase in US debt, 0.918 trillion dollars were accounted by trade deficit while the rest came from higher Govt. expenditure than revenue. This growing debt has increased the interest payment burden on the debt, with some claiming that interest payment accounts for greater expenditure than US defense expenditure which is itself enormous.

During his campaign for Presidency in 2024, Donald Trump had called for reducing this debt by reducing trade deficit by imposing tariffs (taxes on the goods and services imported from other countries) while reducing what he called as “wasteful” expenditure. Of the total global trade, trade in goods accounts for over three fourth. On the other hand, he had promised to further cut taxes on the super-rich to appease corporate whose major section had lined up to support his election campaign. However, this will only further increase the Govt. deficit. Though Trump had formed a Department of Govt. Efficiency looked after by Elon Musk, but this could come up only with cuts in expenditure like USAID and in funding of Universities and by closure of some departments. His initial claim of reducing deficit by \$2 trillion (US has a around 6.75 trillion dollar budget) has been reduced to \$160 billion and bulk of this too is not specific. Trump dare not touch the heads with large outlays, committed as he is to increasing defense expenditure and tax cuts and he has kept the attention on addressing the trade deficit, portraying it as the sole or main reason for increasing debt.

Since becoming President again, Trump has increased tariffs on trading partners. He started with increasing tariffs on three main trading partners- Canada, Mexico and China. Though he halted tariffs on Mexico and partly on Canada but he has continued tariffs on China. He also announced tariffs on Aluminium and Steel products. Come April 2 and Trump liberated USA from all rules hitherto governing trade among countries, howsoever biased these are in favour of imperialist powers. He announced

across the board tariff on most of the countries. He called them reciprocal tariffs but these are anything but reciprocal. According to Trump, any trade imbalance is itself a proof of higher tariff. He has counted all non-tariff factors in trade like prices of products and preferences of consumers in the category of tariff. He has calculated the tariff on US products in these countries on the trade deficit divided by volume of imports and has announced imposition of 50% of the 'tariff' (mis)calculated by him as tariff imposed on US products by that country. For example, in the case of India, exports to USA in the year 2024 were of the value of US \$ 87.4 billion while imports from US were US\$ 41.8 billion thereby accounting for trade deficit for USA of about \$ 45.7 billion. According to Trump's formula this amounted to roughly 52% tariff on US goods and hence on April 2, he announced imposition of 26% of tariff on imports from India. The same formula was used in case of other countries.

Let us not go by the bombastic phrases which Trump generally uses. The real purpose of Trump is to thrust costly American goods onto other countries. Whatever the pretensions of Trump or other members of his Administration, the real purpose is not to shift labour intensive production to America as that would only increase the prices of goods in America, further increasing economic burden on the common people of America. This would also badly hit Trump friendly corporate who make huge profits by exploiting cheap labour in the other countries. This is evident from Trump's announcement that these tariffs would remain in place till the concerned country reaches a trade deal with America. This makes it clear that the real purpose is to strike trade deals with individual countries, damn the WTO and its rules which were forced over the world by the same USA in another period. These trade deals are meant to force individual countries to buy capital intensive expensive American goods to balance trade. It means that they would be able to sell their products in America only if they purchase US goods. This is forced trade in place of what capitalists had been showcasing as free trade, though it was never free in true sense. An additional arsenal being employed to force other countries to fall into Trump's line is imposing secondary tariffs i.e. tariffs on the goods of the countries who trade with countries sanctioned by USA or on whose products very high tariffs are imposed.

Trump's formula is neither ingenious nor practical. In the earlier period of prolonged economic crisis in American economy, US had forced then rising Japan and Germany to lower value of US dollar to increase US exports. This was Plaza Accord, struck in September 1985 and which US could force on these countries because they were under US influence. But US cannot treat China, its main trading rival at present, in the same manner as China is not under control of USA. Moreover, economic rise of China gives options to other countries as well. Trump is dumb witted. He has forgotten that in 1980s US share in the world production and world trade was much higher and no other country, even those then called rising, was anywhere near. Such is not the case at present. Today USA accounts for only about 13% of total global imports and just about

10% of global exports. In 2023 China's share of world trade was \$ 5.61 trillion (\$3.42 trillion exports and \$2.19 trillion imports) as compared to US trade volume of \$ 4.86 trillion (\$1.86 trillion exports and \$ 3.0 trillion imports). These were part of the total \$32 trillion world trade. If US is foolish enough to overplay its hand- and Trump will not be allowed to do so unless there is backing of powerful elite- then it may wake to find, as Prof. Cornett warns, not only de-dollarization but also de-Americanization of the world.

Markets reacted strongly to Trump tariffs. Market mayhem and more importantly, rise in the yield of 10 year treasury bonds to 4.5% from 3.9% on April 7 which would result in considerable interest payment burden, forced Trump to partially backtrack announcing staying of tariffs on goods of many countries and on several items imported. Trump has also announced that talks are afoot with China which has reciprocated with increasing tariffs on US goods. China has expressed that though it is always ready to talk with USA but there are no talks ongoing.

One of the main targets of US Admn. is obviously China. However, it is important to note that China is today not as dependent on US markets as earlier. Since 2018, when previous Trump Admn. had given tariff shock to China, it has diversified its trade and today it exports more to ASEAN countries than to USA. Of China's total exports of \$ 3.42 trillion in 2023, more than 1 trillion \$ was to ASEAN countries and about 237 billion dollars to Russia. According to US Trade Representative (USTR), in 2024 total goods trade with China was worth \$582 billion, of this US exports to China were \$ 143 billion and US imports from China were worth 438 billion dollars. China is better prepared to face US shutdown of its exports than it was in 2018 and it is apparent from the response of Chinese Govt. to Trump's measures. Moreover, agricultural exports to China are an important part of US exports worth \$24.7 billion, of which soyabean exports are main. Stoppage of this export will ruin soyabean producers, a traditional Republican base. Even in 2018, when Trump had increased tariffs on nearly 230 billion dollars of US goods, its burden to the tune of \$57 billion was born by US consumers resulting in increased cost of living.

Here it is also pertinent to note that bringing production back to America is a non-starter as a practical option and is only rhetoric to woo the gullible. This will be double whammy as it will adversely affect corporate profits. For comparison, wage cost per manufacturing hour is \$30 in USA while it is \$12 in China and even lower in other countries. On the other hand, labour productivity differences are narrowing as technology percolates and is also developed by other countries. Obviously, this will increase prices for domestic consumers. Besides needing huge investment in rebuilding industrial base, such increase in prices will depress demand which may well turn recession to depression about which several economists have been warning. Make America Great Again is a reactionary slogan targeted at rights of marginalized social groups; primarily a white supremacist slogan which finds support among some sections but increasing economic hardships will dilute that support. There is already growing

perception among working masses against Trump policies in just 100 days of his returning to power. This tirade against imports from other countries has already created adverse perception in a number of countries and is reflected in falling sales of some of them e.g. Tesla cars in a number of markets.

While trying to stop trends towards de-dollarization by all means, Trump Admn. finds itself in a familiar dilemma (called Triffen dilemma or Triffen paradox) facing the country whose currency is a reserve currency in the world. To maintain that position it must supply enough currency (like dollar in this case) and for that it has to run a negative trend balance. To an extent it is manageable and even beneficial when the country is a dominant manufacturing and trading power as it enables the country to export its crisis but becomes a shackle when it declines and crisis manifests in declining standards of living or rising debt which in long term will also lead to same.

The biggest threat to India is the subservient nature of Indian Govt. towards imperialist powers which is likely to succumb to US pressure and compromise interests of Indian economy and Indian people. It was quite apparent from lack of any response from Indian Govt. when Indian youth were deported from USA bound in shackles and chains. Taking cue from advent of Trump as President, Union Govt. in its Budget presented on February 1 this year had already reduced tariffs on certain kinds of heavy vehicles and their parts, flavoured drinks and solar panels mainly to help increase imports from US. Since then, more measures have been taken to reduce tariffs on the goods which mostly come from USA. Indian Govt. has indicated that it is more than willing to bend to US diktats.

Rather than offering any reaction to US imposition of 26% tariffs, Indian Govt. has harped on reaching trade deal with Trump Admn. It means that Indian Govt. is willing to sacrifice interests of Indian people especially peasants and workers. US has imposed 26% tariffs on main Indian exports to USA – electronic products (14 billion \$), Gems and Jewellery (9 billion dollars), textiles and IT industries. Pharmaceuticals are exempted for the time being but with Trump loosening environmental concerns relating to Pharma industry, this situation may change in future. To project submission before US Admn. on trade as a victory, Modi led RSS-BJP Govt. is preparing the ground by inviting US big tech firms to shift their production base from China to India. Indian Govt. is also trying to befriend Elon Musk who is an important voice in Trump Admn. for reaching out to US firms for investments in India.

India will be under pressure to increase purchase of US goods. These will be mainly in the field of defense equipment, agriculture and high-tech goods to name a few. US defense equipment will not only be costly but India's close links with Russia in defense sector will also pose problems as US does not want to share platforms of its defense equipment with Russia. Another important and possibly most impactful area is import of agricultural produce. Indian agriculture is already crisis ridden and Indian peasantry

under increasing indebtedness, import of US agricultural produce will adversely impact Indian peasantry. This will definitely be resisted as well as the impact on different industrial sectors.

Self-proclaimed friendship with Trump may come at a very high price for Modi. People of India must keep a keen watch on this price as it will be paid by Indian people.

Oppose Waqf Amendment Act, 2025; It Is An Attack Against Minorities

Intensifying attacks against the minorities, especially Muslims who are the largest minority, RSS-BJP have forced passage of Waqf (Amendment) Act in both Houses of Parliament. This Act is titled the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act though its main purpose is neither to promote empowerment, nor efficiency nor development of the community it belongs to. Its main intent is to take the management of considerable waqf properties away from Muslims and bring them under the control of the Govt. This law is meant to replace the earlier law of 1995 with its 2013 amendment. 1995 Act itself was after many Acts on the subject beginning with 1913 Act and going through similar exercise in 1923 and 1954.

RSS-BJP Waqf Act has done away with management of Waqf properties by the representatives of the community, Muslims. It provides for all members of the Board to be nominated by the Govt. thus doing away with their being chosen by the members of the related community. According to 1995 Act amended in 2013, only three of the 11 members of the Board were to be nominated. Further the new Act mandates inclusion of two persons of other communities (non-Muslims) in the state boards. It is apparent that the whole scheme is to take away the entire control of the Waqf properties from the Muslim community and into the hands of the Govt.

The Act has not only been forced without taking the affected community into confidence and addressing their legitimate concerns, it also violates provisions of the Constitution. Article 26 provides that “every religious denomination or any sections thereof shall have the right – (a) to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;

(b) to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;

(c) to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and

(d) to administer such property in accordance with law”, these rights being subject to “public order, morality and health”. The new Act however takes away the control of the management from the community, explicitly providing that only four of the Waqf board’s 11 members have to be Muslim. Thus seven members of the Board could be non-

Muslims and thus opinion of Muslim members of the Board could be easily ignored in the management of their own religious affairs.

RSS-BJP have cited their fake concern about the efficiency, empowerment and development of Waqf properties. This is pretty obvious from the fact that while inefficiency and mismanagement may and do percolate management of endowment properties of all religious denominations, Muslims have been singled out for such a treatment thus violating Article 14 of the Indian Constitution which provides, "The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India." Though Waqf Boards have considerable properties, but so do other religious denominations, in fact much more, but efficiency in their management and their empowerment and development is apparently of little concern to the RSS-BJP led Govt. What an exceptional and better avoidable concern for the Muslims! There is no mandatory inclusion of persons of minorities in the management boards of Hindu temples and Maths/ Mutts. In fact there are no minorities in the management boards of Hindu temples.

Waqf are the donations made by Muslims for religious and/or charitable purposes. Waqf boards manage historic mosques, shrines, shops, graveyards, Idgahs and lakhs of acres of land. Citing Sachar Committee report it is claimed that more than 6 lakh acres of land are waqf properties. These also include educational institutions and other institutions of social welfare. According to the site of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, there are 356,354 Waqf estates, 872,843 immovable Waqf properties and 16,716 movable Waqf properties. These are managed by 32 Waqf Boards.

In comparison in Tamil Nadu, temple and math/mutt land account for 4.78 lakh acres and in Andhra Pradesh, Hindu endowment land covers 4 lakh acres, thus these two states alone account for 8.78 lakh acres of land under Hindu endowments.

This selective targeting of minorities in taking away control of their religious affairs from them flies in face of a consensus evolved during freedom movement that religious affairs should be managed by members of the respective communities and any change in the management of their affairs should be with their consent. This obvious secular principle has been violated while pushing this law.

In their drive towards a Hindu Rashtra, RSS-BJP is attacking religious affairs of minorities; to begin with, Muslims. This is obvious from an attack on Church properties in an article in RSS mouthpiece Organiser. Though the article has since been removed from the site, but it makes clear the intent of the ruling dispensation.

Recently, a controversy also arose over the Bodh Gaya Temple Act which provides for a Hindu majority in the committee managing the Mahabodhi temple complex. The Act provides for a committee of nine – four Hindus, four Buddhists and the District Magistrate as ex-officio chairperson and in case the District Magistrate is a non-Hindu, he/she must nominate a Hindu as chairperson, thereby ensuring a Hindu majority in the committee. Buddhists have raised their voice against this.

This new Act in fact eyes Waqf property, often located in prime locations in the urban centres in the country. Some of these are under encroachment. According to a comment in Mid-day, the RSS-BJP "claim that government properties have been arbitrarily declared as Waqf." The truth is to the contrary, as pointed out by the Rajinder Sachar

committee report, which said, “...Occupation by the governments and their agencies...has resulted in large scale abrogation of the cherished and charitable objectives of the Wakfs.” In five states and Delhi alone, the Sachar committee counted 604 waqf properties under the government’s unauthorized occupation.” (April 7, Ajaz Ashraf)

To facilitate this end, the determination of whether a property is waqf or not has been left to a Govt. official above the Joint Secretary rank. Further, Survey Commissioner has been replaced by District Collector to conduct survey of Waqf properties. While taking the determination of Waqf properties in its own hands, Govt. has further provided through this Act that decisions of the Waqf tribunal on the official’s order will not be final (as it was under 1995 Act) and aggrieved could go to High Court. This is a recipe for binding Waqf properties in long litigation. Moreover, this Act also disallows suits to be filed against individuals who have occupied Waqf properties after 12 years. This 12-year bar on suits is not there for Hindu endowments.

This Act is an attack on the largest minority of India, i.e., Muslims and this is the chief intent of RSS-BJP. RSS-BJP is claiming that inclusion of non-Muslims is only for efficiency in administration and not for interference in religious affairs of Muslims. But this holds no water. Are there no competent Muslims to manage administrative affairs in a country with a large Muslim community? Secondly, why is this administrative efficiency not sought for managing Hindu endowment lands and properties by inclusion of non-Hindus? Don’t these too have to be managed efficiently? This is only a cover for their mal-intent but the veil is too thin.

Religious endowments of different denominations have agricultural land but there is no attempt by the Govt. to secure rights of tenants on these lands, most of them belonging to Hindu endowments. That is not the concern of the RSS-BJP Govt. which favours the rich encroachers on others’ properties.

RSS-BJP could not have passed this Act without the support of parties which claim to be secular- JD(U), TDP, RLD, LJP-RV and the like. But these parties have main concern to be in power and have no regard for any principles, not even for those they proclaim.

This attack on Muslim Waqf must be opposed. It should be seen for what it is – an attempt to further marginalize the minorities, especially Muslims, attacking not only their persons, their properties, their food habits but even their religious affairs and their religious endowment properties. RSS-BJP and their affiliates often give calls for economic boycott of Muslims, their shops etc. besides physically attacking them. This attack should be seen as a part of the general attack against the community. And the attack against the community is part of the attack on minorities and other oppressed sections of society. This is part of the offensive of Hindutva fascist forces leading the Central Govt.

All progressive, democratic and secular forces and organizations should join hands to oppose this attack. A countrywide campaign should be built to expose and protest against this attack which must be repulsed.

CPI (ML) -New Democracy

April 7, 2025



CPI (ML)-New Democracy and IFTU leaders participating in the March against new Waqf Act at Nawanshahr (Punjab)

CC Statement

CPI(ML)-New Democracy Demands Immediate Ceasefire and Unconditional Peace Talks between Govt. and CPI (Maoist)

CPI(ML)-New Democracy strongly condemns wanton killing spree of the Govt. in which about 400 Maoist leaders, cadres and adivasis have been killed in this year alone. RSS-BJP led Union Govt. is neither following legal provisions of the law of land nor those regulating armed conflict but is bent on just crushing CPI (Maoist) by physically eliminating their leaders and cadres. Govt. is also not showing any concern for tribals inhabiting the region, arbitrarily killing them also.

CPI (ML)-New Democracy expresses grave concern at the encirclement by the paramilitary forces of Korregutta hills at the border of Chhattisgarh and Telengana. Concentration of huge forces is aimed at killing a large number of Maoist leaders and cadres reported to be in area. Since April 21, security forces have started operation to eliminate Maoist cadres in the area.

CPI (ML)-New Democracy notes and welcomes the offer of peace talks by CPI (Maoist) Central Committee which they have reiterated recently on April 24 as well. CPI (Maoist) leaders have also announced unilateral ceasefire. CPI (ML)-New Democracy regrets that Union Govt. and Govt. of Chhattisgarh have not responded positively and constructively to this offer. In place of accepting this offer of peace talks, Govt. is putting conditions which shows hollowness of their claim that they want peace in the area.

Central Committee of CPI (ML)-New Democracy demands:

1. Govt. should declare immediate ceasefire, reciprocating CPI (Maoist) decision to end armed actions.
2. Govt. should urgently start Peace Talks with CPI (Maoist) unconditionally.
3. Govt. should end Operation Kagar and stop eliminating CPI (Maoist) leaders and cadres and killing of tribals.

While there are many issues relating to policies being pursued by the Govt., the above need to be done immediately.

Central Committee of CPI (ML)-New Democracy appeals to all democratic organizations and individuals, political parties and mass organization to unite to demand immediate ceasefire and unconditional talks. A broad movement involving different sections and forces will play an important role in making the Govt. see reason and follow Constitutional and legal norms. Ruling class parties which are opposed to Union Govt.'s drive of physical elimination of communist revolutionaries too should also come forward to demand ceasefire and unconditional talks.

Central Committee of CPI (ML)-New Democracy appeals to all democratic, peace and social justice loving forces to make their voice heard in favour of peace talks and for peaceful resolution of the present stand-off including encirclement.

Central Committee, **CPI (ML)-New Democracy**

April 30, 2025

Protest Against Operation Kagar in Telengana

Telengana State Committee of CPI(ML) New Democracy had given a call for state wide protest against Operation Kagar, for immediate ceasefire and for unconditional peace talks between Govt. and CPI(Maoist). In pursuant of this Call, protest programmes were held in different districts.

A protest demonstration was held on April 27 at RTC Cross Road in Hyderabad in which Party leaders and cadres and leaders of mass organizations participated.



Protest Meeting in Kadapa (A.P.)

On 20th April 2025 a meeting in protest against 'Operation Kagar' was held in Kadappa city in Andhra Pradesh. The meeting was organized jointly by AP rights organizations and mass organizations. The organizers had invited Com. P. Prasad, Spokesperson of AP State Committee of CPI(ML)-New Democracy, as the main speaker. Leaders of CPI, CPM, RCP (Rayalsema Communist Party), Virasam, CLC, Forum Against NRC-CAA also spoke. A number of progressive thinkers and intellectuals were among more than 125 people who attended this meeting.



In memory of Com. Pyla Vasudev Rao, a leader of the Srikakulam Armed Struggle

(This year April 11 is the 15th Death anniversary of senior leader of the communist revolutionary movement in India, Com. Pyla Vasudev Rao. He had devoted his entire life to the struggles of the exploited and oppressed for their liberation and for the struggle for New Democratic Revolution in India. He had made important contribution to this struggle. His death had been a big loss to the communist revolutionary movement in India and to CPI(ML)-New Democracy in particular. Observing his death anniversary is an occasion to rededicate to the victory of New Democratic Revolution and to reinvigorate our efforts in that direction. We are reprinting here homage paid to him by CPI(ML)-New Democracy at the time of his death. – Editor)

Veteran communist revolutionary leader of India and one of the foremost leaders of the glorious Srikakulam Armed Struggle Pyla Vasudev Rao breathed his last at 10:00 AM on April 11, 2010 in Hyderabad after fighting liver cancer. He was 78 years old at the time of his death; of these he had party life of 58 years of which the last 42 years were spent in underground.

Com. Pyla Vasudev Rao was born on August 10, 1932 in Rittapadu village of then Vishakhapatnam district. Rittapadu village is 4 kms from Palasa and is presently in Srikakulam dist. During his matric education he was drawn toward communist movement. Com. Pyla became a member of the Communist Party in 1953 when a party unit was formed in his village. He was appointed as a surveyor in revenue department in 1955. On the call of the Party he left the job and became a professional revolutionary devoting himself to the work of party organization and in building the peasant movement. In that period he worked in Tekali area and he was elected as a joint secretary of the district peasant organization.

He took up a teacher's job in 1959 on the Party's decision and worked as a teacher for three years in Makanapalli village in Palasa mandal. He made students conscious. Many of his students joined the revolutionary communist movement. On the decision of the Party in 1962, he once again left the job and became a professional revolutionary in 1962 and remained so for the rest of his life. He was made a member of the district committee of the party in 1962 when Com. Ramalingachari was district secretary. He devoted himself to building revolutionary peasant movement and party organization. He had an important role in the developing Girijan peasant struggle in that period.

Naxalbari armed peasant struggle exposed parliamentary cretinism of neo-revisionist leadership of CPM and gave new direction to the peasant movements developing in different parts of the country. Re-establishing the path of Great Telengana Armed struggle, Naxalbari became a decisive turning point in the communist movement of India which drew a clear dividing line between revisionism, neo-revisionism and revolutionary Marxism. Spark of Naxalbari led to flaring up of armed peasant struggles in different parts of the country. Armed peasant struggles forged ahead in Debra-

Gopiballabhpur, Mushaheri, Lakhimpur Khiri, and Srikakulam. Srikakulam Armed Struggle reached the highest point in terms of resistance to the attacks and people's participation among all the struggles of that period.

In response to the clarion call of the Great Naxalbari Peasant Armed Struggle, the Srikakulam Girijan Armed Peasant Struggle started on 25th November 1968 and on the decision of the party, Com. PV went underground and remained so for rest of his life. Between 1969 and 1972, he faced police raids several times and could only narrowly escape on three occasions. While Com. Pyla had been in favour of combining open and secret organization for New Democratic Revolution in India, he considered secret to be basic and was opposed to a mainly open party.

Srikakulam Girijan armed struggle had to face cruel fascist repression by the Govt. Many leading comrades were martyred in fake encounters. Along with this, 'left' line started dominating the movement. Srikakulam movement suffered serious losses and setbacks. In Srikakulam movement Com. Pyla worked alongside Comrades Panchadi Krishnamurthy, Vempatapu Satyam, Adibhatta Kailasam, Subbarao Panigrahi and others. As a member of the Srikakulam leadership, Com. Pyla participated in the 1970 CPI (ML) Party Congress (first after Naxalbari).

After setback to Srikakulam struggle Com. Pyla took initiative to rebuild the movement. He assumed the leadership of the movement giving confidence to cadres in the revolutionary path. CPI (ML) APPC was reorganized of which Com. Pyla became the secretary while Com. Kondapalli Seetharamaiah and Satyamurti were members. Reviewing the setback to the movement, Com. Pyla disagreed with the line of individual annihilation of class enemies. He met Com. Charu Mazumdar but differences on this issue persisted. Ultimately Com. Pyla resigned as PC secretary and devoted himself to reorganizing the movement under the leadership of Regional Committee.

Inner party struggle in CPI(ML) resulted in the split in the Party in 1971. Com. Pyla along with other Srikakulam comrades joined the CC led by S.N. Singh (then called revived CC). He was made a member of the Central Committee of the Party. In this period, Coordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries suffered division and APRCP under the leadership of Com. C.P. Reddy was building and extending resistance struggle in Godavari Valley. Com. Pyla played an important role in the unity of APRCP led by Com. C.P. Reddy with CPI (ML) led by Com. S.N. Singh in 1974. Com. Pyla was elected state committee secretary in 1976 when Com. P. Ramanarasaiah was killed in a fake encounter and remained so for next 12 years.

Com. Pyla opposed the rightist line in the internal struggle in the party in 1979-80 and he was re-elected to the CC in the 1980 Special Congress. He remained an important leader of the Party to the end of his life and Andhra Pradesh was land of his work. Com. Pyla was an ardent advocate of building and expanding areas of sustained resistance and developing resistance struggle to armed struggle. Throughout his life he remained in support of separation from CPI (M) in 1967-68 and formation of CPI (ML) in 1969.

Com. Pyla consistently practiced and supported the revolutionary mass line and struggled against rightist deviation and revisionist trends. He considered the role of squads necessary in building and developing areas of resistance struggle and strongly opposed tendency to under-rate the importance of squads. He was in favour of

strengthening militant force of the people and squads and opposed every trend which he considered opposed to this.

Despite remaining unwell for his last few years, Com. Pyla remained active in the Party work to the best of his ability. He was enthused and hopeful about development of revolutionary movement in North coastal Andhra and South Odisha.

Com. Pyla's life partner Com. Chandramma is a professional revolutionary and among prominent leaders of the Party. She was arrested in 1975 and remained in jail up to 1986. Com. Pyla and Com. Chandramma have a daughter Aruna.

His death comes at the time when revolutionary peasant struggles are growing in many parts of the country against landlord oppression, forcible displacement of displacement of peasants especially tribals by the Govt. in favour of foreign companies and big capitalist houses and attacks of the ruling class govts. Srikakulam Girijan Armed Struggle is a source of inspiration and guidance. Lessons of Srikakulam struggle are illuminating the path of the communist revolutionaries and revolutionary people. Com. Pyla as one of the leaders of that movement and as a leader of the communist revolutionary movement of India continues to live in the memory of the communist revolutionaries and the struggling people of the country.

CPI (ML)-New Democracy pays homage to Com. Pyla Vasudev Rao, one of the foremost leaders of the communist revolutionary movement in India and of CPI (ML)-New Democracy. CPI (ML)-New Democracy calls upon all party leaders and cadres to draw inspiration from the revolutionary life and work of Com. Pyla and devote themselves to make New Democratic Revolution in India victorious by firmly walking on the path of the Protracted People's War.

CPI (ML)-New Democracy

April 12, 2010

(Published in April 2010 issue of Hindi Organ of CPI (ML)-New Democracy)

15th Memorial Meeting of Com. Pyla Vasudev Rao Held at Palasa (Srikakulam, AP)

Fifteenth Memorial Meeting of Com. Pyla Vasudev Rao (PV), a prominent leader of heroic Srikakulam Armed Struggle, erstwhile Member of the Central Committee of CPI (ML) was held on April 13, 2025 at Palasa town (Srikakulam District), headquarter of Udadanam, one of the base areas of then Srikakulam Armed Struggle. This Udadanam is basically a sea coast area with cashew crops and coconut trees.

CPI (ML)-ND Central Committee has decided to hold meetings in 2025 in memory of Comrades Ravi, Com. Pyla Vasudev Rao, Com. Chandra Pulla Reddy and Com. Madala Narainswamy to highlight their contribution to the communist revolutionary movement. AP State Committee of CPI (ML)-ND has conducted this Memorial Meeting of Com. Pyla Vasudev Rao. Meeting was held successfully attended by about 700 people. People came in a good number despite this being cashew crop season when people remain quite busy.

Before the meeting, a Rally was held. Memorial Meeting was chaired by Com. T. Prakash, Secretary of Srikakulam District Committee of the Party. Memorial meeting was addressed by Com. S. Venkateshwar Rao, CC leader of CPI (ML)-ND, Com. Bhala Chandra leader of the party in Odisha and Com. P. Prasad, Spokesperson of the Party in A.P. Besides them, PC Member Com. Kondanna, Srikakulam DC Joint Secretary Com. Madhav, M. Venkateshwaralu, Vice-president AP IFTU, S. Rajashekhar from Arunodaya, Ramani from POW and Vinod from PDSU also spoke at the memorial meeting. Com. Chittipatti, though scheduled to speak, could not participate in the meeting owing to an injury suffered by him. Cultural team of Arunodaya from Vizag presented cultural programmes.



Com. SV speaking at the Memorial Meeting. On the dais, besides other speakers, Com. Bhala Chandra and Com. P. Prasad can be seen.



A view of the Participants in the Memorial Meeting

Homage to Com. Sanjay Singhvi

CPI(ML)-New Democracy expresses grief at the death of Com. Sanjay Singhvi, a member of the Central Committee of CPI(ML) Mass Line and General Secretary of TUCI. He passed away in Mumbai on April 23, 2025.

Com. Sanjay Singhvi had been active in the revolutionary communist movement from an early age. He had been active in the movement for over four decades.

CPI(ML)-New Democracy pays homage to Com. Sanjay and sends condolences to members of his family and his comrades in TUCI and CPI(ML) - Mass Line.

CPI (ML) - New Democracy

April 24, 2025

Kolkata : Protest March Demanding an End to the Genocide by U.S.-Backed Israel in Gaza

For the past 18 months, U.S.-backed Israel has been carrying out relentless destruction in Palestine. Breaking ceasefires, they have been committing brutal acts of genocide, sparing neither women, children, nor civilians. There is no place—hospitals, schools, colleges, refugee camps, or religious sites—that Israel hasn't attacked. Gaza has effectively been turned into a valley of death. According to the United Nations, over 50,000 people have been killed, including more than 20,000 children. In reality, the number is likely much higher. Amid this carnage, supported directly by the United States, the people of Palestine continue their desperate struggle for the liberation of their homeland.

In our own country, the central BJP government is standing by the genocidal state of Israel in various ways and maintaining cooperative relations.

On April 8, a protest march was organized to the U.S. Embassy, demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza, opposing U.S. support for Israel, and calling on the Indian government to sever all ties with Israel. The program was initiated by CPI (ML) New Democracy, MKP, CPI (ML) Mass Line, and PCC CPI (ML), with participation from various progressive and democratic forces and individuals.

As the procession moved from Lenin's statue at Dharmatala toward the U.S. Embassy, police blocked the road with barricades. Leaders from various organizations delivered speeches there. Comrade Ashish Dasgupta spoke on behalf of CPI (ML) New Democracy.



Cancel the 72nd Miss World Contest To Be Held At Hyderabad

Oppose Beauty Contests; Uphold Women's Dignity

The 72nd Miss World competition is set to take place in Hyderabad from May 10th to 31st, with women representatives from 140 countries participating. This is not a matter of pride or celebration for Telengana. The Congress state government, which came to power by making numerous promises to the people, has added 1.50 lakh crores to the state debt in just 15 months, totalling 8.24 lakh crores—translating to 2.16 lakhs per capita debt. It has spent nothing on improving the condition of women but is planning spending hundreds of crores on the beauty pageant. Why should the state government organize such unnecessary events that further burden the people?

In 2024, the Miss World competition was held in Mumbai, and now in 2025, Telangana has competed with Dubai to host it again. This reflects a race among states and countries to attract multinational corporations by offering more incentives.

Beauty contests propagate the idea that confidence and recognition come from physical appearance, equating beauty with personality. Their influence has led not just young girls but people of all ages to obsess over looking attractive. These pageants have spread from metropolitan cities to towns and even colleges. Beauty contests are being organized even keeping aside the significance of International Women's Day (March 8). Thus, the idea that a woman's worth lies in her appearance has become ingrained in women's minds. A girl who isn't beautiful finds it hard to get married and crumbles under feelings of inadequacy. The importance given to beauty isn't new - ever since patriarchy was established, women became secondary citizens in society. There was a time when women hunted equally alongside men. But they were later confined within four walls... . As long as women's lives are confined solely to serve a man's family, beauty too remained narrowly defined.

When industries began expanding their markets globally, competition between countries even led to wars. As part of this, beauty pageants also began in 1951. A billion-dollar industry thrives around women's figures and men's muscular bodies.

FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) are items that are sold very quickly and at low prices for people's daily needs. These range from packaged food to toiletries. These products competing with each other sprang up malls selling clothes and household items, both retail and wholesale, even in small cities. Among these, cosmetics are the most profitable. Multinational companies are using women to attract customers with advertisements. Women are making it a career. Many incidents were recorded where women's health has been damaged by chemicals in cosmetics. Along with this, the business of reducing body fat to make zero-size girls is booming.

Women have become sex symbols, sacrificing their bodies to satisfy men, businessmen, and politicians. Moreover, women's bodies are displayed disrespectfully in beauty pageants. Judges can observe their body measurements only when they are exposed half-naked. Thus, beauty pageants are degrading to the personality and dignity of

women for the profits of multinational companies. It is argued that beauty pageants are not just about physical appearance, but also about the talent and social service of the contestants. Today's youth are also falling for this illusion. Women spend lakhs of rupees in training, dieting and undergoing torture to qualify for beauty pageants. These beauty pageants as well as the upcoming tourism, naturally attracts unemployed young women towards modelling to sustain their lives. Crowning of a few winners with pageant titles simultaneously increases the number of minor girls pushed into prostitution. The fact that sex tourism operates alongside regular tourism was confirmed by then-Home Minister Rajnath Singh when he himself on May 11, 2016, stated: 'Sex tourism and child pornography have become major problems.'

It is the BJP led Central government which has given permission for this event. It is interesting that the BJP has twice facilitated the Miss World beauty pageants to be held in India. This is a tragic yet clear revelation of what the BJP, RSS and its other organizations actually stand for, when they assert themselves to be custodians of 'India's culture'. *Manuvad* is a blueprint of patriarchy, which concept such beauty contests also nurture. The BJP Govts glorify motherhood but neither enforce creches, nor maternity leave nor safe streets nor adequate clothing or minimum wages nor even ensure justice in cases of sexual violence at workplace, especially of course when the powerful perpetrators of such are linked to them.

The Telangana government is plundering the state's lands, water resources, and electricity - the very lifeblood of its people - to appease multinational corporations. Women voted for education and healthcare facilities, equal wages, and employment opportunities. Instead of doing that, the government is diverting funds to benefit corporations where they get their own share.

We must challenge governments with this truth: **cosmetic beauty is fleeting, while true beauty emerges from women's health, strength, self-respect, and confidence.** If agricultural labourers who work rain or shine think that beauty is the most important thing, no person will be able to get a single meal. Moreover, if working women do not work for more than 8 hours a day, eating poor and malnourished, many of our needs will not be met.

In Telengana, women organizations along with other organizations of students, working people and democratic forums, are coming together to demand cancellation of this contest, which is to begin on 10th May. A big protest is to be held in Hyderabad on 26th April. We call on all women 's organizations to mobilize women and bring together all pro people organizations countrywide to raise their voices in other parts of the country, demanding cancellation of this event.

[This leaflet is issued by All India Coordination consisting of Progressive Organization of Women (POW), Pragatisheel Mahila Sangathan (PMS) and Istri Jagriti Manch (IJM) on 20th April 2025]

May Day Call of IFTU To Working Class of India!

Intensify Struggle to Repeal 4 Labor Codes brought by the Central Government And Aiming to Enslave the Working Class!

Force Implementation of Existing Labour Laws!

Agitate for the Regularization of Contract, Outsourcing, and Scheme workers.

**Control global imperialist Capital that crosses borders for loot.
Unchain labour power that crosses borders to toil. Stop
Deportations!**

Call of the National Committee of the Indian Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU) on 139th May Day!

Dear Workers,

In Europe, the capitalist class destroyed feudalism and led the industrial revolution. A new industrial working class came into existence. It created a miserable situation where workers were working endlessly on machines from sunrise to sunset and lived a mechanical life. The demand for a reduction in working hours was first raised by the European working class during Marx's lifetime. In the darkest period of the European working class's suffering, following the defeat of the Paris Commune and the bloody repression, the American working class became a beacon. As a result, 1886 was the centre of the Chicago working class revolt against the capitalist class to reduce working hours! History was made with the martyrdom of six workers and hanging of four leaders. In 1889, the Socialist International, initiated by Engels, declared May 1 as International Workers' Day. Since then, **the working class observes 1st May as a day of struggle**. Revolutionary tributes to the Chicago martyrs and other working class martyrs who laid down their lives fighting for workers' rights!

In the spirit of the May Day struggle, the working class of the world and the working class of India fought for rights, facilities and wages. The current labour laws of the country are the result of these sacrifices and bloodshed!

The fascist regime of Modi Govt has become a curse for the working class, peasantry and other oppressed sections. Under slogans like **Patriotism, Swadeshi, Nationalism, Make in India, Acche Din, Viksit Bharat**, the govt. is selling public sector industries, natural resources and national wealth at throwaway prices to Corporate, both native and chiefly imperialists.

To protect the investments of corporate and maximize their profits, Modi Govt is acting like a CEO for corporate firms.

Successive Central Govts allowed SEZs (Special Economic Zones), startups, and large malls to operate **without adhering to labour laws** even before the four Labor Codes

were enacted. Infosys, L&T, Jindal, Adani and Ambani are waging a psychological war through their Chairmen and CEOs for 70 to 90 hour work weeks. As artificial intelligence (AI) and technological development reduces human labor, there is a need to reduce working hours. If five crore working hours per day are required in a particular society where crores of laborers are available, a five hour or less working day should be implemented to provide work for all. Capitalism increases unemployment by increasing working hours.

Modi Government has brought the **4 Labour Codes** under cover of the pandemic. If implemented, they will strip workers of their legal rights, including their rights to unionize and to strike, eliminate welfare benefits and push workers back into becoming virtually bonded labour.

The Modi government is making every effort to pressurize the states to implement the four labor codes. It postponed their roll out before 2024 elections, fearing backlash. It then said it would implement them in first 100 day of returning to power. Then 1st April 2025 was set as deadline. That date too is over. Some BJP-ruled states have already drawn up Rules for implementation. Even some non-BJP governments are writing Rules while others are saying that they will implement it with conditions. But we should not ignore the fact that all the ruling parties are in favor of facilitating corporate to attack the rights of the working class.

Even after 77 years of British leaving India, **there is no job security for the working class** in this country. Contract and outsourcing workers are being recruited instead of permanent workers in public sector industries. **Central and state governments are following a similar approach.** They do not even recognize scheme workers as formal workers. Legal rights and benefits of 90% of workforce, which is in unorganized sector, are not implemented.

The Modi Govt. has not implemented the promises given to the working class as well as various communities. Moreover, people who fight for their just issues have been oppressed. Dissent is criminalized. Minorities, social activists, Ambedkarites, revolutionary communists and rights' activists are being branded as urban Naxals and UAPA- NIA cases are slapped on them. In the name of Waqf Act, there is attack on properties of minorities. In the name of Operation Kagar they have launched attack on tribals to hand over mineral rich forest lands and resources to corporate. Casteist and communal conspiracies continue to divide struggling people.

Racism has increased in the countries of America and Europe targeting migrant workers, and extreme right-wing governments have taken power in seven countries today. Migrants who left their own shores in search of work are in danger in America and Europe. While the Trump government is deporting Indians, the Modi government is showing servility before Trump administration. 90% of the Indian workers who were returned enchained by Trump to India, were from the majority community.

On this 139th May Day let us

Demand Repeal of 4 Labor Codes!

Demand Implementation of Existing Labour Laws won through struggles!

Outsourcing, Contract and Scheme workers should be regularized!

Stop Deportations! No Shackles on movement of Labour!

The IFTU National Committee calls on the working class to stand with Justice for Palestine. We condemn the renewed American Imperialist backed Israeli attack on Gaza.

The National Committee of IFTU calls on the working class to build united struggle on the following demands

Equal pay for equal work should be enforced as per the Supreme Court rulings!

Stop sale of public sector industries!

Implement a minimum wage of Rs 26,000 per month

Implement legal rights like job security, PF, ESI, pension etc. for all unorganized sector workers.

National Committee

Indian Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU)

Joint Press Statement of CTUs & Trade Unions on All India Strike on May 20, 2025

Working Class, Let Us Unitedly Come Out in Sustained Struggle Against Anti Worker Pro Corporate Policies Of BJP led Central Govt!

Contractualization, impermanence in jobs, lowering of wages, fragmentation of work is embroiling India's working class. In this situation, rather than implementing the existing labour laws, the Central govt is out to implement 4 Labour Codes attacking existing labour law implementation machinery, right to organize and right to struggle. Additionally, there is the push to increase working day in a milieu where corporate is baying for a 90 hour, 7 day work week. Public sector built on public money on land acquired for public purpose, is being corporatized at throw away prices.

United, protracted fightback of working class is the need of the hour. In this situation 10 CTUs along with some Federations have given a one day strike call on 20th May, after having given a 2 day strike call one year earlier. Despite the sword of 4 Codes - with attack on the very rights to unionize and to struggle- hanging over the heads of the working class, they have again not attempted to bring the entire gamut of trade union centres together to issue the call.

Worse times are ahead, as migrant workers worldwide and especially in US are being thrown back out of jobs, Govt. of India moves tamely to facilitate US imports and cuts tariffs on goods imported from US.

Already, because of the draconian pro corporate-loot policies of the BJP-RSS Central Govts since 2014, the working class has been effectively expropriated of many basic rights and freedoms.

The strategy of struggle against 4 labour codes and all other attacks against working people should not be guided primarily by electoral policies but by the interest of working people. In this situation it is necessary that there should be united, strong fightback. Tokenism is not the answer. We, the undersigned trade unions, call on working class of India:

Let us together turn the one day strike call of 20th May into one of determined united mass action.

Signatories

Ashim Roy
Gen Secy HMKP

T. Srinivas Gen Secy
National Com., IFTU

Loganathan Gen Secy
NDLF, Tamil Nadu
(New Democratic Labour Front, TN)

A.K.Siva,
State Coordinator,
NDLF (SCC) TN
(New Democratic Labour
Front (State Coordinating Committee,TN)

Balan
Contract Workers Federation, Karnataka

R. Manasayya
Gen. Secy. TUCI

Amitava Bhattacharya
All India President
CSTU

Dated 23rd April 2025

How Communal Tension Is Sought to be Built

[Besides large-scale killings of Muslims in Gujarat 2002 and large scale communal violence in Muzaffarnagar in 2013, RSS-BJP try to use every incident as an opportunity to deepen communal division. Even incidents not having any communal bearing are sought to be used as opportunities to deepen communal division and further communal polarization. These local incidents are used to create networks and people's opinion which are utilized at the time of large-scale violence. These local incidents are an important cog in the wheel of RSS-BJP communal machine. In one such incident, in Delhi's Seelampur, this pattern was again seen. A team of Jan Hastakshep investigated the recent incident and the attempts to utilize the incident for communal polarization. The Jan Hastakshep investigation team included its co-convenor Anil Dubey, a senior journalist, S.S. Nehra, Advocate Supreme Court and M.Z. Ali Haider, Advocate. Jan Hastakshep released the report of this team at Press Club on April 24, 2025. We are publishing here a major part of this report which goes into the attempts to communalize the incident. – *Editor*]

On 17 April, a boy named Kunal was stabbed to death in Seelampur. After that, the corporate media started reporting tension-inducing communal statements by the leaders of BJP, Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad and also reports of the exodus of Hindus from the area. In view of this, Jan Hastakshep decided to send a team to Seelampur on 20 April 2025 to investigate the entire issue.

The Jan Hastakshep team reached the crime scene in Seelampur at 10 am on 20 April 2025. They met the local residents of the area and the family members of the deceased youth and recorded their statements.

Statements of the deceased's mother, father and neighbours

The team went to the house of the deceased youth Kunal and met his mother Parveen and father Rajveer Singh. Parveen and Rajveer have three sons and two daughters, out of whom Kunal has been murdered. Father Rajveer told us that he himself has been ill for a long time and his own mother is also ill. There are two children working in the family, out of which one son, Kunal, has been killed. He told us that Kunal was a 17-year-old teenager. He had left studies and used to work in a factory in Gandhinagar, making belts. Kunal's house is built in a 25-yard plot. It is a one and a half room house on the ground floor. The family and other neighbours were sitting on the road/alley there. Delhi Police personnel were deployed all around, while Rapid Action Force was also deployed on the GT Road adjacent to Seelampur. Rajveer said that the financial condition of his family is very bad. He has demanded from the government that he should be given financial assistance and a job should be given to one child of the family.

Kunal's mother Parveen said that they have been living here in J Block for 50 years. Kunal used to work after leaving his studies. She said that Kunal had no enmity with anyone. Crying, she said that he was innocent. I don't know why he was killed. She also mentioned the financial plight of the family. In her statements published in the media,

there is a demand for giving death penalty to the culprits, but she did not make such a demand before the investigation team. She and the family members narrated the whole matter in this way - a young man named Sahil had an old enmity with Shambhu. Sahil had beaten up Shambhu some time ago and broken his head. Before this, Shambhu had beaten Sahil. Kunal was also standing there at that time. People speculate that Kunal must have been killed because he was present at that time. Shambhu's brother Lala had also beaten Sahil. Sahil is the young man whose cousin (daughter of father's younger brother) is Zikra, the girl who has posted a video of herself holding a *tamancha* on social media.

Residents of the gali allege that she used to roam around with boys, carrying weapons. However, the Advocate fighting Jikra's case told the investigation team in discussion over the phone that while a case under Arms Act was registered against her around 15 or 20 days ago, she has no earlier criminal record. Currently, the corporate media is making Zikra notorious by the name of Lady Don.

Kanhaiya Odwal, a neighbour present with Kunal's family, said that Zikra and Sahil's maternal uncle Sohaib is a builder. He buys, sells and builds houses. For bullying, he keeps a gang of teenage boys and Zikra is the gang leader of those boys. She was arrested recently for uploading a video of herself brandishing a pistol on social media. He said that the atmosphere here is very bad. In the past years, 7 youth have been murdered. Due to this fear, 12-13 people have sold their houses and left. He could not show which houses have been sold.

The Mood in The Area

A tent has been put up outside Kunal's house and people are coming and going. There is a big banner with photos of 7 people including Kunal, in which Kunal's name is written as "Kunal Hindu Sanatani" and the date of murder is written as 17-4-2025. Similarly, the date of murder of Rajkishore Sanatani is written as 22-10-2024, Ranjit Sanatani 14-9-2017, Rajesh Sanatani 17-12-2016, Chintu Sanatani 24-12-2013, Dinesh Sanatani 4-1-2012 and the date of murder of another youth is written on the banner. When people were asked whether Sanatani is the name of their gotra or caste? At this, people started looking away. Handwritten and printed posters are put up in 10-12 houses of this street on which is written "Yogi model must be brought, (people) must be saved from migration. Modiji, Amit Shah ji , please help. Hindus are migrating, we want Yogi's law and order." (English translation of the Hindi sentences)

Who got these banners, posters, carpets and tents put up? (The financial condition of the family is not such that they can spend on such arrangements) On being asked this Kunal's father Rajveer said that many people from BJP, Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad are coming. One of them must have got them put up. Former Mandal Vice President of BJP, Rajguru Gangwar, present there said that we are helping the family completely. He has been associated with the BJP organization for 38 years. On being asked whether the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is active here, he said that a *shakha* is held in the park of the mandir. People of Bajrang Dal also keep coming here. He said that boys from Muslim families living nearby keep standing at the streets and intersections. They tease passerby women and girls. They throw stones at houses. People here are very scared. On being asked that now there is a BJP government in Delhi and for 11 years Narendra Modi's government is at the Centre and Delhi Police is

with the central government, in such a situation, isn't it the responsibility of the BJP governments to make security arrangements here? He said that till now there was the Aam Aadmi Party government. Now the BJP government has come, but he also expressed disappointment that it is not doing as much work as it should.

Suraj Rathod, 35-40 years old and living in the same street, works in the post office. He said about the incident that there was an altercation earlier. It was a fight between boys. Kunal had left his studies and was working, but Muslim boys kept misbehaving with him every day. There is a poster appealing to Modi, Yogi and Amit Shah at his house too. Standing next to him, Kanhaiya of Valmiki community said that 150 families of his community have left their houses in the back lane. He says that people are scared. After this incident, Delhi Shiv Sena leader Jai Bhagwan Goyal, who has now joined BJP, and people of Bajrang Dal came. Women and local people have also demonstrated under their leadership.

Statements of Respected Residents of Seelampur

Advocate Subhash Pal practices law in Karkardooma Court and lives in the adjacent lane. Subhash Pal has been a resident of the place for the past several decades. He told the investigation team that the deceased youth, whose age is said to be 17 years, was a youth of the Dalit community of 11 communities. There is a large population of Dalits here. The Muslim and Hindu population is almost equal and most of the population is mixed. There are only a few streets where people of one community are more. Economic status of all is also the same. He said that a communal atmosphere is being created here for the past 10-15 years. He said that for a long time, the business of intoxication and drugs is going on here on a large scale, in which people of both the communities are involved.

He said that Saini community has a large population and they live in the adjacent block, they are traditional residents of this place and they are financially better, educated and also have jobs.

Dr. Yahya who lives and practices in Seelampur, told the investigation team that the people of the 11 communities have been associated with BJP for some time, but at the time of elections, a large part of Muslims and Dalits here have been voting for Congress and Aam Aadmi Party for decades. Chaudhary Mateen Ahmed of Congress has been winning elections continuously from here, but after the rise of Aam Aadmi Party, he lost two elections. In the last election, Mateen Ahmed's son Chaudhary Zuber Ahmed was made the candidate of AAP and he won the election. Dr. Yahya says that all the people here are from very poor sections. Residents of colonies displaced from Delhi were allotted 25-yard plots here decades ago. Now people have built several floors on it. Some income of people also comes from rent. Be it Dalit or Muslim, all are small artisans. Most of the people do tailoring, carpentry, are cobblers or do other manual labour work. He said that among Muslims also a large part is of those who are Dalits and backward. The population of upper caste Hindus or Muslims is almost negligible here. He said that after the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992 and during the riots in Jaffrabad during the anti CAA-NRC movement there was no effect on communal harmony in this area, but now the communal atmosphere is being spoiled. He also admitted that alcohol and smack are very much in vogue here. Still there is no big muscleman or criminal gang

here. At one time, the husband of the current councilor Shakeela, Afzal, was considered a strongman, some people of his family have a criminal record.

Statement of the police officer

A sub-inspector rank officer who was posted near Kunal's house, on the question of the investigation team regarding the migration of people, said in a different way; I can never leave my house whatever happens. After giving assurance of not making his name public, he said that if the house I live in today is small and I get a bigger house in a good location, then I will definitely move. Sitting on his old motorcycle, the said inspector said laughingly that I am not going to leave this vehicle also, until I get a better and bigger vehicle than this. On asking what is really the issue, he said it is all politics!

Conclusion of the Investigation Team

Seelampur means damp narrow lanes! Clogging sewers, heaps of garbage on the streets, dense population, loud noises, small and big factories, broken roads and traffic jams in the streets, where it is difficult for human beings to live. But lakhs of people live there and around it. Seelampur Assembly constituency comes under the North East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency. Decades ago, after the houses in North and Central Delhi were demolished, the then government had settled the population there in Seelampur to relocate them.

Out of the 70 assembly seats in Delhi, there are 10 seats where Muslim voters are decisive for victory and defeat. Seelampur assembly seat is also among these 10 seats where BJP has never been able to win election here. In the last assembly election, AAP's Chaudhary Zubair Ahmed won the election by more than 59% i.e. 79000 votes, while BJP's Anil Gaur could get only 36532 votes. Congress' Abdul Rehman also got 16551 votes. It is worth mentioning that for decades, neither the Congress and AAP governments, nor the chosen MLAs of the area could bring any improvement in the situation of Seelampur.

The current incident is basically a common criminal incident of clash between street gangs of teenage youth who are poor, backward, deprived of education, health and employment and are involved in petty crimes and drug trade.

The girl whom the corporate media is referring to as Lady Don seems to be just a part of the millions of youth who take selfies on social media. She has also been arrested for making a video with a pistol. However there is no other police case registered against her. In this situation, the arrest of Zikra has become a method of the RSS - BJP Govt. to terrorize and insult the Muslim community

Conversations with local residents clearly indicated that the activities of the RSS and its affiliate organizations have increased rapidly there in the last 10-12 years. In the present murder case, the Sangh Parivar is fully active to give it a communal angle. 7 people, including Kunal, have been murdered in the last decade. Banners with the words 'Sanatani Hindu' written on them after the names of the deceased have been put up and saffron flags have been put up all around.

A day after the murder, BJP leader Jai Bhagwan Goyal and leaders of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad came and asked people to take out a procession in the name of

expressing sympathy, and asked them to raise the demand that they be protected from the minority community

The people in and around the street where the incident took place have posters on their houses asking for help from Yogi and Modi and posters relating to migration. The financial condition of the families in those houses is not such that they can leave their 25-yard one-two room house and shift somewhere else.

Immediate demands of Jan Hastakshep Team

Legal action should be taken against Kunal's killers, but the minority community should not be terrorized for this.

The financial condition of Kunal's family is very pathetic. His ailing father and grandmother should be treated, they should be given financial help and one of the sons should be given a government job.

The drug and addiction trade spreading in Seelampur area should be stopped immediately.

There is lack of civic amenities like education, health and cleanliness in the entire area, which should be streamlined immediately.

Middle East: Continuing Genocide in Gaza; Attack on Yemen and US-Iran Negotiations

Today Middle East lies at the Centre of the contradiction between Imperialism and oppressed nations and peoples of the world and struggle of Palestinians occupies central stage in that struggle. Admn. in USA has changed but attitude of Administration of Trump towards struggle of Palestinians is even worse than that of his predecessor.

Genocide of Palestinians continues in Gaza. According to Palestinian sources, 52,374 have been killed, nearly 1.72 lakhs wounded and 14 thousand missing. Despite isolation from the people around the world, Zionist regime has continued genocide in Gaza, stopping all aid from being delivered to people in Gaza who are facing starvation and total collapse of health services. Not only Gaza, Zionist rulers of Israel are attacking Palestinians in West Bank with Jenin being a centre of such attacks over past few months. Israeli forces, which had withdrawn from parts of Gaza due to increasing resistance of Palestinians, have re-entered Gaza and killing of unarmed Palestinians, women, children and aged is again increasing. On the other hand, contradictions among ruling parties in Israel is also increasing with Netanyahu's attempt to remove Shin Bet (Intelligence) chief which has been stayed by Israeli Supreme Court. Though Netanyahu is blaming him for intelligence failure before October 7, the real reason is reported to be investigation of Netanyahu's office persons close to him being linked to payment from Qatar which also allegedly helps Hamas. This is being referred to as Qatargate and is becoming new point of contradiction between ruling class parties in Israel. People have come onto streets against Netanyahu Govt. People's resentment is also growing at the continuing war in Gaza with large demonstrations being held to demand ceasefire and negotiated return of hostages.

Palestinians continue their valiant struggle with heroic participation of women in this struggle against Israeli Zionists. Resistance forces across West Asia (Middle East) that have been supporting Palestinians are regrouping. While resistance groups in Syria have suffered some setback due to fall of Assad regime, strength of those in Iraq has remained undiminished. They play an important in political life and security architecture in Iraq. In Lebanon, a sizable force whose military strength is stronger than Armed Forces of Lebanon, Hezbollah, has regrouped and new Chief of Hezbollah, Secretary General Naim Qassem, has ruled out any disarmament of the organization as is being sought by Israel and US, France and other western imperialist powers. It is significant that Hezbollah had suffered less in terms of its armed strength than in terms of leadership structure which is being slowly rebuilt up. It is because of continuing strength of Hezbollah that Israel had accepted old UN Security Council resolution as the basis of ceasefire in Lebanon.

The most significant and active role in resistance is being played by Houthis ruling over major part of Yemen. Though they are not recognized as Govt. of Yemen, they in fact lead Govt. of Yemen. After return of Trump to Presidency, US and UK have relaunched aerial attacks on Yemen killing a number of civilians. However, Houthis led forces of Yemen have been able to inflict significant damage on US ships, bombers and drones and disruption of international shipping through Red Sea has continued. Despite suffering casualties, Yemenis have continued attacks on US, UK and Israeli linked ships in Red Sea and have also launched attacks on Israel. Despite tall claims by Trump Admn., US and its allies are stuck with their bombardment only further angering Yemenis and alienating world public opinion. US dare not launch ground military operation lest it turns out to be one more debacle in the series of Vietnam and Afghanistan. the terrain and fighting people have all the elements to ensure that costs of any ground operation will be heavy while its distance from Israel and many big Arab states in the way make it difficult for Israel to retaliate. Houthis have emerged as an important factor in support of Palestinians.

Despite wide public support for the Palestinians and anger against genocide of Palestinians by Zionist Israel regime, Arab regimes of monarchs and dictators have been lukewarm in their support to Palestinians and in their opposition to genocide. Opposition of Arab rulers has been mostly symbolic and many of them are keeping close relations with Zionist rulers of Israel as exposed by Qatargate. A number of Arab monarchs have kept relations with Israel despite all the death and destruction heaped by Israel on Palestinians. These regimes, though powerful, are close to western imperialists though they have developed relations with China and Russia as well. Turkiye has been loud in support of Palestinians but till now this support has mostly been in words. Since return of Trump as US President, Turkiye President Erdogan has been muted in his support of Palestinians and has been focused on consolidating its gains in Syria after ouster of Assad regime there. There is no doubt that Arab regimes and non-Arab govts. in Middle East are powerful enough to challenge Zionist rulers of Israel and if Israel continues genocide of Palestinians with impunity, it has a lot to do with double speak of these regimes.

While protests against genocide of Palestinians in Gaza have been continuing all over the world including in India but these have to an extent ebbed in western countries due to severe repression in the name of curbing anti-semitism. Suppression of students in USA has been most severe with terminating visas of several students, arresting some of them and cutting funds of a number of universities which, the Admn. claims, have not acted adequately to crush these protests. While establishments of several Universities have succumbed to pressure from Trump Admn. many Universities including Harvard have stood up to pressure from Trump Admn. In USA public support to Zionist Israel's genocide has declined but support to actions of Israel's murderous regime remains strong among the leaders of Republican and Democratic Parties.

US-Iran Negotiations : US ruling parties have long been targeting Iran Govt. for supporting resistance groups including Hamas. They do not tolerate growth in strength of any country in Middle East, Iran in the present case, which is not under the control of western imperialist powers. They fear that rise of such power/s will embolden the Palestinians against Zionist Israel and Arab people against the monarchs and dictators, twin pillars of US influence in the oil rich region.

To curb growth of Iran's economic and military power, Trump Administration has reopened negotiations with Iran on its nuclear programme. Trump in his earlier term had left the agreement between P5 and Iran on Nuclear Programme reached when Obama was President. Trump true to his style is issuing threats to Iran while continuing negotiations with the mediation of Oman. Though ostensibly the negotiations are centred on Iran's nuclear programme, US imperialism has been having many issues with Iran including its missile programme and its support to resistance group, generally to its influence in the region. Agreement between P5 and Iran had covered Iran's nuclear programme, so there was no need to quit it if that was the main issue. But it was not. Joe Biden had committed to rejoin agreement between P5 and Iran but once he became President he went back on that commitment and continued with Trump era sanctions, often issuing threats of its own.

Trump Admn. had first demanded direct talks with Iran which Iran had refused. Trump then had to settle for indirect negotiations with the mediation of Oman. Prior to these indirect negotiations between the delegation of US and Iran, leaders of Iran, China and Russia had met in Moscow and Defense Minister of Saudi Arabia visited Iran in a first since 1998. Iran has genuine doubts about seriousness of Trump Admn. in conducting these negotiations, laced with threats of sanctions. Though both sides have expressed cautious optimism, contents of negotiations have not been made public. Three rounds of negotiations have been held, twice in Muscat and once in Rome. However, fourth round has been postponed for more time needed for preparation of technical level talks.

As mentioned earlier, Trump is looking for a comprehensive settlement covering not only Nuclear programme but also missile programme and Iran's support to resistance groups, basically wanting Iran to capitulate while Iran is looking for restricting negotiations to nuclear programme and relief from sanctions. It is known in USA that an American President works for this re-election in first term and for posterity in his second, obviously within the ambit of ruling class politics. Trump calls himself as peace president but middle east is too crucial and Israel too close an ally in the region for its position in the region and the world. It was pointed out earlier as well that attack on Iran will neither be easy nor may witness silence from other powers who have developed close relations with Iran. Iran has considerably developed its military might. It is a distinct possibility that Russia which has developed close defense ties with Iran is playing role of a mediator from behind the scene. Result of US-Iran negotiations will have big influence in the developments in the Middle East.

9th Death Anniversary of Com. Ravi Observed in Telengana and Andhra Pradesh

Member of the Central Committee of CPI(ML)-New Democracy and Secretary of Telengana State Committee of CPI(ML)-New Democracy Com. Rayala Subhash Chandra Bose (Ravi) had died on March 9, 2016. Com. Ravi had been Secretary of PC of then United A.P. from 1989 and Secretary of Telengana PC since bifurcation of the state in 2014 till his death.



(Top) Rally before Memorial Meeting in Jangareddygudem in A.P. on March 9, 2025 and (Below) Memorial Meeting in Khammam in Telengana on March 11, 2025. A Rally was taken out before the meeting.