



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Struggle at Neemrana

(Report Page5)



5 February - In Front of SDM Office



17 February – March & Rally



20 February – Demonstration before DM at Alwar

27 February



Indefinite Sit-in at Alwar

Anganwadi Employees Rally before Parliament

(Report Page16)



Mid Day Meal Workers Rally before Parliament

(Report Page15)



Rly. Loco Running Staff Rally before Parliament

(Report Page16)



WORKING CLASS

**MARCH 2019
EDITORIAL BOARD**

Editor

K. Hemalata

Working Editor

J.S. Majumdar

Members

Tapan Sen

A. K. Padmanabhan

Amitava Guha

Inside

Page

Victimised Workers Fighting to Restore Rights	5
International Women's Day	7
Industries & Sector	9
States	20
Workers - Peasants Unity	21
International	23
Consumer Price Index	26

It is Possible

Despite announcing with much fanfare, one of the major neoliberal agenda at the very beginning of the incumbent Modi led BJP government at the Centre, not a single one of the four Labour Codes, placed and not placed in the parliament, to replace all 44 existing labour laws; could be enacted. Even though deficient in content, unorganised sector workers social security could find place in the union budget; scheme workers remunerations increase was announced by the prime minister and workers minimum wage is in the political discourse.

Similarly, Modi government had to withdraw land acquisition bill in the face of countrywide farmers' militant protests. Though deficient, union government and state governments are responding to loan waivers and MSP for the farmers.

United workers movement including strikes; farmers' movement; and workers-peasants joint movement during this BJP rule could successfully resist several such neoliberal assaults.

The trade union movement has also been fighting against Modi government's some amendments in the existing laws and rules like in Factories Act, Apprentices Act, Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules in favour of the corporates and sending signal to international finance capital about its neoliberal direction of 'labour reforms'. These have serious adverse impact on the workers jobs, safety and working conditions including removing 70% of factories from Factories Act by increasing minimum threshold on the number of workers and maximum threshold on overtime work etc; replacing permanent and contract workers by apprentices and permanent workers by 'fixed term employment' in all sectors etc. BJP ruled state governments in Rajasthan, Haryana, MP and Maharashtra also adopted state amendments in labour laws including increasing number of workers threshold for 'closure'.

Not only concentrating in defensive struggles, the trade union movement has also been carrying movement on 12 point charter of demands of the workers to advance.

It is time to go for all out campaign on these issues among the workers and the people aiming to defeat this anti-worker and anti-people BJP rule; and bring workers, farmers and people's issues in the political discourse before and after the general election; and not allowing diversionary and divisive political discourse to supersede. Let alternative political discourse emerge out from the bottom. Do not allow political discourse of ruling elites to impose from the top.

28 February, 2019

Some Major Decisions of CITU Secretariat

- 44 participants, from the centre and all states, in the extended meeting of the CITU secretariat, including all state general secretaries, held at BTR Bhavan in New Delhi on 6-7 February 2019, congratulated the working class of the country for the massive countrywide joint general strike on 8-9 January 2019 and thanked all sections of toiling people for their support and solidarity action to the strike.
- The secretariat decided that the massive discontent, visible among the people during the general strike, should be consolidated and crystallised into determination to defeat Modi-led BJP government in the ensuing Parliament election as the immediate task. This is part of efforts to intensify struggle to defeat the anti-worker neoliberal policies; and
 - For this launch campaign immediately; and
 - A 'workers charter' will be adopted by the joint trade union platform soon which should be widely campaigned among all sections of the people to ensure that people's issues to remain in the political discourse during the election and all attempts to divert the discourse away to non-issues be thwarted.
- CITU 16th conference will be held in Chennai by January end, 2020.
 - 16th conference will be held on the basis of 2018 membership;
 - All unions have to renew CITU affiliation of 2018 with membership fees @ Rs.2 per member along with copies of annual returns; annual subscription for 'The Voice of the Working Woman' / 'Kamkaji Mahila' along with 'The Working Class' / 'CITU Mazdoor' annual subscription to be sent by the respective state committees to CITU centre within 30 June 2019 as per CITU constitution;
 - All state committees should clear, within 31 March 2019, the affiliation dues with copies of annual returns of corresponding year up to 2017 of the defaulting unions, if any.
- CITU's all state conferences should be completed by the end of October 2019. District conferences, wherever applicable (as per the provision in the CITU constitution amended in Kozhikode general council meeting), should be held before the state conference. State committees of CITU should ensure that all affiliated unions of CITU hold their conference as per their respective constitution. CITU federations, whose conferences are due, should also complete their conferences.
- In view of the changed structure of the coordination committees of working women, the conventions of working women at the national / state / district level should be held after the respective CITU conferences / conventions.
- CITU's P Ramamurthy centre for education and research is ready for utilisation. Industrial federations and CITU state committees, mainly those in the neighbouring states, should plan its utilisation for education and training, by conducting classes regularly, immediately after the Parliament election.
 - All state committees, except of Kerala and Maharashtra, have not completed their quotas for PR Bhavan fund. They must remit their dues at the earliest and, in any case, before the 16th conference. Special efforts, including collection drives, should be planned to complete the quotas.

Workers Charter for Alternative to Neoliberal policy

The united platform of 10 central trade unions has jointly prepared the *Workers Charter* on burning issues of the workers and the people of the country; demanding reversal of neoliberal policy and adopting pro-people alternative policy. The *Workers Charter* will be placed for adoption in the National Convention of Trade Unions to be held at Constitution Club in New Delhi on 5 March.

The *Workers Charter* will be presented to all political parties for inclusion in their respective election manifesto of next Parliament election.

The *Workers Charter* is also for wide campaign by the trade union movement in the forthcoming electoral battle for the ouster of BJP government.

Special 'Japanese Zone' & 'South Korean Zone' in India

Workers Rights, Right to Protest & Civil Liberties Curbed

Victimised Workers Fighting to Restore Rights

J. S. Majumdar

On the very first day of the two days' countrywide workers general strike on 8-9 January, 2019; Congress government's police lathi charged, used teargas and fired on the peaceful assembly of the workers in front of a Japanese company, Daikin Airconditioning Pvt. Ltd., in the so called 'Japanese Zone' in the Neemrana industrial area in Alwar district in Rajasthan. Several workers were injured in police action. Police filed false cases against the workers, arrested and continue to arrest several of them. 18 of them are still in jail.

Neemrana has two special areas named as 'Japanese Zone' and 'South Korean Zone' exclusively for the multinational companies from these countries. To demarcate these areas state government has put up 'Japanese Zone' and 'South Korean Zone' signboards. These areas act like the 'occupied territories' by these foreign corporates with the help of the state police. Hardly civil administration exists. It is the police which control the entire areas. There are no labour officials or labour office at Neemrana. Labour official sits 72 kms away in the district headquarter at Alwar town.

In case of present labour dispute in Daikin Airconditioning, where 426 permanent and 425 contract workers have not been allowed to resume duties on 10 January after the nationwide general strike on 8-9 January; the police arrested the union leaders and brought them in the police station to hold discussion with the management there to settle the issues by accepting all victimizations, except 370 permanent workers, without following the rules of natural justice. The union's stand is status quo ante position as on 7 January. For joining country wide workers general strike, 851 workers in Daikin have been kept out of employment till this day. This is an example of industrial relation in 'Japanese Zone' in Neemrana.

Be it Vasundhara Raje led BJP government or the Ashok Gehlot led Congress government in Rajasthan, both ensured that normal trade unions rights are curbed, no assembly of the workers take place, denying right to protest, and civil liberties are restricted. Even, the investigating team, led by CITU general secretary Tapan Sen, E. Kareem, MP (Rajya Sabha), Shankar Datta, MP (Lok Sabha) and others were prevented by police barricade in front of Daikin Airconditioning at Neemrana on 5 February on the plea of 'law and order(!) Their accompanying team, of state leaders of CITU, AITUC and HMS, was not even allowed to enter in 'Japanese Zone'.

In Neemrana, hundreds of workers including entire leadership have summarily been dismissed by the managements of these multinational companies when they tried to form union or protested against any unjust action of the managements. These multinational companies maintain musclemen as their security force. They keep the workers terrorized and often beat them. On 8 January strike day, these musclemen of Daikin Airconditioning, in association with police, also assaulted the workers on road outside the company premises. CITU and the union have been demanding that FIRs be filed against these criminals for their act outside company premises.

It is reported that Japan's ambassador telephoned to the chief minister in favour of the Japanese company Daikin Airconditioning breaking diplomatic protocol and interfering in India's domestic matters.

Demanding judicial enquiry on police action on 8 January against the Daikin workers, reinstatement of all its victimised workers and withdrawal of false cases against them; CITU state

Victimised Workers Fighting to Restore Rights

delegations, along with CPI(M) and Kisan movement leader Amra Ram, met district collector and S.P.; the state labour minister and the chief minister. But, there was no positive response from them. On the contrary, police atrocities against the workers continued and more arrests were made.

In this situation, CITU Rajasthan state committee decided to launch agitation in pursuance of the above demands of the union and also for restoration of workers' rights and civil liberties in 'Japanese Zone' and 'South Korean Zone' and removal of the signboard signifying the illegal occupation of Indian territory by foreign corporates.

On 5 February, a CITU protest rally on 5 February in front of the SDM office at Neemrana was joined by 1500 workers, mostly young workers from entire Neemrana industrial area. The spirited protest rally and workers mass meeting were addressed by Tapan Sen, E. Kareem, Shankar Datta; and national and state leaders of AITUC, state leaders of HMS and CITU and others. The rally was also joined by CITU and unions leaders from adjoining industrial areas of Haryana.

On 17 February, a 700 strong workers procession and rally was held in Neemrana specifically on contract workers demands like minimum wage at par with NCT Delhi, equal pay for equal work as per Supreme Court judgment, regularisation of their jobs etc. Police, as usual, did not allow the procession to enter in 'Japanese Zone' and threatened resorting to lathi charge in case any attempt was made to enter in that exclusive 'Zone'. The rally was addressed by CITU state leaders and others.

In continuation, hundreds of workers staged demonstration in front of the district administration, 72 kms away in Alwar town, on 20 February. A continuous stay-in agitation and relay fast have been continuing since 21 February.

In this background, CITU Rajasthan state Committee decided to stage demonstration in front of the chief minister at Jaipur demanding his immediate intervention to resolve the workers and CITU demands. CITU national leaders will also participate. On that day, there will be simultaneous demonstrations in all district headquarters and submission of memoranda addressed to the chief minister.

CITU gave call of countrywide solidarity with Daikin's fighting workers and called upon the state committees and national federations to send demand letters to the chief minister of Rajasthan.

The NCR

Neemrana is in National Capital Region (NCR) of India with Delhi and adjoining 14 districts of Haryana, 8 of Uttar Pradesh and 2 of Rajasthan, including Alwar district; total area 54,984 sq kms; 4.6 crore population; economy is 8% of country's GDP in 2016-17; number one in IT; number one in auto, telecom; Delhi beaten Mumbai in commerce. But, it is weakest in industrial relation and trade union rights.

NCR was constituted by National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985; concerned state legislatures adopting concurrent resolutions. It is administered by NCR Planning Board with CMs, chief secretaries and central government having an operational committee under it. "the Board can select and approve comprehensive schemes and provide assistance for the implementation of these schemes."

The pattern of loan assistance is 25:75; 25% being the borrowing agency's contribution and a maximum 75% of the project cost being the loan from the NCR Planning Board. The Board presently provides long term loan of 10 years tenure with two years moratorium in payment of principal.

International Women's Day 2019

for Equality, Dignity and Safety

8 March 2019 - International Women's Day this year - comes just before the country is going for the Parliament election. Extended meeting of the CITU Secretariat has decided to bring some pressing issues faced by women in general and working women in particular into the political discourse to bring more pressure for policy changes. The subject for campaign will be "**For Equality, Dignity and Safety**".

The campaign and mobilisation shall focus on 100% Women's unpaid and underpaid labour including the recognition of the unpaid/underpaid care work of the scheme workers and denial of even statutory minimum wages and social security; 100% Violence against women and children in society including sexual harassment at workplace; 100% Representation of women in decision making bodies including 33% reservation in Parliament and assemblies.

Unpaid Women Workers, Issues and Demands

ILO study 2018 reveals women unpaid work across the globe amounts to a staggering \$10 trillion a year, over eighth of the world's entire GDP and more than the GDPs of India, Japan and Brazil combined. As per ILO report, in India, the unpaid work of women is worth 3.1% of country's GDP.

Women spend hours daily doing housework, cooking, house-keeping, care for children and elderly, bringing water, fuel for home etc. In addition, they do considerable portion of cattle rearing and agriculture work of the family and or other rural workers like brick kiln, beedi etc.

The lack of drinking water, fuel, facilities for child and elderly care and healthcare systems is putting the entire burden on women. Women's disproportionate responsibility substantially squeezes their energy and huge amount of time. Women have to earn a living while shouldering this burden.

Women spend 312 minutes per day in urban areas and 291 minutes per day in rural areas on such unpaid care work. After all these, in the workplaces women workers are subjected to discrimination in wages and other service conditions and career-progress etc.

ILO report says, In India, the women's work participation rate is as low as nearly 20%. A big section of women are providing care work and services to almost half the population in childcare, healthcare and nutritional supplement. The scheme workers - Anganwadi, ASHA, mid day meal workers are not considered as 'workers' and are paid too meagre an amount, far less than the minimum wage. Instead of institutionalizing these schemes and providing proper healthcare and childcare facilities for the vast section of unorganised sector women, the BJP led central government is winding up these schemes step by step cutting down financial allocations and by privatisation. Long pending demands of the scheme workers of the implementation of the 45th & 46th ILC recommendations – recognition as workers, minimum wages and pension is yet to be in the agenda of the mainstream political parties except for the Left.

Equal wages are too far a dream for the majority of women workers in most of the sectors, for example in construction.

Violence against Women and Children

Every day we see reports of violence against women, assaults, acid attacks, rape, murder etc in one or the other part of the country. Even small children are not spared. Attacks on women and rape are being used as tools for punishing or humiliating communities. We have seen this during the communal and caste violence at many places. Women from Dalit and minority communities are the worst sufferers.

Restrictions are imposed on what women wear, with whom they speak, where they go. In some places they are not even allowed to use mobile phones. Instead of punishing the culprits of violence against women, it is the women who are punished with such restrictions. Women cannot

choose their life partners, particularly if they are from other religions or castes. Khap Panchayats and 'moral police' harass them, attack them and even kill them and their partners.

The government talks of 'beti bachao; beti padhao'. It talks of family planning. It talks of women's empowerment. But it does not make any serious efforts to change the prevailing patriarchal attitude towards women, which treats women as inferior to men. It allows women to be treated as commodities, not as human beings, for commercial purposes.

In the wake of the Nirbhaya incident, the government had set up a committee under the chairmanship of Justice Verma on how to curb the violence. The committee had suggested change in laws, criminal proceedings of handling the cases of violence against women and also institutional measures to provide safety for women in public. But unfortunately even after more than five years, the recommendations are yet to be implemented.

One of the biggest problem faced by women at work is the sexual harassment at workplace. This is adversely affecting the women and creating health hazards for them. Even after more than five years of its passage, committees as per the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Prevention Act are not being constituted even in government sector.

Representation of Women In Decision Making Bodies

33% reservation for women in the local bodies and Panchayats is in existence since 1992 and more than ten lakh women are today discharging their responsibilities as people's representatives in the three tiers of the Panchayat system. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tripura and Telangana have 50 per cent reservation for women in their local bodies.

The participation of women in decision making thus achieved through reservation had made positive changes in the priorities at local level and in the concept of real development. Success stories are pouring from different parts of the country, of these women representatives barring caste and religious differences, making changes in the lives and livelihoods in their locality and empowerment of women. Many capable women leaders have emerged in the process. The inclusion of half of the population in the decision making only can make the democracy meaningful.

In spite of the success of reservation in local bodies, the representation of women in crucial decision making process, in Assemblies and Parliament is still a distant dream in India. The Rajya Sabha passed the bill on this on 9 March 2010. Despite the full support of the Left to the Bill, the former UPA government wavered in its introduction in Lok Sabha. The opposition by some leaders and parties to women's reservation on some or other pretext is contrary to the democratic ethos and should be exposed and challenged. Most of the mainstream political parties including Congress(I) and BJP had promised the Women's Reservation Bill, but BJP government also do not make any move in this direction. Ensuring more representation to women in decision making bodies will not only help in empowering women but also strengthen our democratic process as a whole.

Our Demands

- Recognise scheme workers including Anganwadi, ASHA and Mid Day Meal workers as workers, pay minimum wages Rs. 18000 per month and give social security including pension Rs. 6000 per month. Minimum wages to all workers including domestic workers;
- Equal pay for women workers;
- Women's unpaid labour, especially care work, must be accounted in GDP;
- Ensure institutional care for children and the elderly to ensure women's participation in the labour force; Convert Anganwadis to Anganwadi cum Crèches;
- Concrete measures to end violence against women and children. Implement Justice Verma Committee recommendations; Complete legal and administrative measures in a time bound manner; Action taken report by central and state governments to be submitted; Wide social awareness and vigil programmes including gender equality in syllabus;
- Implement the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act. Constitute the Complaints committees in all institutions immediately; Punitive action against the defaulting institutions and authorities;
- 33% Representation for women in Parliament and state Assemblies to ensure meaningful democracy; Adequate representation for women in all decision making bodies. (From: CITU Campaign Document 2019)

INDUSTRIES & SECTORS

CPSEs

Meeting of AICC of CPSUs

An extended meeting of CITU's All India Coordination Committee (AICC) of Central Public Sector Unions (CPSUs), held on 11 February at BTR Bhavan in New Delhi, was attended by 75 leading functionaries of 15 CPSUs in 15 states. CITU general secretary Tapan Sen inaugurated the meeting complemented, in her address, by its president Hemalata - both dealing with the challenging issues before the CPSU workers; review of 8-9 January workers strike in general and by CPSUs in particular; and the future tasks, those proposed in the meeting, including strengthening the organization.

Convener of the AICC of CPSUs, S. Dev Roye placed discussion paper with background and analysis chronologically about the anti-national moves of dismantling the CPSEs by the incumbent Modi led BJP government.

The meeting concluded with decision to hold 3 days workshop on organisation, on the basis of the CITU's Khozhikode GCM's updated organisational document, to be participated by the leading functionaries of CPSE federations / coordination committees and of selected unions, to be held at P. Ramamurti Trade Union Education & Research Centre at Saket in New Delhi on 15-17 June. Swadesh Dev Roye presided.

Dismantling of Public Sector Enterprises

S. Dev Roye

Three Distinct Periods

Rajiv Gandhi (1984-1989) era marked the thrust towards liberalization and the final reverse gear journey of public sector in our country took off with the adoption of 'New Economic Policy' in 1991. The onslaught of privatisation of public sector through the various routes including simple divestment followed by strategic divestment and then direct total privatisation of PSUs marked the disastrous process of dismantling of public sector under the doctrine of neo-liberalism.

In the current context the policy of onslaught on public sector was initiated by then Congress government led by Narasimha Rao with Manmohan Singh as the finance minister. While the Congress governments resorted to disinvestment through a book building exercise and then sought to sell the CPSE at a higher price; the BJP government seeks to disinvest the CPSE not only by driving the CPSE to bankruptcy but also assail the image of the CPSE even using Constitutional offices and House of People to denigrate the image of the CPSE, and thereby reduce the net worth of the CPSE. A recent example is HAL in the Rafale Deal.

However, decisively damaging onslaught on public sector came during the last NDA Government. A brief account of the Disinvestment onslaught during last NDA Government may be recalled before coming into the Modi regime.

Draconian Design

A Department of Disinvestment was set up as a separate department in December, 1999 and was later elevated as Ministry of Disinvestment from September, 2004 with the ill-famed Arun Shourie as the cabinet rank Disinvestment Minister in the Vajpayee Cabinet. During this period many disastrous decisions against the interest of public sector were adopted. Divestments as well as strategic sale of PSUs were carried out at extremely undervalued price of equity and scandalous undue favour were showered on the private grabbers of PSUs.

During the period from 2001-02 - 2003-04 (NDA Government) maximum number of disinvestments took place. These took the shape of either strategic sales (involving an effective transfer of control and management to a private entity) or an offer for sale route. Some of the companies which were divested through strategic sale route included: Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd, CMC Ltd, Hindustan Zinc Ltd, Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. Tourism Development Corporation (18 Hotel Properties), Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.

Dismantling PSU

Jessop & Co. Ltd., Lagan Jute Machinery, The Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd, Paradeep Phosphates Ltd, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. For the first time in history of independent India, Defence sector production was opened to private sector, including free entry of FDI into defence production.

However subsequently during UPA-I Government, under the pressure of Left parties from May, 2004, the Department of Disinvestment was abolished and became one of the Departments under the Ministry of Finance. Disinvestment during this period was almost Nil. Thanks to the strong presence of Left forces in the Parliament.

Disinvestment during both the tenures of NDA

Table below clearly displays the most damaging role played by the previous NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1998–2004). But the present NDA government led by Narendra Modi has been proceeding with mission mode to destroy CPSUs even those in strategic sectors with excellent physical and financial performance. The following features are shocking as well as revealing.

60.24% of total Disinvestment of CPSEs has taken place during four and half years of Modi as Prime Minister. 68.67% of total disinvestment has taken place during NDA rule. On an average 13.4% of CPSE shares were disinvested during NDA and only 1.7% of CPSE shares disinvested by UF, UPA etc led governments.

Disinvestment of CPSEs in 24 years (1991 to 2014) Prior to Modi as PM		Disinvestment of CPSEs during 4.5 years (2014 to Till 19 Jan 2019) of Modi Prime Minister	
years	Amount Disinvested (in RS. Crores)	years	Amount Disinvested (in Rs. Crores)
1991 to 1996	9,961.83	2014 to 2015	26,068.25
1996 to 1999	6,660.78	2015 to 2016	23,996.80
1999 to 2004	28,284.48	2016 to 2017	46,246.58
2004 to 2009	8,515.94	2017 to 2018	1,00,056.91
2009 to 2014	99,367.46	2018 to 2019 (till 19.01.2019)	35,134.76
Sub-Total	1,52,790.49	Sub-Total	2,31,503.30

Grand Total: 3,84,293.79 crore

'Modi Mission': Total Elimination of CPSEs

NDA government led by Narendra Modi has embarked upon a malicious mission to totally eliminate public sector from the economic map of the country. It has been destroying basic institutions to realize its obnoxious mission. The government under Modi leadership is bypassing all the democratic institutions including Parliament in vital issues and taking unilateral decisions. The BJP-led government is desperate to hand over to the big business houses of domestic and foreign - the national assets built with tax payers' money and labour of the toiling people under the patriotic spirit and national aim of self-reliant industrial growth and strengthening of political and economic sovereignty of the country. It is an utter policy bankruptcy and betrayal to the nation and surrender to international finance capital and hegemonic pressure of imperialist forces by the Modi government. It necessary to understand the fact that the Modi government is signaling to private businesses that it is exclusively for private sector and conclusively against public sector.

Abolition of Planning Commission of India

Empowered by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 the Planning Commission through its successive Five Year Plans played the role of locomotive to the forward journey of public sector in our country. We had discussed at length, with facts and figures in tabulated format, the most significant role played by Planning Commission in planning and financing the building of CPSUs, mostly in basic strategic sectors, since 1951 in the Background Paper presented to this forum in its meeting on 30-31 August 2014 in New Delhi.

In order to convey the message of their government's resolve to destroy public sector and religiously promote private sector, immediately after assumption of office, the NDA government in 2014 dismantled the planning commission, signaling the end of planned economy in our country. The NITI Ayog, the so called think-tank, is a strange creature in any administrative parlance brought into existence through an executive order

and not accountable to anybody – Parliament, the Judiciary or the Legislature. The next disastrous step of the Modi Government was the creation of public sector destruction vehicle called DIPAM – Department of Investment and Public Asset Management under the Finance Ministry. The stated objective of this strange body was to do exactly what is opposite to its name. It is the new incarnation of the earlier Ministry of Disinvestment.

It is a cruel mockery that the Planning Commission which played huge role in building the PSEs in the country is now (NITI Aayog) assigned with the task by Modi Government to destroy these national assets. Looting of National Assets through various routes has become the sole objective of the NDA government's think tank, NITI Aayog. The Government has done away with the practice of case by case approval for stake sale of PSUs by Union Cabinet and instead the NITI Aayog has been empowered to exercise full authority to decide stake sale, asset sale and outright privatisation.

CPSUs Board Crowded with BJP Cadres

Yet another route adopted to push the policies of NDA Government in CPSUs, Narendra Modi has been nominating his choicest BJP Party cadres and leaders in the Board of Directors of CPSUs on nomination basis. Already eleven CPSUs including ONGC, EIL, HPCL, BPCL, BHEL, STC, have been loaded with such nominated Directors. A letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard by Shri E A S Sarma, former Secretary to Government of India is circulated as Annexure.

Various Routes of Disinvestment

In order to quicken the process of privatization of public sector entities, the NDA Government has resorted to various derogatory policy measures. The modes worked out are IPO, FPO, OFS, ETF, Strategic Sale, Buyback, Selling through Auction route, Compulsory Borrowing and so on. Table below shows disinvestment receipts through different routes during the year 2016-17:

No of CPSEs	Routes of Destruction	Value of Spoils Realized (Rs. in Crores)
7 CPSEs	BuyBack	18,963.47
6 CPSEs	Employee OFS	529.19
Group of CPSEs	Exchange Traded Funds	8,499.98
5 CPSEs	OFS	7,475.23
	Strategic Sale	10,778.71
	Total :	46,246.58

Note the corrosive effect the buyback method had on the financial capability of the CPSUs. During the year 2016-17 out of the total proceeds of disinvestment of Rs. 46,246.58 crore, a sum of Rs. 18,963.47 crore is received from the buyback in 7 CPUEs. The serious impact on even the cash rich CPSUs has been that now they (CPSUs) are suffering from shortage of fund for financing new projects and even for paying salary to employees and have been compelled to borrow from market. As a further consequence, many CPSUs have turned from cash rich to debt-ridden CPSUs. The situation has aggravated further with the NDA Government compelling CPSUs to go for commercially non-viable M&A (merger and acquisition). Two glaring examples are ONGC, NTPC.

Through OFS route the Government has collected Rs. 529.19 crores by selling the CPSU shares to the employees of the concerned CPSUs (6 CPSEs during 2016-17). Shockingly within a few months of Employee OFS the share price came down, and workers lost their hard earned savings. In effect the Government has defrauded the CPSUs and the employees as well.

Adding salt to the injury and insult, the government has even collected tax applicable to share market transaction as applicable from their buyback of shares, thus making bounty from a murdered corpse.

The same pattern of bleeding the cash rich CPSEs to bankruptcy continued during the financial year 2017-18. Table below captures the shocking picture of onslaught by Modi Government on account of Buybacks.

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
BuyBack (Rs. in Crore)	0	4,483.22	18,963.47	5,337.55	2,585.32	31,369.56

It is clear that only on account of buy back the concerned CPSUs were poorer to the extent Rs.31,369.56 crores, forever, and this amount could have helped them to modernize, expand and create new factories and products. The destruction has continued even during the year 2018-19.

It may be noted that only on account of Buybacks and abnormal Dividends extracted by the government, the CPSUs' investible cash reserves have depleted from Rs. 2.64 lakh crore in FY14 to Rs. 1.95 lakh crore in FY17 and further to Rs.1.7 lakh crore in FY18. And we have discussed above how the CPSUs are even suffering from severe shortage of working capital due to such atrocities of the NDA government.

Govt. Directive for Compulsory Borrowing by CPSUs

The Ministry of Finance has issued an Office Memorandum dated 27th May, 2016 incorporating directives to CPSUs on Capital Restructuring. However the detailed Background note enclosed with that Office Memorandum which has dealt with aspects like - Applicability, Payment of Dividend, Buyback of shares, Issue of Bonus Shares, Splitting of Shares and other Miscellaneous Provisions. The Background note has clearly mentioned that these are based on the Public Sector Policy of the present Government. Extracts from the background note is separately circulated as Annexure.

Government has dictated the CPSUs to bring down their net worth through issue of bonus shares, splitting of shares, etc. The Government has also directed that whenever a CPSU has more than Rs. 2000 / 1000 Crores cash reserves, it must go for buyback, till its reserves & surplus account is emptied. On going through the aforementioned directives of the Finance Ministry one can easily understand the devilish design behind the guidelines. The real intention of the NDA Government is to make the CPSUs affordable to the prospective private buyers.

It must not be forgotten that behind the systematic disintegration, dismantling and destruction of CPSEs and its public image, there is an undercurrent of social classes who are at the higher steps of the social ladder and happen to be irritated by the CPSEs as a vehicle of implementing social justice. It is this social strata which is active in propagating the non-existent good in the present ruling dispensation.

Budget 2019-20

It is shocking to note that even in the Interim Budget the Modi Government has set a disinvestment target of Rs. 90,000 Crore. It can be looked upon from two different angles. One, Modi is so desperate in his destruction of Public Sector mission that forthcoming election is no restraint for him to continue with such Anti-Nation and Anti-People mission. Second, Modi has taken it for granted that the Public Sector Trade Union movement, with few exceptions, by and large, has no cause of very concern. Immediately after the Budget two destructive steps have been announced by the Government. One is process has been initiated for selling out the land and other Assets of Public Sectors, what has been termed as 'Asset Monetisation Framework'. DIPAM is reportedly preparing the blueprint and route map for this attack on Public Sector.

Further, IPO for 10 CPSUs has been already lined up. Moreover, plans are afoot to launch sector-specific Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) to meet the ambitious Rs. 90,000 crore disinvestment target for 2019-20.

According to Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), the Ministry plans to march ahead with the strategic disinvestment of a host of CPSEs and monetize non-core assets of state owned companies. Chakraborty told to PTI - "We have about 10 IPOs which are lined up already. Then there are lot of companies which have to meet their minimum public share holding target. We will also bring new theme-based ETFs. Then, there would be strategic disinvestments and post elections we would top it up sharply and asset monetization framework will see the light of the day next year". ONGC, Coal India and IOC have already been asked by the Government to go for further buyback exercise.

At a time when the Parliamentary Election is knocking at the door the Modi Government is continuing with their attack on CPSUs disastrously. One can easily understand what will happen if the same 'Modi Sarkar' returns to power in the ensuing Parliamentary Elections.

In the situation, it will not be even a bit of exaggeration to say that – "It is a situation of do or die for each and every worker in public sector and leader or cadre of trade union worthy of its name operating in any public sector industry in the country."

Declining Employment in CPSUs

A very serious consequence of Neo-liberal Policy onslaught on CPSUs has been huge reduction in number of permanent employees day by day continuously. Employees are retiring in big numbers but there is no recruitment against vacancies arising due to retirement. It is estimated that in oil sector, about one lakh posts are vacant. Recruitment of contract workers and also big scale outsourcing of jobs including those in core activities are contributing in depletion of permanent workers in CPSUs.

During the past five years of BJP rule, as compiled from the Public Enterprises report of the period 2013-2018 indicates that there has been huge job losses to the extent of 2.63 Lakhs of permanent jobs in CPSUs. However, one should not construe that the job losses are due to deployment of capital intensive technology. Because many CPSUs are suffering from lack of technological upgradation due to hostile public sector policy of the government of the day.

Financial Year	Permanent Employment	Financial Year	Permanent Employment
2013-14	13.51 Lakhs	2016-17	11.31 Lakhs
2014-15	12.91 Lakhs	2017-18	10.88 Lakhs
2015-16	12.33 Lakhs		

Neem & Netap

The ever increasing phenomenon of totally unsecured temporary employment pattern for greater exploitation of labor has attained the worst dimension with big scale engagement of apprentices. The amendment of Apprentices Act along with introduction of the National Skill

Development Program titled National Employability Enhancement Mission (NEEM) and National Employment through Apprenticeship Program (NETAP) is another 'gift' by the BJP government led by Modi to its corporate bosses.

These schemes are being introduced under the camouflage of loud slogans of improving and advancing the skill-level of country's youth to ensure greater employability. But in practice, they are sinister designs to get the regular workers' jobs done by apprentices without any obligation to retain or pay them right wages and social security benefits and thereby make a savings of the employers on labour cost. As is already being witnessed in various industries, apprentices are being utilized like workers on the production lines year after year denying them all benefits of regular employees. A detailed note on NEEM focusing statutory proviso and Government regulations with concluding remarks has been circulated separately as Annexure.

Challenges Concerning Contract Workers

Under the frame work of atrocious change in the composition of employees, the question of alarming reduction of permanent workers and galloping increase in contract workers has attained monstrous dimension.

While even in old generation labour-intensive industrial units, number of contract workers has reached to more than 50% of permanent workers, in new generation capital intensive industrial units there are only handful of permanent workers while contract workers are in hundreds and thousands. On the other hand the number of Executives and Non-unionised Supervisors together are more than two-third and many cases three-fourth of permanent workers. And in the matters of wage, benefits, compensation and social security the level of exploitation of contract workers are simply barbaric.

We have produced volumes of documents, organized in-numerable meetings on contract workers. However, with the introduction of NEEP and NETAP the situation has taken a drastic dramatic turn. Now permanent employment is being completely replaced by Fixed Term employment and Contract workers are being replaced by Apprentices. Now in employment front it is a challenge to defeat the policy of bringing back the primitive days of barbaric slave system. The gravity of the alarming situation must be correctly understood by the regular workers of trade unions in CPSUs and organize and lead the contractor workers in establishing trade unions and mobilize them into decisive action. For survival of trade union movement even in public sector, the issue of contract workers deserves crush priority attention. Any further neglect shall be suicidal.

Telecommunication

Three Days Complete Strike in BSNL

P. Abhimanyu

Successful Strike

Jointly called by all unions and associations, united in the common platform of AUAB, 3 days countrywide strike of the employees and officers of BSNL on 18-20 February, 2019 completely paralysed its functioning - telephone exchanges, administrative offices, customer service centres, etc remaining closed on all the three days. Modi-led BJP government invoking ESMA could neither break the unity of the employees-officers nor the strike. The 3 days strike was the culmination AUAB-led series of struggles to save BSNL and to save future of its employees.

Demanding financial viability of BSNL and for pay and pension revision of the employees; earlier notified indefinite strike, to commence on 3 December last, was deferred based on the assurance of the union telecommunication minister. However, the government betrayed and did not implement the assurance forcing the employees-officers to resort to this 3 days strike.

CTUs Support

United Platform of Central Trade Unions (CTUs) with INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC, in a meeting held on 12 February in New Delhi, resolved to extend full support to the countrywide 3 days strike on 18-20 February and ongoing struggle of BSNL employees and officers in pursuance of their just demands for allotment of 4G spectrum to BSNL and for expeditious wage revision; and called upon trade union movement and the working people of the country to extend full support and express solidarity to the strike and struggle of the BSNL employees and officers.

Discriminating and Depriving BSNL

Changing from the policy of level playing field for public and private telecom operators, Modi government allotted 4G spectrum only to private companies, discriminating against BSNL by not allotting 4G spectrum to it, keeping BSNL lagging behind and seriously restricting commercial operation and weakening its financial position.

The telecom minister had assured allotting 4G spectrum to BSNL expeditiously and getting necessary cabinet approval for it, but failed to keep his promise. Instead, there were concerted attempts in the government to deny 4G spectrum to BSNL. It is NITI Aayog which has raised objection stating that there is no need of allotting 4G spectrum to public sector company BSNL when 4G spectrum has already been allotted to private companies!

Why this Discrimination

Why this road-block in the allotment of 4G spectrum to BSNL? Because, while private telecom giants - Vodafone Idea and Airtel – are losing customers under Ambani's 'Jio' onslaught; it is BSNL, with its dedicated workforce and despite limitation, is successful in resisting Reliance Jio. During October-December 2018, Vodafone Idea has lost 3.5 crore customers to Jio and same is the situation with Airtel. But, BSNL has not lost customers to Jio. Even in January 2019, BSNL had added 26 lakh new customers. BSNL has achieved this success with its 2G and 3G technologies. With 4G, BSNL will be a big challenge to Reliance Jio. Modi government does not want this to happen.

Financially Crippling BSNL

In addition, Modi government is deliberately trying to financially cripple BSNL to the advantage of Reliance. Private telecom giants Vodafone Idea and Airtel are incurring huge losses due to tariff war initiated by Reliance Jio. BSNL's revenue earnings are also seriously affected due to the tariff war. Hence, BSNL needs alternative sources for revenue generation. BSNL's proposal, of its land management policy for utilisation of more than its Rs.1 lakh crore valued vacant prime lands in different parts of the

country for commercial use guarantying earning of Rs.5000 crore per annum, has been put in cold storage by the DoT of the government.

This was raised by AUAB as a fundamental issue in this strike. When BSNL was formed, the union cabinet had taken decision that all the assets and liabilities of the erstwhile Department of Telecom Services and Department of Telecom Operations of the government would be transferred to BSNL. But, only liabilities have been transferred to BSNL, but not the assets. Hence, demanding approval for BSNL's land management policy, AUAB has also demanded that all the assets should immediately be transferred to BSNL.

Crony Capitalism Extreme – Modi Government's Backdoor Support to Jio

While providing all out backdoor support to Reliance Jio to enable it to grab entire telecom market, Modi government is also making all-out attempts to financially cripple BSNL. While total debt of Vodafone Idea is Rs.1.20 lakh crore and Airtel's Rs. 1.13 lakh crores, BSNL's debt as on date is only Rs13,000 crore. Yet, while private telecom companies are freely availing people's money as bank loans; but the DoT has not approved BSNL's proposals to take bank loans for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19. Thus, the game plan of the government is to ensure starving BSNL to death. Hence, the AUAB has demanded that the DoT should allow BSNL to take bank loans.

Government Siphoning Out BSNL Fund

As per the existing rule, BSNL is to pay employees pension contribution to the government on the *actual basic pay*. Instead, to extract more money from BSNL, government is calculating BSNL's pension contribution on the maximum of the pay scales, thus collecting Rs.2,200 crore extra from BSNL since 2007. AUAB demanded of the government to refund this amount to BSNL and to calculate pension only on the actual basic pay of the employees in future.

Depriving Wage Revision

BSNL employees wage revision in due since 2017. Yet, the government denies wage revision on the plea that BSNL is incurring loss. After doing everything to push BSNL into a loss, the government says that the employees are not eligible for wage revision on this ground. Both the BSNL retirees and the central government retirees are covered by the CCS Pension Rules 1972. Yet, while the central government retirees have already got their pension revision, the same is being denied to the BSNL retirees.

The successful 3 days strike of the 1.7 lakh officers and employees of BSNL was a warning to the government to steps expeditiously to ensure financial viability of BSNL and to settle just demands of pay and pension revision of its employees. AUAB is determined to intensify its struggles further to pursue these demands.

(P. Abhimanyu is the general secretary of BSNL Employees Union)

Scheme Workers

MDM Workers All India Rally before Parliament

Jointly organised by CITU, AITUC, AICCTU, AIUTUC and others unions; thousands of Mid Day Meal (MDM) workers held a national rally and staged demonstration in front of the Parliament at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on 8 February protesting against betrayal by Modi government in respect of the assurance in their wage increase and for not having any such proposal in the Union budget 2019.

In September, 2018 when the prime minister announced wage increase for Anganwadi and ASHA employees, the MDM workers were ignored. MDM workers held a Protest March to Parliament on 19 November and a joint delegation met Union finance minister Arun Jaitley who said that though it was in government's agenda and an unintended omission; and assured their wage increase in the Union budget 2019. *(The Working Class, December 2019)*

Against this second betrayal countrywide agitation was organised culminating into protest rally before Parliament on 8 February. The rally was addressed by CITU national secretary A. R. Sindhu, CITU's Mid Day Meal Workers Federation general secretary Jaibhagawan, AITUC secretary V. S. Giri,

R. K. Sharma of AIUTUC and leader from AICCTU.

The Union HRD minister minister Prakash Jabrekar invited the unions leaders for discussion. A 5 member delegation with Jai Bhagwan, Rajiv Dimri, Flomina Jon, Shahnaz, R.K. Shurma, lead by D. Raja MP (CPI), met the minister. The minister assured to take up the matter in the cabinet and its positive outcome. The delegation also discussed about the striking MDM workers of Bihar. The minister assured his intervention on that issue also.

The joint memorandum to the Union minister contains 12 point demands which include immediate increase in remuneration; implementation of 45th and 46th ILC recommendations – recognition as workers, Rs.18,000 as minimum wage, social security; reinstatement of retrenched workers; proper infrastructures; no privatisation, no centralised kitchen; safety, medical benefits and compensation in case of death; grievance redressal committees; adequate budget allocation etc.

There are about 25 lakh of MDM workers 98% of whom belong to socially oppressed and economically poor sections. Each MDM worker is paid a monthly 'honorarium' of Rs.1000 since 2009 that too for 10 months in a year.

AIFAWH's March to Parliament

40 Lakh Signatures submitted

More than 5,000 Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, coming from 14 states, held a protest March under their CITU federation AIFAWH's banner before the Parliament on 25 February. The March from Mandi House was led by CITU general secretary Tapan Sen, president K. Hemalata; AIFAWH general secretary A. R. Sindhu, president Usharani, treasurer Anju Maini; and 100 red volunteers with 40 lakh signatures of Anganwadi employees and beneficiaries, collected from all over the country, on the memorandum to the Central government on their demands.

The March culminated into a rally and public meeting before the police barricade at Jantar Mantar. The public meeting, presided over by Usharani, was inaugurated by Tapan Sen and was addressed by Hemalata, Sindhu, Veena Gupta and Anganwadi employees' leaders from different states.

A delegation consisting of A R Sindhu, Usharani, Kailash and Shakuntala met the secretary of WCD ministry and submitted nearly 40 lakh signatures containing pending basic demands of regularization, minimum wages Rs.18000 per month and pension Rs.6000; for strengthening ICDS, against introduction of direct cash transfer in ICDS; non implementation of the existing benefits etc.

The announcement of increase in remuneration with much fanfare by the prime minister is yet to be implemented in most parts of the country. Even the amount, allocated to ICDS in the current budget, is inadequate to cover the additional cost on remuneration.

The meeting declared to raise ICDS issues as people's issues for institutionalization of ICDS with full facilities as the right of the children for food, health and education and the rights of the workers for minimum wages and pension; and decided to work for changing the anti people policies by ensuring defeat of the communal anti-ICDS, anti-labour BJP government in the coming Parliament election. For this, AIFAWH decided to distribute 20 lakh leaflets among the Anganwadi employees and one crore leaflets among the beneficiaries on the adverse impact of the policies of the BJP government and the need to defeat this government.

Railways

Loco Men's All India March to Parliament

Organised by All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA), more than 4000 loco running staff of Indian railways with their families, coming from 68 divisions of 17 zones of Indian Railways across the country, started their protest March to Parliament from Ambedkar auditorium in New Delhi on 18 February culminating into a rally and mass meeting at Jantar Mantar police barricade before the Parliament.

The protest March and rally were held in pursuance of loco men's five demands – Immediate sanction of running allowance as per RAC1980 formula; - parity of pension between pre and post 2016 retirees; - withdrawal of NPS and statutory pension to all; - implementation of HPC report; and - to stop privatization of railways.

The meeting was addressed by CITU general secretary Tapan Sen as its main speaker. Secretary general of AILRSA M.N. Prasad, general secretary of NFIR Raghavaiah and NFPE leader Giriraj Singh also addressed.

Explaining discrimination against loco men and about their just demands M. N. Prasad said that if government failed to sanction loco staff's running allowance as per RAC'80 formula within 31 March, 2019 the wheels of trains will be stopped from the date which will be notified by AILRSA.

Among the railway employees, loco running staff is being discriminated and were betrayed several times, despite their hard work in piloting the trains in countrywide railway network day and

night, latest being non-implementation of 7th CPC recommendation on running allowances to loco men though the same is implemented for 35 lakh of other central government employees 19 months before. It is reported that Railway Board has already submitted the proposal on running allowance as 30% of salary and TA as directed by 7th CPC; but the finance ministry is withholding its approval.

Loco running staff is also fighting for weekly rest days; limiting consecutive night duties to 2; for a reasonable grade pay. In absence of these, the loco running staff is generally not able to fulfill their social obligations and domestic needs. The railway officials, who work in their offices 40 hours a week, are preparing 52 hours a week for loco running staff who work in odd environment and are denied of basic human rights in railways.

Cement

Tripartite National Wage Settlement Signed

After nine rounds of bipartite discussion, during June '18 – January '19, between Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA) and national cement industry organizations of six central trade unions (CTUs) - INTUC, AITUC, BMS, HMS, CITU and LPF; a national wage agreement for cement workers was signed in Chennai on 21 January, 2019. CITU was represented by its National Coordination Committee of Cement Workers Unions convener Nishith Choudhury, K. Prakash Kumar and Kalu Ram Suthar.

On the basis of this bipartite agreement, the 7th national tripartite wage settlement for the workers of cement industry was signed in presence of the CLC(C) in New Delhi on 20 February, 2019. This is the only industrywise national tripartite wage settlement in private sector.

The settlement is applicable for all permanent workers, including in grinding units; and for the contract workers who are engaged in loading (including packaging) and unloading. The 4 years' settlement is effective 1 April, 2018 - 31 March, 2022.

The settlement accrual benefits will be Rs.2,500 per month - Rs.750 in Basic Pay and rest amounts in Educational, Conveyance, Periodical and LTA allowances - retrospectively effective 1 April, 2018. With effect from 1 April, 2020, there will be another rise of Rs.2,500 per month, divided in identical components of basic pay and allowances. Accordingly, the existing basic pay scale shall be revised. Rs.20 shall be added in each slab of annual incremental in the revised basic pay scale effective 1 April, 2018.

The seniority weitage shall be - one increment on completion of 10 years and 2 increments on completion of 20 years of service on 1 April 2018.

Existing VDA as on 1 April 2018, pegged at AICPI no.6550 (1960 series), shall be merged with existing Fixed Dearness Allowance (FDA) and the FDA shall stand revised. Similarly, the VDA as on 1 April 2020 shall also be merged with the revised FDA.

VDA rates per point of 3 months average of AICPI (1960) have also been revised upward @ Rs.2.50 effective from 1 April 2018 and @ Rs.2.55 effective 1 April 2020.

Rest of existing benefits in service conditions will continue; and better benefits, if any under other provisions (including in law), shall not be adversely affected by this settlement.

Arrears of settlement benefits shall be paid in two equal installments – one within 31 March and another within 31 July, 2019.

The participating CTUs organizations submitted a joint memorandum to the CLC(C) for his intervention for coverage / extension of settlement benefits to rest of the contract workers, not covered by the settlement. CLC(C) said that the issue is important and that he would intervene in the matter soon.

3 Workers Buried Alive in Cement Plant in Sindri

Absence of Safety

Three human lives were lost on 24 January last due to gross violation of safety norms by the management causing accident in the ACC cement plant at Sindri in Jharkhand owned by the multinational company LafargeHolcim of Switzerland. Gopal Pal Singh, Ajit Singh and Nimai Mandal of the nearby villages were buried alive due of heap of accumulated cement falling on them while cleaning the silo of the packing division of the plant. All three of them were contract workers appointed by the contractor Techno Engineering. Their bodies were extracted from the pile of cement and were declared dead in the hospital next day.

As the news of death of the three workers spread, thousands of workers and villagers assembled near the factory gate and staged daylong demonstration protesting against the management for absence of safety norms causing death of the workers. Ultimately, the management declared to pay Rs.12 lakh as compensation and job to a dependant of each of the deceased.

But, there was no accountability for absence of safety norms causing loss of human lives. There was no FIR for the 'unintended' murder. The National Coordination Committee of Unions in Cement Industry of CITU expressed their condolence and held the MNC giant in cement industry responsible for the death of the workers.

LafargeHolcim controls Ambuja Cement owning 63.62% shares and through Ambuja Cement controls ACC controlling 54.5% shares. (*Inputs: Nishith Choudhury*)

IT

National Convention of IT & ITES Employees

Initiated by CITU, a national convention of IT and ITES employees was held at Chennai on 10 February attended by 180 leaders and activists of IT & ITES employees unions in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Telangana, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Inaugurating the convention, CITU national president K. Hemalata said about the initiatives being taken by CITU Centre and need for unionization of IT and ITES employees in India. CITU national secretary A. R. Sindhu and vice president of its Tamilnadu state committee R. Singaravelu also addressed the convention. The convention was greeted by one of the organizers of November 2018 Google Employees Walkout and by the general secretary of WFTU George Mavrikos.

K. C. Gopikumar presented the background paper on the industry situation and the present status of the employees. IT and ITES employees organizations - AITE of Kerala, KITU of Karnataka, AITE of West Bengal, FORIT of Telangana, UNITE of Tamilnadu and the IT Union of Maharashtra presented their reports on activities and interventions in the IT and ITES sector. A paper on the 4.0 Revolution was presented by T. Baranidharan of Tamilnadu which is going to affect the IT industry.

A resolution, demanding job regularization and the minimum wages for the Data Entry Operators in India, moved by Jayalakshmi of Tamilnadu and seconded by Jayan of Kerala, was adopted unanimously. The convention formed a national coordination committee of IT and ITES employees with 35 members with K. C. Gopikumar as its convener.

CITU general secretary Tapan Sen, in his summing up speech, welcomed the formation of the national coordination of IT and ITES employees unions and extended CITU's support in taking it forward to

grow stronger and win over employees demands for better job security, attrition problem, retrenchment, respectful job and decent working conditions. The convention was presided by Karnataka IT union's president VJK Nair. (Inputs: K.C.Gopikumar)

Road Transport

Organisational Workshop of AIRTWF

An organisational workshop of AIRTWF (All India Road Transport Workers Federation) of CITU was held on 21-22 January 2019 at P.R. Bhawan in New Delhi attended by 36 delegates, including national office bearers, from 16 states.

Inaugurating the workshop, CITU general secretary Tapan Sen emphasized on the need to strengthen the organisation; to implement democratic functioning at all levels; to educate the members, cadres, leadership on the policies and the politics behind the policies; and mobilising funds and their proper accounting. By implementing these four issues effectively, the workers can own the organisation and can understand the need to change the society.

AIRTWF general secretary and CITU national secretary K. K. Divakaran presented papers on four topics – (1) Expansion of the Organisation, (2) Democratic Functioning, (3) Political and Ideological Education and (4) Funds and Financial Management. The delegates in 3 groups discussed each of the topics in four separate sessions and the groups reports were summed up in each plenary session.

In concluding session, an immediate tasks document was placed by Divakaran. Delegates discussed and unanimously adopted the same. These include (1) Start AIRTWF Delhi office functioning from P.Ramamurthy Bhawan from 1 February; (2) Organise regional classes for the Hindi speaking states' leadership in Delhi in June; (3) Vigorous independent and united campaigns to expose the wrong policies adopted by the present NDA government and the need to change this government for protection of the industry and the workers as a whole; (4) Hold organisational workshops in all the states before August 2019; and (5) Hold state committee meetings before 20 February in all the states for effective implementation of the decisions. (Inputs: R. Lakshmiiah)

Neoliberal Attack on EPFO Interest Rates

On 21 February, 2019 Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) under the union labour ministry announced 8.65% as interest rate on deposits of its 6 crore EPF subscribers for the financial year 2018-19. EPF interest rate remained constant for 11 years during 1989-2001. Then as neoliberal onslaught on the workers savings, the decline began first during BJP rule and then carried further during successive Congress and BJP governments at the Centre.

Period	Interest Rates (in %)
1989-2001	12.00
2001-2005	09.50
2005-2010	08.50

Then yearly fluctuation began in EPF interest rates linking with market fluctuation since 2010.

Financial Year	Interest Rates (in %)
2010-11	09.50
2011-12	08.25
2012-13	08.50
2013-14	08.75
2014-15	08.75
2015-16	08.80
2016-17	08.65
2017-18	08.55
2018-19	08.65

STATES

Tamilnadu

Valiant Struggle of Chemplast Workers

The multinational Sanmar Group's Chemplast Plant III in Mettur in Salem district of Tamilnadu, manufacturing PVC resins, engaged 110 apprentices, in the name of 'interns', for a period of 3 years in addition to its 60 permanent workers and hundreds of contract workers. The management engaged these interns in regular and permanent of jobs, placing them in independent positions in operations and maintenance along with regular workers. But, they were paid only a consolidated amount of Rs.9500 per month whereas permanent workers get Rs.50,000 per month at the beginning of the scale.

Demanding better wages and service conditions and regularisation of jobs, these intern workers joined CITU union and the union submitted a charter of demands for them. The infuriated management summarily dismissed 5 leading workers. The issue is pending in conciliation.

The union served strike notice for joining 2 days countrywide general strike on 8-9 January responding to which 94 of these intern workers joined the strike with the workers in rest of the country. In retaliation, Chemplast management did not allow these workers to enter the plant for joining duties on 10 January morning and wanted to serve summary dismissal orders to all at the factory gate itself. The agitated workers refused to receive the illegal dismissal order and began their stay-in agitation at the factory gate. Union immediately took up the issue with the ALC who admitted the dispute in conciliation on 10 January itself and advised the management to reinstate the workers immediately. Subsequently, five rounds of conciliation meetings took place, but the management refused to accept to the advice of the ALC, Salem.

The workers continued squatting in front plant gate day and night, in sun and cold. The management tried to evacuate the workers from the factory gate with the help of police. Police issued notice on 16 January, but the workers refused and are continuing to resist.

The management moved petition before Chennai High Court for eviction of the workers from the plant gate. On this, High Court on 24 January directed the respondent police to identify a place for the workers nearby the factory gate to continue their agitation to save their livelihood. A writ petition dated 24 January seeking reinstatement of the victimised workers is also listed for hearing.

The struggle of Chemplast workers has drawn wide support and solidarity actions of trade unions and the public. Everyday CITU unions cadres have been assembling in front factory gate to express solidarity with the fighting workers. Separate arrangement is made to feed the workers every day. CITU unions; fraternal organizations like AIIEA, BSNL and of employees of government, electricity, transport, steel; and mass organizations - AIDWA, DYFI, AIAWU, AIKS, Progressive Writers & Artistes Association, small traders of Mettur and individuals came forward to contribute to the struggle fund.

In solidarity with the fighting Chemplast worker, CITU state committee organised statewide demonstrations on 29 January and 21 February demanding of the government to intervene and compel Chemplast management to stop their anti-labour actions and abide by the advice of the ALC.

From 10 January onwards, workers are on sit-in-dharna in front of the factory gate. A district level mass hunger strike was held on 5 February in Mettur in which CITU state president Soundararajan participated. 24 hours long relay hunger fast is continuing since 6 February.

(Inputs: K.C. Gopikumar and Paneer Selvam)

WORKERS-PEASANTS UNITY

Second Kisan Long March in Maharashtra

Nearly a year after its first *Kisan Long March* on 6-12, 2018; AIKS Maharashtra council began its massive second *Kisan Long March* from Nashik on 20 February, the anniversary of martyrdom of Govind Pansare, to culminate in Mumbai on 27 February, the anniversary of martyrdom of Chandrashekhar Azad. In between falls the state Assembly's budget session beginning on 25 February.

This Long March is expected to cross 50,000 kisans' participation, double the size of last year's, mainly from Nashik, Thane-Palghar and Ahmednagar districts with representation from several other districts in Marathwada, Vidarbha, Western Maharashtra, Northern Maharashtra and Konkan regions.

Objective of the March

AIKS has set three clear objectives of this March to condemn the BJP-led state and central governments for betraying their own assurances given to the farmers and agricultural workers who are facing graver agrarian crisis now.

First is to condemn BJP-led state government for poor implementation of the last year's conceded demands, in writing and placed on the floor of the state Assembly, by not holding single review meeting; non-implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA); not giving total loan waiver out of announced package of Rs.34,000 crore; failed assurance on remunerative prices and increase in pensions etc.

The second objective of the Long March is to focus on the grim drought situation which severely affected half of Maharashtra this year. AIKS has been demanding immediate drought relief like drinking water, food, employment under MNREGA, fodder for cattle, compensation to farmers for their crop loss, a comprehensive crop insurance scheme for farmers (not by corporate insurance companies); and long term measures on war footing including completion of incomplete irrigation projects and diverting the massive water of west-flowing rivers, emptying into the Arabian Sea, to the chronically drought-prone areas of Maharashtra.

The third is against Modi led BJP's central government for failing to keep its 2014 electoral promise to farmers including complete loan waiver and MSP at 1.5 times of entire cost of production (C2 plus 50%) as recommended by Swaminathan Commission.

Denying loan waiver to the peasantry, Modi government has had no qualms about granting loan waivers of lakhs of crores of rupees to its crony corporates. In the last budget, the provision of Rs.6000 per year, in three installments of Rs.2000 each to farmers with less than five acres of land works out to be a pittance Rs.3.33 per head per day. Even this has been denied to millions of landless agricultural workers; tenant farmers; Adivasi farmers, who have still not been given land under the Forest Rights Act (FRA); and dry land farmers, who often have more than five acres of land. BJP government's undermining of MNREGA is well known. Its forcible land acquisition policies have been and are being resisted by the peasantry.

Preparation for the March

Intensive and extensive preparations have been made for this Long March. On 4 February, a largely attended AIKS Nashik district convention was held addressed by AIKS president Dr Ashok Dhawale, former AIKS state president J P Gavit, MLA, its state president Kisan Gujar and general secretary Dr Ajit Nawale, state joint secretary Sunil Malusare and CITU state president Dr D L Karad.

On February 6, a large 1500 strong Thane-Palghar district Kisan convention was held in Talasari that was addressed by Ashok Dhawale, J P Gavit, Kisan Gujar, Sunil Malusare, AIDWA general secretary Mariam Dhawale, AIKS leaders Barkya Mangat, Ratan Budhar, L B Dhangar and Lahanu Kom, ex-MP & ex-MLA.

On February 11, Ahmednagar district convention was held in Akole addressed by Dr Ajit Nawale, Sadashiv Sable and Namdev Bhangre. Similar preparations were made in several other districts.

The Maharashtra state committees of CPI(M), CITU and Peasants and Workers Party (PWP) have supported and decided contributing fund. Leaders and activists of CITU, AIAWU, AIDWA, DYFI and SFI have also decided to join the March.

Government's attempt to Prevent the March

To stop this AIKS-led second *Kisan Long March*, the panicky state government has taken recourse to repression. In Ahmednagar, where a large farmers' convention was held on 13 February after taking all necessary government's permissions; police filed cases against AIKS state general secretary Dr Ajit Nawale and have been making concerted attempts to arrest him. Police has also been threatening to local activists at many places to prevent them from taking part in the March. The police has also been trying to prevent farmers from Thane-Palghar district from coming to Nashik. The AIKS centre has condemned Maharashtra government for attempting to crush democratic and peaceful Kisan Satyagraha movement.

Talks with the Chief Minister

Experiencing last year's Kisan Long March, nervous and chief minister Devendra Fadnavis invited an AIKS delegation to meet him well in advance. Two meetings were held on 11 and 17 February between the chief minister, with other concerned ministers and officials, and the AIKS. Talks remained inconclusive and the AIKS made public its determination to go ahead with the Long March.

The March began in the evening of 20 February led by AIKS general secretary Hannan Mollah.
(From: *The write up of Ashok Dhawale; 20 February, 2019*)

Agreement Reached, Kisan Long March Called Off

Thousands of farmers, who started their 200 kms weeklong second Kisan Long March from Nasik to Mumbai on 21 February with their 15-point charter of demands, was called off after 6 hours long discussion with the state government and on written assurance on the understanding reached on AIKS demands on 21 February night.

After 14 kms march from Nasik, Long March halted at Ambewada for rest on 21 February. There the chief minister had sent the state water resources minister Girish Mahajan and minister of state for tourism Jaikumar Rawal to hold discussion with AIKS leaders. AIKS was represented by its all India president Ashok Dhawale, state general secretary Ajit Navale and J. P. Gavhit, CPI(M) MLA.

On AIKS demand to build irrigation projects to divert water flowing to Arabian Sea to drought-hit areas of Maharashtra, the government assured that the projects in North Maharashtra and Marathwada will come up under 'Maharashtra Ekatmik Jal Arakhada' (A uniform irrigation plan by the state government).

On allotment of titles on forest land, the government fully conceded to AIKS demand to give minimum of one-acre land to farmers, who have been farming on forest lands for decades. Earlier, only 4-6 guntha had been cleared by the government, while 1 acre consists of 40 guntha. This will give relief to farmers in entire Maharashtra.

On the demand of loan waiver, the government reiterated that the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Sanman Yojana (loan waiver scheme announced by state government on June 30, 2017) won't be stopped until every farmer gets its benefit. Government also said that the farmers who had taken loan in the financial year 2016-17 will also be included in the scheme.

On cash transfer schemes, there will be increase in amounts in Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Indira Gandhi Vruddhappkal Yojana (scheme for citizens above 65 years) and others. The government has also assured to consider increasing eligibility income limit from Rs.21,000 to Rs. 50,000.

On title issue of temple lands, being cultivated by farmers, the government informed that the study report by revenue ministry over the claims of title on temple land will be published soon and assured to present the Bill on this in the monsoon session of the Assembly.

On forcible acquisition of lands for projects like Bullet Train and Samriddhi Mahamarg (Mumbai Nagpur six lane super express way), the government assured that there will be no forcible acquisition of land.
(From: *Ganashakti; 22 February, 2019*)

INTERNATIONAL

South Korea

Nationwide Strike & Protest

Against Labour Reforms; For Minimum Wage Raise



Estimated about 1.6 lakh workers were on a half day nationwide strike on 21 November, 2018 protesting against rolling back pro-labour policies to shift burden of deepening economic crisis on them. 40,000 of them - including some in the car industry – rallied, 10,000 of them before the Parliament, in the capital Seoul and in 13 other cities in response to the call of KCTU.

They were protesting against government's move to introduce greater flexibility to maximum 52-hour work week limit and demanding of President Moon to implement his election promise to raise the minimum wage from 7,530 won (\$6.66) to 10,000 won (\$8.85). Even though government raised minimum wage by 16%, but, revised the sector for inclusion in the calculation of wages made raise useless for workers said KCTU.

Earlier this month, President Moon sacked his top two economic officials as the world's 11th largest economy struggles with slowing growth, rising unemployment and persistent income gaps said *Al Jazeera*.

A Saga of Glorious Struggle of South Korean Workers

Vivek Monteiro

At the invitation of the SsangYong Motors Division of KMWU, I visited South Korea during 17-24 December 2018 and met the fighting South Korean workers, leaders of trade unions and addressed meetings of the workers.

I met the president of KMWU (Korean Metal Workers' Union), an affiliate of KCTU, and also the president of the major trade union centre of South Korea, KCTU (Korean Confederation of Trade Unions).

Nilkantha Sreshtha from Nepal was with me and also acted as an interpreter for me with whose help I could freely communicate with the Korean comrades.

The SsangYong workers and the KCTU hold CITU in high esteem for the sustained support that they have received from CITU and Maharashtra TUJAC (Trade Union Joint Action Committee).

During my visit, I was taken to meet the ongoing dharnas and struggles of workers of Finetech, Cort Guitar Company who are also on indefinite agitation seeking reinstatement. A visit was arranged to the martyrs memorial at Moran Park where the mortal remains of Jun The Il and other martyrs of the working class and democratic struggle are interred.

During the visit I also addressed meetings of the joint trade unions council of the Pyongtaek region, where the SsangYong Motors Company (SMC) is situated, and a meeting of the dismissed SMC workers. Meeting with the women's support group was also arranged at the Warak centre at Pyongtaek. The women and families of the workers have been bedrock of support in the struggle.

On 23 December, I met Han Sang-gyun, (HSG) who led SMC workers struggle in 2009. In many ways, his life and struggles reflects the role of the militant trade union movement and political development in South Korea. As a student HSG participated in the Kwangju uprising of 1980, which was brutally suppressed by the military dictatorship in which between 200-600 persons were killed including 40 school students. He became President of the KMWU, SsangYong Motor division in 2008 and led the 2009 struggle. He was jailed for 3 years in 2010. On his release in 2012, he continued the struggle with a 171 day high altitude sit in atop an electric pylon. He was elected President of the KCTU in December 2014. He became a leader in the democratic people's struggle and mass rallies held in 2015 against the corrupt Park Gyun-hye government which ended in her conviction in 2018. During this movement he was again arrested and sentenced to 5 years in jail in 2016. He was released in May 2018.

In the political development of S. Korea, which has seen decades of military dictatorship supported by the US, the trade union movement has been at the forefront of the struggles for democracy. Within the left and democratic trade union movement, the KCTU has been in the leadership. The dismissed SsangYong workers, led by Han Sang-Gyun, Kim Deuk Jung and Kim Jung-wook, are in the vanguard of the democratic movement in Korea.

SMC Workers Struggle

In 2009 there was a heroic militant struggle of the SMC workers against summary dismissals of 2400 workers by Chinese Shanghai Motor Company, the earlier owner. The SMC workers went on strike and occupied the factory. They held out for 77 days in the face of brutal repression. The management and Korean police cut off food and water supplies, fired taser guns and tear gas. Workers heroically defended themselves and beat back repeated assaults by the police and company bouncers. The women and family members rallied in support outside the factory and made arrangements for food and water. Civil society organizations and fraternal trade unions staged demonstrations in support. A three days national general strike on 22-24 July was called by KCTU against police repression and in support of the SsangYong workers. The SsangYong workers struggle became national and international issue. Finally, in early August 2009 the Korean police and Special Forces launched helicopter assault dousing the workers with water laced with chemicals and evicted the workers. About 600 workers were injured, some of them seriously. The wife of a KMWU leader committed suicide.

After suppressing the agitation, by a forced agreement, 48% workers were reinstated and 52% of them were separated. However, the struggle for reinstatement of 180 dismissed workers continued. During 10 years of the struggle, 16 workers committed suicide and 14 others died due to distress.

Even after the takeover of the company by Mahindra group of India in 2011, the struggle continued including two 'high altitude' protests by occupying 70 metre smokestacks for long periods like the 101 day sit-in in freezing weather in December 2014 by secretary general Kim Jung-wook and one more worker.

In January 2015 Anand Mahindra of Mahindra group visited Korea and gave an assurance of reinstatement of workers on certain conditions. In September 2015 first SsangYong workers delegation came to Mumbai with demand to meet the apex management of Mahindra group and discuss time bound reinstatement of the dismissed workers.

CITU Mumbai committee mobilized the Kamgar Sangathana Sanyukta Kruti Samiti (Trade Union Joint Action Committee- TUJAC) and unions in the various Mahindra group of companies in Mumbai, Pune and Nasik, including BKS and INTUC led and independent unions; in support of the struggling workers. Through the initiative of the TUJAC, (including the effort of Suryakant Mahadik of BKS), a meeting was arranged with the Chairman of the SsangYong Company, Pawan Goenka on 28 September 2015. Goenka assured the workers that he would come to Korea and discuss the matter with them along with the Korean management.

CITU and AITUC jointly felicitated the SsangYong workers delegation in a meeting on October 3, 2015.

In the tripartite discussion in Korea in December 2015, SsangYong management finally agreed to hire back 179 workers over the next two years and to prioritize those affected by the 2008 cuts over other candidates when filling future vacancies. The company also dropped lawsuits against the union and created a \$1.5 million fund to help laid-off workers and their families. Thereafter, 19 workers were reinstated in April 2017.

But due to slow pace and delay in reinstatement process, a second SsangYong workers mission, led by Kim Deuk Jung, president of the KMWU, SsangYong Motors Division, came to Mumbai in December 2017. The SsangYong workers delegation was felicitated in the Maharashtra Convention of Workers held in Nasik on 6 January 2018. At this convention, the leaders of all the unions in the Mahindra group factories in Mumbai, Pune and Nasik met the Korean comrades. TUJAC leaders addressed a joint letter of appeal to the Mahindra management to expedite the resolution of the issue. The second mission returned on 23 January 2018.

From 28 February to 1 April, 2018, the leader of the KMWU SsangYong Motor Division Kim Deuk Jung went on indefinite hunger strike which lasted for 30 days. On 2 April 2018, 8 more dismissed workers were reinstated.

In June 2018 one more dismissed worker committed suicide. From July 2018 an indefinite dharna was commenced in Seoul. During this month Korean President Moon Jae-in visited India. CITU General Secretary Tapan Sen addressed a letter to Korean ambassador requesting a meeting between Indian workers and the visiting President Moon.

After returning, President Moon intervened and four-party discussion involving management, workers (two unions), and government resulted in a historic agreement on September 20, 2018, in which it was agreed to absorb all the remaining laid-off/dismissed workers in two phases, 60% by 2018 end, and 40% by June 2019. Accordingly, on 31 December 2018, 71 laid off/dismissed workers were reinstated. In the background of the protracted struggle this is a remarkable and historic achievement.

Hail Anil Ambani for Rafale Deal - BJP Jail Anil Ambani for Fraud – Supreme Court

On 20 February, 2019 the Supreme Court of India held three Reliance Companies of Rafale Deal 'fame' Anil Ambani - Reliance Communications Ltd, Reliance Telecom Ltd and Reliance Infratel Ltd - guilty of contempt of court and fraud.

The Division Bench of Justice R. F. Nariman and Justice Vineet Saran took serious view about statements made in the affidavit by RCom Chairman Anil Dhirubhai Ambani. The court also observed that the three Reliance Companies have willfully not paid the sum of INR 550 crore plus interest and have thus breached the undertakings given to the Court and ordered to pay a sum of Rs. 550 crore together with interest till date.

"The RCom group is directed to make payment to Ericsson sum of INR 453 crore within a period of four weeks from today. In default of such payment, the Chairmen who have given undertakings to this Court will suffer three months' imprisonment," the Court ordered. The Court also directed the Registry of Supreme Court to transfer Rs. 118 crore, already deposited in court, to Ericsson within one week.

"In addition to the aforesaid sum being paid, a fine amounting to INR 1 crore for each Company must also be paid to the Registry of this Court within four weeks from today. This sum will be paid over to the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee. In default of payment of such fine, the Chairmen of these Companies will suffer one month's imprisonment."

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBERS (GENERAL) FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
(BASE 2001=100)**

State	Centre	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	State	Centre	Nov 2018	Dec 2018
AP	GUNTUR	283	284	MHR	MUMBAI	298	297
	VIJAYWADA	286	288		NAGPUR	361	362
	VISHAKHAPATHNAM	288	289		NASIK	338	336
ASM	DOOM DOOMA TINSUKIA	275	269		PUNE	319	320
	GUWAHATI	260	261		SHOLAPUR	313	315
	LABAC SILCHAR	268	268	ORI	ANGUL TALCHER	319	317
	MARIANI JORHAT	254	253		ROURKELA	313	309
	RANGAPARA TEZPUR	252	249	PUD	PUDUCHERRY	309	310
BIH	MUNGER JAMALPUR	334	328	PUN	AMRITSAR	317	314
CHD	CHANDIGARH	303	301		JALANDHAR	312	312
CHS	BHILAI	324	322		LUDHIANA	286	287
DLI	DELHI	284	283	RJN	AJMER	279	278
GOA	GOA	321	319		BHILWARA	281	281
GUJ	AHMEDABAD	280	280		JAIPUR	287	285
	BHAVNAGAR	293	293	TN	CHENNAI	275	274
	RAJKOT	289	289		COIMBATORE	281	280
	SURAT	269	266		COONOR	316	315
	VADODARA	272	270		MADURAI	287	287
HRY	FARIDABAD	271	271		SALEM	283	289
	YAMUNANAGAR	290	288		TIRUCHIRAPALLY	293	290
HP	HIMACHAL PRADESH	266	265	TEL	GODAVARIKHANI	310	311
J&K	SRINAGAR	272	270		HYDERABAD	255	255
JRK	BOKARO	294	292		WARRANGAL	309	308
	GIRIDIH	331	329	TRP	TRIPURA	265	259
	JAMSHEDPUR	350	346	UP	AGRA	347	344
	JHARIA	349	345		GHAZIABAD	321	321
	KODARMA	371	372		KANPUR	328	323
	RANCHI HATIA	369	364		LUCKNOW	320	315
KNT	BELGAUM	298	299		VARANASI	316	314
	BENGLURU	292	293	WB	ASANSOL	325	325
	HUBLI DHARWAR	318	318		DARJEELING	277	277
	MERCARA	306	306		DURGAPUR	323	320
	MYSORE	306	305		HALDIA	331	329
KRL	ERNAKULAM	306	308		HOWRAH	282	280
	MUNDAKKAYAM	304	305		JALPAIGURI	274	279
	QUILON	347	349		KOLKATA	284	283
MP	BHOPAL	314	313		RANIGANJ	282	279
	CHHINDWARA	293	292		SILIGURI	272	273
	INDORE	274	272				
	JABALPUR	309	307				
ALL INDIA INDEX						302	301

CITU Journal

The Working Class

Be Subscriber

(Each copy – Rs. 10)

- **Individual Subscriber** - Annual subscription – Rs.100/- for 1 copy;
- **Agency** - Minimum 5 copies; 25% discount as commission;
- **Payment** - By cheque - Drawn in favour of “The Working Class” payable at Canara Bank, DDU Marg Branch, New Delhi – 110 002

By bank money transfer - SBA/C No. 0158101019569;

IFSC Code: CNRB 0000158;

With email/ letter intimation

Photo Speaks

25 December 2015



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Lahore in a surprise visit to Pakistan and then took a chopper to proceed to celebrate Pakistan's then Prime Minister Sharif's birthday at his palatial residence in the outskirts of Lahore.

14 February 2019



Remains of Pulwama terror attack at 3.10 PM. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued shooting film for Discovery Channel at the Corbett National Park, enjoyed boat riding and thereafter had tea and samosas till 7 PM at PWD guesthouse.

BSNL Employees-Officers 3 Days Strike



Amritsar (Punjab)



Ghaziabad (UP)

Second Kisan Long March in Maharashtra

(Report Page21)



Chemplast Workers Agitation

(Report Page20)

