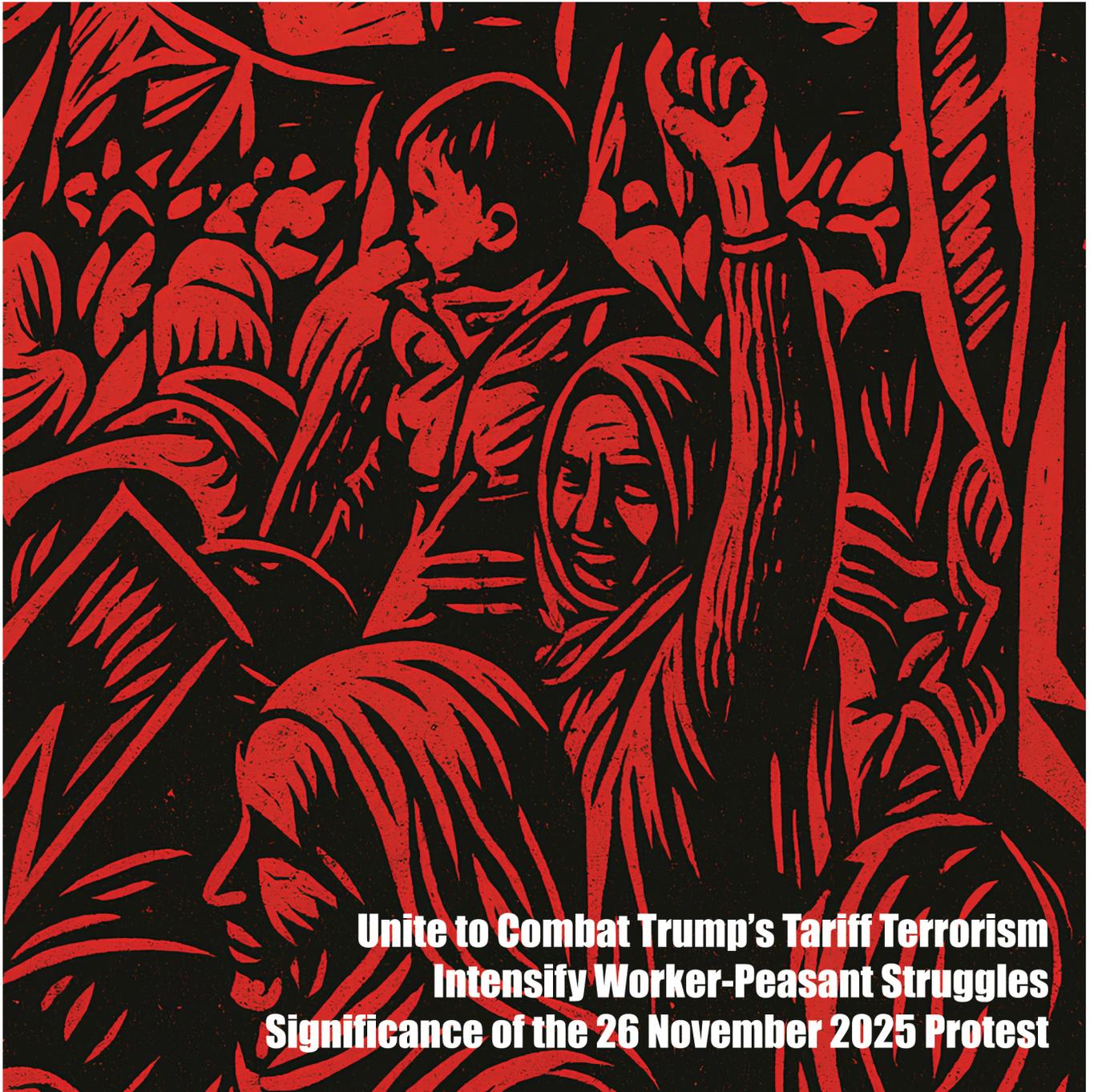


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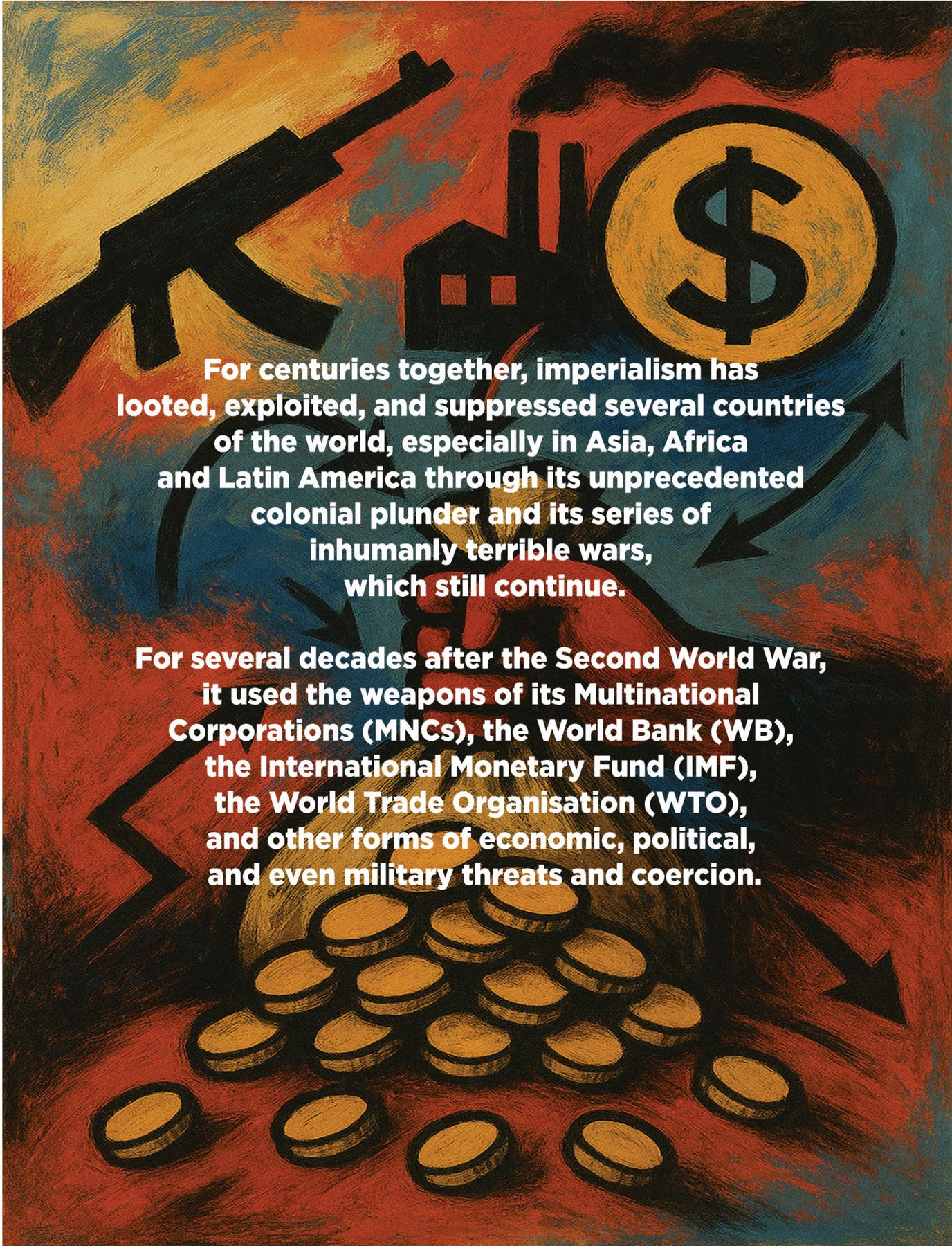
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PEASANTS VOICE

November-December 2025



**Unite to Combat Trump's Tariff Terrorism
Intensify Worker-Peasant Struggles
Significance of the 26 November 2025 Protest**



For centuries together, imperialism has looted, exploited, and suppressed several countries of the world, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America through its unprecedented colonial plunder and its series of inhumanly terrible wars, which still continue.

For several decades after the Second World War, it used the weapons of its Multinational Corporations (MNCs), the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and other forms of economic, political, and even military threats and coercion.

PEASANTS VOICE

The Journal of AIKS

November–December 2025



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Editorial

A Warm Welcome to Peasants Voice!

We extend a warm welcome to all our readers of this first issue of 'Peasants Voice', the central journal of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS), which we are confident will become the authentic voice of the fighting peasantry of India. We have, of course, been bringing out magazines even before this. For many years, we were bringing out our 'AIKS Bulletin'. Then, for the last few years we had published several memorable issues of 'Peasants' Struggle' in English and 'Kisan Sangharsh' in Hindi. The difference is that 'Peasants Voice' is our first registered journal which will enlist regular subscribers from all over the country and will be posted to them.

The AIKS is the first peasant organisation in India. It was founded in the furnace of the freedom struggle against British rule on 11 April 1936 at Lucknow. We will soon be entering our 90th year. With a membership of over 1 crore 53 lakh (over 15 million) spread over 27 states and union territories in India, the AIKS is also the largest peasant organisation in the country.

It is a happy coincidence that the AIKS shares its birthday with one of the earliest champions of the peasantry in India, a revolutionary social reformer against caste and gender oppression, and one of the three whom Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar called his gurus — Gautam Buddha, Sant Kabir, and Mahatma Jotirao Phule. Phule was born on 11 April 1827.

The AIKS has a glorious legacy of massive peasant struggles against imperialism, landlordism, feudalism, capitalism, communalism, casteism, and neoliberalism. These struggles have led to the martyrdom of thousands of peasant men and women who fought bravely not only to win and retain their own rights, but also to further the cause of all the working people of India.

The historic pre-independence peasant struggles of the 1940s like Telangana in then Andhra Pradesh, Tebhaga in Bengal, Punnapra Vayalar and North Malabar in Kerala, Gana Mukti Parishad in Tripura, Surma Valley in Assam, and Warli Adivasis in Maharashtra, laid the foundations not only of the Kisan Sabha, but of the entire peasant movement in our country. It was some of these peasant struggles which, along with other factors, contributed to the formation of path-breaking Left-led state governments in Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura.

The AIKS also led huge post-independence struggles of the peasantry like those against the Anti-Betterment Levy in Punjab, against the worst and most repressive forms of landlordism in Bihar, and against class and caste oppression in East Thanjavur in Tamilnadu, culminating in the inhuman killing by upper caste landlords of 44 Dalit agricultural workers at Kilvenmani — 23 children, 16 women and 5 men. In recent years the AIKS led the huge Mahapadavs and Kisan Curfews in Rajasthan, the massive Kisan Long March in Maharashtra, the fight against land acquisition in Karnataka, and many other struggles in various states.

In recent years, there have been large joint struggles of the peasantry, the most iconic being the one-year victorious struggle of lakhs of peasants in 2020-21 under the leadership of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) at the Delhi borders for the repeal of the three pro-corporate, anti-peasant, and anti-people Farm Laws imposed by the Modi-led RSS-BJP government. There has also been the earlier victorious struggle in 2015 led by the Bhumi Adhikar Andolan (BAA), which forced the Modi regime to take back the amendments to the LARR Act of 2013.

A recent feature is the large joint nationwide actions by millions of peasants and workers led by the AIKS, AIAWU, and CITU, and even broader mass countrywide joint actions by the SKM and the Central Trade Unions (CTUs). The latest nationwide action was on 26th November 2025, to mark five years of the SKM struggle. All these have paved the way for worker-peasant unity.

Today, grave challenges confront the peasants and workers of India. By far the most dangerous is that posed by the RSS-BJP union government, which is led and controlled by Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Mohan Bhagwat, Gautam Adani, and Mukesh Ambani, who are the symbols of everything that has gone wrong with India. In the last 11 years of its rule, the RSS-BJP-led regime has proved to be the most anti-people, pro-corporate, pro-imperialist, communal, casteist, authoritarian, corrupt, and unscrupulous government in the history of India since independence. Its neo-fascist character has been exposed before the country and the world.

All the institutions of democracy in India — Parliament, Legislatures, Central Agencies like the CBI, ED, IT, Media, Judiciary, now even the Election Commission, and the Constitution itself — have come under grave threat from the current rulers. The results of the recent Bihar assembly elections have again underlined the multifaceted danger of the RSS-BJP regime.

The anti-peasant bias of the Modi regime recently became crystal clear once again when it refused to extend any financial help to the millions of peasants and agricultural workers who faced calamity and ruin due to the terrible floods and excessive rains that lashed several parts of the country. Its most recent decision to implement the four pro-corporate and anti-worker Labour Codes, five years after they were passed in Parliament in September 2020, in the same session which passed the three Farm Laws, is a declaration of war not only against the working class, but also against all working people. And on top

of this, this regime has the temerity and hypocrisy to issue false front-page advertisements in newspapers hailing these anti-labour Labour Codes as being pro-labour!

The other serious challenge facing the country is that of American imperialism under its new avatar Donald Trump. Trump's Tariff Terrorism, his pressure on India to sign an unequal Free Trade Agreement with the USA, and the likelihood of Narendra Modi and his servile RSS-BJP regime succumbing to this pressure, will be a grave assault not only on millions of peasants and workers of India, but also on lakhs of small entrepreneurs who run thousands of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Already, under imperialist pressure, the Modi regime has removed the 11% import duty (tariff) on cotton imports from the USA, adversely impacting cotton farmers in India, who are in a terrible and chronic crisis. Under Trump's pressure, Modi has also agreed to cut down cheap oil imports from Russia and buy costly oil from elsewhere. This is an anti-national step.

The world today is changing. International resistance to the two-year-old Israel-US-led horrific genocide of nearly 75,000 Palestinian children, women, and men is increasing exponentially. Millions of people all over the world, more so in the imperialist countries, have consistently come on to the streets in solid solidarity with the suffering and struggle of Palestine.

The victories of Left-wing or Democratic Socialist candidates in recent elections in martyr Salvador Allende's Chile, Uruguay, Ireland, Germany, Norway, and earlier in Sri Lanka are part of the effort to counter the rightward shift in several countries. The most dramatic victories were, of course, those for the Mayorship of New York and Seattle and other smaller wins in the USA itself. Some of these victories, of course, need a balanced wait-and-watch approach. Increased solidarity with the peasant and workers' move-

-nts in various countries of the world against the common enemy of imperialism and capitalism is the need of the times.

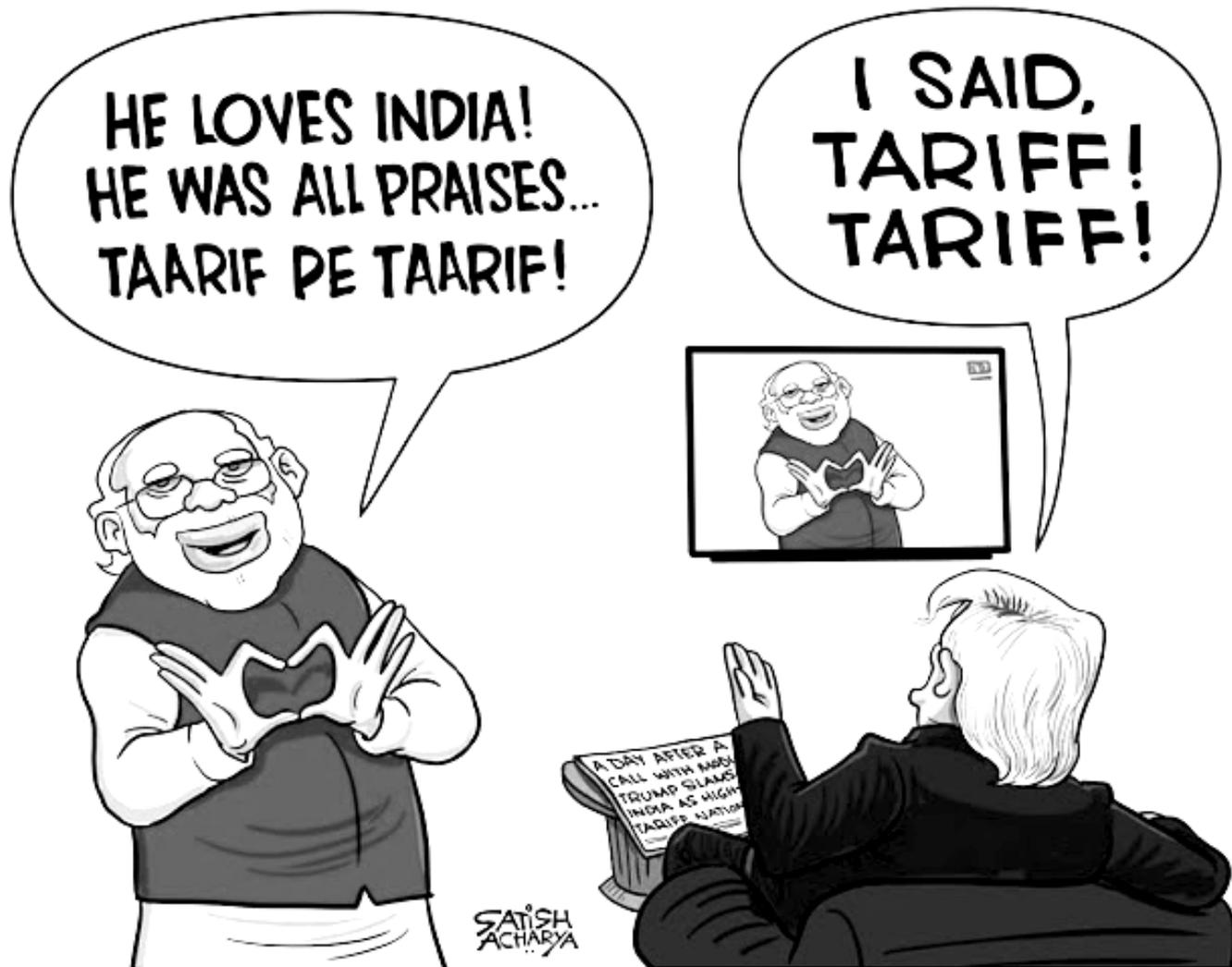
In this and future issues of 'Peasants Voice' we shall try to bring to you a series of perceptive articles on all the above issues. Of course, our primary focus will be on various aspects of the agrarian situation and the current challenges facing the peasant movement in India. We shall also bring you reports of independent and joint struggles led by the AIKS.

Finally, let us see what Lenin wrote 123 years ago in his seminal work, "What Is To Be Done?" He wrote, "The role of a newspaper, however, is not limited solely to the dissemination of ideas, to political education, and to the enlistment of political allies. A newspaper is not only a collective propagandist, and a collective agitator, it is also a collective organiser."

And it is all these three aspects that 'Peasants Voice' will always keep at the top of its mind. Along with this English edition, a Hindi edition of this journal will also be published to cater to another large section of peasants in our country. Our several state journals will carry many of the articles in 'Peasants Voice' in their own national languages. In this way, we are sure that we will reach millions of peasants in our country — and encourage them to strengthen the peasant movement of India and also its mainstream organisation, the All India Kisan Sabha! ■

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continued from page 15

- Protect democratic rights of all citizens. Immediately release Sonam Wangchuk and other protesters. Revoke imposition of NSA. Settle the genuine demands of people of Ladakh. Ensure comprehensive electoral reforms with proportional representation. Reinstate public trust in the Election Commission of India by replacing the Home Minister in the selection panel with the Chief Justice of India and ensuring transparency in the election process. End hegemony of money and muscle power in elections. Enact law to ensure public funds for entire expenditure on campaigns. Repeal authoritarian laws of UAPA, the Public Safety Act of Maharashtra. Immediately stop putting people in jail for years without charge sheets and trials and initiate compulsory punitive action against the belligerent bureaucracy responsible for the violation of constitutional rights of citizens. Amend penal codes of BNS, BNSS and BSA that give increased powers to the State and police, restrict civil liberties, suppress free speech and legitimate political dissent.
- Immediately build a proactive people's movement to protect secular unity, especially Hindu-Muslim Unity. Civil vigilance including functioning legal cell to end spreading communal hate aimed at wrecking communal harmony. Free all the institutions of governance, including judiciary and bureaucracy from communal influence and protect unity in diversity of people of India.
- Public campaign including preventive legal measures and public scrutiny to end atrocities on women and girl children, abuse and violence against Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities.
- People's movement against drug addiction and alcoholism. Ensure punitive action against criminal elements in administration and political hierarchy who are in connivance with the drug and narcotic business. ■



Unite to Combat Trump's Tariff Terrorism!

Dr ASHOK DHAWALE
(President, AIKS)



American imperialism under President Donald Trump has now started a full-fledged campaign of Tariff Terrorism not only against India, but also against several other countries of the world. But Trump has imposed the highest 50% tariffs on Indian exports to the USA. Only Brazil has been slapped with such high tariffs. At the same time, Trump wants India to sign an agreement with the USA for free trade with almost 0% tariffs on US exports to India.

Tariff means an entry tax on imports at the border, what we generally call import duty. These tariffs are part of a larger strategy by powerful Western imperialist nations to maintain their economic dominance, capture new markets, and usurp higher profits. When tariff is imposed selectively on a particular country, its exports become costlier compared to its competitors. Because of this, importers shift their orders to its competitors resulting in the loss of market of the country that is tarified. As a result of this, the livelihood of the Indian people, especially of peasants, workers, and even small entrepreneurs running micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the entire Indian economy, are facing a grave threat.

BACKGROUND OF IMPERIALIST LOOT & EXPLOITATION

Which are the main Indian exports to the USA that have been badly affected by Trump's Tariff Terrorism? They include a host of items like Textiles and Apparel, Gems and Jewellery, Sea Food, Leather Goods, Spices, Tea, Coffee, Cashew, Coir, and Machinery, Auto Parts and Organic Chemicals. The USA with around \$ 80 billion imports from India accounts for nearly 20% of our merchandise exports. India also exports another \$ 40 billion in services to the USA. The 50% Trump Tariff has affected around 60% of India's merchandise exports to US. The total loss of exports to the USA is likely to be around \$ 25 billion or ₹ 2.2 lakh crores. All this will have a disastrous cascading effect on the Indian economy, mainly unemployment and poverty, which have already become apparent in the last three months of the increased US tariffs.

We oppose Trump's tariffs because they will adversely affect employment and income of the above sections. We oppose India removing its own tariff protection because that will also adversely affect their employment and income. Hence it has become imperative to mobilise the people of India against imperialist machinations and resist any attempt by the RSS-BJP government under Modi to surrender to the above demands of US imperialism.

The real objective of Trump's Tariff Tantrums is to force India to sign a trade pact with the USA reducing India's tariffs on import of agriculture products from USA. That is why Trump decided to put pressure on India by announcing 25% reciprocal tax above the 10%

basic tax that already existed. To add further pressure, he imposed another additional 15% tariff as penalty for India purchasing crude oil at concessional rate from Russia. Trump wants to unilaterally punish India for importing oil from Russia on which the USA has imposed a trade embargo. Thus, in August 2025, the import duty imposed by the USA on India rose to a massive 50%.

For centuries together, imperialism has looted, exploited, and suppressed several countries of the world, especially in Asia, Africa & Latin America through its unprecedented colonial plunder and its series of inhumanly terrible wars, which still continue. For several decades after WW II, it used the weapons of its Multinational Corporations (MNCs), the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other forms of economic, political, and even military, threats and coercion.

The disastrous neoliberal policies of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG) were imposed from the 1980s. With the fall of socialism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s, imperialist aggressiveness in all spheres increased.

In recent decades, the intersection of imperialist trade policies and agriculture has become a defining issue for developing economies, particularly India. During the discussions on the signing of the WTO agreement, the imperialist and international organisations claimed that free trade leads to prosperity for all. Indian farmers were promised access to lucrative Western markets. Higher prices and increased incomes were the carrots dangled before them.

However, experience has shown that free trade policies have undermined the interests of Indian farmers and jeopardised the nation's food security and rural livelihoods. Developed countries erect high tariff and non-tariff barriers to shield their own agricultural sectors. But India was compelled to reduce or eliminate such protections. Thus, there was a flood of cheap, subsidised agricultural im-

-rts into Indian markets, leading to a crash of agricultural prices.

In recent years, the WTO was facing irreconcilable internal conflicts between imperialist states and the emerging developing economies. The failure of the Doha Development Round exposed the inability of monopoly capital to impose a uniform trade regime on the Global South. In response, imperialist powers bypassed the WTO, and pushed bilateral and regional free trade agreements, to wrest more concessions from the developing world.

Such agreements included the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (A.S.E.A.N.) agreement, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the various US/UK/EU-led bilateral deals, to enforce stricter intellectual property rights, include investor-state dispute mechanisms (ISDS) that favour multinational corporations, and expand market access in seeds, dairy & processed food. The shift to these bilateral and regional free trade agreements reflects the deepening contradictions of global capitalism in its neoliberal phase. We were able to successfully thwart the Government of India's effort to sign the RCEP.

DANGEROUS PORTENTS

The bilateral trade agreement discussions that were broken off after the unilateral punitive tariff imposed by US have now been resumed in New Delhi and Washington. The USA is mounting increasing pressure on India to surrender. The latest has been an exorbitant fee of Rs. 88 lakh per H-1B visa. Restrictions on the entry of H-1B visa holders will directly and severely impact thousands of skilled Indian professionals and disrupt their careers. Sanctions on Iran's Chabahar Port, a project operated by India, were also reimposed.

Equally serious is the fact that, under the pressure of both US imperialism and also the domestic corporate textile lobby, India was forced to remove its 11% tariff on cotton imports from the USA. This will further depress the already low price of cotton got by farmers and lead to a sharp increase in farmer suicides, for which the cotton belt of the country is infamous. India was also forced recently to suspend its imports of cheap Russian oil simply because of Trump's pressure. More belligerent actions from the USA in the days to come and more acts of surrender by the Modi government are more than likely.

We have the example of the European Union (EU), the United States' largest trading partner, which initially opposed Trump's demand, being coerced into signing a trade deal. Under the agreement, the US will impose a 15% tariff on most EU imports while EU will eliminate all tariffs on US goods. EU promised to buy costly US fuel instead of cheaper Russian fuel.

In contrast we have the example of China, and even Brazil, standing up boldly to US threats. The US has now swallowed the belligerent counter-threats from China and has begun negotiating with the Chinese. The important lesson which the Indian government must learn from this is not to submit to threats but adopt a firm nationalist and pro-people stand.

But rather than resisting these strong-arm tactics, the Modi regime has chosen to respond with vague sermons about the need for self-reliance, and worse, by acts of surrender such as those mentioned above. This pathetic response is disappointing and humiliating for the country. The imposition of punitive tariffs and unacceptable language used by the US President reveals the total failure of India's foreign policy and diplomacy. Trump has already triumphantly declared that a "good trade deal with India is round the corner". "Good" for whom is clear from Trump's remarks themselves.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

If US pressures are to be resisted, it is important that India strengthen its ties with multilateral organisations like BRICS and SCO, and also with China, Russia, and other developing countries, to resist the US weaponisation of tariffs. The recent SCO meeting in Tianjin issued a joint declaration against US imposition of tariffs on various countries and its attempts to pressure nations into severing ties with Russia. A proposal for establishment of an SCO bank to serve the interests of the Global South was also discussed. The angry reaction of Donald Trump to the SCO meeting, claiming that it was ‘conspiring’ against the US, reveals the discomfiture it caused in Washington. India should realise that only by uniting all countries aggrieved by US actions can effective resistance be mounted.

We must diversify our exports and imports with the USA to other countries. India must resist US pressures to stop buying cheap Russian oil. During the period April 2022 to August 2025, Reuters has estimated that India has gained \$ 17 billion as direct savings from importing Russian oil. However, these savings were largely pocketed by Reliance Industries and other oil companies. They must be passed on to the consumers in India. Many other important alternative steps need to be taken. Space does not permit a full list of such steps here.

The Government of India’s rhetoric of defending “strategic autonomy” in the trade negotiations has masked its adherence to the class interests of the bourgeois-landlord regime. Despite rhetoric, they have increasingly integrated Indian agriculture into exploitative, imperialist trade structures. If the Modi government succumbs to Trump’s threats, there would be a surge of cheap American imports — not just in dairy products, but also in wheat, cotton and oilseeds like soybeans and canola. This would undermine India’s hard-won self-sufficiency in these commodities and threaten to displace millions of small producers.

The BJP stands for corporatisation of Indian agriculture, rapid modernisation and greater export orientation. Opening up of the agricultural sector is an inevitable component of this package. The three black Farm Laws passed by the NDA regime were a prelude to this new strategy. They triggered the historic farmer agitation that forced the government to retract.

Modi’s unprecedented support for Trump’s election campaign, including the slogan “Ab Ki Baar Trump Sarkar,” has already weakened India’s negotiating latitude vis-à-vis American geopolitical and economic interests. The Modi government has failed to articulate a robust, pro-farmer position in bilateral negotiations. It has shown a willingness to make strategic compromises that endanger the interests of millions of rural and even urban households. Worst of all, instead of mobilising the entire nation to fight against imperialist threats, the BJP is still hell bent on dividing people on religious and caste lines. It continues on its authoritarian and neo-fascist path. This must be exposed and combated with vigour and determination.

The AIKS, and also the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), have opposed any moves that would further open up Indian markets to agricultural imports, warning that such policies represent a betrayal of the peasantry and a capitulation to foreign and domestic corpora-

-te interests. The ongoing debate over trade, tariffs, and the future of Indian agriculture is about far more than economic efficiency or international competitiveness. It is, at its core, a struggle for the very survival of the rural population and the principles of food sovereignty and self-reliance. Only a major pan-Indian struggle can force the government to take a path that protects India’s farmers and workers. And it is such a mass nationwide struggle which is the need of the times. ■



Intensify Worker-Peasant Struggles *Resist Ruling Class Policies; Advance for an Alternative*

Dr VIJOO KRISHNAN
(General Secretary, AIKS)



The ever-deepening systemic crisis of capitalism, the unprecedented pandemic, and the associated distress have exposed the fact that under the neoliberal paradigm, we are seeing a fast-paced regression into barbarism. The utter insensitivity of the ruling classes to the increasing inequality, unemployment, poverty, hunger, disease and destitution faced by the vast majority and the unbridled drive to maximise profits of a minuscule section of corporate cronies even during the devastating pandemic is a case in point.

Globally, the richest 1% of the world have accumulated nearly twice as much wealth as the rest of the 99% of the world's population put together over the two pandemic years. In India, the cronies of the BJP Government were amassing wealth even as the masses were reeling under acute distress. More than 40% of India's wealth is owned by 1% of its people. The number of billionaires in India increased from 102 in 2021 to 205 in 2025. In stark contrast, nearly 23 crore people — the highest in the world — live in poverty.

The worst manifestations of the regression into barbarism were the mass exodus of migrant workers during the lockdown, floating dead bodies on the Ganga due to the absence of oxygen and bare minimum health facilities, even as the corporate communal regime accumulated crores in the name of PM-CARES and their cronies accumulated wealth by the loot of national resources, takeover of Public Sector Undertakings and so on.

The last 11 years of the Narendra Modi-led BJP Government have also witnessed an unprecedented number of distress suicides by the peasantry, agricultural workers, daily wage workers and unemployed youth, a staggering number of more than 5 lakh. The agrarian crisis has intensified, leading to pauperisation, dispossession and a precarious situation for the peasantry. To divert attention from this dismal situation, they have resorted to communal polarisation, attacks on minorities and the oppressed. Militant struggles have been built across the globe by the working class and the peasantry building resistance to neoliberal policies. India has also witnessed massive struggles over the last 11 years and even achieved historic victories that have forced the authoritarian regime to retreat.

The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) has launched independent struggles and expanded its reach to newer regions over the last 11 years. The Kisan Sangharsh Jatha and the Kisan Sangharsh Rally organised independently by the AIKS in November 2016 were the first All India protests against the Narendra Modi-led BJP Government's disastrous demonetisation decision. Struggles of the peasantry in Rajasthan and the Kisan Long March from Nashik to Mumbai in Maharashtra could defeat the ruling BJP Government and force it to accept demands, thereby giving a clear message that the BJP Government was not invincible. These struggles caught the imagination of people and generated confidence.

AIKS also took the initiative to build issue-based unity and launch joint struggles under the banner of the Bhumi Adhikar Andolan (Land

Rights Movement). The building of an issue-based unity against the draconian Land Acquisition Ordinance immediately after it was promulgated in December 2014 and struggles by the Bhumi Adhikar Andolan, with the opposition parties also taking up cudgels in Parliament, led to its withdrawal. This was the first defeat handed down to the authoritarian corporate communal BJP Government by united movement.

By June 2017 after the killing of farmers in police firing at Mandsaur in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, yet another issue-based unity called the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) was formed which took the struggle to a different plane. The AIKSCC had over 250 farmers' organisations with the AIKS playing a significant role. It could also build up massive mobilisations around the issue of remunerative prices and freedom from indebtedness. The Central Trade Unions (CTUs) came together and pioneered coordinated issue-based struggles under their leadership. Agricultural labour unions also had united struggles, with AIA-WU playing a leading role.

Struggles were launched against the attack on people's livelihoods, the demonetisation-led crisis, attacks in the name of Gauraksha, against privatisation and the sale of Public Sector Undertakings, against encroachment on Forest Rights, against the National Monetisation Pipeline, and various other issues. The Joint Platform of CTUs has had a longer presence, and they have played the role of countering neoliberal policies for decades; their experience has also benefited the peasants' movement.

A conscious initiative was made to build united struggles of the working class and peasantry to combat and resist the corporate-communal Government and the neoliberal policies. Over a decade of continuous engagement, collective decision making and coordinated united action a rock-solid unity of the class fronts representing the three producing classes, the CITU, the AIKS and the AI-

-AWU has been achieved. United class action transformed from mere statements of solidarity or token support into active participation in struggles built up independently by each of these organisations.

In 2018 when the corporate media was busy writing epitaphs for the red flag, the most militant struggles were led by CITU, AIKS and AIAWU. After an intensive joint campaign, on Quit India Day, 9th August, a massive joint action of civil disobedience and courting arrest — Jail Bharo was held in which over half a million participated across the country. This was followed up in quick succession by the first-ever joint mobilisation of the three organisations in front of Parliament. It was on 5th September 2018 that the Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh rally was held upholding the fundamental guiding principle of worker-peasant unity.

A feature of the recent General Strikes by the working class has been a simultaneous call for Grameen Bharat Hartal by the peasantry and agricultural workers on the same day. These incessant struggles have built an atmosphere against the authoritarian corporate communal Narendra Modi-led BJP Government. During the pandemic and the lockdown when the whole world was still grappling with the disease and an all-pervading sense of fear was prevalent, at the initiative of the working class the three organisations within a month of the lockdown came forward for united struggle demanding income support, food security, employment under MGNREGA, unemployment wages, universal health facilities and social security.

The BJP Government retaliated by an attack on the peasantry and the working class while giving humongous concessions to its corporate cronies. The 3 pro-corporate Farm Laws aimed at handing over Indian agriculture to the corporates and 4 Labour Codes snatching away the hard-won rights of the working class, all aimed at maximisation of profits and unbridled loot, were enacted in the most undemocratic manner. They hit at the very fe-

-deral structure of the Constitution. The move was resisted with all the might of the peasants and workers.

A new issue-based unity of more than 500 peasant organisations called the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) emerged, drawing in the widest sections of the peasantry, cutting across class lines. The CTUs called for a General Strike on 26th November 2020 while the SKM called for Grameen Bharat Hartal (Rural India Strike) and Delhi Chalo (March to Delhi) from states neighbouring the National Capital. It became a 380-day long resolute struggle of lakhs of peasants with the active support and participation of the working class and the agricultural workers, with the martyrdom of nearly 736 farmers. The BJP Government was forced to apologise and withdraw the Farm Laws. It also failed to implement the Labour Codes in the wake of resistance. One cannot forget that the struggle was in the midst of a pandemic and when the fear of the disease kept large sections confined indoors under the stringent lockdown. They first won a victory over fear of the pandemic, of State repression, and that in no small measure helped in the final victory when the three Acts were withdrawn.

The SKM decisively created the narrative that the struggle was against corporate loot; it was against the Modani Model, pitting the peasantry directly against the likes of the Adanis and Ambanis. The struggle epitomised them as corporate cronies of the ruling regime for whose profiteering Narendra Modi was willing to sacrifice the interests of millions of peasants and workers. This narrative was amplified by the opposition parties too and played a significant role in the various electoral defeats of the BJP. The Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mazdoor Mahapanchayat clearly proclaimed that the divisive communal agenda would be defeated by the unity of workers and peasants. The SKM call *BJP Ko Sajaa Do* (Punish BJP) was carried out across the country and SKM-CTU launched many campaigns exposing the pro-corporate, communal policies of the BJP. A campaign against the Agniveer Scheme, the treat-

-ment of women wrestlers and other issues were also taken up.

The coordination between the SKM and the CTUs and unity in action was a major factor in the victory achieved. It is notable that withdrawal of the Electricity Act Amendments was a demand of the SKM struggle and also an issue of the working class. The support of the peasantry to the struggle of the workers of Visakhapatnam against the privatisation of Vizag Steel is also notable. Yet another defeat was handed over to the ruling classes when the Electricity Workers in Maharashtra defeated attempts to privatise power distribution firms and hand them over to the Adanis.

United rallies have given a clarion call against the Hindutva fascist forces in defence of the democratic rights of the people and federal rights of states. A resolute political-ideological counter to the neoliberal corporate-communal regime and a united move to advance towards an alternative was highlighted. This will act as the fulcrum for building the broadest unity around a people's alternative and hand over a decisive defeat to the enemies of the people.

The peasants and workers have been the most consistent force that has relentlessly built up struggles against the BJP regime from day one of Narendra Modi coming to power a decade ago. Coordination between different classes in such a manner that they complement each other for achieving a common objective as well as defeat a powerful enemy was a very difficult proposition. In the process of incessant struggles, this is exactly what the peasants' movement achieved. It quickly realised that cross-class alliances are indispensable. Building of broad issue-based unity against a common exploiter or policies is the only way of scripting victory in these dark times. Significantly, the peasant struggles managed to bring on the centre stage the overarching agrarian crisis, farm suicides, indebtedness, need for legal guarantee of MSP, public investment in agriculture and rural development etc.

New attacks are going on in the drive to hand over agriculture to agribusinesses. Electricity is being privatised and pre-paid smart meters are being imposed. The prices of inputs like seeds, fertilisers and pesticides are incessantly rising while there is no guarantee of remunerative prices. Unequal Free Trade Agreements are being entered into and under the pressure of American Tariffs, the Union Government, instead of countering them, has bent down and reduced the import duty of cotton to zero.

The attacks by the BJP Government at the Centre are increasing. Falling incomes, rising costs, indebtedness, dispossession and peasant suicides are increasing. Crops are not getting remunerative prices. Absence of employment opportunities is also leading to distress migration. In the wake of the two-pronged attack from the Union Government and many State Governments, the only answer is to build militant struggles to resist anti-peasant policies and launch result-oriented movements for alternatives. Most important, all efforts by the BJP-RSS to communally polarise and divide society must be defeated. ■





Significance of the 26 November 2025 Protest

P KRISHNAPRASAD
(Finance Secretary, AIKS)



November 26th, 2025 marks the 5th year of the beginning of the historic farmers' struggle at the Delhi borders, actively supported by the united trade union movement. This is the largest mass struggle of peasants and workers in the contemporary history of Independent India, it sacrificed lives of 736 martyrs, and forced the Union Government to repeal the three Farm Laws. This struggle represented the anti-corporate resistance of the people.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), formed on the eve of that struggle, still upholds farmer's unity across India, continuously organising campaigns and protest actions during the last five years independently as well as in coordination with the joint platform of central trade unions (CTUs), other unions of workers and agricultural workers.

However, under duress of the growing capitalist crisis, the Modi Government did not implement the assurances made to the SKM dated 9th December 2021 including MSP @ C2 + 50%, loan waiver and no privatisation of electricity among others. It has failed to address the unemployment crisis and is imposing the four Labour Codes.

In this context, the countrywide mass demonstrations on November 26th, 2025 jointly called by SKM and CTUs will be the continuation of a protracted and massive struggle confronting the authoritarian, pro-corporate, communal policies of the Modi Government till it achieves all the immediate demands of the working class and the peasantry. Building the class unity of the working people can trigger a people's movement for social change in the near future.

AIKS, AIAWU and CITU have resolved to undertake the crucial task of materialising the worker-peasant unity to strengthen the grip of the working people in villages, factories and workplaces. Consciously developing local struggles on burning issues and connecting them with policy demands including MSP, loan waiver, no privatisation of electricity and repeal of Labour Codes is the way forward.

In the context of intensifying social contradictions under the corporate communal regime, there is no dearth of burning issues to unleash local struggles such as peasant suicides, rampant indebtedness, distress migration, forced sale of farm produce at dirt-cheap prices in the absence of a legal MSP guarantee and procurement system, scarcity and black-marketing of fertilisers, denial of compensation for victims of natural calamities, imposition of pre-paid smart meters, denial of assured hundred days of work and wage income under MGNREGA, denial of minimum wage to scheme workers of Mid-day meals, Asha, Anganwadi, indiscriminate land acquisition without rightful compensation, no protection to life and crops from the wild animal menace etc.

SKM has urged to campaign among the people, collectively organising meetings, conventions, seminars, padayatras, cycle yatras, panchayats in villages, leaflet distribution, door to door campaigns to popularise the 19-point charter of demands in order to advance the struggle, and successfully rally the working people on November 26th, 2025 at state and district centres.

19-POINT CHARTER OF DEMANDS OF SKM

7-point Immediate Demands

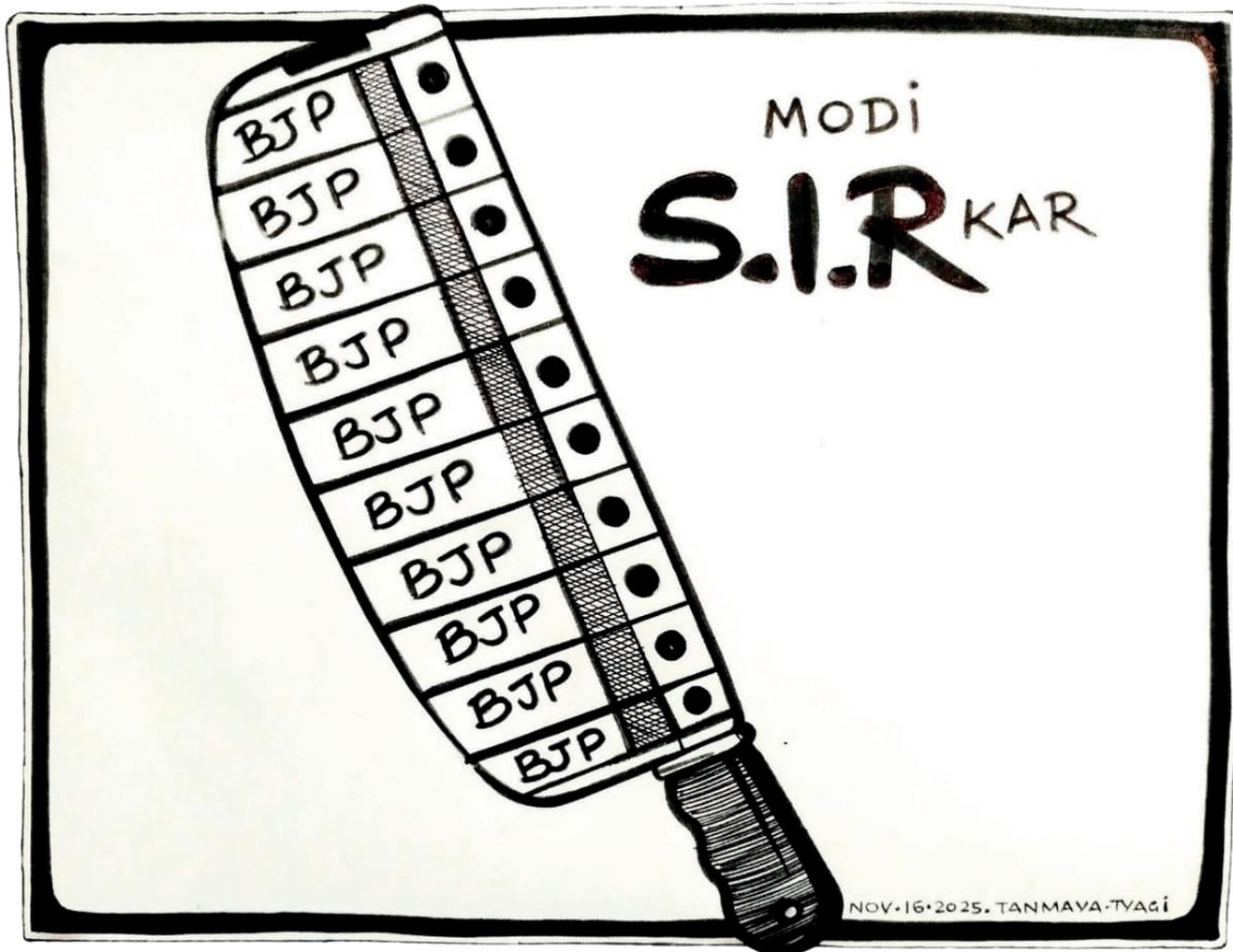
- The Union Government must implement the written assurance on MSP among other demands to SKM dated 9.12.2021. Parliament must enact a law to realise MSP @ C2 + 50% with guaranteed procurement — through sharing surplus out of processing, value addition and trade on agro products. Immediately open Government mandis/markets in all blocks in all states and prevent distress sale and ensure the declared limited MSP @ A2 + FL + 50% to farmers across India. Raise the moisture limit on paddy procurement from 17% to 22%.
- The Union Government must declare a comprehensive loan waiver scheme for farmers and agricultural workers. Control exploitation by MFIs; regulate interest rate, legal action against unlawful harassment of borrowers. Transfer R.B.I. Surplus to NABARD to implement interest-free credit scheme for peasants.
- No privatisation of electricity and PSUs. No Smart Meters. Repeal Electricity Bill, 2025. Provide 300 units of free electricity per month to all households.
- Fight against Imposition of 50% US Tariff on India. No FTA in Cotton, Dairy sectors. Repeal the notification that scrapped 11% import tariff on cotton. Scrap Indo-UK FTA CETA. No FTAs that hurt the interests of farmers and workers. Ban on imports of all agricultural crops that bring down crop prices during normal crop cycles in India.
- Declare all severe floods and natural calamities as national disasters. Declare judicial enquiry by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court on the causes of the flood situation and the impact of the corporate seizure of natural resources in the

- sensitive Himalayan regions without environment impact study. Rs. 1 lakh crore compensation for all calamity affected states including Rs. 25 thousand crore for Punjab for lost lives, livelihoods and to rebuild the social and economic life of victims. Protect right to compensation of tenant farmers and agricultural workers. Make physical verification to estimate losses and make equal compensation for real losses mandatory.
- Link MGNREGS with Agriculture and Dairy to benefit farmers. Ensure 200 days of work and Rs. 700 as wage. Resolve unemployment. No casualisation, outsourcing, contractualisation of work. Immediately end the ban on recruitment. Make appointments in the 65 lakh existing vacant posts in government and public sector. Save permanent employment. Reinstate the Old Pension Scheme. Stop privatisation to save reservation. Strictly implement social reservations for SC / ST / OBC / Minorities.
 - End indiscriminate acquisition of agricultural land. Respect people's right to rehabilitation and resettlement. No Bulldozer Raj, stringent action against belligerent bureaucracy. Compensate all victims of land acquisition violating the LARR Act 2013, with compensation at four-fold rates in rural areas and two-fold rates in urban areas.
 - Scrap the failed Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). Establish Insurance Corporation for crops and livestock in Public Sector, on the lines of the LIC.
 - Reinstate fertiliser subsidy of Rs. 87,000 crore curtailed in the Union Budgets. End black-marketing and ensure self-reliance in fertiliser production. Ensure water rights for entire agricultural land.
 - Provide Rs 10,000 per month old age pension to peasants and agri workers.
 - Register tenant farmers under the state agricultural department; provide all benefits of government schemes including credit, agricultural extension and compensation. Provide land for cultivation to all landless families, and houses to all houseless families.
 - Protect the federal rights of states with 60% share in the divisive pool including cess and surcharge. Amend the GST Act to reinstate taxation power of states. No National Cooperation Policy (NCP), No New Education Policy (NEP), No National Policy Framework on Agriculture marketing (NPFAM) and No Electricity Bill 2025 that trespass on powers of state governments. Strong States for Strong India. Protect financial autonomy of states to ensure public investment to modernise agriculture, accomplish agro-based industrialisation and generate employment. Ensure MSP and minimum wage and end agrarian crisis, peasant suicides, distress migration.

12-Point Basic Demands

- Repeal four Labour Codes & protect the right to minimum wage.
- Strictly implement FRA and PESA to protect tribal rights on natural resources. No corporate takeover of land, forest, water and minerals. Enact law to end corporate mining, ensure 60% of the surplus from mining for the development of local people especially of tribal families.
- Control the growing dreadful income inequalities by taxing the super-rich 1% people with 2% wealth tax and 33% inheritance tax, thus raising 9% of the GDP to universalise six fundamental economic rights of Food, Employment, Education, Health, Housing and Pension to all. Reinstate corporate tax at 30% from 22%.

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Results of the Bihar Assembly Elections — *A Source of Deep Worry*

BADAL SAROJ
(Joint Secretary, AIKS)



The results of the Bihar Assembly elections announced on 14 November 2025 were truly unexpected. None of the metrics normally used to anticipate outcomes in a parliamentary democracy had given even the slightest indication of such results. On the one hand, the Nitish Kumar government — continuously in power for 20 years — had a heap of failures to its name, with hardly any noteworthy achievement to mention. Even within the NDA alliance there was restlessness; from roadshows to posters, scenes of ignoring and pushing aside each other were publicly visible. Rallies of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah often showed more empty chairs than filled ones. A political murder committed in broad daylight during the election had exposed the claims about the so-called absence of “jungle raj” under this regime.

On the other hand, the unity of the secular parties and the Left within the Mahagatbandhan (INDIA Bloc) was almost complete. They also had an alternative manifesto that actually addressed Bihar’s future. Their rallies drew thousands of people who came on their own, full of enthusi-

-asm and energy. But the election results turned out to be exactly the opposite of what all this suggested, and the Nitish-BJP-led NDA secured an unexpectedly huge victory.

These results have shocked not only the country's secular and progressive citizens and the political streams associated with the Mahagatbandhan, but also neutral political analysts and members of the non-Godi media and press. Detailed reviews are ongoing, and seat-wise analyses will also emerge in the coming days. But in reality, the results of the Bihar Assembly elections are deeply worrying. And this worry is not simply about who formed the government. It is deeper — if Bihar's exceptional case becomes the norm, then how much of a parliamentary democracy we will remain, and for how long? And if Constitutional institutions and the conduct of those occupying them continues to deteriorate like this, then how long will the Constitution itself remain intact?

The script for the hijacking of the entire Bihar election was already written when, during the process of reconstituting the Election Commission of India, the Chief Justice of India was removed from the selection committee and replaced by a government representative. To complete the design, a law was passed granting Election Commissioners immunity from legal action for any illegality — an immunity even the President of India does not enjoy. This effectively puppet-like Election Commission then did exactly what it was instructed to do: the special revision of the electoral rolls under the name of SIR (Special Intensive Revision), notorious for its irregularities, was the first example. The hurry and haste with which it was carried out clearly revealed the intent behind SIR.

In a state like Bihar — where, in the 2020 Assembly elections, the difference between the NDA and the Mahagatbandhan was just 15 seats and only 11,150 votes; where a large population is forced to migrate for work; where backwardness and poverty are rampant

— it does not take any special expertise to understand the social profile of the people who would fail to meet the conditions of SIR. From the beginning, SIR displayed a clear bias against the religious minority community as well. The alternative media continuously exposed how many types of irregularities took place. But “Modi Meherbaan to Gyanesh Kumar Pehalwan” went ahead and deleted 45 lakh names from the electoral rolls (earlier it was 65 lakh) without a care.

The apprehensions expressed earlier have been proved correct by these results. The 11,150-vote difference between the two alliances in the previous election became a difference of nearly 44 lakh votes in this election. Looking deeper, in 174 seats the margin of victory is smaller than the number of names deleted during the SIR exercise. Of the seats that the Mahagatbandhan had won last time but were “snatched” by the NDA this time, in 75 seats the margin of victory is less — much less — than the number of voters removed from the rolls.

The SIR and the targeted pruning of voters without consulting or even informing the opposition parties are not the Election Commission's only feats. There is hardly any provision in the election process — meant to ensure equal opportunity for all political parties — that the Gyanesh Kumar-led Commission did not violate. Ever since Independence, the rule has been that once the election dates are announced, the Model Code of Conduct comes into force, and any announcement intended to lure voters becomes a punishable offence. Yet in Bihar, not only was the announcement made that ₹ 10,000 would be deposited into the account of every woman, but the cash transfers actually took place during the election — every Friday — up until the first phase of polling. The Election Commission sat silently. This was a direct case of exchanging cash for votes: about 1,30,00,000 women received roughly ₹ 14,000 crore.

Similarly, various other sections of women —

Asha, Anganwadi, and Mid-Day Meal women, women's self-help groups, and others — were also given generous doles just before the election was announced. Beyond this, there were numerous instances of cash distribution, many of which were caught red-handed and reported by workers of opposition parties. But both the administration and the Election Commission acted not just as passive spectators — they were often complicit in facilitating these acts. Institutions like Jeev-ka Didis were effectively turned into campaign workers for the NDA.

According to the rules, once election campaigning ends, no non-voter outsider is allowed to remain in the concerned constituency. Yet hotels across Bihar were filled with thousands of BJP workers brought from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Reports — including photographs — emerged of these individuals even participating in voting and casting multiple votes. Ministers, MLAs & MPs from almost every BJP-ruled state were deployed for this operation. In Delhi, there was a bomb blast, and at the same time the Union Home Minister was sitting in a Bihar hotel — after shutting off all CCTV cameras — managing the election and conducting secret meetings with top administrative officials, assigning them their “tasks.”

Communal polarisation was also intensified. Those who believed that because Nitish Kumar was present, Hindutva rhetoric would be limited, were quickly disabused of this illusion. Not only did UP's Yogi Adityanath and

Modi's minister Giriraj Singh spew venom, but even Amit Shah and Narendra Modi repeatedly fuelled this narrative. The remaining gap was filled by the MIM's Owaisi, whose speeches inflamed minority communalism and who, by acting as the BJP's B-team, has always helped the saffron camp.

Caste polarisation was also made an important factor in these elections. The impact of cas-

-te on elections in Bihar, and in many other states, is nothing new. But this time, the BJP-NDA used it to the hilt to mobilise a broad caste coalition to counter the traditional Yadav-Muslim combine of the RJD. The RJD-led Mahagatbandhan could also not transcend this base.

These results are worrying because the mechanisms and safeguards designed across the world to ensure free and fair elections have been dismantled. The bureaucracy, which blindly obeys the commands of those in power rather than working within constitutional limits, has already been exposed. The state of the judiciary is well known. Now the Election Commission has also been pushed into the stable, tying democracy to a post.

These results are also worrying because by distributing cash during elections, the citizenship consciousness of voters is being snatched away, replacing it with the mentality of petitioners and subjects. The concern is also that the poor and deprived are being prepared to shoulder the burden of their own destruction.

What happened did not happen suddenly. The RSS-controlled BJP has never claimed that it would contest clean elections. In their worldview and politics, conceivable or inconceivable, possible or impossible, moral or immoral, constitutional or unconstitutional — every kind of act, misdeed or wrongdoing is legitimate. Everyone knew that they would engage in wrong-doing wherever possible.

The question now is: what should be done in such circumstances? First of all, blaming the people must stop. Then, the habit of looking for shortcuts must end. Forming alliances only at election time does not guarantee victory. Waking up only during elections is not enough. Continuous struggles — joint as well as independent — on real and perceived issues, struggles carried on until results emerge, along with the work of clearing the cobwebs of confusion and misconceptions in the minds of the masses, and building an organisation down to every village & settlement — this is what creates the path forward. Democracy was won through such struggles. It will survive only by intensifying them. ■



The Struggle of Mewati Farmers Against Loot and Unjust Land Acquisition

MANOJ KUMAR
(CKC Member, AIKS)



Barely 60 kilometres from the heart of the national capital, New Delhi, farmers in Haryana's Nuh district have been fighting for the past 13 years against deception, betrayal, and loot. Situated in the Mewat region and adjacent to the so-called Millennium City Gurgaon, Nuh district is the most backward in Haryana. The main reason for this continued backwardness lies in its political neglect — largely because it is the only Muslim-majority district in the state. Along with other forms of discrimination, the farmers here have been deliberately given the lowest land compensation in the entire National Capital Region (NCR).

The farmers of Nuh have been waging a long struggle for fair compensation for the unjust acquisition of their land for the Industrial Model Township (IMT) Sohna, but their demands have been continuously ignored.

In 2010, the then state government announced the establishment of an Industrial Model Township (IMT) at Rozka Meo in Nuh district. For this purpose, the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) acquired around 1,500 acres of land from 9 villages situated between Sohna and the Kundli–Manesar–Palwal (KMP) Expressway during 2010–2012.

During the 2010 acquisition at Rozka Meo, the government initially offered compensation of ₹ 25 lakh per acre, which the farmers opposed and demanded to be increased. However, through deceit, the authorities managed to get the farmers' signatures on documents mentioning ₹ 46 lakh per acre as compensation, and at the same time, forced them to sign an agreement waiving their right to approach the court against this injustice.

Meanwhile, farmers in the nearby village of Chandawali were awarded ₹ 2 crore per acre by the court. At present, the land developed by HSIIDC is being sold at market rates ranging from ₹ 13 crore to ₹ 18 crore per acre, while the latest registered rate has reached ₹ 23 crore per acre. The exact price depends on the plot size, location and other features.

The agreement did not even respect the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, let alone the farmer-friendly provisions of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

Even landless agricultural workers dependent on agriculture in these villages were not given any compensation.

Under Section 18 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, the right to approach a civil court is a statutory right, and no agreement can take that away. Any contract made under pressure that deprives citizens of their fundamental or statutory right to seek judicial review can be legally challenged and declared invalid by the court.

The extent of this loot can be understood from the fact that land acquired from farmers at ₹ 46 lakh per acre is now being sold by the government to private companies for ₹ 23 crore per acre — a profit of nearly 50 times. Furthermore, the agreement stated that farmers whose more than one acre was acquired would be given a 400-square-meter residential plot, and those with less than one acre, a 200-square-meter plot. But now the government is charging farmers ₹ 12,240 per square meter for

these plots — meaning ₹ 48.96 lakh for a 400-square-meter plot. This means that for the same one acre (4,047 square meters) of land that was bought for ₹ 46 lakh, the government is now demanding more than that amount just for 10% of the area, effectively looting the farmers from both sides.

Across the entire NCR region, the farmers of Mewat have been given the lowest compensation, and even their right to protest has been restricted. The farmers from these nine villages have been continuously struggling and sitting in protest for the past 2 years. During this period, they have organised several panchayats and demonstrations, during which many farmers were detained, arrested, and cases were filed against them. However, the administration and government have taken no concrete steps to address their demands.

One of the most positive aspects of this movement is the strong participation of women and youth in this Muslim-majority area. The movement is being led by the IMT Sohna Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, which is part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) — and SKM is carrying this struggle forward.

On 6 November, the Kisan Sangharsh Samiti organised a Kisan Mahapanchayat, attended by both state and national leaders of SKM. Under pressure from this mobilisation, the district administration promised to arrange a meeting between the farmers and the Chief Minister soon, and to halt all construction work by HSIIDC until that meeting took place. However, betraying the farmers once again, the very next day the district administration refused to stop the construction work and gave no clear assurance about the meeting with the CM.

Despite these betrayals, the farmers are moving forward with confidence, facing administrative indifference and government hostility, determined to intensify their struggle.

Their main demands are:

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Modi's MSP: 11 Years of Cheating the Indian Peasantry

AIKS Report



AIKS strongly condemned the Narendra Modi-led BJP Government's duplicity in declaring MSP @ A2 + FL formula instead of C2 + 50% as promised in the BJP Manifesto of 2014 Lok Sabha election. The Government trumpeting the highest increase announced for safflower and lentil (masur) was hollow since the increased cost of production was not taken into account. In all the crops, the declared MSP was below the rate of the C2 + 50% formula recommended by the MS Swaminathan Commission.

According to the Second Advance Estimates of Production for 2024–25, farmers cultivating the 20 major Kharif and Rabi crops could have earned nearly ₹3 lakh Crore Rupees more if their produce had been procured at prices determined by the Swaminathan Commission's recommended formula of C2 + 50%.

Twenty crops include paddy, cotton, soybean, maize, groundnut, wheat, gram, arhur (tur), rapeseed, jowar, urad, moong, bajra, lentil, ragi, sesamum, barley, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed.

Considering other produce including milk, entire commercial crops, vegetables, fruits, meat, egg, fish etc. out of the current MSP system and procurement, the losses Indian peasantry suffers is manifold higher, leading to indebtedness, suicides daily on an average of 31 farmers; all this is to ensure corporate profits under the corporate-communal BJP led NDA regime.

Over the last nine years (2016–2025), farmers growing these 20 crops have collectively lost an estimated ₹24 lakh crore in income solely because the C2 + 50% formula was not implemented, even under the assumption that the entire production was procured at the official Minimum Support Prices (MSP), which is unreal.

A significant number of farmers sell their produce well below MSP, particularly in regions without an effective mandi (procurement) system, meaning that the actual scale of farmers' losses is far greater than what the figures suggest.

Among the 20 crops, Paddy, being the most widely cultivated crop, accounts for the largest losses — approximately ₹97,000 crore in 2024–25 alone, and over ₹7 lakh crore cumulatively during the last nine years.

Crop	A2+FL price (Rs.)	C2 (Rs.)	C2+50% (Rs.)	Farmers' loss per quintal (Rs.)
Wheat	2585	1804	2706	121
Barley	2150	1862	2793	643
Gram	5875	5243	7864.5	1989.5
Lentil (Masur)	7000	4875	7312.5	312.5
Mustard	6200	4458	6687	487
Safflower	6540	5738	8607	2067

Rabi MSP 2026-27 and farmers' loss

In Bihar, where elections have just concluded, paddy, wheat, and maize farmers together have lost around ₹10,000 crore in 2024–25 due to the non-implementation of the C2 + 50% pricing formula. Over the nine-year period, their cumulative income loss is estimated at ₹71,000 crore. The actual figure is likely to be much higher, given the widespread inefficiencies in procurement and limited MSP coverage as the Mandi system had been closed down in 2006 by CM Nitish Kumar.

PM-KISAN SCHEME: ANOTHER BETRAYAL OF FARMERS

As of early August 2025, over ₹3.90 lakh crore has been disbursed to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. This total includes the released 20th instalment (August 2, 2025) of ₹20,500 crore to over 9.7 crore farmers, 19th instalment (February 24, 2025) of ₹22,000 cr. to more than 9.8 crore farmers and 18th instalment (October 5, 2024) of ₹20,000 crore provided to more than 9.4 crore farmers. The scheme was announced in 2019 and implemented with retrospective effect from 2018. The scheme provides an annual income support of ₹6,000 to eligible farmer families paid in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 each, disbursed every four months.

If the MSP @ C2 + 50% had been implemented, then farmers cultivating 20 major crops alone would have earned ₹19 lakh crore so that an amount of ₹11 lakh crore could have been retained even after gifting ₹7.8 lakh crore to PM Modi.

The farmers of the country have seen the repeated betrayals by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 11 years since 2014. In 2016, the PM had announced to double the farmers' income by 2022; he failed miserably but 'succeeded' in doubling the cost of production and increasing manifold the assets of the corporate companies. ■

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- Cancellation of the 2012 affidavit / agreement that denies farmers their right to judicial review. The state govt. must issue a notification to cancel it and start direct dialogue with the farmers.
- Right to additional compensation of ₹ 2 crore per acre.
- Right to promised residential plots of 400 square meters for each landowning family and 200 square meters for each landless family.
- Right to employment for all affected families, including the landless, should be provided jobs in industries and service sectors established in IMT.
- Right to public amenities like proper arrangements for drinking water, sewerage, ponds, electricity, service roads, schools & higher education institutions, hospitals (from primary to specialised care), playgrounds, children's parks, community centres, old-age homes, graveyards, cremation grounds, public libraries, cultural complexes, industrial training and skill development centres, and citizen service centres. ■

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Punjab Floods 2025: Not Just a Natural Calamity

BALJIT SINGH GREWAL
(State Secretary, AIKS Punjab)



The Punjab floods, that followed floods in Himachal Pradesh, while being an outcome of changing weather patterns due to climate change, led to damages in the riparian state whose scale was only possible because of gross negligence by the ruling governments, both at the Centre and in the state. The All India Kisan Sabha sent a delegation to Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab in the aftermath of the floods, to review the situation and extend relief. The team noted that the floods in Punjab have been unprecedented and in the affected regions they have meant total loss of standing crop, with reports of over 5 lakh acres of agricultural land being submerged.

The findings of the delegation pointed to a singular observation that this year's unprecedented flooding was not just a natural calamity, but really took on its monstrous shape due to the criminal negligence on behalf of the bureaucracy and lack of political will, especially the Bhakra-Beas Management Board (BBMB). The BBMB turned a blind eye to IMD's warnings of heavy rainfall,

thus ill-preparing not only their own flood control plans but also failing to warn the rural population from the upcoming deluge. Serious negligence was also shown in the inspection, cleaning, and maintenance that is normally done for rivers, drains, embankments, dams and their floodgates. Mismanagement in the process of releasing water from the dams caused widespread destruction of lives, crops, houses and livestock across large parts of Punjab. The BBMB had failed to continuously de-silt the dams falling under its jurisdiction.

The Centre announced a tiny ₹ 1,600 crore relief package for the state, while the Punjab government declared a paltry sum of ₹ 1.2 lakh to fully damaged pucca houses reflecting its cruel and insensitive attitude towards the affected. In contrast, Himachal Pradesh announced a compensation of ₹ 7 lakh. The delegation's understanding was that given the scale of the wholesale destruction of fields, livestock and homesteads, rendering agriculture unviable not just this season but for many seasons to come, at least a ₹ 25,000 crore relief was necessary. Using this relief package, a compensation of ₹ 1 lakh per acre, compensation for loss of livestock, free seeds for the next season, 3 months wages to agricultural labourers, waiver of loans and interest subvention could be disbursed to give relief to the rural masses.

But the ground reality? The people that the delegation met accused the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP State government and the Narendra Modi-led BJP-NDA Central government of totally abdicating their responsibility, with not even a single rupee of relief or compensation reaching them even one and a half months after the catastrophe.

In Dera Baba Nanak Assembly Constituency (Gurdaspur District), AIKS leaders Sucha Singh Ajnala and Bhupinder Singh Chinna visited the home of Veenus Major (Messi), a Mid-Day Meal worker. Her house has been completely washed away in the floods. Despite this, no government officer has visited the area or conducted physical verification of damage till

25th October 2025, even though the floods first hit in the end of August. Residents reported that no verification has occurred in the entire village, and the local MLA, Gurdeep Singh Randhawa of the AAP, had not visited the village for nearly two months. In Khathala village, located in the Ramdas Sub-division of the Ajnala Assembly Constituency (Amritsar District), the team met Devi Mannal and her son Ashish Mannal, who were living in front of a makeshift shelter after their home was entirely washed away. The visit was conducted in the presence of AIKS Amritsar District Vice President Sucha Singh Ajnala, AIKS Finance Secretary P. Krishnaprasad, and Mid-Day Meal Workers Federation activist Gurmeet Balwind Messi. Here too, no government officials had visited or completed physical verification of losses up to 25th October 2025, despite the constituency being represented by Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal of the ruling AAP.

These visits confirmed what was being shared by villagers throughout: Complete absence of administrative response in multiple flood-affected villages, leaving vulnerable rural families without assessment, support, or engagement from elected representatives or government departments.

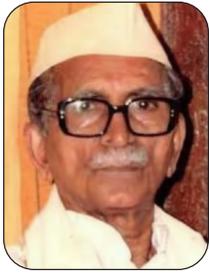
AIKS distributed relief to the affected people like blankets as well as diesel for the next sowing season. It also planned to help poor farmers in the sowing season with seeds, tractors, diesel etc.

AIKS President Dr Ashok Dhawale, General Secretary Vijoo Krishnan, Vice President and Member of Parliament from Sikar Amra Ram, Finance Secretary P Krishnaprasad, Vice President Inderjit Singh, CKC members Perna Ram, Pushpinder Tyagi and Manoj Kumar were present. CPI(M) State Secretary Sukhwinder Sekhon, AIKS leaders from Punjab Baljit Grewal, Satnam Baraich, Major Singh and others were also part of the delegation. At the end of the visit, a press conference was held and it was addressed by AIKS leaders Dr Ashok Dhawale, Vijoo Krishnan, Amra Ram, MP and Sukhwinder Singh Sekhon. ■

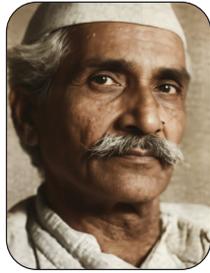
Former and Present Presidents and General Secretaries of AIKS



Swami Sahajanand
Saraswati



N G Ranga



Acharya Narendra Dev



Rahul Sankrityayan



Indulal Yagnik



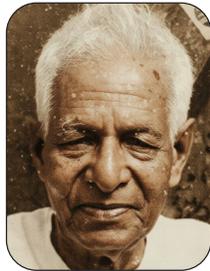
Bankim Mukherjee



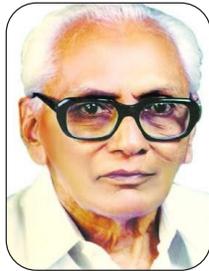
Muzaffar Ahmad



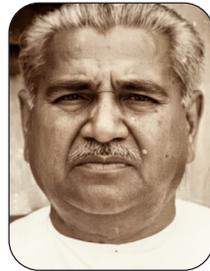
Karyanand Sharma



Abdullah Rasul



N Prasad Rao



Nana Patil



A K Gopalan



Bhabani Sen



Jagjit Singh Lyallpuri



Harekrishna Konar



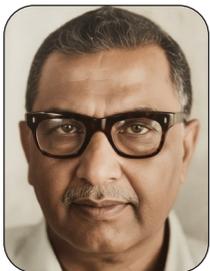
Benoy Krishna
Choudhury



Chathunni Master



Uddaraju Ramam



Santimoy Ghosh



Godavari Parulekar



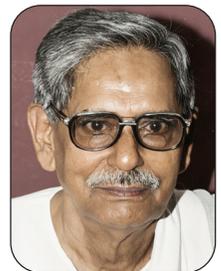
N Sankaraiah



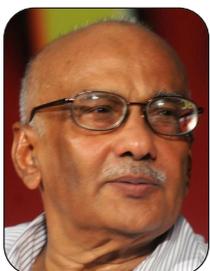
Harkishan Singh
Surjeet



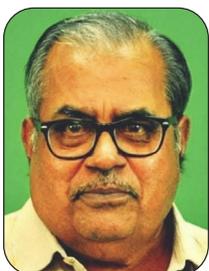
Ram Narayan
Goswami



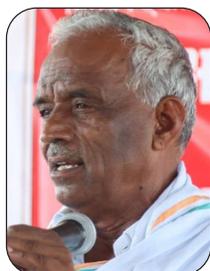
Benoy Konar



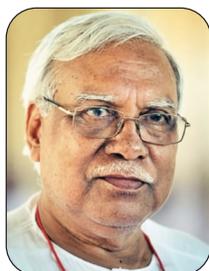
S. Ramachandran
Pillai



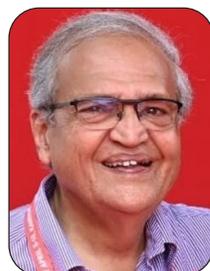
K Varadha Rajan



Amra Ram



Hannan Mollah



Ashok Dhawale



Vijoo Krishnan

PEASANTS VOICE

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To mark the 5th
Year of the
Beginning of the
**Historic
Farmers'
Struggle**

**Mass Protest
Demonstrations of
Farmers and Workers
on 26 November 2025
at State/District Centres**

**Samyukt Kisan Morcha
Platform of Central Trade Unions and
Sectoral Federations**

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