

FMRAI NEWS

Organ of Federation of Medical And Sales Representatives' Associations of India

60-A Charu Avenue • Kolkata-700 033 • Phone : (033)24242862 • Fax : (033)24244943 • www.fmrai.org • E-mail : fmrainews@gmail.com

CRU Unbeaten strike in spite of police action and vandalism.



Guwahati , where rally was halted by district admin during Strike in CRU

All field workers in northeast region resorted to One day strike on 22nd March, 2018 at the call of CRU upholding the state related demands. During the preparation of the strike, 5000 leaflets were distributed and 3000 posters were pasted, strike notices were served to the management of all the companies , General Body meetings were held in the districts for campaign and mass meeting was organized across the northeast region . Thus, exhaustive campaign was organized, among the field workers and among the masses, before resorting to strike action.

On the day of the strike, 500 members participated in the picketing and the open mass meeting held at Guwahati. Tapan Sarma, General Secretary of CITU, Assam State Committee



addressed in the mass meeting at Guwahati. .

Memoranda addressing the

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Countrywide Women's Day observed



International Women's Day ,Kolkata, WBMSRU

8th March is being observed internationally as Women's Day. FMRAI and its state units celebrated the Day with jest and fervor across the country. This year, as decided by the joint meeting of working women of different trade unions and federations decided to observe the day emphasizing the socialist background to counter the attempt of the corporate and the media of the capitalist world to dilute and distort the direction of achieving women's rights. In this neo liberal regime, there are rampant attacks on women's rights, social crime on women has increased by many folds, sexual harassment at work places have increased and women are subjected to models of cheap advertisement by the media and corporate. In this background, FMRAI decided to observe Women's Day in a befitting manner to unite the working women of the industry to strengthen the platform to defend women's rights.

In Kolkata, WBMSRU has organized a meeting which was addressed by Bharati Mutsuddi, eminent lawyer and former member of state women right commission, Labour Commissioner of West Bengal H. L. Roy and CITU leader Ila Chakraborty. Ms. Mutsuddi and Mr. Roy in their deliberation discussed the statutory rights of the women in general and the working women in particular. They also briefed about the procedure of seeking legal support in various cases. FMRAI's working committee member, Arpita Mitra Roy and State Women's subcommittee Convener, Tinka Maji also addressed the meeting narrating the problems faced by the women field workers and the way it is being taken up by the organization to defend their rights. 89 women members of the adjacent districts along with the leadership of the state and districts attended the meeting. Malda and Darjeeling district

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Overwhelming response

Three days of strike in B E

The three days of strike, on 29th, 30th and 31st March, 2018, in Biological E has once again been the befitting reply to the management that continued to adopt anti-worker policies with unusual consistency and failed to respond logically to the justified demands of the field workers. Management did not call grievance committee meeting for long time and the grievances of the B.E field workers heaped up. The transfer and termination issues are not settled as yet. Violation of SPE Act 1976 by BE management has been habitual and torturous discrimination among the Sales Promotion Employees in payment of increments, wages and other emoluments, exists.

The strike action spanning over 3 days had been overwhelming in terms of response from the BE field workers across the designations and across the land.

On the first day of the strike, 29th March, 2018 B.E field workers (MR, TM) organized demonstrations along with council subcommittee in front of labour authorities and lodged complaint there, from



corner to corner, in cities after cities, in majority of the states throughout the country.

On 30th March, the second day of the strike, council subcommittee along with BE field workers met stockists and submitted memorandum through them and earned or sought their support to the demands of the B.E field workers.

On 31st March, the third day of the strike, B.E field workers



organised dharna in front of company's establishments in the state capitals and the major cities all over the country.

The field workers of BE , along with the council subcommittee members, in WBMSRU, BSSRU, OSRU, CRU, MPMSRU, MPMRA ,UPMSRA RMSRU, PCMSRU, APMSRU , TMSRU, TNSMRA, KMSRA & KSM&SRA, made the strike a resounding success.

Prior to the strike BE managers received memorandum and witnessed strong demonstration in almost 200 sub units in the period between from 26-28th March , 2018.

Alembic: struggle continues

Cutting across divisions throughout the country, the sales promotion activities of the company was completely paralyzed on 3rd February, 2018, when more than 1700 Alembic sales promotion employees with all their togetherness and unity refused to join their duties on that day and resorted to one day Strike once again with the demand of Grievance Redressal forum for all the SPEs, of implementation of all the statutory provisions for all section of SPEs as fixed by the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976, of resolution of all the pending issues and grievances including arbitrary transfers and unlawful terminations. The countrywide strike registered strong protest against all unilateral change of service conditions through the implementation of forcible imposition of newer technologies in the mobile handsets and through imposition of newer irrational work systems. On the day of Strike, Alembic field workers along with the members of council subcommittee in the sub units campaigned at the authorized

wholesalers and distributors of the company and submitted memorandum to the company through them. Demonstrations were organized in front of the establishments of the company across the country on that day. Company witnessed massive demonstrations at Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi, Guwahati, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Hyderabad and Bengaluru, besides other places. .

Prior to the strike action, council subcommittee members in all the subunits submitted strike notice to the Alembic executives in the field and echoed the demand of the Alembic field workers in hundreds of voices and languages throughout the country..

The struggle of Alembic field workers continues with work to rule in their respective place of work. The struggle in the streets and in the court of law. The Alembic management plays deaf to the genuine demands of the field workers. The field workers have no other option but go louder and louder against their management in days to come.

General Council meeting of CITU

General Council meeting of CITU held at Kozhikode, the historical town of Kerala, during 23-26 March, concluded with the resolution of expanding and strengthening the organization, to build up country-wide irresistible joint movement of workers and peasants of the country challenging the fierce attack unleashed by the BJP led NDA government unmasking their politics behind the policy changes. The General Council Meeting was held at Tagore Centenary Hall at Com. Md. Amin Nagar, Kozhikode. After hoisting the CITU's flag on 23rd morning by the President, Dr. Hemlata, all the general council members and leadership of various organizations paid floral tribute to the martyrs' column and also paid homage to Bhagat Singh on the day of his martyrdom, being observed as "Shaid Din". In the inaugural address, President, K. Hemlatha dealt with the international and national developments in the backdrop of the working class movement nationally and internationally.



General Secretary, FMRAI, addressing General Council Meeting of CITU at Calicut

She stated that, many important movements and struggles are taking place, sector wise, industry wise, area wise and region wise by the workers, peasants , toiling people and also by the suffering people of the country. All these movements, struggles, resentments of the mass must be unified with a primary focus, to defeat the force in power and an alternative to this has to be projected before the people. Tapan Sen, General Secretary, during placing the report criticizing the central government, spoke in details about the shift in country's foreign policy, change in economic policy, labour reforms, change in laws, imposition of GST, large scale disinvestment of core sectors, attack on the rights of the people, interception in judiciary, aggressive saffronization, patronization of pernicious communalism leading to extreme right wing shift by the central government. He added that, each and every stance of the Modi government is designed for aggressive implementation of neo

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Fixed term employment

Who is cooking food for the looters?

A silent earthquake has recently been organized by Modi Government on behalf of the richer classes in India. A notification of the central government, dated 16th March, 2018, does the same thing to the workers as an earthquake does to our houses, near and far. This notification on 'fixed term employment' was proposed during the budget speech of the finance minister and then has been introduced without essential consultation with the trade unions. This is a staged earthquake. Through this notification, workers are being treated as seasonal crop that can be uprooted or cut and, then consumed at the end of the season. With new season, the ground will be prepared for another harvest. With a view to please the investor's, job of the workers has been cut to pieces and life and livelihood of all impending workforce has been potentially vandalized. Job insecurity has been legalized and slavery socialized.

How the new notification will make 'hire-and-fire' easy and prevail over the existing requirements for dismissal? Let's look at it a bit closely and dispassionately. Firstly, the fixed term workers will not be entitled to any notice or pay in lieu of that, if his services are terminated or in case of non-renewal of contract or on expiry of his/her term of employment. No notice of termination of employment shall be necessary in case of temporary workmen (whether monthly rated, weekly rated or piece rated and probationers or 'badli' workmen). A temporary workmen who has completed three months of continuous service, shall be given two weeks' notice of the intention to terminate his employment if such termination is not in accordance with the terms of the contract. In case he or she has not completed three months of continuous service, he or she shall be informed for the reasons for termination in writing. Through this notification Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 has been so amended that such dismissal will be called as 'separation from service' and it shall not be construed as termination of employment. Secondly, the fixed term worker can be employed for a period of two months, six months, 2 years or 4 years and as per the need of the employers. These workmen will be entitled to all benefits like wages, hours of work, allowances and others statutory benefits, not less than permanent workmen. The posts of the permanent workmen will not be converted into fixed term employment, as on the date of the notification. As and when the permanent worker will retire, the permanent category will vanish. Thirdly, the fixed term worker shall

be eligible for all statutory benefits 'even if his period of employment does not extend to the qualifying period of employment required in the statute'. This area is however is deceitful if not a grey area. Gratuity will probably not be offered if the tenure of employment is below 5 years. Besides, all statutory benefits will be taken away bit by bit. It is just the beginning. This new section of workmen will be atypical workmen and not standard or typical workman. The thin line that exists today between the employed, half-employed and unemployed will soon evaporate.

This amounts to legitimizing contract labour and against the letter and spirit of Contract Labour Abolition and Regulation Act, 1970. It is a cunning trick by the government. Contract labour is a category where workers are employed on a temporary basis. Before this notification, contract labour is conditionally allowed and regulated under the aforementioned act. The act actually intends to abolish contract labour and in the body of the act itself, declares its intention 'to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith'. This act prohibits contract labour, through exercise of power of appropriate authority, in industry, trade, business, manufacture or occupation of perennial nature and prevents replacement of regular workers through contractual workers. New notification makes redundant the Contract Labour Abolition and Regulation Act, 1970 and all categories of workers are converted to contract workers. It is done through abuse of Industrial Employment Standing Order Act which is applicable in perennial, regular and general category of employment. It makes all jobs temporary and converts all industrial activities as temporary industrial activities.

The morbid capitalism has its field day in the country. The civil society, the intellectuals, the media, gives consents, more or less, to all the recent attacks and atrocities upon the workers. Barbarism has got new lease of life in the country either in the name of religion or in the name of 'ease of doing businesses'.

Hundreds and thousands of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers are gathering in the labour market for selling their labour in India every day and only a few of them are lucky enough to find buyer for their earnest labour. The village economy is shattered and saying goodbye to their agricultural implements; small farmers; agricultural labourers and

villager are leaving their village home, and joining this army of job-seekers and causing ground-swell in the labour market. He, who sells his property under distress, sells it always at lowest of the cost and at poorer terms and conditions. The workers in India, at this juncture, are asked to sell their labour at lowest of rates and at poorest of terms and conditions.

The Modi government is merely the broker that is settling the terms and conditions for selling the labour on behalf of the employers and the exploiters. Therefore, at the instance of a broker, as trusted as the Modi government, the service condition of all section of workers is becoming all the more retrograde and hire and fire has been brazenly introduced. With all the finer words and all the technical cloak of legality all section of workers are made to become contractual workers. Now termination is no longer an 'executive prerogative' which needs to be processed, enacted or enforced. Now dismissal from service is automatic, in-built and regular.

The workers have no other alternative but to take to the streets as they refuse to accept the cow-dung cakes offered by corrupted rulers. Left or right, all section of workers have already come out of their workplaces, of their expectations and illusions and have raised voice for immediate reversal of all retrograde labour reforms including the present one. It is industrial workers and agricultural labourers, who have actually built this vast nation with their blood and sweat. This nation has not been built through cunning lectures and falsified gestures. When these common people are attacked the nation is attacked. Middle classes too are restless and they are about to make up their minds. The long march of the poor peasants in Maharashtra has created enormous enthusiasm not only among the poor or among the distressed masses but also among the citizens who had hitherto remained silent all along. Now the time has come when the new nationhood has to be defined by the people who toil in the sweatshops.

We come to know that, the blisters that grew in the foets of the marching peasants during their long and relentless walk, made a painful and explosive of combination of dust, blood and sera (body fluid). This extraordinary cocktail that the foot-soldiers grew in their foot could not prevent them a bit, but, on the contrary, gave rise to a robust new slogan: Maherbani Nakko, Haq Havet. Give us rights, not mercy.

We fall for this slogan till the time we defeat the brutes and the looters

From page-1

General Council meeting of CITU

liberal policy, with a political aim to help the capitalism to sustain in the midst of acute worldwide crisis. Along with the report, Tapan Sen has placed the draft of updated document on organization, popularly known as Bhubaneswar document to counter the newer challenges, newer attacks on the working class as on today.

49 members from different states discussed on the report and 24 comrades discussed on the updated draft document on organization.

Leadership of the national federations greeted the meeting. On behalf of FMRAI, General Secretary, Santanu Chatterjee in his deliberation, greeted CITU for the unprecedented Mahapadav programme held in November. He thanked CITU for extending all out support and cooperation in the movements and struggles of FMRAI against the government and employers, especially the MNCs, in pursuing the various legal and labour related policy issues with central government especially the industrial tripartite committee meeting and framing of statutory working rule for the sales promotion employees. He narrated the movements of FMRAI demanding cost based effective price control and zero GST on medicines and medical devices, against the corrupt marketing practice by the companies, for compliance of law by the employers and also in pursuance of proper health care benefits of the common people by the government. He criticized the policy of 100% FDI in pharma industry and dealt with its formidable consequences. He added that, FMRAI members are in the streets every day fighting to restore and expand rights, which has attracted the field workers of the country and in 2017, the membership of FMRAI has crossed one lakh. Besides General Secretary of FMRAI, Gopi from Tamilnadu, Dipak Bhattacharya from Bihar and Sumahan Chakraborty from West Bengal took part in discussion on the General Secretary's report and draft document on organization. Five FMRAI members including KM Surendran, vice president, FMRAI and Ramesh sunder, Secretary, FMRAI, representing their respective states attended the GCM representing their states. 375 general council members including 53 women comrades attended the General Council meeting. The GCM decided that CITU will participate in the Jail Bharo Programme called by All India Kisan Sabha on 9th August, 2018 and During April to August, this year, various programmes have been decided for implementation at the district and state level, which will be culminate into a mammoth joint programme of the workers-Peasantry Rally at Delhi on 5th September, 2018, where two lakh workers across the country will participate. An open meeting was held on 26th afternoon at sea beach which was addressed by P.Vijayan, chief Minister of Kerala along with the leaders of CITU.

Alkem management found place at police station to receive a memorandum

Alkem management preferred to reach out to police station and received memorandum from deputation in presence of more than 100 field workers at Jaunpur, UPMSRA on 15th March, 2018. Jaunpur unit of UPMSRA desired to submit memorandum to Alkem management



peacefully in the field in consonance with the ongoing agitational programmes across the country.

But, the Alkem management, showing their feudal type of hostility towards FMRAI and inspired by uncalled for arrogance towards all democratic norms and practices, approached the police and thereby,

the memorandum was submitted in tripartite manner in presence of competent police officers.

The incidence generated surprise, aroused the peace-loving field workers and made them to reach to the police station in large number.

Corrigendum

Kindly read the date of Mumbai March, 2017 as 13th November instead of 13th December in the editorial of FMRAI News, March, 2018 issue. We regret this mistake.

Obituary

VidyaSagar Mishra, Field Worker of India Bulls based at Rewa (MPMSRU) breathed his last on 26th February, 2018 at S. S. Medical College, Rewa. He was admitted to the medical college for the treatment of his brief illness but succumbed to his illness at a very young age. He leaves behind his mother and his father, whose only son was he. FMRAI condoles his death most grievously and consoles the old parents, who indeed, are inconsolable.

Sub unit AGB Meetings in MSMRA

During the month of March, MSMRA has conducted the AGB meetings in 21 sub units, namely, Nagpur, Wardhah, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Gondia, Amravati, Yavatmal, Jalgaon, Dhule, Nasik, Malegaon, Beed, Jalna, Parbhani, Shirampur, Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Solapur, Kolhapur, Satara and Ratnagiri. Total 2733 members participated in those meetings, discussed the present socio economic condition including the situation of the industry and ensuing programmes. One lakh membership of FMRAI was also celebrated in the meetings.

Terminated field worker of Godrej Consumer gets due wages

Chanchal Mukhopadhyay, terminated field worker of M/s Godrej Consumer Products got his due wages under 17B of ID Act as per the interim verdict of Hon'ble High Court, Guwahati. CRU is pursuing the case (writ petition) filed by the company against the verdict of Hon'ble Labour Court, Guwahati that ordered the company for his reinstatement with all back wages against the illegal termination.



MSMRA observes martyr's day and remembers Bhagat Singh

On 23rd March, to commemorate martyrdom of Shahid Bhagat Singh, different units of MSMRA including Nagpur Amravati, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Jalgaon, observed the martyr's day with due earnestness. On this very date in 1931 Bhagat Singh was hanged to death at Lahore by British rajat the age of 23 along with his comrades Sukhdev and Rajguru. He was too young and a large part of life was ahead of him, but he refused to ask for mercy from the British rulers even if some well-wishers and family members wanted him to ask for clemency. On the contrary in a letter shot to British raj, he demanded of the British for treating him as prisoner of war and asked them to remain truthful to their charges of waging war against the state and thereby, asked them to execute him in firing squad instead of by hanging. Ignited by his revolutionary spirit, indomitable courage, combined with extraordinary erudition and intelligence, Bhagat Singh dreamt of an India where working people will be free from exploitation either by the British or their comprador counterparts in India. This legendary revolutionary marched to the gallows with a smile on his face. He shouted 'Down with British imperialism' a few minutes before he breathed for last time.

Observance of martyr's day by MSMRA across Maharashtra is extremely relevant at an hour when sovereignty and democracy is under attack and the working class is under a serious trance of distress.

11th June, 2018
Chalo Bengaluru

All SPEs of Karnataka based companies
And
All SPEs from Karnataka

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CRU GCM

the observations and the recommendations of the commissions in the business session. Sanjay Chatterjee, Secretary, FMRAI addressed this session and called for organizing collective resistance to combat the contemporary situation stressed the need for rapid intensification in all fronts of struggle and further consolidation of the organization. In all 143 GCMs participated in the GCM. On 17th March, 2018 a seminar titled 'Health for All: the Indian Perspective' was organized. Santanu Chatterjee, General Secretary, FMRAI spoke elaborately on the subject as the main speaker in the seminar. Dr Rama Bora, President, IMA, Mangaldai and Dr M Mirdha also made their deliberations in the seminar. Several resolutions including the resolutions on rights of the workers, unemployment and erosion of wages, against fascist attack in Tripura by the RSS/BJP goons, against Communalism, against newer forms of attacks on the field workers, against non enforcement of Labour laws were adopted unanimously. Reports of the General Secretary and that of the Treasurer were also adopted unanimously following reply and due incorporation. Santanu Chatterjee, also addressed the General council members on the last day of the GCM. In his deliberation, he dwelled upon the significant advances in the field workers movement and also the advancements in the realm of organization during this period under the review. He urged upon the GCMs to reach out to the members on the outcome of the tripartite meeting and asked for preparation for intensification of the movement even in the face of challenge. Com Jamini Barbaruah, President concluded the GCM with his concluding deliberation.

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TMSRU GCM

explained the task ahead in the social and political context of the country and the state.

I Raju Bhat and K Sunil Kumar, placed the report of the General Secretary and that of the Treasurer, on behalf of the state committee inviting discussion from the participants. 25 participants including subunit functionaries and council conveners discussed on the report

Commissions on organization and Council and Related Movements, split in to three groups, discussed on the reports and the summary of discussion and recommendations were placed in the business session. I Raju Bhat and K Sunil Kumar responded to the discussions, made their reply and concluded the discussion and then it was adopted unanimously. Credential report too, as placed by G Vidya Sagar, was adopted unanimously.

Resolution against the anti-people & anti-worker union budget, on medicine related demands of the people, against arbitrary introduction of electronic gadgets denying legal rights, against the management of Wallace, Svizera, Alembic, Alkem, Biological E, USV and Torrent. All resolutions were adopted unanimously.

The newly built subunit at Jagtial, that came in to existence only four years back, organized the GCM very successfully with enormous enthusiasm and spirit. Resolution was also placed appreciating the 4 year old Jagtial Subunit for organizing GCM successfully.

Mementos were presented to all Guests and Subunit Secretaries. The state media, both electronic and print, covered the event in their news items with due importance.

Jagtial witnessed a colourful rally taken out with participation general members, fraternal trade unions and other mass organizations.

The Kishan Long March in Maharashtra, shook country

It was really a historic March of the tens and thousands of poor landless peasantry in Maharashtra, literally shook the entire country and also the state and central government. The unprecedented rally of fifty thousand peasants including thousands of women demanding complete loan waiver, remunerative prices for their agricultural products, implementation of forest right Act and Swaminathan Commission's recommendations (of double the crop produced price that includes land rent cost and other prerequisites), received unstinted support from all stratum of the people across the country and ultimately the state government was forced to issue a written assurance to meet the demands within a stipulated time. The great movement of the peasants was covered by the print and electronic media, national and international. WFTU has greeted the peasants of Maharashtra for their successful long march with strong determination.

More than 25000 farmers started their rally at Nasik on 6th March and when they reached Mumbai, the number became fifty thousand. Hundreds of them travelled the entire 200 km path bare footed, singed in scorching sun on hot tar road with bruised and bleeding feet, with red flags, red banners and red caps. Around 70 members of MSMRA joined the flag off programme at Nasik and 5 members of MSMRA with medicines constantly marched for 5 days in rotation with doctors to extended medical aid to the morcha participants.

The long March was the culmination of year long struggle by the farmers led by All India Kisan Sabha mainly, MSMRA members led by K. B. Kadam, FMRAI's Joint General Secretary greeted the participants at Vikroli, on the eve of entering the Mumbai city. The rally walked from Thane throughout the night till 6 am on 12th March to reach Azad Maidan, to avoid the disruption of communication considering the CBSE exam scheduled on 12th.

The historic Long march of the



peasants of Maharashtra reminds the Great Naval Mutiny at the then Bombay in 1946, which was the final nail in the coffin of the British empire in India.

During this long 200 km March, different trade unions including MSMRA and mass organizations greeted the valiant struggling participants at various places. The historic rally not only received overwhelming support from people and also monetary assistance to meet the expenses of food of fifty thousand participants. MSMRA has contributed Rs.10,000 for this programme. Maharashtra's Chief Minister, as per the demand of AIKS, had tabled the agreement arrived, in the assembly on March 13.

Yes, the battle has been won; the historic struggle of the peasants of Maharashtra has been withdrawn only after conceding their demands. The victory rally of fifty thousand farmers at Azad Maidan at Mumbai resounded their determination but according to an English Weekly "the war remains". The policies of the BJP led governments, be at the state level or at the centre, must be defeated to win the war against the politics of BJP which is boosting the capitalists pushing the poor farmers, workers and the toiling section of the country in terribly distressed condition. The movement of the farmers has inspired the struggling peasants, workers and toiling people all over the country to move forward with a wider and higher phase against the BJP government pursuing the neo liberal policies fanatically, squandering the interest of the workers, farmers and the toiling mass of the country and the country as well.

In description of sufferings of the workers The rightist union and the Supreme Court invokes Shakespeare

Leave alone the left union; let us see how a rightist union, affiliated to RSS and BJP, looks at the notification on fixed term employment.

Shobha Warrier in an interview with BMS President Saji Narayanan C K, <http://www.rediff.com>, mentioned the government's argument that this notification 'has been done for ease of doing businesses. In reply he said that 'hire and fire will result only in ease of closing business, not ease of doing business. If you look at a study done in Germany on fixed-term employment, the study concluded that it had increased unemployment and helped the employer close his business easily'. He further stated 'it is not labour reform; it is Shylockian reform! It is done only to extract the blood and flesh of labour'.

It is not purely incidental that the Supreme Court (Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta) in another context of 'welfare of construction workers' invoked Shakespeare and criticized the Indian ruling classes: 'total lack of concern and apathy on the part of the powers that be in doing anything substantial for the benefit of construction workers puts a Shakespearean tragedy to shame' (The Hindu, 19th March, 2018). By using two acts, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996, collected enormous amount of money for the purpose of health care, safety and improvement of service conditions of hundreds of distressed construction workers, too many among them are women workers and many among them are nursing mothers or have small children to look after and many among them, both men and women, are migrated across the states and work as contractual labour and are severely exploited and tortured in an inhuman living condition. Government collected, over 22 years, Rs 37,400 crore, in the form of cess, swearing in the name of labour but Rs. 9,500 crore was actually utilized and the rest of the amount amounting Rs. 28,000 lies in the government's coffer. In 2015, the apex court also observed that it was "ridiculous" that the spent amount of money was going to "some babus" (The Hindu, 2nd Feb, 2018)

"What is being done with the remaining about Rs. 28,000 crore? Why it is that construction worker across the country are being denied the benefit of this enormous amount?" the Supreme Court asked. In reply to its own question the Supreme Court concluded that the 'answers blow in the wind'.

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GCM of KSM & SRA

the GCM documents were unanimously adopted.

Number of resolutions were adopted unanimously from the floor of the business session of the GCM. Resolution demanding social security coverage for all (placed by LM Peshwa, and seconded by Newton, Hubli Unit), resolution upholding the necessity of increased role of working class by bringing to light the burning issues workers during the entire election process (placed by Anand N.J and seconded by Ashok, Shimoga unit), resolution pledging a grand success of the forthcoming Bengaluru March on 11th June, 2018 (placed by B Chandra Kumar and seconded by A Jayaganesh), resolution against communal violence and clandestine communalization of the Indian society by the ruling lords (placed by Anandraju N J and seconded by Jagannath Akamanchi, Kalaburgi unit). A special resolution moved by B Chandra Kumar, in appreciation of the honest and tireless work by the members of the host unit of Bagalkot in organizing the GCM, was also passed unanimously with enthusiasm and spontaneous standing ovation. Three Commissions, on organization, on council & council related movements and on newer forms of attacks, were constituted with a view to make threadbare discussion involving all GCMs. Following discussion in commission the recommendations and observations of the commission were placed in the business session by C. Ramesh (Organisation), Krishan (Council) and Rajashekar (newer attacks). Ramesh Sundar in his address in the business session explained the context existing in the country, the perspective of the field workers movement and dwelled upon various aspects of field workers' movement and organization. K N Umesh, Secretary, CITU also attended the business session and made his discourse. The credential report stated that 66 General council members along with 5 invitees attended the GCM.



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Women's Day

committees also have arranged such meetings with the women field workers. BSSRU has organized a meeting at Patna. State women subcommittee convener Sharmila Singh inaugurated the meeting which was addressed by state General Secretary Devasish Roy and from FMRAI Sanjay Chatterjee and Dipak Bhattacharya. In Jharkhand, special meeting was held at Ranchi. In Jamshedpur unit of BSSRU campaigned amongst the women field workers with leaflets. MSMRA has organized special meeting at Nagpur. In Jalgaon, Haemoglobin and blood camps were organized for the women jointly with CITU. 50 women from all sections have attended. Amravati unit arranged a special lecture by Advocate Thakre and organized Haemoglobin camp jointly with CITU and AIDWA. The day was observed by different sub units of KMSRA in a big way. Hall meetings, rallies were organized by different sub units. The day was also observed by CRU at Silchar, KSM&SRA at Mysore and PCMSRU at Chandigarh.

TMSRU GCM at Jagtial

TMSRU General Council Meeting was held on 24th and 25th March, 2018 at Mohd. Amin Nagar, Jagtial and was attended by 74 GCMs representing 13 Subunits.

GCM started with hoisting of TMSRU Flag by P Murali, President in the presence of R Viswanathan, President, FMRAI and all other participants. Floral tributes were paid to Martyrs' column by all.

P Murali presided over the inaugural Session. P Ramu, Organising Secretary, invited Guests on to the dais. Dr C Padmini Kumar, Chair Person of the Reception Committee and a Gynecologist by occupation, welcomed all the participants, briefed the history of Jagtial and appreciated the flag-bearing role of TMSRU in Medicine and Health related issues of the people. Prof K Nageshwar, former MLC, inaugurated the GCM. In his address he reminded about the increased role of the Working class in arousing and rallying all other sections of the common people against the anti people policies of Central and State Governments through action programmes and by organising campaign utilizing all medium including the Social media. R Viswanathan greeted the participants and reminded the general council members of TMSRU of their increased role in broadening and heightening the field workers movement and the movement on the medicine and health related issues of the people as spearheaded by FMRAI. Dr R Srinivas, Pediatrician, I Raju Bhat, General Secretary, Raju Naik, Secretary, District Committee, CITU, Chowdhary, President, District Committee, CITU, Tirupathi Naik, Secretary, District Committee, DYFI, Akram Mallik, Secretary, District Committee, SFI, Dr. Nagraju, President, District RMP & PMP Association, Venu, Secretary, District Retailers Association, Narsiaha, President, District Chemists and Druggists Association, Dr Suresh Kumar, Surgeon, TVS Koteshwar Rao, Secretary, APMSRU also greeted the participants.

In the Business Session, Condolence resolution was placed by G Vidya Sagar, Secretary, TMSRU. S Veeriah, Vice President, Telangana State Committee, CITU addressed business session and

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CRU GCM at Tezpur

19th General Council Meeting of CRU (NER) was held in Tezpur from 16th and 18th March, 2018. Jamini Barbaruah, President, CRU hoisted the red flag of CRU. CITU's flag was hoisted by Rahul Purkayastha, General secretary, CRU. Due homage was paid to the martyrs by paying floral tribute.

A colourful procession was taken out thereafter. More than five hundred members of CRU (NER) participated in the rally which was greeted at various points in its course by different mass organizations with flowers and slogans. This procession was also joined by another hundred members of CITU who came from Sonitpur district. It created a delightful sight when tea workers from nearby tea estates participated in the procession with their ethnic songs and dances amid eloquent slogans. The easygoing and peace-loving city of Tezpur actually got aroused to the new colour and valour of the rally

In open session Dr M Mirdha, Chairman, Reception Committee made his welcome deliberation. Open session was also addressed by Royal Soren, Secretary, CITU, Assam State Committee and Sanjay Chatterjee, Secretary, FMRAI.

Business Session started-off with the regular agenda of placement of Reports by the General Secretary and the Treasurers. 31 delegates from all the states of north eastern region participated in the discussion on the reports and made full use of 4 hours of time which was allotted to them by the General council for making their points clear and making the draft report further enriched and complemented. Discussions were free and frank and true to the democratic practices which CRU was obliged to inculcate over a long period of time by respecting multiplicity: multiplicity of languages, multiplicity of religions, multiplicity of culture and multiplicity of ethnicity.

Commissions on two subjects on organization and on movement, comprising of general council members, were constituted splitting each commission in two groups. Here too, the discussions were held elaborately by utilizing 285 minutes spread over two consecutive days. 4 members, one from each group, placed

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Highland of Bagalkot hosted GCM of KSM & SRA

The 2nd General Council Meeting (GCM) of KSM & SRA was held at Bagalkot on 10th and 11th of March, 2018.

The GCM started with the hoisting of flag of KSM & SRA by L. M. Peshwa, the President. Then floral tributes were paid to the martyrs.

Members of the Bagalkot sub-unit, along with the participants of the GCM took out colourful rally from the GCM Venue and traveled the main thoroughfare of the city. The rally attracted the attention of the people and the print media covered the news of the rally mentioned some of the demands like minimum wage, 8 hours work etc in their reporting.

The host town of Bagalkot was re-named after Sukomal Sen, the stalwart of working class movement in the country and was christened as 'Sukomal Sen Nagara'. The stage was named after Siddeshwara Kulkarni, the fellow comrade who worked for BE at Vijayapura. The decorated entrance of the GCM venue was named after Nagaraj Kulkarni, the fellow comrade from other industries who was based at Kalaburgi.

L. M. Peshwa placed the condolence resolution and two minutes of silence was observed in showing respect to the people who departed in this intervening period

Dr. M. S. Daddenavar, Orthopedic surgeon and Chairman of the reception committee, made the welcome address at the beginning of the inaugural session. Ramesh Sunder, Secretary, FMRAI, made the inaugural address. H. Y. Meti, MLA, Bagalkot, Dr. Shekhar R. Mane, Pediatrician and the President, IMA, Bagalkot District, greeted the participants in the inaugural session in their capacities as chief guests. CITU Leadership of Bagalkot District including M. B. Nada Gowda, President, Siddamma, General Secretary and Manjula Patil, Treasurer addressed the participants in the inaugural session of the GCM. Vinayak R. Desai, Unit Secretary, Bagalkot and Anand N. J., Secretary (in-charge of Bagalkot unit) too welcomed the participants and delivered vote of thanks.

While L. M. Peshwa presided over, B. Chandra Kumar, General Secretary, placed the General Secretary's Report, A. Jaya Ganesh, joint General Secretary, placed the report on council and council related movement and H. J. Suresh, treasurer placed the Treasurer's report in the business session. Eighteen general council members participated in the discussion and, by way of criticism, appreciation and suggestion, enriched the GCM documents. Roopa, the woman GC member from Hubli, also addressed the GCM and made her observation endorsing the GCM documents. Following clarifications and reply by the General Secretary, the treasurer and through appropriate incorporation of observations and suggestions,

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APMSRU GCM at Kurnool

APMSRU flag was hoisted at the venue. Then, floral tributes were paid to the martyrs' column by the leading comrades with due reverence. In inaugural session, Dr. Ganadhar Rao, Chairman, reception committee, AK Padmanabhan and leaders of the fraternal trade union organizations, were present. The comrades, those who served the organization during last 50 years were felicitated. A colourful rally was taken out and moved through the main streets in the city travelling more than 3 kilometers before it culminated in mass meeting where AK Padmanabhan, Gafoor, from CITU and the leadership of APMSRU spoke. GCM documents were placed in the business session by the General Secretary & the Treasurer. APMSRU General council members discussed on the reports. Website was launched by R. Viswanathan, President, FMRAI. TK Rao, Secretary FMRAI and AV Nageswar Rao, CITU, addressed the participants of GCM. Resolutions were also adopted from the GCM. All the tireless efforts involving more than hundred field workers and volunteers made APMSRU conduct the GCM fruitfully and successfully at the behest of the host unit of Kurnool. General council members gave a standing ovation and greeted all members of Kurnool with applause beyond inhibition

46th Conference of East India Pharmaceuticals Works Employees' Union

The conference of East India Pharmaceuticals Works Employees' Union was held on 18th February, 2018 at factory premises in Kolkata amid threat of disruption by some parallel outfits sponsored by the ruling party in West Bengal. 45th conference was held some 7 years back in a different political perspective when the trade union activities were not supervised by the goons and exercise of trade union right was free and frank at the instance of the left front government in the state.

The conference was attended by 150 delegates from among the different sections of employees including the field workers, office workers and factory workers. Field workers and office workers came from different states across the country along with factory workers from Durgapur and Kolkata.

Sanjay Chatterjee, Secretary, FMRAI, while greeting the delegates, explained the situation of the pharmaceutical industry and emphasized upon the necessity of building robust resistance against the atrocities of the employers by mobilizing all section of workers in the pharmaceutical industry. Debanjan Chakraborty, Secretary, CITU, WB State Committee, also greeted the conference and elaborated upon the impending task of organising all section of workers at every nook and corner of the country and thereby heightening the movement to defeat the onslaught by the employers and the government.

Secretary's report and Treasurers' report was placed, respectively, by Ashim Dey and Kalyan Dutta Gupta in the plenary session of the conference. 36 comrades, from among all section of workers and from across the states and locations participated in the discussion on the reports.

The conference unanimously elected committee comprised of 34 members with Ashim Dey as Secretary, Swadesh Roy Chowdhury as President and Kalyan Dutta Gupta as treasurer.

Around 35 field workers from 8 states has participated in the conference as delegate and 10 of them were elected in the Committee. From among the field workers Kaushik Chakraborty was elected as Working President and Anirban Roy and Abir Adhikari were elected as Assistant Secretaries in the new committee.

Unethical trading exposed by the angry field workers



Aajee Pharma, a pharmaceutical distributor of sort, was actually found to be enormously engaged in unethical trading with medicines at Goa. The angry field workers reached in large number to this hot spot of this illegal medicine business where the medicine stocks were lifted from unofficial and unauthorized sources scattered across the country.

Obtaining from fake sources, this dummy pharmaceutical distributor was selling medicines of questionable quality (if not spurious) at largely discounted rate and lured the innocent retailer with hefty profit in the state of Goa. Large-scale activities of this trader were nearly replacing the regular supply chain of genuine medicines by the fake one. The intervention of Goa MRA, for the interest of people in general and for the field workers in particular, has been timely and was appreciated by the field workers across the board.

The protest action of the field worker at the best of Goa MRA exposed the unethical business with essential medicines. The agitating field workers obtained some secret documents for that proved that the stocks were procured from fake sources located at different places across the country including those located at Goa and Agra and Bengaluru.

Intas: retirement age lifted up from 55 years to 58 years

In the line with the demands of FMRAI and other like-minded trade union organization, Intas management informs FMRAI that the retirement age of all field workers (SPEs) in all grades has been revised from 55 to 58 years with effect from 1st April, 2018. While appreciating this gesture, FMRAI reiterates its demands of 60 years as retirement age.

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CRU strike

Labour Minister, were submitted through the district authority. Making mockery of democracy, peaceful procession was halted by District administration in Guwahati on the day of Strike. On the same day, Imphal district committee held Sit-in-dharna where more than 100 members participated. Memorandum to the Manipur government was also submitted. In Mizoram, the Parallel organization, Mizoram Medical Representatives Association issued statement in support of the demand of CRU and supporting the strike action. However, a newly formed BMS outfit opposed strike in the state of Tripura. Notwithstanding this, in spite of all threat and vandalism, strike was successful at Tripura too.

One day strike at the call of CRU had put all sales promotion activities to grinding halt in all the northeastern states.