

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the Working Committee

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**14 - 16 July, 2016
Nasik, Maharashtra**

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

Working Committee Meeting

14 - 16 July 2016, Nasik, Maharashtra

AGENDA

1. Condolence Resolution
2. Presidential Address
3. General Secretary's Report
4. Review of observance of independent campaign programme decided by Secretariat
5. Future course of independent campaign and joint campaign programmes in preparation to 2nd September Strike
6. CITU Conference preparations
7. Any other issues with the permission of the chair

PROGRAMME

14.07. 2016	10.00 am	:	Flag Hoisting & Homage to Martyrs
	10.15 am - 11.30	:	OPEN SESSION Presidential Address
	12.00noon – 2.00 pm	:	Welcome Address Condolence Resolution Introduction of General Secretary's Report
	2.00 pm	:	Lunch
	04.00pm - 05.30 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	6.00pm - 8.00 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	15.07.2016 9.30 am -1.00 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report Resolutions
	1.00 pm	:	Lunch
	03.00 pm – 7.00 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
16.07.2016	7.00 pm – 8.30 pm	:	Secretariat Meeting
	9.30 am -10.30 am	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	11.00 am - 2.00 pm	:	Reply by General Secretary Report of the Credential Committee Adoption of Reports Concluding address by President
	02.00pm	:	Lunch
	(Tea Breaks : 14 th July : 11.30 am, 5.30pm : 15 th July :11.00 am & 05.00 pm : 16 th July :10.30 am)		

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)
Working Committee Meeting
14 - 16 July 2016, Nasik, Maharashtra

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the CITU secretariat and on my behalf, I extend my warm greetings to all the Working Committee members, invitees and to the members of the Reception Committee. We are meeting in Nasik at a time when various sections of working people are on the move, against the anti-people policies of the ruling class. CITU greets them all and extends solidarity to all these struggles.

Our working committee is meeting here in Nashik after the last General Council meeting in Ranchi in December 2015. It was in 2011, we had met in Nashik and I thank the Maharashtra State Committee for hosting this meeting of the Working Committee.

Dear Comrades,

The period after our General Council meeting had witnessed many important developments nationally and internationally.

Before going into those issues, I pay homage to the martyrs, who have laid down their lives for the cause of the working class and democratic movement in the country.

In West Bengal, people are facing inhuman attacks from the goons of TMC and the police force. Large numbers of our comrades have lost their lives in these attacks, pre and post assembly elections. We pay our homage to them and also extend solidarity and greetings to the comrades of West Bengal, who are valiantly fighting these forces. In Kerala also, there have been attacks post assembly election, resulting in loss of lives. We pay our homage to those martyrs.

There have been attacks in different parts of the country, by the communal forces and also by extremist forces resulting in many losing their lives and properties. There have been mindless attacks on innocent women and children in different parts of the country, which are shameful and also highly condemnable.

We register our condemnation against all this violence and extend our condolences to the relatives and friends of the victims.

There have been series of accidents at various work places. In a shocking accident 16 defence personnel lost their lives and 17 were injured in the blast in the central ammunition depot at Pulgaon in Maharashtra.

I, on behalf of CITU pay homage to our leaders – Md Nizamuddin, general secretary of All India Beedi Workers' Federation, a veteran of many struggles, a member of our working committee and

former MLA in West Bengal; K Anirudhan a senior leader from Kerala who was a member of Parliament and also the state legislature and all others who departed during this period

We also pay homage to all the leaders of various democratic movements who had passed away during this period.

CITU pays its homage to Mohammed Ali, the renowned boxing champion and also the valiant fighter for justice.

Comrades,

In the recently held assembly elections, CITU leaders have been elected to the state legislatures of Kerala and West Bengal. In Kerala, our vice president Mercy Kutty Amma has been sworn in as a minister along with Com AK Balan, TP Ramakrishnan, both working committee members and Kadakampalli Surendran, a member of our General Council.

On behalf of all of you and on behalf of CITU, I extend revolutionary greetings to the LDF government led by Pinarayi Vijayan. We extend our warmest greetings to the CITU leaders who have taken up responsibilities as ministers in Kerala. We extend our greetings to all the CITU leaders who are elected to the state legislatures of West Bengal and Kerala.

I extend my greetings and salute the people of Kerala, West Bengal and other states, who have voted for the left and democratic candidates in these elections.

I extend my greetings to the people of Tripura for their massive votes in favour of the Left front in the local body elections held during this period.

Dear Comrades,

We have assembled here at a time, when the working people are actively involved in preparations for the country wide general strike on 2nd September 2016. We will be discussing all the related issues in these days. We are sure that the working people of the country will giving a fitting reply to the anti-worker anti-people policies of the Modi Government by making the general strike a great success with largest ever participation from all the sectors.

Modi Government has completed 25 months at the centre. And, this month also marks the completion of 25 years of neo-liberal policies in the country.

With nothing to show to the people of the country as its achievements, Modi government is speeding up the reform process, hurting the interests of the toiling masses in the country while making dubious claims. All the sky high assurances and promises to the people during the election campaign in 2014, have been forgotten. Unemployment, increasing job losses, price rise of essential commodities continues to haunt the people of the country. All the changes and amendments in policies and legislations are aimed at giving more and more concessions to the investors and increasing the ease of doing business.

Various state governments, though led by different parties are also going ahead in the same path, of course with the exception of the left led governments.

It is in these situations that toiling masses including workers, peasants and agricultural workers are in the streets, raising their voice against the policies of these governments. Notable during this period were the struggles of central and state government employees, electricity employees of Haryana, and also of workers in bank, insurance, transport, garment sectors, scheme workers etc. The attack on basic trade union rights and large scale victimisations are continuing in various states.

The electricity employees of Haryana deserve our full throated appreciation for their continuous struggle against privatisation and the 2 days strike on 29th and 30th June defying victimisation and ESMA and for forcing the government to discuss and settle the issues.

General secretary's report gives details of these struggles and we will have to take decisions to effectively conduct various sectoral and state level struggles along with the national struggles.

There are challenges from the communal and other divisive forces. With RSS backed government at the centre, Hindutva forces have unleashed their disruptive agenda in different parts of the country. With elections to be held in states like UP, these forces have already intensified their activities in that state.

The results of the recently held elections, shows the danger of communal forces, extending their hold in different parts of the country

The unity of the working people has to be strengthened, so as to defeat the communal and divisive forces of all hues.

International Situation

Despite all claims of recovery and growth, the economic crisis continues to intensify, causing unbearable burdens on the working people all over the world. Large scale protests, rallies and even strikes are being organised in various countries. Unprecedented participation is being reported in these protest actions. ILO says that "the Global economy is showing new signs of weakness". It reports that the next 2 years are going to be a period of significant challenges to enterprises and workers. Emerging and developing countries are showing weakness, and this is driving to slowdown in economic growth. China's slow down is pronounced and along with various other factors, has contributed to steep decline in commodity prices, particularly related to energy. The economy of commodity exporting countries like Brazil and Russia has been severely impacted. The benefit accrued to commodity importing countries arising out of this decline in prices has not been sufficient to balance the reduction in exports. Global trade, which had expanded twice as fast as global economy, is now growing at a much lesser rate. This drastic reduction in world trade is having its critical impact all over the world.

The economic crisis has caused further increase in Global unemployment. In 2015, the number of unemployed people reached 197.1 million – nearly one million more than the previous year. This is 27 million higher than the pre-crisis levels. The employment outlook in countries in Latin America, Asia (including China) and a number of oil exporting countries in Arab region have worsened in recent months.

This situation has resulted in making the existing jobs vulnerable. According to ILO, "Vulnerable employment accounts for 1.5 billion people or over 46 per cent of total employment". In Southern Asia and Sub Saharan Africa, over 70 per cent of workers are in vulnerable employment. The situation in India, which is characterized as a leading and emerging economy is well known to us.

The much talked about quality of labour, according to ILO "has also begun to stall at the lower end of the earning spectrum. In plain language this means that the unemployment is increasing, the existing jobs are becoming vulnerable and poverty among the working people is increasing.

With the armed offensives of US imperialism and NATO in different parts of the world, there is a surge in refugees moving to different parts of the world, especially to European countries. Thousands of poor people have lost their lives in their search for a place in the world. Latest UN report says that by end of 2015, the number of such refugees have touched 65.3 million.

The invasion of Iraq and other countries, which US, Britain and their NATO allies have carried out, inflicting huge disaster, was only aimed at political and economical hegemony. The latest report (Chilcot) released in UK has indicted the Tony Blair government for its involvement in Iraq war without any valid reason.

Another result of the US military invasion is the increasing terrorist activities around the world. The whole world is endangered now. According to a UN study there are now just 10 countries, which can be treated as completely free from conflict. Along with the crisis in economy resulting in increase in unemployment and loss of jobs, the refugee problems has resulted in growth of various extremist groups including neo-nazi forces in different countries.

On the whole the deepening crisis has resulted in further increasing the disparities all over the world – between the countries and within each and every country.

The impact of these crises is reflected in developments in the recent political front in various countries. Developments during the nomination of Presidential candidates in USA, the "Brexit" voting in UK, Presidential election in Austria, General elections in Australia are some of these notable.

At the same time, there has been massive response from the working people to the deepening crisis.

In the United States, the struggle for minimum wage of \$15 per hour has developed in to a national level movement. What was initially started in enterprises like Wal-Mart and fast food units has grown into a national level struggle.

The importance of this struggle in Wal-Mart was noted by many. Wal-Mart has 1.4 million employees in USA and 8 lakhs more in 27 other countries. In the US, the only larger employer is US Department of defence. Sheer size of orders that Wal-Mart is giving to producers all over the world forces the producers to reduce price, wages and safety requirements. That cuts costs and wages in different countries. Added to this is the reduced wage given to Wal-Mart's own workers. The struggle for increased wages in Wal-Mart will have impact on many.

There have been a lot of strikes and struggles in various sectors in USA. The strike in the largest telecom company Verizon has been noted as a very important struggle. 39,000 workers struck work for 45 days and reached a settlement with the employers for wage increase and regularisation of temporary workers. Trade Union activists have noted that this massive strike struggle will give more confidence to the workers to go on struggle in the coming days.

According to the report of Bureau of Labour Statistics of USA, published in February 2016, there is an increase of 400 per cent in the number of working days lost due to strikes and disputes between 2014 and 2015. There have been 12 big strikes in 2015.

On the economic situation in US, the noted economist Paul Krugman says in his article published in the first week of June 2016 – “The employment report on 3rd June was a major disappointment. Only 38,000 jobs added, a big step down from 200,000 a month average since January 2013. ... All evidence points to slowing growth. It is not a recession, at least not yet, but it is definitely a pause in economy's progress. If it turns into a recession or even it goes for a long time, it is very hard to envision an effective policy response”. This is the explanation being given by an economist who sees the verizon strike as a ‘bad news’.

France

French workers are up in arms against the Hollande Govt.'s attack on their existing rights. The new amendments being proposed by the government are aimed at increasing the 35 hours week, minimum wages, overtime payment etc. The struggle began from Feb-March this year. The roll-on strikes impacting all sectors including transport, energy began on 17th May. Massive demonstrations and rallies had begun from 31st March. The rally on 14th June saw a record breaking mobilisation of 1.3 million in Paris.

An important feature of the struggles this time is the massive involvement of students in the struggle along with workers. As one Indian daily newspaper noted in its editorial – “Over the past two months the unions have demonstrated that they have mass support for the protest”.

Economic growth in France hovers around 1 percent. Unemployment is above 10 per cent. Youth unemployment is high at 25 per cent. People of France are fighting against the attacks on their rights and the dubious claim of the government that these ‘labour reforms’ will increase employment opportunities.

Brexit

The developments in UK on the issue of remaining or existing from the 28 member European Union have raised a lot of issues connected with the economic and political policies. In a referendum on 23rd June, 52% voted for exit from the EU against 42% to remain. During the campaign for the referendum, which was called by the UK government led by the Conservative party, issues like employment, trade, immigration were raised.

Major sections of both the ruling and opposition parties – Conservatives and Labour – campaigned for remaining in EU. Those who campaigned for exit also included sections of these parties and also other smaller political parties and groups. There were differences of approach within both

campaigns. Among those who campaigned for exit was a group, identified as 'LEXIT', a left group which was raising political and economical questions against the policies of the European Union differing from other exit groups.

European Union, in effect has become a body, which controls all economic policies of member countries. There have been protests against these policies in countries like Greece, Portugal, and Spain earlier. EU has become a Super Government and an instrument for promoting the interests of European big capital. Flow of capital is ensured between countries. European Central Bank imposes conditions on governments that have resulted in the much hated 'austerity' policies, attacking the working people in all these countries.

The vote for 'exit' from EU has resulted in what the media calls 'pandemonium'. Prime Minister David Cameron announced his resignation. Within Labour party, there is a revolt against the leadership of newly elected 'left' leader Jeremy Corbyn, who is being charged for not campaigning with full force for remaining in EU.

Analysts have pointed out that substantial sections of working class and people belonging to regions outside London and Scotland have voted for leaving EU. This result is despite powerful campaign launched by the ruling class parties, corporate media and finance capitalists threatening Britain that it will be doomed if it left EU. Now that the democratic verdict is out, it is for the people to chalk out an alternate policy framework and struggle for a more just and equal society. This result is seen by the working people all over world as a 'revolt against the hegemony of globalised finance capital'. Already reverberations of this result are seen in different countries of European Union.

Greece continues to be under attack and people have been on continuous struggle. In countries like Portugal, Spain protests were also going on against EU policies. Railway workers in Belgium went on strike. Various other sections have called for continuous struggles against imposition of various 'reforms' in the country including increase of working hours from 38 hours a week to 48-50 hours, increase in superannuation age from 60 to 67, reduction of pensions etc.

The whole of Europe is in turmoil. Many have started talking about 'end of globalisation'. What has happened in Britain and in other countries is the outburst of anger of the millions of deprived people against the neo-liberal policies being thrust on them.

Latin America

Developments in Latin American countries during the last few years had raised hopes and expectations all over the world. But the recent happenings in countries where democratic governments had come to power had witnessed setbacks. Pro-US forces, with direct help from the US government had become active in their efforts of toppling the governments. Brazil witnessed almost a 'coup' through its Parliament in deposing the President, Dilma Rouseff. Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and other countries are also seeing various types of interventions funded and directed by US intelligence agencies and other organisations.

Barack Obama, the outgoing US President, looks at these countries as 'hostile bloc of populist states' and wants to see changes in Latin American as victories of his foreign policies. This he

wants to achieve before he steps down in November. All out efforts of destabilisation are being made in all the countries under the target.

Regarding Cuba, US President had acknowledged failure. He visited Cuba in March this year which was trumpeted as historic. But, major issues which needed to be addressed to normalise the US-Cuba relations were not even touched. The economic blockade is continuing. Obama tried to take up the issue of democracy during his visit. The Cuban government under Raul Castro and the senior leader Fidel Castro came out strongly against the insinuation against Cuba. Cuban President, Raul Castro made it clear, even while hosting Obama, that there was no question of Cuba deviating from the path of socialism.

The happenings in Latin American countries have immense lessons for the working people all over the world. There is no mid path as far as the social systems are concerned. With finance capital on the prowl and the mass media under corporate control, people have to be organised under powerful political organisations with proper programmes to safeguard the interests of masses. Venezuela is a perfect example in the failure of this. After the demise of Chavez, the 'chavistas' failed to carry forward the work he had begun. The crisis in the oil market had a deadly impact on its economy. The price of oil, which was selling at \$115 per barrel, had plummeted to \$23, with the cost of extraction of \$20 per barrel. The oil based economy is facing its worst crisis, with profit per barrel going down from \$95 to \$3.

Trade agreements

Along with covert and overt military operations against various countries and unheard of crimes being committed in different parts of the world to retain their hegemony, the US and its allies are forcing trade agreements on other countries. The latest effort in this is the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the largest agreement in history, involving more than 40 per cent of the world's GDP. Negotiations are going on and according to reports it is nearing finalisation. But still many details are being kept as secret. This agreement is aimed at granting broad powers to MNCs operating in North America, South America and Asia. Under the accord these companies will be empowered to challenge regulations, rules, government actions and court rulings before tribunals, which will have private sector attorneys at the helms of affairs. With the sovereignty of the countries already endangered by IMF-WB-WTO agreements and fiats, these 'accords' are going to result in increased threats to those countries at various levels.

Our neighbours

When Modi government took over, there were expectations that the relationship with the neighbouring countries will improve. This was primarily because of the invitations extended to neighbouring countries for the swearing in ceremony of the Prime Minister. Today, after 2 years our relationship with these countries has worsened.

Pakistan faces serious threat from various terrorist groups operating in different parts. Anybody opposing them is freely targeted. The army, rather than the elected government, still calls the shots. Bangladesh is facing very critical situation with series of violent attacks against secular rationalists, minorities and foreigners. The legacy of secular unity of Bangladesh people are under

serious threat. Nepal continues to be under a chaotic situation. All hopes of strengthening the democratic system in the country are being belied. Power struggle among different parties is continuing. Sri Lanka had raised hopes of finding settlement to the ethnic issues after the formation of the new government after the general elections in 2015 but till now all assurances remain unfulfilled.

Dear Comrades,

It is in these circumstances that the Indian working class, along with all other sections of the exploited sections, will have to intensify the struggle against the neo-liberal offensives. 25 years of our experience with these policies, with various political parties at the helms of affairs, has proved that the working people will have to carry forward the struggle for an alternative set of policies. Along with this, we should be able to mobilise all our forces against all the communal and divisive forces who for the last two years have got the fullest support of the government at the centre and in many states.

The struggle against social oppression, attacks on women and children need to be on our day to day agenda as we have been witnessing increased attacks in various parts of the country. With Indian government going all out to be a trusted and strategic partner of USA, imperialist forces will be pressing forward with their agendas in our country. All these require our fullest attention in the coming days.

We are moving towards our 15th All India conference. Odisha state committee has already begun their preparations along with necessary campaigns. I am sure, all our state committees and unions will extend full support to the Odisha state committee in their efforts to make the conference successful.

The seventeenth congress of World Trade Union Federation (WFTU) will be held in South Africa just before our all India conference. As an affiliate of this class oriented trade union we are already prepared to be present in this important Congress being held at a crucial juncture in the history of working class movement. We wish the WFTU Congress all success.

Long live International Solidarity of the Working Class

Working Class Unity Zindabad

Forward to 2nd September All India General Strike

Long live CITU

AK Padmanabhan

President

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

Working Committee Meeting

14 - 16 July 2016, Nasik, Maharashtra

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Comrades,

This Working Committee of CITU is meeting around six months *after the meeting of the* General Council in December 2015. In between the CITU Secretariat met twice on 23-24 March and 13-14 June 2016 and the decisions of the Secretariat were conveyed to you through the respective State Committees and Federations.

The President's address dealt with the international situation at length. This need not be repeated. In brief, the world capitalist crisis under the neoliberal framework has aggravated further having disastrous impact on the life and livelihood of the common people across the globe. The impact is further multiplied by the capitalist class's desperate bid to push through the so called 'austerity measures' on the toiling people on the one hand, and the onslaught on the democratic rights of the people on the other. People all over the world are responding to this onslaught, characterised by mass scale unemployment, job losses, cuts in wages and social security benefits and deteriorating living standards, in various forms. In many countries, including in the advanced capitalist countries in Europe and Americas people's anger against the impact of the neoliberal policies is reflected in massive agitations and militant mobilisations. Brexit, the exit of UK from European Union as per the result of the referendum, has brought forth many issues, all related to the working of the neoliberal order in the midst of the global crisis. Extreme right wing forces in several countries are trying to take advantage of the growing dissatisfaction and disenchantment among the people. This must be noted. The imperialist forces led by the US are responding to this situation with much more hegemonic interventions in all fronts – economic, political, military and ideological. The stability and sustainability of the neoliberal strategy itself is being loudly questioned. This is bound to create various uncertainties in the coming days. The degree of such uncertainty and instability will increase with the increasing struggles of the working people against the ruling class's response to the capitalist crisis. The hollowness and unsustainability of the neoliberal capitalist order itself will become exposed more glaringly. It is this understanding that should guide the working class movement, both within our country, as well as at the international level. The working class movement must expose the incapacity of capitalism to address the basic problems of humanity and intensify its struggle against the neoliberal capitalist order, while fighting on the day to day demands of the workers.

1.0 NATIONAL SITUATION

1.1 Political Developments

1.1.1 The intervening period witnessed assembly elections in five states – Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry – in April – May. As decided by the CITU general council, CITU

cadres in these states actively worked for the victory of the left parties. They tried to expose the anti worker character of the ruling class parties and project the left and democratic alternative before the people. CITU activists and cadres, including its women members, worked for the victory of the left candidates, braving brutal attacks, threats and harassment by the TMC goons, with the open support of the administration. We salute their courage and commitment.

1.1.2 The LDF scored an impressive victory and formed the government in Kerala. CITU congratulates the toiling people of Kerala for the resounding victory, which would help in strengthening left intervention in national politics.

1.1.3 In West Bengal, the Left received a serious set-back despite their all out battle braving violence and inhuman atrocities in the whole process of election campaign and also during election. The Trinamool Congress formed the Govt even with a bigger majority. This is a matter of grave concern for the working class movement.)

1.1.4 The BJP alliance won with a comfortable majority in Assam and formed the government, for the first time. Congress has been virtually routed. BJP forming a government, in a strategically important state in the north east like Assam, is a matter of serious concern. The Left could not get any seat in the state

1.1.5 In Tamil Nadu, AIADMK returned to power though with reduced majority. DMK improved its position. The Left parties which fought in alliance with four other regional parties could not win any seat. In Puducherry, Congress formed the government with the support of DMK. One left support candidate won in the state.

1.1.6 Some aspects of serious concern need to be examined seriously here. In Tamil Nadu, Left has a comparatively strong base whereas BJP did not have much presence even a decade ago. It has been desperately and consistently trying to establish its foothold in the state. It met with some success in this election, howsoever meagre it may be. It got 2.86% votes and came second in four constituencies in Kanyakumari district, and secured third position in 32 constituencies in the state. In Kerala too, it won in one seat and came second in seven seats, obtaining 15.01% votes. In West Bengal, it got 10% votes compared to 4.2% in 2011 and won three seats. The RSS networks have been consistently engaged in developing and consolidating communal polarisation based on Hindutva politics, as well as caste polarisation with state specific strategies. They have been rousing all types of divisive issues consciously attempting to divide people and polarise society for their political gains. This is a serious challenge before the working class movement whose major weapon is class unity.

1.1.7 Another matter of serious concern should also be noted. In some states, even when examined constituency wise, the votes secured by the Left are much below the membership of the Left oriented organisations of the toiling people, including our own. This reflects the inability to inculcate political consciousness among the mass of our members and indicates our weakness in putting into practice our 14th conference call – ‘reach the unreached to intensify struggles on the burning issues of the working people while exposing the policies as well as the politics of such policy regime’. This was meant to enable people to identify their enemies as well as friends. Our failure in discharging this crucial task warrants serious introspection. We have to take all organisational and educational initiatives to achieve this objective.

1.1.8 Our comrades in West Bengal are facing a serious situation. The Trinamool goons, with the patronising administration, have unleashed large scale violence on the people, targeting the left and its supporters including CITU cadres. 9 left cadres have been killed since the declaration of results; 8 women have been raped; their inhumanity went to such an extent that pregnant women were also not spared. A pregnant woman was attacked and her baby was killed in the womb. Hundreds of CITU offices have been captured, ransacked and burnt; CITU members are being assaulted and threatened to leave the organisation. As on 24th June, around 3000 were severely injured, over 11000 were forced to leave their houses; around 150 trade union offices and 700 offices of left parties were forcibly captured. These attacks are meant to eliminate and mime the left through reign of terror. It is to be noted that left is the only consistent force that has been opposing the neoliberal policies and has been supporting people's and workers' struggles against the neoliberal policies. Our comrades in West Bengal are heroically resisting these barbaric assaults on the democratic and human rights of the people by mobilising workers and people. CITU called upon all its state committees and affiliated unions to take up a campaign in solidarity of our fighting comrades in West Bengal to culminate in massive mobilisations on 28th June 2016. As per available reports, the Day was observed by organising demonstrations and meetings in several places in states including Delhi, Kerala, Haryana, Odisha etc.

1.1.9 In Kerala, RSS is trying to create a situation of conflicts and tensions by attacking the left. Left processions are being attacked with bombs and other weapons. 2 left supporters have been killed and many injured. This is a planned conspiracy of the RSS against the left and the LDF which is trying to cultivate its divisive policies and increase its influence in Kerala society. This has to be fought organisationally, politically and ideologically.

1.2 Economic Situation: False Growth Story

1.2.1 The Modi government has recently celebrated completion of its two years' of coming to power with high decibel blitzkrieg. It has claimed to have achieved all round growth and development. This is nothing but a blatant lie. In fact there is all round decline and deceleration. The GDP growth has been claimed to be 7.6%. Can GDP growth climb to 7.6% when there is decline or stagnation in all sectors of production and slow down in the services sector, unless statistics are fudged or manipulated?

1.2.2 The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) shows a decline in industrial production from 2.8% in 2013-14 to 2.4% in 2015-16. It was only 0.1% in the last quarter of 2015-16. When the IIP was only 2.4% in 2015-16, the government claims that manufacturing growth to be 9.5%! This is not reliable. In mining, quarrying, construction and electricity – gas – water supply, growth dipped to 6.9%, 3.7% and 5.9% in 2015 -16 compared to previous year. Gross capital formation has contracted by -1.9%. The tonnage carried by Indian Railways often used as a barometer of economic activities shows a decline of 8.4% in tonnage kms.

1.2.3 As per official estimates, agriculture has grown by 1.2% in 2015-16. But in reality, food grain production has shown a marked decline, by more than ten million tons compared to 2013-14, in both the years of Modi regime. The area under cultivation, particularly for rice and pulses, has declined by around 5 lakhs hectares in the current year. This means a drastic decline in agricultural employment on the one hand and loss of income to the farmers, barring the landlords, on the other. The suicide by nearly 300 farmers in 2015 is a reflection of the continuing crisis in agriculture.

The drought in 13 states affecting 54 crores of people is severely impacting the livelihood and living conditions of people and their live stock. Are these signs of overall growth?

1.2.4 Merchandise export came down by 15.85% in dollar terms in 2015-16. According to Reuter service sector growth has registered a six month low in May 2016.

1.2.5 Does this phenomenon of either stagnation or deceleration in all the three principal sectors of economy in any way substantiate the loud claims of the government of overall GDP growth of 7.9% (or 7.6%)? This is nothing but a statistical lie and fraud on the gullible.

1.3 Growing Unemployment and Job losses

1.3.1 The fact is that nothing has improved for the mass of the working people, either urban or rural, during the last two years of Modi regime. The employment situation has further worsened. As per official records, only 1.35 lakhs jobs were created in eight labour intensive sectors in the last year, while 1.3 crores youth enter the job market on an average every year. Even the corporate media had to admit this horrible state of affairs in employment generation.

1.4 Rising Prices

1.4.1 All round decline in employment with inevitable downward pressure on real wages accompanied by the continuing rise in the prices of essential commodities, has made the lives of people more miserable. Price rise is fuelled by the anti people pro business policies of the government. The official wholesale price index and the rate of inflation on year to year basis, for May 2016, shows an increase of 35.56% for pulses, 12.92% for vegetables, 22.3% for sugar. The inflation for food articles was over 8%. Inflation is much higher if the retail prices in the market, experienced by the people is taken into consideration.

1.4.2 The BJP government at the centre has added fuel to fire by its frequent hikes in the prices of petrol and diesel, which leads to a cascading effect on the prices. It has been doing this despite the low and falling price of crude oil in the international market. In the last two years, diesel prices were hiked 19 times and petrol prices 16 times. Fuel prices were increased four times in the last six weeks till June 2016. The living standards of common people are drastically affected by these measures of the government. It is ridiculous that when the oil companies pay around Rs 26 per litre of petrol, people are forced to shell out almost three times that amount! Similar is the case with diesel prices.

1.5 Aggressive Move to Sell Out the National Economy

1.5.1 The two years of BJP regime have clearly proved that liberal concessions showered on the corporate big business lobby, both domestic and foreign, could not attract investment that generates employment. Whatever FDI has come into the country was mostly for purchasing equity of the existing companies or has flown into the share market. It had no impact on employment generation or creating value addition to the domestic economy. Despite this, the government is determined to open up our economy further inviting the MNCs to loot our country. The destructive impact of these policies is already evident in steel, aluminium, engineering and on a big segment of manufacturing sector. This is having a devastating impact, particularly on the small and medium scale industries.

1.5.2 Simultaneously aggressive exercise is on in liberalising FDI through automatic route in almost all sectors of economy including Railways, Defence, pharmaceuticals, Aviation, Food-Processing and even in retail trade. The government's shamelessness has reached such an extent that it has not hesitated to dilute the condition of sourcing at least 30% of their requirement of materials/spares etc from domestic source in respect of FDI in single-brand retail trade. Its next step is inevitably going to be allowing 100 per cent FDI in multi-brand retail trade also which would have devastating impact on the livelihood of crores of people engaged in retail trade.

1.5.3 Allowing the multinational corporations to invade our social and strategic sectors including agriculture inputs and outputs, pharmaceuticals, defence, rail, road and air communications will lead to their perpetual control on our economy. It will lead to our dependence on MNCs and imperialists for our needs related to food, health, defence, vital communications etc. Besides, this will worsen the conditions of the toiling people engaged in agriculture and industrial production, commercial activities, trades and services.

1.5.4 The government is in fact putting our entire national economy in the dock. Its mad drive for privatisation of the most successful public sector companies and strategic infrastructure clearly demonstrates its commitment to the private corporate sector. Picking up from the earlier NDA government, this BJP led government has resumed the strategic sale (meaning total sell out) of highly profitable CPSUs including the blue chip companies like BHEL, IOC, ONGC etc. The government is trying to revive the not so strong PSUs like Air India, Madras Petroleum, FACT etc with the funds from the national exchequer, only to make them attractive for sale to their corporate bosses including the MNCs. The sick and loss making units are sought to be put under distress sale along with their huge assets. The most crucial infrastructure of the country, our major ports are being sought to be converted into corporate companies with the objective of privatising them; the related bill is already ready with the government.

1.5.5 The last union budget has already targeted to collect Rs 56,500 crore through disinvestment in CPSUs, of which Rs 20,500 crore will be collected through mega-strategic sale.

1.5.6 Such all out sale of CPSUs which contribute handsomely to the national exchequer through taxes, dividends, special dividends etc amounting to lakhs of crores of rupees, much more than the private corporate, cannot be in the national interest. This anti national character of the policies being pursued by the BJP government, which brands all those who oppose their policies as anti national, must be understood and exposed.

1.5.7 Consistent with its pro imperialist economic policies, the present BJP led government has virtually abandoned India's independent foreign policy positions. It is increasingly collaborating with US imperialism, not only in foreign policy matters, but also in strategic and security matters. The latest agreements including the Indo US joint statement after the latest foreign trip of the Prime Minister clearly prove this.

1.5.8 The two years' balance sheet of the Modi led BJP government is totally negative in all fronts. It is trying to mislead the people and create illusions by painting bright prospects in future through its false propaganda with the active help and support of the corporate media. This is meant to hide its attacks on the hard won rights of the workers and the livelihood of the people due to its neoliberal agenda. The declaration in the budget, on doubling peasants' incomes in five years remains a

mockery as agrarian crisis and peasant suicides continue unabated. All the noise about 'Start up India', 'Digital India', 'Skill India' etc, has not yielded anything except liberal tax concessions to the corporate including those who operate 'Start up' companies in proxy. It is our task to expose these brazen lies and explain to the workers and the people in general the disastrous impact of these measures to our national economy. We have to make them understand the need to block and decisively defeat these policies and mobilise them to achieve this.

1.5.9 It is not an impossible task, if the tasks are conceived seriously and pursued vigorously. Organised intervention by the working class can very well make the government retreat. During the intervening period, all the three retrograde design of the government in respect of EPF, viz., taxing the EPF-withdrawal, imposing restriction on EPF withdrawal even after separation from employment and reduction of interest rate on EPF unanimously decided by CBT, have to be rolled back in the face of mounting popular resentment. These experiences must give us confidence that we can turn the tide if we do seriously work with required resolve, conviction and commitment. We have to tune up our entire organisation at all level in that direction.

2.0 Growing Communal Violence and Tensions

2.1 Communal conflicts and tensions have escalated during the period after our general council meeting. A dubious report of a forensic laboratory in Mathura is being used by the RSS and some of its outfits to show that the meat in Mohammed Akhlaq's house was beef and to inflame communal passions on the issue of cow slaughter and beef consumption. False claims of 'Hindu exodus' from Kairana in Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh are being made by some BJP leaders. These are all malicious and concerted attempts of the RSS and BJP to divide people, create communal polarisation keeping in view the elections to the UP assembly next year.

2.2 Simultaneously, the criminal and terrorist activities of the Hindutva outfits are sought to be legitimised with the direct patronage of the government and its machinery. While investigations into Malegaon terror attacks laid a trail linking Hindutva terror organisations with the terror attacks on Ajmer Sharif, Hyderabad Mecca Masjid and the Samjhauta express, the National Investigating Agency now seeks to give a clean chit to sadhvi Pragnya Singh Thakur and five others, the main accused in Malegaon blasts case. By doing this, the BJP government is paving the way for sabotaging the investigations of other blast cases, seriously compromising India's fight against terrorism. The role of the Sanatan Sanstha, a communal outfit, in the murder of rationalist thinkers Dabholkar and Pansare is now established.

2.3 The BJP led government at the centre, guided and monitored by the RSS, is not only acting as enemy of the people, but is facilitating a nasty conspiracy to tear apart our society and affect communal polarisation to meet its political goals.

2.4 Senior ministers in the BJP governments at the centre as well as in the states are making provocative statements against minorities and people from the weaker sections of society. Attempts are made to subjugate all sections of society to the hegemony of their so called 'Hindutva'. These provocations by the ministers, MPs and MLAs who have taken oath in the name of the Constitution are nothing but a direct affront on the Constitution. But no action is taken against them; nor does the Prime Minister who is so vocal on many other issues, open his mouth. Such provocative statements have fomented riots and riot like situations in different parts of the country. These are

nothing but conscious attempts by the RSS to force its 'Hindutva', Brahminical agenda on the entire people of the country

2.5 The perpetrators of attacks on dalits also feel emboldened under the government led by a former pracharak of RSS, an avowed admirer of Manusmriti. This period witnessed the worst kind of atrocities on dalits and other sections of downtrodden people. Innumerable incidents of murders, rape, harassment, burning of houses etc of dalits, discrimination etc are reported every day in the media. They are only a small part of the incidents, most of which go unreported. These attacks deprive them of their basic Constitutional rights. Any attempt on their part to assert their rights is met with physical attacks. In most of the states, particularly in the BJP ruled states, the administration remains a silent spectator. The incident in Haryana where two small children were burnt in their sleep is just one example.

2.6 This RSS project of 'Hindu Rashtra' is completely subservient to the corporate interests, both foreign and domestic. The nefarious aim is to disrupt the unity of the people and the working class and disarm them in their fight against the anti worker, anti people policies and the misdeeds of the ruling classes on economic, political and social fronts. The working class must be made aware of the disastrous consequences if these right wing forces succeed in their attempts and be mobilised to protect its unity.

2.7 Thus the situation in the country is quite critical and alarming. The project of the communal fascist forces in governance, in the backdrop of social tensions created by their own networks, is to undermine democratic rights and promote authoritarian trends. The incidents in Hyderabad University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Allahabad University are examples of this. It is a reflection of the aggravation of systemic crisis of capitalism, which crossing all boundaries of civilised society, seeks to bring about severe distortions of various kinds depending upon the prevailing socio political economic circumstances in the society. The philistine motive behind such perverse exercise is to divert peoples' attention to non class issues and weaken the resistance to the grievous fall out of the crisis by the people. Lives of common people and their unity, ethos of a civilised society and integrity of the country, have no meaning to these barbaric distortion mongers. There is no such crime that these enemies of humanity will hesitate to make use of in the pursuit of their project of retaining power and serve the crisis ridden exploitative system more faithfully. This phenomenon of the emergence of the Corporate-Communal-divisive combine, engulfing the economic and social spheres would lead to the rise of authoritarianism attacking different facets of our country's democratic norms and institutions

2.8 It is the working class movement alone that can and must shoulder the responsibility of exposing the real face of these forces and how they serve the interests of the corporate, not of the toiling people. This has to be an integral part of our struggle on the day to day issues and demands of the workers. Through these struggles the workers must be made conscious of the need to change the exploitative system and the need to widen and strengthen class unity.

3.0 Attacks on Labour Rights Continuing

3.1 As part of its policies intended to serve the interests of corporate and big business, both domestic and foreign, the government is aggressively pursuing the so called 'labour law reforms'. It is proceeding with amending all the labour laws against the interests of the workers. Over and

above the amendments proposed by the government to the Factories Act, the EPF Act and ESI Act and the Labour Code bills on Wages and Industrial Relations, the government has come out with more retrograde changes in the Factories Act, during this period. It has also brought out a Model Shops and Establishments bill, to be followed by the state governments.

3.2 The proposed new changes in the Factories Act stipulate 40 as the threshold of employment in an establishment for coverage under the Act, irrespective of whether the establishment uses power or not. It empowers the owner to divide his factory into different units within the same premises. Each unit will be treated as a separate factory. Thus the employer can keep employment in each unit below 40 and perpetually evade coverage under the Act. The model Shops and Establishments bill is aimed to liberate the majority of the employers from coverage. The service conditions have been changed to allow employers a free hand to exploit workers. This is being done on the pretext of employment generation. In none of the cases has the government taken into consideration the strong opposition of the trade unions nor accepted the concrete suggestions made by them. It is thus clear that the BJP led government is ganging up with the employers and is waging an undeclared war on the workers putting forward the dubious plea of 'employment generation'. The real intent is to make unbridled exploitation of workers easy for the business houses and corporates.

3.3 Moreover the *government* has also announced number of retrograde changes in sector specific labour practices through executive orders. In the name of promoting 'start up companies', it has announced tax holidays to all such units registered in the last five years, for a period of five years. It has provided exemptions from labour and tax related inspections. A special package has been announced for the textile and garment sector, increasing the cap on overtime hours, making PF optional and introducing 'fixed term employment' (i.e. the right to retrench workers without any advance notice or retrenchment benefit). The textile and garment sector has been misleadingly termed as 'seasonal'. The model Shops and Establishments Act, to be sent to the state governments as an advisory, allows all shops and malls to remain open 24x7, flexibility in working hours and withdrawal of restriction of night shift for women. The government sectors too are also affected by such executive orders. At the direction of the Department of personnel and Training (DoPT) and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) provision for forced retirement has been introduced for the employees of central public sector enterprises on the pretext of ensuring 'probity and efficiency'. Senior management is vested with the power to retire employees forcibly, which is destined to be abused. There are many more such executive initiatives by passing the legislature. The working class has to note that a government elected by the people is resorting to such anti worker measures to serve their corporate masters. It has kept its powder dry to oppose and resist these measures.

3.4 The government's strategy is four pronged – change the labour laws to minimise coverage by labour laws in the central sphere; get the labour laws amended by the state governments, particularly those led by BJP and its allies (as in Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh); make the necessary changes through executive orders, particularly in those sectors where MNCs can be allured to invest; and allow mass scale violation of labour laws by crippling the enforcement machinery, imposing restrictions on inspections and suppress any attempt by workers to exercise their democratic and trade union rights.

3.5 The Telugu Desam Party government in Andhra Pradesh has virtually banned all kinds of trade union activities, like mobilisations, demonstrations or any such collective activities. CITU leaders

are subjected to preventive detention; the administration is directed to dissuade employers from meeting workers' demands through collective actions lest that may create problems for other employers. In several other states section 144 is evoked to pre-empt any collective action by the unions or organisations of other sections of people. Ministers in many states refuse to meet trade unions.

3.6 Present inspection system for the industries and labour laws in the central sphere has already been restructured in that direction. Inspection is done through 10% randomised selection of establishments from the "Shram-Suvidha Portal", which itself could not yet capture even 20% data of the industrial establishments in the country. This means 80% of the establishments are kept perpetually outside inspection. And those captured in the portal, would be subjected to inspection through randomised selection only to the tune of 10%. This satanic arrangement has virtually ensured exemption from inspection for around 90% of the establishments in the country.

3.7 It is not without any reason that 90 per cent of the labour disputes in the country including all struggles and agitations pertain to mainly implementation of existing labour laws and nothing more. The labour law enforcement personnel in both centre and most of the states who are employed and paid for appropriate enforcement of labour laws are now being made to promote non-implementation of the laws of which they are custodians. Under neoliberal policy regime, the governance has attained such perversion to work for the virtual abolition of all the protective components of all labour laws. We have to grasp the seriousness of this entire process that will lead to the imposition of slavery on labour by capital *and prepare the working class to fight it back* with determination.

3.8 As late as 5th July 2016, it has not responded to the 12 point charter of demands of the joint trade union movement. A letter calling the central trade unions for a meeting on 18th July, to discuss the demands was sent on 5th July. Given the past experience and the different measures taken by the government intended to push the overwhelming majority of workers out of the purview and protection of most of the basic labour laws, we cannot expect much from this government. However, joint the meeting of the central trade unions that was held in INTUC office on 7th July, decided to attend the meeting called by the Labour Minister, while calling upon the workers and unions to go ahead vigorously with the strike preparation.

4.0 STRUGGLES & ACTIVITIES

4.1 It is precisely in this background that the country has witnessed numerous struggles by the working people across different sectors and states during the intervening period including multiple days strike actions both in the organised and unorganised sector. The initiative taken by CITU unions have been mentioned in the "Report on Activities" being circulated separately.

4.2 The state transport workers in Telangana organised a massive strike action on 23rd June 2016 demanding expansion of state transport system and other related issues; also eight days strike was organised by the head-load workers attached to PDS outlets throughout the state. The state transport workers of Himachal Pradesh have also staged a two day successful strike on 14-15 June 2016 braving victimisation. The workers of Shong-Tong Hydel Project at Himachal Pradesh have been continuing indefinite strike from 17th March 2016 demanding implementation of statutory minimum wages and other statutory benefits braving attacks and onslaughts of both management-

goons and police, in support of which statewide solidarity action including strike was organised by CITU. Bidadi industrial area of Bangalore, Karnataka comprising MNCs like Toyota and others witnessed a two days' bandh on 4-5 January 2016 in which contract workers also joined en masse. In around 14 industrial units in Bangalore industrial areas, mostly MNCs successful wage settlements could be arrived at by CITU in the process of unitwise struggles including strike actions during the intervening period. Most notable had been the two days militant statewide strike by 25000 electricity workers of Haryana including the contract workers organised a two days militant state wide strike action on 29-30 June 2016 braving atrocities and mass scale victimisation including retrenchment of 7400 contract workers and also defying ESMA against the move of privatisation of state-run electricity corporations. The strike was total for both the days despite all victimisation, terror and invoking of ESMA, which ultimately compelled the state govt to call the Joint Action Committee for talks. Finally, the Govt had to reverse the privatisation drive in Electricity corporations and withdraw all victimisation measures and also had to agree for wage increase of the contract workers.

4.3 CITU committees in the four poll bound states, viz., West Bengal, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Assam, were fully involved in the electoral battle in support of the Left candidates as decided by CITU General Council. As per reports received from the concerned states, in particular, Kerala and West Bengal, the CITU organisations, besides cooperating with the Left parties in the election campaign, took separate initiative for campaign through union-level and area-level meetings, publishing booklets/and other campaign materials etc to the best of their ability.

4.4 During period since last General Council meeting, one of the major initiatives was workers-peasants joint mobilisation on 19th January 2016 along with All India Kisan Sabha and All India Agricultural Workers' Union, which was widely observed in almost all the states. CITU state committees took active initiative in ensuring observance of the All India Day throughout the state through district level joint mobilisations and the programme has created enthusiasm among our comrades. We have to carry forward this workers-peasants joint initiative more actively to develop an effective platform on class issues in the days to come.

4.5 The joint platform of major national federations of anganwadi employees' unions organised a mammoth March to Parliament on 15th February 2016. Other scheme workers also had their state level campaign and militant agitations during this period. Also notable had been the united movement of the Tea Garden workers in West Bengal against closures and starvation death and state wide solidarity action in their support which finally led to notification by Central Govt on take-over of seven Tea gardens as per provisions of the Tea Act. During the same period cashew workers in Kerala were in massive struggle which was concluded by agreement with the Govt on their demands.

4.6 The joint call for All India Protest Day on 10th March 2016 was widely observed in all the states jointly by all central trade unions except BMS. Despite being a party to the joint decision of the observance of protest day, they stayed away from the programme.

4.7 The call given by the CITU Secretariat meeting held on 12-13 March 2016 to observe a month-long intensive campaign starting from CITU Foundation Day on 30th May to 30th June 2016 was responded to by the state committees and unions in varying degree. CITU Foundation Day was observed in most of the states through various programmes of meetings, rallies, blood-donation

camp etc as per reports received at the centre. We are yet to receive concrete reports on the month long campaign from the states. As per reports gathered by the centre campaign jathas were organised in Punjab and Odisha and campaign programmes were undertaken in Telengana. In Maharashtra, militant mobilisation was organised by the powerloom workers, construction and beedi workers on their respective demands during the same period. District level mobilisation and agitations of industrial workers were also held in Punjab. Comrades are requested to send concrete quantified reports on exactly how the campaign month was observed.

4.8 There have been struggles and struggle-initiatives in other sectors of the economy as well. Against the neoliberal reforms in banking sector, number of agitations, rallies and dharnas etc were organised by the unions in banking sector. Against the decision of merger of the associate banks with State Bank of India, the employees of associate banks struck work on 12th July 2016. Against the same merger issue countrywide strike in banking sector is going to take place on 29th July 2016 at the call of United Forum of Bank Unions.

4.9 Employees of the central govt establishments including the employees of Railways and Defence sector have been agitating since long demanding wage revision. The National Joint Council of Action (NJCA) comprising confederation of central govt employees and the federations of Railways and defence sector workers protested against the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission which stipulated a paltry wage increase for the concerned employees (lowest ever since the first pay commission), that too in utter discrimination vis-a-vis the top-level officers, besides curtailment of various allowances and other benefits. The NJAC demanded substantial upward revision of wages at all levels for the employees and restoration of all existing allowances and benefits and decided to go in for indefinite strike from 11th July 2016. Last couple of months witnessed massive countrywide campaign for the strike action in all central govt establishments including railways and defence sector. In this background, the Govt while setting up a committee to review the issues pertaining to allowances announced its acceptance of the 7th CPC recommendations and its implementation. The Govt did not consider any change in the minimum wages and fitment formula. In the face of determined move of the unions and the NJCA to go ahead with action programme, Govt called the unions for discussion and proposed to refer the issue of minimum wage and fitment formula for reconsideration by Committee constituted for the purpose. On the basis of this assurance, the programme of indefinite strike has been deferred by NJCA.

4.10 The intervening period also witnessed numerous other struggles by industrial workers where CITU or any other central trade unions were not initially involved. Spontaneous agitation by the garment workers in Bangalore and Visakhapatnam against the restriction imposed on withdrawal of PF in case of early retirement or loss of job compelled the Govt to roll back that decision. CITU subsequently established contact with them and moved in solidarity. Similarly the struggle of the workers of the Japanese automobile company HMSI in Alwar of Rajasthan which spilled over to the gate of the same company's unit in Gurgaon, Haryana braving police atrocity in both Rajasthan and Haryana are some such examples of spontaneous struggles. In the same industrial town of Gurgaon and Dharuheda in Haryana, workers have been in various forms of agitation, somewhere with the union and in some cases without any union. There have been many more such incidents of spontaneous outburst of agitation and struggles taking place in the industrial centres all over the country on which some reports are being received by us through other agencies and many of them are not being reported even. It is a matter of concern that CITU committees in many of the concerned states are failing to take note of those events of industrial actions and even appropriately

intervene in solidarity. These happenings also make clear that despite severe repressive regime perpetrated by the employers-state-govt gang-up, workers are coming out in protest. This also reveals, many more such possibilities of struggles are there among the industrial workers in the country but we are failing to read the situation fully and reach them with organisational initiative. If we try to reach them in a planned manner, definitely we will be getting response.

5.0 Forward towards the Countrywide General Strike on 2nd September 2016

5.1 Now, the preparatory campaign for the general strike has to be heightened in a massive way and the entire CITU has to devote its entire might in that direction. Particularly in the aftermath of the assembly elections in the five states and the obtaining political situation, the forthcoming general strike is a big challenge before the working class movement in the country and we must do everything to meet the challenge and make the General Strike the biggest ever in its depth, coverage and sweep. The media-blitz being carried on by the Modi Govt on the occasion of its two years' completion to create a false impression about the progress of the national economy through spread of desperate statistical lies on GDP growth and employment generation, through touting its so called pro-people welfare programmes etc in order to project the legitimacy of the ongoing anti worker and anti people character of the present policy regime have to be thoroughly exposed through widespread campaign based on the actual reality and concrete sector specific issues and demands of workers, to reach the working people in its entirety; chronic gloom in the economy, deceleration of employment, shrinking of employment generating investment, declining real wage and dwindling social security system across the occupations and sectors etc on the one hand and the notorious design of privatisation and also imposition of slavery on the workers through so called labour-law reforms have to be brought forth before the mass of the people at the grass-root linking with their daily experiences.

5.2 Joint Conventions and programmes

5.2.1 As decided by the National Convention of Workers held on 30th March 2016, state level joint conventions have already started taking place in different states; in some states like Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Assam, Rajasthan, the state level joint conventions have already taken place and district-level joint campaign and conventions have already been planned. In certain states like Haryana and Delhi, programme of regional/district level joint conventions has been planned to culminate into state level convention at a later period. In other states, programme of joint conventions must have been planned already but we are yet to get reports on the same. Comrades may give report of the same while taking part in the deliberation. In this context, it needs to be reiterated that CITU must take initiative to involve and activate our fraternal unions in the middle class front in the joint activities and campaign. We should also approach the state level regional unions and other independent unions also to join the strike campaign. From the conventions we should try to draw plan for joint campaign in the industries and also in workers colonies for the success of the strike.

5.2.2 The National Convention has also decided for organising a mass rally and satyagraha in the state capitals and major districts on 9th August (Quit India Day). Joint plan should be drawn at the state level to make it a massive and militant action throughout the country. CITU must take special initiative to mobilise its strength in the 9th August satyagraha programme and must try to create a paralysing impact in the concerned area of the state capital and districts. Before the general strike,

that is going to be the major mass mobilisations to be utilised to heighten the tempo of the strike action.

5.3 Industry wise Federations

5.3.1 Our major federations in Coal, Steel, Petroleum etc have also held their committee meetings and detailed industry-level campaign programmes have been undertaken. The Water Transport Workers' Federation of India has also taken consistent initiative in creating awareness among the port and dock workers on retrograde amendments in the Major Port Trust Act aiming at privatisation linking with the countrywide united struggle and in this exercise our federation could successfully involve other major federations. Industry-level extended coordination committee meeting were held in Petroleum, NTPC and Powergrid to undertake industry level preparatory campaign for the strike. These independent initiatives by CITU was preceded by extended meeting of All India Public Sector Coordination Committee of CITU held on 11th March 2016, where from the initiative was unleashed. Following this independent initiative, was held the All India joint convention of public sector unions of all affiliations on 2nd July 2016 at Hyderabad which was attended by 450 leading representatives of public sector unions of all sectors representing all affiliations except BMS and also many independent unions. The convention reiterated the call for countrywide general strike to defend workers rights and to save the public sector and also to save the country. State level joint convention of public sector workers are being planned in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in the month of July itself.

5.3.2 Our federations in Construction, Beedi, Anganwadi, Road Transport also met in their national level committees to decide on the strike campaign. Already in some of the states transport workers' convention was held as per reports received at Centre.

5.4 Sectors Requiring Special Focus and Attention

5.4.1 We have to reach the toiling people in its entirety with the message for strike action linking with their own experience in the sector they are working. But still certain sectors need special and focused attention in view of their strategic importance and their role in the economy and society.

5.4.2 Our special focus for the strike preparation must be on the transport sector. We have to concentrate both on the passenger segment, public and private and the goods-transport segment. During September 2015 strike around 2 crore transport workers joined the strike and in around 16 states, public transport was completely paralysed. We should seriously introspect, rather ask ourselves as to how far CITU could reach those large section of transport workers who joined the strike in many states despite not being in any trade union and what are the efforts made in that direction by the CITU state committees as emphasised by CITU Secretariat and General Council while reviewing the 2015 strike. However, this time, strike should be made wider in the transport sector and all the state committees of CITU must give special attention in this regard along with the efforts being made by our All India Road Transport Federation.

5.4.3 The second important area deserving our special attention is the industrial clusters in almost all the states. The experience of the campaign for last general strike showed us that the workers of these industrial clusters even in the most backward states where we do not have any union among them, have joined the strike in a big way. The issues which attracted them most are the non-

implementation of labour laws and Govt's retrograde proposals on so called labour law reforms. This time also, whether we have any union there or not, our campaign must reach those industrial clusters intensively including in workers' colonies, and CITU's latest booklet should be propagated and circulated there widely.

5.4.4 Third area which deserves special attention is the scheme workers' movement, the anganwadi, mid-day meal workers and ASHA in particular. CITU has a sizeable organisational and movemental presence in all the three sectors in most of the states and their participation in strike action have all along been good and visible. We have to stress on our organisational initiative in these sectors for widening the strike campaign and campaign on the issues, the anti-people policy regime and the politics behind the same, to reach the remotest corner of the country and among the rural people in view of scheme workers' presence and activities in those areas. State Committees has to take focused initiative in helping and involving our leadership from the scheme workers in leading the campaign, widening depth, spread and intensity of the campaign on strike and the related issues among other sections of toiling people in rural India and monitoring the entire process for long-term political-organisational gains.

5.5 Campaign Literatures

5.5.1 CITU Centre has published a booklet dealing on issues before the strike and anti-people, anti-workers policies of Modi Govt. The booklet should be closely read by our leadership at all levels and also given widest circulation to reach the workers at the grass-root. The booklet should be translated in regional languages and circulated among the workers by printing lakhs of copies. CITU Centre has taken up the job of publishing a few more booklets for campaign, viz., 1) on EPF and ESI, 2) on transport workers issue and any other important issue that may come up. Texts of these booklets will be sent to the State Committees and Federations as soon as they are ready and the state committees must get them translated in local languages to give them wide circulation among the workers.

5.5.2 Besides above, the booklets circulated on the occasion of last September 2015 strike on 1) labour law reforms, 2) on social security for unorganised sector 3) on scheme workers and 4) on communalism are still relevant for the forthcoming strike and those booklets should also be utilised for the campaign and republished for circulation among the workers in lakhs of copies.

5.5.3 The Ranchi general council meeting pointed out the highly inadequate numbers of pamphlets that were printed compared to number of workers to be covered. The so called argument that as a few thousand pamphlets have been distributed last time, this time they were not being printed again should not be indulged.

5.5.4 On role of public sector in the economy and Govt's design of privatisation, the report published by CITU Centre on the occasion of the last coordination committee meeting held on 11th March 2016 was sent to all the state committees and public sector unions. That report should also be closely read by our leadership and given wide circulation in local languages among the workers. Along with, the declaration adopted by the joint convention of PSU unions held on 2nd July 2016 at Hyderabad should be multiplied and circulated among the public sector workers and officers in particular as widely as possible.

5.5.5 It should also be noted that our industry wise federations in Road Transport, port-dock sector, steel, coal, anganwadi etc have published number of campaign materials on sector specific problems and issues linking with and exposing the neoliberal policy regime on earlier occasions strike action and also in the context of their industry-based struggles. The issues highlighted by them are all inseparably linked with the neoliberal policy regime and also relevant with our 12 point charter of demands. Our Federations must update their campaign materials linking with direct sector specific experiences and publish leaflets/pamphlets in popular form for wide circulation in numbers at least equal to the number of workers in the concerned sector, if not more.

5.5.6 Without creating proper campaign materials and literature and widely circulating them to reach the workers in entirety, oral campaign cannot be made effective. The Campaign materials are not only meant for the workers, they are also important for equipping and preparing our cadres for the effective campaign. Along with circulating the campaign literatures sent by the CITU Centre, two-three page leaflets should also be prepared on the basis of central booklets adding therewith the sector/industry/area specific issues and experiences for campaign and circulation among the workers. And while taking this initiative for writing state/sector/industry/area specific campaign literatures at the level of state committees, district committees, federations and unions, it is certain that we are not only educating the workers in general but also educating ourselves which is of crucial importance organizationally. The number of copies being published for circulations and their actual distribution in the process of campaign also helps to understand and assess as to how far and what extent we could reach the workers and people.

5.5.6 And therefore, all our state committees, federations and unions are urged upon to take such creative initiatives to produce campaign materials for the strike action more seriously along with preparing a team of cadres to carry the campaign for the strike in all section of workers irrespective of union-membership, not only once but multiple times.

5.5.7 It is important that the state committees and federations must closely monitor implementation of the campaign programme to ensure that no section remains unreached and untouched, and also prepare quantified report to review the work time to time during the days and months left till the strike, as to how many workers could be physically reached and how many booklets/leaflets etc could be handed over to individual workers. Reports sent to CITU Centre must contain all these micro-level details to make it a report worth its name.

5.6 Role of BMS

5.6.1 Another aspect must also be noted with due seriousness. This time, BMS is not in the united front of trade unions. During the last General Strike, BMS walked out at the last moment and could not do much to oppose the strike. This time, BMS might actively propagate its argument of 'positive approach' of the BJP led government and create confusion among the workers. The government will be trying to utilise BMS to spread its misinformation campaign. The group of ministers has reportedly held discussions with BMS. We have to carefully watch out the strategy that the government would adopt, including making some interim announcement on some minor issues, just to create false impression of doing something on the demands. The working class must also be prepared to face the eventuality of BMS actively opposing the strike.

5.6.2 For example, the Govt proposed some amendment in the rules under Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act recommending Rs 10,000/- as minimum wage for contract workers, thereby creating a false impression that the Govt has made Rs 10,000/- as statutory minimum wage for contract workers. Rules are not enforceable or justiciable. They will continue to be in the rule-book but cannot be enforced (implemented by force). The same Rule-book under Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act 1970 contains the provision for same wage and benefits for contract workers as regular workers in the concerned establishment for last four decades. Has it been implemented anywhere in the country? Nowhere.

5.6.3 Secondly, the Labour Ministry has publicly stated that they are going to amend Minimum Wages Act to improve the minimum wages. But their actual game plan is to introduce a concept of “floor level minimum wage” to be applicable countrywide. They are not incorporating in their amendment proposal the formula of determining minimum wage as unanimously recommended by the 15th Indian Labour Conference and 44th Indian Labour Conference and again reiterated unanimously by the 46th Indian Labour Conference. Just before the last 2015 strike, Labour Minister proposed Rs 269/- per day as minimum wage for the unskilled worker. It is learnt that the Govt is planning to make Rs 310/- per day as floor level minimum wage which make the monthly minimum wage as Rs 8060/-(26 days). Dubiousness of the Govt’s intent is clear from the fact that while the same Govt is proposing Rs 10000/- as minimum wage for the contract workers, in the same breath they want to make floor level minimum wage for all including regular workers at Rs 8060/- . The whole exercise is just to misguide and confuse the workers and unions and create illusion about so called positive attitude of the Govt in order to sabotage the strike. BMS leadership has been acting in cohesion with the Govt in this dubious and deceptive exercise. There may be similar fraudulent and deceptive attempts in other areas. We should remain collectively alert so that such frauds can be brought to light promptly and taken to the workers.

5.6.4 BMS leadership has gone on record that they will not support the strike call of 2nd September 2016 given by other Central Trade Unions and Federations to press for 12 point demands which was unanimously accepted by them. The BMS also signed the statement jointly issued by the Central Trade Unions on 28th January 2016, which, while criticising the Govt’s anti-workers policies decided to hold “All India Protest Day” on 10th March 2016 and hold a national convention of workers in the last week of March 2016 to decide future course of action programmes. But BMS neither participated in the observance of protest day on 10th March nor the had turned up attend the National Convention of 30th March 2016, which had declared the call for countrywide General Strike on 2nd September 2016. And as they had termed the call of general strike on 2nd September 2015 as “politically motivated” after deserting the joint platform just two days before the strike, this time also BMS has been campaigning in the same manner.

5.6.5 But while doing this, they are making drama also in criticizing the Govt at the centre on its policy of privatization and FDI etc. They have decided to hold demonstration on 8th July 2016 against FDI policy of the Govt and also announced to hold their National Committee sometimes during 14-16 August at Bhopal to decide on action programme including strike. How does it justify deserting united platform of trade unions which has already given a call for strike action on the same issues, and at the same time talking about strike action separately. This is not definitely to go in for serious action against the anti-worker Govt policies. The whole purpose is to create confusion in order to sabotage the preparatory campaign for strike of 2nd September 2016. Their criticism to Govt policies while opposing the strike call by the entire trade union movement on the

same issues cannot be taken seriously, as such criticism and simultaneous opposition to strike call on the same issues is nothing but a “politically motivated” game plan being played at the dictate of their parent body RSS. We should remain alert in combating such a conspiratorial move while consistently appealing to BMS ranks to joining the strike on the same demands to which their organization had also been a party.

5.6.6 Another point that needs to be refuted that according to BMS, the Govt has taken a positive attitude to many of the demands of the workers. Nothing can be further from truth. The issues have been dealt in details in the booklet published by CITU.

5.6.7 In the forthcoming strike campaign, one thing must be taken note of in particular. Since last two rounds of strike, we could carry gradually the joint campaign and activities from the state and district level initiatives to further down to area and unit level in many of the states. Particularly during 2015 strike campaign, this grass-root level joint campaign became much widespread creating ground for consolidating the unification of the working people on the burning issues facing them and deepening their consciousness on the policy issues. We have to consciously sustain this trend of wider grass-root level joint campaign and make that wider in the present round of strike campaign; in view of BMS’s deserting the united platform and the proactive role they are most likely to play to create confusion and illusion among the people, deepening and widening of joint campaign by unions of all affiliations assumes much more importance in making the strike successful and bigger. And more important is that the ground created by such wider and deeper grass-root level joint campaign has to be supplemented by our conscious independent campaign to elevate the growing consciousness among the people on the policy issues gradually to the level of political consciousness; it would also gradually help them in identifying their enemies and friends based on their understanding on their own problems vis-à-vis the policy regime and their operators.

5.6.8 CITU has already conceived the urgent need for elevating the protest struggle to the level of resistance struggles to a qualitatively different height; and the same is being reiterated in our successive reports and reviews and evaluation of the changing situation. Present situation of deepening crisis and consequent arrogance reflected in the intensifying attacks not only on the rights and livelihood of the working people but also on the democratic system itself demands that urgently. But that cannot be achieved automatically. This has to be achieved through conscious application of the call of “unity and struggle” in widest possible manner in terms of both width and depth ;we have to constantly strengthen and update our organization up to the primary level committees to consciously work with a continuity for such achievement.

5.6.9 All the state committees and federations must keep on sending reports from time to time on activities being undertaken or planned, number of copies of campaign booklets, leaflets and other materials printed and circulated in the process of campaign and number of workers covered by such campaign in concrete terms. It is only on the basis of the extent of our campaign can it be possible to assess the seriousness with which we have taken this crucial task of making the ensuing 2nd September strike a big success.

6.0 15th CONFERENCE OF CITU

6.1 As decided by the CITU General Council, the 15th Conference of CITU will be held on 26-30 November 2016 at Puri, Odisha. Our Odisha State Committee has already started preparation for the same.

6.2 The 15th Conference will be held on the basis of 2015 membership. The General Council decided that membership, affiliation fees along with copies of Annual Returns for 2015 must be sent to CITU Centre latest by 30th June 2016. Backlogs for 2013 and 2014 membership still falling due for some of the states must be deposited to CITU Centre maximum within a month. The Secretariat meeting held on 12-13 March 2016 reiterated the same decision. But till mid June now, CITU Centre is yet to receive the 2015 membership fees and returns from most of the states barring a few exceptions. And backlog dues of 2013 and 2014 from some of the states are not received as yet. The details on affiliation fees and annual returns received, state wise, year wise are circulated in the meeting in a separate statement.

6.3 The trends of receipt of membership till now from various states indicate that we will not be able to make much advance in improving our membership base as compared to our membership at the time of 14th Conference of CITU (held on the basis of 2011 membership). There is even doubt whether we would be able to sustain our membership in many of the states at the 14th Conference level in 2015. This is highly regrettable. It is understood, owing to continuing terror and violence and attacks on our comrades in West Bengal since 2011, the membership base in our biggest unit could not be fully covered up and/or retained. But what about in many other states, where such problem do not exist? During the intervening period since our 14th Conference, CITU's activities in almost all the states have increased substantially leading to bigger mobilisations and our grass-root level reach was noticeably widened. But that could not be reflected in the widening of our membership base mainly because of our own neglect in this task at different levels of the organisation. Although it is being reiterated in almost all forums of CITU including conferences and committee meetings at national level that membership drive should be carried on throughout the year linking with all movemental activities, it has fallen flat on our comrades in many of the states and the task of regular monitoring by our state and district level leadership also got seriously neglected.

6.4 The General Council and also the last Secretariat meeting pointed on immediate task of holding district and state level conferences of CITU prior to all India conference. CITU conferences have already taken place in Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana. Conference dates have already been decided in 15 other states. West Bengal State will be holding their conference after the all India conference in view of the attack being faced and tackled by them and they would require some more time in organizing their conference. Tripura state committee also informed the Secretariat that in view of ongoing sub-divisional conferences in the state and their decision to form district committees of CITU through an organizational process, and in view of the month-long festive season in between, it would not be possible for them to hold state conference before the all India conference. Rest of the states must finalise their dates of conferences in consultation with the CITU Centre at the earliest. The list of dates of 15 state conferences and their locations is circulated separately.

6.5 These conferences, among other issues should concentrate on a thorough review as to what extent we could implement the organizational decisions and movemental directions of the 14th conference of CITU and its impact/result on our organizational expansion and our ability to reach the unreached section of working people. Report of the conferences should reach the CITU Centre immediately after finalisation (preferably in English) so that those can be utilised for preparation of the report of 15th Conference of CITU.

6.6 The 11th all India convention of All India Coordination Committee of Working Women will be held on 29-30 September 2016 in Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and circular notifying the dates, place and state-wise quota has already been issued.

6.7 As decided in the last Secretariat, the national workshop on sexual harassment at workplace and violence against women was scheduled to be held on 11-12 June 2016 at Delhi and notice was also issued in this regard. But owing to unavoidable circumstances, the programme has to be postponed.

6.8 The General Council has also decided that old quota for P Ramamurty Bhawan and Ghaziabad building fund must be fulfilled at the earliest. Over and above, the General Council also has given a fresh call for collecting Rs 5/- per member based on 2015 membership for P Ramamurty Bhawan, which is midway under construction in view of huge escalation of the cost. This collection has also to be deposited to CITU Centre well before the 15th Conference to keep the pace of construction on.

6.9 The Working Committee has to decide on state-wise delegation to 15th Conference and also state wise representation in General Council and Working Committee. (The proposal is being placed separately) This meeting will also have to decide the subjects of Commission discussion in the 15th Conference.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 Comrades, the situation before us is no doubt challenging. The offensive of the extreme right wing clique in governance in every aspect of our life has been mounting with a beastly instinct to bulldoze all opposition. Every section of the society, except the corporate feudal lords combine and their cohorts, is under severe attack. Simultaneously, the atrocious project to create disruption and division among the people through communal divisive provocations has been in operation with direct patronage of the ruling polity. During the intervening period such communal machinations have become atrociously heinous as well as aggressive. The contradictions thus being created in the society owing to the continuing crisis is being sought to be desperately utilised by the ruling polity for tuning it in the divisive direction.

7.2 But the situation is also pregnant with tremendous opportunity. The contradictions and unrest created by the continuing crisis of the neoliberal order can in no way be resolved unless the order itself is changed. We have to make this truth touch the imagination of the masses and that is the crucial task to be realised and undertaken with all seriousness. And thus it also unfolds the opportunity to channelize the unrest among the people in the track of united struggle directly hitting the neoliberal order and its protagonists in the political class. And this opportunity has already been created to a considerable extent by the working class movement through its consistent assertion through united struggle. The Peasants' movement have also contributed to the same.

7.3 We must harness effectively the opportunity emerging before the class movements. We have to act consciously, by heightening and broadening the struggles, through establishing linkage between the struggles and unrest in various other segments of society.

7.4 The countrywide strike on 2nd September 2016 called by the united platform of the trade unions has to be construed as an important avenue for harnessing such opportunity by the working class

movement. The charter of demands of the strike includes demands of the people in general from all sections of the suffering society. It is this platform of trade unions which has been voicing the demands of the peasants and agricultural workers in their campaign trail. And our goal must be to convert the 2nd September 2016 strike in to united action by the entire people at large.

7.5 All our initiatives for intensified strike campaign must be aimed at “reaching the unreached” with our message on anti-people policies of the Govt and the politics behind those policies to enable people to recognise their real enemies. There must not be any laxity in this regard. And again, the task of reaching the unreached could not be fulfilled unless the committee members of our primary level units are properly equipped politically and ideologically and made to act as leaders before the mass of the workers. Every major action programme unfolds before us the opportunity of qualitatively improving our organisation at the grass-root level to create and develop more effective and able leaders to constantly live and interact with the mass of the workers. This alone can enable our organisation to prepare for the basic class task of challenging the exploitative system and changing the correlation of forces. Let us not go such opportunity to waste. Let us collectively conceive and translate this basic organisational task formulated by our 14th Conference which would also help in a big way not only to make the general strike of 2nd September 2016 a massive success but also sustain the preparedness for bigger action thereafter which is the urgent need of the hour.

7.6 Let us march forward towards our 15th Conference by heightening our organised intervention in the society; let our campaign for the 2nd September 2016 strike elevate our organisation to a further height and enhance the capability of our cadres at the lowest tier of our organisation to unify and carry the mass of the toiling people in the battle against exploitation as well as against the exploitative regime. We cannot leave that task of conscious class initiative to reach the unreached to spontaneity and ritualism.

7.7 Let this class understanding and its determined exercise at all levels of organisation in the forthcoming struggle carry the entire CITU to a new height while we will be holding our 15th Conference.

Working Class Unity Zindabad
CITU Zindabad
Down With Neoliberalism
Down with Communalism and Divisive Forces
Workers of the World Unite

Yours fraternally,
Tapan Sen
General Secretary

15TH ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF CITU

on 26-30 NOVEMBER 2016 at PURI, ODISHA

This will be preceded by State level conferences of CITU

SCHEDULE OF STATE CONFERENCES OF CITU

1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	VIJAWADA	26-28 June 2016
2.	HARYANA	HISSAR	9-10 July 2016
3.	CHHATTISGARH	KORBA	5-7 August 2016
4.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	HAMIRPUR	13-15 August 2016
5.	TAMILNADU	TUTICORIN	9-12 September 2016
6.	JHARKHAND	RAMGARH	14-15 September 2016
7.	KARNATAKA	BAGALKOT	17-19 September 2016
8.	UTTAR PRADESH	LUCKNOW	23-25 September 2016
9.	MAHARASHTRA	NANDED	25-27 September 2016
10.	MADHYA PRADESH	SINGRAULI	25-27 September 2016
11.	BIHAR	PATNA	1-2 October 2016
12.	UTTARAKHAND	DEHRADUN	4-5 October 2016
13.	RAJASTHAN	JODHPUR	14-16 October 2016
14.	TELENGANA	MEDAK	14-16 October 2016
15.	ODISHA	PARADEEP	20-21 October 2016
16.	ASSAM	GUWAHATI	23-25 October 2016
17.	KERALA	PALAKKAD	29-31 October 2016

Conference dates of other states are being finalized .

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) Working Committee Meeting 14 - 16 July 2016, Nasik, Maharashtra

Report of Activities after the Meeting of the General Council of CITU in Ranchi

Brief report of our major activities, as per the information received at the all India centre is given below.

As decided by the Ranchi meeting of CITU general council, a note for reporting on the meeting was sent by the CITU centre to all the state committees and affiliated federations. The respective committees were asked to send concrete quantitative reports on how this was implemented. However, very few states provided the information.

CITU committees in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam worked actively in support of the Left candidates in the elections to the state assembly. In West Bengal, CITU cadres, including women members of CITU, carried out the campaign bravely despite the attacks, threats and intimidations by the TMC goons with the support of the administration. However, support for the Left and its alternative policies could not be improved in West Bengal. In Kerala, Left parties have registered victories in many of the constituencies where workers like plantation workers, fishers, traditional sector workers etc formed large proportion of the population. We have to continue to expose the anti worker and anti people policies of the ruling classes and propagate alternative policies in a sustained manner, utilising all the occasions that present before us. The call of the 14th conference of CITU – to link up issues with policies and expose the politics behind the policies – must guide us in all our activities. By creating widest awareness among the working class about this alone can we mobilise larger sections of the working class to defeat these policies and for ending exploitation itself.

19th January All India Day in solidarity with the Peasants

The Ranchi general council meeting of CITU decided to observe an all India Day on 19th January 2016, along with AIKS and AIAWU, to commemorate the first joint country wide general strike on that day in 1982, when the joint trade union movement raised the demands of peasants, and 10 workers, peasants and agricultural workers were killed in police firing. The joint observation of the Day was envisaged to facilitate developing united actions on the common demands of workers, agricultural workers and peasants. As per reports, in several states, the CITU committees took the initiative for observing the Day and mobilised the workers. We have to continue these efforts and strengthen unity between the workers, peasants, agricultural workers and rural workers at the grass root level.

In Andhra Pradesh, joint programmes were held in 10 districts. 46000 leaflets were distributed. Dharnas were held in 6 districts; conventions in 2 districts and rallies in the other two.

The programme was held on two days in Assam. While local level demonstrations were held in 10

districts on 19th January, in each of which around 100 – 200 participated, at other places, the demonstrations were held on 20th January and in some others later. Along with activists of CITU and AIKS, activists of DYFI and AIDWA also joined in rail roko in some districts.

In Jharkhand, joint demonstrations were held in front of the chief minister's office and in several other district headquarters. A huge procession was also held in Ranchi.

In Kerala hundreds of workers and peasants participated in the rallies and public meetings held all over the state.

Around 1500 workers and peasants participated in the demonstration in Karnataka in 9 district headquarters and 4 taluks in Mandya district.

Maharashtra state committees took up an extensive campaign and mobilisation on the day. 102150 workers, peasants and agricultural workers were mobilised, in joint processions at 38 places in 26 districts out of the total 30 districts in the state. 24975 of them were workers. 60439 courted arrest.

Around 5000 participated in the rallies in 16 districts in Punjab and in Chandigarh. Joint processions, demonstrations before the district collectors' offices and public meetings were held in 7 districts including the state capital in Rajasthan.

Joint meetings were held in 9 districts in Telangana to plan the observation of the Day. Seminars were held in 8 districts and Ibrahimpatnam. 795 workers and peasants participated in these seminars. The note sent from the CITU centre was translated and sent to all the district committees. Leaders of all the three organisations attended the seminars. But in general it was observed that the call was observed ritualistically without serious efforts to mobilise workers. The state council decided to take initiative to develop the alliance of workers and agricultural workers in state.

In Tripura, in addition to the state committees of CITU, AIKS and AIAWU, Gana Mukti Parishad of tribals also joined in the observation of 19th January. The issues of remunerative prices, comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers, social security for all and Rs 15000 minimum wages were highlighted. Joint rallies were held in the state capital of Agartala and in Jirania subdivision.

2300 joint posters and 46500 leaflets were issued by CITU, AIKS and AIAWU state committees in Tamil Nadu and the day was observed in 63 centres in the state with a participation of over 6000.

International Women's Day

A circular was sent to all state committees of CITU and its affiliated industrial federations and unions directing them that International Women's Day this year must be observed demanding 'Equal Status and Equal Opportunities' to women. They were requested to highlight the attacks under NDA rule, of the basic fundamental rights of women as well as other sections, like denial of the right to contest panchayat elections on the basis of literacy, number of children, indebtedness etc. The attacks on people for not conforming to the diktats of the communal forces on their eating, dressing and other personal choices were also to be highlighted during the observation of IWD. These issues were to be linked to the neoliberal policies being implemented by successive

governments and the communal divisive ideology of the RSS and its outfits.

All CITU state committees are requested to take proper organisational measures to ensure effective observance of International Women's Day by discussing with the state coordination committees of working women and involve the fraternal organisations including the women's subcommittees of fraternal trade union organisations in the planning and observance of the IWD focussing the above topic.

Though IWD was observed in many states, there is no report that it was observed in the manner envisaged.

International Women's Day was observed in 91 mandal centres in 12 districts and 14 municipal towns in 11 districts of Andhra Pradesh along with AIDWA and the cultural organisation Prajanatya Mandali. In several other states too IWD was observed along with AIDWA.

Countrywide protests on 10th March 2016

The central trade unions which met on 27th January 2016 gave the call for country wide protest demonstrations to be held on 10th March against the anti worker and anti people policies of the government and to press for the 12 point charter of demands. Almost all the CITU state committees took initiative to mobilise workers in large numbers on the day. BMS did not participate in these demonstrations.

Joint dharnas were held in all 13 districts in Andhra Pradesh, in which 2790 workres participated. 2-7 trade unions participated in most of the districts. 70500 leaflets were issued on this occasion. In Bihar, protest day was observed in 35 districts; rallies and demonstrations were held at 12 district headquarters. All central trade unions except BMS made effective joint preparations for the demonstrations. In Jharkhand, protest day was observed in 5 districts including the state capital Ranchi. Joint dharnas and demonstrations were held in front of the district labour and civil administration offices in 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh. In Uttarakhand, workers and employees under the banner of the Joint Trade Union Coordination Committee marched to Raj Bhawan and submitted a memorandum. In Delhi, hundreds of workers marched to the Delhi Secretariat and held a meeting where they were stopped. In Haryana, joint dharna was organised in front of the mini secretariat in Gurgaon. Joint rallies and demonstrations were held in 14 districts in Punjab and in Chandigarh. Joint rallies were also held in front of the district collectorates in over 14 districts in Rajasthan. A huge procession was held in Jaipur. Thousands of workers and employees participated in the joint dharna at Azad Maidan in Mumbai in Maharashtra. The decision to mobilise 1 lakh workers on 20th April against the anti worker amendment to labour laws was announced in the dharna. Hundreds of workers participated in the meetings and demonstrations at different places in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In Odisha, around 1000 workers marched to the Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. Effigies of Prime Minister and Finance Minister were burnt in Rourkela. Thousands of workers participated in the demonstrations held in 13 districts in the state. HMS also did not participate in the joint demonstrations in Odisha in addition to BMS. In Chattisgarh dharnas and public meetings were held. In Telangana, around 12000 workers participated in the joint demonstrations that were held in all the districts. Pensioners also participated. 60000 leaflets were distributed in the campaign. CITU conducted independent campaign in 143 mandals and 6 revenue divisional centres. In Kerala, demonstrations, rallies and dharnas were held in all the

districts. INTUC and BMS did not participate. In Tamil Nadu joint rallies were held in Chennai and in 9 more district headquarters in which over 1600 workers participated. In several districts police denied permission to the demonstrations. In Karnataka joint rally was held in Bengaluru and 12 more districts in which around 3000 workers participated. More than 2 lakhs handbills were distributed all over the state. Impressive joint demonstrations and public meetings were held in several districts of Himachal Pradesh. CITU held independent rallies in 5 districts.

Month long independent campaign 'Unify the Class and Strengthen the Struggle'

The meeting of the full secretariat of CITU in March 2016 decided to conduct an independent campaign to focus the 12 point charter of demands of the joint trade union movement as well as other issues before the people like agrarian crisis and rural distress, land acquisition, employment, MGNREGA, social oppression and the danger posed by the communal forces to the unity and united struggles of the working people. It was decided to conduct this campaign for one month starting from the Foundation Day of CITU on 30th May to 30th June 2016, with the slogan 'Unify the Class and Strengthen the Struggle'. The need to approach not only all our members but beyond our membership, to 'reach the unreached' was emphasised. This campaign was meant to prepare the working class for a country wide general strike against the BJP government's blatant persistence with its anti worker and anti people policies. After the date of general strike was announced in the joint national convention of trade unions on 30th March 2016, CITU centre sent a draft pamphlet on 2nd September 2016 strike to be utilised in the campaign. The draft not only explained the link between the 12 point of charter of demands and the government policies but also countered the government's false claims about addressing several demands and the arguments of the BMS that the government was 'positively responding' to the demands. It was decided to distribute this pamphlet widely among the workers along with the earlier drafts on the myth of social security schemes and reality, on scheme workers and on communal threat to unity. The importance of wide distribution of campaign material to educate workers and raise their understanding of issues was emphasised. All the state committees were requested to send detailed reports with concrete figures which would form the basis for assessing the seriousness with which we have taken up this important campaign. However, till now no concrete reports have been received from most of the state committees. From the reports that are available, it does not appear that this campaign was taken up with due seriousness by most of the state committees. Many of them told that they were engaged with the preparations for the district and state conferences. However, if the importance of the campaign was understood, both could have been carried out simultaneously.

Campaign in solidarity with the working class of West Bengal

CITU secretariat, which met on 13-14 June 2016 gave the call for campaign against the inhuman attacks on the democratic rights by the Trinamool Congress goons in West Bengal with open support from the state administration. It called all its committees to organise demonstrations against these attacks and in solidarity with the people and working class of the state with proper preparations and mobilisations. Demonstrations were held in several states including Delhi, Kerala, Tripura, Haryana, Odisha etc.

Our participation in joint national convention of trade unions

As per the decision of the national convention of central trade unions and independent federations,

joint state or regional conventions have been planned in all the states. Joint convention in Odisha was held in Bhubaneswar on 2nd July 2016. Around 500 workers and employees participated. The mobilisation by CITU and its fraternal trade union organisations was around 100. In Haryana joint regional conventions were held in 5 regions. The Assam state joint convention was held on 3rd July. 417 workers from 22 trade unions and federations of the state participated. In addition to the national calls, the convention decided to organise protest rally on 14th July demanding to save oil sector, ONGC and against privatisation of the oil sector. The national convention of public sector trade unions was held in Hyderabad on 2nd July 2016.

On EPF

The central trade unions except BMS called for joint protest demonstrations on 29th April 2016 against the decision of the Finance Ministry's unilateral decision to reduce interest rate of PF from 8.8% to 8.7%, ignoring the recommendation of the CBT of EPFO. The government was forced to restore the interest rate to 8.8%.

Reports of demonstrations have been received only from a few states. Joint demonstration was held at Jantar Mantar in Delhi and in front of the regional office of EPFO in Bhubaneswar and in Rourkela in Odisha. Demonstrations were organised at 35 places in 9 districts of Andhra Pradesh in which 3500 workers participated. This was the major issue that led to the flash strike of the garment workers in Brandix SEZ in Visakhapatnam. 64000 leaflets were distributed in Andhra Pradesh. Workers in all districts burnt effigies of the government and a dharna was held in front of the regional office of EPFO in Hyderabad. In Uttar Pradesh, joint demonstrations were held in Lucknow.

The Andhra Pradesh state committee has self critically observed that it was a lapse on their part not to conduct protest demonstrations on EPF Tax, waiting for the government to withdraw the proposal. Though they have prepared a leaflet, it was withheld after announcement in Parliament. However, another leaflet was issued on the future developments. Only 34500 copies of this leaflet were distributed.

May Day

As every year, all state committees of CITU took initiative to observe May Day. The Andhra Pradesh state committee observed May Day for one week to carry the message of May Day through various programmes. Flags were hoisted in 556 mandal centres and 96 municipal towns apart from 12 zones in Visakhapatnam city. Altogether 2674 flags were unfurled. 517 processions were held in which 65025 workers participated. Public meetings were held in 166 places. Cultural programmes, including songs, folk and tribal dance like Dhimsa, Kolattam competitions, sports competitions including cricket, kabaddi etc, were held for 1-8 days in 95 workers' colonies. State and district level workshops were held to give training in songs and street plays. A state level 3 days' training programme was held in Vijayawada and 1-3 days' workshops at district level were held in 9 districts. 145 workers participated in these workshops. 248000 leaflets of two types, one on May Day and another questioning Telugu Desam Party government's moral right to organise May Day were distributed.

Joint rallies were held in all the districts in Kerala mobilising thousands of workers. Around 10000

workers participated in Thiruvananthapuram, 6000 in Kollam town. Rallies were held in 158 centres in all the districts in the state. CITU flags were hoisted in union offices in villages and towns in Tripura. Colourful processions and public meetings were held in the evening in which thousands of people from all walks of life participated.

A massive rally was held in Srinagar. Despite the disturbing and unpredictable situation in Jammu and Kashmir, around 2000 workers, large numbers of them women, participated in the rally. Around 500 workers led by CITU courted arrest on May Day in Shimla in Himachal Pradesh in solidarity with the workers of Shong Tong hydel project who were fighting against the labour law violations by the management. Thousands of workers of JP Cement and Ambuja cement plants participated in May Day rallies in Himachal Pradesh. Rallies were also held in different districts in the state. In Kinnaur, large numbers of local villagers joined the Jindal Power company workers in the May Day meeting.

More than 50 rallies and militant demonstrations were held in 12 districts of Punjab and Chandigarh. A joint procession of central trade unions, students and women was held in Delhi which culminated in a public meeting. In addition, several processions and rallies were held in different areas of NCT Delhi including Ghaziabad, Noida, East Delhi, Sahibabad, Modinagar etc in which hundreds of construction and industrial workers participated. Delhi Public Transport Employees' Union organised a separate procession and meeting.

May Day in Madhya Pradesh was observed by hoisting flags and joint processions, dharnas, rallies and public meetings. In these gatherings, which were held in most of the cities, towns, coal mining and industrial centres in the state, workers took pledge to make the 2nd September general strike a big success. CITU independently organised a blood donation camp in Gwalior.

May Day was observed jointly in 13 districts in Uttar Pradesh. The Joint May Day Celebration Committee in Uttarakhand organised meetings and processions in Dehra Dun. A colourful joint procession and public meeting were held in Patna in Bihar. In addition to Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where a procession and public meeting was held by CITU, May Day was also observed in different places in the Islands.

Around 1500 workers and employees under the banner of Kamgar Sanghatana Samyukta Kruti Samiti, participated in a meeting in Mumbai in Maharashtra. Homage was also paid to BR Ambedkar on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary. In Rajasthan, Chittor Cement Workers' Ekta Union affiliated to CITU held a procession and public meeting where workers took the pledge for the success of the 2nd September strike. 86617 workers and other sections of the people joined May Day programmes in different parts of Telangana. CITU flags were hoisted in 2008 centres; 113 rallies were held covering 378 mandals in 9 districts 245 public meetings were held in 13 districts. 90800 leaflets and 2000 posters were printed and distributed. 7000 participated in the joint rally and public meeting in the state capital of Hyderabad. Hoisting of CITU flag, joint processions and meetings were held in Bhubaneswar, Angul, Rourkela and other places in Odisha.

CITU Foundation Day

The 47th Foundation Day of CITU was also observed in most of the states by hoisting the CITU flag and holding rallies and meetings. In Kerala the programme was held in all the district headquarters.

A meeting was held in Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. CITU Foundation Day was observed in 18 districts in Bihar. Handbills were distributed and the pamphlets on CITU's history and on 2nd September strike were published. A meeting on the occasion organised in Jaipur in Rajasthan was addressed by Prahlad Kumar Sharma, participant in the foundation conference. In Sikar, a seminar on, 'Present challenges and struggle of the working class' was organised. CITU flag was hoisted and meetings held in several district headquarters in Odisha. In Rourkela, a seminar on 'Unify the Class and Strengthen the Struggle' was held. Meetings were held in the coalfield areas, in Meerut and other places in Uttar Pradesh.

All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers

The 8th conference of AIFAWH was held in Hyderabad on 6-10 January 2016, on the basis of 2014 membership. A national seminar on 'Malnutrition, Government Policies and ICDS' was held on 6th January, on the occasion of the conclusion of the silver jubilee observation of AIFAWH. 594 delegates from 23 states attended the conference. 63 of them were helpers. Over 27% of the delegates were graduates; 68% were from socially backward castes and minorities. 42% came from agricultural worker and unorganised workers' families. This social composition of the grass root level leaders of the federation indicates the possibilities of expanding our influence to wider sections of exploited people, if we train, develop and utilise their services effectively.

A big procession and public meeting were held on 10th, the concluding day. The conference decided to intensify the struggles to save ICDS and on the demands of anganwadi employees by strengthening the joint movement, including with other trade unions working among anganwadi employees as well as the beneficiaries. It gave a call to all state committees to identify at least one project in each state where intense campaigns can be conducted covering each and every household and strengthen relations with the people. Usha Rani was elected as president, AR Sindhu as general secretary and Anju Maini as treasurer in the conference.

A massive joint dharna was held near Parliament on 15th February 2016 in which over 40000 anganwadi employees participated. AIFAWH members comprised the major contingent of the total gathering.

Effigies of the government were burnt almost all over the country on 1st March 2016 against there being no increase in the remuneration in the Union Budget this year. Dharnas/ demonstrations were held in the district headquarters in several states demanding adequate allocation for ICDS.

On the occasion of Silver Jubilee, drafts for leaflets on various issues of concern to anganwadi employees were prepared and sent to the state committees, as part of AIFAWH's efforts to raise their consciousness. However, most of the state committees did not take the task of translating and printing them in adequate numbers, seriously. Wherever it was done, there was a good impact.

All India Coal Workers' Federation

The 9th conference of All India Coal Workers' Federation (AICWF) was held in Godavarikhani area of Singareni Collieries in Telangana on 28February – 1st March 2016. 257 men and women workers representing the coal workers' unions affiliated to AICWF, from all public sector coal companies and Singareni coal mines attended the conference. A working committee of 111 members and 28

office bearers was elected in the conference. Basudeb Acharia was elected as president, DD Ramanandan as general secretary, Manas Kumar Mukherjee and GK Srivastava as assistant general secretaries and Sukhopriya Chakraborty as treasurer.

All India Road Transport Workers' Federation

All India Road Transport Workers' Federation (AIRTWF) held a dharna near Parliament on 1st March 2016 demanding withdrawal of the retrograde Road Transport Safety Bill, 2015, implementation of the VVGNI recommendations and against the government's current proposal to abolish the permit system for private bus operators. Thousands of workers, including some women workers, from all over the country participated in the dharna.

All India Plantation Workers' Federation

A meeting of the CITU general council members working in the All India Plantation Workers' Federation was held in Ranchi during the general council meeting where it was decided to organise actions in solidarity with the plantation workers in West Bengal where many workers were dying due to starvation and also collect relief fund. Accordingly, demonstrations were held in all plantation centres in Kerala and Rs 52000 were collected from the workers. Demonstrations were also held in Gudalur in Tamil Nadu

Other activities in states

1. Andhra Pradesh

The HPCL management deducted 8 days' wages of employees who participated in the general strike on 2nd September 2015. The wages were not refunded even after the intervention of the general secretary of CITU and the direction of the AP High Court to refund the money. Visakhapatnam PSU Co-Ordination Committee organised a procession and public meeting in the industrial area on 19th February 2016 against this in which over 500 PSU employees participated. A contempt petition was filed against the management.

61020 signatures were collected and dharnas were held in front of the district collectorates in 11 out of the 13 districts in the state, at the call of the All India Road Transport Workers' Federation. 112500 leaflets were distributed on the occasion. Rallies were also held in 110 mandal centers. 8 activists from 4 districts have attended to the Chalo Delhi programme.

All India Day on the demands of scheme workers was observed on 10th April as per the call of national convention of scheme workers held on 10th December 2015 in Delhi. District level conventions were held in 4 districts and a joint round table meeting of scheme workers was held in 1 district to prepare for the all India Day. The Day was observed by organising conventions in 154 mandal centres and 8 divisions in all the 13 districts in the state. 7275 scheme workers participated in these conventions. Mobilisation was less as 10th April was a Sunday. Two types of leaflets, one for the workers and the other addressing the beneficiaries were distributed. 61000 leaflets for the workers and 33000 leaflets for the beneficiaries were distributed in 4 districts.

90000 leaflets against religious fundamentalism were printed and distributed in 12 districts. 3443

workers the programmes held. The draft on communal danger sent from the all India centre of CITU was translated and 80000 copies were sold.

Trade union classes were held in 8 districts for the new contacts developed during the campaign for 2nd September 2015 strike. 995 workers attended these classes.

Only 12 protest e mails were sent from two districts to the government of India against disinvestment.

Efforts are being made to 'reach the unreached'. Our work among the workers in the unorganised sector, like autorickshaw, construction and head load workers has increased. 2nd September 2015 general strike was utilised for this endeavour. Interim review of our work was held at the district level also. Membership of the local level unions in 9 districts has increased. Senior office bearers were allotted responsibilities of the work in the industrial clusters, which was taken up as a priority. Membership in industrial clusters has increased to 56000. 52 cluster committees are functioning with 888 active cadres. Frequent review meetings of our functioning in these areas are held in 3 regional centres.

CITU state committee reacted to the incidents in HCU and JNU. 41500 leaflets containing the speech of Kanhaiah Kumar were distributed in 8 districts; statements were issued; protest demonstrations were held along with the Anti Caste Discrimination Struggle Committee on the issue of Rohit's death.

Efforts are being made to conduct study circles regularly along with the meetings of CITU committees at various levels including mandal, municipal town, cluster and city zonal committees. In 9 districts 326 study circles were held in three months; 62 were held in the municipal towns during the same period.

Militant struggles were led by the anganwadi employees' union led by CITU demanding implementation of the enhancement in remuneration announced by the state government, after big struggles. Picketing was held near the camp office of the chief minister. The government ordered termination of services of all the anganwadi employees who participated in this programme but we prevented implementation of this order through state wide protests and solidarity actions. The ruling party is making serious attempts to form its own union giving the responsibility to its leaders including MLAs and MPs but could not succeed till now. 'Chalo Vijayawada' programme was held on the issues of midday meal workers on 24th February. Dharnas were held at district collectorates on 14th March in 6 districts. A state level workshop was conducted for the activists among ASHAs in which 130 from 12 districts participated. 'Chalo Vijayawada' programme of ASHAs was held on 4th March. Despite the government's attempts to thwart the programme by arresting 2500 ASHAs, over 2500 from 13 districts reached Vijayawada. Even when police arrested hundreds of ASHAs, processions were taken from different points in the city. 20000 leaflets and 2000 posters were distributed on the occasion. 1000 community health workers participated in the dharnas at the ITDA centres demanding payment of arrears of wages, pending since the last 16 months. Protest demonstrations were held against the state government's repressive measures. 4000 ASHAs participated in the picketing of district collectorates on 18th March.

In consonance with the Solid Waste Management Rules framed by the government of India led by BJP, the state government issued order changing the workers' contract to works contract, a ploy to

privatise municipal services and hand them over to big contractors. A big campaign was conducted against this. Copies of the GO were burnt; 39000 leaflets were distributed and general body meetings of municipal workers were held all over the state in which 12000 municipal workers participated. 8600 participated in the picketing of district collectorates on 4th and 10th February. Efforts were made to develop a joint struggle by bringing together all the unions in the municipal sector and a JAC was formed. AITUC which was not willing to join the JAC initially also joined later.

The contract meter readers and bill collection agents of the electricity department held relay hunger strike at the head office of the Southern Power Distribution Corporation from 23rd to 29th February demanding PF and ESI facilities. 600 from 8 districts participated in the hunger strike on each day. The government was compelled to issue orders on PF and ESI to these workers.

The state government contract, outsourcing employees conducted struggle demanding increase in wages, regularisation and settlement of other issues. 3 regional conventions were held on 31st January and 7th February in which 930 participated altogether. 7250 signatures were collected on the memorandum submitted to chief minister. Representations were given to 35 MLAs, 11 MLCs and 7 ministers. Dharnas were conducted at the district collectorates in 7 districts. 3027 participated in the 'Chalo Vijayawada' programme held on 3rd March. 35000 leaflets and 5800 posters were issued for this campaign. A joint action committee with representatives from 12 wings of SSA was formed.

Several other sections of working class were also up in arms against the state government during this period. CITU state committee extended solidarity to their struggles. Contract lecturers organised a 'Chalo Vijayawada' in which 600 contract lecturers participated. All unions in the medical and health sector came together against the privatisation of the medical and health services. 16000 leaflets were distributed and dharnas were held in 7 districts. Around 250 workers of SA Rawther Spices in Parigi in Anantapur district have been on strike for the last eight months against the illegal termination of over 183 workers for their efforts to register a union and demanding their reinstatement. The state government totally declined to intervene in support of the workers. The state committee of CITU organised a dharna in front of the labour commissioner's office in Hyderabad in support of the workers and demanding immediate registration of the union.

Over ten thousand of garment workers in the Brandix SEZ in Atchyutapuram near Visakhapatnam, who were not members of any union, went on a flash strike against the government decision not to allow withdrawal of PF money till retirement. Though CITU had no union among them, 45000 leaflets were printed and distributed by 9 district committees, on this occasion.

A State committee was formed for European ANMS and SNCU and NHC Centre employees and dharna was held at health commissionerate opposing handing over the 104 (rural) services to a private agency. 350 employees from 10 districts participated. The government assured to continue the services of the existing employees. A state committee of national health mission employees was constituted.

Through continuous struggle, the daily wage employees in 6 universities were able to get an increase in their monthly earnings by Rs 5000, the Triple IT employees got 43% rise; the employees of NGRanga Agricultural University were assured of implementation of CCA and HRA. Our union in the state road transport had to contest in the verification elections independently as AITUC union

was not ready for a joint contest. While we got votes as per our membership, AITUC lost the recognition by a margin of 739 votes.

The 8th state level conference of the municipal workers' union was held on 3-4 January. 1000 municipal workers participated in the rally held on the occasion.

14th conference of Andhra Pradesh, the first after bifurcation of the united Andhra Pradesh was held on 26-29 June 2016, at Vijayawada on the basis of 2015 membership. There was 58% increase in the membership over the last conference. All district conferences were completed before the state conference. 10000 leaflets were distributed during the campaign for the state conference.

The state committee has been trying to expose the government's policies and create awareness among the workers by approaching the workers through leaflets on various issues. 45000 leaflets based on the letter of CITU general secretary to the labour minister on the issue of contract workers were distributed in 10 districts. 146000 leaflets were distributed on the occasion of district conferences and 161000 leaflets appealing for funds for the state conference. 6000 leaflets were issued on the issues of Lanco workers.

2. Bihar

The 47th foundation Day of CITU was observed in 18 districts in the state. Leaflets were printed in Hindi and English and the state office bearers and state union leaders were given the responsibility to monitor effective implementation of the programmes in the districts. The Bihar and Jharkhand Medical and Sales Representatives Union hoisted CITU flags in 10 districts and held meetings in the morning. In addition to the history of struggles of CITU, the importance of 2nd September 2016 strike was also emphasised in these meetings.

Bihar state committee of CITU took initiative to mobilise its members in the joint trade union convention for the success of the 2nd September 2016 strike that was held on 7th June 2016. It was decided that all state level unions affiliated to CITU would complete the meetings of their state committees by the end of June to discuss effective preparations for the mass Satyagraha on 9th August and strike on 2nd September. It was also decided that the district committees will organise 1 or 2 general body meetings as well as district level conventions and involve the fraternal trade union organisations in these meetings.

3. Chattisgarh

The 16th conference of Hindustan Steel Employees' Union (HSEU) affiliated to CITU was held in Bhilai on 16-17 April. The conference decided to increase the membership to 15000, develop struggles in solidarity with the contract workers, strengthen independent activities and struggles against the anti worker policies of the government and raise the awareness of the members. 32 office bearers and 33 working committee members were elected

4. Delhi

The employees of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) including sanitation workers, teachers, doctors, engineers etc have been on indefinite strike since 27th January demanding payment of

their pending salaries and other dues and ensuring regular and timely payment, and merger of the three municipal bodies of Delhi. CITU state committee extended full support to their struggle and demanded the government of India to immediately make arrangement for necessary funding to Delhi state government for making fund available to MCDs. A dharna was held near Ramlila ground on 9th February in support of striking employees. The Municipal Workers' Lal Jhanda Union, Delhi Jal Board Sewer Department Mazdoor Sanghatan and Delhi Jal Mal Karmachari Sangh held a meeting in CITU office and resolved to fully support the demands of the MCD employees and refused to become a tool in the hands of the Delhi government to break the strike.

The migrant construction workers employed in the construction of additional buildings for All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi are severely exploited by the construction company Ahluwalia Construction (India) Limited. The provisions of the Contract Labour Act are flouted by both the contractor and the principal employer, the AIIMS. 2 construction workers have died in the recent months at the construction site. In protest, Rajdhani Bhawan Nirman Evam Kamgar Union, affiliated to CITU staged demonstrations on different dates in front of the offices of the construction company, the Chief Labour Commission and the Union Ministry of Labour etc demanding compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the family of workers who died, Rs 2 lakh for the injured, enquiry and punishment of the guilty, safety audit, implementation of minimum wages and labour laws. The union also demanded early registration of all construction workers in the Delhi construction workers' welfare board. A high level enquiry was ordered and compensation of Rs 8.9 lakh was deposited by the company to the DLC.

The 15th state conference was held at Noida on 4-6 March 2016. A new 45 member state committee was elected with Birendra Goud as president and Anurag Saxena as the general secretary.

5. Haryana

Bhawan Nirman Kamgar Union of Haryana, affiliated to CITU held a massive rally of construction workers in Fatehabad on 6th January 2016, on the occasion of the meeting of the working committee Construction Workers' Federation of India, which was held there.

6. Himachal Pradesh

CITU state committee organised a massive protest demonstration at the Himachal Pradesh Secretariat in Shimla on 9th June 2016 in support of the workers of Shongtong hydel project in Kinnaur, who have been in continuous strike since 17th March. The CITU affiliated union is leading the strike demanding proper wages and effective implementation of labour laws. Instead of ensuring that labour laws are implemented, the Congress led state government in the state is trying to suppress the struggle through force along with the management who is using its bouncers. Workers houses have also been burnt. CITU is receiving support from the peasants and other common people in the area. AKS and other mass organisations have extended solidarity to the workers' struggle. Thousands have blocked and gheraoed the state government secretariat. The state conference will be held in Hamirpur on 13-15 August 2016.

7. Karnataka

A massive 'Vidhan Sabha Chalo' of unorganised workers was organised on 11th March in which

over 20000 workers participated. Workers of Bengaluru urban and rural districts struck work and participated in the demonstration. The labour minister assured in writing to call a meeting in the presence of the chief minister but the government failed to implement this assurance. Protesting against this callous attitude, CITU submitted memorandum to the MLAs and MLCs. Demonstrations were held in front of all tahsildar offices in the state on 18th April 2016.

As a result of the continuous struggle by the CITU on the issue of minimum wages, the state government issued the final notification for 8 industries – oil mills, ceramic, ice factory, automobile engineering, hostel, printing press, foundries and security agencies – fixing the minimum wage as Rs 10,010 for unskilled workers. The notification has been stayed by the High Court as the employers challenged it, particularly, its retrospective implementation. However, the court directed to pay 75% of the notified wages during pendency. CITU took initiative to bring the major central trade unions to challenge the stay order with the common arguments.

Due to the sustained campaign by CITU demanding PF for the unorganised workers as in West Bengal, and legislation on conferment status for the contract workers as in Tamil Nadu and Assam, the labour department has prepared comprehensive drafts on these issues and sent for the approval of the state government. The labour minister agreed to convene a tripartite meeting as Karnatak Labour Conference on the demand of the CITU and other central trade unions.

Around 10000 beedi workers participated in a procession in Mangalore on 9th February 2016 under the banner of the joint Beedi Industry and Workers' Protection Committee comprising the beedi workers' unions affiliated to CITU, AITUC, BMS, HMS and Beedi Contractors' Union. They protested against the adverse impact of the stringent provisions in Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act on employment in the beedi industry and the tobacco producers. They demanded alternative employment before enforcing the Act. A memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was submitted to the DLC.

The state committee decided to organise taluk level jathas as part of the month long campaign of CITU from 30th May up to 1st July, as this day coincides with the death anniversary of Com Suri and birth anniversary of Com Prasanna. It has planned to distribute leaflets and organise public meetings in the gram panchayats and wards and form panchayat/ ward level committees. Separate campaign material has been prepared for the workers in the organised industries and meetings were held at the district level for mobilising cadres for the campaign to carry out the slogan 'reach the unreached'. A plan for the campaign among the contract workers was also prepared that included separate handbills, consultation meetings at all levels, department wise seminars in 6 areas in the state. Many other independent activities were also held.

Lakhs of garment workers in Bengaluru went on a spontaneous strike on 18th April 2016 when they came to know about the government notification not allowing PF money till their retirement. Over a lakh of women garment workers came to the streets and blocked the roads. State government used brutal police force to suppress the struggle. CITU intervened and tried to give proper direction to the struggle. The government was compelled to withdraw the notification after two days of militant struggle. CITU leaders visited the hospitals where the injured garment workers were admitted. A CITU delegation also visited the central jail where the workers were kept and also met the home minister and demanded withdrawal of all cases against the workers. It has also decided to extend legal aid to the workers. Efforts are being made to maintain contacts with the garments workers in

Bengaluru as well as in other districts like Tumkur, Kolar, Mandya and Chikballapur. Meetings were held in Mandya and Chikballapur districts in order to organise them. Preparations are going on to print and distribute leaflets and mobilise them.

The booklet on unemployment was released and a seminar held on 1st July, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Comrade Prasanna Kumar.

The state convention of working women will be held in Mysore on 20 – 21 August. District level conventions and wherever possible state union conventions have been planned prior to the state convention of working women. A seminar on garment workers will be held on the occasion of the state convention.

The 13th state conference of CITU will be held on 17-19 September 2016 in Bagalkote. Taluk and district conferences will be completed by that time.

8. Kerala

CITU state committee planned for the election campaign in support of the LDF, as per the decision of the CITU general council meeting, well in advance. The district committees of CITU and all the state level affiliated unions also prepared detailed plans. The campaign included panchayat level conventions, distribution of lakhs of leaflets and pamphlets related to the different sectors by squads of workers etc. 7149 meetings with the families of workers were held. One day's wages were collected from the workers. Total amount of Rs 61120348 was collected as election fund. However, it was noticed that a few unions did not contribute to the election campaign and some participated only partially. CITU state committee decided to examine these aspects. The various agitations and campaigns led by CITU during the last five years helped create awareness among the workers about the policies of the Congress led UDF government. The election campaign conducted by CITU was able to mobilise support for the alternative programmes and policies put forward by the LDF, which won in the areas of plantation workers, traditional workers, fishers, unorganised workers etc. But industrial workers in Kalamassery area did not support LDF. CITU Sandesam, the monthly journal of CITU published material for the election campaign which was felt to be very useful. The state committee decided to examine the specific areas of weakness in the campaign and take the necessary corrective measures.

Joint conventions at the state, district and panchayat levels, for the success of the 2nd September 2016 strike have been planned.

CITU foundation day was observed in a befitting manner in all districts by flag hoisting, rallies at area centres and public meeting at district centres etc.

The state conference of CITU will be held at Palakkad on 29-31 October 2016. All district conferences will be completed before the state conference.

9. Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh state committee of CITU decided to complete the conferences of all affiliated unions and district committees before the state conference to be held on 25-27 September 2016.

Guidelines for holding the conferences have also been decided by the state committee. The calls given by the Ranchi general council meeting of CITU were also planned by the state committee. All the affiliated unions of CITU were directed to hold their committee meetings to concretely plan implementation of these decisions.

10. Maharashtra

The joint convention held on 24th February in Mumbai by the Trade Unions Joint Action Committee comprising AITUC, CITU, INTUC, HMS, UTUC, NTUI and national federations adopted a resolution against the labour law amendments of the state government and other demands. It gave call for a massive dharna on 10th March and rally on 20th April in Mumbai.

More than 16000 workers, mostly construction, power loom, beedi and domestic workers, affiliated to CITU participated in a state level rally on 16th March at Azad Maidan in Mumbai protesting against the deteriorating conditions of workers livelihood due to BJP's central and state governments' policies. The demands of minimum wages, implementation of labour laws and constitution of welfare boards were raised. The workers broke the police cordon and resorted to rasta rook, forcing the labour minister to invite a delegation for talks. After a detailed discussion, the minister conceded some demands like mediclaim, registration of naka workers, and measures to ensure strict implementation of minimum wages, legislation on minimum wages and weekly holidays for domestic workers etc within 15 days.

CITU extended full support for the historic kisan rally held in Nasik on 29th March 2016.

The state conference is scheduled to be held in Nanded on 25-27 September 2016.

11. Odisha

As per the direction of the meeting of CITU general council in Ranchi, Odisha state committee, in its meeting held in January 2016, decided to host the 15th conference of CITU at Puri in the state. The reception committee was formed in a well attended meeting in Bhubaneswar on 16th February. District level general body meetings were held along with well wishers and supporters in 23 districts in the state and district level preparatory committees were formed. Meetings of extended office bearers and state committee of CITU were held several times to review the progress in fund collection and implementation of other decisions. The state committee decided to collect 'fistful of rice' from all CITU members, every time the family cooks rice. This call is being met with good response almost all over the state.

4 jathas were held covering almost all the districts in the state to spread the message of the 15th conference of CITU as well as the 12 point charter of demands for the 2nd September 2016 country wide general strike. 20 seminars on different topics have been planned in different district headquarters on the occasion of the conference. Four seminars have been held in 3 places - Kendrapara, Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh.

The state committee is trying its best to mobilise all its resources for the successful holding of the conference and to make the delegates comfortable. Jharkhand state committee has assured to arrange accommodation for their delegation, by themselves. Odisha state committee thanks the

Jharkhand state committee and appeals to other state committees too, particularly in the stronger states, to extend all possible help and support in view of the limited resources available and the huge task that it has taken up for the first time in the state.

Along with the preparations for hosting the 15th conference of CITU, the state committee has tried to implement the various calls of CITU centre and has also taken up some independent programmes on the issues of workers in different sectors.

Hundreds of mine workers in Sundergarh district demonstrated before the deputy director of mines at Koira against the government's order on transport costs which impacts the jobs of thousands of mine workers in the area.

CITU state committee extended solidarity to the thousands of block grant school teachers including women who were brutally lathi charged and arrested by police on 5th February. The teachers were demonstrating demanding immediate implementation of 1994 government's promise of full grant for 68000 teachers of 2600 aided schools.

Thousands of construction workers led by the unions affiliated to CITU, AITUC, AICCTU, AIUTUC, INTUC and BMS marched in Bhubaneswar on 26th April 2016 and demonstrated in front of the labour commissioner's office protesting the political intervention in the implementation of the construction workers' welfare schemes. A 22 point charter of demands was submitted to the chairman and secretary of the welfare board.

The state conference of CITU will be held at Paradeep on 20 – 21 October 2016.

12. Punjab

Around 1000 workers of DCM participated in a rally at Asron on 24th January 2016 under the banner of CITU affiliated Lal Jhanda Asron Engineering Workers' Union protesting against victimisation, unfair labour practices and violation of labour laws.

300 members of CITU affiliated Swaraj Mazda Contract Workers' Union participated demonstrated on labour law violations by SML ISUZU management, regularisation and increase in daily wages.

CITU organised a joint convention in Ropar against the repression on the teachers and demanded immediate release of the 41 women and 7 men teachers who were arrested and beaten by the police and the reinstatement of all the teachers.

CITU Ludhiana district committee held demonstration and dharna in front of DC office at Ludhiana demanding implementation of Factories Act and other labour laws, wage increase in brick kiln industry and against police repression and withdrawal of false police cases filed against CITU leaders. Over 3500 drivers, conductors and workshop workers belonging to Punjab Roadways PUN BUS Contract Workers Union (CITU) went on 3 days strike on 17-19 May in protest against illegal contract labour system and for same wage for same and similar work. Striking workers staged militant rally and demonstration at Jalandhar compelling the administration to fix meeting with the chief minister on 26th May morning at Chandigarh in the CM house. The state conference is scheduled to be held on 14-16 October 2016.

13. Rajasthan

Construction workers participated in a procession that culminated in a public meeting, in Jaipur on 4th May 2016 under the banner of Bhawan Evam Sannirman Mazdoor Adhikar Morcha, a joint forum of construction workers' unions affiliated to CITU, AITUC, INTUC and R-CITU and some other independent state level unions. They opposed the state government's decision of on line registration for welfare schemes, condemned the large scale corruption and irregularities in registration and lack of adequate staff for effective implementation of the welfare schemes etc. The state conference of CITU will be held on 14-16 October 2016 in Jodhpur.

14. Tamil Nadu

CITU state committee contributed over Rs 50 lakhs towards relief fund for the people affected by the heavy floods in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Tuticorin etc. CITU cadres were actively involved in the relief work.

The decisions of CITU general council were reported district wise on 28-29 January. Around 3000 activists attended these meetings held in 22 districts.

The state committee organised independent campaign including 1000 street corner/ gate meetings on 11th February, Singaravelar's death anniversary as well as Salem Jail Martyrs' Day. It was decided to distribute 10 lakh leaflets highlighting the demands of different sections of workers including the unorganised workers, contract workers, scheme workers etc.

CITU led a joint trade union demonstration on the demands of local body workers, scavengers, over head tank operators, etc 1500 workers were arrested when they tried to give a memorandum to the chief minister.

A special convention of cooperative society tailoring workers was held at Chennai on 9th Jan. 100 workers took part.

Over 300 Tasmac employees held a demonstration in Chennai on 18th February demanding regularisation and other statutory benefits.

Beedi workers in Vellore district held two days strike on 17-18 February demanding withdrawal of the government of India's order on the mandatory printing of danger mark on the labels. A massive joint demonstration was held on 18th February. A memorandum on the demands of plantation workers including minimum wages, social security benefits, identity cards, safety measures, payment of wage arrears, immediate convening of the plantation labour committee etc, was presented to the labour minister.

CITU extended solidarity to the state government employees who went on an indefinite strike on 10th February by issuing posters and organising demonstrations. Our anganwadi union also joined the strike.

Unions of auto drivers, government transport and road transport workers held a joint campaign against the Road Transport Safety bill.

After prolonged negotiations CITU and other unions signed an agreement on the wages and other benefits for the 4 lakhs knitwear workers in Tiruppur. As per the agreement, workers in different categories like cutting, tailoring, ironing, packing, checking, label putting, hand folding, damage spotting and fabrication would get 18% increase in their wages in the first year, and 5% in the next three years. The higher wages, if any, would be protected. DA would be increased from Rs 860 to Rs 1500 per month, pegged at 15000 points of CPI, with 0.13 paise per point rise from 1st April 2016. The workers would get Rs 1 lakh group insurance, TA has been increased from Rs 10 to Rs 20 per day; identity cards would be provided to all workers; Rs 17000 would be paid to the dependents of a worker who dies on duty; an unmarried girl would get marriage allowance of Rs 1000 – Rs 3000 on reaching age of marriage, based on years of service. The agreement would be in force for the next four years.

CITU affiliated union in Neyveli Lignite Corporation, a leading Navaratna PSU, got the highest votes, 4828 out of the 10800, in the secret ballot conducted on 17th June 2016. CITU was supported by LLF, HMS, INTUC, DTUC, MLF, TVS and DMTU. The victory is a result of the sustained campaigns and struggles by the CITU to defend the PSU status for NLC and on the demands of the workers. Now, both CITU and LPF, which was in the second place with 2426 votes, are recognised by the management. Several CITU affiliated unions brought out posters hailing the victory.

The state conference of CITU will be held on 9-12 September in Tuticorin.

15. Telangana

CITU state committee distributed 5000 leaflets among the central government employees in support of their demands related to the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission. CITU leaders participated in the demonstrations organised by the central government employees' organisations and extended solidarity. A seminar was held in the Ordinance Factory in which 150 employees participated. CITU also held a dharna at the Heavy Water Plant on 21st January in which around 300 participated. District committees of CITU were directed to be in regular contact with the railway and other central government employees.

CITU leadership participated in the demonstrations against the suspension of five dalit students in Hyderabad University and the incidents that forced Rohit to commit suicide. CITU members participated in the effigy burning, candle light processions etc held across the state. A special issue of 'Mana Worker', the monthly journal of CITU state committee was released focussing on the issue.

CITU union of beedi workers organised a round table meeting against the illegal lock out of the beedi employers on the issue of the mandatory danger mark on the labels. Dharnas were held in 15 zones, 4 municipal towns of Nizamabad district, a beedi centre, in which around 20000 workers participated. Dharnas were held in several zones and municipal towns in Medak, Karimnagar, Adilabad and Warangal districts, all important centres of the beedi industry. 1.2 lakhs leaflets were distributed on the occasion. Thousands of beedi workers participated in all these dharnas. A leaflet was published by the CITU state committee. Chalo Hyderabad was held on 21st March against the attempts by the managements to illegally close the beedi factories. A joint convention of all trade unions in the beedi industry was held on 23rd April.

After the prolonged strike of ASHAs, classes were held for the union activists in all the districts, from 27 – 31 January 2016. 59 ASHAs participated in the classes. A general body meeting was held on 31st January in which 109 participated. The state committee was reorganised. 4 full timers were recruited to work among ASHAs in 2 districts.

3 district committees of CITU were actively involved in the elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

Dharnas were held on the issues of midday meal workers in 138 zones in 9 districts on 1st February 2016. 5000 workers participated in the dharnas held on 8th February in front of the district collectorates. Two days' strike was held on 16-17 February in 14 zones after which the state government released the pending bills.

CITU state committee decided to take up organising in the transport sector as a priority and to organise the state road transport sector and the private road transport workers as well. State level conference was organised on 14th February in Hyderabad for the success of 'Chalo Parliament'. 26000 booklets and 5000 posters were released on the Transport bill.

The government has not revised minimum wages in 52 out of the 65 scheduled industries even after 8 years and even after the unanimous recommendation of the minimum wages advisory committee. CITU state committee organised campaign in 51 industrial clusters in the state. Workshops were held in all industrial clusters to prepare the CITU committees for the state wide campaign on the issue. Surveys were held in all these clusters for 10 days in February. 1363 industries and 11658 workers were covered. 194 gate meetings and 142 residential area meetings were held. Dharnas were held in front of the DCL offices in 4 districts. Padayatras and jeep jathas were held in all the districts. 4600 workers participated in the dharna before the labour commissioner's office in Hyderabad. One day token strike was held in Medak district. 62000 workers in 774 companies out of the total 1300 in the district went on strike. 35000 leaflets in Hindi and 20000 posters were distributed. The campaign, which was also conducted in corporate hospitals, corporate educational institutions, petrol pumps, shopping malls, security guards and contract workers in the public sector undertakings, created a stir among the workers in the state.

71 transport workers from the state participated in the Chalo Parliament against the Road Safety bill. Campaign was conducted in 125 mandals. Survey was held among workers in the auto, jeep, lorry sectors. 47000 leaflets were distributed and 26000 booklets were sold in 5 districts.

20 days' campaign was held on the demand of welfare board for the headload workers. Work spot meetings, signature campaign, general body meetings were held. Conventions were held in all the districts. Dharnas were held in 139 mandals on 10th March. 2000 participated in the seizure of the labour commissioner's office on 28th March. This campaign helped in creating a momentum in this sector.

548 anganwadi employees from the state participated in the Chalo Parliament on 15th February. The response of the government was distributed among the anganwadi employees through a leaflet. CITU state committee extended whole hearted support to the state conference of AIAWU held in Karimnagar. 3000 CITU members participated in the rally.

Two all India conferences were held in the state during this period. One was of AIFAWH on 6-10 January and the other AICWF conference on 28-29 February. Despite the entire leadership of CITU in the state being in the thick of ASHA's struggle, the state committee was able to conduct the AIFAWH conference successfully. During conference preparation our activists sold 50,000 new year greetings & thousands of pamphlets were distributed. A seminar was held on the eve of the conference on 6th January, the foundation day of AIFAWH. This conference helped to rejuvenate the organisation after wage hike in Telangana, which created illusions among anganwadi employees towards the TRS government.

The all India conference of the Coal Workers' Federation was held in Godavarikhani in Singareni on 28-29 February 2016. Campaign was held in the 4 colliery districts. Seminars on 'Development of Singareni area and employment opportunities' were held in two places. 50000 leaflets, 40000 greeting cards and 4000 posters were published on the occasion. Wall writing was done in the entire area. A bus jatha was held from 23rd February. A well attended public meeting was held on the occasion.

CITU state committee held a round table conference of all trade unions, middle class organisations and mass organisations to discuss the serious problem of drought in the state and the ways to help the farmers in distress. Dharnas were held in front of the district collectorate demanding relief measures on 6th April. Rs 6 lakhs were collected and gruel and fodder centres were opened by the CITU. Different unions were given the responsibility of running different gruel centres in Medak district. This was widely appreciated by the people.

Study circles were held in 17 industrial clusters, 80 mandal centres and 20 towns on the issues of central and state budgets. Booklets on the Road Safety bill, communalism were published.

Dharnas were held in front of the PF offices in 21 districts on 29th April against the reduction in interest on PF. Around 600 workers participated in these dharnas.

Telangana state conference of CITU will be held on 14-16 October 2016.

16. Uttarakhand

CITU organised protest demonstrations in different districts against the anti worker labour law amendments and the inaction of the labour department. Dharnas were held in Hardwar and Dehra Dun. The agitated workers locked the office of the deputy labour commissioner in Dehra Dun when nobody came to receive their memorandum. The issues of rampant contractorisation in government departments, of the tea garden workers, of the textile workers and different sections of workers were raised in the memorandum. It was decided to organise a demonstration in front of the chief minister's residence if the government did not respond to the issues and demands raised in the memorandum.

17. West Bengal

The midday meal workers' union was formed in South 24 Paragana district. Large numbers of midday meal workers gathered at the small ground near the Basanti block on 23rd December 2015 to submit their 10 point charter of demands. Many of them lost their jobs and were not getting wages since the TMC government came to power. The workers marched from the ground to the

BDO's office but the police blocked the road. The district secretary was assaulted and arrested for protesting against this which angered the women workers who gheraoed the police van and forced the police to release him. Ultimately the BDO assured to pay the pending wages and reinstate the workers terminated from service. This struggle inspired and created confidence among not only the midday meal workers but among all the unorganised workers in the district.

The CITU played active role in the Singur to Salboni padayatra organised by the Bengal Platform of Mass Organisation (BPMO) on 16-22 January 2016 demanding industries and jobs. The padayatra covered many places where the TMC goons and police terrorised people by killing, maiming and filing false cases against them. Thousands of people greeted the padayatra. Simultaneous local padayatras were also organised on local demands and issues.

The demand of measures to prevent the starvation deaths of tea garden workers in West Bengal was raised by the CITU affiliated union independently as well as through the Joint Forum of Trade Unions of Tea Industry in the state, comprising all 24 tea workers' unions. Hundreds of tea workers have been dying due to starvations due to lack of work, non payment of wages, lack of food supply and medicines. The BPMO and the left parties also supported their struggle. 1 hour protest stay ins, road block, public meetings, human chains, burning of effigies at 72 places were held. As a result, the union ministry of commerce and industry issued a notification on 28th January 2016 for takeover of the 7 tea gardens illegally abandoned by the Goenka's Duncan Brothers by the Tea Board. The unions have demanded takeover of all the closed and abandoned gardens, majority belonging to Goenka and the Trinamool Congress MP KD Singh's Alchemist Group. Duncan Industries obtained an interim stay order from the Kolkata High Court against the takeover but as the company failed to deposit the pending wages of the workers in the bank account within the stipulated time as was directed the High Court, the High Court withdrew the stay order. In its final order the High Court dismissed the plea of the management and imposed Rs 5 lakh as penalty. The company has filed a review petition.

CITU has also collected monetary relief for the tea garden workers and extended medical relief through the People's Relief Committee.

The Alloyed Steel Plant Unit of CITU affiliated Hindustan Steel Employees' Union and the ASP contractor employees' union jointly held demonstrations and public meeting on 23rd February 2016 demanding SAIL's investment for the revival of the ASP unit. The workers of the Durgapur Steel Plant and the former workers of ASP also joined the demonstrations. The management's decision of partial merger of ASP and DSP was rejected by the workers. The unions demanded immediate implementation of the CET proposal for the revival of ASP and decided to continue the struggle till this demand is met.

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) Working Committee Meeting 14 - 16 July 2016, Nasik, Maharashtra

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

Com. S. Prasanna Kumar

Comrade S. Prasanna Kumar, one of the national secretaries of CITU, General Secretary of CITU Karnataka State Committee, leader of several trade union in major industries in Karnataka, passed away due to a massive heart attack on 23 December, 2015. He was 50 years old.

Com. Prasanna Kumar was CPI(M) Karnataka State Secretariat Member. He joined the left movement as an activist of Students Federation of India in Bellary, Karnataka. Later he became an important leader of the trade union movement in Bellary.

In Com. Prasanna Kumar's death, the CITU and the working class have lost a valiant fighter for our cause.

The CITU Working Committee meeting being held on 14-16 July 2016 at Nasik pays its homage to his memory.

Com. Mohammed Nizamuddin

Com. Md. Nizamuddin, veteran trade union leader of West Bengal, General Secretary of All India Beedi Workers Federation and a member of the CITU Working Committee passed away in Kolkata on 21st June, 2016. He was 83.

Com. Nizamuddin, in his long and active trade union and political life, played an important role in organizing bidi and other unorganised workers and led several struggles. He was also a four time MLA.

In his death CITU and the working class have lost a leader who worked steadfastly for their cause.

The CITU working committee pays its respectful homage to our departed leader Com. Nizamuddin.

Com. Chandi Prasad

Com. Chandi Prasad, the veteran leader of the working class, former National Vice President of CITU and former member of the Bihar State Secretariat of CPI(M), passed away on 7th January, 2016, at the age of 88.

Com. Chandi Prasad joined the trade union movement in his early youth and played a leading role as the Bihar State General Secretary and President for over three decades. He was twice elected as MLC of CPI(M) in Bihar. In his death, the CITU and working class have lost a dedicated leader.

The CITU working committee pays respectful homage to the memory of Com. Chandi Prasad.

Com. A. B. Bardhan

The CITU working committee deeply mourns the passing away of Com. A. B. Bardhan, veteran leader of the working class movement and a stalwart of the Communist Movement in India, on 2 January 2016. He was 92.

As General Secretary of AITUC, he contributed immensely in developing the united movement of the working class against exploitation and in defence of their rights. He was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in 1957.

Com. Bardhan was the General Secretary of the CPI from 2006 to 2012 and played a crucial role in developing the united left movement.

He was a widely respected leader. His demise has caused an irreparable loss to the working class movement and the Communist movement in India.

The CITU working committee pays homage to the memory of Com. Bardhan.

Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali, the legend of World Boxing, a bold and firm advocate and an inspiring symbol of the civil rights movement in North America, passed away on 3rd June, 2016. He was 74.

He won a gold medal in the Rome Olympics in 1960. Later he turned professional and won world boxing titles. Besides being a sports prodigy, he distinguished himself as a person who took a firm position against the injustices of his times and demonstrated remarkable courage in responding to them. He led on unequivocal struggle in the public sphere for social justice and a peaceful world free from war, oppression and racial discrimination.

His public stance against the US involvement in Vietnam created an uproar across the world. During the Vietnam war he refused compulsory military induction stating that he had no dispute with the freedom fighters of Vietnam.

The CITU working committee pays its homage to the laureate of boxing-Muhammad Ali.

Comrade **Shailo Bhattacharya**, National Vice President of All India Defence Employees Federation (AIDEF), passed away on 3rd February 2016 after a massive heart attack. He was 78.

He played an important role in organizing the defence civilian workers.

The CITU working committee pays homage to the memory of Com. Shailo Bhattacharya.

CITU Working Committee pays homage to Comrade **K Anirudhan**, Ex. M.P., former Working Committee member of CITu who passed away in 23 May 2016.

Comrade **Kanti Biswas**, former Education Minister of West Bengal and a leader of CPI(M) passed away on 27 April 2016. CITU Working Committee pays homage to the departed leader.

Many leaders of the democratic movement and great personalities in the cultural field had passed away during this period, the Working Committee pays homage to all these stalwarts.

The CITU Working Committee pays its homage to the workers who have lost their lives in accidents at the workplace, in our country and other parts of the world.

The CITU working committee condoles the demise of all those who have lost their lives in natural calamities, communal violence and terrorist attacks.

On Homage to Martyrs

The CITU Working Committee being held on 14-16 July 2016 at Nasik pays homage to the comrades of West Bengal who have lost their lives in facing brutal attacks by the Trinamool goons.

The Working committee pays homage to the martyrs in Kerala braved the attack of RSS hooligans.

The Working Committee also pays homage to the comrades who fell to murderous attacks in other parts of the country, while defending the interests of the working class.

The Working Committee pays homage to all those who laid down their lives for the betterment of downtrodden people and in the fight against imperialism.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 31st MARCH 2015
AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the Balance Sheet of Centre of Indian Trade Unions as at 31 st March, 2015 and the Income & Expenditure account and Receipt and Payment account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations and in our opinion, proper books of account have been maintained by the above named institution so far as appears from our examination of the books subject to the notes on accounts.

In our opinion and to the best of our knowledge, and according to information given to us, the said accounts read with the Notes on Accounts give a true and fair view:-

1. In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named institution as at 31.03.2015 and
2. In the case of the income and expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ending 31-03-2015

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 2015

LIABILITIES	RUPEES	RUPEES	ASSETS	RUPEES	RUPEES
GENERAL FUND			FIXED ASSETS		2,432,866
Opening Balance	34,812,057		(As per Schedule attached)		
Add: Excess of Income	5,096,358	39908415			
Expenditure Account			INVESTMENTS		
			Fixed Deposits with Banks		50,130,028
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS			CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES		
a) Current Liabilities			a) Current Assets		
Audit Fee Payable	83,755		Balance with Banks	7,539,882	
SPECIAL FUND			Cash in hand	4,377	
Tsunami Victim Relief Fund	3,984,812		Bank Guarantee	12,114	7,556,373
Com.P.R.Fund	19,668,057		b) Loans & advances		6,299,289
ASHA Workers Fund	91,118		(Advances recoverable in cash or kind for which value to be received.)		
Mid Day Meal Fund	70,794				
Bihar Flood Relief Fund	66,550				
Staff Payable Welfare Fund	58,500				
Int.Coal Mines Workers Fund	618,954				
Odisha Flood Relief Fund	56,800				
Uttarakhand Flood Relief fund	1,526,358				
J & K Flood Relief Fund	284,443	26,510,141			
		66,418,556			66,418,556

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/- (PRESIDENT) Sd/- (SECRETARY) Sd/- (TREASURER)

Sd/-
(B. M. SHARMA)
Partner

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 9/24/2015

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2015

EXPENDITURE	RUPEES	RUPEES	INCOME	RUPEES	RUPEES
Communication Exp.		123,321	Sale of Magazines		852,883
Magazine Expenses		985,212	Publication A/c		105,591
Meeting, Rally, & Seminar Expenses		625,625	Affiliation Fee		5,782,806
Misc. Exp.		36,132	Bank Interest		146,978
Travelling & Conveyance Exp.		319,420	Misc. Receipts		87,705
Vehicle Expenses		144,430	Interest on FDR		4,671,880
Bank Charges		30,104	Gzb. Flats Developments		5,477,047
Building Maintenance		964,741			
Electricity & Water Expenses		328,630			
Com.P. Rammurty T.U. School Exp.		2,609,447			
Kamkaji Mahila Binding Exp.		1,500			
Kamkaji Mahila Paper Exp.		26,805			
Kamkaji Mahila Postage Exp.		10,478			
Kamkaji Mahila Printing Exp.		43,608			
Medical Expenses		457,400			
NP, Period & Books Exp.		242,490			
Office Upkeep Expenses		20,871			
Publication Expenses		12,710			
Relief & Subsidy		995,248			
Rent, Rate & Tax		3,488			
Repair & Maintenance-Elec.		12,267			
Service & Maintenance		73,692			
Staff Welfare Fund		25,500			
Stationery & Printing		139,293			
WFTU Affiliation Fees		140,011			
Depreciation		147,320			
Tea & Tiffin Exp.		54,006			
Transport Seminar A/c		10,000			
TDS		1,685			
Wages & Allowances		2,079,300			
Ground Rent		54,798			
Donation		1,309,000			
Excess of Income over Expenditure tfd. to Balance Sheet		5,096,358			
		17,124,890			17,124,890

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/-

(PRESIDENT)

Sd/-

(SECRETARY)

Sd/-

(TREASURER)

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 9/24/2015

Sd/-

(B. M. SHARMA)

Partner

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2015

RECEIPTS	RUPEES	RUPEES	PAYMENTS	RUPEES	RUPEES
OPENING BALANCE			Communication Exp.		123,321
Cash in hand	41,341		Magazine Exp.		985,212
Cash at Banks	7,654,301	7,695,642	Meeting, Rally & Seminar Exp.		625,625
Sale of Magazines		852,883	Misc. Exp.		36,132
Publication A/c		105,591	Travelling & Conveyance Exp.		319,420
Affiliation Fee		5,782,806	Vehicles Exp.		144,430
Bank Interest		146,978	Loans & Advances		62,556
Loan		284,445	Bank Charges		30,104
Miscellaneous Receipts		87,705	Building Repair & Maintenance		964,741
Interest on FDR		4,671,880	Electricity & Water Exp.		328,630
Com.P.R.Fund		91,379	Com.P.Rammurty T.U.School Exp.		2,609,447
ASHA Workers Fund		45,418	Kamkaji Mahila Expenses		82,391
Staff Welfare Fund		20,000	Medical Expenses		457,400
Gzb.Flats Developments Fund		5,477,047	NP, Period. & Books Exp.		242,490
Mid Day Meal Workers Fund		23,030	Office Upkeep Expenses		20,871
			Publication Expenses		12,710
			Relief & Subsidy		995,248
			Rent, Rate & Tax		3,488
			Repair & Maintenance-Electrical		12,267
			Service & Maintenance		73,692
			Staff Welfare Fund		25,500
			Stationery & Printing		139,293
			WFTU Affiliation Fees		140,011
			Tea & Tiffin		54,006
			Wages & Allowances		2,079,300
			Fixed Assets		304,231
			Investment		5,492,546
			Transport Seminar Expenses		10,000
			TDS		1,685
			Ground Rent		54,798
			Donation		1,309,000
			CLOSING BALANCE		
			Cash in hand	4,377.00	
			Cash at Banks	7,539,882.00	7,544,259
		25,284,804			25,284,804

Note : Figures have been rounded off to the nearest of rupee.

For CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

AUDITORS' REPORT

As per our report of even date attached.

For B.M. SHARMA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sd/-

(PRESIDENT

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 9/24/2015

Sd/-

(SECRETARY)

Sd/-

(TREASURER)

(B. M. SHARMA)

Partner