



Communist Party of Sri Lanka
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Marking the 200th Birth anniversary of Karl Marx

The Education Department of CPSL plans to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Karl Marx with a series of events.

Scientific seminar

The first among them was the scientific seminar which was held in Colombo targeting leading cadres of CPSL on 17th March 2018.



Summary of the seminar

The presentations at the seminar was based on following topics;

1. Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto and Das Capital
2. Karl Marx and National Question
3. Karl Marx on crisis of Capitalism

Deliberations on above topics were made by 8 comrades, and followed by a discussion among participants of the seminar.

Commemoration Volume

A volume of articles is being prepared for publication as one of the events to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Karl Marx. The volume will be contributed by leading members of CPSL as well as by other selected intellectuals of the country.

Continuation of activities up-to May

There are series of events which have been lined-up towards 05th May to mark this anniversary. Holding seminars and meetings at different locations are some of them.

Translation of Das- Capital to Sinhala

However, one of the most prominent among them would be the launch of the translation of the Third Volume of Das-Capital to Sinhala language.

Local Government elections

Elections to the 339 local Government Councils were held on 10th February 2018. This was an election delayed almost two years due to introduction of a new electoral system (60 % members be elected on the first past the post and 40 % on the proportional representation basis) and some technical issues. It was made compulsory to have a 25% women representation in councils. The preferential voting method was abolished. Old system had provisions to grant bonus seats to the winning party which was abolished too by the new system.

CPSL candidates contested for selected councils under its own symbol while in other councils it contested with alliances as per the circumstances existed. CPSL fielded 346 candidates to 64 Local Government bodies and won 60 members in 31 councils.

Majority of Councils won by newly formed alliance of opposition parties (Sri Lanka Peoples Front). Other Left political parties also contested on their own and gained considerable achievements

Recent communal clashes in Ampara and Teldeniya

A summary report of what happen

Recently, communal conflicts erupted in the Eastern and Central Provinces of Sri Lanka.

In taking measures to control the situation, Police curfew was declared in some Districts and Emergency was declared for the entire country.

President Maithripala Sirisena called for calm and demanded an independent police inquiry into the violence. President Sirisena also urged law enforcement authorities to ensure the safety and security of residents in the area.

Comrade DEW Gunsekara, General Secretary of CPSL



General Secretary of CPSL called a press conference immediately and condemned racial violence on minority community and urged people to be calm and restrain from involving riots against religious and ethnic minorities. And also appealed the government to take necessary action to safeguard people and property from vandalism. CPSL also urged the government to arrest the people involving violence and take legal actions against them without considering their political or other positions or affiliations.

Ceylon Bank Employee Union (CBEU) Stands Against the Privatization Moves of State Owned Banks of Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan Banking and Finance sector has significant government presence through licensed commercial, development and specialized banks. State Budget proposals 2018 included a proposal to list 10% stake of the state banks in the Colombo Stock Exchange.

Some of these institutions are fully owned by the government and at others, the controlling stake is owned by the State. The other parties to ownership have been selected as a strategic partner and non-of them are listed in the stock exchange at present.

The original purposes of establishing these banks had been to finance identified sectors of the overall economy which the private sector often neglected due to the risks involved and/or low profitability. Today, owing to the volatility of the economy, there had been some deviations from their original cause of establishment, yet still continues to focus on activities which are of national interest. While catering to their purpose, these institutions operate as profitable ventures adding value to Treasury.

Since the opening of the economy in 1977, one of the country's "major achievements" is the significant rise in Government Debt. The debt of LKR 20 billion of 1976 has surpassed LKR 10 trillion by end of 2017. The end use of such borrowed funds by the State has been often criticized openly. Often, showing the failures of valuable State Organizations, Government try to convince people to sell them out to raise funds to pay back the debt. However, Banks are not loss making ventures because of the presence and contributions of a strong politically independent Trade Union, CBEU.

This is the shortest explanation for moves behind privatization proposals of State Banks. Therefore, CBEU in the firm position that it is a duty to defeat the adverse budget proposal outright.

The demonstrations and rallies protesting the government move were held in many parts of the country and below are pictures of a protest rally held in Colombo;



CPSL position on CBEU struggle against privatization of banking sector

CPSL strongly protests against government decision to list 10% stake of the state banks in the Colombo Stock Exchange. The CPSL considers this move as the first step in the direction of privatization of state banks. The economic policies of Sri Lanka Government guided by IMF and World Bank envisage to privatize Banks and other strategic areas of the economy of the country. If the State Banks are privatized, small and medium scale business sector will be ruined. This will create an enormous problem for the rural population and will have a negative effect to the agriculture.

Employees of these banks will be deprived of number of benefits they enjoy which they achieved through struggles. Their jobs are at stake as there is no guarantee of job security once the banks are privatized.

CPSL is fully supportive to the Bank Employees struggle to protect banks from privatization move.

Felicitations Message to Nepal

Comrade Dew Gunasekera, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka sent following Felicitations Message to Comrade K. P. Sharma Oli on his appointment as the Prime Minister of Nepal.

The great victory is a determined decision of the Nepal People against Imperialism, Neo-liberalism, separatism, religious fundamentalism and for unity, peace, and development. This was a direct result of the people's hopes and wishes for the unity the left forces.

The Communist of Sri Lanka appreciates very much the great leadership of the Nepal Communists who leads to the establish peace, unity and reconciliation through adopting a new constitution which paved the way to end the communal, racist, religious fundamentalism and separatist war.

Felicitations message also sent to Nepal Communist Party (Maoist).

Felicitations messages to Indian Communist Parties

The XXII and 23rd National Congresses of CPI(M) and CPI were held recently in India. The important events of fraternal parties were felicitated by the Central Committee of CPSL.