Hartal (Strike Stay away)
Gherao (Occupation)
Bandh (General Strike Stay away)
Dharna (fast occupation)
Raasta roko (Blokade)

11. Jharkhand start 20 Aug

Jharkhand Assembly polls: 26.5% turnout till 11 a.m. amid sporadic incidents. 13 constituencies, spread over the six Maoist-affected districts of Palamu, Gumla, Lohardaga, Chatra, Garhwa and Latehar, go to polls in the first phase
25 November 2014

Sporadic incidents were reported in the ongoing first phase of the staggered five-stage Assembly elections in 13 constituencies in Maoist-hit areas of Jharkhand on Tuesday where 26.5 percent votes were cast in the first four hours of polling.
Chief Electoral Officer P.K. Jajoria said barring reports of a couple of sporadic incidents, voting was “progressing peacefully with an impressive turnout of voters”.

A landmine was detected at Hariharganj under Hussainabad Assembly constituency in Palamau district and was defused, he said.

A couple of “fake explosives” were also recovered and there was no cause for worry, he said.

Para-military forces were manning the areas, he said.

Mr. Jajoria said he expected better polling percentage this time than the previous elections.

Voting was picking up in the rural areas, he said.

Braving the chill, women in large numbers had lined up in front of the polling booths even before polling began at 7 a.m. Voting will end at 3 p.m.

All the 13 seats are spread over the six Maoist-affected districts of Palamu, Gumla, Lohardaga, Chatra, Garhwa and Latehar.

Ten sitting MLAs, including one Minister, and several former Ministers are among 199 candidates trying their luck on Tuesday.

The Assembly seats going to polls include Chatra (SC), Gumla (ST), Lohardaga (ST), Manika (ST), Latehar (SC), Panki and Daltonganj, Bishrampur, Chhatarpur (SC), Hussainabad, Garhwa and Bhawanathpur.

A total of of 33,61,938, including 15,77,090 women voters, are eligible to exercise their franchise in the first phase to choose among the candidates, including 18 women and 72 independents.

This is the third Assembly election in Jharkhand which was carved out of Bihar in 2000.

Keywords: Jharkhand Assembly elections


Jharkhand Assembly polls: Alert against Maoist threat
Patna, November 25, 2014

Amid tight security, the first phase of polls in the tribal dominated Jharkhand State will be held on Tuesday in 13 constituencies. Altogether, 199 candidates are in the fray and 35,425 security personnel have been deployed at 3,900 polling booths in the constituencies.

The constituencies going to the polls are Garhwa, Bhavnathpur, Daltonganj, Chatra, Latehar, Gumla, Lohardaga, Manika, Bishunpur, Panki, Bishrampur, Chhatarpur and Hussainabad. Polling will begin at 7 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. for security reasons.

In the first phase of polling, the BJP has fielded 12 candidates leaving one seat of Lohardaga to its alliance partner AJSU. The RJD is contesting seven seats in alliance with the JD (U) and the Congress. The ruling party JMM is contesting 12 seats while the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) has fielded candidates for 11 seats. The JVM is supporting Trinamool Congress candidates in Gumla and Manika.

Following intelligence inputs, security agencies were put on high alert to thwart any attack by Maoists to derail the polls.
Maoists have called for a boycott on the polls in Jharkhand.

Keywords: Jharkhand Assembly polls, Maoists


29 cases against parties for code violation before Jharkhand polls

Ranchi, November 9, 2014

A total of 29 FIRs have been filed against different parties in connection for violation of Election Model Code of Conduct ahead of the five-phase Assembly elections in Jharkhand.

BJP accounted for eight FIRs followed by Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (6), Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (5), All Jharkhand Students Union (4), Rashtriya Janata Dal (2), Congress (2), Communist Party of India–Marxist (2), Samajwadi Party (1) and an unidentified case, an Election Commission release here on Saturday.


Farmers demand ‘seed sovereignty’

The government should ensure ‘seed sovereignty’ for farmers, demanded peasant leaders from different parts of the country here on Sunday.

“Seed sovereignty is not a baseless ideological position, but a pragmatic approach. It is an integral part of food security and sovereignty of a community or a nation. Seed being handed over to multinational corporations, many of them notorious for their monopolistic tendencies and operations, is disastrous for the livelihood of millions,” said Saroj, a leader of Paschim Odisha Krushak Sangathan.

About 400 farmers from Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Jharkhand and Karnataka under the banner of Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) and Desi Bihana Surakhya Manch, Odisha assembled here to chalk out a strategy to put up united front for securing preservation of traditional seed varieties in the country.

“Government should encourage, and invest in farmer-level seed production of locally suitable, diverse seeds. Community seed banks should be set up with schematic government investment,” he said.

Farmers demanded that governments should assess and distribute promising traditional seed varieties through the department’s regular programmes while agricultural research and extension programme should focus on farmer-led participatory varietal selection and breeding programmes.

“Seed breeding should be in organic conditions so that seed does not become a package that brings in other unwanted inputs like chemicals. Private (commercial seed) sector should work in a statutory regime that allows the government to regulate not just the quality but price at which seed is sold, in addition to laying down a strict accountability regime that includes penalties, compensation and remediation where required,” they demanded.
Bihar

September 22, 2014

Twenty-eight passenger trains have been cancelled for a week in Bihar and Jharkhand in view of a Maoist threat, an official said.

According to police officials, Maoists have announced they would celebrate their foundation day sometime between Sep 21-30.

CRPF jawan killed in encounter with Maoists: A Deputy Commandant was also injured in the encounter at Chiklam village in Jharkhand’s Naxal-hit Ghatsila sub-division on Wednesday.

Jamshedpur/Jhargram, September 17, 2014

A CRPF jawan of the specialised COBRA unit was killed and a Deputy Commandant injured in a fierce encounter with Maoists at Chiklam village in Jharkhand’s Naxal—hit Ghatsila sub—division on Wednesday.

DIG (Kolhan Range, Jharkhand) Md Nehal said police had received information that a huge Maoist squad had entered the village from the dense Dalma forest last night.

CRPF forces and District Armed Police (DAP) from Jharkhand together with a Cobra unit, CRPF 69 battalion personnel, CISF and police officials from Jhargram in West Bengal launched a joint operation cordoning off the village since early morning, DIG (Kolhan Range) and Sub—divisional Police Officer, Jhargram, Vivek Varma said.

The encounter began at 5 AM and continued till 8 AM with almost 200 rounds fired by the security forces. Intermittent exchange of fire between the Maoists and the police continued even afterwards, the SDPO said.

Varma said security forces had cordoned off the area but had not yet commenced flushing out operations as the rebels were still holed up in the village.

Senior Superintendent of Police East Singhbhum, Amol V Homkar said the Deputy Commandant (Cobra battalion) Alok Kumar was injured in the Maoist firing and airlifted to a hospital in Ranchi.

Casualty on the Maoist side was not immediately known, the official said.

Keywords: Jharkhand encounter, Maoists encounter, CRPF jawan, COBRA unit

Maoists blow up tracks, goods train derails in Jharkhand

Latehar (Jharkhand), September 8, 2014

A goods train derailed after Maoists blew up a stretch of railway tracks between Latehar and Bendi railway stations in Latehar district on Monday.
The rebels damaged the tracks at around 2 am, causing the derailment of the coal-laden goods wagon, the police said.

Keywords: train derailment, goods train derailment, Jharkhand maoists, Latehar station, Bendi railway station


**Modi responsible for hooting’**

Ranchi, August 22, 2014

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to his supporters as the Chief Minister, Hemant Soren, looks on, in Ranchi on Thursday. Photo: Manob Chowdhury

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Thursday demanded a public apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for hooting “by BJP workers” during Chief Minister and party leader Hemant Soren’s speech. It threatened that the party would protest during visit by any Central Minister to the State.

“The JMM demands from the Prime Minister to give up the desire to abrogate federal system for being individual-centric and render a public apology,” a JMM release said here.

“Otherwise, the JMM activists will protest visits of Central Ministers to Jharkhand in a democratic manner,” it added.

The party accused BJP activists of destroying Jharkhand’s culture and tradition when they hooted during Mr. Soren’s speech when the Prime Minister, Governor Syed Ahmed and other dignitaries were on stage during the unveiling of developmental projects.

Holding Mr. Modi responsible for the BJP’s “indisciplined activists” in the presence of its senior leaders, the JMM said it reminded the destruction of the structure in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

The Chief Minister was hooted at the function held at Prabhat Tara Ground at Dhurwa area here. – PTI

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/modi-responsible-for-hooting/article6340094.ece

**Hortal (Strike Stay away)**
**Gherao (Occupation)**
**Bandh (General Strike Stay away)**
**Dharna (fast occupation)**
**Raasta roko (Blockade)**

12. Karnataka
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka
CITU condemns attacks on activists

RAICHUR, August 8, 2014

CITU activists burning an effigy of the West Bengal government outside the office of Deputy Commissioner in Raichur on Thursday.— PHOTO: SANTOSH SAGAR

Activists associated with Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) staged a demonstration outside the office of Deputy Commissioner here on Thursday protesting against the alleged attacks on activists of left parties in West Bengal by the ruling Trinamool Congress. They burnt an effigy of the West Bengal government to register their protest.

“The Trinamool Congress party in West Bengal has unleashed its violent attacks on the supporters of left parties after it assumed power in the State. The attacks are carried out and justified in the name of protecting democracy and women’s rights,” H. Padma, a CITU leader alleged.

She said that the Trinamool Congress was ruthlessly suppressing the workers’ movement.

“The labour unrest has been crushed with an iron hand in West Bengal under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. No action has been taken against those who attacked and ransacked trade union offices,” she said.

Sheksha Khadri, trade union leader, called upon the people of the country to protest against the “brutalities” in West Bengal.
Activists protest against increasing incidents of rape in country 7 June 2014

VENTING THEIR IRE: Social activists staging a protest in Mysore on Friday.— PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM

Activists staged a demonstration in the city on Friday to condemn the growing atrocities against women in the country.

The trigger was the recent rape and hanging of two girls in Uttar Pradesh, which has evoked outrage and condemnation.

The activists, who demanded stringent punishment for the accused, said it was imperative to establish fast-track courts to try such cases. Pointing out that most studies indicated that incidents of rape were high due to lack of adequate toilets, the activists demanded construction of toilets in rural areas. They said even after 65 years of Independence, more than 50 per cent of the country’s population did not have access to toilets, which posed a danger to women’s health.

The protesters also flayed former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav for his alleged “boys will be boys” comment and said it amounted to condoning rapes.

The demonstration was backed by PUCL, Samata Vedike, Samata Adhyayana Kendra, Shaktidhama and Karnataka Backward Classes Awareness Forum.

CPI(M) activists protest against gas price hike, deregulation of diesel prices 21 October 2014

The activists of Communist Party of India (Marxist) staged a protest demonstration in front of BSNL office here on Tuesday opposing gas price hike and deregulation of diesel prices.

Addressing the agitators, district secretary of CPIM, Syed Mujeeb alleged that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi was just waiting for the elections in Maharashtra and Haryana to end to bring good days (acche din) for the corporate companies by increasing the natural gas prices and deregulating the diesel prices.

He alleged that the gas price hike results in the hike in the prices of fertilizers and electricity.

He said that by increasing the price, Modi is helping the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Reliance India Limited companies to make profit. He said Union government had taken a decision recently to sell 5 per cent of ONGC shares. He alleged that by increasing the gas price, the share price of ONGC will also increase.
He criticised that the Modi government is anti-poor and helping the corporate companies to make profit.

Leaders of CPI(M), N. K. Subramanya, B. Umesh, Sridhar, Ramachandra, Puttegowda and others were present.


Farmers protest against eviction notice in Sakleshpur town 1 October 2014

Farmers staging a protest in Sakleshpur town on Tuesday.— Photo: Prakash Hassan

Hundreds of farmers took out a protest rally in Sakleshpur town on Tuesday against the State government’s move to evict farmers engaged in cultivation of revenue land.

People’s representatives, including the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, took part in the programme. The movement of vehicles on Bangalore-Mangalore road was affected for four hours owing to the protest rally.

The Planters’ Association and the Karnataka Growers’ Federation had given a bandh call in view of the protest. Shops, hotels and other business establishments, except medical shops, remained closed.

Following the High Court of Karnataka’s direction, the Revenue Department officers had begun issuing notices to farmers cultivating revenue land. This had angered the farming community.

H.R. Lakshmana Gowda, leader of the Planters’ Association, said the farming community had been disturbed by many factors, including Balasubramanyam panel report on encroachment of revenue land in the State. “The Madhav Gadgil report, Kasturirangan report and the tiger project have worried us. If this continues, those living near the Western Ghats may have to demand for a separate State,” he said.

Taking exception to terming farmers as land grabbers, Mr. Lakshmana said, “We are not land grabbers, we are cultivators of the land. We have been cultivating revenue lands for many years. Similarly, farmers in neighbouring States such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh are also cultivating revenue lands. But, they have not been asked to vacate. Why are we being penalised?” he asked. Legislators A. Manju, H.K.umaraswamy, Motamma, Rudresh Gowda, former MLA H.M. Vishwanath, and former MP Tejasvini Ramesh took part in the rally.

Mr. Deve Gowda said farmers could get their demands fulfilled only if they fought together. Mr. Manju suggested that farmers consider this situation as an opportunity to resolve the issue of cultivating land without supporting records.


Trade bodies call for bandh today: To express dismay over conviction of Jayalalithaa

MADURAI, 30 September 2014
The Madurai District Tiny and Small Scale Industries Association, the Tamil Nadu Foodgrains Merchants Association and 36 other small bodies in the district have called for a dawn-to-dusk bandh on Tuesday (September 30) to express their dismay over the arrest and conviction of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa by a special court in Bangalore in a corruption case.

After a meeting of trade outfit representatives here on Monday, MADITSSIA president V.S. Manimaran said that Ms. Jayalalithaa had taken a number of steps since she assumed office in 2011, due to which the industry experienced uninterrupted power last year.

Similarly, the efforts to introduce multinational corporations in retail business by the then UPA government were vehemently opposed by Ms. Jayalalithaa, which came as a big relief for trade outfits in Tamil Nadu.

Similarly, the ambitious plans for small and medium enterprises through Vision 2023 gave a fillip to the small and tiny units across the State. When such was the situation, the judgement against Ms. Jayalalithaa dashed hopes of the trade and industry sector in Tamil Nadu. Hence, she must emerge out of the ‘crisis’, prove her innocence and again serve the State as Chief Minister, Mr. Manimaran said.

Likewise, the Tamil Nadu Foodgrains Merchants Association, in a press release, said along with their members, the textile merchants association, grocery merchants, paddy merchants, Madurai coffee, tea merchants, Madurai district Hotel Owners’ Association, Madurai Jewellers and Bullion Merchants Association, biscuit manufacturers, Madurai Stainless Steel Manufacturers’ Association, Madurai Rice Mill Owners’ Association, Periyar Bus Stand Shopping Complex Association and Madurai Spare Parts Dealers’ Association among others would join the strike.

A senior official in the district administration said that all steps had been taken to ensure there was no untoward incident. “We can assure all that common man would not be hit as buses would ply, banks would function and all other government institutions would be open as usual,” he noted.


Karur comes to a standstill: A bandh-like situation prevails in many towns

KARUR, September 28, 2014

The bus stand in Karur looks empty on Saturday.

The textile town of Karur, which houses a number of dyeing and mosquito net units, came to a standstill within a few minutes after the verdict in disproportionate wealth case was pronounced in Bangalore on Saturday.

It was a rude shock to the workers of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), many of them were seen carrying boxes of sweets and crackers in the morning apparently to celebrate a favourable verdict.

As the news spread like wildfire, they took to the streets in large numbers, shouting slogans against the DMK chief M. Karunanidhi.

Angry protesters set fire to an effigy of Mr. Karunanidhi near the bus stand.
They took out a protest rally condemning the verdict. They went on to claim that it was a temporary setback to AIADMK general secretary Jayalalithaa and the truth would prevail.

Some of them, glued to the television sets, shed tears by hearing that she was convicted in the case.

“I am speechless to hear the verdict. It is a trying time not only for “Amma” (Jayalalithaa) but also the people of Tamil Nadu. But she has undergone many untold miseries in her political life.

No force can end her political life. She will break all barriers,” said a woman of Pettavaithalai, who was upset over the verdict.

Buses were off the road and business establishments were closed in almost all parts of the district.

While a section of traders close their units spontaneously, some were forced to down their shutters by the AIADMK supporters.


All dyeing, handloom and mosquito net manufacturing units closed their operations and the workers were asked to return home.

Hundreds of workers were walking along the roads as buses were not available.

A section of AIADMK workers staged a road roko near the bus stand, forcing the buses to take a circuitous route.

Moreover, most buses, which picked up passengers in the bus stand in Karur, returned to the depots. The passengers were caught left stranded.

No buses

Similarly, the buses, which were plying on Tiruchi-Coimbatore Road, Karur, and Dindigul Road, were stopped. However, no untoward incident was reported in the district. The busiest bus stand in Karur was deserted without buses after 2.30 p.m.


Estate workers in Theni hit hard by Idukki bandh

CUMBUM, September 27, 2014

All types of vehicles, including buses, were not operated to Kerala from Theni district owing to a bandh called by political parties in Idukki district in support of MP Joice George, who was on fast against demolition of culverts.

The bandh was total in Idukki district as all shops remained closed and no vehicle was allowed to cross the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border. It left thousands of estate workers in Theni district jobless on Friday.

However, some vehicles transporting essential commodities like milk, vegetables and meat crossed the State border before 6 a.m.
The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation had suspended all bus services to Munnar, Nedunkandam, Peermedu and other areas in Kerala and restricted its services at Kumuli, Cumbum Mettu and Bodi Mettu, the entry points to Kerala.

The Kerala police tightened security at Kumuli check-post and advised all Tamil Nadu private vehicle operators not to operate vehicles after 6 a.m.

Estate workers were the worst affected by the bandh as more than 30,000 daily wage earners in different parts of Theni district depend on farm work at cardamom estates in Kerala for survival.

The Kerala police stopped jeeps that carried transport workers to Kerala at Kumuli check-post on Friday morning and advised them to go back.

More than 500 jeeps, which used to transport estate workers every day, were off the roads.

The jeep operators, who rely on estate workers for their business, ferry the workers to estates in Kerala in the morning and bring them back in the evening.

Theni jeep operators earn at least Rs.4,000 a day for transporting estate workers to and from their work spots.


Kerala bandh hits bus services

THENI/NAGERCOIL, September 3, 2014

A dawn-to-dusk bandh called by the RSS in Kerala to protest the murder of its district office-bearer in Kannur district paralysed inter-State movement of vehicles.

The bandh was total in Idukki district where all shops remained closed and no vehicle was allowed to cross the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border. However, vehicles transporting essential commodities like milk and meat crossed the borders before 6 a.m.

The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) and the State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) stopped their services between Kanyakumari district and Kerala after 11 p.m. on Monday night, officials said on Tuesday.

Passengers bound for Kerala had to get down at Kalyakavilai in Kanyakumari district to reach their destinations by train. A decision on resumption of service would be taken after reviewing the law and order situation in Kerala, an SETC official said.

The TNSTC and the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation suspended about 60 services to different locations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala after 10 p.m. on Monday night. The TNSTC suspended all service to Idukki, Nedunkandam and Peermedu in Kerala, and restricted service up to Kumuli and Bodi Mettu in Theni district.

The bandh had a direct impact on more than 30,000 daily wage earners in Theni district as they depended on farm work in cardamom estates of Kerala. They mostly used the jeep service to go to the estates and return to Theni. More than 500 jeep operators did not run their vehicles since morning.

“The police advised us not to operate jeeps till 6 p.m. So, labourers could not be transported for work. We also lost an income of Rs. 4,500 per vehicle,” said a jeep operator of Cumbum.

R. Sairam from
Coimbatore reports:

Bus service from Coimbatore, Pollachi and Annaikatti to Kerala were suspended. According to sources, the TNSTC had halted buses to Palakkad district as a precautionary measure upon the advice of the police. The corporation plied 12 buses per day ferrying nearly 5,000 persons. Private operators too suspended buses following reports of stone pelting.

Hundreds of commuters, bound for Kerala, were found waiting at the bus stands at Ukkadam and Gandhipuram. However, the services resumed by around 6 p.m.

D. Radhakrishnan from Udhagamandalam writes:

About 11 buses of the TNSTC plying between Ooty and various parts of Kerala were stopped as a measure of precaution. Those running between Trichur and Mysore via Gudalur were also taken off the road. Official sources said private vehicles also did not cross the Kerala-Nilgiris border. Consequently the flow of tourists from Kerala was affected.

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FARMER GROUPS WANT AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN 6 JULY 2014

The Grains and Seeds Merchants Association and other trade and farmers organisations including the Hyderabad Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karnataka Pranta Raitha Sangha (KPRS) and Karnataka Pradesh Red Gram Growers Association have decided to launch an indefinite bandh of the market in the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) from July 8. They are demanding the withdrawal of the amended APMC Act 1966. The leaders of the trade and farmers organisations including the president of the KPRS Maruti Manpade, former president of the HKCCI Umakant Nigudgi, president of the Grains and Seeds Merchants Association Srimanth Rao Udnoor, president of the Red Gram Growers Association Basavaraj Ingin addressing a joint press conference in Gulbarga city on Saturday said that the amended APMC act would sound a death knell to the small and medium traders.

It would open up the protected agriculture market to the big players, particularly the multinational companies operating in the agriculture marketing sector, he said. The amendment had been brought about hastily, he said.

Traders on indefinite strike over APMC Act 9 July 2014

Farmers sitting outside the locked office and godown of commission agents inside APMC market yard in Gulbarga on Tuesday.— Photo: Arun Kulkarni

Trading in the marketing yard of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), came to a grinding halt when commission agents under the banner of the Grains and Seeds Merchants Association began their indefinite strike against the implementation of the amended APMC Act.

One of the major demands of the striking commission agents was that the government should unconditionally withdraw the amended APMC Act which has been brought about hurriedly
without consulting the stakeholders, including the farmers and the traders, and continue the provisions of the previous act which protected the interests of both the farmers and traders.

Several farmers organisations and trade organisations, including the Hyderabad Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HKCCI), Karnataka Pranta Raitha Sangha (KPRS), Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS), Karnataka Pradesh Red Gram Growers Association, Swadeshi Jagrana Manch and others have extended their support to the indefinite dharna in front of the office of the APMC.

‘Capitalistic ploy’

President of the Grains and Seeds Merchants Association Srimanth Udnoor questioned the intentions of the Union and State governments to bring in changes to the old APMC act and why the agriculture marketing sector which was a privy of small and marginal traders and farmers opened to the big players.

He said that there was been nationwide protests against the implementation of the provisions of new APMC act which laid red carpet welcome to the multi national companies to establish private market yards.

Following protests by the farmers in States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and others, the implementation of the provisions of the new act has been given up.

However, Mr. Udnoor said, that the Karnataka was trying to implemented the amended APMC act by browbeating the commission agents functioning in the APMC yards that they would have to compulsorily take the new trading licences before July 15 and the old licenses would not be valid from July 16.

The notices have been issued to the APMCs in the North Karnataka asking them to implement the provisions of the act strictly and ask the commission agents to avail the new trading license as per the amended act.

“We would not be cowed down by such threats and pressures from the insensitive government,” Mr. Udnoor said.

Reports from Yadgir said that the commission agents staged a protest demonstration against the amended APMC Act in front of the Deputy Commissioner’s office and began their indefinite strike.

Reports from other APMC yards in Gulbarga, Yadgir and Bidar districts said the strike was total.


**Midday meal workers demand wage hike** 2 July 2014

Protesters outside the taluk panchayat office in Raichur on Tuesday. PHOTO: SANTOSH SAGAR

Midday meal workers protested outside the office of taluk panchayat here on Tuesday demanding that the government hike their wages. They alleged that both the Centre and State government had not kept the promise to hike the pay by Rs. 1000 and Rs. 500 a month.
The Minister for Primary and Higher Education had in Belguam Session assured that the wages of midday meal workers would be hiked by Rs. 500 a month. The Union government had also assured to contribute Rs. 1000 a month. However, the promises by these governments have remained on the paper only,” they alleged.

“Tamil Nadu and Haryana governments pay Rs. 150 a day and Rs. 2500 a month respectively for their midday meal workers. The labourers employed in Mahatama Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act get Rs. 174 a day across the country. It is only midday meal workers in Karnataka who are getting just Rs. 1200 a month,” they rued.

They also condemned the alleged efforts of the government to privatise the midday meal scheme alleging that over 40,000 women had lost their jobs in midday meal scheme. “As many as 93 private institutions which are involved in midday meal scheme are not functioning as per the government guidelines. Handing over the scheme to private players would mean job loss for those who are currently employed in the scheme,” Ms. Nagamma, taluk president of the Midday Meal Workers Association said.


Dharna (fast occupation)
Raasta roko (Blokade)

13. Kerala

Kiss of Love: ‘Fundamentalist outfits went berserk’ 4 November 2014

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: CPM State Secretary Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday alleged that communal and fundamentalist forces of all hues had unleashed terror on peaceful protesters at the Marine Drive in Kochi with the blessings of the police.

In a statement here, Pinarayi termed as ridiculous, the police version that precaution was taken to protect the protesters. "Under which deal did the Government adopt a soft approach towards the violent mob which attacked peaceful protesters? The Government owes an explanation to the people. Did the Government reach an understanding with fundamentalist and extremist outfits at the local level or at the State and Central level? If so, then the people would like to know what the understanding was," he said.

The CPM State Secretary said the scenario at Marine Drive turned tense just because of some elements who wanted to stall the peaceful protest. Reports suggested that the police had resorted to lathicharge, he said, and pointed out that even a couple of journalists and scores of protesters had sustained injuries. “But the police was seen protecting the men who had come to the ground armed with the sole aim of wrecking the protest. They even raised provocative slogans,” he added.

Pinarayi said that no moral police would be permitted to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the State. "Such incidents can be prevented only if the police and other law enforcing agencies function fearlessly and in a free manner. At the moment the police is being used for protecting anti-socials," he said and termed the situation "highly deplorable and dangerous."

He said the right to protest was democratically accepted in the State. There could be divergent views when people resorted to methods which were not conventional. While people were free to take a stand on such protests, the Government's dubious stand on Sunday was completely shocking, he added.


Villagers protest against Bevco 28 October 2014
KOLLAM: The entire residents from a village in Kollam unite in front of a Beverages Corporation outlet every morning but not to buy liquor, instead to join hands against the outlet. The gathering also includes women and children, irrespective of the colours of their flags (read party affiliations), raising slogans to close down the outlet at Madathara, a village on the Thiruvananthapuram – Kollam border. The protest has gone on for a month and is gaining momentum day-by-day.

The Bevco outlet in Madathara was earlier enlisted to be shut down as part of the new liquor policy by the State Government, however it was later revived. The people protested this decision and started the demonstration ever since, completely blocking employees from opening the outlet. The public also has support from various political and cultural organisations including people’s representatives from various political parties.

The residents point out that the outlet is situated in the densest spot of the town, making it more convenient for users to get to. Two schools, Kani High School and Chithara SNHSS are located very close to the outlet within a radius of a few meters and there were incidents of students being caught in a drunken state.

“The demand of the public is very just. The protest is mostly by women as they are very concerned about their children. The Government should take steps to go with their earlier decision to shut down the outlet if its policy is to eradicate liquor to save society,” Mullakkara Ratnakaran MLA told DC.

The public also points out that the outlet eats up a major share of their income and also has been a major factor for atrocities, accidents, and even suicides taking place in the area. The public has forwarded a petition to the Excise Minister and the Chief Minister, undersigned by hundreds of residents.

Police break up women’s protest against U.P. rapes 5 June 2014

The Hindu Police detain ‘Sthree Koottayma’ activists who protested against rape of two Dalit girls in Uttar Pradesh, at High Court junction in the city on Wednesday.– Photo:Vipin Chandran

A group of women who were protesting against the rape of two Dalit girls in Uttar Pradesh were detained by the police on charge of creating a disturbance to the public.

The protest began around 4.30 p.m. at High Court junction. As people gathered at the bust stop at the junction, the group called ‘Sthree Koottayma’ cleared a small space near the pavement and placed placards there. The placards denounced the rape and murder of the two teenage girls and called for ‘an end to the patriarchy that assaulted the Dalit girls.’

Two women covered in plain cloth bearing slogans also drew public attention. The spot grew crowded as four more women similarly clad in plain cloth arrived at the spot around 5 p.m. and the group began raising slogans denouncing the incident. Police officers who caught wind of the protest arrived on the spot in their vehicles. After the women raised slogans for about half an hour, a couple of police women intervened to force the protesters into the police vehicles. The protesters and the police got into an argument, following which the police removed the protesters from the spot.

Ernakulam Central police arrested the protesters on charge of disrupting public order. All the protesters were later let out on bail.

Activists of the Social Democratic Party of India gheraoed a senior manager of Gas Authority of India Limited June 28, 2014

Hartal (Strike Stay away)
Gherao(Occupation)

Activists of the Social Democratic Party of India gheraoed a senior manager of Gas Authority of India Limited June 28, 2014
at the company’s office at Revenue Towers in Kochi on Friday. The activists were protesting against the GAIL pipeline burst in Andhra Pradesh. Ten SDPI activists stormed into the office around 4.30 p.m.

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/protest/article6157348.ece

Bandh in Kerala on Thursday over Mullaperiyar 7 May 2014

The Mullaperiyar Action Council has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal across Kerala on Thursday following the Supreme Court's decision to permit Tamil Nadu to raise the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam to 142 feet and its declaration of the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act of 2006 unconstitutional.

No political party has so far come out in support of the hartal call, but almost the entire political spectrum in the State has expressed shock and dismay at the Supreme Court verdict. There was a spontaneous gathering of people at Chappath, the venue of the Mullaperiyar Dam stir in Idukki district, and the Action Council leaders told reporters that they would resume their agitation with renewed vigour in the light of the Supreme Court verdict.

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy was cautious in his response to the verdict and told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram that the government would continue to pursue measures aimed at ensuring safety of the life and property of the people of the State after studying the text of the verdict.

Water Resources Minister P.J. Joseph told reporters that the government would explore possibilities for filing a review petition in the Supreme Court.

Leader of the Opposition V.S. Achuthanandan accused the State government of having failed to convince the Central government and the about the anxieties of the people of Kerala about the safety of the present dam and called for an urgent session of the Kerala Assembly to discuss the way forward.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president V.M. Sudheeran termed the verdict a 'severe blow' for Kerala while Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala said it was 'shocking'.

Keywords: Mullaperiyar Action Council, Kerala, Supreme Court, Tamil Nadu, Mullaperiyar dam


Bandh (General Strike Stay away)
Dharna (fast occupation)

Bank operations hit as staff strike work: Functioning of 5,500 branches affected, says UFBU 13 November 2014

The Hindu A nationalised bank remaining closed due to all India bank strike on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram.— Photo: C. Ratheesh Kumar

Banking operations in the State were hit on Wednesday as employees of public and private sector banks stayed away from work as part of their day-long all-India strike.

The strike call was given by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body of nine organisations. Bank branches, including those of gramin banks, remained closed. The strike did not affect the functioning of new-generation banks.
Cheque clearing was hit as clearing houses remained closed. It would take a few days to clear the backlog, sources said. Reserve bank of India (RBI) offices functioned as usual. The UFBU constituents included AIBEA, NCBE, INBEF, NOBW, BEFI, AIBOC, INBOC, AIBOA, and NOBO.

The unions had been demanding a 23 per cent wage hike. The Indian Banks Association (IBA), the negotiating body on wage revision, had promised a 11 per cent hike in pay slip components, which was not acceptable to UFBU, the organisation’s Kerala unit convener, C.D. Josson, told *The Hindu*.

The strike was total and 45,000 employees took part in the stir. The working of over 5,500 branches in the State was hit, he said.

The salary hike was due from November 2012 as the bipartite agreement had expired on October 31, 2012. Fourteen rounds of discussions were held since then. The latest round of reconciliation talks on Monday had failed, he said.

Mr. Josson said the previous bipartite agreement had provided a 17.5 per cent increase in wages. The banks had been reducing the number of employees and the elements of price rise had not been taken into consideration by the negotiating body, he said. The employees were also demanding 5-day week and pension revision.

UFBU was planning another round of agitation next month. A relay strike would be held in all banking zones. The zonal strike in the southern region, which comprises Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry, would be on December 2, sources said.

The workers staged a dharna at the Madhava Pharmacy Junction on MG Road here on Wednesday. The programme was inaugurated by K. Chandran Pillai, former MP.


**Congress men stage dharna 15 July 2014**

Congress workers staged a dharna in front of the Kannur Railway Station to protest against the ‘neglect’ of the State in the Railway Budget and the Union Budget.

Inaugurating the dharna, former MP K. Sudhakaran said that Railway Minister Sadananda Gowda was not only neglecting railway development in the State but was also making excuses for that.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led government was turning a blind eye to the State’s demands, the Congress leader said.

District Congress Committee president K. Surendran presided. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary T. Siddique, party leaders Satheeshan Pacheni, Sajiv Joseph and A.D. Musthafa were among those addressed the protesters.

**MPEB employees hold protest**
— By FP NEWS SERVICE  | Nov 08, 2014 02:16 am

**Ujjain** : Members of the local unit of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board Employees’ (MPEB) Union held a protest in front of the Jyoti Nagar office of the electrical division on Friday. The protesters held a Dharna in support of their demands.

More than 300 employees gathered on the occasion to protest against the illegal and adherent transfers made by the superintendent engineer. The agitating employees said the divisional superintendent engineer Ram Kumar Sharma had made partial transfers of senior and about to retire employees to distant and far flung areas in the district. One of the employees alleged that such decisions were taken knowingly by the officials so as senior workers will refuse to go in distant areas and employees of DISCOM will be forced there. Employees also alleged that money has also been demanded by the officials for not transferring the junior level employees in distant areas of the district. The agitating employees also submitted a memorandum to the Executive Engineer.

- See more at: [http://freepressjournal.in/mpeb-employees-hold-protest/#sthash.5fZLGPOe.dpuf](http://freepressjournal.in/mpeb-employees-hold-protest/#sthash.5fZLGPOe.dpuf)

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**VU teachers, employees go on strike protesting against attack on VC**
— By FP NEWS SERVICE  | Sep 17, 2014 01:34 am

**Ujjain** : Vikram University (VU) teachers and employees went on a strike in protest of attack on Vice-Chancellor Prof JL Kaul by Pro-Hindu organization leaders, here on Tuesday. District Congress Committee (DCC) burnt an effigy of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan protesting against barbaric act. VC Prof Kaul was discharged from hospital on Tuesday morning. Police have arrested four accused.

VU teachers and employees raised massive protest against Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal for vandalizing varsity administrative block. VHP and Bajrang Dal activists manhandled VC Prof JL Kaul and vandalized the Madhav Bhavan irked over the statement of Prof Kaul for supporting Kashmiri students studying at VU. All the university departments remained shut in protest of the shameful act. University administrative and academics staff and Class three and fourth employees took out a protest march and met IG V Madhukumar.
VU staff got disappointed as IG did not come out to receive the memorandum. VU staff did not mention specific names of accused. Varsity teachers and staff then reached to VC bungalow and met VC Prof Kaul. VC urged entire VU staff for ending the strike and returning back to the work.

- See more at: http://freepressjournal.in/vu-teachers-employees-go-on-strike-protesting-against-attack-on-vc/#sthash.iLWXpYlm.dpuf

http://freepressjournal.in/vu-teachers-employees-go-on-strike-protesting-against-attack-on-vc/

**PSC-2012: Threats, emotions run high as candidates protest**
— By Our Staff Reporter | Sep 16, 2014 02:37 am

Indore: Candidates, who were declared qualified in the State Civil Service main exams held in 2012 but their interviews suspended after it came to fore that paper of the exams was leaked, thronged the office of Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) terming the PSC’s move wrong and demanded to hold their interviews at the earliest.

Emotions and threats ran hand-in-hand during the protest by the candidates whose one-point demand was – ‘a date for interview in a week.’

“From the investigation by the Special Task Force into the matter, it’s crystal clear that the paper of PSC-2012 was leaked. But the same investigation also revealed that merely a few candidates received it ahead of the exams. Those few people should be disqualified and interviews should be held for others. There shouldn’t be two opinions on this,” the candidates said and submitted a memorandum to the PSC officials.

- See more at: http://freepressjournal.in/psc-2012-threats-emotions-run-high-as-candidates-protest/#sthash.ocCKzejM.dpuf

http://freepressjournal.in/psc-2012-threats-emotions-run-high-as-candidates-protest/

**Yadav invites CM to join protest against Centre**
— By Our Staff Reporter | Sep 05, 2014 01:53 am

Indore: Large number of Congress members staged a demonstration at regional office of Madhya Pradesh Pashchim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Ltd at Pologround, on Thursday.

The members led by MPCC president Arun Yadav were protesting against rise in power cuts and electricity bills.

While addressing the demonstrators, Yadav invited Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan to join the protest along with the Congress to fight discrimination of Madhya Pradesh by the Centre.

“The Centre is discriminating Madhya Pradesh while providing coal. I invite Chauhan to join the protest, so that we can fight together. The BJP had protested against coal block allocation at the time of UPA Government but now they are facing the problem when their government at the Centre,” Yadav said. He also targeted Atal Jyoti Abhiyan and said that people in villages were getting electricity for four hours only.

“Chauhan had made false promises to people to provide 24-hour electricity. Residents of almost all village are not getting electricity over four hours a day. All the tall claims of the State Government fell flat when people received inflated electricity bills,” the MPCC president said.
However, Chief Engineer Sanjay Mohase refused all the claims of Congress and said that the bills which have been shown by the Congressmen were of those people who didn’t deposit power bill for a long time.

He further said that there was enough electricity for Indore district and power cuts have been taking place only due to technical faults and not due to lack of electricity. The Chief Engineer also assured to hold camps in areas where people are getting inflated bills.

**Heavy police force deployed, traffic jam**

To avoid any unwanted situation during the protest, heavy police force was deployed at Pologround. People had to face trouble due to traffic jam for many hours.

**Groupism comes to fore again**

The Congress leaders tried to show their unity in front of their party head but the groupism in the party once again came to fore when the city leaders didn’t mention former MLA Ashwin Joshi’s name in the memorandum. Enraged over this, Joshi lodged a complaint against City President Pramod Tondon with Yadav. The MPCC president assured to intervene in the matter and pacified Joshi.

- See more at: [http://freepressjournal.in/yadav-invites-cm-to-join-protest-against-centre/#sthash.1s3FRalq.dpuf](http://freepressjournal.in/yadav-invites-cm-to-join-protest-against-centre/)

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**Stoning, lathicharge & arrests during demo**

— By Our Staff Reporters | Jul 10, 2014 02:35 am

**Indore** : Activists of National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) led by Congress state president Arun Yadav on Wednesday staged a demonstration near the office of Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) alleging that the recruiting agency was being misused by the BJP led state government and demanding probe into all the exams conducted by the MPPSC held in last 10 years.

The protestors also demanded Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan resignation and shouted slogans against him and the MPPSC.

Police had to resort to lathicharge and used water cannons to disperse the agitated protestors who in turn pelted stones. Four persons were injured in thestoning and lathicharge.

To bring the situation under control, police arrested some of the agitators including Yadav, NSUI state president Vipin Wankhede, Congress city chief Pramod Tandon and ex-MLA Tulsi Silawat. However, they were later released on bond.

- See more at: [http://freepressjournal.in/stoning-lathicharge-arrests-during-demo/#sthash.mbJ77kOJ.dpuf](http://freepressjournal.in/stoning-lathicharge-arrests-during-demo/#sthash.mbJ77kOJ.dpuf)

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**Bhopal police charge women Congress workers during anti-rape protest**

— By PTI | Jun 14, 2014 08:51 pm

**Bhopal**: Police baton charged women Congress workers who were protesting outside the residence of Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Babulal Gaur here today, and demanded his resignation.
The protest came in lieu of increasing rape cases in Madhya Pradesh and also over Gaur’s controversial statement that women should become sports people to defend themselves against crimes like rape, and that no women can be touched without her allowing anyone to do so.

The president of the All India Women Congress (AIWC), Shobha Oza said, “The BJP Government is baton charging women, we are protesting against atrocities on women, but the BJP Government is not even allowing us our right to protest. When the girls are raped daily and become victim to police atrocities, the politicians give irresponsible comments. Girls are not safe here.”

Earlier Gaur had also supported Mulayam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav, saying that the Samajwadi Party-led government in Uttar Pradesh could not be held responsible for the recent rape and murder of two Dalit girls in the state’s Badaun District, saying “bechare” (poor) Akhilesh and Mulayam.

Another protester said that Gaur should resign from his post as he does not deserve the position.

Earlier, two cousins, aged 14 and 15, who were from a low-caste Dalit community, went missing from their village home in Uttar Pradesh’s Badaun District when they went out into the fields to answer the call of nature on May 27.

The following morning, villagers found their bodies hanging from a mango tree in a nearby orchard.

Five men, two of them police officers, were arrested for the crime that underscored the enduring culture of sexual assault in India and the capacity for appalling violence between Hindu castes.

Docs’ assn protest retirement age extension
— By FPJ Bureau | May 28, 2014 12:52 am

BHOPAL: Advocating appointment of new doctors in the state, Madhya Pradesh Medical Officers’ Association has protested against the government decision to increase of retirement age of government doctors from 65 years to 67 years as working atmosphere is not conducive.

According to the association, the doctors can not tolerate insult and haphazard working atmosphere at the age of 67 years. Even they are not given benefit of voluntary retirement scheme (VRS). Association said that doctors are working like bonded labourers. Many doctors are not well but their duties are scheduled in night. If retirement age is increased, doctors will not focus toward families liabilities.

Association president Dr Ajay Khare said, “Doctors too suffer various diseases at this stage. Secondly, government does not provide any facilities and they have all work including preparation of patients reports and slips and even they have to push trolley in the absence of para medical staff. Therefore, sense of insecurity, insult, lack of proper promotion. Till date, list of 2007 and 2008 has not been issued for three-tier pay scale. Similarly, list of 4-tire pay scale from 2008 to 2014 has not been released.
Dr Khare said, “State government increased the retirement age from 60 to 62 and the 65 and now seriously considering to increase it up to 67 years. If government does, doctors have to suffer loss of gratuity, un-relive payment and timely pension.”

- See more at: http://freepressjournal.in/docs-assn-protest-retirement-age-extension/#sthash.OtNeMGYU.dpuf
http://freepressjournal.in/docs-assn-protest-retirement-age-extension/

Many denied BEd entrance test, protests staged outside centres
— By FPJ Bureau | May 05, 2014 01:41 am

Indore: SEVERAL candidates in the city were denied entrance test for admission in BEd course, on Sunday as they did not comply with rules laid down by the exam conducting body i.e. Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board (MPPEB) also known as Vyapam. While some candidates were returned from exam centres for reporting late, many others could not gain entry into the examination hall as their admit cards did nit have thumb impressions and attestation from a gazetted officer, which were necessary.

Irked over refusal to write the exam, the candidates created a ruckus outside exam centres forcing the police to swing into action and control the situation. At New Girls’ Degree College and Jain Diwakar College, the protesting candidates were told by the police that their protest could invite trouble for them as Modal Code of Conduct is effective due to the Lok Sabha elections.

The suggestion was taken by the candidates and they cleared off. But before leaving they alleged that the ‘unnecessary’ rules ruined an important year of their career. “We were denied entrance test just because our admit cards lacked signature of a gazetted officer. That should not have been done. There were many other stages where document verification was to be done. The officers could have checked our credentials and identities at those stages,” said Vivek Yadav, an aggrieved candidate.

Nodal Officer for the B Ed entrance examination in Indore division, Dr RK Tugnawat held candidates accountable for their loss. “When it was clearly mentioned in the rule book that candidates would not be allowed to write entrance test if their admit cards lacked thumb impression and attestation from a gazetted officer why haven’t they got the needful done. They should blame themselves instead of us for their loss,” he said.

This was the first entrance test for admission in BEd course in the state. Till last year, the Department and Higher Education used to conduct only online counseling for admission but following the direction of the Supreme Court it held entrance test as well. More than 18000 students appeared in the test from Indore division.

There are nearly 40,000 seats in a total of 397 B Ed colleges in the state. In Indore division, the number of colleges is 45 and seats 4600. Registration for counseling would be done on the basis of merit list from May 25 to May 31. The first seat allotment would be made on June 4.

- See more at: http://freepressjournal.in/many-denied-bed-entrance-test-protests-staged-outside-centres-2/#sthash.lLcA6atH.dpuf

Congress to stage protest against scams in M.P.

BHOPAL, October 26, 2014
The Leader of the Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, Satyadev Katare, on Saturday announced a plan to stage a dharna outside the Chief Minister’s residence on the State formation Day on November 1 demanding early response to his letters on the various “scams” in the admission and recruitment tests conducted by the Madhya Pradesh Professional Examinations Board [MPPEB].

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Katare alleged that the government was refusing to provide information which he had sought on the various “scams” in the examinations conducted by the Board over the years.

“Between January and June 2014, I wrote 26 letters to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, seeking information on the scam in recruitment of Transport Constable by MPPEB; appointments made by the M.P. Public Service Commission and different posts filled through M.P. Online Ltd. But, Mr. Chouhan has not responded to a single letter,” Mr. Katare said.

“I wrote similar letters to the President, the Prime Minister, and the Union Home Minister. The Union Home Ministry has directed the Chief Minister to reply to my letters, but to no avail,” the Congress leader added.

“Mr. Chouhan can reject my demands for political reasons. But, he cannot ignore the directives of the Union Home Ministry,” he said.

Referring specifically to the alleged scam in the examination for recruitment of transport constables conducted by MPPEB, Mr. Katare said he had sought the class ten mark sheets and police verification reports of the candidates from the Government. But, it is yet to provide. Responding to Mr. Katare, BJP State president Nandkumar Singh Chouhan said the allegations were baseless and were part of a conspiracy to defame the government.


Congress stage protest against state govt over rise in dengue cases in Madhya Pradesh

Updated: October 18, 2014 11:56 IST
Workers of Congress party on Friday protested against the government of Madhya Pradesh for they say it has failed to curb the rising cases of dengue in the state. Reportedly, central city of Bhopal is in the grip of the worst dengue outbreak it has seen in the last five years.

http://www.thehindu.com/videos/article6514345.ece

Madhya Pradesh govt. cracks down on environmental activists

BHOPAL, 3 October  2013

Hardly a fortnight after the Madhya Pradesh government scuttled the Jal Satyagraha against submergence by dams, it has again come down hard on activists in Sidhi protesting against diversion of forest land for a cement factory.

On the intervening night of September 30 and October 1, 22 protesters in Sidhi district were arrested for attempting to burn effigies of the district administration and Jaypee Cement. They were sent to prison for a fortnight after refusing to sign bonds that they would not protest.

A local NGO, Toko-Roko-Thoko Krantikari Morcha (TRTKM) found out through an RTI response that 525 acres in the Kaimor Hills were allotted to Jaypee Cement for quarrying. The area is close to the Sanjay Gandhi Tiger Reserve and it is in this range that the White Tiger was discovered in 1950.
“We did not know that the forest will be cleared as there was no public hearing or any environment report shown to us. We started meeting local revenue and forest officials from August 16, but they said everything is legal,” Rishabh Kumar, a protester, told The Hindu.

On August 20, women symbolically tied rakhis to trees in the forest. After a strong protest, the villagers said they were assured by Additional Collector Anil Khare and Divisional Forest Officer R.B. Sharma on September 20 that work would be stalled until Jaypee and the government held an awareness camp in Pipraon village.

“On September 26, bulldozers started clearing up the forest to show it was a wasteland. It was futile to picket as there were too many police personnel. Three villagers — Rajesh Pandey, Harishankar Tiwari and Devendra Tiwari — sat on an indefinite fast on top of the hill while the rest started sloganeering,” TRTKM secretary Sachin Chouhan said.

On September 30, when the villagers attempted to burn effigies at the foothill, they were arrested and taken to Pipraon police station. Superintendent of Police Navneet Bhasin evaded questions and later stopped taking calls from this newspaper.

Siege to police station

Around 1,500 villagers laid a siege to the police station in the evening. Police pacified them saying they would be released once the SP and Collector reach.

“Around 11, the lights went out. Already around 500 police personnel gathered and started a lathi charge. Everyone began to flee and in the melee they took away our friends to the district jail,” said Mr. Chouhan.

Collector Swati Meena refused to give any clarification. “It is a law and order matter and I will not talk to you on the phone. You can write what you want,” she told this reporter.

Sources in the administration said there were orders to prevent the agitation from intensifying. “Collector Madam is strict. She was transferred here in June from the Commercial Taxes department. Development and industry is her priority,” an officer said on condition of anonymity.

Opposition leader Ajay Singh, MLA of Churhat under which Pipraon falls, told The Hindu that the Congress would support the movement. “Why will the district administration talk to the villagers when the Chief Minister [Shivraj Chouhan] is in the pocket of the Jaypee Group? The BJP is neck-deep in illegal mining,” he claimed.

The indefinite fast continues even as the bulldozers clear the hills. No senior official or politician has met the protesters yet.

They were protesting in Sidhi against diversion of forest land to cement factory


Prashant Bhushan heckled in Indore

BHOPAL, April 18, 2014

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Prashant Bhushan was targeted, once again, by an ultra nationalist group in Indore on Friday. Bhushan was in the city to campaign for party candidate Anil Trivedi, a human rights lawyer like himself.
Members of the hitherto unknown Rashtrawadi Sansthan Devpath (Nationalist Organisation God's Path) stormed his press conference with black flags at a hotel in the Tukoganj police circle at around 1.30 p.m. They raised slogans against Bhushan's 2011 demand for a plebiscite as a solution to rebellion in Kashmir.

An unidentified member of the group, sporting a tuft of a priest and a saffron tilak, then rushed towards Bhushan from behind and took off his party cap. The man then started yelling, "Why have you given Kashmir to Pakistan? Jai Jai Shri Ram! Shoot this *** traitor." He was taken away by AAP members who were heckled by Devpath men outside.

Bhushan blamed the BJP for the incident. "The BJP has bred criminal gangs like the Bhagat Singh Kranti Sena (who assaulted him in 2011), the Hindu Rashtra Sena and other private armies. They have repeatedly attacked our members because they are afraid."

Members of the group led by BJP supporter Mukesh Rajawat then got into a scuffle with AAP men, who sat down in dharna. Police personnel present did not separate the groups or clear the area. Devpath workers also tried to block Bhushan's vehicle from proceeding to Harda to campaign for AAP's Khandwa candidate Alok Agarwal.

Rajawat told reporters, "We were only shouting slogans outside and we don't know who entered inside. AAP always does these stage managed attacks. Bhushan is a Pakistani agent and we won't allow him to remain in Indore."

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Indore) Rakesh Gupta told The Hindu that the police couldn't intervene as neither had the organisers informed them of the press meet nor had they filed a complaint. "We gave them full security for the road show. Our men were not deployed at the hotel as we had not been informed. Officers went to the spot when we received information of protests. We can identify the suspects only if AAP complains."

Bhushan added that he was not interested in filing an FIR. Sources said that this was a strategic move to protect AAP campaigners from being bogged down in court proceedings during the campaign. AAP’s Indore secretary Yuvraj Singh told this paper that two of the members have suffered injuries. The party’s Madhya Pradesh convener Akshay Hunka said he would complain to the state's Chief Electoral Officer Jaideep Govind.


Hartal (Strike Stay away)
Gherao (Occupation)
Bandh (General Strike Stay away)
Dharna (fast occupation)

NBA protests as work begins to raise dam’s height 17 October 2014

People affected by Sardar Sarovar Dam and other projects in Narmada Valley marched to the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan’s residence here on Thursday protesting the commencement of work on increasing the height of the dam.

The protestors sought an audience with the Chief Minister but despite squatting at the Polytechnic Square nearby throughout the day, they were unable to meet Mr. Chouhan. The dharna organised by the Narmada Bachao Andolan was lifted around 5 p.m.
In a letter submitted to the Chief Minister, the protestors emphasised that under the new law on land acquisition that has come into effect from January 1 this year all the land that had been acquired by the Government for the projects must be returned to the original owners as they were still under their physical possession and as proper compensation were yet to be paid fully.

Rehabilitation

“Any submergence activity would be totally illegal and criminal in the absence of proper rehabilitation of the project-affected people,” the letter noted.

The fresh bout of protest comes in the wake of the Gujarat Government recently starting the work to raise the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam from 121.92 metres to 138.68 metres and to install radial gates on the dam.

In June, the Central Government gave approval to the Gujarat’s proposal to raise the height of the dam and install gates on the condition that the gates would be kept open.

The affected people and NBA have, however, opposed it on the ground that raising the height of the dam would lead to submergence of the lands of hundreds of families in the valley, most of them in Madhya Pradesh and these families have not yet been rehabilitated or compensated properly.

NBA leader Medha Patkar complained that even as Madhya Pradesh stood to face maximum loses because of increase in the dam’s height, the Chief Minister was not willing to hold any discussion on the matter.


Raasta roko (Blokade)

15.Maharashtra: Issues Sugar cane farmers, doctors, Dalits Tribal people, Hawkers, Railways, Conflict between BJK & Congress

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharashtra

Source websites:
MNS takes on Mumbai’s builder lobby: Protests denial of housing to people on the basis of food preference MUMBAI 22 November 2014

Known for its stand against north Indians, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) – led by Raj Thackeray, has decided to take on Mumbai’s builder lobby, largely controlled by the Gujarati and Marwari community.

The stand taken by the MNS against builders who have allegedly denied housing to people on the basis of their food preference has the support of all political parties barring the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Sandip Deshpande, MNS’ group leader in Mumbai Municipality has moved a notice of motion against the builders who ‘deny flats to non-vegetarians and to people of other religions.’

“I have proposed to cancel all certificates issued by the corporation to those builders or societies who discriminate on the basis of food preference and religion,” said Mr. Deshpande. The issue in the past was raised by several leaders cutting across party lines.

MNS’ arch-rival, the Shiv Sena, which is ruling the civic body along with the BJP, has extended its support. The Congress and Samajwadi Party too have backed the notice of motion. The Sena’s support to the MNS is also seen as an instance of growing bonhomie between the two parties to tackle the BJP.

The BJP while opposing it has claimed that such action will be unconstitutional. “Vegetarians have a right to stay together, as they want. Such gimmicks are only to gain publicity and will not stand in court if passed,” said BJP leader of the house, Manoj Kotak.

According to the MNS leader, a number of families have been denied houses by builders or by societies on the pretext that they eat non-veg food.

He refuted the charge that his party is targeting a particular community. The notice of motion will be discussed on Tuesday.

Keywords: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, Mumbai’s builder lobby


Residents gear up for protest after notices for removal put up on trees
By Virat Singh, Mumbai Mirror | Nov 19, 2014, 12.20 AM IST

Environmentalists and residents around as well as inside the Aarey Milk Colony are gearing up to take on Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) after the BMC Tree Authority put up removal notices on several trees. As many as 2,298 trees are slated to be removed for the ambitious Colaba-Bandra-Seepz Metro corridor being undertaken by MMRDA.


BJP ally in Maharashtra puts new government on notice Threatens stir if cane farmers don’t get Rs. 2,700 as advance 2 November, 2014

http://www.mumbaimirror.com
With protracted delay in sugarcane crushing season causing acute anxiety to farmers across Maharashtra, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) chief Raju Shetti on Friday demanded Rs. 2,700 a tonne as first advance payment for farmers.

Mr. Shetti gave the newly-elected government, led by its ally the Bharatiya Janata Party, a 25-day notice to consider his demand, failing which he threatened to launch an agitation from Pune.

“Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has assured me that he would consider our demands. I have full confidence in him. But if we are let down, then we will go on an agitation,” he said, addressing a massive turnout of sugarcane farmers at the 13th such gathering in Kolhapur district.

Thousands of sugarcane farmers and migrant workers fear that cane crushing, which was supposed to commence on October 15, could now be delayed till December 1 owing to the interruption caused by the Assembly election and government formation.

“I am first a farmer then a politician. Though I’ve allied with the BJP, I am willing to take the fight to the Centre if the need arises,” Mr. Shetti told The Hindu from Jaysingpur.

The Union government announced a fair and remunerative price of Rs. 2,550 per tonne. The State government announced Rs 2,100 a tonne for 9.5 per cent recovery and directed factory promoters to pay the same, failing which they could face punitive action.

“Cooperatives say they cannot even pay this price owing to higher production cost and falling sugar prices. This is not done,” Mr. Shetti said.

With the supplanting of the Congress-NCP coalition in Maharashtra, a price war has erupted between representative sugarcane farmers’ bodies on the question of fair price for sugarcane. Beleaguered political parties such as Raj Thackeray’s Maharashtra Navnirman Sena too are attempting to win the hearts and minds of sugarcane farmers.

Shetkari Sanghatana leader Raghunath Patil is demanding Rs. 3,500 a tonne, while Mr. Thackeray has demanded Rs. 3,000.

Of the 120-odd cooperative sugar factories in the State, less than ten are profit making – the result of financial mismanagement by their promoters, many of whom are influential politicians. Maharashtra contributes to more than 35 per cent of the country’s sugar output followed by Uttar Pradesh.

‘‘The cooperative sugar industry should pay the first advance of Rs 3,500 a tonne as the cane grower is paying direct and indirect taxes amounting Rs. 3,560 a tonne,’’ said Mr. Patil, threatening a rasta roko across the State soon.


33 Palghar villages to boycott polls over job reservation policy

By Ram Parmar, Mumbai Mirror | Oct 6, 2014, 08.48 AM IST

Thousands of residents across 33 villages in Palghar district have decided to boycott the assembly elections to protest against the state's decision to reserve certain government jobs for Scheduled Tribes (STs). Terming the reservation policy discriminatory, the residents have put up banners at various places in Palghar’s Wadaluka, about 125 km from Mumbai, urging people not to vote on October 15.
On Saturday, a group of protesters, including several women, marched to the office to Wada tehsildar and gifted bangles to officials, who the villagers claim have been trying to avoid the complex issue.

On June 9, former governor K Sankaranarayanan had signed a notification that sought appointment of only ST candidates to government posts such as talathis, health workers, teachers, surveyors, gram sevaks and agriculture assistants in Scheduled Areas of the state. If authorities cannot find a suitable ST candidate, the post should be left vacant, the notification said.

Palghar villagers who do not belong to any Schedule Tribe say the reservation policy denies them equal job opportunities. Palghar became the 36th district of Maharashtra on August 1 after Thane district was bifurcated. Some 50,000 people live in 33 villages in Wada taluka, and around 60 per cent of the residents are expected to boycott the assembly elections over the reservation policy.

"According to the new notification, only tribal candidates will be eligible for several government jobs in certain areas. What about the rest of us? People from other communities are being denied opportunities, so we have decided to boycott the polls," said Deepak Patil, a resident of Wada village.

He added: "MLAs are working for the benefit for only their communities. We have put up banners in several villages urging people not to vote.

People in Konsai, Waveghar, Bhaveghar, Nichole, Dakivali, Nane, Aamgaon, Sange, Ambahi and Hamrapur, Devli, among others, are supporting the protest. Palghar collector Abhijit Bangar said that he was trying to dissuade villagers from pressing for a boycott, but in vain.

On Saturday afternoon, many protesters went to the office of Wada tehsildar hoping to meet Bangar.

After waiting for hours, the protesters gave bangles to resident Wada tehsildar Bhausaheb Andhare and asked him to pass them on to Bangar. "The collector is not taking our protest seriously, so we gifted him bangles," said another Wada resident, Gyandeo Garud. Bangar said that only nine villages had called the protest. "I have spoken to some protesters and told them that staying away from the vote will not serve any purpose. The villagers could instead take up the issue with the new government," he said.


Maharashtra petrol dealers call off strike PUNE 26 August 2014

A State-wide shutdown called by the Federation of All Maharashtra Petrol Dealers’ Association (FAMPEDA) for Tuesday to protest against the Prithviraj Chavan government’s inaction over complaints pertaining to local body tax (LBT) and value added tax (VAT) rates has been called off.

The FAMPEDA had earlier announced an indefinite strike commencing from midnight, seeking uniformity in taxes on petrol and diesel across the State and a reduction in LBT to 0.1 per cent.

“The Bharatiya Janata Party on behalf of the ‘Mahayuti’ alliance persuaded the FAMPEDA to call off their agitation keeping in mind the consumers’ troubles. They have graciously consented,” said senior BJP leader Vinod Tawde here.

All 4,500 retail petrol-diesel outlets across the State would function normally, assured Uday Lodh, president, FAMPEDA.
General strike in Bombay 13 August 2014

The one-day token strike, “Maharashtra Bundh,” called by the leftist trade unions to protest against the rising prices of essential commodities passed off peacefully in the State on August 12 without any major incidents.

There were, however, a few cases of stone-throwing by anti-social elements. The first to report back for work after midnight were dock workers.

The strike which commenced at midnight crippled all industrial activity. All the 64 textile mills were affected. Clearance of industrial goods in the port was held up. Staff of banks, insurance companies and commercial establishments participated in the strike.

Petrol pumps in Maharashtra go on strike: 11 August 2014

Around 4,100 retail petrol-diesel outlets in Maharashtra went on a day-long strike on Monday to protest against multiple taxes in the State, an official said.

However, around 500 petrol retail outlets in Mumbai have not joined the 12-hour strike which started at 6 a.m. Monday. “The strike is total and we want to convey to the state government how the consumers and dealers are harassed unnecessarily with the multiple taxes. Due to these multiple taxes, petrol-diesel are the most expensive in Maharashtra as compared to anywhere in India, with Pune topping the list,” FAMPEDA President A.S. Dikshit told IANS.

The Federation of All Maharashtra Petrol Dealers’ Association (FAMPEDA) is strongly opposed to various taxes, including octroi, local body tax (LBT) and others which hike the petrol-diesel prices in the state by around Rs.5-7 per litre.

Mr. Dikshit said that Pune holds the distinction of having the most expensive retail petrol—diesel rates in the country with a difference of around Rs.7-9 per litre.

“Why should the public and dealers suffer on account of the poor administration of the state government? Plus, after collecting so much money, where does it all go,” Mr. Dikshit asked.

Some of the levies in Maharashtra include state specific charge (SCC) by the oil marketing companies to recover Rs.2,500 crore paid as octroi to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai for the crude oil refined at the Mahul refinery, though it sells the oil in other states too.

Besides, there is the LBT which is already implemented in 25 civic bodies in Maharashtra, barring Mumbai where it is strongly opposed.

In view of the high taxes in the state, people living in the border areas prefer to cross over to the neighbouring states like Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh or Madhya Pradesh and get their refill which directly hits the business of around 1,000 retail outlets.

The FAMPEDA and other organizations have demanded ‘one—Maharashtra, one—tax’ regime to rationalize the prices and bring them on par with the neighbouring states.

Keywords: Maharashtra petrol bunks, retail petrol-diesel outlets, petrol bunks strike
Quota protest leads to jam in South Mumbai

Mumbai Mirror | Aug 2, 2014, 02.36 AM IST

Around 4,000 people took part in the agitation demanding that the shepherd community be listed as a Scheduled Tribe.

Traffic in south Mumbai got caught in a snarl on Friday afternoon as the city got its first taste of the latest reservation controversy to hit Maharashtra when protestors from the Dhangar community staged a march from Jijamata Udyan to Azad Maidan.

Cops estimated that around 4,000 people took part in the agitation demanding that the shepherd community in the state be listed as a Scheduled Tribe in place of their current status as Nomadic Tribe.

"JJ flyover had to be closed to vehicles for around 45 minutes, from both the north and south sides," said GB Rekulwar, traffic inspector of Pydhonie police station. Traffic on Dadabhai Naoroji Road in the stretch near Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus was affected for about half-an-hour.

An officer from Colaba traffic control added, "We diverted traffic from Bhatia Bag junction towards P D'Mello road and from CTO junction towards Metro cinema."

The rally was organised by the Mumbai division of the Dhangar Samaj Aarakshan Sangharsha Kruti Samiti (DSASKS), which has been at the forefront of the three-month-long agitation. Lalit Bandgar, the chairman of the Mumbai division of DSASKS, said, "The chief minister had asked for eight days to resolve the matter when members of our Samiti met him. The time runs out on Saturday. If our demands are not met, anything that happens in the future will be entirely the government's responsibility."

Participating in the protest in an attire of a traditional shepherd was 23-year-old Sumit Lokhande, a student of the Government Law College in Churchgate. He asserted that it was a spelling inconsistency ('Dhangad' instead of 'Dhangar') that had denied the community a place in the Scheduled Tribe list for the last six decades. "All the Maharashtra state government has to do is accept our decades old demand that the 'Dhangad' already in the list is actually a misspelling of our tribe's name and communicate this to the Central government."

Ankush Govind Partale, a shepherd from Sangli district added, "The government does not reach out to us. We shepherds are in a desperate situation. All the common grasslands are now private or government property. I have no ration card, and my children do not go to school. We wander from village to village, so where will they go to school? When they grow up, they will go work as labourers in Mumbai or Pune."

MNS sells undies, vada pavs outside BMC chief’s office to protest hawkers policy

Chaitanya Marpakwar, Mumbai Mirror | Jul 26, 2014, 12.50 AM IST

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) members on Friday set up hawking stalls outside Municipal Commissioner Sitaram Kunte's official bungalow at Carmichael Road to protest against BMC's new policy for hawkers.
The civic body has started a drive under which hawkers are being registered. BMC had conducted a city-wide survey of hawkers over the last one week, refusing to evict thousands of illegal hawkers.

MNS claimed many people whose main source of livelihood was not hawking were taking advantage of BMC's licence drive. The party is likely to organise an agitation soon to put its political rival Shiv Sena in a tight spot. Except for the Sena, almost all other parties, including the BJP, have opposed the hawker survey by Sena-BJP ruled BMC.

A group of nearly 50 MNS workers, led by corporator Sandeep Deshpande, set up stalls selling underwear, vada pavs and photo frames of BMC headquarters outside Kunte's home around noon. Later, the police dispersed the MNS group and charged them for unlawful assembly.

"The police were prompt in evicting us just because we were hawking outside Kunte's home. But neither the BMC nor the police are taking any action against hawkers all over the city. BMC is just misleading people and hawkers too," said MNS corporator Santosh Dhuri.

"We made several requests to Kunte to scrap the survey. Thousands of illegal hawkers have mushroomed all over the city but Kunte doesn't seem to care. So we showed him how it feels to have illegal hawkers outside your home," said Deshpande.

On Thursday, MNS chief Raj Thackeray had hit out at BMC. "Are footpaths meant for hawkers or for walkers?" Raj asked. "There is no place to walk anywhere since hawkers have taken over whatever space was left. BMC's new hawking policy or survey has no meaning. Allowing just anyone to hawk and then conduct a survey is naive. I don't know who gave BMC this bizarre idea." He added. MNS leaders said they will soon set up stalls outside homes and offices of all local civic ward officers.

BJP corporator from Andheri, Ameet Satam, also slammed BMC's hawker registration drive. "Municipal officials are running a hawking mafia with the help of licence inspectors. Deputy Municipal Commissioner Anant Waghralkar, who is in-charge of the survey, is responsible for this. BMC must scrap the survey and call all corporators for a discussion on the issue first," Satam said.

Civic officials, meanwhile, said the survey was being carried out as per the SC orders and there was no scope to stop it. "We will see what action could be taken against MNS corporators who were indulging in illegal hawking. If there is any provision, then strict action will be taken against them. Everyone has the right to protest, but setting up hawking stalls is a cheap publicity stunt," said a senior civic official. Kunte was not available for comment.


Maharashtra doctors call off strike MUMBAI 8 July 2014

Six days after holding protests across Maharashtra, around 12,000 government doctors called off their strike on Monday on the intervention of Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan.

The doctors, under the aegis of the Maharashtra State Gazetted Medical Officers Organisation, began their protest on July 1 seeking the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission, raising the retirement age from 58 to 62, and absorption of employees hired on contractual basis. Other major demands included a pay hike, fixed working hours and regularisation of promotion procedure.

Although the CM hasn’t directly accepted their 11 pending demands, doctors are hopeful that these would be soon met. “The Chief Minister has agreed to look into our demands. The
matter will be taken up in the Cabinet soon. For the first time in about three years, we feel that the government is seriously taking our problems into consideration,” said MAGMO president Rajesh Gaikwad, who headed the delegation which met the CM.

Mr. Chavan said: “I understand their concerns. The government is positive on some of the issues raised. On demands which are deadlocked, a proposal would be brought in the Cabinet.”

Health Minister Suresh Shetty said efforts would be made to fill the permanent vacant posts by hiring doctors on contract basis.

This is the third time in the last three years that MAGMO doctors across the State have struck work. Last week, the State government invoked the Maharashtra Essential Services and


Resident doctors threaten strike across state
Mumbai Mirror | Aug 9, 2014, 02.00 AM IST

Resident doctors across the state have threatened to go on an indefinite strike from Saturday. As many as 4,000 resident doctors in Maharashtra, including 2,000 in Mumbai, will remain off duty to protest against the state's apathy towards their demands.

According to a member of the Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD), they had given two months to the government to create senior resident posts and speciality medical officer posts and to strategise bond services, etc. "None of the demands have been met,” said MARD member.

While services at hospitals are likely to be affected, the authorities have already sent circulars to all departments to get senior doctors and juniors to duty. While emergency services will be functional, planned surgeries have been postponed in many hospitals. MMB


150 surgeries postponed as docs protest suicide by Solapur paediatrician
Mumbai Mirror | Aug 24, 2014, 12.40 AM IST

Over 150 surgeries were postponed in public hospitals on Saturday, as resident doctors went on a day's mass leave to protest the suicide by a doctor in Solapur.

Dr Kiran Jadhav, a paediatric resident doctor at Government Medical College, Solapur, had committed suicide on Tuesday, allegedly due to mental harassment by a senior.

In protest, over 4,000 resident doctors in 14 government hospitals in the State, as well as civicrun hospitals in Mumbai, decided to strike work for a day. Medical services, however, were not that drastically affected, as it was a half working day due to which fewer surgeries were scheduled.

The Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) has demanded a compensation of Rs 50 lakh for Jadhav's family and a thorough police investigation into the circumstances leading to his death. Jadhav, who injected himself with a lethal dose of potassium chloride, left behind a suicide note stating that he was facing "harassment from the department".

"We have put forward our demands to the medical education authorities and the medical education minister. We hope the State shows some concern," said Dr Santosh Wakchaure,
MARD president. "All 4,000 plus doctors will donate a day's stipend, which is around Rs 1,100, to Jadhav's family," he added.

On Saturday, Sion hospital carried out 17 surgeries and admitted 88 new patients, while the OPD functioned normally. According to Dean Dr Avinash Supe, on regular Saturdays the number of surgeries range between 20 and 30. "Saturday's are set aside for washing the operation theatres, due to which fewer surgeries are scheduled. It is also a half day, hence services were not badly affected," said Dr Supe.

At the State-run JJ Hospital, 40 surgeries were postponed. "We carried out 87 surgeries including 17 emergency cases. We also had regular OPD services for over 2,700 patients," said Dean Dr T P Lahane, adding that functioning of the hospital was managed well by senior doctors and other teaching faculty.


FB pulls posts after Shiv Sena protests MUMBAI, 2 June 2014

There was tension in parts of western Maharashtra on Sunday over some objectionable posts found on Facebook against warrior kings Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Maharaj and Shiv Sena leader Balasaheb Thackeray. The content was removed from the website early on Sunday.

Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said the posts might have been created outside the country. He said it was a sinister plot to disturb social harmony. “We are taking help from the Centre and from international agencies to find out who is behind this plot,” he told reporters during a press meet here.

According to the police, a few buses were burnt and damaged in Pune, Ahmednagar, Usmanabad, Kolhapur. Mobs resorted to rasta roko. There were reports of Shiv Sena agitations in various parts of the State. Police and political parties have appealed for peace.

“The cyber cell of the Mumbai Crime Branch has started investigation. The officials contacted Facebook in America. The objectionable content was deleted by 1 a.m. on Sunday,” Sadanand Date, Mumbai Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), said.

The Shiv Sena upped its ante against the State administration. Many party officials filed FIRs at various places against unknown persons.

“There is no cyber surveillance by the State. This tendency to malign great people needs strict action,” Sena spokesperson Neelam Gorhe told The Hindu.

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/fb-pulls-posts-after-shiv-sena-protests/article6073317.ece

Dalit activist, just out of jail, vows to continue the work
By Abhijit Sathe, Mumbai Mirror | May 31, 2014

Sudhir Dhawale - the Dalit activist who recently walked free after two years in prison for allegedly being a naxal supporter- is back in Mumbai, where he edits a Marathi periodical 'Vidrohi'; he says he is even more determined, after his acquittal, to continue his fight against caste discrimination in Maharashtra.

The court in Gondia which tried him observed that the revolutionary material recovered from his house in Mumbai as a follow-up to the case was `open source material.' The activist, who in 2007 had launched the 'Republican Panther Jati Antachi Chalwal' a movement for eradication of caste in Maharashtra, is acerbic about how the government comes down on
such activists and books them by stamping them as naxal supporters.

He dismisses the ‘Tanta Mukt Gaon Abhiyan'(dispute-free village project) in the state, mooted by the Congress-NCP government, as nothing short of a `khaap', dominated by the upper class or NCP workers, who develop a nexus with local police. "This ensures that atrocities against Dalits and the oppressed do not get reported," he told Mumbai Mirror.

A critic of both the Congress-NCP and BJP governments, Dhawale feels that Dalits and the backward people would find no change emerging with the arrival of the right-wing BJP government at the Centre. "Both the Congress and the BJP have fascist agendas and are casteist. While people criticise Modi for what he did in Gujarat, what the Congress did to Sikhs during 1984 riots is no different," Dhawale says.

He says his `chalwal' was aimed at amalgamating Dalit activists and Left forces to fight out the fascist forces. He minces no words when he says that the country needs an alternative justice system.

Dhawale, a native of Nagpur, now settled in Mumbai, was attending the third Ambedkarite Sahitya Sammelan at Wardha in January 2011, when he was arrested by a joint team of ATS and ANO at Wardha railway station. Post his arrest, political leaders and social activists like Prakash Ambedkar, N P Patil, J V Pawar, Urmila Pawar, Anant Patwardhan met R R Patil to protest.

Although the state Home Minister directed the cops not to torture him, he had to watch others arrested with him undergo such treatment. That itself was a torture, Dhawale says.

According to the Gondia police, a surrendered naxal had admitted to having met Dhawale during a gathering of naxalites at a church in Vasai in 2006. "Patil was so confident about my involvement as a naxal supporter that he told the delegation that he would apologise to the state if I were to be acquitted. No apology has come so far from Patil," Dhawale remarks.

At Bhandara, and subsequently at Nagpur jail, Dhawale said he came across 60 to 70 tribals who had been falsely charged with being naxal supporters, simply for feeding naxalites who visited their villages. The tribals were so poor they had no one to fight their cases and their families could not afford to visit them in jail.

Fortunately, a group of advocates from the region have reached out to them to fight their cases. A public interest litigation was also filed by a social activist from Nagpur, following which the government promised to set up a commission to probe false cases against the tribal and poor. But nothing has come up so far. "We boycotted the Maharashtra Day function inside the prison in May 2011 to protest government's failure to honour its commitment. A fresh PIL will be filed before the Nagpur bench of the high court soon," says Dhawale.


Centre warns of naxal retaliation 16 May 2014

The Union Home Ministry has issued advisories to nine States cautioning them against possible retaliation by Naxals after the arrest of Delhi University professor G.N. Saibaba for his alleged links with the banned outfit.

Last weekend, the wheel-chair bound professor was arrested in the Capital by the Anti-Naxal Operations unit of the Maharashtra Police.

According to the advisory, naxal cadres have been instructed by their leaders to target security forces. The outfit has urged its supporters to hold protests in support of Prof. Saibaba, MHA sources said.
But the CPI (Maoist) has publicly denied that the professor was a senior member of the outfit.

On Wednesday, the professor’s family said he would go on a fast if conditions of his confinement did not improve. “When his brother visited him on Monday, he heard that they were keeping him in an unsanitary, solitary cell without any helpers and convenient toilet facilities. He was also denied medicines, prescribed and provided by the police doctor. He is a heart patient, suffers from high blood pressure and has chronic and severe pain in the lower back,” his wife, Vasantha, told reporters here.


Hartal (Strike Stay away)
Gherao(soccupation)

BJP demands suspension of 15 Congress MLAs MUMBAI 13 November 2014

Maharashtra Revenue Minister Eknath Khadse on Wednesday demanded the suspension of 15 Congress MLAs who were allegedly part of the protesters who surrounded Maharashtra Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao’s car when he arrived to attend the joint session of the Assembly and the Council on Wednesday.

While his security guards escorted Mr. Rao from the car to the Council Hall where he was to address the joint session, two of them suffered minor injuries and the Governor sustained an injury in his hand.

House adjourned

Earlier, the House was adjourned twice after an uproar over the voice vote held in the Assembly to the pass the trust motion of the BJP-led government. New Speaker Haribhau Bagde called a meeting of leaders of all the parties and senior Ministers to solve the issue.

Tempers were running high even outside the Speaker’s cabin, where BJP MLA Girish Mahajan and Congress’s Abdul Sattar had a heated argument and had to be separated by other MLAs.

Following the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prakash Mehta moved a motion in the Assembly seeking suspension of five Congress MLAs. Passed with voice vote, it suspended Rahul Bondre, Abdul Sattar, Jaikumar Gore, Virendra Jagtap and Amar Kale for the next two years.

“What is wrong in being aggressive? We did not hurt anyone and that was never our intention. The BJP government is working like a dictatorship and we will continue to fight against the injustice,” said Mr. Sattar after his suspension.

CCTV footage

Mr. Mehta later announced a committee headed by the Speaker and comprising leaders of all parties to study the CCTV footage from the cameras installed inside the Assembly.

“The report of this committee will be presented in the winter session and the possibility of revoking the suspension can be discussed after studying it,” he said.

Congress MLAs gherao Maharashtra Governor: The MLAs protested against the voice vote conducted on the floor of the House, which gave majority to the BJP government in the State. MUMBAI, 12 November 2014

In a high-voltage drama, Congress MLAs gheraoed Governor C Vidyasagar Rao outside Maharashtra Legislature on Wednesday afternoon. The MLAs protested against the voice vote conducted on the floor of the House, which gave majority to the BJP government in the State.

Congress has alleged that the BJP-led minority government is illegitimate in nature. It has alleged that the newly elected Speaker refused to conduct ballot vote despite demands by the Congress and Shiv Sena.

The Governor was safely escorted to the House through the protesting politicians where he began delivering his speech a few seconds ago.

Keywords: Maharashtra trust vote


Bandh (General Strike Stay away)

Dalit family murder: RPI (A) calls for Ahmednagar bandh tomorrow

This was to protest against the failure of the Maharashtra police to make a breakthrough in the savage murder of the three-member family, even after a week. PUNE 29 October 2014

In protest against the failure of the Maharashtra police to make a breakthrough in the savage murder of a three-member Dalit family more than a week ago, the Republican Party of India (A) has called for a total shutdown in Ahmednagar district of the State on Thursday.

On the intervening night of October 20 and 21, Sanjay Jadhav (42), his wife Jayashree (38) and their teenage son Sunil (19), were hacked to death in Javkhede Khalasa village in Ahmednagar’s Pathardi Taluk. Their dismembered body parts were later found floating in the well. Sunil was decapitated and his body parts were strewn on the acre-and-a-half plot owned by Mr. Jadhav.

Other Dalit parties like the Republican Sena and several Dalit organisations are expected to extend their support to the bandh call.

“It is dismaying that the police cannot solve a murder of this magnitude in a sparsely populated area even after a lapse of eight days. As chances of solving it is dimming, I have decided to call for a total shutdown in Ahmednagar district on Thursday. This will be followed by a State-wide agitation to bring the killers of Pathardi to book,” RPI (A) president, Ramdas Athawale, told The Hindu from Mumbai.

“More than 100 policemen are on this case. A total of eight teams have been constituted. We are tracing call records of the murdered family. I urge the villagers of Javkhede to have some faith in us. We will crack the case soon,” said Inspector General of Police (Nashik Range), Pravin Salunkhe, speaking to The Hindu.

Mr. Salunkhe said that the murderers were careful not to leave any clue. “We could not retrieve Sunil’s mobile from the spot. After interrogating some people, we believe that the boy’s mobile was on till 11 p.m. on 20 October. We are assuming that the murders must have taken place after that,” he said.
Officers from Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon and Ahmednagar districts had been put on the case, while the Mumbai police was being regularly consulted, Mr. Salunkhe said. Besides, security had been provided for the victims’ relatives living in the hamlet of Jadhavwadi.

But the district, which has witnessed the third instance of violence in recent times targeting Dalits, continues to be tense with shutdowns, road blocks and rallies frequently being staged in Pathardi since the murder of the Jadhav family.

“If the police are taking so long to zero in on the murderers, we urge them to apprehend suspects and start conducting narco-tests to find the truth,” said Raju Adhav, district president of the Republican Sena.

Keywords: Republican Party of India (A), Ramdas Athawale, Ahmednagar district shutdown, dalit family murder, Maharashtra police

Dharna (fast occupation)

Dalit groups to protest outside stadium MUMBAI, 31 October  2014

Even as the Wankhede stadium will be packed with political bigwigs and celebrities for the swearing-in of Devendra Fadnavis as the Maharashtra Chief Minister on Friday, Dalit organisations will stage a dharna outside it to protest the police inaction in the gruesome Dalit triple murder case.

Sanjay Jadhav (42), his wife Jayashree (38) and their son Sunil (19) were hacked to death and their bodies dismembered, in Javkheda Khalasa village in Ahmednagar’s Pathardi taluka on the intervening night of October 20 and 21. Though the police have taken 22 people into custody, no arrests have been made.

A fact-finding report by the Dalit Atyachar Virodhi Kruti Samiti found that the murders were “premeditated.” It alleged that the dominant Maratha lobby is operating across parties to ensure that the investigation is scuttled.

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/dalit-groups-to-protest-outside-stadium/article6550478.ece

Raasta roko (Blokade)

FB pulls posts after Shiv Sena protests 2 June  2014

There was tension in parts of western Maharashtra on Sunday over some objectionable posts found on Facebook against warrior kings Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Maharaj and Shiv Sena leader Balasaheb Thackeray. The content was removed from the website early on Sunday.

Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said the posts might have been created outside the country. He said it was a sinister plot to disturb social harmony. “We are taking help from the Centre and from international agencies to find out who is behind this plot,” he told reporters during a press meet here.

According to the police, a few buses were burnt and damaged in Pune, Ahmednagar, Usmanabad, Kolhapur. Mobs resorted to rasta roko. There were reports of Shiv Sena agitations in various parts of the State. Police and political parties have appealed for peace.
The cyber cell of the Mumbai Crime Branch has started investigation. The officials contacted Facebook in America. The objectionable content was deleted by 1 a.m. on Sunday,” Sadanand Date, Mumbai Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), said.

The Shiv Sena upped its ante against the State administration. Many party officials filed FIRs at various places against unknown persons.

“There is no cyber surveillance by the State. This tendency to malign great people needs strict action,” Sena spokesperson Neelam Gorhe told The Hindu.

http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/fb-pulls-posts-after-shiv-sena-protests/article6073317.ece

Ticketless travel by Maharashtra Congress leaders to protest rail fare hike 23 June 2014

The Maharashtra unit of the Congress party hit the streets on Monday to protest against the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government’s decision to hike rail fares even as the BJP came under attack from its main ally for the decision.

Congress activists staged a rail-roko dharna in many of the suburban railway stations demanding roll back of the hike. Several senior leaders, including Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Manikrao Thakre and Rajya Sabha MP Husain Dalwai travelled without ticket in suburban local train from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to Thane as a mark of protest.

The Congress termed it as a ‘civil disobedience’ movement. Similar protests were also carried out in Andheri, Malad, Vile Parle, Ambernath and Asangaon stations. “The common man will suffer due to the government’s decision. We demand an immediate roll back. Until that time, we will continue with our agitation.” Mr.Thakre said.

The hike in passenger fare is likely to hit the pockets of Mumbaikars hard as they will have to shell out double, and in some cases, triple the amount for monthly and quarterly season tickets.

Flaying its chief ally in the State, the Shiv Sena said the government's decision had armed the opposition with a weapon even as it reluctantly accepted the fare hike by urging the government that “this should be the final increase.”

The government has said the hike was intended to provide safety, security and comfort to the passengers, but the people and opposition parties are not convinced, Uddhav Thackarey, Shiv Sena supremo, said in an editorial in his party mouthpiece Saamna on Monday.

“Compared to the railway systems in developed countries in Europe, Russia, the US, ours resembles a khatara gaadi. Our railway stations, railway tracks, signals etc. are in a horrible state. Crowds have increased but new routes have barely been introduced and whatever the British had built, we continue to overload it,” he said.

Responding to its criticism by the Sena, the BJP dismissed it as merely an opinion, which “did not reflect any differences.” “It’s their view. We have our views. The decision was taken by the government of which the Sena is a part. We have written to the Centre to rethink its decision,” Vinod Tawde, Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Council said.

The State BJP has urged Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to reconsider the rail fair as it is “too taxing” for common people. “We took cognizance of the feeling of the people and took necessary action. We have requested the Centre to reconsider it,” said Devendra Fadnavis, State BJP president.
Mr. Tawde expressed his satisfaction at the response from the Centre. “Rajnathji has assured to talk to Railway Minister, Finance Minister & Hon PM,” he tweeted. Meanwhile, Mandha Mhatre, former NCP MLC who quit her party last week, was inducted into the BJP on Monday in the presence of State’s top party leadership.


**Protesters block railway tracks to protest rail fare hike June 21 2014**

PTI Samajwadi Party workers block a train in protest against hike in railway fares, in Allahabad on Saturday.

**TOPICS**

Congress and Samajwadi Party workers on Saturday blocked railway tracks and burnt effigies of Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Sadanand Gowda while protesting against the “steep” hike in rail fares announced by the government in its first tough steps to revive the economy.

Samajwadi Party workers burnt Mr. Modi’s effigy in front of the Kashi Railway station in his home turf Varanasi and shouted slogans.

In Lucknow, Congress workers led by former district president Amit Srivastava Tyagi staged a demonstration in front of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and torched an effigy of Union Railway Minister Sadanand Gowda.

Mr. Tyagi said, “The PM had promised people to cut down inflation but the rail fare hike has exposed him and his party.”

He said the move will have an adverse effect upon the people who are already battling relentless price rise.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee termed the move as “betrayal” by the NDA-led Union government and announced that it would stage a state-wide dharna on Sunday.
Scores of flag-waving angry SP protesters in Allahabad thronged Prayag Railway station on Saturday morning, shouted slogans and blocked railway traffic, forcing the Ganga-Gomti passenger train to halt for close to half-an-hour.

SP spokesperson Dan Bahadur Singh slammed the hike, saying it tantamount to “betrayal” of trust that the people of the country had placed in the BJP.

In Mathura, Congress leader Pradeep Mathur said, “The unprecedented hike in freight rates would lead to overall price rise.”

“BJP in its Lok Sabha election campaign had stressed upon good governance. However, it is otherwise.”

In Kanpur, Congress workers held placards, shouted slogans and burnt Union Railway Minister’s effigy demanding an immediate rollback in the fares.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha on Saturday told reporters in Lucknow that the hike decision was necessary for the Railways, which was incurring huge losses and said the decision had been taken by the previous UPA regime as part of interim rail budget.


**16.Manipur Issues: Tribal People (Advasaris), Inner Line Permit (ILP)**

**Thousands stage sit-in on inner line permit issue 28July 2014**

Thousands of women activists and vendors staged a sit-in at several places in and around Imphal on Sunday demanding reintroduction of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) in Manipur.

It was lifted on November 18, 1950. The ILP is in force in Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Women vendors kept off markets and housewives abandoned their household chores to participate in the protests. Police did not intervene.

Women activists assembled in large numbers from Khwiramband market complex, Uripok, Tera, Khurai, Lilong, Sega Road, Takhel Leikai.

**Torchlight procession**

They took out a torchlight procession late in the night.

They displayed placards with slogans demanding the reintroduction of the ILP to protect the indigenous people.

They took umbrage at the merciless and inhuman beating of students who were demanding ILP in Manipur.

Photographs showed police kicking the cowering students. They are also demanding unconditional release of the arrested students and action against policemen.

**Homage**
People from many walks of life paid homage to the 18 men and a woman who were killed during the June 18, 2001 agitation demanding the protection of the territory of Manipur.

On June 14 that year, ceasefire with the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah) was extended “without territorial limits”. People protested against it.

Akom Lup, a social organisation, organised the memorial service at J.N.Dance Academy in Imphal on Sunday.

Those present observed two minutes' silence for the dead.

Two strikes paralyse life in Manipur

Agitation in support of demand for reintroduction of Inner Line Permit 27 July 2014

Police personnel clearing a road blockade during a strike in Imphal on Saturday demanding enforcement of Inner Line Permit System in the State. Photo: PTI

Manipur is under siege as a result of general strikes imposed by the United Naga Council and the Joint Committee one the Inner Line Permit System.

The UNC is demanding withdrawal of State forces from Ukhrul district and lifting of the prohibitory orders imposed there.

The Joint Committee had imposed a wildcat strike from Friday midnight protesting against the alleged police excesses while dispersing students, who were demanding the reintroduction of the Inner Line Permit, which was lifted from the State on November 18, 1950.

It is in force in three states of the northeast – Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

All educational institutions are closed till Monday as a precautionary measure. Shops and commercial establishments also were closed.

There were some scuffles with women vendors in Imphal town when police tried to disperse them. Teargas canisters were fired.

Reports of such agitations are reported from the Thoubal and Bishnupur districts.

However, the five hill districts are not affected by the campaign for the Inner Line Permit.

The general strike for 48 hours called by the United Naga Council has affected two highways, which are the lifelines of Manipur.

Long running and inter-State buses and trucks are off the road.

The west district Superintendent of Police R.K. Jhalajit has informed the heads of government departments that since there is an acute shortage of police personnel every office cannot be guarded. Activists demanding reintroduction of the Inner Line Permit system have made several attempts to torch government offices during the ongoing agitation.

The SP asked officials to put employees on alert. At least six employees should be on office premises round the clock to ward off arsonists.
Police stations are open round the clock to attend to emergency calls. Police patrolling has been intensified and all the areas will be covered.

On Saturday, effigies of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh were burned in public places. Activists blocked roads by burning tyres and placing logs.

Several vehicles which had ventured out during the 18-hour wild cat strike were damaged.


Hartal (Strike Stay away)
Gherao (Occupation)
Bandh (General Strike Stay away)
Dharna (fast occupation)
Raasta roko (Blokade)