

28.Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand locals protest new Mansarovar route 20 September 2014

Locals from the Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttarakhand, on Friday, staged protests against the agreement between India and China over an additional route to Kailash Mansarovar.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, on Thursday, proposed an additional route to Kailash Mansarovar via Nathu La in Sikkim, which was agreed to by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The traditional Kailash Mansarovar route passes through towns and villages in the State's Almora and Pithoragarh districts. The locals, including businessmen, across the two districts

protested against the Centre's decision as it would hamper the economy of the area, which is dependent on tourism.

In Almora, the locals, on Friday, burnt effigies of the Central government in response to the agreement to the alternative route.

According to the records of Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN), which is the agency that conducts the Kailash Mansarovar yatra, a total of 338 groups comprising 13,534 people have participated in the yatra from the year 1981 to the present year.

The yatra on the Indian side is conducted till the Lipulekh pass in Pithoragarh district. D K Sharma, Divisional Manager in KMVN said,

“Around 2,000 porters, persons working with transport, hoteliers, are involved in the yatra and their earnings are dependent on it.”

“An additional route would surely mean some loss to the State, however, the real picture will only emerge next year,” Mr Sharma said, adding that this year around 910 pilgrims took the yatra and Rs 32,000 was spent by an individual in the 24-day yatra.

Expressing his disappointment over Chinese President Xi Jinping's announcement of an additional route to Kailash Mansarovar, Chief Minister Harish Rawat, on Thursday, said Centre's agreement to the route was a tactic to score high on the diplomatic front.

The journey to Kailash Mansarovar, or, the Kailash Mansarovar yatra, which is conducted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Chinese government, passes through Uttarakhand, and is conducted till Mount Kailash, and Lake Manasarovar in Tibet.

Uttarakhand, which hosts major part of the yatra, has religiously and culturally important landmarks on the traditional route. “Agreement with China over the new route to Kailash Mansarovar is against the religious sentiments of the people of the country,” Mr Rawat said, adding that the Centre must provide adequate funds to the State for the improvement of the traditional yatra route for it to be developed as a competitive route to Kailash Mansarovar.

In July, Mr Rawat had written to Mr Modi requesting him to refrain from pressing upon the need for an additional route for the Kailash Mansarovar.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/uttarakhand-locals-protest-new-mansarovar-route/article6428222.ece>

Hartal (Strike Stay away)

Gherao(Occupation)

Bandh (General Strike Stay away)

Dharna (fast occupation)

Raasta roko (Blokade)

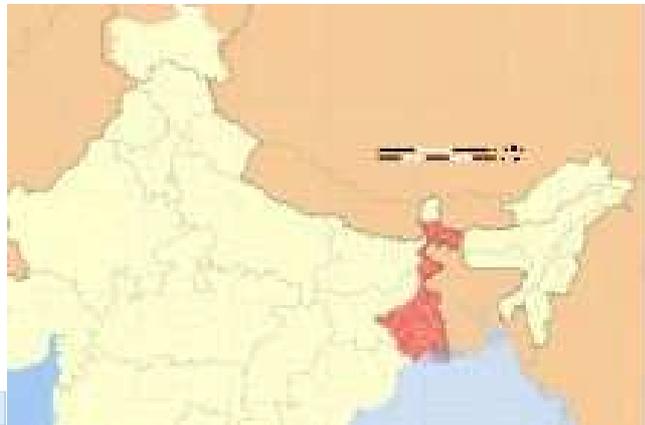
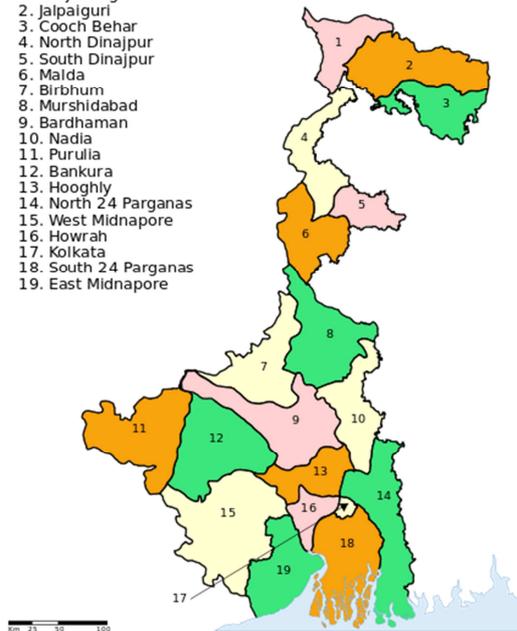
29. West Bengal

Issues: Students, Taxi drivers, Corruption, Traders, Conflict between political parties

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

Districts of West Bengal

1. Darjeeling
2. Jalpaiguri
3. Cooch Behar
4. North Dinajpur
5. South Dinajpur
6. Malda
7. Birbhum
8. Murshidabad
9. Bardhaman
10. Nadia
11. Purulia
12. Bankura
13. Hooghly
14. North 24 Parganas
15. West Midnapore
16. Howrah
17. Kolkata
18. South 24 Parganas
19. East Midnapore



Source Websites:

www.telegraphindia.com

www.thehindu.com

Tea garden strike issue raised in West Bengal Assembly

Kolkata, November 13, 2014

The 12-hour strike called by the joint forum of trade unions in north Bengal on Wednesday, demanding declaration of minimum wages for tea garden workers, created ripples both inside and outside West Bengal Assembly.

The general strike evoked good response in north Bengal where shops and financial establishment remained closed. Former Urban Development Minister Asok Bhattacharya and

many senior Left leaders were arrested in Siliguri while participating in a rally in support of the strike.

The arrest triggered protest by the Left Front legislators in the Assembly demanding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's statement.

If the State government suppresses strikes and agitation it will have to be prepared to face bigger strikes, Leader of the Opposition Surjya Kanta Mishra said.

Senior Congress MLA Manas Ranjan Bhunia said the Chief Minister should send the Labour Minister to north Bengal to tackle the issue.

The Speaker, Biman Banerjee, said Labour Minister Moley Ghatak will give a statement on the issue on Thursday.

Meanwhile, trade union leaders who had called the strike said described it has huge success.

"The two day strike, strike in tea gardens on Tuesday and 12- day general strike in north Bengal on Wednesday has generated much enthusiasm among the people. It has created an awareness about the rights of tea garden workers," Debjit Dutta, the spokesperson of United Tea Workers Front (UTWF) said.

The strike was organised by 23 trade unions of tea workers which have been demanding declaration of minimum wages in the sector. Several political and apolitical groups participated in the strike. The Tea garden workers in Dooars get wages of Rs 95 a day while in Darjeeling they get Rs 90.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/tea-garden-strike-issue-raised-in-west-bengal-assembly/article6592776.ece>

Unorganised sector labour unions seek minimum wages

Rally planned in Kolkata on Tuesday

KOLKATA, November 8, 2014

Demanding minimum wages for workers in the unorganised sector, the Ossongothito Khetra Sramik Sangrami Manch, an umbrella organisation of trade unions, will organise a rally in Kolkata on November 11. The rally will also protest against the Centre's alleged attempt to reduce the scope of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, manch convener Somenath Ghosh said members of more than 20 trade unions will participate in the rally. The manch has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government at the Centre of trying to dilute labour laws, which in turn will curb the right of workers in the unorganised sector to join trade unions.

They also claimed that as per the amendments, factory owners will be allowed to hire 50 per cent workers as apprentices, which will lead to more violation of labour rights.

The manch also criticised the All-India Trinamool Congress (AITC) for dragging its feet on implementing the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in West Bengal.

Trade union activist Anuradha Talwar said they will meet legislative leaders of the ruling-AITC, as well the Opposition parties in the State and urge them to pass a resolution in the Legislative Assembly against the alleged “curtailing” of the MNREGA.

Later, Ms. Talwar met the Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Surya Kanta Mishra.

“Mr. Mishra told us that he will take initiative regarding the all-party resolution,” Ms. Talwar told *The Hindu*, adding that he expressed his support for the cause.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/unorganised-sector-labour-unions-seek-minimum-wages/article6577417.ece>

Leaders stopped from entering Makra: 10 persons arrested for violence in Makra village in Birbhum strict KOLKATA, October 30, 2014

Congress MP Abhijit Mukherjee and other workers protest after being stopped by the police from entering the Makra village in Birbhum on Wednesday.— PHOTO: PTI

Even as 10 persons were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the violence at Makra village in West Bengal’s Birbhum district, the police did not allow a delegation of Opposition political parties — the Left Front, the BJP and the Congress -- to enter the village.

The village, which was rocked by violence on Monday, witnessed protests by the Opposition parties which held demonstration against clamping of prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Cr. PC by the district administration.

Congress MP and son of President Pranab Mukherjee, Abhijit Mukherjee, was one of the first to be stopped by the police outside the village. He along with other Congress leaders sat in protest outside the village.

“The police, which had remained a mute spectator when the miscreants were killing people, are now proactive to prevent us from visiting the village. This is an attempt to prevent the truth from being coming out,” Mr Mukherjee said.

The Left Front delegation, led by Communist Party of India (Marxist) Rajya Sabha member Ritabrata Banerjee and MLA Anisur Rahman, was taken into preventive custody by the police when they tried to enter the village. They were later released.

The BJP delegation, which included State vice-president Prabhkar Tiwari and Sharmistha Kar Purakayastha, was also prevented from entering the village.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/leaders-stopped-from-entering-makra/article6546379.ece>

Civil rights group protests lynching

KOLKATA, November 20, 2014

: Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), a civil rights group, staged a demonstration in front of NRS Medical College and Hospital here on Wednesday to protest against the lynching of a man in the men's hostel on Sunday.

The man was identified as Kurpan Shah, a resident of Uluberia in Howrah district of West Bengal on Tuesday. His family members said he had been missing since November 14 and was suffering from a mental disorder.

Mr Shah was allegedly caught stealing a mobile phone from a hostel room and tied to a pillar and beaten up.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/civil-rights-group-protests-lynching/article6616581.ece>

Taxis in Kolkata stay off the road, commuters left stranded Leftist trade unions and taxi unions declared the first formal taxi strike on Tuesday. 4 September 2014

It is past 2 p.m. and Uday Singh has just started his shift at a pre-paid taxi booth in the Howrah station complex. On any other day, he would have rushed to claim his spot behind the counter. Tuesday, however, is different as he patiently waits for his colleague to vacate his chair and is in a relaxed mood. Thanks to the city-wide taxi strike called by unions, he knows it is going to be a day with little or no activity.

“My colleagues in the morning shift had some work — informing passengers that there were no taxis and directed them to bus stands. By now, people know that taxis won't be plying so I don't think I will have any work today,” Mr. Singh says.

After intermittent strikes in the form of rallies and meetings throughout August, Leftist trade unions and taxi unions declared the first formal taxi strike on Tuesday. While the call for the rallies initially was to protest against police atrocities, the demand is now fare revision in tandem with the increasing fuel prices. Issuing several warnings to the State Transport Department to act on their demands bore no fruit and taxi unions went on strike five times last month.

Although a few stray taxis were spotted during the day, their meters were covered with a red cloth, indicating that they would not go by the meter. The worst affected were patients and their accompanying relatives in hospitals. A lone rickshaw puller near the exit gates of the State government-run SSKM Hospital made brisk business.

“I dropped a patient and his son to Kalighat [about two kilometres away from the hospital] a while ago. While there are a few taxis parked inside the hospital complex, they won't budge unless the passengers are willing to pay Rs. 500, even for a short distance,” the rickshaw puller said.

Police personnel stationed at the Howrah station seem prepared to handle the situation. A woman with a leg injury has been waiting at the pre paid taxi booth for over an hour with her

relatives, looking desperately for a taxi to take them to Esplanade. They have arrived from Bihar for the woman's treatment. West Bengal Police personnel D.K. Naskar finally flag down a white 'no refusal' taxi on the pretext of penalising him for refusing a passenger at the entrance of the station complex. However, after letting him off with a verbal warning, Mr. Naskar instructs the driver to take the woman and her relatives to Esplanade.

"This is how we have been managing to get cabs throughout the day when some elderly persons and patients approach us for help. For the others, we have been directing them to bus stands. The government has been running additional buses to ease passengers' woes," Mr. Naskar said.

Posing a danger to the trademark yellow taxis of Kolkata, various cab services are making their presence felt. Although the fares are much steeper due to the luxury and upgraded services they offer, the services are fast gaining popularity due to their reliability and the promise of a safe and hassle-free travel.

Although the tradition of strikes is not new to Bengal, the intermittent taxi strikes in the past month left commuters angry. .

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/taxis-in-kolkata-stay-off-the-road-commuters-left-stranded/article6378650.ece>

Javapur University VC enters campus, sparks protest

Kolkata, September 26, 2014

Congress Chhatra Parishad activists gherao Jadavpur Police Station in Kolkata on Wednesday. Photo: PTI

Fresh protests were triggered on the Jadavpur University campus on Thursday when Vice-Chancellor Abhijit Chakraborty stepped foot inside, one week after the alleged episode of use of force against the varsity's students during a stir.

"The VC today came to the campus at around 12 noon and went to his office. We are protesting against the VC's entry into the campus. We want him to step down," said a member of JU's students' union.

Chakraborty visit to the JU campus comes on the day when a proposed march to the Kolkata Police headquarters at Lal Bazar was called off by the protesting students after the cases against them were withdrawn.

Thousands of students had marched through the city's streets last Saturday demanding Chakraborty's resignation. West Bengal Governor KN Tripathi, who is also the Chancellor of JU, has intervened in the matter with a view to ending the stalemate at the prestigious institution where students continue to boycott classes. PTI

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/javapur-university-vc-enters-campus-sparks-protest/article6447231.ece>

Taxi strike to continue in Kolkata

KOLKATA, September 21, 2014

The ordeal for commuters was compounded on Saturday as heavy showers lashed the city throughout the day, and large parts of central Kolkata faced severe traffic snarls due to a demonstration by Jadavpur University students.

The impasse between taxi operators and the West Bengal government will continue as the representatives of the trade union and the city police have failed to come to any consensus here on Saturday.

A delegation of the Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) and All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) leaders spearheading the movement met Commissioner of Police, Kolkata Surajit Kar Purkayastha. But the meeting failed to bring good news for commuters in the State.

50,000 taxis have remained off the road in the city for the past three days. The ordeal for commuters was compounded on Saturday as heavy showers lashed the city throughout the day, and large parts of central Kolkata faced severe traffic snarls due to a demonstration by Jadavpur University students.

The city is likely to have more showers in the next 24 hours.

“We demanded from Mr. Purkayastha that false cases slapped on 22 taxi drivers be withdrawn,” Nawal Kishor Shrivastav, general secretary of the Kolkata Taxi Operator’s Union, affiliated to AITUC told *The Hindu*. The delegation has also demanded that a fine of Rs.3, 000 slapped on taxi drivers for passenger refusal has to be revoked.

Mr. Srivastav also said that the Police Commissioner told them that he will look into the matter. “We have told Mr. Purkayastha that the police have to take responsibility of about 800 taxis it toed away in Kolkata and the adjoining areas.” To condemn the alleged apathy of the State government towards the plight of taxi drivers, the protesters took off their shirts and resorted to bare-bodied protest.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/taxi-strike-to-continue-in-kolkata/article6431559.ece>

Left Front rally on Sept. 22 against Saradha scam

13 Kolkata, September 2014

The Left Front will take out a ‘massive’ rally in Kolkata on September 22 to protest against the multi-crore Sardha ponzi scheme scam in West Bengal.

“We have decided that Left Front will organize a massive rally on Sept 22 agaisnt the chit fund scam, which has duped lakhs of people in the State. The people of Bengal want an answer, they want justice, they want their money back,” Left Front Chairman Biman Bose said today.

“If the real culprits are not arrested soon, we will organise massive movements in the state... There are reports that money from Saradha ponzi scheme has been siphoned off to Bangladesh to fund terror.”

Claiming that democracy is being throttled in the state by the ruling Trinamool Congress regime, he said, “Democracy has been replaced by autocracy and goondaism.”

Keywords: [Saradha ponzi scheme scam](#), [Saradha scam](#), [Left Front protest](#), [Left Front rally](#), [Biman Bose](#)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/left-front-rally-on-sept-22-against-saradha-scam/article6408130.ece>

Transport unions to hold rally tomorrow

Kolkata, 9 September 2014

: Upping the ante against the State government in the ongoing transport crisis, West Bengal’s Left trade unions here on Monday have yet again decided to hold a rally in Kolkata on September 10.

Other than taxi drivers, private bus drivers and autorickshaw drivers are expected to participate in the rally, which will start from College Square in the city’s centre and end at Esplanade.

The protests may turn into a transport strike as it has happened on earlier occasions, over the past few weeks. Protesting the State government’s alleged apathy towards the problems that private bus drivers were facing, State president of the Centre for Trade Unions, Shyamal Chakraborty said 20,000 private buses have been taken off the roads, rendering more than one lakh bus drivers and conductors jobless.

“ Even State government buses are falling into disrepair. Instead of repairing the old buses and maintaining them, the State government is launching new buses,” Mr. Chakraborty said and added that wages of workers under the State’s Transport department had decreased by 20-25 per cent, adding to their woes. Highlighting the problems faced by auto rickshaw drivers, Mr. Chakraborty said the State government had failed to provide coins to the drivers, leading them to face problems daily with passengers.

Legal notice

Meanwhile, the Kolkata Taxi Operator’s Union, affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), labour arm of Communist party of India, has sent a legal notice to the State government highlighting the problems faced by taxi drivers. “We sent the notice on September 3 and have given the government time to respond till September 10. If we don’t get a reply by then, we will move the Calcutta High Court,” general secretary of the Union

Nawal Kishor Shrivastav said. In the notice, demands were made to have taxi stands at 120 places across the city, the return of licenses of suspended drivers, and revision of taxi fares.

Traffic police personnel have been slapping false cases of refusal on drivers, he added. "Taxi fares were last revised in December 2012 where the waiting charge was reduced.

This, coupled with the increasing price of diesel, has resulted in financial losses for drivers as they have to pay for the fuel from their pockets," Mr. Shrivastav said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/transport-unions-to-hold-rally-tomorrow/article6392378.ece>

Girl who went missing from kangaroo court found dead

Kolkata, September 4, 2014

The death of a teenager who had protested against her father being beaten up at a kangaroo court at Dhupguri, in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, turned into a political controversy on Wednesday with the Left parties launching a major movement on the issue.

The father of the 15-year-old has lodged a complaint at a local police station, alleging that she was raped and killed. The body was found near the railway tracks on Tuesday morning.

The police have arrested one person in connection with the incident.

The girl's father had borrowed a power tiller and a dispute had cropped up over its rent. According to his family, the girl had protested when he was being beaten up at the *salishi-sabha* (kangaroo court) on Monday. Local leaders of the Trinamool Congress were present at the kangaroo court. The girl went missing soon afterwards.

"The family believes that the girl was abducted, raped and killed," Mamata Roy, Dhupguri CPI(M) MLA told *The Hindu* over telephone.

The student wing of the CPI(M) has called for a strike in the Dhupguri area.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/girl-who-went-missing-from-kangaroo-court-found-dead/article6377826.ece>

Strike by Bengal potato traders called off

Kolkata, 1 September 2014

The three-day strike called by potato traders in West Bengal from Monday to protest a condition set by the government for partial relaxation of export ban was withdrawn on Sunday.

“We requested potato traders to withdraw the strike and they have done so,” Agriculture Marketing Minister Arup Roy told PTI here.

Earlier, Trinamool Congress general secretary Mukul Roy urged potato traders not to go ahead with the strike since Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee would be away in North Bengal from September 1.

Both the Agriculture Minister and the TMC leader said the government was considerate and after meeting the State’s requirement, it had no objection to transport of potatoes to other States.

Government condition

Last Monday, the State government had told potato traders that they would be allowed to export 700 tonnes daily to other States, provided they supplied 300 tonnes of tubers to the West Bengal government at a price of Rs 12 per kilo to be sold to fair price shops.

The Pragatishil Aloo Byabsayee Samiti, the largest organisation of potato traders in the State, had called the strike.

Price issue

Santanu Manna, the president of the Samiti, earlier questioned how this was possible when they bought the Jyoti variety of potato from farmers at Rs 13 a kilo, which included cold storage and transport charges, before being sent to wholesale markets. The price at that stage then became Rs 16 a kilo, he had said.

The State government had earlier banned supply of potatoes to other States in view of the three—day strike called by the traders. PTI

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/strike-by-bengal-potato-traders-called-off/article6368700.ece>

Now, Trinamool leader calls for burning ‘real human effigies’

Kolkata, 22 August 2014

Weeks after All India Trinamool Congress MP Tapas Paul’s “rape and shoot” remark created an outrage, another party leader has made a controversial comment stating people would burn “real human effigies” of those who burnt effigies of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Trinamool MLA Nirmal Majhi, also a doctor and chairperson of the West Bengal Assembly’s Standing Committee on Health, made the remarks at a gathering of the Progressive Doctors’ Association, an outfit of doctors affiliated to the ruling party, on Wednesday.

Mr. Majhi was referring to Anup Kumar Roy who was removed as the Principal of North Bengal Medical College and Hospital. Mr. Roy was a member of the Association of Health Service Doctors (AHSD) affiliated to the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/now-trinamool-leader-calls-for-burning-real-human-effigies/article6340302.ece>

Three arrested for death of woman

Police say it was suicide, but husband claims she was raped and killed

KOLKATA, August 20, 2014

CPI (M) Mahila Ganatantrik Samity activists block the road to protest the woman's death in Kolkata on Tuesday. Photo: PTI

: Three persons were arrested in connection with the death of a woman in Contai in Purba Medinipur district on Tuesday even as the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) held protests across West Bengal condemning the incident.

“We have received the post-mortem report and there is no mention of any violence or injury mark on the victim’s body. The death was a case of hanging,” District Superintendent of Police Sukesh Jain told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

The police suspect it to be a case of suicide and the accused have been arrested for abetment to suicide. There have been conflicting claims made by the victims’ family members. While the husband of the woman, a local CPI-M member, alleged that his wife was raped and killed, the brother-in-law in the police complaint has claimed that the victim committed suicide.

However, the family members have emphasised that the woman was threatened by local All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) supporters.

CPI (M) leader and State Committee member Tapas Sinha, who met the family members, accused the police of “acting as per the instructions of the AITC. He also alleged that about “12 local AITC leaders gang raped the victim and then murdered her.”

Senior CPI (M) leader and the party’s State secretariat member Rabin Deb accused the police of trying to shield the accused in the case. “Even though some persons have been arrested in relation to the case, the main accused are still at large,” he said. The Left Front supporters will lay siege to the office of District Superintendent of Police on Thursday, he added.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/three-arrested-for-death-of-woman/article6333038.ece>

Taxi unions call off strike, dispute continues

Kolkata, August 14, 2014

Though the Taxi unions have called off their strike, a meeting between State Transport Minister Madan Mitra and taxi unions ended here on Wednesday without any solution to the ongoing discord between the Unions and the government.

“The meeting was called only for hearing and not for any solution,” Center for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) leader Subhas Mukherjee told journalists. The issues which the taxi unions raised included scrapping the fine for taxi refusal and withdrawing charges against 21 taxi drivers who were arrested for participating in protests in the city last week. The police had arrested them claiming that the taxi drivers had indulged in vandalism.

The representatives of Bengal Taxi association also demanded a revision of taxi fares. Bimal Guha, a representative of the taxi union said that the taxi operators may go for a strike before the Durga Puja if the fares are not revised,

State’s Transport Minister Madan Mitra, said that the State government will not go for any compromise with taxi workers.

“They (taxi drivers) will have to ensure that there is no refusal,” the Minister said

Mr Mitra also threatened to challenge the bail granted to 21 drivers by a city court on Tuesday in higher courts.

“We are considering moving an appeal before a higher court challenging the bail of the errant taxi drivers ,” he added. Both the minister and representatives of the taxi unions said that the meeting was inconclusive.

The taxi operators have held the city for ransom for two days as most of the taxis remained off road alleging excesses by the police. The taxi operators claim that a hefty fine of Rs 3,000 was imposed by the police for refusal which should be withdrawn.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/taxi-unions-call-off-strike-dispute-continues/article6314796.ece>

AIDWA to take out protest march today against rape of railway employee

KOLKATA, July 28, 2014

The Leftist All India Democratic Women’s Association (AIDWA) will be organising a protest march in the city on Monday to protest against the rape of an Eastern Railway employee by her colleagues.

The march would start at 3 p.m. from B.B. Ganguly Street in Boubazar in the city’s north and would end at the Police Headquarter at Lalbazar in central Kolkata, AIDWA State secretary Minati Ghosh said. A deputation would be submitted to the Commissioner of Police.

“Although the accused have been arrested, we protest against the derogatory attitude of the police which cast aspersions on the rape survivor’s character instead of acting on her complaint. We are protesting against the negligent attitude of the police,” Ms. Ghosh said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/aidwa-to-take-out-protest-march-today-against-rape-of-railway-employee/article6256063.ece>

Civic police demand regularisation

KOLKATA, July 9, 2014

Protesting against lack of job security, the West Bengal Civic Police Association demanded that the State government assure the civic police of permanent jobs with requisite benefits.

The Civic Police Volunteer Force, also known as ‘Green Police’, was introduced by the Kolkata Municipality in 2008 primarily to assist the Kolkata Police in traffic management. According to the president of the West Bengal Civic Police Association Sanjay Poria, there are more than one lakh personnel employed as civic police throughout the State. Yet, they enjoy no job security.

“Although we were employed as contractual workers of the State’s Labour Department, we received no appointment letter or formal training. Our job responsibilities were not specified at the time of joining. Some of our colleagues have been deployed at various police stations and are made to petty jobs there,” Mr. Poria said.

The government has failed to clear wages of many of the personnel for months, he said. Claiming that many personnel have committed suicide due to this, he said: “We face several risks while on the job. A civic police officer died while he was on duty in Paschim Medinipur district when a car ran over him. We get no medical facilities. How does the government expect us to live on a measly wage of Rs. 141 with only 120 working days in a year?”

The civic police’s wage is much lower than the minimum daily wage of Rs. 222 as decided by the State government, general secretary of a labour rights forum Naba Dutta said.

“While the government has the right to appoint anyone on a temporary basis, it is also expected to furnish appointment letters.

Denying appointment letters and not specifying service conditions is tantamount to unfair labour practices. The government is also bound to provide job benefits like medical benefits, provident fund, equal remuneration, etc. to the personnel despite them being contractual workers” Mr. Dutta said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/civic-police-demand-regularisation/article6191597.ece>

Potests against reports of Kalyan Singh as Governor

Kolkata, July 9, 2014

Amidst reports that former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh might be made tWest Bengal Governor, the Left Front today protested in the Assembly and staged a walk—out.

Leader of Opposition Surjya Kanta Mishra said that no question by the Opposition on the matter was allowed in the Assembly during the morning session, which prompted the Left Front MLAs to walk out.

“The tradition at the Centre is to have a Governor who will listen to their political masters in Delhi. Now they are trying to make Kalyan Singh as Governor who has the scar of Babri Masjid demolition on him,” Mr. Mishra told reporters outside the House.

He said the state government must make its stand clear on this topic. PTI

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/potests-against-reports-of-kalyan-singh-as-governor/article6191599.ece>

Hartal (Strike Stay away) Gherao(Occupation)

Siege of Maruti shop

Durgapur, June 12: Over 200 suspected Trinamul trade union workers today allegedly prevented employees of a Maruti showroom-cum-service station in Durgapur from joining work, demanding that 30 unskilled workers loyal to them be employed.

Officials of SWG Car World, the Maruti dealer, said they had no vacancies at the facility in Durgapur town and added that around 200 workers recommended by the INTTUC and local Trinamul leaders had been given varied jobs there, including those of mechanics and sales executives.

INTTUC activists from wards 20 and 21 led by Trinamul leader Arabinda Pal, said to be close to Durgapur municipality councillor Anindita Mukherjee, demonstrated in front of the SWG Car World showroom at Faridpur in Durgapur town around 8 this morning and prevented workers from entering. They planted INTTUC flags in front of the outlet.

The INTTUC workers sat on a dharna in front of the showroom beside NH2 for over three hours and chanted slogans against the authorities. They left around 11am, but the showroom-cum-workshop remained closed for the rest of the day as the INTTUC workers had allegedly threatened to ransack it if it was opened.

Trinamul denied the charge that the INTTUC workers had stalled work at the showroom, saying they had gone to speak to the authorities and organise a “peaceful” dharna.

“The showroom authorities had agreed to recruit 20 workers from my ward after the Lok Sabha polls but they did not keep their promise,” said Anindita, the wife of Durgapur mayor Apurba Mukherjee.

“Our workers had gone to talk to the authorities today and submit a memorandum. But no senior management official was present. Our workers sat on a peaceful dharna in front of

the showroom. The authorities did not open their showroom for reasons best known to them,” she added.

Showroom general manager Rakesh Dubey said the authorities had told Trinamul leaders that there were no vacancies. “We had told the leaders that if we needed unskilled workers in the future, we would definitely consider those recommended by them. But the leaders had been putting pressure on us. We have informed the police and the deputy labour commissioner of Durgapur,” he said.

The police said the showroom authorities were yet to lodge a complaint.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140613/jsp/bengal/story_18507409.jsp#.VHJGHWecCM8

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

Bengal law minister leads dharna by TMC women outside CBI office

Calcutta, Sep 11 (PTI): West Bengal’s law minister Chandrima Bhattacharya on Thursday led droves of women Trinamul Congress workers in a sit-in demonstration outside the Central Bureau of Investigation’s office here to protest the agency’s “motivated” probe of the Rs 2000-crore Saradha scam.

The Trinamul Mahila Congress workers sat down holding placards and shouting slogans in front of the main gate of the Central Government Office complex in Salt Lake housing many other offices including that of the Enforcement Directorate, which is also investigating Saradha.

Bhattacharya told reporters, “The CBI was intentionally trying to divert the course of the probe with a political motivation under the influence of Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre.”

She alleged, “The CBI is trying to defame our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the party. The way the probe is being done is not legally tenable.” The people of the state would never accept such things, she said.

The CBI, during the course of the probe, has arrested Rajat Majumdar, former Director General of State Armed Police, who is considered close to the TMC leadership and was a security consultant of the Saradha Group after he retired.

The agency questioned the party's Rajya Sabha member Srinjoy Bose on Wednesday for almost eight hours. Others owing allegiance to the Congress TMC were also grilled by the agency.

The TMC has suspended party MP Kunal Ghosh, who is behind bars.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140911/jsp/frontpage/story_18823768.jsp#.VHJEUWecCM8

Plea in SC for Saradha contempt case on minister

‘Pressure on agency’

Chandrima Bhattacharya at the protest outside the CBI office in Salt Lake on September 11

New Delhi, Sept. 23: A petition was filed in the Supreme Court today seeking contempt proceedings against Bengal law minister Chandrima Bhattacharya and two other Trinamul leaders for “putting pressure” on the CBI, which is investigating the Saradha scam on the orders of the court.

Chandrima, Assembly deputy Speaker Sonali Guha and Bidhannagar municipality chairperson Krishna Bhattacharya had taken part in demonstrations outside the CBI office in Salt Lake’s CGO complex earlier this month to protest the “politically motivated” probe by the agency. Chandrima had led the protest, organised by the women’s wing of Trinamul.

Today’s petition was filed by advocates Pratim Kumar Singha Ray and Abu Abbasuddin through their counsel Subhashish Bhowmick. The petition alleged that the September 11 and 12 protests had lowered the image of the judiciary and amounted to contempt of the apex court. The court is yet to take a call on the petition.

Chandrima refused comment when asked about the petition. Trinamul all-India general secretary Mukul Roy said the party would fight the case if it was accepted in court. Trinamul MP and lawyer Kalyan Banerjee said: “Apart from being minister or deputy Speaker, they (Chandrima and Sonali) have a political identity. They took part in the dharna as party functionaries.”

Today’s petition said Chandrima, Sonali and Krishna were “clearly guilty of making illegal, malafide and wilful attempts for evading the order of this hon’ble court”. The petition dubbed the move “scandalous” and said it had tended “to lower the authority of the hon’ble court”.

“Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that... Chandrima Bhattacharya along with Sonali Guha... and Krishna Bhattacharya... are clearly liable for their contumacious act, which calls for contempt proceedings against them by this hon’ble court,” the petition added.

On May 9, the Supreme Court directed the CBI to take over the Saradha probe while hearing two public interest litigations seeking a probe by the central agency into the Saradha scam.

The contempt petition moved today mentioned that the Supreme Court, in its judgment on May 9, directed police in Bengal and Odisha to cooperate with the CBI.

“In spite of the undertaking given by the state of West Bengal (to cooperate with the agency), the Bengal law minister and the others organised a dharna to protest against the CBI investigation,” the petition said.

“This act of the law minister and the others amount to wilful disobedience of the judgment and order dated 09.05.2014. The demonstration was organised to put pressure on the CBI not to interrogate the persons related to Trinamul Congress party. Such demonstrations for two days was a direct confrontation with the order of the hon’ble Supreme Court,” the

petition added.

Congress leader Abdul Mannan, who was part of the group that had petitioned the Supreme Court for a CBI probe into the Saradha scam, said today that Trinamul was “trying to build up public support” against the agency’s probe. “The law minister and the Assembly deputy Speaker sat on a dharna, challenging the apex court’s order,” he said.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140924/jsp/bengal/story_18866820.jsp#.VHJFHmecCM8

Didi shows BJP threat, CPM accepts - Left worried about Modi’s party ‘luring away’ cadres

Calcutta, June 18: The Left in Bengal is swearing by the Communist Mamatafesto.

After taking to heart Mamata Banerjee’s advice of being visible by test-firing the missile on its inventor, the Left Front today paid attention to a warning the chief minister had sounded — watch out for the BJP and fight the “common enemy”.

The Left Front leadership today said it was “worried” about the BJP “luring away our cadres” and dubbed the trend “unfortunate”.

Left Front chairman Biman Bose told a news conference after a meeting at Alimuddin Street to take stock of the post-Lok Sabha poll scenario: “We briefly reviewed the situation in the districts after the elections. What we have gathered is that the BJP is luring away our cadres and supporters in many districts. They are telling our men that the Left has no future and so our activists should join the BJP. This is a matter of worry and concern for the Left.”

Bose, also the CPM state secretary who had offered to take responsibility for the poll drubbing, spoke of “reports” that some cadres were crossing over to the BJP. “If that happens spontaneously, we would not have anything to say. But if our cadres are being lured or forced to join the BJP, that’s unfortunate. We condemn this act of the BJP,” he added.

During a meeting with a Left delegation headed by Bose at Nabanna on June 9, Mamata had advised the Marxists to keep their house in order as the BJP was eating into their support base rapidly.

According to a Front leader, many Left cadres have switched over to the BJP in West Midnapore, Hooghly, Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura and some parts of north Bengal.

“In most of these districts, Left activists at the panchayat level are joining the BJP. This is particularly so in places where our cadres are being targeted by Trinamul,” an RSP leader said.

According to Left Front chairman Bose, the BJP is doing what Trinamul had done after coming to power in 2011 — “harassing our cadres and forcing them to join them”.

The Left will stage a three-day dharna at Esplanade beginning on June 25 to protest “Trinamul threats and intimidation”.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140619/jsp/bengal/story_18528064.jsp#.VHJGzWecCM8

Raasta roko (Blokade)

Bad days are here, says WB Cong. chief while protesting rail fare hike

Kolkata, June 26, 2014

PTI West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and other leaders get drenched in the rain during a rally to protest against the rail fare hike in Kolkata on Wednesday

There were protests in several districts of the State in protest against the hike in railway fares that was implemented across the country on Wednesday.

The president of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee and former Minister of State for Railways Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury led a protest rally in the city demanding an immediate roll back of increased fares.

Mr. Chowdhury dubbed the increase in fare hike as “anti-people” and said that bad days were ahead for the people under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led government at Centre.

“The way the rail fare has been increased is not right. It will put added burden on the people’s life and livelihood. The central government should immediately roll back the decision,” he said. “Within one month of forming the government they have taken such an anti-people decision. We have information that within days to come many more anti-people policies are likely to be implemented,” Mr Chowdhury said, taking a dig at the BJP’s ‘Ache Din’ slogan.

“Narendra Modi after coming to power had said that good days are here. But now it seems that bad days are here,” he added.

Accident

Commenting on the accident of Rajdhani Express in Bihar, he said that the Centre should ensure passenger safety instead of making political rhetoric. Meanwhile there were protests in different parts of the State over the fare hike. The Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) held protests at Purulia and Berhampore Railway Stations.

The supporters of the party also blocked Railway lines in the State’s North 24 Parganas and South 24 parganas district.

In certain areas passengers protested against the protests and forced those squatting on the tracks to lift the blockade.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/bad-days-are-here-says-wb-cong-chief-while-protesting-rail-fare-hike/article6150417.ece>

Enclave dwellers' demand for right to citizenship resonates across border They stage protest in Tin-Bigha corridor seeking implementation of 1974 pact

Kolkata, June 27, 2014

On the day India's Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj discussed bilateral issues with Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka, enclave dwellers on either side of the border staged an agitation on Thursday demanding a settlement of the long-standing issue involving thousands of State-less citizens.

Members of Bharat Bangladesh Enclave Exchange Co-ordination Committee (BBEECC), the largest organisation of enclave dwellers, stood on the either side of Tin-Bigha corridor at Coochbehar in India and Lalmonirhat of Bangladesh and raised slogans.

Slogans like "74-er Chukti Chitbasi der Mukti", "implement the agreement of 1974 (between Indira Gandhi and Mujibur Rehman)", and "anek hoyeche mithayachar ebar chai manabadhikar" (enough of falsehood, now we want human rights) rent the air at Tin-Bigha corridor separating the two countries.

Residents of the 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladeshi territory and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves on the Indian side observe June 26 "Shahid Diwas" (martyrs' day) every year to commemorate those who died during the agitation demanding citizenship right for the people of the enclaves.

"There is a new government at the Centre. It is incumbent on them to resolve these long-standing demands of thousands of enclave dwellers. By settling the issue, the new government can prove it is serious about the issue and bilateral ties with Bangladesh," Diptiman Sengupta, assistant secretary of BBEECC, told *The Hindu* over phone from Coochbehar district.

Mr. Sengupta said there are 51,000 thousand residents of enclaves on both sides of the border, who have been denied citizenship right and their fundamental human rights have been violated since independence.

On the other side of the border Mohd Altaf Hussain, another leader of the enclave exchange movement, held protests with the residents of enclaves.

"Since the Indian Foreign Minister met Bangladeshi leaders on Thursday, we urge both the governments to settle the issue as quickly as possible," Mr. Hussain told this correspondent from Bangladesh

In 2013, a constitutional amendment bill envisaging the exchange of enclaves was introduced in Parliament, but could not be passed. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) had then opposed the bill stating that the West Bengal government would not implement it.

Mamata soft

However, Chief Minister and TMC chairperson Mamata Banerjee had on two occasions given ample hints on going soft as far as settlement of the enclave issue is concerned. During an election rally at Coochbehar in April, the Chief Minister had said that the views of the residents of enclaves should be taken before the crisis was resolved. On June 2, after a State Cabinet meeting at Uttarkanya in north Bengal, she had said, “In case of certain enclaves, whose handing over will not create problems, we are discussing the matter”

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/enclave-dwellers-demand-for-right-to-citizenship-resonates-across-border/article6154109.ece>

Union territories

Opposition united in demanding rollback of rail fare hike: Accuses Modi of double standards; holds protests in various parts

KOLKATA, June 22, 2014

Loud and clear: Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and CPI (M) Politburo member Surjya Kanta Mishra speaking at a demonstration outside Howrah railway station on Saturday. —Photo: Sushanta Patronobish

A day after the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government hiked passenger rail fares by 14.2 per cent and freight rail fares by 6.5 per cent, opposition parties in West Bengal staged protests in various parts of the city.

Addressing a gathering at a demonstration of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) at Howrah station, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Surjya Kanta Mishra accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of ‘double standards’.

He said, “During the campaign for general elections, Mr. Modi had criticised the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government for falling to provide good governance and being crippled in policy paralysis. But, now Mr. Modi is aggravating the people’s suffering by hiking rail fares.” He demanded immediate and unconditional rollback of the fare hike.

Mr. Mishra, also a Politburo member of the CPI (M), claimed in 2012, when the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, had decided to hike rail fares before the Rail Budget was presented in Parliament, Mr. Modi had written to Mr. Singh demanding immediate rollback of the decision as it was against the democratic norms of the country’.

“Now, Mr. Modi is taking the same decisions which he vehemently opposed before coming to power.”

He also criticised Mr. Modi for failing to provide any solution to the issue of price rise for which he went all-out against the UPA government.

He accused Mr. Modi of trying to escape the responsibility of his decision by putting the blame on the 10-year-long misrule of the UPA government.

“Now he is speaking in the same vein as of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who to cover her government’s failure on every issue, gives the excuse of the Left Front government incurring huge debts.”

State Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury too came down on the railway fare hike and asked whether it was the good days which the BJP had promised. The Trinamool Congress on Friday had described the hike anti-people and said it would put more burden on people.

The Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) accused the BJP of trying to clear the deck for eventual privatisation of the railways by means of 100 per cent FDI and facilitating the entry of more private players through public-private partnership. Supporters of the party protested outside the Raj Bhavan and courted arrest.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/opposition-united-in-demanding-rollback-of-rail-fare-hike/article6138168.ece>

Bus operators firm on strike

Kolkata, June 22, 2014

Demanding a commitment from the government to increase bus fares, West Bengal’s bus operators Saturday stuck to their decision to call a three—day strike beginning June 25.

Six private bus and minibus operators of the State earlier this week announced the strike protesting against the State government’s failure to revise fares in sync with the diesel price hike.

“We want to know clearly from the Minister whether he will raise the fares, and from which date,” a spokesman of the Joint Council of Bus Syndicate (JCBS), one of the largest bus operators in the state, told mediapersons.

The JCBS runs 37,000 buses across Bengal, including 8,000 in Kolkata.

The JCBS leaders, who held a meeting during the day, said they had taken a unanimous decision to go on strike June 25—27. – IANS

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/bus-operators-firm-on-strike/article6138175.ece>

Protesting AAP volunteers chased away

KOLKATA, June 9, 2014

About 15 to 20 volunteers of the Aam Admi Party’s (AAP) West Bengal unit got involved in a scuffle with BJP workers when they tried to stage a demonstration near the party office here on Sunday.

They were protesting against BJP State president Rahul Sinha's recent claim that the entire AAP unit in the State had merged with the BJP.

Senior State AAP leader in Taufik Ahmed told *The Hindu* that they were not only driven away by a group of BJP workers, but were also “brutally assaulted.” He also said that three AAP members were critically injured and were admitted to ICU in a city hospital.

When asked about the incident, BJP’s co-observer in West Bengal Siddharth Nath Singh told journalists that “when someone tries to forcibly enter other’s house he will be pushed away. The same happened here.”

Some BJP workers alleged that they had to chase away the AAP volunteers as they were “trying to barge into BJP’s State office.” They also claimed that the AAP hired “paid volunteers” for the protest, as their entire State unit had merged with the BJP. Mr. Ahmed, however, rubbished the allegation, asking, “Why would paid volunteers take the risk of being physically assaulted?”

Mr. Ahmed said they had lodged a general diary with the Jorasanko police station and will lodge an FIR soon.

In protest against the assault, AAP members will sit on a hunger strike on Monday, he said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/protesting-aap-volunteers-chased-away/article6096492.ece>

RSS to protest attacks on workers

KOLKATA, June 8, 2014

Alleging atrocities on its pracharaks, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangha (RSS) in West Bengal has decided to hit the streets in the State on Sunday - the first such instance after the Lok Sabha polls.

“A rally is being organised at Baruipur in South 24 Parganas district by the RSS unit in the Sunderbans to protest the ongoing atrocities against social and political workers by Trinamool Congress (TMC) activists,” Jisnu Basu, Prant Prachar Pramukh, South Bengal, told *The Hindu* on Saturday. Representatives of the RSS said that after the results of the 2014 Lok Sabha polls were declared, Trinamool activists were targeting their supporters and office-bearers.

“One of our functionaries of Sonarpur subdivision was called to the Trinamool office on May 17 and asked to give an undertaking that he would dissociate himself with all social and political activity,” a senior State-level RSS worker said.

In another incident in the same area, Mr. Basu claimed that women associated with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) were harassed by supporters of the ruling party.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/rss-to-protest-attacks-on-workers/article6093705.ece>

Senior Congress leaders come to blows at post-poll meeting PCC general secretary Debnath alleges he was pushed to ground

KOLKATA, June 3, 2014

The meeting of the State Congress held here on Monday to discuss party strategies after recent elections, went in accordance with the party's decade-old tradition, when senior Congress leaders were pushed to the ground by equally senior leaders, gagged, and beaten up. Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) general secretary Kanak Debnath was allegedly shoved and heckled by senior leaders Amitava Chakravarty and Santosh Pathak.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/senior-congress-leaders-come-to-blows-at-postpoll-meeting/article6077063.ece>

Biman Bose warns of anarchy if 'Trinamool terror' continues Holds police, administration responsible for Left workers' plight

KOLKATA, June 2, 2014

Biman Bose.— File Photo: Sushanta Patronobish

If the State administration did not control the present 'reign of terror' unleashed by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) there would be 'anarchy' in the State, said Left Front Chairman Biman Bose here on Sunday. His comment comes a day after a Left Front delegation led by him visited Arambagh in Hooghly district where Left workers were allegedly being attacked by TMC cadre.

Coming down heavily on the State police and administration for being unable to stop the 'terror tactics' of the ruling party, Mr. Bose held them responsible for the plight of Left workers in West Bengal, and alleged that 'the present situation is the result of a planned effort of the State administration'.

He demanded that police stop the ongoing 'violence unleashed by the TMC' and cautioned that if police kept going by the orders of the ruling party, it would result in a 'horrible situation in the State in future'.

Referring to his visit to Jalsinghachar village in Arambagh, he accused the local TMC supporters of 'violating the fundamental human rights' as they were allegedly being barred by them from using the tube well in the village and the road for voting for the Left Front candidate in the general elections. He also said that district leaders of the Left Front might consider raising the issue to the National Human Rights Commission. "Is this democracy or a mockery of democracy?" he asked. He alleged that villagers in the area were being targeted by TMC cadre because the Left candidate got lead in six booths in the village.

On his visit to Puin village in Arambagh, Mr. Bose said, "A suffocating ambience of fear prevails in the area. The villagers are so terrorised that most of them were unwilling to talk. Some of them told us that they were apprehensive of being attacked by TMC-backed miscreants after the Left Front leaders left the village." The Left delegation urged them to 'protest and if necessary, to build up resistance to the TMC's terror'.

He took a dig at a section of the media for indulging in ‘unnecessary speculation’ about the State Left Front leadership not visiting the districts despite repeatedly being asked by the district committees. Mr. Bose said, “It has never happened that a district committee asked us to visit an area and we had not gone there. On the contrary there are many instances when we wanted to visit a particular area, but the district committee asked us not to do so.”

As for the Left Front delegation’s meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on June 9, he said ‘probably, a 12-member delegation would meet Ms. Banerjee’.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/biman-bose-warns-of-anarchy-if-trinamool-terror-continues/article6073711.ece>

Left party workers protest against violence in West Bengal

16 May 2014

CPI(M) State general secretary G. Ramakrishnan, Polit Bureau member K. Varadarajan, and CPI cadre staging a demonstration in Tiruchi on Thursday.— PHOTO: R.M. RAJARATHINAM

The cadre of the Left parties stages agitation near Chinthamani Anna statue in the city on Thursday condemning the violence unleashed by the Trinamool Congress supporters on the Left party workers during the elections in West Bengal recently. The protesters demanded re-election in that State.

G. Ramakrishnan, state secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), led the agitation in which K. Varadarajan, party’s Politburo member, S. Sridhar, district secretary of the party, K. Suresh, city secretary of the Communist Part of India, and Sivasuriyan, district secretary of the CPI-affiliated Tamil Nadu Farmers Association, participated.

The participants, displaying the banners with pictures of the violent incidents, raised slogans against the anti-democratic activities of the Trinamool Congress cadre.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/left-party-workers-protest-against-violence-in-west-bengal/article6014963.ece>

A.Andaman and Nicobar Islands x

Hartal (Strike Stay away)

Gherao(Occupation)

Bandh (General Strike Stay away)

Dharna (fast occupation)

Raasta roko (Blokade)

B.Chandigarh x

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

C.Dadra and Nagar Haveli

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

D.Daman and Diu x

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

E.Lakshadweep x

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

F.National Capital Territory of Delhi Issues: Electricity

After Kochi and Kolkata, ‘Kiss of Love’ reaches Delhi 9 November 2014

An activist participating in the ‘Kiss of Love’ campaign, right, is punched by a member of a Hindu right-wing organization near the headquarters of the right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in New Delhi, India, Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014. The campaign was launched to protest moral policing in the country. (Photo: AP)

New Delhi: The ‘Kiss of Love’ protests reached Delhi on Saturday, when some protesters held a demonstration outside the office of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or RSS.

The police prevented several protesters, mostly students, from reaching the RSS office in central Delhi, where they wanted to stage a demonstration.

The event organisers had set up a Facebook page through which the event was organised on Saturday.

As the protesters, mostly students of University of Delhi and the Jawaharlal Nehru University, tried to march from the Jhandewalan metro station to the RSS office, they were stopped by police who had set up barricades on the way.

On why they had chosen the RSS office for the protest, the protesters alleged that right-wing groups have been "denying them public space" to express their affection.

"We had orders to arrest whosoever tried to get past the final barricading but nobody was detained or arrested and all of them dispersed around 7 pm," said a senior police official.

The first "Kiss of Love" event was held in Kochi on November 2 after activists from all over Kerala decided to protest against the state government's perceived moral policing.

Similar events have been organised at Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

The campaign started after a coffee shop in north Kerala's Kozhikode city was vandalised by a group of people who were reportedly protesting against "public display of affection" by some couples there.

Ajit Singh supporters lay siege to Delhi: Police foiled a proposed mahapanchayat at his bungalow 24 September 2014

The Delhi Police foiled a proposed mahapanchayat at 12 Tughlaq Road, the bungalow occupied until recently by Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) leader Ajit Singh, by supporters of the Jat leader who were demanding its conversion into a memorial for his father and former Prime Minister Charan Singh.

The mahapanchayat was called by the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) and the RLD. Barricades to prevent hundreds of activists from reaching the mahapanchayat affected vehicular movement on several connected Lutyens' Zone streets.

The recent eviction of Charan Singh's son and the former Union Minister from the bungalow has triggered a series of protests in parts of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. During one such protest held at Muradnagar, activists unsuccessfully tried to cut off water supply to Delhi from the Gang Nahar plant.

Fearing a repeat, the Delhi Police had imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in New Delhi, but the activists, who had come from Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana, defied prohibitory orders and tried to march towards the bungalow. Mr. Ajit Singh and his son Jayant Chaudhary, however, stayed away from the mahapanchayat.

Fearing the situation might go out of hand due to the arrival of a large number of protesters, the police blocked entry to Tughlaq Road from Aurobindo Marg and Akbar Road. Activists of the two parties were also detained at Prithviraj Road, Safdarjung Road, Man Singh Road and several other adjoining roads here. As a measure of abundant precaution, the Race Course metro station was also closed from 8.30 a.m.

By 2.30 p.m., the police had detained close to 250 demonstrators and took them to Parliament Street and Tilak Marg police stations. But those detained remained defiant and accused the

Centre of not respecting the legacy of Charan Singh, whom they described as the “greatest farmer leader” the country has ever produced.

Some also said the move to evict Mr. Ajit Singh from the bungalow could have adverse effect on the BJP’s electoral prospects in the Haryana Assembly elections, because of the RLD leader’s clout in the State. They threatened that more agitations will be launched on the issue in the days to come.

Keywords: [Ajit Singh bungalow row](#), [Delhi police](#), [RLD supporters](#), [Charan Singh memorial](#), [Jat politics](#), [mahapanchayat](#), [12 Tughlaq Road](#)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ajit-singh-supporters-lay-siege-to-delhi/article6439377.ece>

Irked by poor roads, Mamata to take fight to Delhi

Kolkata, August 13, 2014

Expressing disappointment over the poor maintenance of the National Highways in the State, West Bengal Chief Minister said on Tuesday that her party MPs will take the protest to the national Capital on the issue.

“If someone thinks that after coming to power (in West Bengal) I cannot organise protest then he or she is mistaken..... I was on a hunger strike for 26 days to protest against forcible land acquisition,” she said addressing a rally at Gangarampur in Dakshin Dinajpur district.

“We are not weak”, Ms Banerjee said, adding that the party has 46 MPs in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha who will raise their voice in the Parliament.

Ms Banerjee, who arrived in Dakshin Dinajpur by road cancelling her train journey at the eleventh hour, was upset with the condition of the National Highway.

“Over the past three years we have been demanding that the National Highways be repaired but no one is listening. If you (Centre) are unable to repair it, hand over the roads to us,” the Chief Minister said.

She also ridiculed the BJP slogan before the Lok Sabha polls *Ache Din Aayenge* stating that instead of *Ache Din* (good days) *Bure Din* (bad days) have come.

In a veiled attack on the BJP, she said some political parties are trying to create a divide between Hindus and Muslims; but she urged the people not to fall in the trap of communal divide. “The State government will come down heavily on those who indulge in riots,” Ms Banerjee said.

At the event, she announced that a new scheme 'Karmashree' which will be combination of several other schemes for providing jobs to people will be rolled out in districts.

The Chief Minister proposed an export market complex at Hilli along the India-Bangladesh border on similar lines of Petrapole and Benapole border in the State's North 24 Parganas.

Casualties of admission confusion 30 June 2014

Chaos and confusion are the buzzwords for admission time in Delhi University every sultry June. A task of physical and mental endurance for the average student, there are three stages in the admission process which runs into several weeks.

Stage one comprises submitting a common application form directly to the University. Stage two is when colleges release their cut-offs based on the number of applications for each course. Stage three is when thousands of students troop in from every corner of the country to take admissions in colleges where they meet the cut-offs.

This past Tuesday, which was to be the day when the first cut-offs were released and the admission process completed, Delhi University indefinitely stalled the admission process without giving any notice because of its stand on the four-year undergraduate programme and its tussle with the UGC.

The students and their parents have continued to troop in all week from places as far as Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Odisha to name a few. However, they found admission counters shut and the campus invaded by television cameras and protestors on hunger strikes, dharnas, victory processions accompanied with vigorous dancing and bursting crackers, effigy burnings and even *ahavan*. *The campus is a place for protests and the same holds true especially during admission time. There are many student and teacher bodies in the University with different political affiliations, and issues are many, but the four-year undergraduate programme has been the most acrimonious of them all, complete with tear-gas shells and lathi charges. Thursday too followed the same pattern with ominous police presence.*

West Bengal resident Debasish Choudhary, who had come to make enquiries at the Dean Students' Welfare office on Thursday, said: "I had booked train tickets a month in advance. I had arranged for accommodation too, but the day I landed in Delhi, I heard about the fight between Delhi University and the UGC, and that the admissions were stalled indefinitely. I did not know what to do. If I stayed, then I would to make arrangements for accommodation and I do not know for how many days. If I left, I wasn't sure I would get train tickets to return to Delhi on time."

Many more such stories of stranded and confused students who did not know what to do came forward. "I missed my cousin's wedding because I was sure I would get admission in the first cut-off list and I needed to be in the Capital," said Sathwik a student from Bhopal.

A total of 54, 000 seats are on offer, for which the university received almost three lakh applications this year.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/irked-by-poor-roads-mamata-to-take-fight-to-delhi/article6310316.ece>

Revolt in Congress now across 5 States: Ministers have quit in Assam and Maharashtra, and MLAs have joined TMC in West Bengal

NEW DELHI, July 21, 2014

It was a black Monday for the Congress as two senior State ministers in Assam and Maharashtra resigned in protest against the party's Chief Ministers, three Congress MLAs in West Bengal crossed over to the Trinamool Congress, former MP Lal Singh quit the party in Jammu and Kashmir and the rebellion against Haryana Chief Minister grew stronger.

Of these several acts of revolt, the Congress leadership is taking Assam Education and Health Minister Hemanta Biswa Sarma's resignation most seriously, as it has the potential to split the party and topple the Tarun Gogoi government, with the number of rebels being substantial.

In Maharashtra, Industries Minister Narayan Rane's quitting the government is an embarrassment for the party, but as his support base has shrunk, the Congress seems less concerned but with impending elections in the State, this resignation adds to the negative perceptions, party sources admitted. But the party's alliance with the Nationalist Congress Party is intact, clarified NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Monday.

Taken together, the message for the Congress is grim, as of these five dissident-struck States, Assembly elections are due in three – Maharashtra, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir — later this year. The Congress High Command has, so far, taken a tough line with the rebels, refusing to act under pressure. But the delay in taking a decision on the chief ministers of Assam, Maharashtra and Haryana is now costing it dear.

Party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi told journalists, "For sometime, some individuals have had differences with their Chief Ministers. It is very clear from Mr. Rane's statement today that that there were issues of personal ambition: he wishes to be the CM. Similar is the case with Mr. Sarma. But personal ambition can't be accommodated in this way."

Keywords: [Congress dissidence](#), [Congress poll debacle](#), [Congress Lok Sabha poll defeat](#), [Rane resignation](#), [Himanta Biswas Sarma resignation](#), [Rahul Gandhi leadership](#), [Congress leadership crisis](#)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/revolt-in-congress-now-across-5-states/article6234744.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/casualties-of-admission-confusion/article6162507.ece>

Hot rolling steel plant workers demand minimum wage, weekly offs: The Wazirpur workers have been on strike since June 5 27 June 2014

Workers from 23 hot rolling steel plants in Wazirpur Industrial Estate protested at Jantar Mantar on Thursday and submitted a memorandum to the Minister of Labour and Employment's Office.

The protestors working at the hot rolling steel plants — where iron blocks are converted into steel — have been on strike since June 5 demanding that they be paid minimum wages, weekly offs, and Provident Fund (PF) and Employee State Insurance (ESI) cards.

“Whether it was the Congress government or the Bharatiya Janata Party, both are following policies that favour industrialists at the cost of workers,” Naveen Kumar of Garam Rolla Mazdoor Samiti told the workers.

Other workers narrated that they work between 10 and 12 hours, and still don’t get paid minimum wages or get their salaries on time.

“Factory owners pay around Rs.8,000, when the minimum wages for skilled workers is Rs.10,374. Sometimes we get paid six to seven weeks late and are given Rs.3,000 for the months as *kharchi*,” said Sugreev Kumar, a migrant from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, who has worked at the Wazirpur hot rolling steel plants since the past eight years.

After discussing their work conditions, the workers took out a procession from Jantar Mantar to the Ministry at Rafi Marg.

The Ministry has announced that it is considering amending central labour laws, including the Industrial Disputes Act, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, and the Factories Act.

“The conditions the workers are describing are a microcosm of the conditions of work in factories all over the region. There is greater ‘informalisation’ of work even within formal sectors. Workers get neither minimum wages, nor health or social security benefits. In some instances, contractors are paid as per production and they disburse the wages as they like, in some instances contractors are used to make the workers fall in line,” said Prabhu Mohapatra of Delhi University.

Workers from almond processing units in Karawal Nagar also joined the protest meeting.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/hot-rolling-steel-plant-workers-demand-minimum-wage-weekly-offs/article6154211.ece>

Dalit protesters evicted after two months 5 June 2014

Dalits staging a protest near the Parliament Street police station in New Delhi on Wednesday.— Photo: Sushil Kumar Verma

Dalit protesters from Haryana’s Bhagana, who had been camping at Jantar Mantar here for nearly two months, woke up to a rude shock on Wednesday morning when they were told to vacate the venue and their tent was uprooted. Alleging that four girls from their community were abducted and raped by people from the powerful Jat community, the protesters were seeking action against the head of their village who they accused of being hand in glove with the perpetrators of the crime.

While the protesters claim that there was a mobilisation of nearly 400 police personnel as early as 6-30 a.m. and that they were beaten up, the Delhi Police denied any police presence. Additional Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) S.B.S. Tyagi said only the New Delhi Municipal Council staff reached the protest venue as the protesters had been staying there way beyond the sanctioned limit at Jantar Mantar.

Protesters on the other hand said after taking away the tent, the police instructed them to leave the venue around 12 noon.

“However, no one came to serve a reminder when the clock hit 12. Couple of hours later our representatives went to the Parliament Street police station to talk to the Station House Officer,” said a protester. He added that they courted arrest and left the police station only after submitting a memorandum addressed to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh. They were supported by several women’s groups and student groups including those from Delhi University.

In the past two months, the villagers have made several representations but have got no reprieve. By evening they were back at Jantar Mantar resuming their protest.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/dalit-protesters-evicted-after-two-months/article6084020.ece>

Hartal (Strike Stay away) Gherao(Occupation)

Congress demands regularisation of Home Guards September 30, 2014

Senior Delhi Congress leaders joined a protest held by hundreds of Home Guards at Jantar Mantar on Monday to demand regularisation of their jobs. Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh alleged that while on one hand the BJP government at the Centre had failed to check the deteriorating law and order situation in the Capital, it was driving Home Guards to starvation by removing them from jobs on the other.

“People are deliberately being removed from their jobs. If a prompt decision was not taken on the issue by the government, the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee would gherao the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary in support of the demand of Home Guards,” said Mr. Singh. The Congress leaders demanded that similar to States like Uttarkhand, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, Home Guards should be allowed to work till they reach the age of 58-60 years.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/congress-demands-regularisation-of-home-guards/article6459307.ece>

Man attempts suicide outside PM house 13 August 2014

A man allegedly attempted suicide outside 7 Race Course Road, the official residence of the Prime Minister.

According to the police, they received a call around 5-30 p.m. on Tuesday informing that a man has attempted suicide by ingesting a hazardous substance outside the PM residence. A PCR van deployed nearby took the man to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, where he is being treated.

The victim has been identified as Jeetendra, who hails from Fatehabad in Haryana.

“We have not recovered any note from the victim’s possession and so far do not know why he tried to take this extreme step. We are investigating the matter,” said a police officer.

The police are also scanning the CCTV footage around the area. “We are still trying to ascertain if the man was a complainant and attempted suicide as a protest,” the officer added.

The police, however, confirmed that the man was not an employee at 7 RCR as the alleged suicide bid took place on the road outside. “He got down from a bus in front of 7 RCR and consumed the liquid that made him unconscious,” a police officer said.

BJP, Cong. teams meet L-G over e-ricks August 2, 2014

A Delhi BJP delegation, led by its chief Satish Upadhyay, and a DPCC team met Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung on Friday and submitted a memorandum in support of a transport system that helps "poor people of the city get employment on a large scale".

A Delhi BJP delegation, led by its chief Satish Upadhyay, and a Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) team met Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung on Friday and submitted a memorandum in support of a transport system that helps “poor people of the city get employment on a large scale”.

The memorandum states that e-rickshaws are operating world-wide as a feeder to the urban public transport system. “Although the operation of e-rickshaws has not been regulated in Delhi yet they are working as cheap feeder system to the trunk public transport system in the Capital. It has also helped the poor people in the city in getting self employment on a large scale.”

The BJP leaders told Mr. Jung that in the context of the High Court order the Delhi Government should be given three months’ time to put necessary legal framework to regulate e-rickshaws and “e-rickshaw operations in Delhi may be allowed to be regulated as per provision u/s 28 of the Delhi Police Act.”

The DPCC) urged the L-G to pass an ordinance to regularise e-rickshaws. The rickshaws, which have been temporarily banned by the Delhi High Court, are an affordable and clean mode of last-mile transit -- albeit unsafe and free of regulation.

The delegation, led by DPCC president Arvinder Singh, also informed the L-G that while the livelihood of two lakh drivers and eight lakh dependants must be protected, safety should be priority while drafting the ordinance. They claimed that 42,000 e-rickshaws were sold after Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari regularised the vehicles -- a step which allegedly has driven several owners to penury.

The PCC has decided to gherao Mr. Gadkari if relief was not given to the drivers immediately.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/bjp-cong-teams-meet-lg-over-ericks/article6274398.ece>

Siege of Kurukshetra gurdwara continues 4 August 2014

Members of the newly-constituted Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (HSGPC) on Sunday continued their siege of Kurukshetra's Gurdwara Chatti Patshahi on the second day of their bid to take over the Sikh shrine.

Even though there were not many people from the HSGPC side till noon, tension built up after 3 p.m. as some protesters tried to breach the police barrier near the gurdwara. However, police prevented them from proceeding ahead.

Heavy police deployment was seen near the gurdwara on Sunday. Leaders of the HSGPC and their supporters had Saturday laid siege just 100 feet from the gurdwara, one of the state's biggest, in Kurukshetra, about 110 km from here.

Those trying to take control of the shrine breached two police barriers on Saturday along the route.

Members of the task force and other volunteers of the Amritsar—based Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), which still controls Sikh shrines in Haryana, were inside the shrine premises, ready to resist any attempt for a forcible take over. Many people from both sides were carrying traditional weapons like swords, spears and sticks.

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal said on Sunday that the forcible takeover of Haryana gurdwaras would not be allowed at any cost.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/siege-of-kurukshetra-gurdwara-continues/article6278603.ece>

Congress workers protest against price rise July 8, 2014

Congress workers staging a protest at Parliament Street on Monday against price rise and rail fare hike. Photo: V. Sudershan

Protesting against the BJP Government over rail fare hike and price rise, Congress workers on Monday tried to gherao Parliament. However, the party workers marching towards Parliament from Jantar Mantar were prevented from doing so due to heavy security arrangements made in the area ahead of the first Budget Session of the Narendra Modi Government.

Congress leaders and workers, led by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee's president Arvinder Singh, tried to break the barricades near the Parliament Street police station and shouted slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to reporters after the protest, Mr. Singh said: "Ever since the BJP come to power, prices of essential commodities have gone up. Before the elections, the BJP had promised 30 per cent cheaper electricity. But now the power discoms are trying to hike the tariff and people are feeling cheated."

Slamming the Narendra Modi Government, DPCC chief spokesperson Mukesh Sharma alleged that the Central Government was doing nothing to control prices of essential commodities. "Everything is getting expensive during this government's regime. The BJP's slogan 'acche din aane wale hain' (good days lie ahead) was just an eyewash. People have started feeling 'buray din' (bad days) since the BJP has come to power," he said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/congress-workers-protest-against-price-rise/article6187759.ece>

Delhi power crisis heats up 12 June 2014

temperatures soar, fuelling concerns of a repeat of an electricity crisis two years ago, police said Wednesday.

Residents took to the streets at around midnight on Tuesday in New Delhi's northeast, attacking vehicles as frustration mounts over the power cuts, a senior officer said.

"So far we have arrested three people for damaging a bus and a jeep while protesting power cuts in Bhajanpura area," additional commissioner of Delhi police V.V Chaudhary told AFP.

Power outages mainly in northern India has been triggered by a spike in demand as temperatures soar, leaving a dilapidated electricity infrastructure unable to cope.

Riots erupted over the weekend in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, with residents storming a substation near the capital Lucknow.

The Delhi government announced emergency-power saving measures on Sunday, including cutting electricity at the city's shopping malls, turning off street lights and ordering government offices to switch off air conditioners at certain times.

Damage to some transmission lines during a recent major thunderstorm in Delhi has added to the problems.

Political row

A political row has erupted over the cuts, with new national energy minister Piyush Goyal blaming the city's previous Congress government for outdated infrastructure, as authorities scramble to address the problems.

A power crisis two years ago blacked out half the country and left more than 600 million people without electricity.

The two days of massive outages were blamed on Indian states taking power beyond their allocated limits and proved embarrassing for a country that sees itself as an industrialised power.

As temperatures exceeded 45 degrees Celsius, social workers warned of the deadly consequences for homeless people. AFP

New Delhi has been reeling under long power cuts ranging from one to six hours for over a week after a storm severely damaged major power transmission lines across the city.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/delhi-power-crisis-heats-up/article6105376.ece>

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

Akhilesh flies abroad, BJP MPs hold dharna over crime, power 2 September 2014

Uttar Pradesh BJP president Laxmikant Bajpai along with party leaders handing over a copy of memorandum to Governor Ram Naik at Raj Bhawan in Lucknow on Monday over power crisis and poor law and order situation in the State. PHOTO: PTI

On a day when Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav left for an official trip to the Netherlands, BJP MPs from Uttar Pradesh staged a dharna here on Monday against the deteriorating law and order situation in the state and the worsening power crisis.

Led by state unit BJP president Laxmikant Bajpai, they later submitted a memorandum to Governor Ram Naik highlighting shortcomings of the Samajwadi Party government.

Over two dozen BJP MPs, including Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Sanjeev Baliyan, alleged that under the Samajwadi Party government, law and order is at an all-time low. The state has been witnessing its worst-ever power crisis and farmers affected by floods and drought have been left in the lurch.

“The government is only interested in implement appeasement policies for vote politics rather than giving the people respite from the problems,” said Mr. Baliyan, MP from

Muzaffarnagar. Similarly, other MPs alleged that the state government was not interested in improving the law and order, and power situation, and was “penalising” people of the state for giving mammoth support to the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls.

According to BJP spokesperson Vijay Bahadur Pathak: “In our memorandum to the Governor, we highlighted people’s miseries and stressed that it was high time that such incompetent government should go... We will intensify our against the Samajwadi Party government across the state and force it either to mend its way or quit.” Asked why all 71 BJP MPs were not present at the dharna, Mr. Pathak clarified that some were busy with the preparations for this month’s by-election. The decision to hold the dharna programme against the UP government was taken at the state executive meeting at Vrindavan on August 24.

The memorandum to the Governor included a seven-point demand which said that farmers should get 20 hours power; early payment of cane price and immediate start of crushing in sugar mills; announcement of the flood and drought-hit districts; and immediate improvement in law and order situation.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/akhilesh-flies-abroad-bjp-mps-hold-dharna-over-crime-power/article6371015.ece>

Protest held demanding AFSPA repeal 12 July 2014

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the killing of 34-year-old Thangjam Manorama Devi in Manipur allegedly by Assam Rifles personnel, people from several democratic rights and political groups held a protest at Jantar Mantar here on Friday. They demanded the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. This law has been in place in seven Northeastern states, Jammu and Kashmir and parts of Central India and gives absolute impunity to the Armed forces. The protest was organised by the People’s Union for Democratic Reforms, the North East Forum for International Solidarity, the Campaign for Peace and Democracy and the Sanhati.

Manorama Devi was picked up by the Assam Rifles for interrogation on allegations of being associated with the People’s Liberation Army on the intervening night of July 10 and 11, 2004. The following morning her bullet-ridden body was discovered in a field, while her autopsy suggested rape and murder. No person was prosecuted in this case.

Kavita Krishnan from the All India Progressive Women’s Association said: “Ten years on, there has been no justice for Manorama. This is a reason for us to question the democracy.”

(With inputs from Akshita Nagpal)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/protest-held-demanding-afspa-repeal/article6203422.ece>

Congress workers protest price rise, lathicharged in Jaipur 10 July 2014

Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot rides a camel cart as he leads a protest against petrol, diesel price hike and railway fares in Jaipur on Wednesday.-Photo: Rohit Jain Paras

A couple of Congress workers received minor injuries when the police used mild force to push them away when some of them tried to force their way into the Collector's office to submit a memorandum.

Congress workers were sitting on dharna outside Collectorates across the State to protest against the recent hike in the prices of rail fare and other essential commodities. While Pradesh Congress Committee president, Sachin Pilot led the dharna in the Capital, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot led the protestors in Jodhpur.

Addressing protestors, Mr Pilot accused the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) of pursuing pro-rich and anti-poor policies. "During the election campaign, the BJP had promised to check price rise when it came to power, but has hiked railway fare by 14 per cent. Prices of essential commodities like vegetables and milk have also gone up as has the price of subsidised domestic gas cylinder," Mr Pilot said.

Additionally, Rajasthan State Roadways has hiked fares by 16 per cent putting a huge burden on the ordinary people, he added.

Above all, Mr. Pilot added, the Chief Minister wants to dilute the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which would take away the only source of income from the rural poor.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/congress-workers-protest-price-rise-lathicharged-in-jaipur/article6194931.ece>

Noida workers allege labour law violation by factory owners 6 July 2014

Centre of Indian Trade Unions district leaders along with industry workers protesting outside the Labour Commissioner's Office in Noida on Friday.

Factories making everything from biscuits to automobile parts in Gautam Buddh Nagar have been violating labour laws and the district authority has been mum on the issue, a Left-wing labour union alleged here on Friday.

The district committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, which is linked to the Communist Party of India (Marxist), held a protest outside the Labour Commissioner's Office at Sector 3 here. The CITU district leaders, accompanied by workers from Noida and Greater Noida's industrial units, shouted slogans and demanded action from the Labour Department.

CITU district secretary Gangeshwar Dutt Sharma said: "Labour laws are being violated with impunity all across the district. The factory owners know that the Labour Department will not go after them, so they have no regard for workers' rights."

A maintenance worker at a Greater Noida auto parts company, Trilochan Pandey, said the factory owners had over the past few months shifted all the work to other branches without notice, leaving him and his colleagues jobless. “When we complained, the management said they had paid the District Labour Commissioner Rs.50 lakh and there would be nothing we could do,” said Mr. Pandey.

His colleague, Satyaveer Singh, added that the owners had misguided the workers. “They sent us to work temporarily in branches in Chennai, Pune and Nasik because the company was expanding. When we came back, our factory was locked and we were told to leave,” said Mr. Singh.

The head of CITU’s Noida unit who calls himself “Comrade Bharat Danger” said labour law violations had been rampant in the area for years, but things seemed to be getting from bad to worse. “Though the situation in Uttar Pradesh is quite bad, it is especially dire in Noida,” he said.

Mukesh Kumar, who works in a Greater Noida confectionary factory, said many workers had been laid off for complaining about delayed salaries and lack of wage revision.

Mr. Sharma explained that the owners felt it was easier to fire the workers rather than dealing with complaints. “The owners are not willing to listen and the government doesn’t care. They have not had a meeting of the Labour Commission for a year, but the authorities meet the owners every month to listen to their grievances,” said the CITU leader.

Workers at the dharna alleged that apart from lay-offs, the inflation-linked increments they are supposed to get have also not been given. “For five years, we were given increments, but for the past eight months we have not got anything. Prices are going up because of inflation, so how are we supposed to run our houses if our salaries don’t rise,” asked Mr. Kumar.

After the protest, the union leaders met Assistant Labour Commissioner Rita Bhadoria, who assured them their complaints would be addressed. The workers, who also handed over Ms. Bhadoria a representation to be forwarded to Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, had planned to protest outside the District Magistrate’s office in Surajpur, but were denied permission. “The police told us that Section 144 had been put in place. This is a denial of our democratic right to raise our voices,” said Mr. Sharma.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/noida-workers-allege-labour-law-violation-by-factory-owners/article6181705.ece>

Bodoland Muslims stage protest in Delhi 11 June 2014

Muslims from BTAD staging a protest at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday. Photo: Meeta Ahlawat

Muslims from the violence-affected areas of Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) staged a protest against the “reign of terror unleashed by Bodos and overlooked by the Congress-led Assam Government” at Jantar Mantar here on Tuesday.

Some of the protesters belonged to the areas where 31 Muslims were gunned down by militants last month. They came under the aegis of the All BTC Minority Students Union to demand a secure environment for the non-Bodos, especially Muslims, living in BTAD.

The militant groups as well as many Bodos label all Muslims in the region as Bangladeshi immigrants and have been demanding their ouster.

“My family has been living in Assam much before I or many others, who label us outsiders, were born. But today we find ourselves in a situation where the language we speak (Bangla) has become a tool for the Bodos to identify and persecute us. The State government has failed to protect us and that is what brings us here,” said 55-year-old Umar Farooq, one of the protesters.

ABMSU members said that they had lost hope of getting any help from the State government and had come to Delhi to knock at the doors of the Centre. They alleged both the Congress and representatives from the Bodoland Territorial Council of playing politics with their safety.

Raasta roko (Blokade)

Congress to block highways to protest power, water crises in Delhi 16 June 2014

Continuing its agitation against power and water supply disruptions, the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee will block national highways in the State from Monday. The announcement of this came at a road-roko programme by the party in Karol Bagh where workers led by DPCC president Arvinder Singh and former union minister Ajay Maken burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

“Not only has the power crisis worsened in East Delhi, the condition is still bad in West and North Delhi as well. The Union Power Minister is trying to mislead the people through his visits and sittings. The Congress wants the deal struck up by the power companies with the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party exposed,” Mr. Singh said.

He added that Congress members would block National Highway 24 near Mangalam Hospital in West Vinod Nagar at 11-30 a.m. on Monday.

Addressing the gathering, Congress general secretary Shakeel Ahmad said, “Before the (Lok Sabha) elections, the BJP dwelled on slogans like ‘acche din aane wale hai’ (good days are coming). But when the people started protesting at nights (over outages), one BJP minister said ‘we promised good days, not good nights’.”

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/congress-to-block-highways-to-protest-power-water-crises-in-delhi/article6119003.ece>

G.Puducherry Issues Fishermen, Middle Class, corruption Note high number of protest in relation to small population (Further investigation)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puducherry>



Rain inundates residential areas on outskirts 14 November 2014

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Huge waves pound the Puducherry coast on Thursday.— Photo: S.S. Kumar

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A protest being staged against poor maintenance of roads in Puducherry on Thursday.— Photo: T. Singaravelou

The administration has declared Friday a holiday for government and private schools as an overnight spell of rain turned into a heavy downpour through most of the day on Thursday, disrupting normal life and inundating several residential areas on the outskirts of the city.

The incessant rain forced several residents to stay indoors while those who ventured out on two-wheelers struggled to navigate arterial roads which are in bad shape. The delay in completing underground drainage works has compounded matters rendering several roads un-motorable.

According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, more rain and thundershower are expected to occur at many places over Puducherry during the next 48 hours under the influence of a low-pressure area formed over the Bay of Bengal.

Puducherry recorded 33.5 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday.

The city recorded 58.4 mm rainfall from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on Thursday.

In Pakkamudayanpet, Nellithope and other areas, residents and activists resorted to protest against the authorities, alleging that they did not take any steps to re-lay the loads which were dug up for laying under-ground drainage.

In the Thattanchavadi constituency, the main road connecting Pakkamudayanpet and Pudupettai developed potholes. K.Sethuselvam, CPI functionary, said, “The Pudupettai main road was dug up several months ago by authorities for laying underground drainage. The road now causes hardship to residents and commuters.”

According to him, though the officials of Public Works Department assured residents of immediate action a few months ago, the promise remained unfulfilled. Similarly in the Nellithope constituency, the residents staged a novel protest by planting saplings on the ‘slushy’ Thottakkal main road. They alleged that Thottakkal main road, Nallandi Maistry streets are in bad shape as the authorities failed to take up any maintenance works there.

R.Sekar, a resident of the area, said, “During rains, there is knee-deep water which mixes up the garbage and the drain overflow. As a result, the public and students are put to untold sufferings.”

Rain water has also inundated the residential areas such as Pavanan Nagar, Boomiyan Pettai, Rasu Udayar Garden and Krishna Nagar. Bahour, Kirumambakkam, Thavalakuppam were severely water-logged. Rain water entered into 50 houses in low-lying Parikkalpattu near Bahour. Residents including children were evacuated to a temple.

With the sea turning rough and unusually big waves lashing the long coast from Periya Kalapet to Murthikuppam, fishermen have been warned not to venture into the sea.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/rain-inundates-residential-areas-on-outskirts/article6597626.ece>

TPDK man in ‘Rajapaksa’ mask bears the burnt of agitators’ frustration in a protest procession 10 November 2014

While the city has been witnessing waves of protest over the death sentence awarded to five Tamil Nadu fishermen in Sri Lanka, it was a rally taken out by the Thanthai Periyar Dravida Kazhagam that provided an inkling of just how emotive the issue is.

The TPDK activists gathered near the Old Distillery on one end of the Promenade Beach to take out a march to the Customs House and organise a picketing there.

Two of the cadres were sporting masks, one that of the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the other of BJP leader Subramanian Swamy. Apart from this symbolism, the cadres also resorted to simulating fishing on the road with the fishing nets that they had brought along.

The police who had strongly barricaded the Beach stretch stopped the march in the vicinity of the Chief Secretariat. The protesters tried to push through the barricade and the police pushed them back. The events were unfolding like in preset mode of so many other agitations organised in the city until the police began to remove the protesters from the scene. As the protest wended down, a couple of activists just couldn’t help contain their anger over the fishermen issue and they pounced on the man with the ‘Rajapaksa’ mask, forgetting for a few moments that he was one of their own.

The masked man kept pleading that he was not 'Rajapaksa' but the punches kept coming for a while. Luckily for the other masked volunteer he had managed to get away just in time.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/unmasking-hidden-anger/article6582238.ece>

Puducherry fisherfolk keep off sea in solidarity with Tamil Nadu counterparts 8 November 2014

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The Hindu Fish stalls inside the Goubert Market wear a deserted look on Friday, in Puducherry. Photos: S.S. Kumar

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The Hindu Fisherfolk staging a protest, against the Sri Lankan court's death sentence to five Indian fishermen, at Thengaithittu Fishing Harbour. Photos: S.S. Kumar

Residents from 18 fishing hamlets in and around Puducherry joined the agitation

Hundreds of fishermen and their families belonging to 18 villages, on Friday, staged a massive protest here demanding the immediate release of five Tamil Nadu fishermen who were sentenced to death by Sri Lankan court.

Major fish markets remained closed as vendors also joined them.

They wanted to show their solidarity with fishermen in Tamil Nadu who have been agitating for past few days.

Fishermen from 18 hamlets in and around Puducherry assembled at the Thengaithittu Fishing Harbour and raised slogans demanding immediate action by the Union government.

Fishermen from Periya Kalapet, Chinna Kalapet, Chinna Mudaliarkuppam, Veerampatinam, Nallavadu and other villages participated in the agitation. Women from their families also joined them. Boat owners and fish vendors too participated in the agitation.

Deserted look

Fish markets at Uppalam, Mudaliarpet and Grand Bazaar wore a deserted look.

P. Putthupattan, president of the Vambakeerapalayam fishermen panchayat said, "We strongly believe that the five fishermen are innocent and the case against them was foisted. It is a rude shock to hear that they were sentenced to death. So we urge the Central and State governments to take quick action to release them."

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/puducherry-fisherfolk-keep-off-sea-in-solidarity-with-tamil-nadu-counterparts/article6577406.ece>

Traders stage protest, seeking ban on online trading 1 November 2014



The Puducherry Traders' Federation stages protest in front of the Head Post Office on Friday.— Photo: T. Singaravelou

Around 500 traders and merchants on Friday staged a protest in front of the Head Post Office here, urging the Union government to ban online trading.

The office-bearers of 85 associations assembled under the banner of the Puducherry Traders' Federation here urged the Territorial Administration to constitute a Welfare Board to address their grievances.

Federation president Sivasankar said that even though Chief Minister N.Rangasamy had made announcements to establish a board several times, nothing had materialised so far.

He said the dharna was staged to demand that the BJP-led NDA government ban online trading which was eating into government revenue as well and resulting in customers often not getting quality goods.

The traders urged the Union government to bring necessary amendments to the Food Security Act so as to ensure that the welfare of traders was not affected. They also wanted implementation of the Act fixing wages for loading and unloading of goods.

Police lathicharge residents for protest over accident in Puducherry As the protestors refused to budge even after repeated persuasion to lift the blockade the police resorted to a lathicharge and chased them away. 31 October 2014

The police on Thursday resorted to a lathicharge to disperse residents of three villages who blocked the Villupuram-Puducherry Highway at Thiruvandarkovil demanding the immediate arrest of a lorry driver for his involvement in an accident that led to the death of three persons.

Ayyanar (36) of Chinna Babu Samudram, Murugan alias Muthamizh (42) of Periya Babu Samudram and Saravanan (34) of Rajaputhiripalayam were going from Madagadipet to Puducherry on a two-wheeler on Wednesday evening when they were fatally knocked down by the speeding lorry. The driver sped away after the incident.

As the news of the death of the three persons spread, irate locals along with relatives of the victims blocked the Villupuram-Puducherry Highway demanding the arrest of the lorry driver

for rash and negligent driving. A team of police personnel reached the spot and tried to pacify the crowd.

As the protestors refused to budge even after repeated persuasion to lift the blockade the police resorted to a lathicharge and chased them away.

Traffic was disrupted for over two hours on the highway due to the protest.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/police-lathicharge-residents-for-protest-over-accident-in-puducherry/article6551282.ece>

Hartal (Strike Stay away)

Gherao(Occupation)

Bandh (General Strike Stay away)

Dharna (fast occupation)

Ensure quota for hearing impaired' 20 November 2014



The Hindu Members of the Puducherry Deaf Society stage a protest in front of the Employment Exchange on Wednesday. Photo: T.Singaravelou

Members of the Puducherry Deaf Society on Wednesday staged a protest in front of the Employment Exchange here urging the government to ensure one per cent reservation in all government departments and private establishments for the hearing impaired.

R. Saravanan, president of Puducherry Deaf Society, who led the protest, said the Employment Exchange had not taken any step in the last 30 years to provide jobs to the hearing impaired.

The government was not responding to their needs. It was yet to fulfil many Constitutional obligations towards them. Jobs for the hearing impaired should be identified in every department on a priority basis.

Raasta roko (Blokade)