

**SHORT HISTORY OF
YOUNG SOCIALIST LEAGUE/
SAMAJWADI YUWAK SABHA/
SAMAJWADI YUVJAN SABHA**

Contents

Background	3
Post-Independence Period	7
The First All India Student Organization	9
Foundation Conference of AISF	9
All India Muslim Students Federation	11
Important Youth & Student Leaders of Socialist Movement	14
A Learned History of the Socialist Movement	22
Important Youth & Student Leaders	35

Background

The history of youth movement goes back to the pre-independence days. Young men and women played a glorious part in the mass movements for independence in various parts of the country, though there never was an all India youth organisation in the regular sense, except some India-level conferences, several provincial and state level organizations etc. Some of these organisations were powerful and very effective.

(According to the Shyam Krishan Pandey, author of the “Bhartiya Chatra Andolan ka Itihaas-A History of Indian Student Movement-Two volumes, the history of the India youth movement goes back to 1851, when in Bengal an organization called ‘British-Indian Association’ was founded in Bengal by Rajendra Lal Mishra and Ram Gopal Ghosh and run it nearly for two decades. The first student organization was established in 1874 at Calcutta by Anand Mohan Bose, called ‘Calcutta Student Association’.

Surendra Nath Banerji, was the most active member of this group. At the same time elder brother of Rabindra Nath Tagore, Jyotindranath Tagore was running a underground students organization from his house and its name was ‘Gupt Samaj’.

According to this book, the first student agitation was started during 1876-79, when Britishers reduced the age of applicants for the examinations of Indian Civil Services from 21 to 19 by an amendment in the act so the Indians can be restrained to appear in this examinations.

In 1878, Britishers implemented Vernacular Press Act., Surendra Nath Banerji organized a meeting of some 4000 people to protest against this act. In 1883 he was arrested for launching this movement only. The book describes all most all the youth and students movement from this agitation of Bengal in 1878 to 1942s ‘Quit India Movement’. It mentions Bang-Bhang (Protest against partition of Bengal in 1905) Movement, against Rowlett act, Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement, against Simon commission in 1928, civil disobedience movement, formation of Naujawan Sabha, Martyrdom of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh and his last message to the Indian Youths. Formation of National Union of Students (NUS) and All India Students Federation in 1936 to its seventh national conference at Patna in 1941, and a series of Students conferences all over India. It has also mentioned splits in youth and students movement and concludes its first volume with a message of Jayaprakash Narayan from Hazaribagh Jail in Bihar on 9 November 1942 with a caption ‘August Kranti’ Message.)

Naujawan Sabha, established in the Punjab in the 1920's is well known. At one time Bhagat Singh and his associates, and the Communist Youth were active in building this organisation and mass youth movement. Naujawan Sabha has left an indelible mark on the political history of Punjab and India. It became a model for youth organization in many parts of the country.

Youth in general, and the politically conscious in particular, played an important part in the mass independence movements all over the country. They were important segments in the anti-partition movement in Bengal in 1905-07, in the non-cooperation movement of 1920-22 initiated by Gandhiji, the civil disobedience movement led by the Congress in the early 1930's and several others. The youth played an active part in the anti-Jallianwala Bagh Massacre movement, the movement for the boycott of the Simon Commission in 1928, the great 1942 movement, in the post-Second World War upsurge, and so on. They were important components of the Socialist, Communist and Congress led anti-imperialist revolts. At the same time, they were in the forefront of the various class struggles of the workers, peasants and other toiling masses.

Youth were a great source of the national leaderships of the various parties like the Congress, the CPI, the CSP and several others during the British days. The political leadership in this country in the decades of the 1930 and 40s was generally young and therefore very receptive and active.

The October revolution in Russia in 1917 made a deep and radical impact on the national movement in India. Youth were greatly attracted to the ideas of Russian revolution. Under its influence they began concrete and scientific study of the problems of exploitation, unemployment, capitalist and colonial domination, of working class and people's movement, of class concepts and class struggles, and innumerable other ideas. The youth wanted to fight capitalism and imperialism and to build a new society free from exploitation. Russian revolution and Russian society provided a source and model of the future socialist society.

Early twenties was also the period of disagreements with the Gandhian methods, slow tortuous ways of movement which gave no hopes. Therefore, increasing sections of youth took up radical revolutionary and left methods and ideas. Not only the Communists, but growing numbers of Congressmen and several others wanted clearer cut and radical direction to the national independence movement. Consequently, a strong radical and leftwing emerged in the national movement in the 1930s.

The youth league (YL) movement of the late 1920s and early 30s was a direct result of this radicalization. It was a countrywide youth activity in the course of which innumerable youth leagues was formed even in the farthest corners, and important agitations organized, mostly on sectional demands of youth, which quite often turned into anti-imperialist struggles. YL movements equally engaged in cultural, sports and literacy activities, as also in debates, study and rising of social consciousness. Quite often, the local YLs were formed spontaneously.

Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose and Yusuf Meherally were the unquestioned leaders of the youth leagues movement. Little later Communists also became active and helped radicalize the movement. P.C. Joshi made particular efforts to attract and educate the youth in Marxism and to create youth organizations.

(Bombay Socialist Leader Yusuf Meherally founded the Bombay Provincial Youth League which was inaugurated in February 1928.

The Youth Conference opened a new era in the country's political history; for the first time, youth was canalized for national action. About 1700 delegates from all over the province attended the conference, which was presided over by K. F. Nariman. Yusuf Meherally was the moving spirit behind the organization along with Joachim Alva, H.D. Raja and Soli Batliwala, were pioneers of the Bombay Youth League.

The most important decision of the conference was to organise an effective boycott of the Simon Commission and a detailed, though ambitious, programme was chalked out for the same. Though this decision was in consonance with the principle of the Congress decision, yet in the matter of procedure, it went a long way ahead. And here lay the rub.

To the Youth League, with Meherally at its helm, this seemed the most ineffectual way of boycott. The Government, with their sycophants, had planned receptions to Simon and his colleagues, and such inaction on the part of the public would lend colour to the got-up shows.

February 3, 1928, dawned a decisive day in the history of Bombay. The Youth Leaguers planned an ambitious expedition on boats to meet the Commission on the sea itself, but it leaked out and the police took precautions to scotch it. They also wanted a hartal in the city but without Congress sanction it would not materialise. But undaunted, a band of 400 resolute young men led by Yusuf, formed into a procession and marched to the harbour, before day-break. It was another Charge of the Light Brigade except for the fact that the commander as well as the followers consciously believed in what they were doing. There, they staged one of the most heroic and resolute demonstrations the country had ever witnessed. They were thrice lathi-charged but did not budge an inch. Meherally himself was cruelly manhandled by an over-zealous police sergeant. None of the Congress leaders, who later claimed kudos and voters for the incident, cared to attend it. The news of the demonstration and the lathi-charge, exaggerated as usual, spread like wild fire and shops and establishments observed spontaneous hartal. The bulk of the students were with the Youth League and so naturally abstained from classes. Thus, a good part of the Youth League's boycott programme came to be implemented in spite of the non-association of the Congress with it.

Meherally was the hero of the day. The following incident speaks of the popular esteem he had won that morning. After the lathi-charge, Yusuf was returning home, his bruised, bandaged hand in a sling when he was accosted on the way by a youthful passer-by. "Were you hurt in the morning's lathi-charge?" he asked. "Yes", Yusuf replied. "Our leader, Meherally, was also badly injured. He is in the hospital", the stranger informed Yusuf. Suppressing his laughter, Yusuf retorted: "That is all exaggeration, he was not so much hurt." The man got angry and cursed the apostasy of Yusuf. Later, in the evening's public

meeting, when he was revealed as Meherally himself, the confounded stranger came to him and apologised.

At the instance of Nariman, Yusuf launched prosecution against the police sergeant who assaulted him on February 3, 1928. The case lasted nine months and the lower court fined the sergeant. On appeal, the High Court quashed the conviction and acquitted him. But, because he launched proceedings against a police officer, Yusuf was refused enrolment as an advocate. His is the only case in the whole of India, where a qualified lawyer was refused sanad by the High Court for political reasons). Tilak was a great source of inspiration for the youth in the beginning of the century till his death in 1920. In fact, the 'troika' of Bal-Pal-Lal continued to inspire and guide the youth and students for a long time. Gandhiji always helped and encouraged the youth and students in the spirit of nationalism. He inspired a great many student-youth movements including the 1942 revolt.

Here we may, in passing, mention the holding of **All India Socialist Youth Conference in 1928**, which was a landmark in the development of youth consciousness and movement. The great role of youth and students in the post-War upsurge of 1945-47 is well-known. It added glorious pages and chapters to the national movement for independence from colonial rule and put the youth in the forefront along with other sections and classes.

A large number of youth organizations, associations, leagues and federations of a wide variety had emerged before independence at local and provincial levels even in the states i.e. in the princely states. Many of them functioned till and even after independence. Most of the provincial and other organizations were very influential and strong examble in Punjab, Bengal, Bombay, parts of UP and Bihar, areas of Kerala and Madras, Orissa etc. Some of these organizations became part of the youth federation units in independent India, ultimately contributing to the formation of AIYF. But there did not emerge a proper and stable all India youth organisation before the independence because of a number of reasons.

Among the notable youth organizations, which later became part of AIYF, were Madras Youth Association, formed in 1930, Pondicherry Youth Sangam, YFs in Punjab, Bihar, West Bengal etc.

Post-Independence Period

A qualitatively new situation arose after India became independent. New tasks confronted the Indian people and youth. The British rule of more than two centuries had left India weak and backward. They and their leaders had to learn many new things on the new path of national re-construction. Now the struggle was not only against somebody but also for something, a constructive approach. It was no more the question of struggle for the overthrow of a foreign power, but against the negative and anti-people policies of our own government. And the struggle also had to have new features it was to be constructive. It was to be a struggle of a new type in which concrete solutions to the problems of the youth and the people had to be suggested after proper study and understanding and mass work.

Therefore after independence, youth leaderships and organizations took sometime to come to terms with the new situation and new problems. Some youth organizations were attempted at all India and state levels by the various parties and by non-party groupings. But an effective organisation did not come up. It was only by late 1950s- early 1960s that the situation began getting clearer.

Even then, there took place a number of memorable movements of youth and students in the immediate post-independence years. There also emerged several strong state-level youth organizations, some of them quite strong and militant. Young people participated in a big way in the food movements and struggle against price-rise in Bihar, Bengal, U.P., Punjab, Kerala, Bombay, Andhra etc. A massive movement was unleashed in Bihar in 1955 against police firings on people, and students in particular. CPI and left parties participated actively. Bihar youth organisation got tremendous boost. Food movement and 'food-riots' took place in West Bengal; YF was an active participant. Andhra YF led and participated in a number of mass movements.

Youth and YFs and other organisations participated actively in the states re-organisation movement of the mid 1950s. The Samyukta Maharashtra Movement was notable in this context.

Youth were in the forefront of the Goa liberation movement and satyagraha of mid and late fifties. A large number of young people fell to the Portuguese bullets and lathis. Many more were injured and incapacitated and a huge number were arrested and tortured. Youth Federation and organisation were active participants. Goa ultimately got independence in December 1961.

Pondicherry (Now Puducherry) was another group of areas under foreign occupation. It was ruled by the French colonialists till 1954, when it got independence. The freedom struggle in Pondicherry was led by the legendary V. Subbiah, who also was a CPI leader. He had also established the Pondicherry Youth Sangam in the 1930s. This youth organization played a great role in the freedom movement in Pondicherry, and later it was to become one of the important constituents of the AIYF.

Youths and youth federation fought a number of anti-imperialist battles in defence of Indo-China, (ie Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) Congo, Algeria and liberation struggles elsewhere in the world. Powerful opinion was created against USA, Belgium, UK, and other imperialist countries. There were big battles in defence of peace, freedom and democracy and nonalignment. Youth raised their voice in defence of socialist system led by the USSR and against atomic and nuclear weapons and against the threat of their world war.

Youths and the YFs participated actively in sectional and class struggles of youths, workers, peasants, middle classes etc. At the same time they engaged in sports and cultural activities like festivals, cultural competitions etc.

Youth federations conducted great battles against the government's anti-people policies and at the same time against communalism. They were calling for changes in government policies. Slowly but surely a democratic and left alternative movement thus was being created and in this context need was being felt for the creation of an effective all India level youth organisation.

The First All India Student Organization

The first All India Student Organization and All India Student Federation were founded in 1936 in Lucknow.

A Reception Committee decided to convene the all India students' conference in Lucknow on 12-13, August, 1936. All the students organisations all over the country were invited to participate. At the same time leaders of various parties like the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, the Congress Socialist Party, and the Communist Party of India etc., were also contacted. It was inaugurated by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Presided by Muslim League Leader M.A. Jinnah.

Foundation Conference of AISF

The foundation conference of the AISF was held in the Ganga Prasad Memorial Hall of Lucknow. 936 delegates representing 200 local and 11 provincial organisations from all over the country participated in the conference. The conference received messages of good wishes from Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Srinivas Shastri and many other prominent personalities.

The conference was the biggest gathering of students at all India level till that time. All the universities were represented.

P.N. Bhargava welcomed the delegates as the Chairman of the Reception Committee. The conference was inaugurated by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. While analyzing the Indian and world situation in detail, he called upon the students to keep the flag of the freedom movement high. In his presidential speech, M.A. Jinnah expressed happiness at the fact that people of different castes and communities had gathered in the conference with one common goal.

The conference passed several resolutions. They called upon the students to fight actively for independence and to participate in politics.

The conference resolved to establish an All India Students Federation (AISF). Prem Narayan Bhargava was elected the first general secretary of the AISF. The Students' Tribune became the first organ of the AISF. The formation of the AISF was an historic event. It inspired the whole of student movement to move forward. It was also a sign of the growing maturity of the student movement.

The second conference of the AISF was held after a short interval of only three months, beginning on 22 November (1936) in Lahore. It mainly discussed and adopted the constitution of the AISF. The conference was attended by about 150 delegates under the presidentship of Sarat Chandra Bose, who called upon the students to derive inspiration from the Russian revolution. The conference was also addressed by Pt Govind Ballabh Pant. It through a resolution condemned the intervention by Nazi Germany into the affairs of Republican Spain. The conference decided to affiliate the AISF with the World Students' Association.

The Lahore AISF conference prepared a Demand Charter of Students as a basis of countrywide mass student movement. The foundation of AISF filled the students with new enthusiasm and consciousness, and spurred them to big actions. Student-youth movement spread widely.

A notable incident took place after the Lahore Conference. Some Muslim student leaders tried to convene an All India Muslim Students' conference in Lucknow towards the end of 1936. But the organizers had to face tremendous opposition from Muslim students and the conference had to be dissolved. The delegates held a mass meeting opposing the very idea of forming a separate organisation of the Muslim students. Ansar Harvani of Lucknow University was the most vocal supporter of this resolution of the public meeting. The organizer of the Muslim students' conference Iftikhar Hasan tried to put across his reasons but nobody was prepared to listen to him. Barring him, all the delegates came out against forming a student organisation on communal basis. Ali Sardar Jafri moved a resolution calling upon the Muslim students to join the AISF in large numbers. Meeting also read out the messages of Maulana Abdul Kalan Azad and Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan. Both of them opposed formation of a separate organisation and asked the Muslim students to join the AISF.

All India Muslim Students Federation

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(The **Muslim Students Federation** was an [Indian Muslim students union](#) affiliated with the [All India Muslim League](#). Splitting off from the [All India Students Federation](#) in 1937, the body was organised under patronage of [Muhammad Ali Jinnah](#) and became an important part of the [Pakistan movement](#).

The All India Students Federation had been founded by [Jawaharlal Nehru](#) in 1936 to aid in the [Indian struggle for independence](#). However, the rising popularity of the Muslim League and [Muslim separatism](#) prompted a portion of the AISF's Muslim members to split off from the organisation on the grounds that it was a [Hindu-dominated](#) organisation. Under the patronage of Jinnah and [Sir Muhammad Iqbal](#), the All India Muslim Students Federation was founded in 1937. The new body absorbed smaller Muslim student groups such as the All Bengal Muslim Students Association. Muslim politician Muhammad Nauman became the first president of the AIMS F, while Muhammad Waseeqe served as its organising secretary. The first annual conference was organised under the presidency of Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The Muslim Students Federation sought the introduction of compulsory religious education for children of Muslim parents and students in all schools across India. It resolved that the [That-e-Makkah](#) be observed as "Muslim Students Day." The ranks of the organisation grew across India, but especially in the campus of the [Aligarh Muslim University](#). It launched an aggressive campaign against the alleged non-Islamic crests of the [University of Calcutta](#) and the [University of Nagpur](#), the Vidya Mandir scheme in the [Central Provinces](#), the vibrant slogan of [Vande Mataram](#) and the public veneration shown to the [tri-colour flag](#) of Congress, criticising them as insults to [Islam](#). In its meeting on May 6, 1938 at the [Islamia College, Lahore](#) the AIMS F working committee controversially resolved to condemn the song of Vande Mataram as un-Islamic. The committee also resolved to change Iqbal's poem [Saare Jahan Se Achcha](#) by replacing the word "Hindi" with Muslim and "[Hindustan](#)" with "Sara Jahan" to read "Muslim Hain Ham Watan Hain Sara Jahan Hamara" (We are Muslim and the whole world is ours). The Muslim Students Federation endorsed the [Pakistan Resolution](#) adopted by the Muslim League on March 23, 1940. The organisation would aggressively promote the creation of the Muslim state of [Pakistan](#) and helped the League in organising election campaigns in 1946. During the [Direct Action Day](#) campaign, the federation organised major strikes and protest rallies. It was also believed to be involved in organising communal violence and riots across India, leading to the deaths of tens of thousands of people.

During its existence, prominent members of the federation included the soon-to-become founders of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Tajuddin Ahmad, Syed Nazrul Islam, Muhammad Mansur Ali and A. H. M. Qamaruzzaman. Following the partition of India on August 15, 1947, most of the organisation's members moved to Pakistan, as did the Muslim League itself. In Pakistan, the organisation was reborn as the Muslim Students Federation. The exit of the Muslim Students Federation created a void in Muslim student activity in India for many years, until the subsequent establishment of the Students Islamic Movement of India and the Students Islamic Organisation of India).

AISF splitted in 1940 at its national conference at Nagpur. The Gandhian Socialist formed their own student body called **All India Student Congress**. (According to the C.B. Tripathi, the foundation conference of All India Student Congress took place at Patna in 1943. Ram Sumer Shukla elected its first President and later on Ravinder Verma in Delhi in 1946). Later on a body of Socialist Youths, namely Young Socialist League (SYL) was started in 1949, Lucknow.

A BODY OF SOCIALIST YOUTHS, YOUNG SOCIALIST LEAGUE (SYL) WAS STARTED IN UP IN 1949 TO ARRANGE SOCIALIST STUDY GROUPS IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. IT WAS ORGANISED ON ALL INDIA LEVEL AT ALL INDIA SOCIALIST YOUTH CONFERENCE HELD AT KASHI VIDYAPEETH, VARANSI, 27-30, (April) 1953 {not JUNE 1953, as mentioned by Dr Haridev Sharma in selected works of Acharya Narendra Deva} UNDER THE PRESIDENSHIP OF DR RAMMANOHAR LOHIA and named as **Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha**.

ITS OBJECTIVE WAS TO INCULCATE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST IDEALS AMONG THE YOUTHS, TO INFUSE SOCIALIST VALUES THROUGH CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES, TO END SOCIAL EVILS, ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, COLONIALISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENTS. (***SELECTED WORKS OF ACHARYA NARENDRA DEVA, VOL-4, PAGE (41)***).

A Training Camp of Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha, was organised at Bheemtal (Nainital) in the first week of May 1954. It was inaugurated by Swami Bhagwan and Achary Narendra Deva sent a message to this Camp. (***SELECTED WORKS OF ACHARYA NARENDRA DEVA, VOL-4, PAGE (42)***).

Third Annual Convention of Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha, was organised at Kanpur on 15-15, January, 1955. Achary Narendra Deva sent a message to this Convention. (***SELECTED WORKS OF ACHARYA NARENDRA DEVA, VOL-4, PAGE (343)***).

A Five days Socialist Youth Seminar organized in Lucknow on 15-20, January, 1954. Acharya Narendra Deva attended this seminar and addressed.

ALL INDIA SAMAJWADI YUVAK SABHA, (SYS) CONFERENCE HELD AT PURI (ORISSA) IN MAY, 1955. INAUGURATED BY MADHU LIMAYE.

DURING 1954-55 VIJAY KUMAR WAS GENERAL SECRETARY OF U.P. SAMAJWADI YUWAK SABHA.

PRAJA SOCIALIST PARTY SPLITTED IN 1955 AND DR RAMMANOHAR LOHIA ESTABLISHED HIS OWN SOCIALIST PARTY IN JANUARY 1956. SIMULTANEOUSLY SAMAJWADI YUWAK SABHA WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED WITH THE NAME OF **SAMAJWADI YUVJAN SABHA (SYS)**.

DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIA, ADDRESSED TO THE STUDENTS OF PATNA, BHU BANARAS, GORAKHPUR, KANPUR AND DELHI UNIVERSITIES BY (9 TO 15, SEPTEMBER, 1956. (COLLECTED WORKS OF DR RM LOHIA BY MASTRAM KAPUR).

ALL INDIA SAMAJWADI YUVJAN SABHA, (SYS) CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING RESOLUTIONS. (MANKIND, MARCH, 1961, VOL.5, NO. 8, PAGE, 53) UJJAIN (M.P).

DR RAMMANOHAR LOHIA ADDRESSED A CAMP OF ALL INDIA SAMAJWADI YUVJAN SABHA, (SYS) HELD AT NAINITAL, 1962, WHERE HE GAVE HIS CALL OF 'SAPT KRANTI'(SEVEN REVOLUTION).

(BETWEEN 1956 TO 1962, THERE WERE THREE NATIONAL CONFERENCES HELD AT VARIOUS PLACE BUT DETAILS ARE NOT AVAILABLE).

ALL INDIA SAMAJWADI YUVJAN SABHA, (SYS) RESOLUTION'S OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER, 5-7, 1962, HYDRABAD.

Important Youth & Student Leaders of Socialist Movement

Raj Narain, Prabhu Narain Singh, Ramayan Rai, N D Tiwari, Chandra Shekhar, Gaudey Murahari, Rabi Ray, Ladli Mohan Nigam, Kishan Patnaik, Surendra Mohan, Ram Chandra Shukla, Chandrika Singh 'Karunesh', Kashinath Mishra, Padmakarlal Srivastva, Panchanan Mishra, Ramadhar Pandey, Rangnath Sharma, Krishan Nath, K.P. Unnikrishnan, Chandra Bhal Tripathi, Ananddeshwar Prasad Singh, Anand Dev Giri, Rajnikant Verma, K P Tiwari, Vijay Kumar, Shamsi Minai, Gyanendra Prasad Srivastva (Kanpur), Rajnikant Verma, Dharamveer Goswami, Ram Kamal Rai, Surendra Vikram Singh, Janeshwar Mishra, Prof. Satyamitra Dubey, K. Vikram Rao, Anisurrehman Sherwani, Ramashankar Gupta, Ms. Saraswati Ammal, N K Nayar, Vinod Dubey, Asif Jafri, Vipin Chaudhry, Ramashankar Kaushik, Brijbhushan Tiwari, Kalpnath Rai, Vansh Bahadur Singh, Syed Mazhar Hussain, Satyadev Tripathi, Vinay Kumar, Prof. Rajkumar Jain, Mukhtar Anees, Mohan Singh, Satya Pal Malik, Mahendra Bhalla, Rajendra Chaudhry, Rajendra Yadav, Jagat Singh, Devvrat Majumdar, Markandey Singh, Mujibulla Siddiqui, Javed Siddiqui, Hashmat Lohia, Narendra Guru, Parimal Kumar Das, Ramvilas Paswan, Shivanand Tiwari, Akhtar Hussain, Nitish Kumar, Laloo Prasad, Jugnu Shardeya, Ramnath Thakur, Ms. Sudha Srivastva, Sharad Yadav, Shyam Krishan Pandey, Satish Aggarwal, Satya Prakash Rana, Anand Kumar, Jasbir Singh, Ramesh Dixit, Vandana Mishra, Lalit Mohan Gautam, Ramashankar Singh, Shatrarudh Prakash, Sudhindra Bhadoaria, Chanchal, Jagdish Lal Srivastva, Fateh Bahadur, Udayan Sharma, Shyam Pathak, Ramjilal Suman, Raj Babbar, Brij Kishore Tripathi, Ranjana Kumari, Anjana Kumari, Mohan Prakash, Harshwardhan, Ravindra Singh, Kunwar Sarvraj Singh, Vijay Pratap, Sudhir Goyal, Shiv Kumar Singh, Kranti Prakash, Dr Sunilam,

RAJ NARAIN, B.A., LL.B., Janata, (Uttar Pradesh—Rae Bareli—1977): s. of late Shri Anant Prasad Singh; b. at Motikot village, Varanasi District, March 15, 1917; married; 3 s. and 1 d.; Political and Social worker; previously associated with Samyukta Socialist Party and Bhartiya Lok Dal; imprisoned 58 times for a period totalling about 15 years in connection with students' and socialist movements; Chairman, Socialist Party, 1961; Member, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, 1952 and 1957; Member Rajya Sabha, 1966—72 and 1974—76; Minister of Health and Family Welfare since March, 1977.

Special interests: Political and social work, yoga, Indian culture and philosophy. Sports and clubs: Wrestling.

Travels abroad: Kuwait, U.S.S. R., Iran, France and Afghanistan.

Permanent address: Motikot Village, Gangapur P.O., Varanasi District, Uttar Pradesh.

S. M. JOSHI, B.A... LL.B., S.S.P., (Maharashtra—Poona—1967): s. of Shri Mahadev Janardan Joshi; b. at Junnar, Poona Distt., November 12, 1904; ed. at Golap, near Ratnagiri, New English, School, Fergusson College and Law College, Poona and the University of Bombay; m. Shrimati Tarabai Pendse, August 19, 1939; 2 s.; Journalist, social worker and Life Insurance Agent; Associated with the Bombay Presidency Youth League upto 1932 and with the Indian National Congress and Congress Socialist Party upto 1948; Chief Organiser, Rashtra Seva Dal, 1941-42. 1947; General Secretary, All-India Defence Employees' Federation upto 1963 and presently its Vice-President; President State Bank Employees' Association, Bombay Circle,

1959 and All-India Federation of State Bank Employees Association, 1960; General Secretary, Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti, 1956-60; Member, Bombay Legislative Assembly, 1952-62; Chairman, P.S.P., 1963-64 and became Chairman, S.S.P. in 1964.

Social activities: Trustee, Maharashtra Arogya Mandal, Poona, Antar Bharati Trust and Rashtra Seva Dal; Managing Trustee, Sadhana Trust; Editor, Lokamitra, a Marathi daily. 1958—62; Chairman, Janawani Ltd.

Favourite pastime and recreation: Films and dramas. Special interests: Youth movement.

Books published: (I) Oormi—A Collection of Essays and Sketches; (ii) S, M. Joshi: Vyakti, Vaani Ani Lekhni (Marathi)—A Collection of Articles. Travels abroad: Ceylon.

Permanent address: 1170, Sadashivpeth, Poona-2, Maharashtra.

KARPOORI THAKUR, Janata, (Bihar—Samastipur—1977): s. of Shri Gokul Thakur; b. at Ismail Nagar alias Pitaujia, Pitaujia P.O., 1919; ed. at Upper Primary School, Pitaujia Middle English School, Tajpur, Tirhut Academy, Samastipur and Chandradhari Mithila College, Darbhanga; studied upto III year B.A.; m. Smt. Phuleshwari Devi; 2 s. and 1 d.; Political and Social Worker; previously associated with the Congress Socialist Party, Socialist Party, Praja Socialist Party, Samyukta Socialist Party and Bharatiya Lok Dal; left studies and participated in the 'Quit India Movement' of 1942; Arrested in 1943 and kept in imprisonment for 26 months; Supported Bihar Students' Movement; Member, Bihar Legislative Assembly, 1952—74; Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Education and Finance, Government of Bihar 1967; Chief Minister, Bihar, 1970-71; Secretary, Darbhanga District Congress Socialist Party, 1945—47; Joint Secretary/Secretary, Bihar Socialist Party, 1948—52; During 1952—72, held the offices of (i) Provincial Secretary, Praja Socialist Party, Bihar, (ii) Member, National Working Committee of All-India Praja Socialist Party, (iii) Chairman, Samyukta Socialist Party, Bihar; Chairman, All-India Samyukta Socialist Party, 1969—71; Member, National Committee of Samyukta Socialist Party, 1972-73; Member, Bharatiya Lok Dal ; after its formation; Librarian, Youth Library in Home Village, 1935—40; Member, Students' Federation, 1937—42; Assistant Secretary, Bihar Pradeshik Kisan Sabha, 1947; Secretary, (i) Bihar Pradeshik Kisan Sabha, 1948—52, (ii) Bihar Relief Committee; Member, Central Committee of Akhil Bhartiya Hind Kisan Panchayat; Member, Bihar State Level Bhoodan or Sarvodaya Committee; Chairman/Secretary of several educational Institutions; Chairman of different Trade Unions for several years; Delegate to the International Union of Socialist Youth Convention at Vienna; was also a member of the Delegation to Yugoslavia, Resigned seat in Sixth Lok Sabha; presently Chief Minister, Bihar.

Social activities: Took active part in Bhoodan, Gram dan and Sarvodaya Movements; Founded several educational institutions like Acharya Narendra Dev College, Shahpur Patori, Dr. Lohia College, Tajpur, Prabhavati Rumdulari High School, Pitaujia.

Favourite pastime and recreation: Folk music, particularly classical music.

Special interests: Constructive work; Activities relating to Khadi and Village industries.

Publications: Several booklets on Politics, Socialist Movement and Emergency. Travels abroad: Austria, Yugoslavia, Lebanon, Egypt, Nepal and several European countries.

Permanent address: Pitaujia Village and P.O., Samastipur District, Bihar.

RAM SEWAK YADAV, B.A., LL.B., S.S.P., (Uttar Pradesh—Bara Banki 1967): s. of Shri Ram Gulam; b. at Tala, Thalvara, Bara Banki, July 2, 1926; ed. at Behta Lower Primary School, Kamla Primary School, Chavhat (Lucknow) Middle School, City School and Rajkiya School, Bara Banki, Kanya Kubja College, Lucknow and Lucknow University; m. Shrimati Parvati Devi; 1 s. and 2 d.; was arrested during college days in connection with students' movement; associated with students' Congress, 1946-51; suffered imprisonment and was fined in 1953-54 in connection with the cane agitation in Bara Banki District; suffered imprisonment in connection with the movement for canal rates reduction and the movement for abolition of land revenue; Member, District Executive, P.S.P., 1952 onwards; Joint Secretary, P.S.P., 1952—54 and Socialist Party, Bara Banki District, 1955-56; now General Secretary, All India Samyukta Socialist Party; Member, U.P. Vidhan Sabha 1956; Second Lok Sabha, 1957—62 and Third Lok Sabha, 1962-67.

Social activities: Worked among Backward and Scheduled Caste people and for removal of social evils and untouchability; rendered free legal advice to the poor; interested in eradication of corruption and working among the farmers.

Favourite pastime and recreation: Reading books on politics.

Special interests: Public service and industrial affairs.

Travels abroad: Lebanon, Egypt, Rome, Germany, France, Britain, U.S.A., Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand.

Permanent address: Rasoolpur, Distt. Bara Banki, Uttar Pradesh.

BRAJ RAJ SINGH, M.A.(Prev.), LL.B., Sahitya Ratna, Socl., (U.P.—Firozabad—1957): S. of Th. Gaurishanker Singh, B. Kuberpur village, Khairgarh, Mainpurr Distt., November 13, 1921; ed. at Balwant Rajput College, St. John's College and Agra College, Agra; m. Sushila Devi, June 24, 1943; 3 S.; Legal practitioner; Secretary, District Socialist Party, Agra; President, Hind Kisan Panchayat, Agra District; President, Mazdoor Panchayat, Firozabad, and President, Adhikar Raksha Samiti, Firozabad;

Member, Indian National Congress till 1948, then Member of Socialist Party, subsequently Member of Praja Socialist Party, now again Member of Socialist Party; Led Quit India movement of students in Agra district in August 1942 and went underground for two months thereafter;

Organised the Socialist Party in Agra District; Led the Anti-Irrigation Rates satyagraha in Agra District in 1954, and was sentenced to six months imprisonment, but released after three months when the Special Powers Act of 1932 was declared ultra vires by the Allahabad High Court;

Has worked for the eradication of the evils of drink etc. among the sweepers and for the removal of purdah in Hindu society; Has worked for the organisation and setting up of several labour unions, including those of the mehtars and the peasantry, at Agra and Firozabad.

Accomplishments in letters: Has composed thousands of Hindi poems and written a novel and several short stories, in Hindi.

Hobbies: Kabaddi playing and long jump. Special interests: Hindi poetry and literature. Sports: Badminton.

Permanent address: Vishwa Sadan, Arya Nagar, Firozabad, Distt. Agra, U.P.

UGRASEN, B.A., Janata, (Uttar Pradesh—Deoria—1977): s. of Thakur Babban Singh; b. at Pauharia Village, Gorakhpur District, July 1, 1920; ed. at Udai Pratap College, Varanasi and Kashi Vishwavidyalaya; studied upto M.A. (Prev.); m. Smt. Ram Dulari Devi, June, 1938; 5 d.; Political and Social Worker; taught in the Anglo-Bengali Inter College, Dadar, Bombay and Harsh Chand Inter College, Barhaj Deoria; associated with, H.S.R. A. 1936—38, Congress Socialist Party, 1938—47, Socialist Party of India, 1947—March 1948 and Socialist Party, 1948—1977; imprisoned in the Quit-India Movement of 1942, externed from Uttar Pradesh in 1944, participated in the Labour Movement in Bombay, 1945—49 and imprisoned in the 'Navik Vidroh' in 1946, detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, June 1975—January 1977, jailed more than 30 times from, 1950 to 1974; Member Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, 1957—69; Chief Whip and Leader of the Socialist Party in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly; General Secretary, Samyukta Vidhayak Dal, Uttar Pradesh, 1967—69; President, (i) Samyukta Socialist Party, Uttar Pradesh, 1970 and (ii) Socialist Party, Uttar Pradesh, 1974; Organiser, (i) Flood Relief Committee, Uttar Pradesh and (ii) Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Deoria; Member, Bhikshu Sangh, Kushinagar; Chairman, Milk Committee 1968-70, Uttar Pradesh; Presently Member, Petitions Committee.

Favourite pastime and recreation: Music, Literature, poetry, Urdu Shairee and Philosophy. Special interests: Service of the depressed and downtrodden community and organisation of labour movements.

Publications: 'Meri Burma Yatra' and 'Meri Jail Diary', also edited a book written on Ghalib, President of the Uttar Pradesh Ghalib Centenary Samiti.

Travels abroad: Attended Asian Socialist Countries Conference in Burma, 1953.

Permanent address: Village Pauharia, Patna P.O., District Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

RABI RAY, son of Shri Late Shri Ghanshyam Ray born on 26th November, 1926, at Bhauragarb in Distt. Puri (Orissa) married to Dr. Saraswati Swain on 28th April, 1960. B.A., (Hons.) Educated at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack (Orissa). Positions held: 1953-54, Joint Secretary All India Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha. 1957-58, General Secretary, All India Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha. 1960-61 General Secretary, Socialist Party. 1967 Elected to Lok Sabha (Fourth). 1967-71 Leader Samyukta Socialist Parliamentary Party. 1974-80 Member, Rajya

Sabha. 1977-79 General Secretary, Janata Party. 25 Jan. 1979 to 14 July 1979 Union Minister, Health and Family Welfare and 28 July 1979 to 14 Jan. 1980. 1989 Re-elected to Lok Sabha (Ninth). 19 Dec. 1989 to 9 July 1991 Speaker, Lok Sabha (Ninth). 1991 Elected to Lok Sabha (Tenth) for the third time. Imprisoned in connection with the Satyagraha launched by Socialist Party in 1960; imprisoned during emergency, 1975-76; Chairman, Press Council, 1977-78.

Literary, Artistic and Scientific Accomplishments

Editor, 'Chaukhamba' (Hindi) fortnightly and 'Samata' (Oriya) monthly

Social and Cultural Activities: President, Gram Vikas Foundation: President, Lohia Academy. Social activities on Gandhian lines

Favourite Pastime and Recreation Walking, reading. Sports and Clubs Volleyball

Countries Visited

Widely travelled; Leader, Janata Party Delegation to Bulgaria, 1978; Leader, Delegation to WHO, Geneva 1979; Member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Soviet Union and Hungary, led by the then Speaker, Shri Sanjiva Reddy in 1968; Leader, as the Speaker of the 9th Lok Sabha, Indian Parliamentary delegations to Zimbabwe, UK, European Parliament (Strassburg) Luxemburg, Argentina, Columbia, (Bogote) Mauritius, France, Poland and Hungary

Permanent Address:

Kalyani Nagar, Cuttack (Orissa). Tel. 22103

SAMARENDRA KUNDU, B.Sc., LL.B. (Janata Daf-Orissa, Balasore, 1989): s. of Late Sitanath Kundu; b at Balasore District, Orissa, October 5, 1930; ed, at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and M.S. Law College Cuttack; m. Dipti Biswal Kundu, December, 23, 1982; Lawyer, Journalist, Political and Social Worker, Teacher;

Public Offices held: Union Minister of State, External Affairs, August 1977-July 1979;

Prev. Association with Political Parties: Gen. Secy. Samajvadi Yuvak Sabha, 1964—68; Secy. SP, 1974-77; Executive Member, PSP, SP, JP, 1967—88;

Committee Experience: Member, Consultative Committee, Steel 1967-70, Estimates Committee, 1968-70; Chairman, Committee on Environment and Forests, June 7, 1990; Member, General Purposes Committee, August 7, 1990 and Consultative Committee, Department of Atomic Energy, Space, Electronics, Ocean Development and Ministry of Science and Technology, 1990;

Favourite Pastime and Recreation: Reading and writing music, theatre and art;

Publications: Articles in newspapers, wrote poems;

Delegation to Foreign countries: Member, National Union of Students to Afro-Asian Students conference at Bandung, 1954, Delegate of SYS to IUSY Conference at Vienna, 1960, at Colombo, 1968 and at Oslo, Delegate to World Youth Conference at Tokyo, 1968; attended 36th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Harare and World Conference on Environment and Ecology, North Korea in October 1990;

Travels Abroad: U.K. U.S.A., France, Switzerland, Guyana, Vietnam, Japan, Zambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Moscow;

Special Interests: Peace Movement, International Economics, trade union movement, rural development, disarmament, education, ecology and environment;

Sports and Clubs: Cricket;

Social Activities: Socio-cultural development of adivasis and rural poor, adult education, improvement of medical facilities,; President, Janavikash Kendra, Mayurbhanj, Orissa;

Other Information: Imprisonment in 1955 during the States Reorganisation Movement, in 1969 for Satyagraha before the British High Commission demanding freedom of South Africa and Rhodesia and in 1970 for launching the movement for distribution of land to the landless, arrested under MISA during 1975—77; President, All India Hind Mazdoor Sabha, 1989; President India-Africa Centre, New Delhi; Member, ICWA, August 9, 1990;

Permanent Address: At Soelpur Street, P.O. & Distt. Balasore Orissa.

NATH PAI, B.A., Bar-at-Law (London), P.S.P., (Maharashtra-Rajapur-1967): s. of Bapu Anant Pai; b. at Vengurla, September 25, 1922; m. Shrimati. Christi N. Pai; 1 S.; Barrister; President, Socialist Youth International, Vienna; twice President, London Majlis; Vice-President, (1) British Asian Socialist Fellowship (London); (2) Congress of Peoples for Colonial freedom (London); (3) Posts and Telegraphs Workers' Union, Bombay; Member, Goa-Vimochan Samiti; was imprisoned for 19 months in 1942 for participation in the Quit India movement; Member, Second Lok Sabha, 1957—62 and Third Lok Sabha, 1962—67.

Permanent address: Guruwar Petla, Tilak Wadi, Belgaum, Maharashtra.

GODEY MURAHARI, Congress, (Andhra Pradesh—Vijayavada—1977): s. of Shri G. Gangaraju; b. at Jamshedpur, Bihar, May 20, 1926; ed. at (i) Banaras Hindu University and (ii) Pachiappa's College, Madras; Bachelor; Publisher; was in the Congress, 1941—47 and also in the Socialist Group of the Party till it separated from the Congress; was jailed in 1943 in connection with the 'Quit India' movement and externed from Banaras District for over two years till the establishment of the Interim; Government in 1946; underwent jail terms thrice for activities connected with the Socialist Party; General Secretary, All India Socialist Party, 1958-59; was Member, National Executive, Socialist Party and was Secretary of its Central Parliamentary Board, 1961-63; Member, (i) Institute of Social Culture and (ii) Jana Manch Madras, 1950—57; Secretary, All India Samajwadi Yuvak Sabha, 1957-58; Vice-President, Constitution Club, Delhi; Member, National Shipping Board, 1970-71; Member, Rajya Sabha, 1962—77; Member, (i) Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva, and

(ii) Executive Committee and also Chairman of the Commission on National Legislatures, World Constitution and Parliamentary Association; was Member, (i) Public Accounts Committee, 1966—68, and (ji) Committee on Public Undertakings, 1968-70; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, 1972—77, presently Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha from April 1977 onwards; Vice-President, Indian Parliamentary Group, led the Indian Delegation to the Congress of the International Union of Socialist Youth, Copenhagen and to the Congress of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, Berlin, 1954.

Favourite pastime and recreation: Cinema.

Special interests: Journalism, youth and cultural activities.

Publications: Edited 'Young World' (a weekly), 1956-57; Editor and Publisher, "Mankind" (monthly) and Publisher, 'Jan' a Hindi monthly.

Travels abroad: England, France, Holland, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Yugoslavia, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Poland, U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, Australia, Japan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Lebanon, U.A.R., Rumania, Zambia, Canada, Italy, Guinea, Mali, Hungary, South and North Korea, Switzerland, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Greece, Singapore and U.S.A.

Permanent address: 9/1, Barnaby Road, Kilpauk, Madras-10.

Chandra Shekhar, son of Late Shri Sadanand Singh and Late Smt. Durpai Devi born on 01.07.1927 at Ibrahimpatti, Distt. Ballia (Uttar Pradesh) Married to Late Smt. Dwija Devi. M.A. Educated at Ballia and at Allahabad University, Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh). Agriculturist and Social Worker.

Position Held

1951, Secretary, Praja Socialist Party (P.S.P.), Distt. Ballia. 1952, Joint Secretary, P.S.P., Uttar Pradesh. 1955, General Secretary, P.S.P., Uttar Pradesh. 1959-62, Member, National Executive, P.S.P. 1962, Member, Rajya Sabha. 1967, General Secretary, Congress Parliamentary Party (C.P.P.) 1977, Elected to 6th Lok Sabha. 1977-87, President, Janata Party (J.P.). 1980, Re-elected to 7th Lok Sabha (2nd term). 1989, Re-elected to 9th Lok Sabha (3rd term). 1990-91, Prime Minister and incharge of Ministries/Departments of Defence; Home Affairs; Atomic Energy; Science and Technology; Ocean Development; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Electronics; Space; Information and Broadcasting; Industry; Labour; Welfare; Planning and Programme Implementation; External Affairs; Health and Family Welfare; Water Resources and Surface Transport. 1991, Re-elected to 10th Lok Sabha (4th term). 1996, Re-elected to 11th Lok Sabha (5th term). 1998, Re-elected to 12th Lok Sabha (6th term). 1999, Re-elected to 13th Lok Sabha (7th term). Leader, Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) Parliamentary Party, Lok Sabha. 2000-2001 Chairman, Committee on Ethics. 2004, Re-elected to 14th Lok Sabha (8th term). 8th July 2007, Passed away in New Delhi.

Book Published

"Meri Jail Diary" (in Hindi); and "Dynamics of Social Change"

Literary Artistic & Scientific Accomplishments

Founder-Editor and Chairman, Editorial Advisory Board of "Young Indian"

Social And Cultural Activities

Undertook Padyatra of 4,260 kms. from Kanyakumari to Rajghat, New Delhi (6 January 1983 to 25 June 1983) to establish rapport with the masses and understand their problems and established 15 Bharat Yatra Centres in various States to train social and political workers for mass education and grassroots work

Special Interests

Primary education and health services. Favourite Pastime and Recreation

Gardening, travelling and discussions

Other Information

Arrested under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during Emergency in 1975 even being a member of the Central Election Committee and Working Committee of All India Congress Committee (A.I.C.C.)

Permanent Address

Vill. & P.O. Ibrahimpatti,
Distt. Ballia - 277 001 (Uttar Pradesh)
(05491)251444,251455

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New Delhi - 110 011
Tels. (011) 23012587, 23016752

C B Tripathi, was at Lucknow University he remained active as President of the Students Union in 1952-53 and led a peaceful statewide movement in 1953 over the issue of autonomy of the students unions. He was also one of the founder members of the All India Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha (1953).

In 1954 he led an Indian student delegation to the cultural festival in Rangoon (Burma, now Myanmar). In 1956 he was briefed by Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru before going to Bandung, Indonesia, to represent India at the Afro-Asian Student Conference. The same year he represented India at the Sixth international Student Conference at Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

YOUNG SOCIALIST LEAGUE (SYL) (1949-53)

Ram Chandra Shukla were Organizers and Secretary of Socialist Youth League/Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha, U.P., during 1948-53.

SAMAJWADI YUVAK SABHA (1953-55)

During 1953-54, Rabi Ray became the Joint Secretary of All India Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha.

Godey Murahari, was General Secretary of SYS, during 1957-58. When he got elected as General Secretary of Socialist Party at Sherghati (Gaya) in 1958, Vijay Kumar was elected General Secretary of SYS, in his place at the National Committee meeting of SYS in Nainital. SP President Madhu Limaye and General Secretary Godey Murahari were also present and they wanted Ladli Mohan Nigam should be elected GS, SYS.

Ladli Mohan Nigam got elected GS in 1959 or 1960 at the National Conference of SYS at New Delhi South Avenue Club.

SAMAJWADI YUVJAN SABHA (1956-77)

Later on Janeshwar Mishra got elected GS of SYS. 1967-68

Kalpnath Rai GS, SYS

Satyapal Malik GS SYS, 1969-71.

Mohan Singh GS SYS 1973-74.

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A Learned History of the Socialist Movement

REVIEW ARTICLE

(1) Bharat mein Loktantrik Samajwadi Andolan—Bhag Ek: Congress Socialist Party (1934-47) by Girija Shankar; Vishwa Bharati Publications, 4378/4D Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi; 2004; pages 465+ix; Rs 750.

(2) Bharat mein Loktantrik Samajwadi Andolan—Bhag Do: Socialist Party (1947-52) by Girija Shankar; Vishwa Bharati Publications, 4378/4D Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi; 2009; pages 395+xv+45 photographs; Rs 950.

Some histories of various phases of the socialist movement have been written by political scientists and historians and some others by the participants in it. Among them, the earliest possibly was the History of the Praja Socialist Party by Hari Kishore Singh who published it in 1958. The book covered the period from the founding of the Congress Socialist Party in 1934 to 1955 when the party, which had changed its name to the Praja Socialist Party, suffered a major split. Hari Kishore Singh, an activist of the Socialist Youth Organisation, prepared this book as a dissertation for his degree from the Oxford University. Singh remained active in politics and was the Minister of State for External Affairs in the National Front Government in 1989 and 1990. Thereafter Professor S.C. Gangal of Aligarh wrote on the socialist movement from 1934 to 1971. Two socialist activists, Prof Vinod Prasad Singh and Dr Sunilam, thereafter published documents including policy statements, resolutions and correspondence among leaders of the movement. That book covered the period from 1934 to 1952 and was written in Hindi. Madhu Limaye, the socialist leader and parliamentarian, has written extensively on the subject in his books *The Age of Hope* and *the Birth of non-Congressism*. Autobiographies by senior socialist leaders, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Nirbhay Shankar Pandya, S.N. Dwivedi and S.M. Joshi, also shed lot of light on the facts concerning the history of the Socialist Parties, including their splits and mergers. However, the book by Pandya was in Gujarati and Joshi in Marathi.

Dr Girija Shankar, the founder and head of the History Department of the Choudhry Charan Singh University, has published systematic studies of the history of the Congress Socialist

Party from 1934 to 1947 and the history of the Socialist Party from 1947 to 1952 in Hindi. In the first of these books, he has, in the beginning, discussed the background of the formation of the CSP, its relationship with Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose. He has sought to link its foundation with the freedom struggle and pointed to its strong commitment to the latter. A large number of the cadres of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha from the Punjab led by Munshi Ahmed Din and including Kulbir Singh and Kultar Singh, brothers of the great martyr Sardar Bhagat Singh, joined the Congress Socialist Party in 1936. Some others from the revolutionary movement like Sibnath Banerji, Yogendra Shukla, Basawan Singh and Dinesh Dasgupta were also in the Party, thus confirming its link not only with the freedom struggle led by Gandhiji but the other streams as well.

Prof Girja Shankar goes into detail in outlining the Party's attempt at creating Left Unity with the Communists and the followers of the famous revolutionary M.N. Roy, whom Nehru had personally introduced to the delegates of the Indian National Congress at Faizpur. That unity did not sustain even though Jaya Prakash Narayan, the chief organiser of the Party, and its senior ideologue Acharya Narendra Dev were all for it as they were staunch Marxists and the Party described itself as Marxist-Leninist. The disillusionment from the Soviet Union, which was worshipped by the Communists as the Fatherland of the proletariat, after Stalin introduced the new Constitution in 1936, the Moscow Trials, the pact between the Soviet Union's Foreign Minister Ribbontrop and the German dictator Hitler, and the erosion of civil liberties was one of the reasons of the split. The other was the Communists' strategy to create ruptures in the Congress by pushing the Left's confrontation with the Right after the separation of Bose from the Congress party. The author expresses his disappointment that the unity got ruptured and approvingly quotes Madhu Limaye also in this behalf.

Dr Girja Shankar has painstakingly discussed the thinking of various socialist leaders and the challenge mounted by Dr Lohia, Achyut Patwardhan, Masani and Kamaladevi against JP's insistence of keeping intact the unity with the Communists. He also refers to the long hunger strike launched by the prisoners in the Deoli Camp Jail against the abysmal conditions in it which the Communists gave up in between, without consulting the socialists, including JP, because of their altered perception of the imperialist war. The Communists started to call it the People's War and gave full support to the war effort of the British, calling JP and Bose fifth columnists. He has also traced the growing realisation among socialist leaders of the significance of the mass awakening brought by the peaceful nature and the openness of the challenge that the Congress under Gandhi posed against the imperialists. The Congress Socialists' role in preparing the Congress leaders to launch a direct struggle against the imperial power and their cadres to be ready to strike has been succinctly brought out. He says that dialogues with socialists influenced Gandhi's thinking also, and at one time, he had offered to them in 1947 that if they foreswore the use of violence, he would become a member of their Party.

The CSP decided to boycott the Constituent Assembly, and Nehru regretted it much because he felt that they could have contributed in strengthening its progressive features. The author has discussed the reasons for it. The Party felt that while direct and indirect members from the princely states were nominated by the princes, other members had been elected by a very restricted electorate. The miscalculation of the CSP, he says, was that they pinned too much faith in Gandhiji and his often stated position that he would never accept

the country's partition. Even when the Interim Government had been installed with Nehru as Vice President of the Viceroy's Executive Council, they continued to insist that the final struggle against the British imperialists was inevitable. In the Working Committee of the Congress Party, JP and Lohia strongly opposed the resolution on the acceptance of partition. Lohia, in his well-known book *Guilty Men of India's Partition*, accused Nehru and Patel of making a deal with Lord Mounbatten, the last Viceroy, behind Gandhi's back. He expressed sorrow that in the end, Gandhi resigned himself to partition.

While the CSP leaders were campaigning for launching the final struggle, the Congress leaders, particularly Sardar Patel, were preparing to ensure that either the CSP is dissolved or it is thrown out. Girja Shankar has described various initiatives taken by Gandhi to bring the two groups together, but he did not succeed. After the Congress leaders refused to accept Gandhi's suggestion that JP or Narendra Dev should be made Congress President, the CSP decided that it was futile to hope that they will change. After Gandhi's assassination, the Congress Working Committee adopted a resolution against permitting organised groups' stay in the party. The CSP then resolved to quit the Congress March 1, 1948. However, they set a healthy tradition by deciding to quit all the elective posts in district and State levels which they had secured as Congressmen. Nehru had tried to dissuade them from leaving the Congress party. The author mentions several letters he wrote to JP and the statements he made, even much after their parting of ways, inviting them back in the Congress party.

The socialist leaders had great hopes in the beginning that the Socialist Party would be able to emerge as the parliamentary alternative to the Congress party. Their model was the Social Democratic and Labour parties in Western Europe. Some election and by-election results convinced Asoka Mehta, who succeeded JP as the General Secretary of the Party, that the chances of the Party were bright. It was forgotten, argues Girija Shankar, that they had thrived only as Congressmen, had been closely identified with the Congress party and had built no separate organisation of their Party. He has discussed the efforts made by the Socialist Party in setting up a separate national trade union centre, a kisan organisation and a youth organisation. Only the trade union centre continues to exist to date, in the name of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), and is the fourth largest membership, stipulated by it at 65 lakh members. In the All India Railwaymen's Federation too, the socialists have a lot of influence, and a government-held ballot in 2008 gave it the primary position among all trade unions in the Railways.

The effort to develop the kisan panchayat frittered away after the poor results of the first general election. That this happened even though kisan struggles had been launched, big demonstrations had been held and half-a-million members had been enrolled in the first two years, can only be explained by the shock that that election gave them. As for the youth organization, Dr Girija Shankar paints a saddening picture, which does not appear correct, going by the accounts of those who were active in the Universities of UP and Bombay. He has also failed to follow the story of the National Students Union and says that it died an early death. The fact is that it functioned till 1958, arranged a successful conference of the elected student leaders and helped in creating its successor, the National Council of Unions of Students of India, which functioned till 1966.

But, all this belongs to the period covered in the book named the “Socialist Party: 1947 to 1952”. During this period, a small group of revolutionaries named as the Socialist Party of India, mainly active in UP, merged with the Party. The Bolshevik-Leninist Party, a Trotskyite group, also merged in it. All this was in pursuance of their bid at political consolidation. However, Girija Shankar points to the dismal election results in UP for the by-elections held for the seats vacated in the Legislative Assembly by the Socialists in which only one out of 12 got elected. In the elections to the District Boards, he says, only 108 seats were captured by them. Socialist leaders had then dismissed these reverses as insufficient indication of their influence since the electorate in the elections was a limited one. They were enthused by the response among the youth and students. They attracted a large number of intellectuals and writers, too. Acharya Narendra Dev launched the Nav Sanskriti Sangh, a cultural organisation, which included the most established names in literature in North India. The Khoj Parishad, with its headquarters in Calcutta, headed by the distinguished scientist Dr S.N. Bose, was another such effort.

The book gives detailed accounts of the National Conferences, National Executive meetings etc. and the resolutions adopted by them. The resolutions on National Reconstruction adopted in 1949 at the Patna Conference and National Revival in 1950 at the Madras Conference provide serious thought in respect of the nation’s regeneration. He gives a list of the periodicals and other publications of the Party as also the names of prominent leaders in various States. Thus, the book proves to be a mine of information. Discussing the preparation for the general election, the author says that the financial situation of the Party was a skewed one, and describes how, even then, the Communists and some Congressmen, including Indira Gandhi, accused them of getting money from foreign sources, particularly the USA. He discusses the election strategy, as designed by Asoka Mehta, to contest as many seats as possible in the Union and State legislatures, in order to spread the Party’s message far and wide. The controversy whether the national leaders should or should not contest the elections has also been discussed. JP, says the author, was getting disinclined towards electoral politics while Dr Lohia wanted only to contest against Nehru which the Party disfavoured. Acharya Narendra Dev, Asoka Mehta, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay and Ramanandan Mishra, among the top leaders, contested and lost.

The Socialist Party secured 10.5 per cent of all the valid votes polled, which should have boosted its morale. But, although it contested 285 seats in the Lok Sabha, it secured only 12. In the State Legislative Assemblies, it put 1805 candidates, out of whom only 128 were successful. On the other hand, the Communist Party and its allies contested only 63 seats in the Lok Sabha, but were able to secure 26 seats, while in the State Assemblies, they contested 563 seats and won 173. The author quotes the socialist leader, Madhu Limaye, to say that it put fear in the minds of the leaders of the Socialist Party that the Communists will be the main rivals of the Congress Party, relegating them to a third position. He says that, barring Lohia, all other leaders were profoundly shaken. This does not appear to be wholly correct. It is well known that Acharya Narendra Dev remained unruffled by the election debacle and his own defeat as he held that the establishment of socialism was hard work entailing several generations and such pitfalls are common. The leaders at State levels like Ganga Sharan Sinha in Bihar, S.N. Dwivedi in Orissa, S.M. Joshi in Maharashtra, C.G.K. Reddy in Karnataka, P.M. Nambiar in Malabar, and C.P. Tewari and Jagdish Joshi in Vindhya Pradesh continued to work as steadfastly as before. Three leaders, however, were greatly

affected: JP, Mehta and Mishra. Mishra blamed JP for the debacle and particularly his own defeat which left JP deeply hurt.

While discussing the reasons for the relative performance of the Communists and the Socialists, the author contradicts himself. At one place, he ascribes the Communists' success to their capture of the All India Trade Union Congress, the All India Kisan Sabha and the All India Students Federation to their anti-imperialist struggle, but, on the next page, he says that as the imperialist government had removed the ban on the CPI, it was able to move freely and this helped the party in capturing these organisations. That was the time when the 'Quit India' struggle was going on and most of the socialist and other Left-wing Congress elements were in jails or in the underground. Moreover, at that time, the CPI was collaborating with the imperialists instead of fighting against them. He also refers to the joining of the CSP cadres in the South with the CPI in the late 1930s because of the success of the Soviet Union. It has been forgotten by several observers, including Girija Shankar, that in Karnataka, the PSP continued to exist as the main Opposition party till 1970 when it had 4 members in Lok Sabha and 26 in the State Assembly, and all of whom joined the Congress party before the fourth general election. In Andhra Pradesh, too, the Socialist Party led by Lohia fared better than the Communist Party which was shattered by the Hindi-Russi bhai bhai slogan in 1954-55.

Girija Shankar provides a fair analysis of the reactions of JP and Asoka Mehta. JP took it as his personal failure as the leader of the party and slowly withdrew from politics. Asoka Mehta, who was the keenest for quitting the Congress party in 1947, began to think of returning to it. The author says that in the National Executive Committee's meeting in Varanasi to discuss unification with the KMPP, led by Acharya Kripalani, he was asked why the Party should not merge with the Congress party; he said that it could be six months after the unification with the KMPP, on equal terms. He and Lohia pushed the party forward for a merger with the KMPP. JP, says the author, was reluctant but was persuaded by Mehta and the new entrant D.P. Mishra, the Congress leader from Madhya Pradesh. Narendra Dev was totally opposed, as were Prof Mukut Behari Lal, Madhu Limaye and Madhu Dandavate. The author tells us that later, both JP and Lohia admitted that the socialist movement would have fared better if this unification had not taken place.

The book "Socialist Party: 1947-1952" discusses the foreign policy of the Party in a separate chapter. It mentions Lohia's Goa satyagraha, the Party's support to the struggle for democracy in Nepal and its opposition to China's claim that Tibet as her integral part. The difference of policy on the Sino-American war in Korea has also been highlighted in which Lohia differed from other leaders on supporting the USA. He said that non-alignment from both camps would be advisable. The Party's general policy was, however, the same and had been developed by Lohia when he had worked in the AICC in the late 1930s, although then, non-alignment was to be between the Fascists and imperialists and now it was between the USA and her allies versus the Sino-Soviet bloc. Lohia said in the new situation, the Party should build the 'Third Camp in World Affairs'. The Party had started to convene a conference of the Socialist Parties in the countries in Asia and Africa, in association with its counterparts in Indonesia and Burma and such a conference called the Asian Socialist Conference was held in Rangoon in 1953.

The Socialist Party held a special conference in May 1952 at Panchmarhi in Madhya Pradesh where Dr Lohia delivered his presidential address with the title "Doctrinal Foundations of Democratic Socialism." It was an inspiring message for the Party's rank and file and reiterated the Party's three-way strategy of Jail, Spade and Vote. The author quotes from it the main issues to highlight its impact.

All in all, Dr Girja Shankar's two books have provided a rich account and independent analysis of the politics of the CSP and the Socialist Party. Thereby, these books fill a void in political learning.

The author is one of the country's leading socialist ideologues.

Prof. Mahantha Devaru Nanjundaswamy (1936–2004) was an Indian rural activist and anti-globalisation campaign leader. As president of the [Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha](#) (Karnataka State Farmers' Association) he led campaigns against agricultural patenting by multinational companies, which he called "Western biopiracy".

Nanjundaswamy was born on February 13, 1936 in [Mysore](#). He was the fifth child of M. N. Mahantha Devaru and Rajammanni. Mahantha Devaru descended from Madrahalli of T. Narsipura taluq. He was the first to get the Masters Degree in the [State of Mysore](#). Mahantha Devaru was not only a renowned lawyer but also a Member of Legislative Assembly and Member of Legislative Council of the then Mysore State, for a long period of 26 years. Mahantha Devaru Nanjundaswamy completed his primary education at Hardwick High school. Later he passed the Intermediate exams from Yuvaraj College and applied for Medical Science at the Mysore Medical College. Though he was qualified, due to internal politics, his application was rejected. Then he completed Bachelors in Science in the year 1954 from the University of Mysore. Nanjundaswamy still had the urge to study medical science, he applied for Medical science for the second time. The cruel politics once again played its tricks and he was rejected despite scoring highest marks. This incident couldn't shake the determined young man. As per his father's advice, Nanjundaswamy completed his Bachelors in Law (BL) in 1956 from the University of Mysore. Once again, he proved his merit in the year 1961 as he passed Masters in Law (LLM (with a first class from [Karnataka University](#).

He went to the Netherlands for higher studies. With the Ford Foundation Scholarship, he completed the Post-master's Research work in 1961-62. During the same period, Nanjundaswamy finished Doctoral Work in International Law from the Sar University of the then West Germany. He submitted a thesis which reflected his opposition to the British Law that had been harmful to the honour and respect of India. The then one of the famous scholars of law, Prof. Sidal Huen Weldern, also the Dean of the University, and Maer Hoffer didn't accept his argument. Upset, Nanjundaswamy left his PhD incomplete and took the job of a receptionist at the Air force base. It was during this period that the Indian Premiere Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru passed away. As a responsible citizen of his country, Nanjundaswamy declared holiday for himself which was mocked at, by his employer. That insult was enough to break his heart. So he resigned his job, left all the things he had bought in that country, rushed to the airport in his Mercedes Benz and left the luxurious car behind. Nanjundaswamy, the epitome of self respect and knowledge, with empty hands and loads

of dreams for the progress of farmers of the world flew back to his motherland in the year 1965.

As soon as he returned to India, Nanjundaswamy started cultivation in the land given to him by his grandfather, Nanjappa. As he stayed abroad for five years, he had lost touch with Kannada. But every day, he started practicing speeches with the corns in his fields which improved his Kannada steadily. His friend K.P. Poornachandra Tejasvi and a relative Sundaresh had already started farming. Nanjundaswami's Farmer Movement began through his protest against the Levy system at Mysore. It happened for the first time in Karnataka. This struggle was supported by Tejasvi in Chikkamagluru and Sundaresh in Shimoga. Thus the one man farmer movement was converted into a movement of three. This was the first step of the farmer movement.

From 1965 to 1978, Nanjundaswami served as a professor of law in Sharada Vilas College of Law, Mysore, BMS College of Law and Renukacharya College of Law in Bangalore. During this period, he was influenced by a book called 'Marx, Gandhi and Socialism' written by the pioneer of socialist movement of India, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. The influence was so strong that he joined the [Socialist Party](#), the smallest political party in Karnataka then. As he was not comfortable working with the old prominent leaders of the party like Shantaveri Gopala Gowda, J.H.Patel, K.G.Maheshwarappa and others, Nanjundaswami formed a Youth Association called *Samajawadi Yuvajana Sabha* in 1968. He served the same as the General Secretary of the State from 1968 to 1972. Gradually Prof. Nanjundaswami was joined by Poornachandra Tejasvi, B.N.Shriram, P.Lankesh, K.Ramdas, N.D.Sundaresh, Kadidalu Shamanna, Prabhu Shankar, G.S.Shivarudrappa (National Poet), Siddharamaiah (Former Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka), M.P.Prakash (Former Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka), Prof. Ravivarma Kumar (Senior Lawyer), T.N. Sitaram (Film Director), Shudra Shrinivasa, K.R.Nagaraj, Siddhalingaiah (Dalit Poet), Agrahara Khishna Murthy, Prof. Chandrashekhara Patil and many other talented people who were influenced by Nanjundaswami also joined him. However, Prof. Nanjundaswami and Tejasvi played key roles in the association as they used to create programs for the association, giving an ethical touch to the programs that were handled by them. Both of them brought out a book called 'Lohia Red Book' which has inspired many political leaders and successfully brought them to the fore. This is a historical record. In 1972, Prof. Nanjundaswami worked as a member of the National Working Committee of the Samajwadi Party headed by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He also worked as the Editor-in-Chief of the news paper called "Maanava" from 1968-72. It was a Kannada version of the English paper, "Mankind" started by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He established the Intellectual Association of Karnataka to bring the scientific thinking to practice in Karnataka. He served as a Founder President of the association from 1972-74. Prof. Nanjundaswami joined hands with Dr. A.T.Kovur, a Sri Lankan intellectual of international fame, to expose the fake miracles of the deceptive god men; he started movements against the false miracles. He opposed the blind beliefs like caste system, the existence of god and religion by beginning the movement of Periyar E.V. Ramaswami, an intellectual from Tamil Nadu. Nanjundaswami even organised the Periyar meeting for the first time in Karnataka and continued the movements from 1974-78. He participated in Lok Nayak, Jaya Prakash Narayan's democratic movement and formed "Nava Nirmana Kranthi" between 1974-75, in Karnataka. During the same period, Nanjundaswami began protests against the Veer Shaiva and Brahmin assemblies.

Many scholars and the avant-garde polished shoes at Gandhi Nagar in Bangalore and collected funds for the victims of earthquake and floods. Prof. Nanjundaswami worked as the legal advisor for the South Indian Small Farmers' Association in 1966. He established Karnataka Artists and Writers Association to let the people see the social distortion in Kannada Literature. The association was inaugurated in Mysore by the National Poet, Kuvempu and Prof. Nanjundaswami himself was the organizer of the association from 1974-76. In the 70s, he worked as an unsung contributor for the report of L.G. Havanur, who was the first president of the backward commissions.

In 1972, Prof. M. D. Nanjundaswami and [K.P. Poornachandra Tejasvi](#) were involved in organizing the South Indian Small Farmers' Association, which was the first movement of farmers in Karnataka and second in India, in Mudigere of Chikkamagaluru. At the same time, M D N and Tejasvi joined hands with their close friend, N.D. Sundaresh and former Speaker of Legislative Assembly, former minister and senior Gandhian H.S. Rudrappa and established Sugarcane Growers' Association in Shimoga. Along with this, he started a law college called Socio-legal Services and Research Centre (SLSRC) and became its principal. July 21, 1980 proved a black day for the farmers. Under the rule of the then Chief Minister, R. Gundu Rao, two farmers were shot dead at Naragund and Navilagund of North Karnataka. Both the farmer associations formed by Nanjundaswami came together and constituted a new organisation called "Karnataka State Farmers' Association", which was used as a platform to protest against the killings. It was an intense struggle throughout the state. The Gandhian, H. S. Rudrappa became the president of the association and N.D. Sundaresh became the General Secretary.

Nanjundaswami never cared for power or position; he continued as the organiser of the association. He used to drive his Plymouth throughout the state with other leaders and organised the first great conference for farmers in Karnataka under the declaration "To build a new Karnataka" on 2 October 1982, which attracted a massive crowd of ten lakh people. During the conference, 35,000 people were arrested; all the prisons of Karnataka were full. The struggle received more fame than the Quit India movement of 1947. To discard the evils of caste system from his life, Nanjundaswami married Pratima, a Kshatriya Maratha bride. They had a baby girl on 12 March 1981 who was named Chukki and on 12 September 1983 they had a boy who was named Pajje. The names of his children were very different from the usual names which didn't represent any caste. Thus secularism was successfully advocated by him.

In 1984, the government of Ramakrishna Hegde was disturbing the farmers of a village in Hunasuru of Mysore. When Prof. M. D. Nanjundaswami and his colleagues protested the government's act, Nanjundaswami, N.D. Sundaresh and K.T. Gangadhar were arrested by the Hunasuru police and released later. In 1985, the farmers of Chikkonahalli of Tumkur district were so influenced by Prof. MDN's speech that they stripped the policemen. This incident led to the arrest of M D Nanjundaswami, N D Sundaresh, Prof Ravivarma Kumar, Manjunath Datt, Panduranga Vithala, Devaraj and Krishne Gowda in Chikkamagaluru who were sent to Karwar prison. In 1985, the Janata party-run government passed the 101 C Act which meant to seize the properties of farmers. This Act was opposed by Nanjundaswami and team, and there was organized a state wide "Padayatra" where lakhs and lakhs of farmers participated. Ram Manohar Lohia started a Law College and worked as its principal

from 1985-89. There was also a severe protest against the illegal granite mining at Chennapattana of Bangalore rural. It continued without fearing anybody and till the mining was stopped. In 1987, they opposed growing the eucalyptus trees as they were depriving the land of its fertility and minerals. The movement against growing the eucalyptus was named "Don't grow eucalyptus".

On March 23, 1987, the first Women's conference was organised in Karnataka. Many women farmers participated in the conference and protested against the exploitations on them. In the same year, the Farmers' Association formed "Kannada Desha Paksha" with the support of Kannada, Dalith and Labour organisations. Prof Nanjundaswami and N D Sundaresh were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

In the year 1989, Babagowda Patil was elected to the Legislative Assembly from Kittur and Dharwad rural constituency. Later when Babagowda Patil resigned from Dharwad constituency, Prof Nanjundaswami contested from that constituency for the rural by-election and won with great majority. He became the voice of the farmers in the Assembly. In the same year, he conducted a unique laughter movement against the Congress government in front of the Vidhana Soudha.

In 1992, Prof Nanjundaswami became the Legislator and played an important role in procuring good rate for sugarcane on the basis of Recovery. He was instrumental in many developments in his Dharwad rural constituency which were ten times the developments in other constituencies. The developments included drinking water facility, roads, building schools and especially providing plots of land to thousands of people was the most memorable contribution of Nanjundaswami. He proposed the meeting of farmers of both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as a necessary step towards solving the Kaveri water problem; it was a very significant suggestion given by him in the assembly. Nanjundaswami opposed the Congress government yet again because the government had organised the International Film Festival when Karnataka was affected by drought. He opposed GATT's director, Peter Sutherland's visit to India. The protest was held at Delhi with the slogan "Sutherland, go back".

GATT and Dunkel proposal was opposed by Nanjundaswami in the same way as Mahatma Gandhi opposed the British rule with the Salt Satyagraha. Nanjundaswami named his Satyagraha as "Beeja Satyagraha" which was conducted with the support of the North Indian farmers' leader Mahendra Singh Tikayat at the Boat club in New Delhi on March 3, 1993. In the same year on October 2, he organized the International conference and seminar for the Beeja Satyagraha in Bangalore. Nanjundaswami attacked the multi-national seeds company called Cargil Seeds both in Bangalore and Bellary as they were harmful to the progress of farmers. In the same year, a French farmers' association called Confederation Peyane invited him to France to participate in the protest against GATT. Later, on October 2, 1994, he organised a protest against globalization in Bangalore, for the first time in the world. This protest was supported by stalwarts like Mahendrasing Tikayat and Medha Patkar. In 1995, Nanjundaswami began protest against the chains of fast food like KFC, Pizza Hut, MacDonald's and others as they were harmful to health; this movement was the first of its kind in the world. Former Union Minister and Environmentalist, Maneka Gandhi also supported the protest. On January 30, the Kentucky chicken fast food centre

was attacked by the farmers and the police arrested hundreds of farmers. A week after the attack, Nanjundaswami was also arrested and was released on bail after a month. He was invited to China in the same year to attend the International Farmers conference. Later, he had a discussion with associations of Japan, Thailand and Korea to protest against GATT in those countries. In 1995, he opposed globalisation by forming a third world federation and organised the conference at Gandhi Bhavan of Bangalore. He was invited to Malaysia in connection with the same. In 1996, La Via Campacina, the farmers' association, of Mexico invited Nanjundaswami to its second international conference and elected him the organiser for South Asia. On December 13, 1996, he was invited to Rome to attend the Genetic Resources meet of World Food Organisation (FAO). After few days of this meet, he protested against World Food Conference in front of the FAO office and the protest was called "Hunger gathering". On 30 January 1996, Nanjundaswami conducted a National level conference to fight for farmers' rights. The conference was organised at the Bangalore National college ground. He also expressed an intense protest against the Miss World contest held in Bangalore.

In June 1996, Prof Nanjundaswami was invited by the UN to attend an agricultural conference. In 1997, he was given Dr. Jachani Humanity Award for his contribution in the field of agriculture and farmers association. In fact, Nanjundaswami was forced by the Nidumamidi mutt to accept the award.

In 1997, Prof Nanjundaswami gave an interview to a private television channel during the Conference of World Food Organisation. An organisation called STATI UNITI DEL MONDO (SUM) was so impressed by his interview that it put forward a proposal of establishing a big bank of seeds with international standards under his initiative. He agreed to this offer. Nanjundaswami established public charities called 'Amritabhoomi' on a 200 acre land at Chamrajpet. He celebrated the 50th Independence day as a 'Black day' because according to him, farmers had not received their freedom yet. He and Maneka Gandhi together struggled against Cogentrix and Enron in Chikkamagaluru. Members of Brazil's world famous movement of farmers, "Muvi Mentho Samterra (MST)" invited Prof Nanjundaswami to Brazil. The farmers' movement of Chile too invited him and organised a public speech. He organised a big conference and an International seminar in Hyderabad to oppose the World Trade Organisation.

As Prof Nanjundaswami always hated idolization, he rejected the "Right Livelihood" award, which is called "Alternative Nobel Prize", in the year 1997. He did not mention the news even to the media. In 1997, the UN invited him on behalf of the International farmers' association La Via Campacina to the Convention on Biological Diversity conference at its headquarters in New York, USA.

In 1998, Prof Nanjundaswami opposed the Terminator technology of the seeds' company called Monsanto; he burnt the poisonous and environmentally harmful BT cotton in Raichur. The prestigious Aga Khan foundation invited him to the UN for the second time. He and the La Via Campacina association together formed a youth organisation called "People's Global Action (PGA)" in Europe through which they opposed the World Trade Organisation summit.

In 1999, Prof Nanjundaswami proved to be a trail blazer in many respects because he, along with 400 members of the Farmers' Association went to Europe and protested in front of the multinational companies like Nestle, Cargil, Novartis, Bear, surrounded the G-8 summit in order to coerce, protest in front of the [World Trade Organisation](#) and Swiss bank, destroyed the crops of Monsanto in France and protested in front of FAO.

Nanjundaswami conducted the second International conference of PGA in the folk land, Channapattana of Bangalore rural. He and [Josay Boave](#) of France together took a huge procession against the WTO summit at Seattle, USA. In 2000, Nanjundaswami protested against the globalisation and liberal import policy at Madurai in Tamil Nadu. Later, he and K T Gangadhar were invited to the Farmers' Movement at Honduras in America.

Again in 2000, Prof Nanjundaswami along with Lavia Campacina organised the world's first women farmers' conference and world's third International Farmers' Conference at Channapattana. He also organised the World Farmers' Great Conference at National College ground, Bangalore on October 2, 2000.

On March 3, 2000, FAO invited him to Rome to attend the Genetic Resources Meet for the second time. He opposed the meaningless policy of electricity and also the bad condition of electricity supply to the farmers by organising a protest in front of the KPTCL office. Then he organised a big conference of farmers at Cubbon Park in Bangalore.

He and Chaudhari Mahendrasingh Tikayat together burnt the environmentally harmful crops BT cotton at Savalangi village in Shimoga. A disciplined team of young farmers called "Green Army" was formed. The UN invited Prof Nanjundaswami for the third time to the conference in Connection with Biological Diversity on May 5, 2000. Paul Nicolson from [Bosch](#) and [Nettie Weeb](#), who was the president of Canada's National Farmers' Union, were also present at the conference. In 2001, Nanjundaswami conducted the first World Farmers' Martyrdom day at Bijapur. Similar to Gandhiji's Dandi march, he arranged for the Cart march of the farmers from Kashmir to Kanyakumari to protest against the central government's import policy, which stressed more on unlimited import. Mahendrasingh Tikayat led the Cart march from Kashmir and Nanjundaswami led the march at Kanyakumari. Then they surrounded the Mumbai port and threw all the imported goods into the sea. In connection with the same, he organized a conference of farmers at Delhi. The coconut trees of farmers of Karnataka were affected by some strange disease that made the trees look as though they had been eaten by insects; coconut growing farmers had to face financial loss. Prof Nanjundaswami started a movement of extracting sweet sap or Neera from coconut trees at Arasikere of Hasan from the fields of Kodihalli Chandrashekhar, who was also a farmer leader. The Congress-run government tried to stop the movement by getting two farmers shot by the police at Channapattana's Vithalenahalli. But the movement grew intense. The government was forced to let the farmers extract the sweet sap from the trees and H D Devegowda (JD (S) leader, former Chief Minister of Karnataka and Prime Minister of India) misused the movement to revive his political career.

The then Union Agriculture minister, Ajith Singh in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government had asked Prof Nanjundaswami to be the President of the National Farmers Commission. But he rejected the position.

He organised a world farmers' conference at Bangalore with lakhs and lakhs of farmers participating in it. The conference was organised to oppose World Trade Organisation's summit at Doha on October 2, 2001 and to strengthen the sweet sap movement. Cherie Honcal, President of Kensington Welfare Rights Union and her companions; Sharath Fernando of Sri Lanka and Choudhari Mahendrasingh Tikayat from North India had attended the conference. The Labour Association and Kannada Associations of Karnataka had also supported the cause.

In 2002, Nanjundaswami and the farmers attacked the place in Davanagere, where the Monsanto company was doing research on BT cotton and burnt the crops. He opposed the BT cotton at Bangalore through a big protest. On April 17, the World Farmers' Martyrdom day, he organised a National level Farmers' Conference at Dharwad to oppose the work done by the Monsanto Company. Choudhari Mahendrasingh Tikayat and the leader of Tamil Nadu, Selva Muthu also participated in the conference. Prof Nanjundaswami slapped a Chief Engineer of KPTCL as he had demanded bribe from the poor farmers at Arasikere in Hassan. The police arrested Nanjundaswami, produced him at the court and later released him on bail.

He wanted the electricity supply to be of good quality and equally distributed to all the rural and urban regions; so he posed a strike in front of the KPTCL in Bangalore for 20 days.

Prof Nanjundaswami and the farmers surrounded the KPTCL offices all over Karnataka and returned the electricity meters. This was a strong opposition to the inequality in the distribution of electricity, impractical policy of electricity and supply of third-rate electricity. In 2002, he inaugurated the Amruta land.

In order to make the central government realise the rights of farmers and to oppose the WTO summit at Cancun, Prof Nanjundaswami, together with Mahendrasingh Tikayat organised a big conference at Kisan Ghat in Delhi.

On January 30, 2003, he organised a Gram Swaraj movement at Hospet of Bellary in order to stop the increasing suicides of the farmers in the country and to change the existing government. Prof Nanjundaswami took a decision to establish a market where farmers' goods could be supplied directly without any mediators or agents; he also decided to sell the products of the farmers with the banner 'Namdu', which was suggested by film star Rajini Kanth. He began a protest against the illegal mining of granite stone at Chamaraj Nagar.

On 17 April 2003, Prof Nanjundaswami celebrated the World Farmers' Martyrdom day in Davanagere; Rajendra Singh, who was a Magsaysay winner, was the chief guest on this auspicious occasion.

Many farmers were beaten; some senior civilians were also assaulted and a woman was aborted as a result of the lathi charge by the police at Hirebaganaal village. This was an angry reply to the movement of returning the electricity meters at Koppal. To oppose this heinous act of the Congress government, Prof Nanjundaswami organised a state level protest at Koppal where thousands of meters were returned. He also organised a workshop

for farmers at Mudhol of Bagalkot where farmers could learn to repair their transformers all by themselves.

He began a movement against the online lottery centres at Davanagere and spread the movement all over the state. On 9 September 2003, he organised a huge rally in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Bangalore to oppose the WTO summit at Cancun.

On 11 September 2003, the environmentally harmful Monsanto seeds were brought inside the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Prof Nanjundaswami and a team of farmers attacked the institute and destroyed the laboratory. He also opposed the cancellation of grace marks for rural students by the Congress government and declared the grace marks as marks of respect.

Though he was suffering from lung cancer, Prof. Nanjundaswami constituted an alternative forum – Mumbai Resistance - against the [World Social Forum conference](#) that took place at Mumbai. He also arranged a huge exhibition at New Delhi. Prof M D Nanjndaswami, Justice [Pramila Nesargi](#), film actor Ashok, [Gandhian Satyavrata](#), P V Narayan and other supporters fought for social justice in education before the High Court of Bangalore; as a result, all of them were arrested and released later.

Battling death for a long time, he breathed his last on 3 February 2004. Lakhs of farmers and foreign farmer leaders participated in the historical funeral of Prof MDN. His body was buried in his dream land – Amruta Bhoomi. Farmers across the country paid tribute to the great soul. In 2004, members of the poor people’s movement called Kensington Welfare Rights Union in America paid tribute to their favourite revolutionary leader by wearing green shawls. The Forth International Conference organized by Lavia Campacina in June 2004 in Brazil was dedicated to Prof MDN. On 13 February 2005, on the 69th birth anniversary of Prof MDN, farmers of Karnataka organised a conference - “Gram Swarajya Pratijna Dina” - at Mysore to pay tribute to him. In the Fifth International Conference of Lavia Campacina, which took place in October 2008 at Mozambic in Africa, they once again paid tribute to Prof MDN.

Thus, as a source of encouragement to many revolutionary leaders of the world, and a prominent personality in the struggle against globalisation through his ideals, principles and popular struggles, Prof MDN has been glowing as a lamp of inspiration in the hearts of many farmers. He was a miracle born on the soil of Kannada land.

Important Youth & Student Leaders

Important youth and student leaders of Socialist Movement Associated with Young Socialist League (SYL) and Samajwadi Yuwak Sabha (SYS) and Samajwadi Youjan Sabha (Active)

1	Prabhu Narain Singh, Ex MP
2	N D Tiwari, Ex MP
3	Rabi Ray, Ex MP
4	Chandra Bhal Tripathi
5	Krishan Nath
6	K. P. Unnikrishnan, Ex MP
7	Harikishore Singh, Ex MP
8	K P Tiwari, Ex MP
9	Ram Kamal Rai,
10	Surendra Vikram Singh,
11	Prof Satyamitra Dubey,
12	K Vikram Rao
13	Ms Saraswati Ammal, Ex MLC
14	Brijbhushan Tiwari, Ex MP
15	Janardan Dweadi, MP
16	Satyadev Tripathi, Ex MLA
17	Keshavrao Jadhav,
18	Dr Kumar Saptrishi, Ex MLA
19	Ravivarma Kumar (Karnataka)
20	MP Veerandra Kumar, Ex MP
21	Rajnath Sharma,
22	Mukhtar Anees, Ex MP
23	Mohan Singh, MP
24	Satya Pal Malik, Ex MP
25	Rajendra Chaudhry, Ex MLA
26	Rajendra Yadav,
27	Jagat Singh, Ex MLC
28	Prof Kiran Pal Singh Ex MLA
29	Vijay Narain
30	Shivdev Narain Rai
31	Prof Vinod Prasad Singh, Ex MLA
32	Ramvilas Paswan, MP
33	Shivanand Tiwari, MP
34	Rajneeti Prasad, MP
35	Magnilal Mandal, MP
36	Raghunath Gupta,
37	Vijay Krishna, Ex MP
38	Akhtar Hussain
39	Nitish Kumar, Ex MP, CM Bihar
40	Laloo Prasad, MP, Ex CM Bihar

41	Jugnu Shardeya,
42	Ramnath Thakur, MLA
43	Ms Sudha Srivastva, MLA
44	Arif Beg, Ex MP
45	Kalyan Jain, Ex MP
46	Raghu Thakur,
47	Sharad Yadav, MP
48	Shyam Krishan Pandey
49	Satish Aggarwal,
50	Satya Prakash Rana
51	Prof Anand Kumar
52	Jasbir Singh,
53	Ramesh Dixit,
54	Vandana Mishra,
55	Prof Rajkumar Jain, Ex MMC
56	Lalit Mohan Gautam
57	Ramashankar Singh, Ex MLA
58	Vijay Pratap,
59	Sudhir Goyal,
60	Sudhindra Bhadoaria,
61	Rajnikant Mudgal
62	Shatrarudh Prakash, Ex MLA
63	Chanchal
64	Jagdish Lal Srivastva, Ex MLA
65	Fateh Bahadur
66	Shyam Pathak
67	Ramjilal Suman, Ex MP
68	Raj Babbar, MP
69	Ms Ranjana Kumari
70	Ms Anjana Prakash
71	Mohan Prakash, Ex MLA
72	Harshwardhan, MP
73	Kunwar Sarvraj Singh, Ex MP
74	Shiv Kumar Singh,
75	Chandra Mani Tripathi, Ex MP

Special Invitee

- ARIF MOHD. KHAN, Ex MP
- K C TYAGI, Ex MP
- A.P. ZAIDI
- JAVED RAZA
- AAFAQUE AHMAD
- Kranti Prakash,
- Dr Sunilam. Ex MLA