

Organ of Federation of Medical And Sales Representatives' Associations of India

60-A Charu Avenue • Kolkata-700 033 • Phone : (033)24242862 • Fax : (033)24244943 • www.fmrai.org • E-mail : fmrainews@gmail.com

8th March, 2020

States and subunits observe international women's day across the country

'Imagine a world where all people have equal rights and opportunities. Women and girls are not afraid of walking home late at night, and men and boys are not trapped in oppressive masculinities. In this world, gender equality is the norm. Men and women get paid equally for work of equal value and share the care work at home. Imagine equality in political leadership and corporate boardrooms and factory floors. Women have equal say in decisions that affect their

2019-20 corona virus pandemic a substantial street marches occurred in London, Paris, Madrid, Brussels, Moscow and other European cities.

International Women's Day is observed on 8th of March every year around the world. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights. Way back in August 1910, an International Socialist Women's Conference was organized where German delegates Clara Zetkin and Kate Duncker proposed the

discrimination in employment. Following the October Revolution, Vladimir Lenin made it an official holiday in the Soviet Union, but it was a working day until 1965 and thereafter it was declared a non-working day in the USSR. The day was then predominantly celebrated by the socialist movement and communist countries until it was adopted by the feminist movement in about 1967. The United Nations began celebrating the day in 1977. In



International Women's Day Ratlam, MPMSRU



International Women's Day in CRU



women field workers courting arrest at Trissur



women field workers courting arrest at Kolkata, WBMSRU

lives, their bodies, their policies, and their environment, from villages to cities.' (https://www.unwomen.org/en) writes an article titled 'Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future' published by United Nation. This article is in relation to a campaign 'to accelerate gender equality actions'. Therefore the United Nation's theme for International Women's Day for the 2020 is: 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'. Despite the

establishment of an annual 'Women's Day', although no date was specified by the conference, it was decided that the cause of equal rights including suffrage for women will be upheld. The following year on March 19, 1911, International Women's Day was marked for the first time by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. Women demanded that they be given the right to vote and to hold public office. They also protested against sex

1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace. 16th Conference of CITU held at Chennai during 23 – 27 January, 2020 expressed serious concern on the issues of violence against women and sexual harassment at workplace, unemployment, unpaid and unequal wages, recognition of women's work and representation in elected bodies

► To Page 3

FMRAI greets all on the occasion of May Day 2020

FMRAI warmly greets all on the occasion of May Day 2020 and pledges to continue its relentless struggle for unity of working class across religion, caste, gender, ethnicity and geography. On the occasion of May Day FMRAI declares its devotion in the struggles against work load, against heartless exploitation and against all instances of downright robbery of human labour and for achieving healthy, vigorous and dignified life of the workers. FMRAI pronounces its commitment in all the struggles of the field workers against instances of cruelty of the employers and for achieving rights, for realizing justice and in defense of their life and livelihood, so also declares its intimate involvement in the struggles of the entire mass of working people and the common citizens in this country.

FMRAI, with its limited scope and capacity, promises to remain consistent for working towards the goal of health for all, for attainment of universal healthcare, for establishment of just social order, for searching the remedy in the pandemic disease of inequality that is ailing the whole of human race.

May Day Pledge : 2020

On this May Day 2020, we, the workers and toiling people pledge to

- Unite to fight the corona virus, to stay safe and protect their health;
- Unite to fight to defend the right of eight hour working day, which is already under attack;
- Unite, to fight the manoeuvres and machinations of the capitalists and the governments that represent them, to shift the burden of the economic crisis aggravated by the virus entirely on to the working class;
- Unite, to fight the dirty attempts of the capitalists and the governments that represent them, to pauperise the workers and denude them of their hard won rights while protecting profits and wealth of the big corporate,

generated by the working class and the toiling people;

- Unite and fight to thwart all attempts to disrupt working class unity and unity of all toiling people and divide them on the basis of religion, region, race, caste, ethnicity and gender;
- Unite to fight and defeat the attacks of imperialism on the workers and people of the world to establish its hegemony and push the diktats of international finance;
- Unite to fight heighten the struggle for the end of the exploitative capitalist system and usher in a new exploitation free society, a socialist society

Long live May Day, long live working class solidarity, long live worker peasant alliance, long live socialism, down with capitalism

Making a significant event in the path of organized field workers' movement in Punjab, PCMSRU has purchased its own union office at Ludhiana. The new office was inaugurated on 5th March, 2020 through flag hoisting, ceremonial opening of the new premises, meeting, rally and mobilization of large number of members from different units of PCMSRU. PCMSRU flag was hoisted by Santanu Chatterjee, General Secretary, FMRAI and the new office was ceremoniously opened by eminent left leader Sitaram Yechury. A spirited rally was spontaneously organised. A meeting was held in the open

PCMSRU

New union office at Ludhiana, Punjab



space adjacent to the new office. In this programme left leader S.S Sekhon, Raghunath Singh General Secretary, state CITU, Vinith Sharma, President, PCMSRU, Shiv Awasthi, Secretary, FMRAI and all the office bearers of PCMSRU were present. PCMSRU is carrying the flag of FMRAI and that of organized field workers' movement in Punjab and Chandigarh. While curving out the correct path by uniting the rank of field workers overcoming various anarchic and adventurist trends, this new union office comes of great value in carrying forward the field workers' movement in the state.

The life, the virus and severe acute livelihood destruction

The corona virus disease 2019 is now being counted in millions and death in thousands worldwide. One could hardly foresee such damage and suffering even in wildest dream (or nightmare, as one may say). One shudders to look at the death statistics which are coming in from USA, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Sweden, England and Canada where healthcare services are hitherto considered robust and exemplary. Even during lockdown period people in India are infected in thousands and there have been death in hundreds. News coming in that the infected people in some places is denied admission in some hospital. Yet shocking are some instances where the dead men and women are being denied entry in the cremation grounds or burials. ‘It is impossible to read the statistics without a silent tear stealing down our cheeks’ (Girish Chunder Ghose, on Malaria epidemic in 1863). Few lakhs migrant workers are stuck by the roadside, on account of sudden shutdown. Central government asks the state governments to provide them ration (bare necessities), cooked food and shelter. According to Stranded Workers’ Action Network (published in The Hindu) 100% of migrant workers in UP, 99% of them in Maharashtra, 93% of the in Karnataka are not getting rations. 80% of them in Karnataka, 64% of them in UP, 58% of them in Maharashtra, and 66% of them in Delhi and Haryana are not getting cooked meals. The survey also states that 70% of them do not have more than Rs. 200 in their pockets to fend of themselves. The situation is desperate and some of these workers made frantic move to set out on foot and some of them walked very long distances to reach their homes at native land. Many of them slept on the street. In one instance a group of workers took small fishing boat from Chennai and sailed perilously around 1000 kilometers through Bay of Bengal to reach their homes at Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Rich people travelled back to their home without much trouble. Students too managed to come back. In a nice instance, during lockdown

only, special buses were arranged for hundreds of pilgrims and they were brought back home to their homes. But, by the order of the governments poor workers were stopped by the police. The employers too denied their wage. Caught in unfamiliar places many of them faces starvation. Away in their homes their family members and children too are in anxiety and hunger. Not only migrant worker, but also daily wage labourers. During lockdown there are no odd jobs. Daily labourers are booted away in fear of disease both in urban and rural areas. Now, MNREGA works too are not there. The Finance Minister (FM) in her relief package for workers declared increase in daily wage of MNREGA workers from Rs. 182 to Rs. 202 which counts as Rs. 2000 (Rs.20 multiplied by 100days) of increase in income of MNREGA workers. This increase in actually notional when most of the states are paying wage at a rate higher than that was declared by the FM.. Field workers, like other section of workers, are in the midst of uncertainty and hazard. Some employers ask them to go to the field and threaten wage cut ignoring the government’s advisory. Such senseless and wicked acts in the time world-wide pandemic disease generate large scale spontaneous contempt and condemnation from all section of field workers. FMRAI and also its state units are contesting such evil acts of the employers. Some companies advise field workers to work from home. But mainstay of sales promotion is field work consisting of reciprocation and interaction. It cannot be performed from home. All internet based communications (like e detailing or video calling) is deficient and bizarre enough and therefore unqualified as replacement. It is admirable that some employers are concerned about the safety of the field workers. But such concern should not make an excuse for imposing any new service or working condition on the field workers. The virus has robbed people of their livelihood too. Indian economy has been in the doldrums since demonetization. Then, this calamity was seconded by hasty introduction of GST.

Now, this virus again brings further shock for the Indian economy. Small and medium sized enterprises, unorganized sectors and agricultural sector that constitute the biggest employment source of all workforces in the country are being badly affected. But these labour-intensive sectors have fallen out of favour of the government and all the relief packages of the government during economic recession has been gifted to the big corporations. Some labour-intensive sector is already denying wage to their workers. If major workforce of the country goes penniless, no magic can inspire demand in the market. Thus, the perilous cycle (withering income, withering demand, withering employment, further withering income, then further withering demand) is setting on, taking Indian economy further deep into the trouble. There are so many reasons to fear that such situation may provide excuse for employers to justify not only wage cut but also large scale closure, mass retrenchment and all other forms of victimization. In absence of government’s intervention, the cascading effect, may very much lead to severe acute livelihood destruction (SALD) among the entire population in this country. The virus outbreak has seen rapidly-increased level of state intervention (government’s intervention) across the world. The Spanish government has nationalized all of its hospitals and private healthcare facilities before the virus infected ten thousand citizens. Making success of lockdown measures China ensured doorstep delivery of the essentials. Not just socialist countries, all governments across the world, including the industrialized nations, taking responsibility of citizens’ healthcare and their daily necessities. Surprising as it may appear, the buck naked advocates of privatization, the International Monetary Fund, in its blog, now recommends ‘increased role for the public sector’ (Giovanni and others, IMF blog, 01.04.2020). The idea of ‘welfare state’ makes a quick comeback across the globe. ‘Keeping the poor and vulnerable safe is a matter of

responsibility for the state and the private sector, not an act of charity’ writes Christophe Jaffrelot and Utsav Shah (Indian Express, March 30, 2020). But, none of the intervention of the central government has brought smile in the faces of the poor common people. All the recent speeches of the respectable PM provided no assertion on the onerous issues of the food insecurity of the citizens. In his last speech, he advised citizens to take care of fellow citizens (‘take as much care of poor families as you can, especially try to fulfill their food requirements’). Further to this, recently, the central government has decided that ethanol will be produced from ‘excess’ rice (which is presently produced from sugarcane) to meet the high demand of hand sanitizer. It has further multiplied the fear of food insecurity. This is an extraordinary time and individual citizen along with fellow citizen cannot fight such a situation. Now, it is essential that the ‘vital functions of the welfare state’ should return. Rural and urban poor must be supported by the government, healthcare should be available universally through public facilities, livelihood of all has to be ensured by the government and daily necessities and food must be available through universal and efficient public distribution system. Working people throughout the country are restless, so are the field workers. But restlessness may be obvious but offers no remedy. Keeping physical and mental health is the need of the hour. Field workers movement and the entire working class movement in this country in general needs healthy people who hope for the best but are prepared for the worst. PM Narendra Modi in his lecture (16th October, 2014) stated that the phrase ‘Shramev Jayate’ had as much significance as ‘Satyamev Jayate’ ” (n a r e n d r a m o d i . i n). ‘Satyamev Jayate nanritam’ is quoted from a text in the Mundaka Upanishad that means ‘truth only triumphs not falsehood’. Similarly the phrase, Shramev Jayate, means ‘labour only triumphs’. We concur with our PM in this matter. Yes, labour will triumph in the final count.

Obituary

Rohit Sharma, a field worker employed in Himalaya Drug based at Meerut, Uttar Pradesh and a member of UPMSRA passed away on 10.03.2020 due to heart attack. FMRAI condoles his death and conveys condolence to his family. **Paritosh Sharma**, a field worker employed in G-Nine Pharmaceuticals based at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh and a member of UPMSRA passed away on 26.03.2020 due to heart attack. FMRAI condoles his death and conveys condolence to his family. **Amit Singh** field worker employed Seagull Pharma with Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh) as headquarters and a member of UPMSRA passed away on 15.03.2020 following liver ailment. FMRAI condoles his death and conveys condolence to his family. **RV Naveen** a field worker employed in the Vista division of Torrent, based at Vishakhapatnam, AP, met a grave accident on 11th March, 2020 and died on the spot. He was 40 years old. FMRAI condoles his death and conveys condolence to his family

Women’s day

► *from Page 3*
Debashis Roy, General Secretary of BSSRU. In CRU, Convention of Women field workers was held at Imphal on 6th March and at Silchar on 8th March, 2020 which was attended by 17 and 6 women field workers respectively. In Malda subunit of WBMSRU, a hall meeting was arranged and addressed by AIDWA district leadership on 8th March, 2020. In MSMRA, Jalgaon subunit conducted a programme in which women leadership from peasant workers, CITU, Asha workers and field workers were felicitated and helmets were distributed to women sales promotion employees. Gondia unit organized a meeting which was addressed by Dr. Nirmala Jaipuriya IMA-President of Gondia. Women field workers were felicitated in Gondia and Nanded subunits. In MPMSRU, International Women’s Day was observed at Ratlam and Jabalpur by holding meetings and felicitating the women field workers on 8th March. The day was observed by felicitating the women field workers at Bhatinda, Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Moga in PCMSRU. In TNMSRA, meetings were held at Chennai, Salem, Dharamputi and Kanchipuram. On 8th March, 2020, Salem unit celebrated International Women’s Day at unit building where Dilip Menon AGS of TNMSRA, Vijay Anand, Pradeep and Senthil Kumar, secretary, president and treasurer of the unit respectively spoke on the occasion. Vijayakumari was elected as a coordinator. In other states and subunits of FMRAI International Women’s Day was observed involving women fieldworkers, explaining to them the 12 point demands of FMRAI and the prevailing social exploitation of women and apprising them of the their legal rights and the significance of this day in present context.

FMRAI Mysuru GCM resolution

On sales related harasssment and newer form of attacks

The General Council Meeting of FMRAI held at Mysore from 14th to 16th February, 2020 notes that the active push for neo-liberal economic policies adopted by the government had adverse effect. During the past we have experienced the radical change in Industrial approach towards their workers. Now pro employer Government's policies are encouraging the employers to deprive their workers of their rights and

of the laws and bilateral agreements, selling / shifting of established brands and thereby declaring closure or retrenching the sales promotion employees subsequent to declaring the company / division non-viable. Management is trying to break all agreed work norms through electronic reporting / detailing through newer electronic gazettes and software to monitor the activity of the SPEs. Hence, unilateral change of the existing work

misusing the advantage of the new technology to deny the legal rights of the SPEs, such as to participate and report "Strike". These are glaring instances of violation of the laws to deny the rights of the workers using the new form of technology. The conventional types of visual aid and literatures are being replaced by I-Pad, Tabs, etc. and using GPS and its applications and the detailing becomes online. Further this

marketing and promotional activities, and managerial support. If all these activities sail in a systemic process, then sale is the consequence of that process. Therefore, making the SPE's solely responsible for the SALE and awarding punishment is grossly unlawful. There are many unfortunate and tragic consequences of these humiliations as in Micro, Indoco, Zydus, Wanbury, etc. Job loss is the key issue now

This GCM Demands:

- 1. To ensure application of the principles of natural justice for the Sales Promotion Employees.
- 2. There should not be any unilateral change in working conditions without following the law.
- 3. Bilateral agreement on working and Service Conditions of the SPEs.
- 4. That use of any sort of technological advancement should be within the purview of law and it should not cause any hardship and increase in workload.
- 5. No disciplinary action through the electronic system including stoppage or deduction of wages & expenses.
- 6. No locking of portal of the Sales Promotion Employees to submit their daily work reports.
- 7. That the employer must be held responsible for cyber-security as per law to ensure protection of password and to stop cyber-crime against the Sales Promotion Employees.

bringing newer forms of attacks including marketing methods and marketing network. The Industry is moving ahead with their policy of restructuring the marketing system through rapid replacement of unionized section through recruitment of the sales officer categories in non bargainable category in gross violation of Sales Promotion Employees (Condition of Services) Act 1976 and in violation of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition), which was further advanced with the introduction of newer divisions or mergers and acquisitions. The employers are rampantly violating laws and depriving the SPEs from their right of annual increment, making sales an integral part of service conditions and victimizing on the ground of Sales, imposing new work systems in violation

norms has become the most common phenomena of the industry. The conventional form of reporting is replaced by either web reporting or mobile reporting. Detailing through visual aid has also moved to online digital media. Employers are using the advantages of technology to exploit the workers and more so to control their work. One of the major problems related to electronic system of reporting is "locking of portal" to impose newer work system, to impose illegal lockout, wage deductions, disciplinary actions etc. Apart from locking, employers are also insisting for call to call reporting. In the new situation the server is in the control of the management and tampering of records is possible and we have many such incidents. Managements are even

This GCM Resolves:

- 1. Continue to oppose such activities of the employers through our organizational strength and also explore the legal avenues for relief.
- 2. To campaign these issues among doctors, chemists and others seeking their support.
- 3. Stand beside the field worker in all possible manner legally and agitationally facing Job Loss due to closure.
- 4. To generate a powerful movement against the misuse of technology by mobilizing the fieldworkers to oppose newer forms of attacks and to resist harasssment of the workers.

online detailing gets recorded and can be accessed by the company any time. Thus, intrusion in the privacy and dignity of the individual, surveillance etc. are being done by the managements. All these methods give immense scope to the employers to harass the employees on many counts. This General Council meeting condemns these anti worker activities of the management and register strong opposition against the abuse of science and technology in the name of digital advancement. The GCM also noted that the Industry is trying to impose the responsibility of sales exclusively on the SPE's and pursuing the concept of "sales as a part of service condition". It is well established fact that systematic activities are the outcome of the co-operation between employer and employee. Hence, it is implied that the sales is not the exclusive responsibility of the SPE's. Sales are based on some process including individual inputs complemented with product promotional strategy,

in our industry, due to closure of divisions and selling of brands. Glenmark Gynae division sold to a company called True North. Recently GSK announced closure of Respicare division and retrenched more than 150 SPE's, MSD transferred few field workers after selling the division to Abbott and more than 100 fieldworkers were retrenched, Abbott transferred major brands of Respicare to other divisions and retrenched more than 50 fieldworkers and transferred 50 to other divisions and around 30 are protected due to our intervention. Platinex division of Zydus - Biochem has been closed down on the plea of low output and few of the SPEs are accommodated in other divisions and few are with no fieldwork but are assured of wages. Latest is Wockhardt selling out major brands to DRL with a declaration that employment will be protected. Many more such happened in the past and will also be continuing. In these entire cases field workers are facing Job Loss or getting victimize in various manner.

GCM of CRU

implementations of programmes throughout the country across state and sub units of the organization. He also dealt upon various impending organizational tasks including strengthening the organizational structure up to the

subunit level, increasing membership etc. Joint movement along with CITU and other like-minded fraternal trade unions to combat the government policies is the need of the hour, emphasized he. Jamini Barbaruah, President of CRU (NER) in his concluding speech complimented the

members of the Imphal district of CRU for successfully hosting the conference by exhibiting gumption and their sincere attachment to the organization. Singhajit Singh, Secretary of the Reception Committee thanked all General Council Members for their co-operation. In all 122 General Council Members

participated in the General Council Meeting. On the evening of the inaugural day itself, the colourful cultural programmes comprising of Manipuri dance and martial arts were staged which all the General Council Members from across the seven sister states had occasion to enjoy and appreciate.

Women's day

from Page 1

including 33% reservation in Parliament including the demand of withdrawal of CAA and boycott of NPR and NRC linking it with the question of women's legal rights. The Central Budget 2020-21 has also totally neglected the issues of workers in general and women workers in particular. It is estimated by UN that over 51% of work done by women in India is unpaid and not counted in national statistics and as per ILO, women's unpaid work, especially care work subsidizes the cost of care and support economies. It is estimated that women's wages are 34% less than that of men doing the same job in rural areas, and 19% less in urban areas in our country. India has the highest gender wage gap. Overwhelming majority of women workers, particularly in the unorganized sector, where they are concentrated, do not get maternity benefits and crèche facilities. In view of this, General Council Meeting of FMRAI at Mysuru gave call to advance the struggle for women's equality in all respects and against social oppression and called upon for 'Women's Jail Bhara' on 6th March, 2020 jointly with AICCW (CITU) and AIDWA on the occasion of International Women's Day and to organize hall meetings / conventions on 8th March, 2020 to commemorate militant struggles for women's rights and against the exploitative capitalist system. Like every year, International Women's Day was observed with vigor and vitality by the state and subunits of FMRAI across the country. Women members of FMRAI participated in the programmes with great enthusiasm. On 6th March 2020, members of WBMSRU participated in Civil disobedience and courting arrest (Jail Bhara) programme led by CITU along with other working women of different sectors. Working women apart from Kolkata have participated from North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Nadia. Women workers assembled in front of Kolkata Corporation office and came out in a massive rally which was interrupted by police. Amidst severe protest of the women workers, the police announced of arresting all present in the rally and immediately releasing them. 22 WBMSRU women members courted arrest along with ICDS, ASHA, SEB, LIC, Para teachers, BEFI and others. As reported, KMSRA members have also participated in similar type of programme. On the same day, at Jamshedpur, 4 members of BSSRU participated in a programme called by Coordination Committee of Working Women of state CITU. A delegation team met the district authority and handed over a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister with a copy marked to the Ministers of Labour and Employment and Women and Child Welfare of Bihar and Jharkhand respectively. A hall meeting was organized at Patna with 13 women sales promotion employees and addressed by

APMSRU GCM at Vizianagaram



General Council Meeting of APMSRU was held on 14th & 15th March 2020 at Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh. At the very beginning on 14th morning APMSRU flag hoisted was at the venue of the council meeting. State leadership, leaders of fraternal unions and the council members offered floral tribute to the martyr's column.

Organizing secretary, US Ravikumar, welcomed the council members. The Presidium, the steering committee and other committees for conducting the general council meeting, were constituted. PS Sekhara reddy, President, invited the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Dr. M. Venkateswara Rao and he made his welcome address. He reminded the GCMs the history of Vizianagaram and its glory. Dr. DVV Shankar Rao, former member of parliament, and special guest also addressed.

In the inaugural session the Chief guest Palagummi Sainath, journalist and Ramon Magsaysay awardee, made his keynote address and explained social and political context of the lives and livelihood issues of the common people. He underscored the necessities of organized struggle against the evil policies and evil amendments of the existing laws of the land. He emphasized on the urgency of building up collective struggle against evil policies and evil laws including the recently amended Citizenship Act (Citizenship Amendment Act, CAA). Dakshina Murty Joint General Secretary, APMSRU moved a resolution against CAA, NRC, NPR in the inaugural session and the resolution was unanimously adopted by the GCM. Suryanarayana and Ashok on behalf of Chemists and Druggists Association also addressed the session and expressed solidarity with the field workers' movement. Narsing Rao, President, State Committee of CITU, called for collective resistance in the face of relentless attack on the working class of the country. T.Kameswar Rao. General

Secretary, Praja Arogya Vedika, reminded the GCM of the wonderful contribution of FMRAI and its State units and appealed to the APMSRU GCMs to remain in the forefront of people's health issues. Santanu Chatterjee,



P. Sainath in APMSRU G.C.M

General Secretary, FMRAI highlighted the need for united struggle of all sections of workers in India to resist the policies pursued by the employers and indulged by the government. Today all field workers must bear the flag of this united movement and for the very interest of building up united resistance the field workers' movement cannot fail to identify itself more unmistakably and more unquestionably with the entire working class movement in the country, he observed. Inaugural session concluded with the deliberation of UV Krishnaiah, General Secretary, APMSRU.

In the business session the General Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report was placed in the council meeting for discussion. Thirty five general council members from across the state discussed on these reports. Three Commissions (Organization, Council and council related movement, and

Other Industries) were also constituted for the purpose of discussing these reports with intense details. Three GCMs spoke on behalf of the commissions and briefed the main discussion and recommendations of the commissions. Five GCMs, representing councils and reviewing the council and council related movement in the state in the context of the reports, also spoke in the business session. A Nageswar Rao, joint General Secretary, TMSRU greeted the GCMs in this session. Following reply by the General Secretary and the Treasurer both the reports were unanimously adopted in the GCM. Santanu Chatterjee, while speaking in this session elaborated on the policy level movement, movement on state related demands, council movement and different company wise struggle and struggles against newer and newer forms of attack. He made several observations, appreciation and enumerated the impending task of the general council members. Resolutions on State related demands, on Medicine related demands, Against Newer form of attacks, pledging struggle for saving public sector companies and against anti-labour policies of the employers were adopted unanimously in the GCM.

One hundred and fifty general council members of APMSRU from Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Amalapuram, Rajahmundry, Tanuku, Bhimavaram, Eluru, Vijayawada, Guntur, Ongole, Nellore, Tirupati, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, and Chittore (among them five were women comrades and five from other industries) attended the GCM.

At the concluding hour the volunteers, members and cadres of Vizianagaram unit received standing ovation in the general council for their remarkable involvement in making the GCM a success. PS Sekhara Reddy, President, concluded the meeting with his address and briefly reminded the forthcoming task.

Imphal hosts 20th GCM of CRU

The 20th General Council Meeting of CRU (NER) was held in Gandhi memorial hall, Imphal, Manipur on 6th and 7th March, 2020. Since the inception CRU forty seven years back, this is the first time when Imphal district (the capital city of Imphal is an organizational district of CRU) were hosts to the General Council Meeting.

The GCM started on 6th March at 10 am with hoisting of flag of

unions. Business session was initiated with formation of committees followed by placement of Report by the General Secretary and the Treasurer. Immediately after the placements of the Reports, Commission discussion was initiated. Three commissions were formed; Council & Council Related, Newer forms of Attacks and Organisation & State Related Movements. All three



CRU by Jamini Barbaruah, President, CRU. The flag of CITU was hoisted by Santa, General Secretary of CITU, Manipur State Committee.

The Inaugural session cum Open session was attended by a host of dignitaries' and fraternal trade union leaders. Sri Sagar Meetei, Chairman of the Reception Committee and In-charge of AICOD in Northeast region of the country, welcomed all delegates on behalf of entire organizational structure of chemists and druggists in the northeast states. Santa, on behalf of CITU, also addressed the session.

Santanu Chatterjee, General Secretary, FMRAI, inaugurated the GCM through his deliberation. In his speech, he highlighted the pressing issues faced by the working people and common people of the country. He explained the fallout of the pernicious economic policies pursued by the central government. He further elaborated impact of such neoliberal economic policies in the context of field workers movement in the country. He also warmly greeted the members, volunteers and cadres in the Imphal district of CRU for enthusiastically hosting the General Council Meeting. Inaugural session was attended by remarkable number of people consisting of Imphal-based members of CRU and members of different fraternal trade

commissions were further divided into two groups for intense discussion.

2nd Day of the GCM started with Plenary Session and 35 members from 15 out of the 16 districts participated in discussion on reports. Each groups of the three commissions also placed summary of their discussion. Thus, a total 41 members representing different units and commissions participated in the discussion and made valuable points, criticism, suggestions and recommendation for the purpose of strengthening the movement and organization. Both the General Secretary and the Treasurer clarified the points raised in discussion and incorporated the amendments during the course of their reply. The reports were unanimously adopted by the GCM. General Secretary, FMRAI addressed the delegates in the plenary session as well. In his deliberation, he clarified all the company wise issues, and recounted the challenges before of the working class movement and also the field workers' movement in the background of anti-labour policies of the central government including the ongoing labour law reforms. He narrated the experiences of the field workers movement in confronting the newer forms of attacks and underscored the importance of uniform

► To Page 3

New UPMSRA Unit was formed at Shahganj, U.P

A new organizational unit of UPMSRA came in to being on 17th March, 2020. Niraj Srivastava and Rajesh Rawat on behalf of UPMSRA State

Committee attended the organizing meeting. The meeting elected a seven-member committee with a view to carry forward the cause of field

workers' movement at Shahganj by organizing the field workers there and by implementing agitation tasks as decided by UPMSRA and FMRAI.