

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

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May Day observed amid pandemic

26th May, 2021

Field workers observe Black Day

Expressing solidarity to the call of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the joint platform of peasants' organisations, 26 May 2021 was observed as a Black Day against the anti-people policies of the Central Government. This call was supported by all major central trade unions. 26 May resembled with six months of farmers' ongoing protests at the Delhi border against the regressive farm laws and the Electricity Amendment Bill and coincided with the completion of 7th year of the BJP rule at the centre. The day was observed by hoisting black flags on houses tops and other places, vehicles, burning of effigies of Modi and by wearing black badges. In addition, demand was raised for scrapping labour codes, against privatisation and other Covid pandemic related specific demands on protection of jobs, wages and shelter as well as food and cash transfers. The state and sub units of FMRAI in consonance with the call exhibited solidarity throughout the length and breath of the country when situation of Covid-19 pandemic across the country in the 2nd phase has become more virulent and lockdown again started in majority states. Black Day was observed in MSMRA, UPMSRA, BSSRU, WBMSRU, KSMRA, MPMSRU, TMSRU, KSM&SRA, TNMSRA, DSMRO, APMSRU, HPMRA and other state units. Black flag was hosted by leaders and members at their respective units. Due to spread of Covid and imposed restriction by local administration, some of the members were unable to participate in the programme at union office but they displayed black flag from their residential roof top along with their family members. Few units observed Black Day with CITU and other fraternal trade unions in a befitting manner.



May Day, Hyderabad, TMSRU



May Day, Samastipur, BSSRU



May Day, Eluru, APMSRU



May Day, FMRAI Centre

May Day 2021 was observed in the midst of the second wave of pandemic throughout the country by the state and sub units of FMRAI. The inhuman face of the capitalist system across the globe is brutally exhibited during this rampage of COVID-19. Health, education, housing, food and even vaccines are being denied to the poorer sections of the society. In India, Central Government grabbed this opportunity to aggressively pursue its neoliberal agenda. The three Farm Bills, Electricity Bill, 2021 and Labour Codes were passed in an undemocratic manner which has acted as a gift to the corporate to pave way for an unfettered exploitation to the peasants and workers. Working class including the fieldworkers in a united manner celebrated May Day of 2021 with the demand of universal free vaccination against Covid-19 and free access to public health care and to fight against the onslaught of the capitalist on the livelihood and hard-earned basic right of the workers and toiling people. Despite different state governments resorting to lockdown, curfew and other restrictive arrangements; May Day was observed with vigour and enthusiasm by the state and sub units of FMRAI across the country in compliance with Covid protocols. In spite of declared lockdown in the states of Bihar and Odisha, organisation flag was hoisted in the sub units of BSSRU maintaining physical distance and following administrative guidelines. May Day manifesto was discussed in virtual mode. In Begusarai, Laheriasarai, Samastipur, and Chapra press statement was issued demanding free covid vaccination and to withdraw all four labour codes. In a joint programme with CITU, placards were displayed in Jamshedpur unit. In OSRU, flag

hoisting and general body meeting was held in Cuttack and programme implemented in Bolangir, Bhadrak and Bhubaneswar.

Jointly programme was conducted with CITU at Berhampur and Sambalpur. Amid upsurge of pandemic, May Day was successfully celebrated at Jalna, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Gondia, Amravati, Dhule and Malegaon sub units of MSMRA, in Eluru, Kurnool, Tirupati, Vizag and Vizianagaram of APMSRU, at Nizamabad, Kukatpally, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar, Secundrabad, Hyderabad and Adilabad sub units of TMSRU. Members of MPMSRU, PCMSRU and RMSRU and other state units also hoisted flag on the occasion. With imposition of restrictions by state government in West Bengal, May Day was observed in a restricted manner in all the districts and in some local units of WBMSRU. At state centre flag was hoisted and a gathering was addressed by FMRAI General Secretary, Santanu Chatterjee. He explained in brief the present difficult situation of the country and the challenges posed in front of the fieldworkers in specific and the working class in general due to the government policies and the atrocities of the corporates. To commemorate the day, flag was hoisted at FMRAI Centre and floral tributes were paid to the martyr's column by Santanu Chatterjee, General Secretary and other WCMs



National Black Day Aurangabad, MSMRA

Working Committee meeting of FMRAI

Working Committee meeting of FMRAI was held over virtual platform on 23rd May, 2021. Meeting was presided over by the President and the Vice-Presidents of FMRAI. The meeting adopted condolence resolution grieving the death of members and leading functionaries of FMRAI, eminent leaders of the working class movement, and the healthcare professionals. The meeting observed that the policies of BJP government at centre is seriously undermining the interest of the workers, peasants and the common people,

held on 23rd May

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Struggle Continues in the midst of pandemic

B.E field workers went on countrywide strike on 21st April

The Management of Biological E. has adamantly pursued anti-worker policies since last two decades. Through the valuable contributions of the union and the workers, company has grown manifold and was immensely profited in many ways since the 1st settlement in 1963. But the management's thirst for robbing the rights & gain of the Sales Promotion Employees, who were de-categorized under different fanciful nomenclature only for this purpose, goes un-satiated. In spite of these

attempts of circumvention of lawful rights all categories of field workers of Biological E. continues to fight united for their trade union and collective bargaining rights. Two consecutive Judgments of the court clearly pronounced that the field workers, including Territory Managers, Field Sales Officers and Medical Representatives, are covered under SPE Act, 1976 and all field workers, irrespective category or nomenclature, must get the benefits of the Charter Of Demands of

2000 and 2004, as placed by FMRAI. Management is delaying the process of implementation of the awards and trying to break the unity of the workers by adopting all sorts of unfair labour practices. Instead of reciprocating rationally to the just demands not withstanding relentless collective protests by the field workers of Biological E, the management has further intensified attack on the field workers and continue to

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Epidemic spread of superstition and

Departure from the path of science

The Health minister, who is also the Science and Technology minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, held an important meeting on 13th April, 2021, when the corona virus was staging an overwhelming come back in the form of a second wave. The meeting was attended by representatives of Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy (Ayush), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Indian Council of Medical Research. On that day India recorded 185190 new infections, 1026 deaths and the highest single-day spike since the beginning of the pandemic. It was expected that the meeting will transact business in the matter of virus resurgence. But, it did not. The meeting discussed on the matter of research on 'indigenous cow'.

On February 14, 2020, the Department of Science and Technology had called for research proposals under the government's SUTRA-PIC (Scientific Utilization through Research Augmentation Prime Products from Indigenous Cows) programme. Indian scientists decried this government-funded 'unscientific' research on the benefits of cow dung, urine and milk of 'indigenous cow'. In February 2020 only, 'more than 500 scientists asked the Indian government to withdraw the call for research proposals on the "uniqueness" of indigenous cows and the curative properties of cow urine, dung, and milk, including potential cancer treatments' (sciencemag.org, 24.02.20). Ignoring the opposition of the scientists, the Health and Science and Technology minister called the said meeting on April 13, on the progress of this research. In the meeting he wanted that research projects should be fast-tracked and some 'significant development' should be

obtained before the time of PM Modi's 75th Independence Day speech (theprint.in 13.04.21). This meeting however, created a grave example of devotion to pseudo-science, and prioritization of pseudo-science over science. It was evident that the government had put essential task of dealing with nationwide healthcare crises on the back burner, even when the country was being devastated by second wave. Thus, Pandemic management has been competitively prohibited by government's mysterious eagerness for extracting 'discovery' of therapeutic value of indigenous cow. In 2017, the government started an ostensible 'research programme' named 'Scientific Validation and Research on Panchgavya (SVAROP)'. But medicinal value of Panchgavya (a mixture of milk, curd, ghee, cow-dung and cow-urine used in religious rites) could not be discovered.

The Health Minister, who is a trained person in modern medicine (ENT surgeon), publicly appeared in the launch of Divya Coronil (divine Coronil), a concoction made by Patanjali of Baba Ramdev and promoted this tablet for Covid 19. Initially, this concoction was claimed to be WHO approved, which was later disproved by WHO statement. Indian Medical Association (IMA) demanded an explanation from the Union health minister for promoting Patanjali's Coronil for treatment Covid-19 and termed his action as 'blatant disrespect' to the code of conduct of the Medical Council of India (indianexpress.com, 23.02.21).

Earlier, in October, 2020, a new clinical management protocol for prophylaxis and management of the corona virus was released by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Ayush. Dr Harsh Vardhan again released the document triggering strong reaction and disapproval from IMA. Treatment guideline recommended various herbs, mixtures and Yoga. IMA, in a press release reminded the health minister that 'science

demands reproducibility of a claim elsewhere in non conflict situations and double Blind Control studies' and posed question to the health minister if the guideline is backed by 'satisfactory evidence' or not and also demanded that 'the evidence should be in public domain and available for scientific scrutiny'. Government failed to produce any evidence.

Dr Harsh Vardhan declares in his website (drharshvardhan.com) that 'thousands of years ago our sages propagated a holistic vision of health, enunciating a concept of health well beyond physical, mental and social well-being to embody emotional and spiritual well-being. Modern scientists have failed to appreciate that our noble forefathers could protect their physical and mental health by practising spirituality'. Therefore, it is no wonder that the health minister and his ministry seek salvation from the 'invisible enemy' (a phrase for corona virus coined by PM) through 'spirituality' and religiosity, which are well beyond the scope of science. In this perspective, Baba Ramdev is encouraged to decry medical science and muster courage to call it 'stupid and bankrupt science' government takes no action against this self-styled Baba not only because he wields huge political clout but also because the top people in the government inherently concurs with such science-busting.

But, IMA, the apex professional organization of modern medical doctors in India, reacted fiercely against this attempt of Ramdev in scandalizing the medical science (allopathy) and wrote letter to Prime Minister asking him to take action against 'viciously propagating the message of fear on vaccination and challenge the government of India protocols for treatment' and demanded that he should be booked 'under the charges of sedition'. Uttarakhand chapter of Indian Medical Association (IMA) also served a defamation notice on Ramdev for his

detrimental remark against allopathic medicine and doctors, demanding an apology from him within 15 days, failing which compensation of Rs 1000 crore will be demanded from him. IMA, Uttarakhand chapter, also termed this disparaging remark as a criminal act under Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code.

This crusade against science organized by the vested interests in India is not over yet, especially when the thoughts, actions and public statements of the top persons in the government goes against the basic percepts of science. The government is funding liberally in the alleged research on 'indigenous cow' and employing science and scientists in justifying religious faith and superstition, while the genuine scientific research, including research on disease and therapy, is facing funding cut by the government. 'Research into Ayurgenomics will get full government support' assures Dr. Harsh Vardhan in his website. But it is genomics not 'Ayurgenomics' that needs government support. Ayurgenomics is a deceptive word that attempts to artificially join Ayurveda with Genomics. A scientific discipline like this does not exist at all. But, the government is keen to promote it.

In an editorial in a journal published by the body of Indian scientists, Subash Lakhotia, raised question if such 'research fund crunch, real or created' In fact, Government funding in non-science mumbo jumbo, is competitively preventing genuine scientific research. It is also surprising that the state control research organizations and government's different departments of science and technology are engaged in managing some nonsensical researches and diverting government's attention, action and resources away from the essential centers of researches. Governmental glorification of mumbo jumbo is further reinforcing superstition into the population. Consequently, a large number of people continue to drink cow-urine and smear cow dung on their body which is endorsed and encouraged by some ministers and a section of

legislature. Government has also failed to guide public behavior and acted against science and rationality by not discouraging and not preventing rampant consumption of cow-urine and cow-dung by the common people. Further, the Government's promotion of religious festivals like Kumbh Mela has contributed to enormous spread of the virus to the rural India and the country had to witness the most inglorious tales of death when bodies of the dead citizens appeared floating, bloated, in the river Ganges. Thus, India pays very dearly for its departure from the path of science, especially in the last seven years, more so, in the time of epidemic outbreak of disease.

Obviously, the anti-science mentality is the breeding ground of bias and absolutism as well. Signs of this trend in the government are also reflected in the non-transparency in the matter of data and over centralization in policy making. Even if the government has constituted 15 high power committees to manage the pandemic, the decisions are exclusively centralized in PMO.

At the end May number of new cases continues to dip. With huge cost of life and livelihood the second wave of epidemic appears to be waning. Will there be a third wave? In the given state of affairs at present, arrival of a third wave is most likely. Through such waves the epidemic is gradually attaining 'endemic' character.

The country needs to stand prepared. Banging metal plates, lighting earthen lamp or singing 'go, corona go', did not work. No other black magic will ever check it. The answer is science. The answer is scientific mind. The tools like vaccines handed over by science constitute the answer. Therefore, universal free vaccination is the need of the hour. Access to universal healthcare through state-run facilities is the need of the hour. Adequate bed in hospitals along with oxygen and ventilator, besides evidence-based treatment guideline and availability of essential medicines, has to be ensured by the government. The governments, states and centre, should not pass the buck, with or without tearful lecture, to the citizen or upon the society.

Competition Commission

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spite of grave need of the of the people undermined vital interests of the people. The letter emphasized that the Government's Act replacing the Patent Rules 2003 with the Patent Amendment Rules 2020, has further strengthened the patent regime and diluted the provision and scope of revocation of patent for the interest of the nation. Privatization and dismantling of drug and vaccine PSUs, widespread unethical and corrupt marketing practices, several other policy decisions of the government has also restricted access medicine most grievously, the letter underlined.

In response to this letter from

the unethical marketing practices are leading to excessive use of non-essential, spurious drugs, use of drugs in questionable indication (not supported by evidence) and proliferation of non-essential drugs, in general, serious harming people's interest. The panel enquired that if differential pricing is linked to quality, and if the qualities for differently-priced medicines are same, then what makes a clinician to choose a higher priced brand, which was also explained. In response to relevant inquiry it was pointed out that brink and mortar pharmacies are of immense importance in medicine supply and online sales of medicines is prohibited in law and several courts have made verdict against it. But online sale of medicine is proliferating, causing negative

impact in medicine supply, at the encouragement of the government and by the inaction of the regulators. The role of taxes on medicines was also discussed and it as pointed out that GST on medicine has gravely injured the interest of the people. During course of discussion it was also underlined that owing to the policies of the government are causing widespread unavailability and consequent black marketing of the medicines in this Covid 19 epidemic. The willful dismantling of the PSUs by the successive governments has also impacted medicine and vaccine access in this time of pandemic. The interview lasted for one hour and the panelists took keen interest over the observations, opinions and functions of FMRAI which was appropriately explained to them.

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Azamgarh and a field worker of Mankind Life Star and member of UPMSRA died on 30th April, 2021.

Sarvesh Rathore, a member of UPMSRA based at Shahjahanpur was working in DPL Pharmaceuticals. He died on 02nd May, 2021

Virendra Kumar Sharma, a member of UPMSRA in Jaunpur unit and employed in Synokem Pharmaceuticals passed away on 4th May, 2021.

Madhur Mishra, a member of UPMSRA and a field workers of East India in Shahjahanpur headquarter died on 23rd April, 2021.

Rakesh Yadav, a member of UPMSRA based at Ballia, who was employed in Highrise Pharmaceuticals died on 6th May, 2021.

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B.E field workers went on strike

deprive them of legitimate revision of pay structures since last two decades.

In this period of Covid 19 Pandemic management has started all sorts of attacks including making unilateral change in service and working conditions of the field workers. This was fought back courageously by field workers including majority of territory managers. Thereafter the management has initiated actions on the leading council functionaries and transferred them to distance places in this pandemic-disrupted state of affairs in the country and has terminated Zonal Convener to terrorize the council members and functionaries. The management has not bothered to show a grain of compunction when they initiated actions like punitive transfers and termination and to disturb the livelihood of the field workers in this grave and difficult time of disease outbreak as they were preoccupied by their ulterior intention for forcing the field workers to accept the unjust dictum of the management.

The field workers of BE, ignoring the job threat, fought collectively and continued their long drawn struggle and participated in various protest actions including strike action for three consecutive days in January 2021 displaying great

conviction and unity. In the midst of second wave of the corona virus epidemic they went on strike, once again, on 21st April, 2021. More than three hundred field workers from Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar Jharkhand, North East, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, MP-Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Hyderabad, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other parts of the country actively participated in this magnificent strike action on 21st April, 2021 in an extraordinary time outbreak of the awful viral disease.

In desperation, management has further illegally blocked the reporting portals of 14 sales promotion employees, mostly the council leaders of West Bengal, MP, Chhattisgarh and Assam (and Northeastern states) and threatened all field workers of unjustified wage stop. In fact, the management has chosen the time of lock down and restrictions of pandemic and has considered crisis-ridden situation of the nation as an opportunity to try their hand in demolishing the union and knocking down united resistance of the workers. But, the unified workers of Biological E and along with organized section of field workers movement of the country has proved it once again, by organizing this successful strike and registering the legitimate protests aloud that voices of protest against

tyranny and brutality cannot be maimed even in the time of such a public health emergency.

The management of Biological E conveniently forgets the contributions of the workers and the mutual corporations extended by the union years together, and fail to appreciate that it is the cooperation of the workers and their union which has built the present image and structure of the company in last 55 years which has made the company emerge as a large vaccine producer in the country.

Be that as it may, field workers continue to work for the growth and development of the company. However, this will not prevent them to explore all means, method to oppose the unjust actions of the management and establish their lawful rights the way it is possible and the field workers will always refuse to co-operate the management in their every unlawful, unjust or inhuman acts and deeds. Management should not forget that image and prosperity of the company is always incidental to the healthy industrial relation and proportionate to the well being of the employees of the company. In future course of struggle FMRAI will decide and fight of BE field workers for rights will continue. The companies that destabilize the field workers will risk their own destabilization.

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Working Committee meeting

especially in this time of second wave of the outbreak of the viral disease.

The meeting expressed concern as some drugs for the treatment of Covid 19 patients are being sold through black market and these drugs are not either or not available at reasonable prices. Taking exception to the discriminative vaccine policy of the government, the meeting reiterated that government should ensure universal and free vaccination across the country and with a view to ensure availability of medicines and vaccines government should make immediate use of the compulsory licensing provision of the Indian Patent Act, 1970. The meeting censured the disgraceful comments of Patanjali's Ramdev and considered such comments as part of an orchestrated offensive against science in India which is unfortunately encouraged by the actions and statements of the top persons in the government and the legislature.

The meeting noted with great dismay that the attacks on the working class and the common people is increasing. The government policies are enabling and encouraging the big corporations and the employers to continue to loot the workers, peasants and people of the country with redoubled offensive.

While Labour codes and Farm legislations are seriously injuring the interest of the workers and the peasants and

the workers and peasants are relentlessly agitating against these evil laws, the government continues to display disrespect to the legitimate democratic opinion and opposition of the people. The labour codes and the rules under these codes seriously curtail the existing legal rights of the field workers. In view of this FMRAI has decided to contest these evil codes and rules in the honorable Supreme Court, besides challenging these codes and rules coming down to the streets through all movemental method and means.

Through new labour codes, especially, the industrial relation code, cancellation of registration of the trade unions has been made easier. In view of this, the meeting noted, upkeep of updated membership records of state units of FMRAI (and timely filing annual return) has become even more necessary. The meeting decided that besides enrollment of new members, renewal of all existing members has to be completed right away. The Membership Portal too will be updated with involvement of the state units. Meeting identified weaker areas and chalked out corrective plans.

Considering the more and more grave attacks of the employers upon the field workers in the excuse of the disease outbreak the meeting decide to further strengthen the lively contacts among the members and across all levels of the organization has to be

ensured by the functionaries of states, of subunits and of FMRAI. The meeting reiterated that periodic secretariat meetings, state working committee meetings, sub-unit working committee meetings, special General bodies meetings and council meeting have to be conducted over feasible mode during this unusual time of the pandemic. All sections of members, across establishment and industries, have to be encouraged and inspired to fight back and through united struggle only the challenging situations have to be upturned in favour of the field workers. In instances of wage stoppage or wage denial councils and all other organizational structures will extend all possible assistance, as may be appropriately decided and organized.

FMRAI has written letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister, in the context of ongoing pandemic on, 22nd May, 2021 demanding universal free vaccination, revamping vaccine production and increasing access to medicines for Covid-19 treatment. The meeting decided that the demands mentioned in this letter dated 22nd May, 2021, will be widely campaigned. In view of disruption of normal life caused by the second wave of the pandemic, the meeting decided to postpone the two days of All India Strike at the call of FMRAI scheduled on 6 & 7 July, 2021.

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Obituary

in the field workers movement in the Northern Part of the country, especially in NCT of Delhi. Red salute to N.P.Saini.

Anthonio Rodrigues, popularly known Tony, succumbed to death on 13th May, 2021 in deadly attack of Covid 19 virus. He was working in Biovitamins based as Goa. He was a member of GoaMRA.

Sarfaraaj Mansoori (39), a sales promotion employee in Delta division of Torrent, based in Indore, and a member of MPMSRU, breathed his last on 7th May, 2021 due to Covid-19 infection. He leaves behind his wife and two school going children.

Balasubramanyam, employed in British Biological in Vijayawada and a member of APMSRU passed away in May 2021 following diabetes-related due to illness and complications. He was convener in British Biological council of APMSRU.

Sanjiv Kumar, a field worker employed in Anglo French drug based in Samastipur and a member of BSSRU, succumbed to Covid 19 infection and passed away on 8th May 2021. He was functioning as joint convener of council and as assistant secretary in Samastipur unit. He left behind his parents, wife and twin boys of 13 years of age..

Animesh Prasad (29), popularly known as Raja, a field worker of Medley based at Burdwan and a member of WBMSRU, passed away on 5th May, 2019 following Covid 19 infection. He was an active member in Sarbamangla local unit of under Purba Burdwan District of WBMSRU.

T Bhaskar (30), a member of Khammam unit of TMSRU employed in Leostar Healthcare, passed away in May 2021 in Cancer..

Syed Hameeduddin (43), a field workers working Franco Indian based at Khamman and Subunit Working Committee member in Khamman unit of TMSRU passed away on 30th April 2021 due to Covid 19.

Biswajit Das (41), employed as sales promotion employee in Sanofi based at Cuttack and a member of OSRU breathed his last on 25th May 2021. He served the organization as a Joint convener of Sanofi council in OSRU. He was infected with covid-19 and was under treatment in ICU before his death.

Srikanth (31), employed in IPCA Laboratories based at Warangal and a member of TMSRU since April 2018 passed away in May, 2021 due to Covid 19 infection.

Purushotham Gajam (36), employed in Jaggat Pharma based at Hyderabad and a member of TMSRU since April, 2021 passed away in May, 2021 following terrible road accident. P Ravinder Reddy (31), employed as a sales promotion employee in Dr.Reddy's Laboratories and a member of TMSRU breathed his last in May, 2021 due to Covid19 infection ..

Satish Pattanaik (40), a field worker of Himalaya Drugs based at Jeypore and District President of Jeypore organizational district of OSRU, died on 25th May 2021. He was infected with Covid 19 virus and was under treatment in ICU following hospitalization.

He leaves behind his mother, wife, younger brother and two daughters.

Biswajit Mukherjee (54), a member of Hooghly district committee of WBMSRU and a field worker of Eskag Pharmaceutical based at Arambag, breathed his last on 24th May 2021, in disease caused by Covid 19 virus. He was council convener of Eskag and worked wholeheartedly for the organization and contributed significantly in organizing the field worker movement in his company and the district. He leaves behind his mother, wife and son.

Shashikant Pandit, former General Secretary of MPMSRU and Zonal convener (West) of All India Council of Ranbaxy passed away on 24th May, 2021 at Bhopal.

Srikant, a member of TMSRU based in Warangal died on 10th May, 2021 following Covid 19 infection. He was working in IPCA Lab.

Bharat Kumar, a field worker employed in Sun Pharmaceuticals at Guntur headquarters and member of APMSRU passed away on 12th May, 2021 due to Covid 19 infection.

Ashok, a fieldworker of Wokhardt, based at Guntur passed away on 13th May, 2021 due to covid19. He was a member of APMSRU.

Mithun Kasat (34), a member of MSMRA and former Treasurer of Jalgaon Unit (2015-16), who was employed in Sanzyme Pharmaceutical, succumbed to death due to serious Covid 19 infection on 15th May, 2021 after 15 days of hospitalization and treatment.

S.Srinivas Rao (48), a member of TMSRU since 2018, employed in Timo Eva Wellness based at Karimnagar breathed his last in the moth of May, 2021 following a severe heart attack.

Sandeep Nimbalkar, a member of MSMRA and Joint Secretary of Ahmadnagar Unit who was working as a field worker in Wasu Pharma passed away on 28th May, 2021 following severe to Covid 19 infection.

Vikas Zhoman (30), a member of Nashik unit of MSMRA employed in Urology division of Intas Pharmaceuticals, committed suicide on 29th May, 2021. He was under enormous sales pressure from his line managers.

Rajesh Yadav, a member of UPMSRA, who was employed in Kee Pharma, based at Kanpur died on 30th April, 2021. He was Vice President of Kanpur Unit of UPMSRA.

Atul Jaiswal, a member of UPMSRA and employed as a field worker in Lok-Beta Pharmaceuticals in Jaunpur passed away on 22nd April 2021

Sumit Kumar Das, a member of UPMSRA, who was working as field worker in Dey's Medical in Azamgarh, breathed his last on 2nd May, 2021.

Abhay Srivastava, a member of UPMSRA at Gonda unit was employed in Gujarat Terce Laboratories. He died on 7th May, 2021.

Akshay Mathur, a member of UPMSRA, who was working as a field worker at Varanasi in Biological E, died on 29th April, 2021

Dharmendra Singh, based at

Field workers donate blood organizing blood donation camps

Burdwan

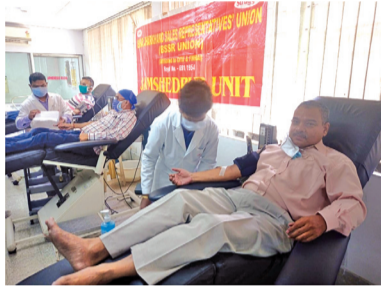
In view of declining availability of blood for treatment during the grave second wave of Covid 19, Purba Burdwan District Committee of WBMSRU organized Blood Donation Camp at Burdwan Medical College & Hospital campus on 28th May, 2021. Incidental to Covid restrictions mass attendance was not possible in Medical College premises; therefore, members attended the camp and donated blood in compliance with the restrictions and maintaining Covid-appropriate behavior. It took around 5 hours of time to complete the process of blood donation. 21 members donated blood. The authority of Burdwan Medical College & Hospital appreciated the initiative and honoured our union by giving a separate certificate to Purba Burdwan District committee of WBMSRU.

Jamshedpur

Blood donation camp was co-organized by Jamshedpur unit of BSSRU along with team Sangharsh, a progressive social organization, on 21st May, 2021. More than thirty members of the unit donated blood in blood bank, Jamshedpur. On 10th May Jamshedpur unit donated medicines to the Covid 19 treatment facility arranged at the instance of Sakchi Gurudwara at Jamshedpur. Similarly, medicines were donated to MGM hospital on 12th May, 2021.

Pimpri-Chinwara, Latur, Beed

Similar blood donation camps were organized by Pimpri-Chinwara, Latur and Beed units of MSMRA on 1st May, 2021, where field workers donated blood.



Obituary

The deadly second wave of Covid 19 disease continues with its unexampled carnage taking thousands of precious life including those of our friends, compatriots and comrades. We continue to get overwhelmed with news of death. Field workers of all age, especially some younger field workers, have succumbed to death on account of Covid 19 diseases. We have also lost some our comrades owing to other ailments and causes. We deeply mourn these deaths and solemnly pay respectful homage to all of them. We convey our earnest condolence to the families and friends of these comrades. FMRAI appeals, once again, to all members and their families to take utmost care to avert and prevent the attack and the spread of this virus.

Salim Patel, the former working committee member of FMRAI, the former Joint General Secretary of



MSMRA, who retired from services as a Medical Representative in Wallace Pharmaceuticals after 30th September 2014, passed away on 1st May 2021 after short ailments. He was suffering from abdominal cancer which flared up to the lungs. His contribution to the field workers movement and working class movement is significant. He served the organization in the capacity of all India convener and Joint All India convener in Wallace All India Council and as negotiating committee member of FMRAI. He was in the fore front of field workers' movement and working class movement in the state of Maharashtra. After his retirement

from the service he worked tirelessly as a CITU functionary in the state of Maharashtra. In his memory all India council of Wallace a condolence meeting was held on 15th May, 2021 in virtual mode. Red salute to Salim Patel

N.P.Saini (60), former General Secretary of DMSRO and working committee member of FMRAI passed away in Delhi on 15th May, 2021. He retired from his service in Astra Zeneca just a few months back. He fought throughout his life against anti-worker policies of the management and played an



important role as a grievance and negotiating committee member in Astra Zeneca representing FMRAI. He also served as a Zonal convener (North) in Astra Zeneca, All India council. FMRAI will always remember his contribution

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Management ventures in treacherous path

Albert David

The true face of M/S Albert David management has been exposed through the past three years. Albert David is a leading Indian pharmaceuticals company today, where FMRAI extended all sorts of cooperation for decades. In many difficult situation union stood beside the company and in various occasions had given call to the workers of the company to extend full cooperation to strengthen the marketing and its business. Even when the mega products of the company like Placentex, which was banned by India Government during 2010-2011 due to some disputable policies of the Government, Field workers of the company and FMRAI raised its voice and adopted resolution in Bhopal General Council meeting challenging Government's action and initiated protest actions across the country. This has helped the company to overcome the crisis and this mega product has survived.

Following 1st wage settlement and establishment of bilateral relation with FMRAI in 1990 company has grown enormously from Rs. 10-15 Crores at that time to about Rs. 325 crores in 2017 which was possible with the cooperation of the field workers and FMRAI.

Since, 2017 the company started following a range of anti-labour policies aimed at trampling the rights of the workers which indeed was adopted by the new management team who took charge in 2017. The management overlooked the past and present contribution of the field workers in building the prosperity of the company and tried to damage the existing strong and stable marketing network, which was built after years of efforts. The company refused to settle the 10th Charter of Demands for the period between 1st April, 2018 and 31st March, 2021 under various pleas, even after relentless persuasions since 2018. Management not only launched another division (Division-II) with a motive to weaken the strength of the workers but also started restructuring the company to hoodwink and deprive the workers. Acting in a despotic manner the management denied all existing mutual understandings or agreements which were arrived lawfully through due process and mutual discussion, changed them arbitrarily and unilaterally and started attacking the field workers. During this period irrational and unjust wage

cuts, threats, terrorization has become common in the company. Management fails to give cognizance to the long standing bilateral relation and continue with their unfair labour practices even during this dreadful pandemic. Since July, 2020 management has launched various attacks on the field workers, and has started deducting wages unlawfully and started using a variety of threats to the field workers against their participation in various protest movements.

Usually separate agreement on work norms are signed after conclusion of wage settlement. But, in view of requirement and request of the management, an MOU was signed for starting e reporting on trial basis in good faith only. It was mutually agreed that the change of reporting system will be finalized separately, during signing the wage agreement. But the management, acting in reverse direction, started unilaterally imposing all the detrimental work systems without settling the long pending charter of demands, undermining the mutual trust and faith.

Thereafter, many issues were created by the management to delay the process of settlement of the pending Charter of Demands. All effort for resolution of the issues could not yield any result due to malafide intention of the management. The management continuously adopted one or other plea and delayed the total process years together. Finally, when FMRAI served the notice of Industrial actions in persuasion of the justified demands of the field workers, Albert David management sought the intervention of the labour commissioner to stall the process of notified Strike. The process got delayed further but the workers displayed patience in spite of their annoyance and anguish and continued to pursue their issues, though management precipitated illegal wage cuts and disciplinary actions without even following the laws of the land. At last on 25th February, 2021 a tripartite understanding was reached before the labour commissioner. But, management, in a devious manner, further delayed the signing of the wage settlements and other understandings as agreed upon. Without following the understanding, management further started imposing various irrational working

norms unilaterally which were either not raised or discussed in the tripartite meetings.

Management proposed to start with virtual meeting/conferences in the intervening period. In response, considering the present situation of pandemic, the Welfare Committee extended their hands and submitted the draft understanding on the virtual meetings and requested to arrive at a mutual agreement on the same and assured to cooperate, but the management, as usual, without signing any mutual understanding, forcefully started the virtual meetings and asked the field workers to participate in the virtual meeting under threat and also initiated action by blocking the reporting portals and victimizing the field workers who did not comply with the unilateral imposition of the management. In fact, management is trying to impose all newer unilateral working conditions, without settling the Charter of Demands. Unleashing further tyranny in this time of epidemic, the management has resorted to victimization by transferring field workers to distant places in various states including one of the Grievance & Negotiating committee member. After all these, camouflaging their acts of violence and violations of law, management has sought the intervention of the labour department once again on the same matter without giving effect to the earlier tripartite understanding, with the sole intention of delaying the whole process even further. All these events and acts of the management has generated huge resentments amongst the field workers of Albert David and among all the members of FMRAI, in general.

The management of Albert David fails to learn the lesson from the history of working class movement or the field workers' movement in the country. In one hand they are destabilizing their own market through faulty marketing policies and on other hand victimizing and terrorizing the field workers, only to stifle their voice of protest, thereby causing self-inflicted injury to very interest of the company.

In the given situation, lest the Albert David management fail to restore bilateral relation and wage agreement right away, FMRAI shall have no other alternative but to intensify industrial action both legally and agitationaly.

Competition Commission of India notes views of FMRAI

The competition Commission of India (CCI) on the 19th of February, 2021 made a public announcement for 'conducting consultation with stakeholders' to gather insights on issues that may have a bearing on competition in the pharmaceutical market in India 'with a view to develop a better understanding of the competition landscape in the sector'. Responding to the above FMRAI sent a written letter to the Chairperson CCI comprising of its observations as a stakeholder on the said issues. The

content of the letter has been published in the April, 2021 issue of FMRAI News. In that letter it was pointed out that in spite of expansion of the industry in India, there is increasing monopolization and cartelization in the industry restricting opportunities for fair competition, on account of policies pursued by the successive governments. Especially after introduction product patent regime in the country, further monopolization in manufacturing, marketing and sales in all newly invented molecules by a few dominant

MNCs, has eliminated the scopes of any competition. The letter also underscored that substantial import liberalization along with other liberalization measures have been incidental to colossal import dependence, especially upon imports from China, in relation to Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), seriously restricting medicine access of the people. Not making use of compulsory licensing provision in the Patent Amendment Act, 2005 and allowing unabated patent monopoly in some medicine in

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