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Contact Number : 9688188993

Faculty Name : Mr P, SELVAKUMAR

UNIT – 5

THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE STATE POLITICS OF TAMILNADU :-

- **The Communist Party of India was formed on 26 December 1925 at the first Party Conference in Kanpur, which was then known as Cawnpore.**
- **S.V. Ghate was the first General Secretary of CPI.**
- **There were many communist groups formed by Indians with the help of foreigners in different parts of the world,**
- **Tashkent group of Contacts were made with Anushilan and Jugantar the groups in Bengal, and small communist Groups were formed in Bombay Led by S.A. Dange, Madras Led by Singaravelu Chettiar ,**
- **United Provinces Led by Shaukat Usmani, Punjab, Sindh (led by Ghulam Husain and Bengal Led by Muzaffar Ahmed.**

INVOLVEMENT IN INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE :-

- **During the 1920s and the early 1930s the party was badly organised, and in practice there were several communist groups working with limited national co-ordination.**
- **The British colonial authorities had banned all communist activity, which made the task of building a united party very**

difficult. Between 1921 and 1924 there were three conspiracy trials against the communist movement .

- **First Peshawar Conspiracy Case, Meerut Conspiracy Case and the Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy Case.**
- **The Cawnpore trial had more political impact. On 17 March 1924, Shripad Amrit Dange, M.N. Roy, Muzaffar Ahmed, Nalini Gupta, Shaukat Usmani, Singaravelu Chettiar, Ghulam Husain and R.C. Sharma were charged,**

In Cawnpore now spelt Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy case. Singaravelu Chettiar was released on account of illness.

- **M.N. Roy was in Germany and R.C. Sharma in French Pondicherry, and therefore could not be arrested.**
- **Ghulam Husain confessed that he had received money from the Russians in Kabul and was pardoned.**
- **Dange was released from prison in 1927. Rahul Dev. Pal was a prominent communist leader on 25 December 1925 a communist conference was organised in Kanpur.**
- **Colonial authorities estimated that 500 persons took part in the conference.**
- **The sixth congress of the Communist International met in 1928. In 1927 the Kuomintang had turned on the Chinese communists,**

Which led to a review of the policy on forming alliances with the national bourgeoisie in the colonial countries.

- **The Colonial theses of the 6th Comintern Congress called upon the Indian communists to combat the 'National-Reformist leaders' and to 'unmask the national reformism of**

- **The Indian National Congress and oppose all phrases of the Swarajists, Gandhists, etc. about passive Resistance.**
- **The congress did however differentiate between the character of the Chinese Kuomintang and the Indian Swaraj Party, considering the latter as neither a reliable ally nor a direct enemy.**
- **The congress called on the Indian communists to utilise the contradictions between the national bourgeoisie and the British imperialists.**
- **The congress also denounced the WPP. The Tenth Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, 3 July 1929 – 19 July 1929, directed the Indian communists to break with WPP. When the communists deserted it, the WPP fell apart.**
- **On 20 March 1929, arrests against WPP, CPI and other labour leaders were made in several parts of India, in what became known as the Meerut Conspiracy Case.**
 - ❖ **The party was reorganised in 1933, after the communist leaders from the Meerut trials were released.**
- **A central committee of the party was set up in 1934 the party was accepted as the Indian section of the Communist International.**
 - ❖ **When Indian left-wing elements formed the Congress Socialist Party in 1934, the CPI branded it as Social Fascist.**
- **The League Against Gandhism, initially known as the Gandhi Boycott Committee, was a political organisation in Calcutta,**

- **Founded by the underground Communist Party of India and others to launch militant anti-Imperialist activities.**
- **The group took the name ‘League Against Gandhism’ in 1934.**
- **In Kerala communists won control over CSP, and for a brief period controlled Congress there.**
- **Two communists, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and Z.A. Ahmed, became All India joint secretaries of CSP.**
- **The CPI also had two other members inside the CSP executive.**
- **On the occasion of the 1940 Ramgarh Congress Conference CPI released a declaration called *Proletarian Path*,**
- **Which sought to utilise the weakened state of the British Empire in the time of war and gave a call for general strike, No-Tax, No-Rent Policies and mobilising for an armed revolutionary uprising.**
- **The National Executive of the CSP assembled at Ramgarh took a decision that all communists were expelled from CSP.**
- **In July 1942, the CPI was legalised, as a result of Britain and the Soviet Union becoming allies against Nazi Germany.^[27] Communists strengthened their control over the All India Trade Union Congress. At the same time, communists were politically cornered for their opposition to the Quit India Movement.**
- **CPI contested the Provincial Legislative Assembly elections of 1946 of its own. It had candidates in 108 out of 1585 seats. It won in eight seats.**
- **In total the CPI vote counted 666 723, which should be seen with the backdrop that 86% of the adult population of India lacked voting rights.**
- **The party had contested three seats in Bengal, and won all of them. One CPI candidate, Somnath Lahiri, was elected to the Constituent Assembly.**

- **The Communist Party of India opposed the partition of India and did not participate in the Independence Day celebrations of 15 August 1947 in protest of the division of the country.**

AFTER INDEPENDENCE:-

- **During the period around and directly following Independence in 1947,**
- **The internal situation in the party was chaotic.**
- **The party shifted rapidly between left-wing and right-wing positions.**
- **In February 1948, at the 2nd Party Congress in Calcutta, B. T. Ranadeve (BTR) was elected General Secretary of the party.**
- **The conference adopted the 'Programme of Democratic Revolution'.**
- **This Programme included the first mention of struggle against caste injustice in a CPI document.**
- **In Manipur, the party became a force to reckon with through the agrarian struggles led by Jananeta Irawat Singh. Singh had joined CPI in 1946.**
- **At the 1951 congress of the party, 'People's Democracy' was substituted by 'National Democracy' as the main slogan of the party.**
- **Communist Party was founded in Bihar in 1939. Post-independence, communist party achieved success in Bihar and Jharkhand.**
- **He later went on to win Parliamentary elections and was MP for seven terms in early 1950s. Young communist leadership was uniting textile workers, bank employees and unorganised sector workers to ensure mass support in north India.**
- **National leaders like S A Dange, Chandra Rajeswara Rao and P K Vasudevan Nair were encouraging them and supporting the idea despite their differences on the**

execution.

- **In 1952, CPI became the first leading opposition party in the Lok Sabha, while the Indian National Congress was in power.**
- ❖ **Communist movement or CPI in particular emerged as a front runner after Guru Radha Kisan undertook a fast unto death for 24 days to promote the cause of textile workers in Delhi.**
- ❖ **Till then it was a public misconception that communists are revolutionaries with arms in their hands and workers and their families were afraid to get associated with the communists but this act mobilised general public in the favour of communist movement as a whole.**
- ❖ **During this period people with their families used to visit 'dharna shall' to encourage CPI cadre.**
- ❖ **Communist Party was banned, so it couldn't take part in the election process.**
- ❖ **In the general elections in 1957, the CPI emerged as the largest opposition party.**
- ❖ **In 1957, the CPI won the state elections in Kerala. This was the first time that an opposition party won control over an Indian state.**
- ❖ **E. M. S. Namboodiripad became Chief Minister. At the 1957 international meeting of Communist parties in Moscow, the Communist Party of China directed criticism at the CPI for having formed a ministry in Kerala.**
- ❖ **Ideological differences led to the split in the party in 1964 when two different party conferences were held, one of CPI and one of the.**
- ❖ **During the period 1970–77, CPI was allied with the Congress party. In Kerala, they formed a government**

together with Congress, with the CPI-leader Achutha Menon as Chief Minister.

JANATHA PARTY

- **The Janata Party (JP, translation: *People's Party*) was a political party that was founded as an amalgam of Indian political parties opposed to the Emergency that was imposed between 1975 to 1977 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of the Indian National Congress.**
- **In the 1977 general election, the party defeated the Congress and Janata leader Morarji Desai became the first non-Congress prime minister in independent modern India's history.**
- **Raj Narain, a socialist leader, had filed a legal writ alleging electoral malpractice against Indira Gandhi in 1971.**
- **On 12 June 1975, Allahabad High Court found her guilty of using corrupt electoral practices in her 1971 election victory over Narain in the Rae Bareli constituency.**
- **She was barred from contesting any election for the next six years. Economic problems,**
- **Corruption and the conviction of Gandhi led to widespread protests against the Congress Government, which responded by imposing a State of Emergency.**
- **The rationale was that of preserving national security. However, the government introduced press censorship, postponed elections and banned strikes and rallies.**
- **Opposition leaders such as Jivatram Kripalani, Jayaprakash Narayan, Chandra Shekhar, Biju Patnaik, ,**

- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L. K. Advani, Raj Narain, Satyendra Narayan Sinha, Ramnandan Mishra and Morarji Desai were imprisoned,**
- **Along with thousands of other political activists. When the State of Emergency was lifted and new elections called in 1977, opposition political parties such as the Congress “O” Bharatiya Jana Sangh,**
- **Bharatiya Lok Dal as well as defectors from the Congress joined to form the Janata party, which won a sweeping majority in the Indian Parliament.**
- **Narain defeated Gandhi at Rae Bareli in those elections.**
- ❖ **The new Janata-led government reversed many Emergency-era decrees and opened official investigations into Emergency-era abuses.**
- ❖ **Although several major foreign policy and economic reforms were attempted, continuous in-fighting and ideological differences made the Janata government unable to effectively address national problems.**
- ❖ **By mid-1979, Prime Minister Morarji Desai was forced to resign and his successor Chaudhary Charan Singh failed to sustain a parliamentary majority as alliance partners withdrew support.**
- ❖ **Popular disenchantment with the Political in-fighting and ineffective government led to the resurgence of Gandhi and her new Congress (I) Party, which won the General Election called in 1980.**
- ❖ **Although the original Janata Party fragmented and dissolved, modern political parties continue to invoke its legacy.**

PATTALI MAKKAL KATCHI :-

- ❖ **Pattali Makkal Katchi “working People’s Party “ ,abbreviated in English as (PMK) is a Political Party in Tamil Nadu**
- ❖ **India founded by S . Ramadoss in 1989 as a Political outfit for the Vanniyars (OBC).**
- ❖ **The dominant caste in northern Tamil Nadu .**
- ❖ **It is currently part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).**
- ❖ **PMK was founded by S. Ramadoss, an activist, on 16 July 1989.**
- ❖ **Ahead of the 2004 elections, PMK joined the Democratic Progressive Alliance, a broad Tamil political front which also included the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK),**
- ❖ **Indian National Congress (INC), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Indian Union Muslim League.**
- ❖ **PMK was able to obtain a significant share of power both in the regional government in Tamil Nadu and the Central Government due to a significant number of seats they obtained which helped the United Progressive Alliance UPA-I to form the Government.**
- ❖ **Following the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, the PMK joined the United Progressive Alliance led by the INC.**
- ❖ **In June 2008, during the final months of the bitter relationship between the DMK and the PMK,**

- ❖ The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu severed its ties with the PMK, an outside supporter of the Karunanidhi Government.
- ❖ However, the DMK did not press for the party's removal from the UPA Government at the Centre. On 26 March 2009,
- ❖ PMK declared that, it would join the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) led front and left the United Progressive Alliance (UPA).
- ❖ PMK contested in the 2014 Lok Sabha election in an alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party led NDA and its candidate Anbumani Ramadoss Won from Dharmapuri Lok Sabha constituency, where he was one of Two Non-AIADMK MPs from Tamil Nadu the other being from its ally BJP.

**MARUMALARCHI DHIRAVIDA MUNNETRA
KAZHAGAM (MDMK)**

- **Vaiyapuri Gopalsamy better nouns as Vaigo , is an Indian Political .**
- **He is a Member of the Rajya sabha, the upper House of the Parliament of India from Tamilnadu .**
- **He is Founder and General Secretary of the MARUMALARCHI DRAVIDA MUNNETRA KAZHAGAM (MDMK), a Political party active mainly in the Indian State of Tamilnadu.**

- **He was earlier Elected to the Lok Sabha , the lower house of the Parliament from Sivakasi , Tamilnadu.**
- **Vaigo was a member of Rajya Sabha and a party activist of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK).**
- **Vaigo grew in the party from his student days and actively participated in the party agitations and courted imprisonment several times.**
- **He was elected thrice to the Rajya Sabha. In 1994, he was forced out of the parent body as he was seen as a threat to DMK chief Karunanidhi son, M.K. Stalin.**
- **Vaigo along with some district secretaries announced the decision to start a rival party, which became the MDMK.**

Support for Sri Lankan Tamils

- **Vaigo voiced support for Tamils during the Sri Lankan Civil War, including for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam specifically and their goal of secession from Sri Lanka.**

Support for the Mullai Periyar Dam

- **Kerala government was keen to demolish the Mullai Periyar Dam because of safety concerns.**
- **However, the dam's reservoir is a prime source for irrigation for more than 8 districts including Theni.**
- **As a result, Vaigo led an agitation against Kerala Government.**
- **They later withdrew their claim and joined DMK when it was found that they had forged letters of support of party executives.**

- **Due to issues in seat sharing, MDMK quit the ADMK Alliance and boycotted the 2011 Assembly elections of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.**
- **The MDMK protested the Sri Lankan President Mahindra Rajapaksa's visit to Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh in September 2012.**
- **Vaigo and his party members travelled to Sanchi. People who travelled through roadways were stopped by the police near Gadchiroli.**
- **Some party members tried to reach the spot by rail and air but they were detained by police before reaching.**
- **The MDMK left the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in December 2014, accusing the BJP of acting against Tamil interests.**
- **This came after heavy criticism of the party from BJP lawmaker Subramanian Swami.**
- **The Election Symbol is a top.
The colour of the top and bottom panel is red and middle panel is black.**
- **The party has a weekly journal called *Sangoli* which carries news and write ups for party workers.**
- **They contested in many elections and won in a few and boycotted 2011 elections, and despite the UPA alliance in which they were in winning majority seats in Tamil Nadu and all over India in 2004 elections,**
- **In 2014 elections they couldn't do the same in Tamil Nadu, despite their alliance winning the elections in other states.**
- **And in 2016 Tamil nadu state elections they played a key role in forming the third front.**
- **After the defeat 2016 Elections, MDMK has slowly move towards DMK. Before R.K.Nagar by poll Marumalarchi**

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK)

- **Announced their support to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in the Assembly by-poll. The alliance with DMK defined as a significant change because MDMK made an alliance with DMK after a decade.**
- **DMK and they got one Lok Sabha seat.**
- **Former Member of Parliament Ganesha murthi, from Erode constituency, once again won.**
- **In this election, DMK alliance wins 38 out of 39 Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu.**
- **MDMK gets one Lok Sabha seat and one Rajya Sabha seats,**
- **Lok Sabha seat allocated for former parliament member Ganesha murthi and Rajya sabha seat allocated to General Secretary Vaigo.**
- **Vaigo Steps into Rajya Sabha after 20 years.**
