

# international bulletin

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## INSIDE

- ★ Prospects for Kenya communists
- ★ Thomas Sankara remembered
- ★ Venezuela repression
- ★ Palestine hopes and Israeli fears
- ★ Chris Hani assassin freed
- ★ ITUC leader arrested in corruption probe



▲ 11pm Friday 9 December  
As Unity goes to press the Peruvian communists report that Peruvians are marching in Lima to demand the closure of the right-wing majority congress that just ousted Pedro Castillo in a legislative coup.

Rural indigenous communities are said to be marching towards the capital tonight.

## Communists defend democracy against coup

### PCP PERU COUP

For the people what belongs to the people, because the people earned it, for the people what belongs to the people, for a true government of the people! is the slogan of the moment

where the Executive and Legislative confrontation will be determined by the people on the streets. In this perspective, the PCP welcomes the call of the ANP (National Alliance of the People) and the CGTP (General Confederation of Workers) to the Mobilization on

Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. in the glorious Plaza 2 de Mayo to express rejection of the coup of the neo-fascist congress and prevent President Pedro Castillo from fulfilling the commitment to implement the program of national sovereignty, growth and distribution

of wealth, tax reform, new constitution, labour dignified, II agrarian reform, among other points that are vital to confront poverty, corruption and the exploitation of the failed neoliberal model.

STATEMENT OF THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

## Unity for peace and against imperialism



### Ruth Styles /Kevan Nelson HAVANA

COMMUNIST AND Workers parties from across the world met in Havana, Cuba. 145 delegates from 77 parties and from sixty countries assembled at Havana's palace of conventions. The theme of the meeting was solidarity with Cuba and unity against imperialism, capitalism and the threat of fascism.

A total of 117 parties are affiliated to the International Meeting of Communist and

Workers Parties.

After two days of speeches, led by the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) followed by all parties present, a political declaration and a plan of action were agreed unanimously. These documents are available on the Solidnet website ([www.solidnet.org](http://www.solidnet.org)).

Ruth Styles addressed the meeting on behalf of the Communist Party of Britain affirming our party's solidarity with Cuba, our stance on the war in Ukraine and briefing delegates on the intensification of class struggle in Britain.

This was the first meeting of the IMCWP for three years and was a resounding success. A broad unity was achieved despite (both expressed and underlying) divisions and tensions on some key international questions such as the causes of the war in Ukraine and socialist China's role in the world.

The PCC as hosts invested great efforts in securing communist unity, with the politburo attended throughout, chairing each session. Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canal addressed the closing session (above) and resoundingly

reaffirmed that "our horizon continues to be socialism".

The British delegation visited the Cuban Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB). A presentation on the Abdela Covid-19 vaccine, other Cuban biotechnical innovations and research was made by director general Marta Ayala – a member of the PCC political bureau and Dr Merardo Pujol.

On 27 October – following an all-day meeting of the IMCWP working group chaired by PCC's Angel Arzuaga Reyes, 24/25 working group member parties present and 24 other parties in attendance), Ruth Styles was invited to a meeting at the Palace of the Revolution with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel who welcomed delegates on behalf of the PCC, the Cuban government and stressed the importance of the event.

On the morning of 28 October delegates attended an annual commemoration of revolutionary hero Camilo Cienfuegos to mark the anniversary of his disappearance in 1959.

On 28 October the main conference commenced chaired by Roberto Morales Ojeda, organisation secretary of the PCC central committee and political bureau member. The conference was attended by the PCC leadership as well as Fernando Gonzalez of ICAP.

Opening comments were made by PCC, referencing the international and multi-dimensional crisis of capitalism, the unsustainability of the current world order, the unity of the Cuban party, state and people and the commitment to the PCC to the ideas of Jose Marti, Marx and Lenin.



# ON LIBERATION

*Comrades, there is no true social revolution without the liberation of women. May my eyes never see and my feet never take me to a society where half the people are held in silence. I hear the roar of women's silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt.* **Thomas Sankara 1988**

## Prospects for the Kenyan communists



**Nigel Flanagan**  
**KENYA**

**T**HE 2022 KENYAN general election once again demonstrated the ongoing influence of the West in African politics and the reduction of political parties to mostly being deals between leaders manoeuvring for the big jobs in government. The eventual winner President Roti successfully placed himself as an outsider against entrenched interests previously behind the departing President Kenyatta.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Roti was and is a fundamentalist Christian backed by western money who had previously served in government with his opponent Odinga. Odinga himself is an imperialist stooge whose international position is firmly in the camp of imperialists over issues like Palestine and the people of Western Sahara.

Kenya is the fastest expanding economy in Africa, rated number 50 in the world by the World Bank for investment and development. In its 60 years of independence Kenya has developed a fast growing economy and a powerful and very wealthy ruling class in a country with 40% unemployment and still struggles with mass poverty. It also has the fastest growing IT sector in Africa with US funded universities producing graduates capable of working all over the world. Yet bordered by Somalia it also exists as a client state of the USA and the UK, its military trained and armed by them and deployed against Al Shabaab terrorist groups. It is also conversely the recipient of much progressive Chinese investment, the latest example being the construction of the hugely important Nairobi to Mombasa railway.

Within this context it has been difficult for the Communist Party of Kenya to organise in Kenyan society. The Party is young, created in 1992 from the Social Democrat Party. The SDP was not a Communist organisation and was unable to create headway in a society so dominated by rich political elites.

Conversely Communists in Kenya had taken full part in the liberation from Britain only to find itself under the oppression from subsequent Kenya governments who were eager to reassure CIA backed organisations that Kenya was safe from communism. Activists had to flee the country or operate deep under cover as the Moi dictatorship in particular sought to eradicate any communist organisation.

Now however the CPK was able to field candidates and its election slogan for 2022 'Kenyan think outside the box' was designed to breakthrough to those who see the elite power games for what they are. Success in terms of winning seats was not possible and the level of support was very limited – less than 4%. Nevertheless the change in Kenyan politics at a grassroots level – with more and more discussion and debate about economics and the causes of poverty rather than the language and narrative of the elites has created optimism inside the party.

It is also another development inside the party that has created a new leadership. The former General Secretary and Party Chair split from the CPK to join the Kenya Kwanze political alliance, a decision that was ideologically incompatible with the need to build a communist party capable of leading workers in struggle. The reassertion of the need for the party to build amongst workers rather than indulge in more centre-left political manoeuvres has been welcomed by the new leadership. A new surge to reorganise the party is now a priority. The CPK is now launching a fundraiser to equip its new headquarters in Nairobi – see their twitter account @communistske

The CPK faces the prospect of organising workers facing an unprecedented surge of economic growth within a context of deepening poverty and divisions, western influence and the continued exploitation of Africa, its resources and its people. We can assist directly and support their development and we urge comrades to help with their fundraising efforts.

## Viva Sankara!



**Nigel Flanagan**  
**BURKINO FASO**

**T**HIRTY YEARS ago on October 15th 1987 one of Africa's greatest revolutionaries was murdered by former comrades. 'The African Che' as he was known, was shot down in a coup d'état by soldiers who were rebelling against his socialist transformation of Burkina Faso, a landlocked poor remnant of the French colonial empire in West Africa.

Thomas Sankara took power in 1983 and in his 4 years completely changed the lives of the people of Burkina Faso. A long term admirer of the Cuban revolution, he led the country away from the ongoing misery of the domination of French imperialism. He led an unprecedented vaccine programme against yellow fever and meningitis that saved the lives of over 50,000 children, he led the campaign to plant over 10 million trees to halt in a deforestation disaster and his government banned genital mutilation, polygamy and forced marriages. He set up Cuban style democratic 'Committees for the Defence of the Revolution' and created Revolutionary Tribunals to try government officials for corruption. School attendance went up from 6 to 22% in 4 years, homes were built and the powers of tribal elders were stripped back to present a fairer and more democratic society.

His foreign policy was principled and progressive, offering support for the Palestinian people and the fight against Apartheid in South Africa. He developed close links with Cuba and campaigned hard for African independence from former colonial powers. The latter brought him directly into conflict with President Mitterand of France, who continued to try and rule Burkina Faso through economic domination. This also led him into conflict with client African states of France such as neighbouring Ivory Coast, from where inevitably the coup

against him was organised.

His speeches at the Organisation of African States are legendary, rejecting aid and loans as a continuation of colonialism he stated

'He who feeds you, controls you.'

His position on the resistance to colonialism summed up in this statement

'We have to work at decolonizing our mentality and achieving happiness within the limits of sacrifice we should be willing to make. We have to recondition our people to accept themselves as they are, to not be ashamed of their real situation, to be satisfied with it, to glory in it, even'

He lived in a different manner and style to many African leaders. He scrapped all government BMW cars and replaced them with Renault 5 cars, he was often seen out jogging, playing football and playing guitar out in public. His lack of concern for his personal safety was not arrogance, just an assumption that he posed no threat to the people of Burkina Faso.

He was brutally assassinated along with 12 people with whom he was meeting. His body was riddled with 20 bullets. His assassins were acting under the supervision and support of the Governments of France and Ivory Coast.

I have visited his grave of Sankara in Ouagadougou. His body was subjected to a battle over exhumation. His grave site is smashed up and destroyed, the stones of it scattered across a desolate cemetery. The 4 years of Sankara rule was and still is a huge inspiration to African comrades. His grave is desecrated by those who oppose liberation. Sankara will be mourned again across Africa and around the world.

'When the people stand up, Imperialism trembles'.

NIGEL FLANAGAN IS THE AUTHOR OF *OUR TRADE UNIONS: WHAT COMES NEXT AFTER THE SUMMER OF 2022* (MANIFESTO 2022)



### Itikadi

Socialism, theory and practice

is published by the Communist Party of Kenya and can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/2p87z35u>

Solidarity with Cuba and all the struggling peoples. United we are stronger in the anti-imperialist struggle, together with social and popular movements, in the face of capitalism and its policies, the threat of fascism and war; in defence of peace, the environment, workers' rights, solidarity and socialism" <http://www.solidnet.org>





# ON SOCIALISM

Socialism is not about big concepts and heavy theory. Socialism is about decent shelter for those who are homeless. It is about water for those who have no safe drinking water. It is about health care, it is about a life of dignity for the old. It is about overcoming the huge divide between urban and rural areas. It is about a decent education for all our people. Socialism is about rolling back the tyranny of the market. As long as the economy is dominated by an unelected, privileged few, the case for socialism will exist.

**Chris Hani** General secretary of the South African Communist Party and chief of staff of uMkhonto we Sizwe,

## ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE NETS MEPS AND INTERNATIONAL UNION LEADER

Five people were arrested on Friday 9 November in Brussels after investigators made 16 searches into suspicions of “substantial” money payments by a Gulf country to influence MEPs.

They include the current general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation and former general secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation Luca Visentini.

Greek Pasok MEP Eva Kaili – one of 14 vice presidents at the European ‘parliament’ – was arrested, suspended from the socialist group at the Parliament and expelled from PASOK.

Belgium Prosecutors said they had recovered €600,000 in cash and had impounded computers and mobile phones.

“For several months, investigators of the Federal Judicial Police have suspected a Gulf country to influence the economic and political decisions of the European Parliament, this is done so by paying large sums of money or offering large gifts to third parties with a significant political and/or strategic position within the European Parliament,” it said.

Four of the arrested quartet are reported to be Italian: director of No Peace Without Justice NGO Niccolò Figà-Talamanca; trade union leader Luca Visentini; the former S&D MEP Pier-Antonio Panzeri; and parliamentary assistant in the S&D group and Kaili’s partner, Francesco Giorgi.

## SACP condemns the release from jail of Chris Hani assassin

SACP

**CHRIS HANI**

**T**HE SOUTH AFRICAN Communist Party has issued a statement on “on the sickeningly disappointing Constitutional Court judgment releasing Janusz Waluś, the murderer of Comrade Chris Hani”.

Dated Monday 21 November 2022 it said: “The judgment delivered by the Constitutional Court on Monday, 21 November 2022, is sickeningly disappointing, to say the least. The South African Communist Party (SACP) general secretary Solly Mapaila reacted on behalf of the Party to the judgment: “The judgment does not even say anything about the submissions made by the SACP and the Chris Hani family when the court heard this matter.

“The SACP fully supports the family of Chris Hani, who was the general secretary of the SACP when he was assassinated on 10 April 1993. The

assassination of Chris Hani left a gaping wound in his family, the SACP and the ranks of the working-class. The judgment has rubbed salt granules to the wound.

“Hani was assassinated for being a communist, for leading the struggle for democracy in our country, but the Hani family permanently lost a husband, father, uncle, you name it all.

“Like Hani, we are unapologetic for being communists ourselves”, said Mapaila. The judgment has far-reaching implications that compel the SACP to analyse it deeper and look for a new way forward under the circumstances. The reality we now face is that the court failed to protect our right to exist as communists. We will have to protect this right ourselves”.

The Constitutional Court ordered the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services to place on parole within 10 days Janusz Waluś, the assassin who murdered Chris Hani in cold blood on 10 April 1993.

## Communists confront Venezuela repression

Paul Dobson

**VENEZUELA**

**T**HE VENEZUELAN Communist Party (PCV) successfully held its XVI National Congress in November amid heightened attacks from the ruling circles of the United Socialist Party (PSUV) and continued efforts to regroup the grassroots revolutionary forces.

Under the slogans ‘Broad Worker-Popular Unity to Defeat Capital’s Offensive’ and ‘With Dignity, Fighting Spirit and Strength: Communists Forever!’ the Congress marked a key moment in the country’s class struggle.

Reactionary government tendencies have upped their media campaign to divide, annul or delegitimise the internal decision-making of the Party of late as part of efforts to silence its left-wing criticisms and possibly prepare the material conditions for yet another judicial intervention into a sovereign political party.

With hundreds of enthusiastic delegates from the PCV’s branches in upbeat mood, Congress carried out an extensive analysis of the current dire political, economic and social situation that Venezuela’s working class finds itself in, including the widespread rollbacks in workers’ and labour rights won under the Chavez governments and a neoliberal privatising economic package being applied by the Nicolas Maduro government with strong concessions to multinational capital.

Delegates also amended and approved the Party’s political line and programme to prepare for the new offensive and chapter of struggle in the country, in which increasing revolutionary discontent with the bourgeois, pro-capital and anti-worker nature of the government is on the rise.

Likewise, Congress elected the PCV’s reduced Central Committee (CC) of 41 principal and 21 alternative members. At the first meeting of the new CC, comrade Oscar Figuera was reaffirmed as PCV general secretary with comrade Perfecto Nieves as PCV honorary president.

Delegates also paid homage to a number of comrades killed in the class struggle since the XV Congress, including CC member Luis Fajardo, as well as formally welcoming a group of Communist Youth comrades to the rank and file of the Party.

The XVI Congress was accompanied by a host of fraternal international reps, including the JVP (Sri Lanka), KKE (Greece), PCP (Portugal), PCC (Colombia), CPS (Swaziland), CPP (Palestine) and PCM (Mexico).

The CPB was also represented through comrades Rob Griffiths and Irene Green, who received a standing ovation from Congress delegates for the CPB’s flagship solidarity fundraising campaign held this year.

International delegates met with a range of persecuted Venezuelan workers, allied organisations, women’s groups and youth movements during their visit.

PAUL DOBSON LIVES AND WORKS IN VENEZUELA

## New hope in Occupied Palestine. New fears in Israel.



▲ Israeli forces killed a Palestinian teenager on Thursday evening 8 November.

The killing of 17-year-old Diah Muhammad Shafiq al-Rimawi occurred hours after Israeli troops killed three Palestinians during an early morning raid in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin.

Evan Pritchard

**PALESTINE**

**R**EPRESENTATIVES Of 12 Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Fatah, met in Algiers and signed an agreement to hold elections by next October. Voting would take place for the President and the Legislative Council, which acts as a parliament for the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. Elections would also take place for a Palestinian National Council as a representative body for all Palestinians including those living abroad, in refugee camps, in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

The initiative is an attempt to resolve the rift between Hamas and Fatah that has undermined the people’s trust in the Palestinian leadership. The head of the Fatah delegation said, ‘We have signed this agreement to get rid of the malignant cancer of division that has entered the Palestinian body’.

The Algiers agreement comes amid intensifying Israeli raids in the Occupied Territories that has resulted in the deaths of more than 100 Palestinians so far this year. The Palestinian Authority’s Governor of Nablus said that the escalation of violence reflects a complete breakdown of trust in a political solution amid daily confrontations with troops and settlers. Successive Israeli governments have allowed settler expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories in violation of international law. There are at least 250 illegal settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem housing over 600,000 settlers. The unchecked settlement expansion will make the reality of an independent Palestinian State unviable and the prospect of annexation of the West Bank more likely.

The results of the elections in Israel on 1st November have increased the prospect of further expansion of the settlements and the annexation of east Jerusalem as a first step in the process.

The Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said that ‘The results confirm that we have no partner in Israel

for peace. The international community must assume its responsibilities to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and provide protection for our people from the aggressive Israeli policies after the rise of racist parties to power.’

The new Israeli government is likely to see former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned to office. However, the slight fall in the share of votes achieved by his Likud party will mean that he is more dependent on the support of more extreme Right-wing parties to govern. Likud’s allies in the Religious Zionist, Shas and United Torah Judaism parties all increased their votes substantially whilst the ‘left-Zionist’ parties Labor and Meretz achieved far fewer votes with the latter falling below the 3.25% threshold to secure any seats at all in the Knesset (Israel Parliament). A similar fate befell the Arab Balad party that had withdrawn from the Joint List at the last minute. Despite this, the left Hadash and Ta’al Joint List achieved 5 seats and its leader Ayman Odeh vowed that ‘We will always stand firm and strong against evil, supremacy and racism’.

Hadash Member of the Knesset (MK) Aida Touma-Sliman said that ‘We are facing a political reality that should be frightening for everyone. It is a reality in which we have a right wing willing to use violence, wild incitement and deep racism.’ Earlier in October after the killing of five members of a Palestinian armed group in Nablus, she had said ‘Stop the terror of the occupation, enough of the bloodshed! Isn’t it time to understand that the more you deepen the occupation, the more you provoke the resistance?’

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Shtayyeh also said that the Palestinian people will not stop their ‘legitimate struggle to end the occupation, gain their freedom, and establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, regardless of the identity of the winners of the Israeli elections’.

EVAN PRITCHARD IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY’S MIDDLE EAST GROUP



# SOCIALISM & SOVEREIGNTY

What we are not willing to negotiate and what we will not give in one iota is the revolution, socialism and our sovereignty.  
**Miguel Diaz-Canel** First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba

## Greetings to Colombian communists

**Communist Party**  
**COLOMBIA**

Dear Comrades,  
 The Communist Party of Britain (CPB) sends congratulations on the occasion of your 23rd National Congress and the 92nd anniversary since the Colombian Communist Party was founded. We are aware of the titanic struggles of the Colombian Communist Party in confronting imperialism and capitalism over the decades, and we celebrate your political struggle for the dignity and freedom of workers and campesinos.

In the face of state terrorism and policies of scorched earth unleashed against the labour movement by the Colombian-based dominant classes – in alliance with U.S. and British imperialism – Colombian communists have bravely led from the frontlines of the anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist struggle and have been an inspiration to internationalists globally.

The results of the struggle of the communist movement in Colombia are being witnessed today with the recent election of the left-leaning president Gustavo Petro and the growing mobilisation of the extra-parliamentary movement. The Communist Party of Britain salutes your sustained struggle against imperialism as well as your efforts to strengthen the extra-parliamentary organisations of workers and campesinos.

Yours in comradeship,

**Robert Griffiths**  
 General Secretary  
 Communist Party of Britain

## Unity for peace and against imperialism

CONTINUED FROM page 1

Cde Morales Ojeda stated “what unites us all: communists, socialists, revolutionaries and workers? We are united by anti-imperialism, which summarises the common effort to conquer a world of peace and greater social justice”.

A video was shown of the Cuban president visiting Pinar del Rio in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

All parties were invited (in alphabetical order!) to make statement (up to 8 minutes) on the theme of the meeting and the political situation. In a marathon 14 hour session over 50 speeches were made on day one.

On 29 October the second day of the main conference, the remaining speeches were delivered including a well-received contribution by Ruth Styles on behalf of our party. It was agreed that three new parties be added to the Solidnet list – the Reunionese CP, CP of Switzerland and Swiss CP. A final declaration focused on the global economic and political situation was agreed by consensus.

A Plan of Action was adopted proposing activities to strengthen the unity of the international communist and workers movement.

At the closing ceremony the Cuban president of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel spoke of the centrality of work and example to the

### WHERE THE US HAS BOMBED SINCE WWII

Korea and China 1950 - 1953	Guatemala 1967 - 1969		
Guatemala 1954	Grenada 1983	Kuwait 1991	
Indonesia 1958	Lebanon 1983, 1984	Somalia 1993	Iraq 2003 - present
Cuba 1959 - 1961	Libya 1986	Bosnia 1994, 1995	Pakistan 2007 - 2015
Guatemala 1960	El Salvador 1980s	Sudan 1998	Somalia 2007 - 2008
Congo 1964	Nicaragua 1980s	Afghanistan 1998	2011 - present
Laos 1964 - 1973	Iran 1987	Yugoslavia 1999	Yemen 2009, 2011 - present
Vietnam 1961 - 1973	Panama 1989	Afghanistan 2001 - present	Libya 2011
Cambodia 1969 - 1970	Iraq 1991	Yemen 2002	2015 - 2019
			Syria 2014 - 2018

socialist project; the importance of marxist ideas and of testing them in practice; resisting and standing up to imperialism worldwide; the value of Communists learning from and reflecting on each others experiences in unity.

All contributions are being published on Solidnet website. Outstanding speeches were made by the CPC (China), PCE (Spain), PTB (Belgium), CPI(M), PPP (Palestine), PCP (Portugal) and CPUSA. There was absolute unity on solidarity with Cuba and opposition to US/EU imperialism. However there were sharp differences on the war in Ukraine and more nuanced difference on international alliances such as BRICS, neo-liberalism and multipolarity. A small minority of contributions were hostile to China.

The British delegation held bilateral discussions were held with the communist parties of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Syria, Venezuela and Workers Party of Belgium. Informal talks were held with delegates from many other parties.

Our Party will be a member of the IMCWP working group for 2023-25 along with 34 other parties. The 2023 IMCWP will be held in Turkey.

**CPB contribution**  
<https://tinyurl.com/39mkkx5b>

**Final declaration**  
<https://tinyurl.com/3fax8f6z>

**Plan of action**  
<https://tinyurl.com/34fahp23>

RUTH STYLES IS CHAIR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY  
 KEVAN NELSON IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

## BJP victory in Gujarat and defeat in Delhi

**CPI M**  
**INDIAN ELECTIONS**

Of the three elections that have taken place, the BJP has got a sweeping victory in Gujarat. But it has lost the other two elections – the Himachal Pradesh assembly polls and the Delhi municipal corporation election.

In Gujarat, the BJP's fifth successive victory is a confirmation of the deep communal polarization that has been engineered by the BJP-RSS over the last three decades. The projection of a pan-Hindu identity along with the rhetoric about Gujarati pride have overcome the more vital issues like price rises, unemployment and poor public health and educational facilities.

In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress victory constitutes a stinging defeat for the BJP which had put in all its resources and state machinery to try to retain power. The popular discontent over BJP misrule prevailed.

In Delhi, the elections to the unified municipal corporation has resulted in the Aam Aadmi Party defeating the BJP which had held the corporation for the past fifteen years. The people of Delhi have withstood all the blandishments and manoeuvres of the BJP and the Central government.

The results of Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have exposed the vulnerability of the BJP despite its huge money power and resources. The limits of the much-touted Modi factor have also come to the fore. The opposition parties should draw the proper lessons from these results and draw up plans to put up an effective united opposition to the BJP state-wise by marshaling all the forces. Source: CPIM

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