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Maruti Manpade, CPI(M) leader, succumbs to COVID-19

He was involved
in many struggles
for three decades

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Maruti Manpade, 65, senior communist leader of Karnataka, succumbed to COVID-19 at a private hospital in Solapur, Maharashtra, on Tuesday. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Mr. Manpade, a leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), was known for the last three decades for his involvement in struggles with farmers, agricultural labourers, and unorganised workers, particularly in the northern districts of Karnataka. Leading mass struggles from the front, Mr. Manpade was ar-

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Maruti Manpade

rested several times. Even during the COVID-19 lockdown, Mr. Manpade had raised several issues of unorganised workers, especially those forced to migrate amid economic crisis.

Based in Kalaburagi for a long time, Mr. Manpade was concerned about the growers of red-gram, black-gram and green-gram - crops extensively grown in the district. He often criticised the Union

government's import policy that, he argued, was the direct and major reason for the sufferings of the growers. He had strongly opposed the duty-free import of pulses in large quantities from big players. He had been demanding at least 30% duty on the import of pulses.

Mr. Manpade had also tried his hand in electoral politics by contesting once for Bidar Lok Sabha constituency and thrice for Kamalapur and Gulbarga Rural constituencies, but without success. Several political leaders condoled the death of Mr. Manpade. Organisations, including Janavadi Mahila Sanghatane and Karnataka Prantha Raita Sangha, recalled his contributions to the struggles of farmers and workers.