

Proletarian Era

LONG LIVE COMRADE LENIN



22 April 1870 — 21 January 1924

...how is the discipline of the revolutionary party of the proletariat maintained? How is it tested? How is it reinforced? First, by the class consciousness of the proletarian vanguard and by its devotion to the revolution, by its perseverance, self-sacrifice and heroism. Secondly, by its ability to link itself with, to keep in close touch with, and to a certain extent, if you like, to merge with the broadest masses of the toilers — primarily with the proletariat, but also with the non-proletarian toiling masses. Thirdly, by the correctness of the political leadership exercised by this vanguard, by the correctness of its political strategy and tactics, provided that the broadest masses have been convinced by their own experience that they are correct. Without these conditions, discipline in a revolutionary party that is really capable of being the party of the advanced class, whose mission it is to overthrow the bourgeoisie and transform the whole of society, cannot be achieved. Without these conditions, all attempts to establish discipline inevitably fall flat and end in phrase-mongering and grimacing. On the other hand, these conditions cannot arise all at once. They are created only by prolonged effort and hard-won experience. Their creation is facilitated by correct revolutionary theory, which, in its turn, is not a dogma, but assumes final shape only in close connection with the practical activity of a truly mass and truly revolutionary movement.”

(Left-wing Communism — An Infantile Disorder)

Capitalism in Total Disarray

If one looks at the global scenario today, what would one come across? One after another severe economic crises are tearing the toiling millions apart. Misery and penury of the working people are soaring sky high. Attendant political turmoil and calamities are taking heavy toll on people's life and livelihood. Wars, military aggressions and armed conflicts are snatching away the lives of lakhs of innocent people, destroying properties and evicting millions from their home and hearth. Accumulated wrath and discontent against such a strangulating life is often bursting forth but then fizzling out after some time precipitating despair and despondency among the people. If one takes a voyage around the world, one can oneself find how grave the situation is.

Spectacle of US, the locomotive of capitalist economy

If we begin our journey from US, reckoned as the locomotive of capitalist economy and the most developed country in the world, the rickety face of dying capitalism would be so glaring. Right now, the

US is having a 'shutdown' (suspension of all government expenditures) because the US Congress has not accorded approval to an expenditure of \$ 570 billion proposed by President Trump to erect a wall across Mexican border to stall ingress of migrants from Latin American countries. Why does Trump want this wall now? Because, he, as the spokesman of the ruling US monopolists has been arguing that all the immigrants are grabbing the jobs in US rendering the American youths jobless. So, entry of immigrants from all other countries, both through legal as well as illegal routes must be prevented. But is that the real reason? Or isn't it that the economy of imperialist US is in total doldrums and the US President is trying to shift attention from real cause by putting the blame on the immigrants? Most of the bourgeois economists including most of the renowned official quarters based in US are admitting that based on the technical parameters prescribed by the textbooks of bourgeois economy like GDP growth rate,

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Historic 'Mahamichhil' for immediate reintroduction of pass-fail system from Class I and other burning demands

Months of eagerly waiting came to an end when the sun dawned upon the city of Kolkata on 30 January 2019, to herald a day history would deposit what it held for the people not only of the state of West Bengal but of the entire country. When the somnolent metropolis was awakening to its daily hustle bustle, the vast area of Hedua Park in North Kolkata was already a scene of bustling activity. Nearly a lakh people from all walks of life — workers, peasants, teachers, professors, professionals, the youth, the students, women, the

old who walked with difficulty, the middle-aged, mothers with babies in arms from all the districts of the state had rallied in that nook of the capital city to take part in the mammoth procession (Mahamichhil) to Rani Rashmoni Road, the heart of the City, on demand for immediate introduction of pass-fail system right from Class I, and other burning demands like closing all wine shops and stopping issuance of new licences for them, bringing swift end to violation on our womenfolk, giving

Contd. on page 5



The Mahamichhil of 30 January: Kolkata witnesses a surge of people resolved to fight till demands are met

Capitalism

Globalization, once claimed to be a panacea is now turned into a poison for crisis-ridden capitalism

Contd. from page 1

unemployment rate, consumer confidence etc., US is poised to face stiffer recession in the current year. What is recession? Recession is economic stagnation reflected in stockpiling of goods, dip in production and concomitant slide in employment caused by steady fall in the purchasing power of the people—an inevitability in capitalism. Another indicator of sustained recession in the parlance of bourgeois economy is a rising budget deficit. The federal budget of US recorded a deficit of \$985 billion (Income \$3.422 trillion and spending \$4.407 trillion) for the current fiscal year. This deficit is 18% more than that of last year. One of the major reasons of this deficit has been drastic cut in corporate taxes. In order to finance the yawning budget deficit, the US government is resorting to massive borrowing. Officially, the sovereign debt of the country is stated to be around \$21 trillion (1 trillion = 1000 billion or 1 lakh crore) which is 107% of country's GDP and equal to 31.8% of the world's sovereign debt nominally. But unofficial sources put the figure to be as high as \$70 trillion. US is the biggest debtor economy in the world. It is pertinent to mention here that when the sovereign debt of Greece crossed 120% of GDP, it was declared bankrupt.

Because of continued recession, job opportunities are squeezed. So, there is a growing discontent among the unemployed or underemployed American people particularly American youth. It is further revealed in the media that 6.7% of the population—or 21.3 million people—live in deep poverty, with incomes below 50% of their poverty thresholds. Over 553,742 people were officially reported to be homeless on a single night across the US a year back. These homeless people seem to be almost everywhere, sleeping on cardboard or bare ground under bridges and trees with their belongings in plastic bags symbolized lives on the move, no age spared. Around 44 million impoverished US citizens feed on food stamps (alms-house). In glaring contrast, just three richest individuals collectively hold more wealth than the bottom 50% of the domestic population, and one fifth of the Americans “have zero or negative net worth” (meaning no wealth to fall

back upon), reported Forbes. According to The New York Times, the richest 1 percent in the United States now own more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. “The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer in the United States indicating that “US income inequality continues to grow”, observed CNBC on 19 July last. Since no amount of trickeries could hide this reality from the affected people, we saw spontaneous outbreak of the “Occupy Wall Street” movement eight years back with the slogan “We Are The 99% that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%”. This movement spread like wildfire not only throughout the USA but also inspired surge of similar movements in other countries. Even today, the streets of US are witnessing one after another massive movement, against wage cut, lay-off and even privatization of education.

To hide this reality to the agitating US people, the US rulers are now pointing finger at the immigrants. Not only that. Drifting away from the much-trumpeted prescriptions of globalization, the US rulers are now desperately trying to stall foray of foreign goods particularly from China by raising tariff walls meaning inhibiting of free flow of goods across the border. Similarly, as against the slogan of turning the world into a “global village”, they are now talking of “America First”. But despite whipping up of such national jingoism and anti-immigrant hatred, the US rulers are not succeeding in soothing the frayed temper of the aggrieved US citizens. Rather, the people are asking why the imperialist rulers who are unable to provide food, clothing, shelter or jobs to their own people are spending billions of dollars on militarization and orchestrating wars of aggression and occupation on foreign lands far away from the home country? Why are they mercilessly killing innocent foreign citizens on false pretext? What might not be yet clear to many aggrieved US citizens is that this increased militarization of economy by curtailing allocations on public welfare is a last ditch attempt on the part of the imperialist rulers to artificially stimulate the economy and unleashing localized and partial wars besides aimed at extending spheres of influence and establishing firm control on rich natural resources like oil etc. of foreign lands, are also helping in releasing stockpiles of

arms. This is how economic and political interests are entwined. This, in fine, is the nature of economic and political attack crisis-ridden gasping imperialism-capitalism are bringing down on oppressed people.

Contradictions within European Union

If we move to Europe, the spectacle would be equally grim. It bears recall that in order to combat dominance of US and dollar in world economy and politics, secure their internal markets from US invasion and grab larger share of global market, the European powers thought that they needed to unite in a combination resolving their mutual contradictions, at least temporarily through non-antagonistic, peaceful means and banking on cosmopolitanism, yet retaining their respective national interests. Following that, first 28 European powers formed the European Union and then was floated euro as a common currency which however was accepted only by 19 member countries of EU including Germany and France. But Britain stayed out of Eurozone and retained pound as its currency. However, the very purpose for which EU was conceived was far from being fulfilled. Rather, the internal contradictions within the EU members centering on market became more acute. Particularly, the contradiction between weaker powers like Greece, Portugal and Spain and stronger powers like Germany and France has been very obvious. Over and above, the US imperialists through launch of globalization posed further problem before EU. Coupled with accentuating market crisis of capitalism, the very existence of EU and euro was threatened. Ridden by market crisis, none of these countries could keep their internal contradictions and conflicts at bay. And now many of the EU members want to come out of it.

France is shivering on a tottering base

France is now rocked by surging “Yellow Vest” movement. This movement is now spreading fast in other countries as well. From the bitter experiences of their life, the French people are now realizing that despite all talks of liberalism, artistry and intellectualism, the ground reality is that their country is a capitalist-imperialist country, and they, as worst victims, are thrown into the putrid

quagmire of the crisis-ridden capitalist system. Sunk in the insolvable crisis of capitalism, France, which heralded the dawn of Western renaissance and crumbling of age old inertia of feudalism-monarchism through accomplishment of bourgeois democratic revolution, has nothing to offer to its people other than bunches of deception and deprivation to shield its continuing economic downturn stemming from endemic crisis of capitalism. France, like other Western countries, has seen a deep gap grow between its richest and poorest citizens. France's richest 1 per cent represent over 20 per cent of the economy's wealth. The very demands of ‘Yellow Vest’ movement, the intensity of which forced French President Macron to cut short his foreign visit and rush to homeland, and which has still not receded despite the president's announcement of suspending a planned fuel tax increase, show the peril of the French people. They are plagued by rising unemployment (stated to have mounted to 37%), declining living standards and eroding purchasing power. All have worsened in the aftermath of Europe's long-running financial crisis. Large numbers of permanent jobs were wiped out, especially in rural and former industrial areas. And many of the new jobs being created are precarious temporary contracts. Slapping of a value added tax of 20 per cent on most goods and services have made the French people back-broken. On the other hand, consequent to a tax cut of over 3.2 billion euros for the rich, falling GDP growth rate, rising trade deficit (import overtaking export), the new estimated deficit will be as high as 2.5 percent of GDP which would entail more borrowings and in turn further spurt in sovereign debt which is already 97% of GDP. This is the whirlpool of capitalist crisis. Significantly, the “Yellow Vest” movement has also raised the slogan Anti-capitalista (Down with capitalism) indicating that some awareness about the truth is generating among the agitating French citizens.

Britain is in doldrums

Neither Britain nor Germany, the two other European majors, are in any better position. A rosy picture was painted by the official British quarters that Britain has come out of the recession it tumbled into in 2008-

Contd. on page 7

Anti-Science Campaign in Indian Science Congress

Integral part of RSS-BJP attack to kill rationality and secular-scientific bent of mind

Is the 'Indian Science Congress', long-considered a prestigious platform for exchange and interaction among scientists of India, even of other countries, gradually becoming a platform to spread unscientific ideas during the RSS-BJP combine-led Modi regime? The incidents of the last few years and the proceedings of successive science congresses are causing this apprehension to grow. Alarmed scientists, science organisations and science-loving people of the entire country are protesting and taking to the streets. They have already organised 'March for Science' during the last two years in different parts of the country and gave a call to people to take part in it as a protest. As brought out by Prof Jayant Murthy, the Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics in an article in the newspaper *The Hindu*, some organizations like the Breakthrough Science Society are trying to break the chains of superstition, though their efforts still fall far short of the necessity.

The attack on science, rather the anti-science campaign was initiated under the garb of the RSS-BJP's agenda of *Indianization* of education through a series of books by a RSS ideologue Dinanath Batra, which were praised by none other than the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and were made compulsory in primary and secondary schools of Gujarat. Almost at the same time, as far back as in 2014, Narendra Modi himself added fuel to the fire while inaugurating a private hospital in Mumbai. He claimed that plastic surgery was invented in ancient India, of which irrefutable proof lies in the image of *Ganesha*, with an elephant's head mounted on human torso. This was a ridiculous and sheer unscientific idea expressed in an open forum, while Batra's books catered a blend of blind faith and religious bigotry to the budding generations. Obviously, such high-level inauguration uncorked the bottle. Since then, Cabinet and party colleagues of Mr. Modi, ministers, MLAs, MPs and also ideologues, motivated educationists and leaders of the BJP-RSS have been passing such remarks almost every day and in an ever-increasing nonchalant manner. A few instances will show the nature of these claims.

Satyapal Singh, a former IPS

officer turned politician, an important member of Modi's cabinet and the minister of state of HRD (Human Resource Development), told that Darwin's Theory of Evolution is erroneous from 'scientific angle' as none observed anywhere that a monkey had evolved into a human being ever. So, he suggested its exclusion from the academic syllabus. Basudev Debnani, the former Education Minister of Rajasthan claimed that the cows exhale oxygen. The Chief Minister of Tripura, Mr. Biplab Deb, went a step ahead to claim that internet was available during the days of the *Mahabharata*, otherwise how could *Sanjaya* make live commentary of the *Kurukshetra War* to *Dhritarashtra*? Captain Bodas claimed in the Indian Science Congress in 2015 that aeroplane was invented in India long back in the Vedic period and that could fly not only between continents, but even between planets. Mr. Harshavardhana, the Union Science and Technology Minister, claimed in 2018 Science Congress held in Manipur that Stephen Hawking, the renowned scientist who expired recently, had opined that the *Sutras* of the *Vedas* are more advanced than the $E = mc^2$ theory of the great scientist Prof. Albert Einstein. However, he did not care to place any evidence in favour of his wild claim. Shankarbhaj Vegad, a BJP MP from Gujarat said in the Rajya Sabha that Dung and urine from cows are more potent than medicines and can cure deadly diseases like cancer. But he has not till date clarified why, in that event, RSS-BJP leaders and ministers are going abroad for treatment of complicated diseases including cancer.

Coming to the Science Congress, the latest of such comments have been pronounced by Prof. Nageswar Rao, the Vice Chancellor of the Andhra University in the 106th session of the Indian Science Congress held at Jalandhar (Punjab) from 3 to 7 January 2019. In his speech, he claimed that long before Darwin's Theory of Evolution, the *Dashavatar* (Ten *Avatars*) theory of the *Geeta* had explained the evolution of living creatures in a better way. At the same time he claimed the *Kauravas* were born from stem cell with the help of IVF method (test-tube baby

technology). He further claimed that *Sudarshan Chakra* of *Lord Vishnu* was actually a missile which would come back to its launcher after striking the target; he claimed that *Ravana* not only had *Pushpaka Vimana*, but also aircrafts of 24 models of different size and capacity. Kannan Jagathala Krishnan, another speaker, claimed that it is absolutely incorrect to hold that the modern physics developed through scientific endeavours of Newton-Einstein and other great scientists. Ludicrous though, he demanded renaming the 'gravitational wave' as '*Modi Wave*' and the curving of light-rays due to gravity be called '*Harshavardhana Phenomena*'.

All these claims are the same in essence. These are nothing but unscientific and unhistorical glorification of achievements of science and technology in ancient India. Deliberately misconstrued and irrational, these are not merely making the Indian science community ridiculous to the world. These are based on irrational blind faith and religious bigotry which spells ominous doom for science itself. None of these are substantiated by any concrete verifiable evidence or scientific arguments, to establish their veracity, though the latter are the pillars on which modern science stands. Instead, these claims based on personal belief are attempts to portray mythological stories and anecdotes such as those from the epics like the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* and such others as scientific achievements and historic truths. Deliberate distortion of information and falsehood accompany these in most cases. Clearly this is nothing but a frantic effort to implant the agenda of the *Hindutva* in the mass mind trumpeting the glory of the Vedic period.

Contradiction between blind faith and science has been going on since the beginning of human history. When based upon prolonged observation and theorization, Copernicus or Galileo proved that the earth is not motionless, rather moving round the sun at a great pace, people of the then society could not readily accept it. It was because the Church and the Bible had taught them just the opposite: the earth is still and the sun is

moving around it. It was a painstaking battle for the scientists to overcome this obstacle. Again, Darwin's theory of organic evolution did not see the light in a day, nor was it based on his personal belief. The scientific temper which was in the offing in his society, prompted Darwin to take part in a sea-voyage for five long years to study nature, observe the characteristics of the flora and fauna of two American continents with great patience, venture on to their mountains and forests, collect large amount of fossils and then come back to his country to study the evidences collected and conduct experiments on them for twelve long years. Only after such an arduous struggle, he could arrive at his conclusion suggesting origin of species through Natural Selection, that is the theory of organic evolution. But in this case too, majority of the people didn't accept it easily. Deeply entrenched in age-old belief and religious blindness, even the educated people tried to refute Darwin's theory, often on flimsy arguments. Instances are galore. Science had always had to make its way combating anti-science, superstitions, old hang-over beliefs, blindness and religious bigotry.

The recent anti-science campaign from the platform of the Indian Science Congress and the scientists' prompt protest against it, unambiguously show that the contradiction and struggle are still on. Fore-ranking scientists, research scholars and science-loving people organized demonstrations in Bangalore (Karnataka), Cochin and Kottayam (Kerala), Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh), Agartala (Tripura), Guna and Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), Kolkata (West Bengal), Delhi and many other cities. In many of the leading universities and colleges of different states of the country, students and professors staged protests. Prof. Mohan Rao, the former Director of Centre for Cell and Molecular Biology protested this anti-science stand of the Science Congress in a Press Conference held in Hyderabad. Renowned cosmologist Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar alongwith 37 scientists sent a letter to the President of Indian Science Congress Association to take effective measures to stop such

Contd. on page 4

Anti-Science campaign stands on falsehood and distortion

Contd. from page 3

kind of anti-science activities from the platform of science in future. Reportedly, the President of the Indian Science Congress Association could not ignore this strong protest of the Indian scientific community, apologized and promised to take measures. Remarks of Prof. Jayant Murthy have been mentioned above. Added to these, while taking part in a demonstration in Calcutta University, well-known scientist Professor Amitava Datta raised the questions in a press-briefing: Is it really necessary at all, to mention Ram-Ravana-Gandhari with a view to highlighting the progress of science in ancient India? For the same purpose, was it not required to mention the glorious development in astronomy, algebra, trigonometry and medical sciences etc., achieved through the contributions of the famous scientists like Charak, Shooshruta, Kanad, Aryabhata, Barahamihir, Brahmagupta, Bhaskaracharya and others?

The pertinent question that crops up here is, will these protests prove adequate to prevent the campaigners of anti-science from carrying on with their agenda further. We cannot ignore the reality that, as the education system of our country is not truly scientific, even the educated do not develop a scientific bent-of mind. They learn science, but do not learn the scientific methodology. They are taught of what happened in the past but are not taught how we could get to know those. They are provided with facts, but not the evidences on which the history is reconstructed. The students learn by rote and are made to believe what they learn; they are not taught to question and judge by themselves.

The vendors of anti-science make use of this lacuna. They try to convince people that the narratives in the epics, *Purana-Upanishad* and mythologies depict what really happened in the past, all these are parts of history. Undoubtedly, the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*,

are literary works of very high standard. And as in all other literary creations, the characters and events depicted in these two epics are also imaginary. The poets had stitched together their imaginations into the verses and songs. It is also proved today that neither the *Ramayana*, nor the *Mahabharata* was composed by a single poet. Rather these were the collective creations of innumerable unknown poets who composed them through a period of seven or eight centuries. It means that imaginations, desires, pains, sorrows and happiness of many people of several centuries accumulated in these epics to build up and enrich these literary creations. So, it is futile to search the history of any particular period in them.

These campaigners of wild claims do not stop at tracing out history in these epics, they also look for science and technology in them. The epic mentions *Pushpaka Vimana*; the campaigners quote it as evidence of aeroplane existing then. There are tales of *Brahmastra*; it is referred to prove atom bomb existing in those days. How could *Gandhari* give birth to her hundred sons and a daughter? So, the campaigners have put forth their theory that the stem-cell methodology was then known and could make this impossible feat take place. There is a giant-body named *Ghatotkach* in the *Mahabharata*; he confirms genetic technology being known at that time. Such are the arguments put forward by the anti-science campaigners.

Here one should not miss that nobody could or did claim that aircrafts existed in the period of the *Mahabharata* till aeroplane was known to mankind. Before the invention of atom bomb, none could claim that *Pashupat Astra* or *Brahmastra* are nothing but atom bombs. None could either imagine that a mother could bear 101 children, before the stem-cell method was known to man. Never before 1980s when internet technology was produced, could anybody make a claim that people of the days of the

Mahabharata had known its use. Had the *Vedas*, *Upanishadas*, *Puaranas*, epics and mythologies contained elements of modern science, anybody could have made these inventions and develop the technologies long before they were done, just by studying their verses and *shlokas*. Nobody could.

No technology springs out of nothing all on a sudden. Before inventing aeroplane, man had to know the laws of aerodynamics, electricity and thermodynamics. Before producing an atom bomb or revealing the prospect of atomic energy, it was required to know the laws of micro-particles of atoms and the principles of quantum mechanics. Before stepping into the era of genetic engineering, the laws of heredity and knowledge about the character of DNA needed to be brought out. Technology does not precede basic science which entails understanding the laws of nature in that particular field. So, these theories did not come into being, nor could these, even as traces, in the world of knowledge or mindset of people during the *Vedic* period.

A theory is formulated in science, only after following a scientific methodology, which involves going through the processes of experimentation—observation—inference and verification. Likewise, in history an inference is taken as established, only when it has the strong support of evidence only. Let us take one instance. Had aeroplane been invented in ancient India, at least some broken parts or fragments were likely to be found during any excavations. There must have been some account of such a thing in ancient literature. In reality, *Vymanik Shastra* by Maharshi Bharadwaj referred by Captain Bodas, mentioned above, could not have been written earlier than 1904 to be published in 1951 by some AM Josyer, the founder of International Sanskrit Academy at Mysore. Sanskrit *slokas* quoted by Captain Bodas originated from one Pandit Subbaraya Shastry, of early 20th century, an associate of whom Ellappa, a draughtsman in a local engineering college, made the sketches of those so called ancient Indian planes. A group of young scientists from the departments of aeronautical and mechanical engineering of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) worked on the sketches and published their report in 1974, confirming that ‘None of the planes has properties or capabilities of being flown; the geometries are unimaginably horrendous from the point of view of

flying’. Captain Bodas claimed Maharshi Bharadwaj’s works as 9000 years old, though the name found reference only in *slokas* of the late Vedic age, not older than 1000 years. So the issue of ancient aeroplane in India and related paper placed in the Indian Science Congress were no more than clear cases of chicanery, a complete lack of minimum honesty and authenticity. (Sources: The Hindu 3,4,6 January 2015; Indian Express 6 January, Delhi Edition, p2; Deccan Herald, 9 January 2015; The Statesman, Kolkata Edition, 11 January 2015) This instance speaks of futility of going into more instances.

Thrashing this religious bigotry Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, the pioneer of secular humanism in Indian Renaissance, said that the bigots had forgotten to look forward. They did not easily accept any invention of the western countries. But if in any invention they find the least similarity with anything of the Vedic period, their ego shoots up boundlessly. They argue, when everything is in the *Vedas* what is the necessity of acquiring western knowledge and science? Satirically referring to this conservative as well as reactionary mentality, renowned scientist Dr. Meghnad Saha told, ‘(they think) there is everything in the *Vedas*’. The fight of Vidyasagar and Meghnad Saha and their likes need be resumed in a new form today.

The anti-science forces, now in central governmental power, want to destroy the reasoning power and secular-scientific temperament of people and instead inject blindness, bigotry and superstition. They cannot deny the necessity of science, particularly its technological aspects in modern life. So, they are crushing scientific bent of mind and truth-seeking mindset, emphasizing upon only the technical aspects of science. This is characteristic of fascism. Long ago, exposing this character of fascism Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the great Marxist thinkers of this era, showed, “The ideological and cultural foundation of fascism is built through a peculiar fusion of spiritualism and technical aspects of science”. Today the BJP-RSS combine backed by their mentor and master, the Indian monopolists are giving effect to the very design. They know, if people are kept ignorant and blind, they can continue their rule of exploitation. If people do not become aware of this danger before it is too late, it will only lead us to catastrophe, to pay dearly for.

Medical Students Movement in Karnataka

At the initiative of AIDS, medical students from almost all the colleges of Karnataka have started a movement against the State Government’s proposal to introduce NRI quota in Under and Post Graduate seats of Government Medical Colleges. Students in hundreds are also protesting against the proposed hike in fees at under graduate and post-graduate levels from 17,000 to 60,000 and from 50,000 to 3,40,000 respectively and the overall commercialization of education. Opposing the draconian policies of the Government to curb education and cause the poor, though meritorious students to opt out, students carried on intensive campaign even boycotting classes. State-level conventions have also been planned. Protests were held in different districts including at Gulbarga, Bellary, Mysore, Shimoga and many other places.

US IMPERIALISTS—HANDS OFF VENEZUELA

The people of Venezuela are in urgent need of solidarity to stand against this blatant attempt to overthrow a democratic government by the US imperialist rulers. The US imperialist move follows an oft-repeated scenario that they have been giving effect to since the days of the dreaded Cold War till to date.

The progressive, legitimately democratically elected government of Venezuela, headed by President Nicolas Maduro, is currently the target of an active coup attempt by the right-wing opposition, headed by Juan Guaidó, a former bus driver and trade unionist because Maduro has continued the progressive reforms of Hugo Chavez, former departed President of the and, using the nation's oil wealth to benefit the people of Venezuela rather than the avaricious US corporations. Maduro was re-elected for a second term in May 2018 by 68% of the popular vote.

But Guaidó, the opposition leader who Donald Trump has recognized as the "interim president" of Venezuela even though not a single common Venezuelan has cast a vote for him, is supported by the wealthy elite of Venezuela, whose power has been eroded by nearly 20 years of the Bolivarian Revolution. Venezuela is a small oil rich nation and US oil companies want to have total control over the oil resources to make super profits. Trump told aides in August 2017 to prepare a contingency plan for US military intervention in Venezuela. It has played the similar game in oil-rich Middle East, Central Asia countries like Iraq, Syria and Libya. Forcible regime change and toppling of duly elected governments in so many countries violating all the international norms are the characteristic features of US imperialism and its allies all over the world. Chile in the 1970s was an early example in Latin America, wherein it installed a despotic Military dictatorship by bringing down the duly elected government using

its notorious espionage machinery, as soon as Chilean Government started nationalisation of US-owned oil companies and copper mine corporations. Subsequently, it is the absence of the socialist camp that has given further free hand to the imperialists headed by the US imperialists to intervene and launch open military



Protest in Venezuela

attack on other countries in the interest of US monopoly capital and MNCs. The hypocrisy of the US imperialists is particularly evident this time in Venezuela too. In the same breath they say they ignore Venezuela order for full closure of the US embassy as they do not believe Maduro was still the president but asking Maduro at the same time to ensure safety of the US diplomats in Venezuela, as the reports go.

Latin America has already immensely

suffered due to US-backed right-wing coups that have killed thousands of innocent citizens and pushed millions more into abject poverty and misery just for serving the economic and political interests of the US ruling class and the local elites. People of Venezuela have unitedly come on streets to oppose this US intervention and they will not let US to install its puppet President in Venezuela. Many freedom loving organisations from all over world including those from the US have demanded the US Government to keep away from VENEZUELA SOIL. Also in response to this unprovoked attack, the "Emergency Hands off Venezuela Committee" has been formed by the people of Florida, US. Any military intervention by the US imperialists to orchestrate forced regime change in Venezuela disdaining world people's opinion might cost them dearly.

We appeal to all the right thinking and democratic minded people from all over the world to raise their voice against this US threat, forcible intervention to topple the duly elected Government in Venezuela and stop the installation the puppet regime.

AIAIF strongly condemns US-sponsored conspiracy to dislodge Venezuelan President

In a statement dated 24 January 2019, All India Anti-imperialist Forum (AIAIF) strongly condemned the heinous imperialist sponsored move to oust from power the democratically elected President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela and called upon the people of all nations not to be deceived by the false propaganda of USA and rise up in protest against the manipulations of the US imperialists and stand firmly by the Venezuelan masses who are struggling to protect their sovereignty.

March for immediate reintroduction of Pass-fail system from Class I

Contd. from page 1

decent jobs to all unemployed, and so on. Waves upon waves of a massive multitude, country witnessed, surged along the streets of Kolkata flanked by countless expectant onlookers cheering the bold march of the conscious vanguards of the oppressed millions. Whole city came to a standstill. The rally organized by the West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI(C) unmasked the politics behind the governments' policy of destroying the thinking faculty of millions of school students through its No Detention policy till class VIII. The governments assume that this policy will help the exploitative capitalist system to remain in power unopposed, unscathed. But this rally gave it a lie. It sent a powerful message that despite all dehumanising conspiracy on the part of the ruling class and its caretaker governments of different hues, people shall not bow down because they have found the ideology and leadership they had been searching for long. From SUCI(C) alone people hear these and related demands close to their heart who more

and more join the growing mass movement that has taken an all India shape. This rally is a part of the sustained mass movement that our Party is organising round the country on burning problems of people's life.

Chants and prayers cannot mollify hunger and humiliation. It's the brute truth. So people who suffer a million way may be the Hindus or the Muslims, higher castes or lower castes, speaking Bengali, Assamese, Hindi or Tamil, workers or peasants, girls and women—either trafficked or violated—all exploited poor or middle class, cannot but crave for emancipation. This movement is a mighty protest against the communal venom and fundamentalist ideas recklessly spread by the RSS-BJP to wedge a divide among the toiling masses, against equally pernicious policies pursued and thoughts disseminated by the Congress, against all lies incessantly propagated by the monopoly-controlled media and columnists-analysts-commentators on the pay-roll of the ruling bourgeoisie, against the foulest murder of the

rational eminent men and calculated attack on rational thinking process and scientific temper. It's a movement that no brutality on mass movements can deter aroused people from joining them. The rally also distinguished between the line of class and mass struggles to uphold the people's cause and the opportunistic politics of bourgeois parliamentarism practised by the vote-based parties for pelf and power. The historic rally of 30 January eloquently testified to this truth.

The West Bengal government, at the face of the overwhelming people's response to the general strike call by our Party on 17 July 2017, conceded in writing that it would introduce pass-fail system from 2018. Based on that, we withdrew the strike call but made it very clear that if the government reneges on the promise, the movement would be re-launched with much more intensity. The TMC government has not kept the promise and is evading the issue on this or that flimsy pretext. But this time, if it continues to disdain such a legitimate demand of the people, the mammoth rally of 30 January will not be the last. West Bengal government will witness an unprecedented uprising that will compel it to introduce pass-fail system right from class I and yield to other major demands.

Garment workers in Bangladesh on the path of movement

Around 50,000 workers walked out of their factories in Bangladesh, which make garments for retailers such as H&M, Walmart, Tesco and Aldi, demanding higher wages. It involved more than 4,500 textile and garment factories, which made more than €7bn worth (27 billion Euro= around 2,19,000 crore of rupees) of apparel last year.

One striking garment worker has been killed and 50 others injured in Bangladesh after police fired rubber bullets and tear gas on around 5,000 protesters in Dhaka. Water cannon was also used to disperse 10,000 strikers in a fourth day of industrial action who staged a road-block on a major highway in Savar. The protests were the first

uprising against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since her winning a fourth term in office through an election which was marred by threat, intimidation, thousands of arrests, and allegations of vote rigging .

Bangladesh is the world's second-largest garment maker after China. But in this impoverished country, run on the profit-hunger, greed and ruthlessness of the Bangladeshi and foreign capitalists, garment workers are some of the lowest paid in the world. The country raised the minimum monthly wage for the garment sector's four million workers by 51% to 8,000 Taka, or approximately 90 euro, from December 2018. But senior

workers say their raise was less than this and unions say the hike fails to compensate for price rises in recent years. Hence despite a move by the country's authorities to set up a committee to review wages, protests erupted in the present form. A protesting worker at Kalshi said that they "won't leave the road until our demand is met". Another worker said that manufacturers have hired local musclemen to stop workers in other factories from joining the protest. As mentioned above, there were rampant arrests and police atrocities leading even to a death. Defying all these, the workers warned that more strikes may be on the cards and could spread.

Incidentally it may be added,

that the garment industry in Bangladesh also has a poor workplace safety record, with the collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory complex in Savar killing more than 1,130 people in 2013 in one of the world's worst industrial disasters. Following the disaster, major retailers formed two safety groups to push through crucial reforms in the factories, prompting manufacturers to plough in more than \$1 billion in safety upgrades.

The plight of the garment workers of Bangladesh thus once more indicates the brutality, heartlessness and greed inalienably associated with capitalist rule and exploitation. (Source:www.rte.ie; 09 January 2019)

Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, the fore-ranking representative of the uncompromising revolutionary trend of the Indian freedom movement was observed on 23 January 2019 with due solemnity in various states. Photos of some of these observances are given below :



Puduchery



Andaman



Adityapur Seraikella- Kharsawan Jharkhand



TD College, Jaunpur



Srinagar-Garhwal Uttarakhand



Theni

At the call of AIUTUC, massive rally of Scheme workers (Anganwadi, ASHA, Mid-day meal etc.) at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi on 28 January last to press for their legitimate demands. (left) Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, AIUTUC addressing the gathering



Capitalism

European Union once floated to secure interests of European powers is now crumbling

Contd. from page 2

09 and unemployment has reduced markedly, wages are rising faster than prices and income of people has increased. Both these factors should have supported more spending. But early anecdotal evidence suggests that consumers are keeping tight control over their spending as households are running down on their savings to finance spending when their real incomes are being squeezed by higher inflation. So recession is persisting. Britain's budget deficit rose to the highest October level for three years, particularly because of refunding around £55bn of tax to big corporates. Debt to GDP ratio of UK is already 87.7% and is destined to grow in view of the declining trend of economy. For years, ordinary workers went without a real pay rise and faced cuts of benefits. Many public sector jobs were lost. Data from Citi Research and the Office for National Statistics shows that the percentage of people who are "underemployed" or working on "zero-hours contracts" - neither of which guarantee full-time work - is growing in UK. Obviously, in UK also, the ruling circles abandoning the principles of globalization and interest of EU gave slogan of "British jobs for British workers".

As is known to all, British imperialist government is now rattled by a double whammy—whether to have Brexit (Exit from European Union) or not. In view of the growing economic downturn, the British imperialists thought that it would be more advantageous for them to leave EU. So, they campaigned in favour of Brexit and managed to secure an affirmative verdict in the referendum three years back. But, it is now opined by the Western bourgeois analysts that the closer Britain gets to Brexit, the closer it gets to recession with its economy poised to shrink by 8% in the immediate aftermath. The Bank of England has already outlined a bleak worst-case scenario in which a chaotic departure plunges the economy into a bigger recession than that of 2008-09. This is the double-edged sword cutting the crisis-ridden capitalism on either side. A sharp difference over Brexit is now noticed among the British ruling circle. Even people are also becoming apprehensive of the Brexit outcome and majority of them are against it now. This too is a glaring testimony of how aggravated global capitalist crisis is.

And unable to bear the rising economic onslaughts, working people have been rising in protest. Thousands of people gathered in central London to demonstrate against the UK government's economic policies a year back. Anti-Brexit demonstrators marched down the streets of Britain brandishing placards saying "Time for an EU turn". "We've realized there isn't a good deal coming out of this and a lot of people are frightened, people are worried", said one of the demonstrators fearing that Brexit would not protect their jobs, livelihoods and their children's futures. Planned changes to pension rules prompted 14 days of strike action by the staff of 64 universities across UK in February and March last, and more strikes were planned. Then the British railway workers were on the path of agitation including a 5-day long strike. So the working people are making their protest loud and clear.

Germany also under severe stress

Germany presumed to have a stable economy is also not escaping unscathed. The German economy grew at a slower pace last year than in 2017 and sources told Reuters on 25 January last that the government had cut its growth forecast for this year to 1.0 percent from 1.8 percent. The downward trend in the manufacturing sector is dragging down the whole economy. Though German authorities boast of minimal budget deficit, fact is that German government too is banking on borrowed funds as is evidenced from Debt: GDP ratio of 64.1%. The German authorities now fear that unless outcome of Brexit is positive and trade tensions between USA and China as well as EU dissipates, things might worsen further. This means even they cannot but accept that the pretended optimism showed by world imperialism-capitalism over integration of global markets and the temporary buoyancy following establishment of EU and launch of euro was bogus and deceptive. The worried economists of Europe agree that Europe's largest economy is hit by weaker trade position and lower consumer spending. When the Berlin Wall was demolished, the German imperialist rulers said that marked the end of all woes to the Germans. But now the German people find that not even their country is free from the horrific crisis that has engulfed world

capitalism. Fear of job loss and rising unemployment is so high that 33% of German workers abandon their holidays and stay put in work. German automobile workers are facing lay-offs while robot automation threaten them with permanent job loss. Just in last December, German Railway workers went on prolonged strike in demand for better pay to make both ends meet. As we mentioned earlier, sustained war and armed conflicts perpetrated by the imperialists camp headed by US has given rise to large scale migration. Many of the migrants have gone to Germany for survival and the German industrialists are using them as source of cheap labour. But in order to hoodwink the common German workers who find their jobs and wages under threat because of economic slowdown, the far-rightist forces have been pressed into action to generate an anti-immigrant hysteria and xenophobia as if these hapless have-nots driven away from their own land and accommodated in ghettos with no privacy and non-availability of basic necessities of life are eating into their jobs. Thus the truth that capitalist crisis is taking away jobs is not only sought to be obfuscated, the imperialist rulers are also pitting one section of the people against another to disrupt united resistance from oppressed masses.

Other European countries are also in peril

In Italy, a third of young people don't have a job, and more than 5 million people live in "absolute poverty". In The Netherlands also, as per media report, economic downturn still persists on account of falling tax revenues due to the economic downturn and rising expenditure as a result of mounting unemployment. The labour volume in construction, manufacturing and financial services was reported lower in 2017 than ten years previously. When the sovereign debt crisis spread from Greece to other euro-area countries in 2011, Italy responded to the onslaught of markets with stern austerity measures. But could it save Italian economy? No. Rather it made matters worse, sending GDP growth into negative and increasing the debt-to-GDP ratio. During that time, under the slogan "No to austerity, priority to jobs and growth" the European Day of Action took place mainly in the streets of Spain and Belgium, and

Ireland, Italy and Poland, to demonstrate the workers' concerns and to fight for jobs. Like Greece and Portugal, in many European countries further strangulation of people in the form of draconian austerity measures was effected so that the bankrupt governments could squeeze the people even upto the last drop of their blood and pay back the huge sovereign debt. Are people responsible for this bankruptcy or is it springing from capitalist crisis? But people are made to pay the price. Capitalist oppression is so severe in Spain that there is a cry for secession among people staying in the Catalonia region. Just the other day, retired people of Spain came out on to the streets in demand for higher pension. Thousands of Hungarians had taken to the streets last December to demonstrate against a proposed new labour law which they called a 'slave law'. These all show that the situation has hardly improved from the abysmal depth it slipped into after sub-prime crisis followed by sovereign debt crisis, notwithstanding all tall claims of recovery by the respective ruling quarters. So, the picture is of an all round gloom in entire Europe.

Japan is also not left out

In order to come out of the severe blow of recession following sub-prime and sovereign debt crisis, Japan, which is a net importer (imports more than export), sought to boost export by lowering the value of yen by more than 50% in 2012. But the exports did not increase as expected. Some companies didn't lower their foreign prices. They pocketed the profits instead. Others had already outsourced factories to lower-cost areas, so the devaluation didn't help. The devaluation hurt Japanese businesses reliant on imports. Their costs rose. It also hurt consumers, who had to pay more for imports. Japan's sovereign debt is second highest in the world. Shinzo Abe, former Japanese Prime Minister promised to offset the rise in Japan's 225 per cent debt-to-GDP ratio with a 10 per cent consumer tax in 2014. The consumer tax backfired, consumer spending plummeted and the economy faced recession. This once again proved how all the attempts by the imperialists-capitalists to dig up the economy out of the trench are proved abortive. With barely 1.5% growth of GDP, Japanese economy continues to

Contd. on page 8

Capitalism

Russia and China, turned into social-imperialist powers after counter-revolution, are also stricken by mounting capitalist crisis

Contd. from page 7

stagnate. Obvious adverse effect is on the Japanese people. 16.1% of Japanese people are below poverty line. Significantly, at the bottom of the economic pyramid, there are 9.29 million workers — 14.9 per cent of those employed — as belonging to Japan's economic "underclass." 38.7 per cent fall below the poverty line. Another 31.5 per cent claim to have zero savings and no property or other assets. "After the prices for cabbage soared this past winter, I could only afford bean sprouts," complained one Japanese citizen bitterly. Like other imperialist-capitalist countries, the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. This speaks volume of the extent of capitalist oppression in Japan.

Terrible degeneration of Russia and China after counter-revolution

Particular mention has to be about Russia and China, two erstwhile socialist countries now turned into social-imperialist forces following counter-revolution. Every informed person knows what spectacular progress Soviet socialism registered in just three decades in every sphere of life—economic-political-social-cultural—notwithstanding continued attacks from imperialist-capitalist forces, both from within and outside. It almost caught up and, in some spheres, outpaced US. There was no economic crisis, no shortfall, no sovereign debt, no unemployment, no dearth of decent jobs, no poverty, no homelessness, no beggary. Standard of life of people at large continued to rise steadily indicating true economic growth. But after restoration of capitalism, all the festering sores of economic crisis and concomitant crisis in the life of people are being vulgarly manifest. GDP growth has halved instantly, 40% of population dropped into poverty, one in ten children now live on the streets, infant mortality has increased while life expectancy has decreased by 10 years. According to a study by Credit Suisse, the most affluent 10 per cent of Russians control 77 per cent of the wealth, placing the country on the same level of inequality as the United States in a ranking of developed nations. A rise of inequality means exploitation is intensified. Similarly, rising poverty proves fall in the purchasing power of people. Analysts agree that Russia's snail

pace GDP growth of 1 to 2 per cent-growth per year, will not be enough to tangibly improve people's lives or increase funding in domestic areas like education and healthcare. The situation has deteriorated so much that 66% of Russians say they regret collapse of USSR. People are marching in the streets of not only Russia but in all other erstwhile constituent states with portraits of Lenin and Stalin wanting socialism back.

Similar is the situation in China after counter-revolution. The economy of China which registered spectacular growth in socialism is now China's spectacular growth was due to socialist economy in swoon. A multiyear slowdown is biting the self-proclaimed second-largest economy of the world harder and there is little sign of abatement. China's consumer price index, a gauge for inflation, is on a continuous rise making life more difficult for working people and dragging down their living standards. There is an alarming rise in poverty. More than 150 million of poor still survive on a dollar a day. Following rise in poverty, domestic consumption market is also on the wane adding further woes to the ailing economy. The yawning gap between the highest and lowest incomes which was narrowing during socialism indicating due distribution of wealth through planned economy, is again widening at an alarming speed. A mere 0.1% of the Chinese households possess 41.4 per cent of the country's total wealth. Exploitation of workers has assumed a most ruthless character in capitalist China which was first to establish over 700 odd Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which are nothing but virtually slaughter-houses of the workers, to woo foreign investors. Because of the availability of labour at a very cheap rate, many of the production units of the foreign monopolists and MNCs were located in China exacerbating exploitation of labour further. Also, this cheap labour has been the main source of lowered production cost of Chinese goods based on which social-imperialist China has captured a junk of world market.

So protests are also erupting. There have been 6,694 incidents of workers' collective action that were recorded on China Labour Bulletin's Strike Map between 2015 and 2017, which shows that strikes and collective protests are widespread

and commonplace across all industries and across the whole of capitalist China.

India, Australia, South Africa— crisis is sparing none

In India, 73% wealth is concentrated in the hands of 1% super-rich whereas India ranks 103 among 119 countries on global hunger index. A government-constituted survey also showed that 77% Indians are below poverty line. Former Indian President himself admitted that 66 crore out of 123 crore Indians are unemployed. Contrarily, in 2018, the richest monopolist had earned Rs 300 crores every day.

Budget estimate of net debt in Australia was about A\$341.0 billion, an increase of roughly 95%, over almost five years. Officially, 13.25% population is poverty-stricken. South Africa has gone into recession after its economy was shown officially to have shrunk in the second quarter of the last year. According to World Bank, South Africa is the most unequal country in the world. The top 1% of South Africans own 70.9% of the country's wealth and more than half of South Africans (55.5%) or 30-million people live below the national poverty line. The official unemployment rate is 27.7%. Perhaps no further elaboration with published figures is required to show how the entire capitalist world is reeling under acute crisis and how the price is paid by the common oppressed masses.

Is this picture not enough to prove that world imperialism-capitalism is sinking in ever deepening crises and pushing mankind almost to total ruination? To occupy each other's market of plunder earlier imperialists resorted to two world wars, killing millions, destroying many countries and resulting in more intensification of crises. Now a fierce trade war is going on between two big imperialist powers. USA and China are accompanied by further increase of military power, affecting entire world economy.

Dreams vended by imperialists-capitalists

Why is capitalism in so deep a crisis today? It is now a unipolar world with capitalism-imperialism at the helm everywhere. The imperialists-capitalists are only controlling the economy and by dint of that politics as well as socio-cultural life. After the sad dismantling

of socialism in USSR and East Europe three decades back because of worst revisionist conspiracy backed by the imperialist powers, the euphoric imperialist-capitalist camp headed by the US imperialists proclaimed that futility of socialism and irrelevance of Marxism have been confirmed beyond doubt, and what this reaffirmed once more is that capitalism has no substitute. At that time, they floated the doctrine of globalization stating that it would act as a panacea for curing all prevailing economic ailments round the globe and cutting across the borders, an integrated 'free market economy' (meaning free market across the globe for movement of capital, location of production units, sourcing of cheap manpower and raw material as well as for selling of finished goods) would turn the world into a "Global village". They swaggered that henceforth, mankind would only find progressive growth and development in their life.

Vended dream has turned into nightmare

But what did the picture shown above bear out? A sagging economy, impoverishment of people everywhere, a collapsing political structure and degraded culture is marking the entire capitalist world. Surely, it is no indication of health and progress but sign of total decadence and utter obsolescence of the capitalist system based on ruthless exploitation of labour by capital. As the days are rolling by, the entire capitalist-imperialist economy round the globe is sinking deeper and deeper in acute insurmountable crisis. This crisis is not clutched out of the thin air or orchestrated by any 'hostile' forces but is created by the inherent laws of capitalism. No palliative, no quackery, no artificial stimulation in the form of growing militarization or credit-driven economy is coming to the rescue of the imperialist-capitalist rulers. More the capitalist owners are switching to hi-tech production to lower cost, more labour is retrenched and more employment avenues shut. No jobs mean no income. That entails further drop in buying power of people causing the capitalist crisis to be further intensified. The panacea has turned into a poison and the vended dreams into nightmares. Even the shrewd economists-commentators belonging to the bourgeois camp are forced to admit that a recession is

Contd. on page 9

Capitalism

Prognosis of great Marx proved to be correct to the letter

Contd. from page 8

staring ominously at the global capitalism-imperialism. In October 2018, the IMF, an agency of the global imperialism-capitalism itself had projected a meagre 3.7 per cent growth in the global economy this year. This rate of growth reflects onset of full-fledged recession. A section of the bourgeois analysts had warned in September last that a global economic catastrophe which would put the Great Depression of the 1930s and the financial crash of 2008 (following outbreak of sub-prime crisis in US) in the shade, is just around the corner. Protagonists of globalization cried hoarse that with opening up of economy, gradual abolition of government control over key sectors, free flow of labour, capital and other resources across the border and the resultant 'free market economy' would generate more jobs, reduce inequality and bring down disproportionate distribution of wealth euphemized as 'inclusive growth'. Once again, all these promises are proved as hoaxes. According to a recent study by Oxfam, an international research and fact collection agency, 82% of the global wealth generated in 2017 went to the wealthiest 1%. Alone 26 richest persons have wealth equivalent to what 380 crore poor people could manage to earn with hardest of toil. On the other hand, poverty, starvation, unemployment, job loss, wage cut are all soaring. Nearly half of the world's population — more than 3 billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day—the yardstick fixed by the bourgeois quarters for determining poverty. More than 1.3 billion are officially declared to be living in extreme poverty. But this figure is apprehended to be grossly understated. 815 million people regularly go to bed hungry. Though there is concerted effort on the part of the ruling imperialism-capitalism to prove that global unemployment is on the wane and is pegged at 6%, those seeking to have an insight into all the suppressions, understatements and camouflages have shown that the figure actually is 33%. They further state that the unemployment scenario is equally dismal in both advanced and backward economies. (source; —gall up.com 01-05-18) Even Mark Goldring, chief executive of Oxfam GB, is on record to have said: "The concentration of extreme wealth at the top is not a sign of a thriving economy, but a symptom of a system that is failing the millions of hardworking people on poverty

wages who make our clothes and grow our food."

Evidently, the entire burden of the capitalist crisis is borne by the oppressed people of the various countries and their life is dragged into the dregs with every passing day. Even barest means of subsistence are fast eluding the toiling millions. Hunger, starvation, malnutrition, diseases, homelessness, beggary, wails and woes—these are the endowments of imperialism-capitalism today. Over and above, people's life and livelihood are in further peril because more the ruling imperialism-capitalism are desperate in their attempt to somehow stave off the sprawling economic crisis, more they are ruthless in mounting political repression and onslaught on the common people. These political barbarities are not limited to just robbing the hard-earned political rights, enforcing draconian acts or brutally suppressing surging people's protests with pellets and bullets but also in the form of wars, precipitated ethnic-communal clashes and merciless killing of innocent citizens in gruesome wars of aggression. The whole world was stupefied to see flashed photos of a vulture looming behind a prostrate starving child in Sudan, that of young Phan Thi Kim Phuc running from a US napalm attack in Vietnam, with her skin peeling off, the lifeless body of three-year-old Syrian child in a red T-shirt and blue shorts being washed ashore on a Turkish beach, a caravan of migrants from Guatemala wading through turbulent waters of Suchiate river to reach Mexican coast to eke out a bare living or the hapless stateless Rohingya migrants fleeing the scenes of massacre of their kith and kin and seeking shelter in neighboring countries just for staying alive. Years of imperialism-generated war, appalling poverty and severe drought have left more than 20 million people facing famine in a vast stretch of African and West Asian regions. More than 3.5 lakh peasants have committed suicide in India. Writ large on these destitute, horror-stricken faces, vacant eyes and terrorized streams of humans, men-women-children, is the brutality and ruthlessness of capitalist oppression, repression and persecution. This is the kind of 'growth and development' imperialism-capitalism has been 'gifting' to people while ensuring swelling coffer to the handful of super-rich. Is it a civilized social system or reincarnation of savagery and barbarity of medieval age?

Prognosis of great Marx

So do the world events prove that Marxism is obsolete and capitalism has no substitute? Or it shows how the prognosis of great Marx about capitalism based on science has proved to be a gospel truth? 175 years back, Great Karl Marx and Engels had declared in Communist Manifesto that "The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones...Modern industry has established the world market, ...This market has given an immense development ...This development has, in its turn, reacted on the extension of industry; and in proportion as industry, ...the bourgeoisie developed, increased its capital,...The bourgeoisie has through its exploitation of the world market given a cosmopolitan character to production and consumption in every country... The growing competition among the bourgeoisie, and the resulting commercial crises, make the wages of the workers ever more fluctuating... makes their livelihood more and more precarious. And how does the bourgeoisie get over these crises? On the one hand by enforced destruction of a mass of productive forces; on the other, by the conquest of new markets, and by the more thorough exploitation of the old ones. That is to say, by paving the way for more extensive and more destructive crises, and by diminishing the means whereby crises are prevented... The modern labourer, on the contrary, instead of rising with the progress of industry, sinks deeper and deeper below the conditions of existence of his own class. He becomes a pauper, and pauperism develops more rapidly than population and wealth...And here it becomes evident, that the bourgeoisie is unfit any longer to be the ruling class in society, and to impose its conditions of existence upon society as an over-riding law..."

People crying for a change

The obtaining situation is demanding a change. Oppressed people are crying for a change. How can that come by? Surely not through the path of election, which was even a deception in the early days of bourgeois democracy as in a class divided society ultimately it was the verdict of the ruling

bourgeoisie not the exploited people that decided everything, and now in a rapidly declining bourgeois democracy, election is virtually stripped of all its essence by the ruling capitalist class and reduced to a showpiece. As against democracy, fascism has become a general feature of the imperialist-capitalist world in various forms. If the reality has to be overturned upside down, what is needed is a concerted class and mass struggles based on correct revolutionary ideology and political leadership. The course of such struggles ought to be towards overthrowing capitalism by revolution. Of late, it is found that in absence of correct revolutionary leadership, rightist forces with backing of the ruling bourgeoisie are exploiting the surging people's wrath and discontent and deriving electoral mileage. The crying need of the hour is to draw appropriate lessons from the counter revolutions in the erstwhile powerful socialist countries and disintegration of world communist movement by applying correct understanding of science of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, develop and strengthen communist parties as vanguard to lead the ongoing class and mass struggles. Deducing the general line of revolution, Marx also said in the Communist Manifesto that "Of all the classes that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie to-day, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class... The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest, by degrees, all capital from the bourgeoisies. ...The Communists...are ...the most advanced and resolute section of the working-class ...The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions." Communism is no utopia but historically determined law-governed destination of human civilization. The ruling imperialists-capitalists shivering from the eruption of one after another crisis are arraying their entire arsenal to keep it at bay for as much time as they can. That is why, Marx observed in the Communist Manifesto: "A spectre is haunting Europe — the spectre of Communism. All the Powers of old Europe have entered into a holy alliance to exorcise this spectre... Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communistic revolution." Today that spectre haunts the entire capitalist world.



Comrade Saumen Basu, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C), garlanding portrait of Comrade Lenin at the Party's Central Office in Kolkata on 21 January 2019 on the occasion of his 95th death anniversary

Massive strike by US Teachers, First in 30 years

More than 30,000 public school teachers in Los Angeles walked off the job on 14 January last to press their demands for better pay, smaller class sizes and more educators.

The strike — the first in 30 years in the nation's second largest school district, with intense negotiations in past weeks failing to lead to a breakthrough.

The action is being watched closely by teaching unions across the country that are engaged in labour negotiations and also considering strikes.

"Here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state that's blue (Democrat) as it can be — and in a city rife with millionaires — where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the head of the United Teachers Los Angeles union, told a news conference. "Here we are in a fight for the soul of public education. The question is: do we starve our public neighbourhood schools so that they (become) privatized, or do we re-invest in our public neighbourhood schools for our students and for a thriving city", he questioned. A revised offer submitted on Friday and calling for roughly \$24 million more in funding and 1,200 more teachers for the upcoming school year was rejected.

Last spring, a strike by teachers in the state of West Virginia over low wages and rising health care costs set off a wave of similar action in several other states and garnered strong public support. The walkout in Los Angeles could have a similar effect.

Teachers' unions across the country offered support for those striking in Los Angeles, with many educators and parents wearing red T-shirts in solidarity. (Source:- ndtv- 15-01-19)

Argentinian people organize 'The March of the Torches' against monstrous price rise

Thousands of people took the streets of Mar del Plata, in what has been called The March of the Torches, to protest the price highs imposed by the Argentine government led by Mauricio Macri.

The mobilization brought together the country's two workers' unions, trade union leaders, leftist groups, and thousands of men and women of around 60 social and political groups, who marched against the increasing prices in public gas, electricity, water and transportation services.

La Marcha de las Antorchas (The March of the Torches) is the name that has been given to a series of protests happening in Argentina against the government and mainly its austerity measures. In rejection of the latest increases in rates and public services, along with hundreds of candles and torches, protesters shouted slogans such as "No to the Tarifazo of the rich" or "Tarifazo = Hungry." The march was called by professional, social, political and consumer groups who, since the beginning of January, have called for the repudiation of new price highs in Argentina.

The March of the Torches takes place every Thursday in January, the one in Mar del Plata was the third one that took place since the national government announced at the end of 2018, new increases on the prices of electricity, gas, water and public transport. The first march took place in Buenos Aires, the second was held in the city of Santa Fe. Average inflation in Argentina is reported to have been as high as 47%. (Source:—telesur 25-01-19)

SUCI(C) denounces US-sponsored ploy to overthrow the democratically elected government and install a puppet regime in Venezuela and calls for worldwide protest to foil it

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 28 January 2019:

We vehemently protest and denounce the blatant coup attempt by the US imperialists, the worst enemy of mankind, in Venezuela to dislodge Nicolas Maduro, the elected President, by one Juan Guaido, a stooge of theirs, and even their audacity to declare Guaido as the 'legitimate President' bearing stamp of their policy of illegally intervening in the internal affairs of and installing puppet regimes in the countries which refuse to submit before them. Earlier, they made similar attempts to overthrow President Castro and socialism in Cuba with the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion, conspired to dethrone and kill Salvador Allende, democratically elected President of Chile, toppled governments in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, sought to install a puppet government in Syria by planting armed "rebellions" with the help of their notorious espionage agencies, and are now conducting a proxy war in Yemen. In course of all these felonious acts, they are committing worst form of war crimes and killing millions of people including planned assassinations of the heads of those states. Likewise, the Pentagon rulers continued subversive and naked interventionist activities in Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Guatemala and Mexico, if not most of South America. In fact, as part of imperialist machination to run over other countries and bully them to submission, the US imperialists in pursuit of its hegemonic objectives and brigandish agenda with the help of their allies like the oligarchs of Venezuela have been carrying out such gangsterism world over to extend their sphere of influence and establish control over the rich natural resources like oil, gas and minerals of other sovereign states by flexing military muscle, precipitating sabotages and plotting artificial dissents from within by using hired hirelings and disgruntled elements. Alongside, they are also seeking to arm-twist the countries they consider to be hostile to them, by slapping draconian economic sanctions which are no less brutal and inhuman than launching a direct armed assault. They even categorized Iran and North Korea as 'rogue' states and arrogated to themselves the unilateral right to teach these countries "tough lessons", as and when they so desire. Venezuela, the country with rich oil reserve and firmly refusing to bend before US dictates, is the latest target. That the US rulers are bent upon using "military option" against Venezuela to orchestrate anointing a pliant rule there was laid bare when New York Times published an article titled "Trump administration discussed coup plans with rebel Venezuelan officers." The so called "pro-Guaido forces" clothed in the style of democratic opposition is nothing but propped up groups floated, funded and controlled by the Venezuelan oligarchy and the US government. It is heartening to note that the desperate efforts by the US rulers and their bootlickers to woo the Venezuelan army in favour of Guaido have failed and the army is fully behind President Maduro.

This dastardly attack on Venezuela is an attack on the entire humanity and has to be repelled by way of rousing powerful worldwide protest against the intrigues and felonious acts by the US imperialists and their cohorts. We call upon the anti-imperialist peace-loving people of all countries to raise united voice against this international gangsterism and extend fullest solidarity with the Venezuelan people in protecting their sovereignty. We also urge upon the people of US to staunchly oppose the US machination in Venezuela and other countries and consider this as a part of their own fight against gross injustice and death merchants.

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