

Proletarian Era

Volume 59 No. 19 Fortnightly Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST) 8 Pages
May 15, 2026 Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH Page : 1 ■ Price : Rs.3.00

Instant reaction of the West Bengal State SUCI(C) on assembly election results

In an instant reaction to the assembly election results, Comrade Chandidas Bhattacharjee, WB State Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 04-05-26:

At the outset, we vehemently condemn every incident of post-poll violence and vandalism. Fact is that this electoral victory of the BJP by securing majority of the seats does not prove that people of West Bengal at large have extended their support to the arch communal Hindutva doctrine and political stand of the BJP. People are well aware how the BJP, during the course of its running the government at the Centre as well as in various states have been consistently pursuing brazen anti-people pro-capitalist policies, sunk in utter corruption, ruthlessly suppressing class and mass struggles and mincing no matter in openly using the administrative machinery to win elections.

Yet, people of West Bengal, aggrieved at and disgusted with the 15 year long misrule of the TMC-led state government, the limitless corruption of the TMC leaders-

India's timid capitulation to US dictates

A spate of incidents in the recent past has raised a question whether India has been tamely surrendering to US directives. Right from keeping mum on inhuman slaughtering of innocent citizens including children in Gaza by Zionist Israel backed by the Pentagon rulers tying knot with Israeli rulers in utter disregard to the beastly savagery of Israeli forces raving wild on Palestinian soil, to a very mild reaction when US lawmakers announced a three-year pause on new H-1B visas and a sharp cut in the annual cap from 65,000 (plus 20,000 for advanced degrees) to just 25,000 which were destined to upend careers of Indian technicians and students located in US, to remaining silent after Indians alleged to be illegal infiltrators to US were sent back to India in

chains as if they were criminals, in place of pointed rebuttal, virtual acquiescence to the claim of President Trump that he brokered peace between India and Pakistan after four days of armed conflict following terrorist attack in Pahalgam, reformulating bilateral trade policies as per US dictates to obeying US order to stop buying cheap oil from Russia and Iran, remaining tightlipped over the war of aggression of US imperialism against Iran, winding up operation of Chabahar port in Iran as mandated by the US rulers and PM Modi's persistent attempt to appease President Trump—all bear eloquent testimony of how the ruling Indian monopolists and their servitor BJP government are not just tilting towards US imperialists but dancing to their tune, caring least for national prestige and honour and the glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle by Indian

people. Let us have a little more on the issues raised above.

Repugnant bonhomie with Zionist Israel

The whole world has unanimously condemned the most cruel carnage Zionist Israeli rulers and their political manager PM Netanyahu has been undertaking in Gaza for last three years, killing innocent people indiscriminately. Death toll has been reported to be over 80,000 till date. The entire infrastructure including, UN shelters, hospitals, schools and universities has been razed to the ground. Even fire was opened on hungry children when they thronged at relief camps for a morsel. The Gaza Strip today stands as the scarred epicenter of its inhabitants, considered as "the crime of crimes" in international

Contd. on page 2

ministers-local satraps, the binding grip of the Syndicate Raj and mafiadom, raging fraud, bribery, extortion and malpractice in the education, healthcare and other spheres, had strongly desired a change. And in absence of a formidably powerful struggling left alternative, the BJP seized the opportunity to ride to power by spending huge money, striking out names of lakhs of voters with the help of pliant Election Commission, harnessing services of other government and semi-government organizations and above all,

enjoying total backing of the central government.

We firmly believe that this change of government would not bring any relief to the enormous suffering of the toiling millions. Rather their misery, penury and deprivations will rise further. Because, whichever party or alliance comes to power, it, in servile servitude of the ruling capitalist class, would oppress, repress and rob people limitlessly. The BJP, Congress, TMC—all the power-monger parties belong to the same category.

So, task imperative is to develop in the days to come united organized powerful movements on various burning problems of people's life. These movements ought to be based on higher culture-ethics-morality and conducive to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution. We fervently appeal to the people to come forward and join these movements in right earnest. Alongside, we demand of the Election Commission and administration to take effective measures to prevent any violent flare-ups in the post-election period.

Valiant resistance by AIDS0 frustrates attack on Calcutta University campus

Soon after the assembly election results of West Bengal were out on 4 May and the BJP emerged as winner, reports of many violent incidents across the state have been pouring in, including attacks on activists of opposition parties and vandalization as well as forcible occupation of their offices, just like what was witnessed when the TMC came to power after ousting CPI (M)-led government in 2011.

On 5 May last, supporters of ABVP, student wing of the BJP and

mostly outsiders, stormed into Calcutta University campus in College Street and began tearing the banners and festoons of various students' and university employees' organizations. When the AIDS0 activists sought to resist this rampage and spoiling democratic atmosphere within the campus, the ABVP supporters brutally attacked them with rods and sticks sparing not even the girl students. Undaunted, the AIDS0 workers valiantly resisted the attack, in

course of which an AIDS0 activist, a third year student of Calcutta Medical College, sustained a serious head injury and had to be rushed to the hospital in a profusely bleeding condition. This incident went against the repeated assurance of the BJP leadership that no post-poll violence would be tolerated.

AIDS0, in a statement, strongly condemned the incident,



demanding exemplary punishment of the culprits and appealed to the struggling student as well as all leftist and progressive student organizations, to unitedly stand against this politics of terror and muscle-flexing

Contd. from page 1

law. But the Israeli Prime Minister nonchalantly carries on worst form of war crimes. He himself is currently on trial in Israel on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust in three separate cases, having denied all wrongdoing. Additionally, in 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him regarding alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. United Nations committee recently found Israel's methods of warfare in the Gaza Strip to be "consistent with genocide".

But instead of uttering a single word against such brutality, PM Modi flew to Israel to sign bipartite trade agreement. He had no qualms in stating that *"In India, there is great admiration for Israel's resolve, courage and achievements."* He further said: *"We feel your pain. We share your grief. India stands with Israel firmly, with full conviction, in this moment and beyond...No cause can justify the murder of civilians. Nothing can justify terrorism."* And then addressing Israeli Parliament on 25 February 2026, PM Modi said that for the Indian Jewish community living in Israel, Israel is considered their "fatherland" and India their "motherland". What else but outright flattery can this be called? Is it purported to curry favour with US imperialism, the mentor of Zionist Israel, in the class interest of the ruling Indian monopolists?

H1 B Visa issue

Last year, US implemented a significant hike of fees of new H-1B visa (a non-immigrant, employer-sponsored visa allowing U.S. companies to temporarily employ foreign professionals in "specialty occupations" requiring theoretical or technical expertise and a bachelor's degree) petition to a whopping \$100,000 specifically targeting new applicants. It has been a whiplash for hundreds of thousands of Indians on H-1B visas who still account for 70% of H-1B recipients. The policy effectively shuttered the H-1B pipeline that, for three decades, powered the American dream for millions of Indians and, more importantly, supplied the lifeblood of talent to US industries. This is also an arm-twisting move to keep India on leash. But once again the Indian bourgeois government did not dare to say anything other than hoping that the US government would address the issue suitably.

It bears recall that in early 2025, the mass deportation of alleged illegal Indian immigrants from the US sparked significant outrage among Indian people after images and videos were released showing them handcuffed and leg-chained during 40 hour long transport process. Once

Servile mentality of keeping US in good humour is glaringly manifest

again, refraining from protesting such inhuman treatment of deported Indians, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, defended the repatriation process as a standard international obligation, though hastening to add that the Indian government would engage with the US to ensure deportees are not mistreated. Again is manifested the same servile mentality of keeping US in good humour even if that means affront to the countrymen.

Silence over US President's claim to have brokered armistice between India and Pakistan

Another example of Indian's diffidence to contradict US on any issue is the question of truce between India and Pakistan after four days of armed conflict in April 2025 following terrorist killing in Baisaran, Pahalgam. Till date, President Trump has over 50 times claimed credit for brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, saying that he used economic leverage and threats of tariffs to halt a potential nuclear war. Without contradicting these claims India has been formally asserting that its military action stopped after achieving its own objectives and a request from Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), who "pleaded for relief". **US's weaponizing tariff to keep India submissive**

Hitherto, US imports from India was to the tune of \$129 billion whereas US exports to India was \$83.4 billion. The average tariff rate imposed by India so far on US imports was 17% and for agricultural products it was 39%. On the other hand, US was charging 3.3% duty on Indian exports to it. But all on a sudden, on the pretext of lowering trade deficit with India, US imposed a 25 % reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, followed by an additional 25% levy linked to India's continued purchase of Russian crude oil. This caught India napping and PM Modi and his two cabinet ministers began to make hectic parleys to persuade his "friend" Trump to withdraw the hiked tariff. India committed to stop buying Russian oil at cheaper price and instead procure oil from US at much higher price. India also committed to purchase around USD 500 billion worth of US goods over the next five years and open Indian market to US agricultural products including dairy products much to the distress of Indian peasants. After all such commitments akin to capitulating to US dictates, US agreed to bring down tariff rate from 25% to 18% (as against previous 3%) and withdraw additional 25%

levy imposed for importing Russian crude. In other words, Indian economy is slated to suffer a huge loss while US would gain substantially. Notably, President Trump said in a social media post that following PM Modi's assurance to replace the India's import of Russian crude with oil from Venezuela and the United States, he liberalized imposition of tariff on Indian exports to US. Clearly, India had to bend before US fiat and accept most of its terms which is tantamount to giving up India's strategic autonomy in deciding its economic policy and international trade.

This is not the first time President Trump has bent BJP-led Indian government to his will. In May 2019, India was forced to halt buying oil from Iran after Trump-led US government disallowed a waiver. What this meant was a denial to India of oil that had come with concessions such as free transport and insurance, and 60 days of credit from Iran. India tried to explain that many of its refineries had been calibrated to process Irani crude and could not suddenly shift, and also that the stopping of supply from Iran would affect prices and inflation. But those importunities were of no avail and India had to swallow the bitter pill.

India's despicable silence over US-Israel's war on Iran and relinquishing Chabahar Port

Just two days after PM Modi returned from his Israel visit, US-Israel duo launched an unprovoked military aggression on Iran, and that too when bilateral talks between US and Iranian negotiators in Geneva was progressing with Oman as the mediator and the talks were stated to be signalling constructive response. On the very first day of military strike, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed at his office by a targeted missile attack by the US forces. One of the very first air strike of US-Israel was on a girls' school killing over 150-170 people, primarily schoolgirls. But India did not condemn such a wanton violation of international war norms nor did it say any word against this imperialist aggression on a sovereign country with which it cherished a friendly relationship over the years and was importing approximately 13 to 15 % of its crude oil due to refinery compatibility and favourable pricing terms, nor did it condemn assassination of Iran's supreme leader lest that should irk the US imperialists.

Not just that. PM Modi visited Iran in 2016, met with Ayatollah Khamenei, signed 12 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and

agreements covering various sectors. The cornerstone of the visit was the signing of a contract to develop and operate the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port for 10 years by an Indian company, India Ports Global Ltd. The significance of Chabahar Port transcends its role as a mere conduit between India and Iran; it was to serve as a vital trade artery connecting India with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. India had committed a total of roughly \$500 million (Rs 47.69 billion) in investments and credit for Iran's Chabahar Port. But in September 2025, the US government under Trump revoked all exemptions to Iran-related sanctions, including for Chabahar. India lobbied and got the Chabahar exemption extended until 26 April 2026, after reportedly promising to wind down operations there. In response to an US warning that any entity, anyone considering business deals with Iran need to be aware of the potential risks that they were opening themselves up to and the potential risk of sanctions, the BJP government is stated to be in the process of selling its holding in Chabahar to a local Iranian entity.

Why this ti mid surrender to US imperialism

Right from the day the BJP with full backing of the ruling Indian monopolists assumed governmental power at the Centre, tilt towards US imperialism began to manifest in a pronounced way. As we had stated on various occasions in Proletarian Era, the Indian monopolists and multi-nationals have been aspiring for long to emerge as a formidable imperialist power not just in Asia but in the world. The oft-repeated claim by PM Modi and his ministers about India being on the threshold of emerging as the third largest economy in the world is an espousal of that aspiration. But despite proclaiming possession of an economic muscle, politically India has not yet been able to elicit that recognition. So is the pressing need to align with US imperialism to score over China, its main rival in the continent and now an imperialist super-power after counter-revolution. And in this effort to become a trusted partner of the US camp, Indian government has not been hesitating to capitulate to US dictates in every respect. US rulers wanted India to be a deterrent to domination of China particularly in West Asia and a land they could use to keep closer watch on Asia. This is the hidden background of much-proclaimed Indo-US bonhomie and the BJP government's excessive reverence for US.

Hence, PM Modi has chosen to placate Trump because he is beholden to the ruling Indian

Contd. on page 4

Human cost of wars generated by imperialist powers

War has always been the most violent expression of political conflict, but in the contemporary era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, it has also become a systematic instrument of market grabbing, economic domination, extension of sphere of influence and geopolitical restructuring. Because of such armed power struggle among the imperialist powers or imperialist wars of aggression on targeted countries, humanity is incurring a huge loss, both in terms of death, destruction of property, health disorders, mental diseases and so forth. Over the years, mankind has created the modern civilization with labour. Besides affecting people's lives, wars inhibit income growth of countries, reduces mortality, changes sex ratios, prolongs periods of hunger, migration, dispossession, and persecution. War wounds often extended beyond the merely physical. Some of the most enduring images of the Great War are of men suffering from 'shell shock' – or, as the medical experts preferred to call it, war neurosis. Shellshock is a form of nervous breakdown that severely affected one's ability to move and function. In the worst cases of shell shock, men were turned into shaking, twitching, convulsing wrecks, unable to carry out basic movements like walking a straight line.

Beyond the visible destruction lies a deeper, more insidious impact: the erosion of human capital. Wars disrupt education, destroy healthcare systems, and create long-term psychological trauma. Children lose access to schooling, leading to generational deficits in skills and productivity. Healthcare systems collapse, resulting in preventable deaths from disease and malnutrition. Mental health crises are widespread. Anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder affect both civilians and combatants. Veterans often face high suicide rates, while displaced populations struggle to rebuild their lives in unfamiliar environments.

All wars are not same

It warrants mentioning that not all wars are identical in character. Historically, wars have taken two broad forms. On the one hand are wars of aggression, initiated by ruling classes to expand markets, secure resources, and consolidate geopolitical influence. On the other are wars of resistance, in which oppressed peoples mobilize against domination and exploitation. While both forms of war produce

destruction, their political content differs fundamentally.

Modern warfare generated by imperialism is annihilation encrypted

After two World Wars that retrograded progress of civilization by 100 years, now the imperialist brigands are out to destroy that civilization once again just for satiating their greed of maximum profit and gratifying overlordism. Armed conflicts by people to free themselves from the stranglehold of exploitation of man by man or a foreign aggression is a just war. It also causes death and devastation. But for the colossal destruction of life and property, it is the imperialists-capitalists who are squarely responsible as they only launch wars on others to buttress their hegemonic aspiration and nurturing militarized economy to somehow hold on to their decadent moribund existence. Modern war is not only confined to armed battles. It disrupts entire ecosystems of human life, from energy markets to food supply chains. The resulting inflation disproportionately affects the poorest populations, who spend a significant portion of their income on basic necessities. At its core, every war entails colossal devastation. Human lives—often those of civilians with no role in decision-making—are extinguished. Infrastructure painstakingly built over decades is reduced to rubble. Economies collapse, and societies are plunged into long-term instability. As documented in recent assessments, the humanitarian cost of war is borne disproportionately by ordinary people: women, children, workers, and the poor, who neither initiate nor benefit from armed conflict. The numbers of casualties also represent families torn apart, communities erased, and futures extinguished. Civilian infrastructure—homes, hospitals, transport systems—has suffered extensive damage. A glance at the bare facts would be revealing.

First World War

First World War from 1914 to November 1918 was between two imperialist camps and their allies—the Entente (France, Czarist Russia, Britain, Italy and later the US from 1917) and the central powers (the German, Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian and Ottoman Empires). Estimated 16 million soldiers and civilians were dead and countless others physically and psychologically wounded. The conflict caused massive societal changes, leaving

behind millions of widows, orphans, and a generation of traumatized survivors.

The severe effects that chemical weapons such as mustard gas and phosgene had on soldiers and civilians during World War I galvanized public and military attitudes against their continued use. Estimated total direct financial cost of the war was around \$186 billion to \$200 billion (in 1913-1918 USD), equivalent to over \$5 trillion today. Indirect cost was around \$151 billion. Inflation more than doubled between 1914 and 1920 in most of the countries. The War saw a decline of civilian consumption, with a major reallocation to munitions. The biggest gainer was US imperialists as in the mid-20th century they had usurped Britain as the leading global economic power.

Second World War

Second World War was in fact a holocaust precipitated by the fascist axis of Germany-Italy-Japan over grabbing of world market. German national pride was severely humiliated following its defeat in the First World War, largely due to the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and the internal collapse of the German Empire. The sense of shame was compounded by the fact that the German population did not feel militarily defeated on the battlefield, creating a widespread belief that the army had been "stabbed in the back" by politicians at home. Hitler played on that humiliation to resurrect the entire German nation by calling the German race as supreme and destined to rule over the world. He found in Mussolini, the leader of the Italian Fascist party, who was aspiring to build a new Roman Empire in the region, an ally. Almost in the same time, Germany signed a treaty with Japan to support each other in the fight against communism. Italy joined the pact a year later. And thus commenced the Second World War in 1939 with Germany's invasion of Poland. The war, the deadliest in human history, continued for six long years till the ideologically imbued Soviet Red Army forced the Fascist aggressors to retreat and captured Berlin on 2 May 1945. Had not there been socialist Soviet Union, its valorous Red Army and an iconic communist leader like great Stalin, fascist forces would have overrun the entire world.

But with outbreak of this second war within 20 years of the first war, human civilization was

once again faced with colossal destruction of life and property, much higher than what was endowed by the First world War. The estimated death toll ranges from 70 to 85 million people, encompassing military personnel and civilians alike. In 1939, there were about 2 billion people in the world. The best estimates indicate that between 62 and 78 million of them would die due to WWII—more than 3% of the world's population. While earlier wars also resulted in deaths of civilians. European casualties being civilians. Among civilian deaths, between 9.8 and 10.4 million civilians were murdered for political or racial reasons by the Nazi regime. The war saw devastating acts such as the Holocaust, where six million Jews were systematically murdered by Nazi Germany, alongside millions of others persecuted based on race, ethnicity, or political beliefs.

The economic impact of World War II was staggering. Entire economies were mobilized for war production, leading to industrial growth but also severe shortages of consumer goods and spiralling inflation. The war left many countries devastated, with infrastructure destroyed, cities bombed, and economies in ruins. The money cost to governments involved has been estimated at more than \$1,000,000,000,000.

But this figure of financial loss is far less compared to the human misery, deprivation, and suffering, the dislocation of peoples and of economic life, or the sheer physical destruction of property that the war involved.

WW II caused several severe hunger crises which led to many casualties and may have had long-term effects on the health of survivors.

The resources of the occupied territories in eastern Europe were even more ruthlessly exploited. Millions of able-bodied men and women were drained out while performing forced labour in German factories and German farms. France estimated the total cost at an amount equivalent to three times the total French annual national income. Belgium and the Netherlands suffered damage roughly in similar proportions to their resources. In Great Britain about 30 percent of the homes were destroyed or damaged. Agriculture in all the occupied countries suffered heavily from the destruction of facilities and

Contd. on page 4

Two World Wars retrograded progress of civilization by 100 years

Contd. from page 3

farm animals, the lack of machinery and fertilizers, and the drain on manpower. Internal transport systems were completely disrupted by the destruction or confiscation of railcars, locomotives, and barges, and the bombing of bridges and key rail centers. By 1945 the economies of the continental countries of western Europe were in a state of complete paralysis. In eastern Europe the devastation was even worse. 30–35 percent of its agricultural property, and 32 percent of its mines, electrical power, and industries were obliterated. There were an estimated 21,000,000 refugees, more than half of them “displaced persons” who had been deported from their homelands to perform forced labour. Other millions who had remained at home were physically exhausted by five years of strain, suffering, and undernourishment. In China, India and Myanmar, famines and epidemics were severe and recurrent. Millions throughout Europe were rendered homeless. The psychological trauma inflicted by the war lingered for generations, impacting survivors and their descendants.

In terms of manpower loss and devastation, Soviet Union, which fought a just war of resistance against fascist aggression, paid the biggest price. The Soviet Union lost approximately 26.6 to 27 million people during World War II, representing the highest casualties of any country. Many of the tried and tested soldiers of socialism, intellectuals were killed. A sizeable portion of socialist infrastructure was either destroyed or damaged. Yet the valorous Soviet people conducted a heroic battle to save the world from the claws of fascist powers. The war fought by the Soviet union was thus a just war to protect human civilization.

US imperialists' war crimes in Vietnam

In November 1955, the US imperialists began military operation to bully Vietnam, then divided into two countries, North and South Vietnam, to submission. But the Vietnamese people, both in the North and South, rose up valiantly and conducted a historic battle against the sophisticated US army possessing weapons of mass destruction like Orange B gas, Napalm bomb etc. The Geneva Convention agreements, signed in 1925, restricted the use of chemical and biological agents in warfare but the US imperialism has been violating that agreement with alacrity.

Finally, after 21 years of heroic resistance put up by the Vietnamese people, mighty US imperialist power had to accept defeat and quit Vietnam. On 2 July 1976, North and South Vietnam were officially re-united into a single socialist state known as

Historic 24 April Observed



Comrade Satyawan, Polit Bureau member, addressing in Jaipur, Rajasthan



Comrade Meenakshi Joshi, Gujarat State Secretary, delivering her speech in Nagpur, Maharashtra

the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The barbarity of the invading US army in Vietnam was so amplified that a noted humanist philosopher like Betrend Russel had written a book titled ‘War crimes in Vietnam’. In 1968, US soldiers brutally murdered several hundred Vietnamese civilians in the My Lai area and investigative journalism uncovered ample evidence of the carnage.

The Vietnam War—widely recognized as a paradigmatic case of imperialist intervention—claimed over 3.6 million Vietnamese civilian lives, in addition to massive ecological destruction caused by chemical warfare. An estimated 11.7 million South Vietnamese were forced from their homes, and up to 4.8 million were sprayed with toxic herbicides like chemical defoliant Agent Orange. In addition to hundreds of thousands of deaths, enormous numbers of civilians were injured, and many villages were destroyed by air strikes and artillery, with some areas losing up to 70% of their villages, such as in Quang Ngai province. The total internally displaced population in South Vietnam had been roughly 1.5 million at that time. The war caused massive property destruction, particularly in South Vietnam, through heavy bombing, napalm, and the US army, which destroyed forests, rubber plantations, and agricultural land. Millions of homes were destroyed, and infrastructure was devastated, compounded by the environmental damage. For more than five long decades me, my children and the hundreds of other families affected by sexual assault and rape during the war by US soldiers have faced interminable suffering.

US-backed Israel's pounding of Gaza

Backed by the US imperialists, the Zionist Israeli regime has not yet refrained from committing genocide in the Gaza Strip of Palestine. Besides killing over 1 lakh innocent civilians including women and children, the Israeli regime have orchestrated forced displacement of Palestinian civilians in Gaza on a massive scale since October 2023. From targeting civilians and infrastructure to starvation and siege, intentional blocking of humanitarian aid, fuel, and water, leading to famine, attacks on medical facilities, ill-treatment of detainees, inhuman torture and sexual violence and using detainees as human

shields—not a single war crime has been left out. Even children thronging at the relief centres for a piece of bread were gunned down. The total number of Gazans has declined to an estimated 2.1 million people since the start of the war because of death and forced exodus. Not a single war crime has been spared from being committed by the Israeli invaders.

US-Israel's recent war on Iran

The ongoing war involving Iran demonstrates these dynamics with chilling clarity. According to available estimates, more than 2,076 people have been killed in Iran since late February 2026, with over 26,500 injured including 4,000 women and 1,621 children. On the first day of attacking Iran, the US-Israeli forces struck a girls' elementary school in Minab, with missiles killing over 150-175 civilians, mostly school children.

The economic toll is equally staggering having already exceeded \$12.7 billion. The conflict has already triggered increases in global oil and gas prices, threatening up to 20 percent of the world's oil supply. One of the defining features of contemporary warfare is its tendency to spill across borders, transforming localized conflicts into regional crises. The Iran war is no exception. Casualties have been reported in Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf states. In Lebanon alone, over 1,345 people have been killed, including at least 125 children. Even countries not directly engaged in combat have suffered fatalities due to missile strikes and collateral damage.

Moreover, consequent on massive bombing by US imperialists on Iranian population, industries and social-infrastructure, lots of Iranian people have lost jobs and trying to survive in a badly affected economy. Also, reckless use of modern munitions many of which emit toxic discharges are also affecting global climate

Contd. on page 6

Central government is beholden to ruling Indian monopolists who want tie with US imperialists

Contd. from page 2

monopolists and multi-nationals whose class interest he is devoted to serve. If Modi did not appease Trump, Indian businessmen would have suffered. For example, diamond is a major export item to US. If US would have slapped huge tariffs on diamond import, diamond merchants mostly concentrated in PM Modi's home state Gujarat would have faced export drought. The Adani Group, which also like the Ambanis are

very close to PM Modi, has invested billions of dollars in US energy security and infrastructure projects. The investments focus on nuclear power, utilities, and potentially East Coast port projects. Of late, US has withdrawn all cases of sharemarket manipulation by Adani. The Tatas are having a joint venture with Lockheed Martin, a giant US multinational, in arms manufacturing. The Tatas are also having a joint venture with Boeing, another US multinational, to collaborate

in aerospace and defence manufacturing and potential integrated systems development opportunities, including unmanned aerial vehicles. Can PM Modi afford not to oblige Ambani-Adani-Tata and their ilk even if that necessitated sacrificing Indian people's interest? Moreover, President Trump while praising PM Modi as a “great man” in October 2025 at the White House, hastened to add that he did not want to destroy his political career. Though dismissed as a joke, this observation was nothing but a suppressed threat to Modi to remain loyal to Trump. Hence this timorous capitulation of the Indian ruling dispensation to US imperialist regime!

Noida working class movement reveals ruthless exploitation of workers and government's intolerance

On 13 April last, thousands of workers spontaneously took to the streets at different places in Noida industrial hub in UP in demand for higher wages, better working conditions and security for women workers. This spontaneous protest by several thousand workers of Richa Global Exports, Motherson, Kent RO, Dixon Technologies, and such other industries, was not an isolated incident. In the beginning of February, several thousand contract workers of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) oil refinery in Barauni, Bihar, and in late February about 30,000 employees of IOCL in Panipat, Haryana, also went on strike on similar demands. Around the same time, five thousand contract workers of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at the construction site of Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) project site in Hazira, Gujarat, stopped work and staged a violent movement on the same demands. It is worth remembering that S. N. Subrahmanyam, Chairman of L&T, in early January 2025 expressed dissatisfaction for the employees' reluctance to work on Sundays and strongly advocated a 90-hour work week.

Noida movement

Another feature is large scale appointment of contractual labour at paltry wage and without any benefit of PF, ESI etc. Defying the law, these casual workers are being appointed even to the key functions of the industries. So, the industries are highly accident prone. Noida's strike of over 40,000 contractual workers in the garment export industry and automobile parts manufacturing industry was a latest outburst of the highly oppressed section of labouring community.

The demand of salary increase of the protesting workers was not only from the employer but also from the state government. One of the methods to determine the value of labour in organized industry is the change in the 'basic' part of the salary every five years. This directive under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, has been maintained in the new labor code (Code on Wages, 2019) as well.

But instead of recognizing that legal stipulation, the UP government has branded the workers as 'law-breakers' and 'criminals'. State Labour Minister termed this protest a 'conspiracy of Pakistan'. The police are alleged to have used force even on peaceful sit-in protesters and arrested the movement leaders. The UP government's response to the protest was marked by severe police action, including lathi charges, widespread

arrests and detentions targeting not just strikers but also alleged sympathizers and organizers linked to it. Over 396 individuals were arrested, charged with rioting and violence; many were not factory workers but accused of incitement. Police targeted union members, lawyers, and even sympathizers via FIRs naming thousands. Offices of the Trade Unions were cordoned off and many leaders including those of AIUTUC were kept under house arrest. To terrorize civil societies not to come forward and protest, and even not to support or sympathize with the workers, UP STF and Noida Police, went to the extent of arresting a B-Tech graduate from NIT Jamshedpur to Tiruchirappalli Railway Station in Tamil Nadu who allegedly used WhatsApp groups on the fabricated charge of spreading misinformation among the workers. A reward of Rs 1 lakh was declared for the arrests of these social media users as if they were criminals or terrorists on the run.

Although to hoodwink the people, the administration apparently blacklisted 24 factories for failing to monitor contractors and ensure statutory benefits, cancelled the license of 203 contractors for violations of wage and other norms, and issued notices to 43 plus others for failing to respond to initial inquiries regarding labor compliance and to issue recovery notices of Rs 1.16 crore for direct recovery of unpaid salaries and bonuses of workers, the steps have been very insignificant in comparison to the extent of crime committed by the factory owners at every level. However, the action at least exposed the large scale violations of prescribed regulations going on in this manufacturing hub. What is significant that under pressure of the movement, the state government has been compelled to increase wages from 20-21%.

Vedanta

Thermal Power Plant explosion

The allegations are not baseless. To what level the risk to workers' lives could reach due to lack of regular maintenance at the workplace is amply proven by the recent death of more than twenty workers, with death toll still increasing, in a boiler explosion at Vedanta Thermal Power Plant Singhitari, Sakti district, Chhattisgarh. In this case, too, the negligence in compliance with what is stipulated in law is squarely responsible. Labor officials who are supposed to regularly inspect the safety measures of all types of factories. With introduction of four anti-worker Labour laws, compliance

with legal mandates has become even more lax. Inspection of safety measures has reduced to a mere formality. Despite squeezing the labour laws to the last straw, workers' hard-won rights including right to protest are recklessly curtailed. Still the employers expose the life of workers to greater risks. Consequently, from large manufacturing industries, chemical industries, thermal power plants to illegal firecracker factories, workers' security is highly compromised.

It bears recall that in 2018 the residents of Tuticorin, a port city in Tamil Nadu, had been continuously alleging that the Sterlite copper plant there belonging to the same Vedanta group had been causing significant environmental damage, including air pollution and groundwater contamination posing serious health hazard to them. The 400,000 ton-capacity plant has been mired in controversy ever since it was first proposed in 1995. When the local residents flooded the streets to mark 100 days of protest against Sterlite, the months-long peaceful demonstrations took a violent turn as the police pounced upon the protesters and opened open fire on the agitators killing at least 13 and critically injuring many were. Police and state government officials sought to justify the firing live ammunition into the "unruly" crowd of protesters. However, the brutal police action sparked a national outcry with many calling the incident murder. Faced with mounting public pressure, state officials ordered the closure of the plant three days later. In fact, it was the fourth instance that the plant had to halt operations due to incidents like gas leaks, air pollution and groundwater contamination. Yet The Vedanta group has evaded all desired punitive action because of its closeness with the power that be.

A deeper insight into the matter uncovers darker facts

As far as determination of minimum wages is concerned, it has two components, basic pay and dearness allowance (normally revised twice a year based on CPI-IW to adjust for price rise). Between 2021 and 2026, the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) surged by nearly 25%. While dearness allowance (DA) was marginally increased, the base wage remained stagnant for years, effectively reducing workers' purchasing power. But most of the states do not revise basic pay for years. The basic pay was last revised in Haryana in 2015 and in 2014 in UP. Various studies by ILO,

RBI, Azim Premji Institute (State of Working India reports) points out at this widening gulf between corporate profitability and stagnant or declining real wages, especially in manufacturing. While in 1980s, workers' wages accounted for around 30% of total value added, and corporate profits were only about 15-20%, the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2021-2024 published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), Government of India shows that the corporate profit share has crossed 50%, while the wage share has fallen to around 10-12%, reaching to one of the lowest levels. Additionally, CPI measuring average inflation often falls short of capturing the price rise in essential segments like housing, healthcare and education. Indeed, calculations show falling real wages.

Next is working condition. With temperatures hitting 42°C in April 2026 in North India, the mandatory 12-hour shifts becomes physically unbearable. Researchers noted that 'externally paced work' (quotas/machinery speed) pushes workers beyond physiological limits, leading to organ strain and exhaustion. In order to ensure profit maximization of the employers, the governments have 'taken the teeth out of the laws' through which workers used to have the minimal rights preceding the melting down of 29 labour laws into four labour codes weakening the minimal legal safety net for workers.

In the new labour law, the threshold for factories to lay off workers without government permission has been raised from 100 to 300 employees, giving large employers a license to 'hire and fire' and pay no attention to job security. The fear of losing job muzzle the voice of the suffering workers. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code expanded permissible daily working hours to 12 hours. While the weekly limit remains 48 hours, effectively legitimizes grueling daily schedules that were previously illegal under the Factories Act.

Coming back to Noida movement

The compulsive action taken by the Noida administration on the factories and contractors in the aftermath of the workers unrest itself exposes that the transition from 29 central laws to four consolidated codes has been marred by serious administrative gaps. Although the Code on Wages provides for a 'National Floor Wage' to prevent inter-state disparity, its

Contd. on page 6

Struggling leftist trade unions seek to raise political consciousness of the workers

Contd. from page 5

implementation has been highly inconsistent. The perceptible Haryana-UP wage gap had triggered the vehement protest in Noida. Over 80% of workers in Noida's factories are contractual or informal. The Codes were supposed to bring them social security, but the delivery mechanisms (like the Social Security Fund) is confined to paper only, leaving millions deprived of due benefits. And what about the ensuring of the implementation of the much trumpeted labour codes? The shift from a punitive 'Inspector to a Facilitator' has led to a perceived lack of enforcement. Workers claim that basic amenities like clean drinking water, double-rate overtime pay, and weekly offs are routinely ignored because there is no 'fear of the law.'

New Labour Codes—totally anti-worker

The new codes mandate a 60-day notice period before a strike and prohibit strikes during conciliation proceedings. This makes 'legal' industrial action nearly impossible. But will it really stop the workers from protesting? No! As long as the employers keep squeezing the workers to the last drop of their blood and depriving them even of the least right to raise their voice of protest, no law of any

land can keep the workers' protest at bay for long.

Workers' movement need to be organized, conscious, sustained and under correct leadership

The role of the labour unions is pivotal in educating the workers for well-organized, disciplined and channelized protests and thus create a formidable force, properly using the instruments of collective bargaining and strikes against all sorts of exploitation. State knows that it is easy to crush unorganized, leaderless, spontaneous outbursts. But it is not that easy to coerce an organized working class movement premised on higher culture and morality and under a correct revolutionary leadership. Here comes the revolutionary role of the real struggling leftist Trade Union to raise consciousness of the workers and to enable them to develop sustained democratic workers movement forming workers own committees at factory level.

History has shown that despite all the efforts of the ruling class to suppress the workers, while keeping brutal exploitation going, has met with higher resistance and ultimately led to revolutions. These protests in the form of outburst are indications of the same and a ray of hope to the inhumanly exploited populace.

AIUTUC condemns unilateral notification of Rules on Anti-Worker Labour Codes

Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, General Secretary, AIUTUC, issued the following statement on 10-05-26:

The AIUTUC vehemently opposes and condemns the arbitrary move of the Central Government in notifying the Final Rules for the Code on Wages (2019), Code on Social Security (2020), and Industrial Relations Code (2020) on 8 May 2026, in spite of severe opposition from the entire working people of the country.

This unilateral action, taken without any meaningful consultation with the Central Trade Unions or convening the Indian Labour Conference, is a direct assault on the democratic norms and a violation of International Labour Standards to which India is a signatory.

These Codes, brought under the guise of "Ease of Doing Business", prioritise corporate profits over the lives of the workforce.

The Codes systematically undo 150 years of historic gains achieved through arduous struggle, effectively pushing Indian workers back to colonial-era exploitation.

We also condemn the move to make union registration more stringent, decriminalisation of violation of laws by the employers, criminalisation of trade union

activities, and the virtual snatching of the 'Right to Strike'.

The normalisation of "Fixed Term Employment" and open-ended working hours threatens the very foundation of job security and workplace safety.

By introducing a "floor-level minimum wage" below the poverty line and dismantling existing sector-specific safety and social security obligations, the government has abandoned its responsibility to safeguard the interest of the informal and formal workforces alike. Time-tested inspection machinery is done away with through these Codes, thereby providing total immunity to the wronged employers to the detriment of the interest of the employees.

The Central Government remains stubbornly reluctant to withdraw these Codes, despite the historic massive all India General Strike of 12 February last.

AIUTUC firmly believes that there is no recourse left but to intensify legitimate struggle of the oppressed working class.

We call upon the working class to build a wall of resistance against the implementation of these draconian Codes. We shall not rest until these anti-worker, unconstitutional, and inhuman laws are scrapped lock, stock and barrel.

Wars are structural imperatives of imperialism

Contd. from page 4

besides polluting the atmosphere. These are all acts of destroying human civilization and hence criminalities of the highest order.

Why the war?

For decades, bourgeois political theory attributed global conflict to ideological rivalry between capitalist and socialist blocs. Yet the persistence—and fallacy of this narrative. From Iraq to Libya, from Syria to Yemen, Ukraine and now Iran, military interventions have continued unabated, often in the absence of any systemic ideological opposition. All these wars have been generated by imperialist powers mainly US.

The question thus arises: if bipolar ideological competition has receded, why do wars persist? The answer lies in the structural imperatives of imperialism itself. As lucidly explained by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder of the SUCI(C) and an outstanding

Marxist-Leninist thinker of the era, way back in 1962: "...the imperialists themselves ...are making desperate attempts to get out of the burning pyre. They are trying to offset the difficulties by having recourse to frantic rearmament and militarization of industry... True, it is much like a drowning man catching at a straw. Nevertheless, the imperialists are doing all this to stave off the crisis and maintain the boom of the capitalist market, at least temporarily, by artificial stimulation of increased military consumption. But far from easing the situation, militarism is aggravating the capitalist contradictions and crisis further still. And the more acute the crisis, the more militarized is becoming the economy. There is thus a vicious cycle going on, leading to an unbridled arms race... Hard-pressed on all sides and rent with mounting crises, imperialism is

turning more and more to militarized economy. And the more militarized the economy is becoming, the more rabid is imperialism prone to be in its adventurist acts. The capitalistically most developed country, namely the USA, has become a country of the most powerful, militarized economy. It is now the bastion of world reaction and international gendarme.... So, notwithstanding so many vital changes in the international situation since the second world war, the economic conditions which led Lenin to formulate the law of inevitability of wars between the capitalist countries in the epoch of imperialism still exist. The law, therefore, cannot be obsolete. And so long as the law of inevitability of wars will remain in force the danger of war will be there." (SW Vol II)

So long imperialism will exist, there will be no respite from war.

When workers refuse to be mobilized for imperial ambitions, when soldiers recognize their common class position across borders, and when oppressed peoples unite against both external domination and internal exploitation, the machinery of war begins to falter. But how can such conditions be brought about? In absence of mighty socialist camp which once was the bulwark against imperialist war machination, the imperialist sharks are running amuck. US President has already bragged that after Iran, he will turn guns against Cuba with a view to occupying that land. This war machination can be frustrated and the war-mongering blunted only if all peace-loving people round the world close their rank and develop a powerful well-coordinated anti-imperialist anti-war movement round the world along right direction and under correct leadership. That alone can be the deterrent to this recurring surge of imperialist-generated war entailing enormous loss of life and property.

Jabalpur cruise accident—lives lost due to criminal negligence of the authorities

On 30 April last, when most of the news channels were busy covering the last phase of assembly elections in 5 states, a shocking incident of criminal negligence on the part of government authorities occurred in Jabalpur, MP. A state tourism department operated cruise boat with 44 tourists on board capsized in Bargi Dam on Narmada river because of, what is stated, a sudden storm. By the time, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and later NDRF reached the spot, local people and the local construction workers had already saved 29 people using simple ropes and human chains. By the time official government teams arrived in the dark, these workers had already pulled everyone who was still floating to the shore. 13 others died. One of the most heart-

rending sights reported by the NDRF and Army divers was of finding a women's body in the sunken wreckage, still clutching her four-year-old son, since they could not break open the cabin. This was by no means a mere accident but result of a chain of administrative failures waiting to be exposed.

Preliminary investigations reveal a systemic collapse of safety protocols that cost thirteen precious lives—including four children and eight women. Meteorological Department had warned of strong winds ranging from 40–50 km/h in the Jabalpur region. Ignoring that, the high-profile cruise was cleared for the trip into a reservoir known for its choppy currents during squalls. One of the most damning pieces of evidence has been utter negligence on the part of the state

tourism department to ensure voyage safety was non-accessibility to life jackets locked in a storage area.

Question has been raised about accountability of the state tourism department who, as it appears, was only interested in earning hefty revenue from this lucrative tourist spot without undertaking necessary safety measures. As usual, the government, in the face of public outrage, washed off its hands by finding some scapegoats in some small fishes, like the cruise pilot, the helper, the ticket in-charge and the manager. But the higher echelons in the hierarchy of the government went scot-free. Even the NDRF and SDRF were found to be severely handicapped in undertaking a desired rescue operation.

The Jabalpur cruise accident is

a case of institutionalized negligence. Earlier also, we have seen fatal accidents during Chardham Yatra, Kumbh Mela and other pilgrimages—all due to utter callousness and criminal negligence of the government-administration.

When safety parameters are treated as optional suggestions and necessary staff training is bypassed on the plea of saving operational costs, such a disaster was always on the anvil. Unless 'safety first' becomes a legal mandate and the concerned officials are cautioned of criminal charges in case of any catastrophe, not just in Narmada tourism, but in all the water bodies and rivers round the nation and the government is only concerned about profit margin, recurrence of such accidents and playing sixes and sevens with the life of common people seeking pleasure of tourism, will remain unabated. What is needed is the tourists' alertness and awareness before undertaking any such pleasure trip.

Academia protests derogatory remark by PM Modi about Jadavpur University

At a public meeting during electoral campaign in West Bengal, PM Modi made a derogatory remark about Jadavpur University which is consistently ranked among the top public universities in India, recognized for academic excellence, research output, and high National Research Foundation (NIRF) rankings. As of 2025, it is ranked 9th among universities and 1st among state public universities in India (NIRF), also ranking 18th overall. But PM Modi nonchalantly described it as a center of "anarchy" and "anti-national slogans" and deviated from academic pursuits into political disruption. "Students here write anti-national slogans on the walls and prefer to hold meetings, processions and protests instead of studying", said hon'ble PM. Naturally it has irked the academia which correctly held it as an affront to a celebrated university.

To trace the history of Jadavpur University is to trace a part of India's freedom movement. It was around 1905 - 1906 that the British rulers weaved a ploy to divide Bengal. The times were feverish and the hegemony of the British establishment was challenged by the patriotic Indians including Rabindranath Tagore. Education then became a new form of resistance through which the emergent nationalist spirit could be propagated. With this in mind, the National Council of Education (NCE) came into being. Its primary aim was to impart education - literary, scientific and technical on national lines exclusively under national control. To achieve self-reliance, through education. The foundation of the NCE was made possible by the munificence - scholarly as well as monetary - of the likes of Raja Subodh Chandra Mallik, Brajendra Kishore

Roychowdhury of Gouripur as well as Sir Rash Behari Ghosh (first President of NCE), Rabindranath Tagore and Aurobindo Ghosh. Among the teachers were luminaries like Rabindranath Tagore, Sir Gurudas Banerjee, Ananda Coomaraswamy, Surendra Nath Banerjee, Ramendra Sundar Trivedi, Radha Kumud Mukherjee, Benoy Kumar Sarkar, Sakharam Ganesh Deoskar and others. After Independence, the Government of West Bengal, with the concurrence of the Government of India, enacted the necessary legislation to establish Jadavpur University on the 24 December 1955.

Carrying on the tradition of protest against injustice during freedom movement, the students as well as many from the teaching faculty of Jadavpur University have repeatedly raised their voices against any injustice. They have always sought to uphold democratic values, social justice, freedom of thought and academic autonomy. Alongside studies, they have not forgotten to discharge their social-moral-political obligation. Surprisingly, the RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar who squarely opposed Indian freedom movement calling it reactionary have been calling themselves champions of nationalism-patriotism. In fact, the central BJP government by way of implementing National Education Policy 2020 is out to annihilate education in every respect.

AIDSO in a statement issued on 25-04-26 strongly opposed the brazen remark of PM Modi and appealed to the students of Jadavpur University as well as students' community in general, to build up a strong resistance against the malicious attempt of the ruling dispensation to malign struggling legacy of Jadavpur University.

Attempt to impose ban on movement in educational institutions in Odisha

The Higher Education Department of Odisha issued a directive via notification number 19127, instructing all colleges and universities across the state to implement a Model Code of Conduct. According to this code, prior permission from the authorities is mandatory for organizing



any meetings, gatherings, rallies, protests, or strikes within campus premises. This is akin to the infamous Carlyle circular during protest movement against division of Bengal surged forth in 1905 during British rule.



Demanding the complete withdrawal of this highly undemocratic and anti-student Model Code of Conduct, the protection of a healthy academic and democratic environment on campuses, and the announcement of direct student union elections, the AIDSO organized a student convention in Bhubaneswar on 5 May 2026 where the leaders of the organization addressed.

Corrigendum: Through inadvertence the word anti-capitalist has been erroneously printed as anti-communist in the last Para of the article on May Day published in P. Era dated 01-05-26. Mistake sincerely regretted.

Leftist forces protest against statewide post-poll violence and vandalizing Lenin's statues



SUCI(C), CPI(ML) Liberation, CPI (ML) Red Star and some other left forces organized a protest demonstration on 08-05-26 in front of the Lenin statue at Esplanade, Kolkata, against the large scale violence after election, ransacking and demolishing the offices of the opposition parties, attacking the minority community, looting shops, bulldozing hawkers' stalls, dismantling as well as disfiguring Lenin's statues in various places with saffron colour. A large number of protesting citizens also joined the programme. Those who spoke on the occasion were Comrades Chandidas Bhattacharjee, Polit Bureau member and West Bengal State Secretary, SUCI(C), Dipankar Bhattacharyya, all India Secretary, CPI (ML) Liberation, Shankar,

Historic May Day Observed



Comrade Swapan Ghosh, Vice-president, AIUTUC, garlanding Martyrs' column on May Day in front of the Central office of AIUTUC

Leaders offering Red Salute to Comrade Lenin (above) A part of the gathering (below)

Secretary, CPI (ML) Red Star, Arka Bhaduri, Journalist, Jairaj Bhattacharyya, theatre personality etc.

All of them said that the change of government in the state will bring no succour to the suffering people. On the contrary, attack on the life and livelihood of the people will increase and communal division will be fuelled more and more. They all exhorted to build up united protest against all these attacks as well as affront to great Lenin as well as all other luminaries of the country and abroad. Also present in the demonstration were Comrades Saumen Basu and Amitava Chatterjee, Polit Bureau members, SUCI(C) and Abhijit Majumdar State Secretary, CPI (ML) Liberation.

Exemplary punishment to the guilty of custodial death

In June 2020, P Jeyaraj (58) was picked up by the police as he kept open his mobile shop past lockdown hours. When his son J Bennix went to the police station to release his father, he too was dragged into the lock up. Both were stripped and they were brutally tortured during whole night for two days. They were made to wipe their own blood with their vests. Three days later they died in a hospital. The incident took place in Sathakulam PS in Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu.

After six long years, on 26 April last, 9 police officers of Sathakulam PS in Thoothukudi district have been sentenced to death by the First Additional District and Sessions Court in Madurai for that gruesome custodial murders. In addition to the death sentences, the court ordered the police officers to jointly pay Rs1.40 crore in compensation to the deceased's family.

Responding to the death sentence, Amnesty International India's Chair of Board, said: "The court verdict marks a rare moment of accountability in India's long struggle against police torture. The verdict acknowledges the brutality of a crime that shocked the nation. But this death penalty sentence is not justice – it is a deflection from the deeper reforms urgently required to ensure police oversight and accountability. Punishing a human rights violation with another does not end violence; it just perpetuates it."

Punishing a human rights violation with another does not end violence; it just perpetuates it."

India has established legal and institutional safeguards to ensure police accountability for torture in custody. The Criminal Procedure Code requires medical examination of the victims, production before a magistrate within 24 hours of arrest and judicial inquiries into custodial deaths. The National Human Rights Commission is the investigative authority. Yet these safeguards are routinely ignored or feebly implemented. According to National Crime Records Bureau report, over 800 people were crushed to death in

custody in the last 5 years in India. "If ordinary citizens had committed the same crime, ordinary punishment could have been given, but the police themselves have committed the crime," the Deccan Herald quoted judge G Muthukumaran as saying. "Where there was power there should be responsibility. Jayaraj and Bennix were unarmed and were tortured at regular intervals all through the night at the police station", he added.

The verdict of the Sessions Court is welcome, but it is virtually a solitary incidence of judicial pronouncement of justice in such cases. We do not know whether this ruling will be upheld by higher courts if knocked off by the sentenced guilty police personnel. But there is no scope for ecstasy. It is because of the alarming statistics that we see about custodial deaths. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, 2,250 people have died in police custody in India over the past 25 years, averaging around 90 deaths annually, with over 170 deaths reported in 2025-26 alone. Despite high numbers, convictions remain extremely rare, with only three cases reported between 2018 and 2023. Uttar Pradesh frequently reports the highest numbers. This is not dry statistics—that is more than two people whose lives were snuffed out every single day by those who are supposed to protect them. Law makers are law breakers!

This is the character of the capitalist order today, decadent to the core which has made all its pillars stripped of barest precept of humanness. Haunted by the fear-complex of anti-capitalist socialist revolution, the ruling bourgeoisie has given brutal power to its coercive machinery to silence any voice of protest. In the face of that, the oft-repeated sermons from the ruling quarters to humanize the police force sound like jokes. Such crimes like custodial death will continue till the exploitative capitalist system is in existence.

Demonstration against LPG price hike



Demonstration in Guna, MP, on May 3 against phenomenal rise in commercial LPG price.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH

Edited & Published by Asit Bhattacharyya from 48 Lenin Sarani, Kolkata 700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited, 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Kolkata 700013. Phone : 2249-1828, 2265-3234 E-mail : cc.sucicomunist@gmail.com, proletarianera@gmail.com, Website : https://sucic.org