

Proletarian Era

Volume 59 No. 22 Fortnightly Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST) 8 Pages
July 1, 2026 Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH Page : 1 ■ Price : Rs. 3.00

Ensconced in defection spree is decadence of bourgeois vote politics

Political splits and defections in India have been common since the country's independence. Bourgeois parties like the Congress, Socialist Party and the Jana Congress were at the centre of early splits or defections. However, the defection politics became prominent in the 1960s, especially in 1967, when the Congress lost power in many states. It also saw its majority reduced in parliament. The grand old party was split into Indira Congress, Syndicate Congress, Congress for Democracy and so forth. Gaya Lal, an independent MLA from Hassanpur, Haryana, switched parties three times within a single fortnight—and three times in a single day, in 1967. He helped topple several governments in less than a year. His frequent floor-crossing gave rise to the famous phrase “Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram”. Bhajan Lal of the Congress was the Gaya Lal of Haryana in the 1980s, shifting parties several times to remain in power. Haryana has even been the birthplace of the term ‘farmhouse politics’ which refers to two distinct but related phenomena in Indian parliamentary political discourse: the strategy of confining MLAs to secluded estates to prevent defection or poaching, and the criticism of the leaders who govern remotely from private properties instead of official state offices. Currently, that is called ‘resort’ politics. Defections, of late, are mostly transactional exchanges

driven by bribes, lucrative cabinet positions, avoidance of legal scrutiny or punitive measure for malpractices, malfeasance or misfeasance.

Arguments in favour of defections

Listen to what advocates of defection argue: Legislators should not be forced into blind obedience. If a party's stance shifts or its leadership becomes corrupt, representatives must be free to switch allegiance. When a party lacks internal democracy, defection might be the only available method for a lawmaker to express genuine dissent. In some cases, crossing the floor is viewed as a moral protest to restore democratic values or realign with a coalition that is viewed to better serve public interest. Sounds mellifluous! But they do not corroborate to the stark reality where lure of lucre and power is evidently the sole determinant of such switching by retaining the seats as legislators. If they are disillusioned with the respective parties they belong to, they have every right to dissociate. But then morality demands they must resign as legislators and seek reelection on the tickets of the parties they have shifted to.

A wrecking spanner is thus being driven into the basic process of bourgeois parliamentary democracy in India. The country is shamelessly pushed into the dark

Contd. on page 2

Comrade Rabin Samajpati passes away



Comrade Rabin Samajpati, veteran Polit Bureau member and Jharkhand State Secretary, SUCI(C), breathed his last on 26 June 2026 at National Neuro Science, Kolkata, following massive brain hemorrhage. He was 77.

His mortal remains were brought to the Party's Central Office in Kolkata on 28 June where floral tribute was paid by Comrades Provash Ghosh, our beloved General Secretary, Asit Bhattacharyya, veteran Polit bureau member and other Central Committee-Polit Bureau members, State leaders of West

Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala as well as the leaders of various class and mass organizations of the Party. Thereafter, his last journey commenced with participation of the leaders and innumerable comrades and ended at Keoratala Burning Ghat for cremation amidst slogans by the comrades and rendition of the song composed on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder of the Party and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era, and the *Internationale*. Obituary will be in the next issue.

RED SALUTE COMRADE RABIN SAMAJPATI

SUCI (C) vehemently opposes policy of ‘pushing back’ so called infiltrators by BJP-led Central Government

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 15-06-26:

“The manner and method in which the Central BJP government is ‘pushing back’ common people into Bangladesh under darkness

branding them as illegal infiltrators is in complete violation of international rules, regulations and norms. No civilized government can adopt such undemocratic, heartless, and inhuman methods. True, that no foreign citizen can permanently reside in a country illegally. But such

foreigners staying illegally must be identified through proper legal process and their trial should be done according to the law, with an opportunity for them to defend themselves. If it is conclusively proved through a proper judicial process that an individual is a citizen

of another country, that person should be handed over to the government of the concerned country in accordance with international rules and based on a mutual discussion between the two countries involved.

Contd. on page 2

Legislators are being bought as marketable commodities in dying capitalism

Contd. from page 1

side with many elected MPs acting in ways that do not reflect the will of those who sent them to Parliament. Instead, they reflect the will of those who are powerful enough to offer financial inducements to tempt them and/or make threats that scare them.

Buying legislators in lot is feature of market economy

Before 1991, opportunities to cream money off through public offices were limited to well-placed politicians and fixers. Local and district leaders did not have that lucrative enterprises of loot. But after globalization of Indian economy, even diminutive public offices became units to make quick money. From construction to mining, syndicates and networks built and nurtured by an unholy nexus of the greedy bourgeois politicians mostly belonging to the ruling parties, corrupt administration (municipalities, corporations and district bodies) and the pliant police force (which also gets a share of the booty), have become the order of the day in decadent moribund capitalist set up. These self-seeking bourgeois political leaders are tied to no ideology. Desertions occur, as in Maharashtra and West Bengal of late, to the opposition party only when the latter appears to offer better prospects for loot and power-mongering in an already overcrowded market.

Pattern changed after BJP's ascent to power in 2014

In a true bourgeois democracy, a party or an alliance gets to form the government if it has a majority. But defections and splits changed

the equation often in independent India. The pattern has taken a distinct turn after the BJP was saddled in power in 2014. Its rise to power was propelled by the desertion of many of the Congress leaders who switched to the BJP to ride the new 'Modi wave' for greener pastures. With the Congress reduced to 44 seats in the Lok Sabha in 2014, many of the Congressites viewed no future in the party. These large scale desertions from the Congress proved crucial for the BJP to win elections in states like Haryana, Assam, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

In Karnataka, where BJP had successfully carried out 'Operation Lotus' in 2008, a repeat happened in 2019 when 13 Congress MLAs defected to the BJP. Joined by three other MLAs from JDS (Janata Dal-Secular) and one from KPJP, they successfully toppled the Congress-JDS coalition government, helping the BJP return to power in the state it had lost in 2018.

Even when an opposition party could form the government, the BJP top brass moved the central investigative agencies like the CBI and ED to harass the opposition leaders and force them to cross floors. As the capitalist system itself has become out and out corrupt, anyone serving this system is bound to be corrupt. Only there is variance in degree of wrongdoings. So, the bugbear of ED and CBI unnerves many who then seek refuge in the BJP to skirt punitive action.

Since 2014, ED is reported to have probed 115 leaders of the non-BJP parties. But once they joined the BJP, all the charges were either dropped or put on the backburner.

SUCI(C) vehemently opposes policy of 'pushing back'

Contd. from page 1

However, we note with deep concern that, disregarding the prescribed legal process, the central and state police are arbitrarily arresting some people, and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is pushing them back into Bangladesh under the cover of darkness. As a result, a few Indian citizens have also been pushed into Bangladesh. Even when the BSF is pushing such people into Bangladesh, Bangladesh Border Guards are either refusing them to enter that land or pushing them back to India. Because of this, many hapless people are forced to stay at Zero Point for days, starving and homeless.

Bypassing all legal procedures, the decision to detect any individual as foreigner by the police administration, is arbitrary, totally illegal, and undemocratic. We strongly condemn this.

We demand that this undemocratic and arbitrary process must be stopped immediately, and that properly detected illegal infiltrators be sent back to their home countries with the consent of the respective governments, in strict compliance with relevant national and international rules and regulations.

We call upon the people of the country to raise strong voice across the country in support of implementation of the aforesaid demands in right earnest."

The list is a long one. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, who joined the BJP from the Congress, West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari who deserted TMC to embrace the BJP, Narayan Rane of the Shiv Sena, Ajit Pawar of the NCP and many others, were absolved of all corrupt activities once they found berths in the BJP. Besides the Congress, the BJP also engineered split in Sharad Pawar's NCP (itself a splinter group of the Congress), the Shiv Sena, Aam Aadmi Party, the TMC and others. Using this tactic, the BJP helped topple the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra in 2022. Shiv Sena leaders like Yamini Jadhav, Bhawana Gawali, Pratap Sarnaik, and others saw ED cases filed against them before they joined the pro-BJP Shinde camp of the Shiv Sena. Similarly, in the mutiny in the NCP by Ajit Pawar, several MLAs and MLCs had ED cases against them. So, it has been a common refrain that the BJP is a washing machine.

West Bengal episode

Using a slew of manipulative measures including deletion of 27 lakh odd names under the so called SIR, replacing the state bureaucracy with pro-BJP officials, deployment of 2 lakh paramilitary force tutored to carry out the orders of the BJP high command, spending huge amount of money obviously received from the monopoly houses, using pliant media to the hilt for widespread campaign and capitalizing on the mounting discontent against the misrule of the TMC government, the BJP registered a landslide victory in West Bengal in April election. And immediately, there was a rush of defection. The vulnerability of the TMC, which finished with just 80 MLAs, saw over 60 splitting away to form a separate group in the assembly. And the water spilled to the parliament also. 20 of the 28 Lok Sabha MPs of the TMC, became rebels, met the Lok Sabha Speaker, said that they had merged with a hitherto unknown regional outfit, the Nationalist Citizens Party of India, and sought recognition as a separate bloc in the House. They also said that they would be part of the ruling BJP-led NDA. The manner in which so many TMC MPs capitulated, crawled, and begged to join the BJP bloc, so that they could back the regime of PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah is a troubling sign of our times.

Maharashtra case

The same smash-and-grab model, which was earlier used to engineer split in the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) some years

back, is again being deployed by the BJP hierarchy.

There is something deeply troubling about the wave of defections sweeping India's elected representatives. In the latest episode, 6 out of 9 Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs are seeking to join the Eknath Shinde faction of the Sena, which emerged after an earlier split in the parent party and now sharing power with the BJP in the state. This group constitutes exactly two-thirds of the party's Lok Sabha strength, giving them the escape route that their crossover will constitute a merger under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, or the anti-defection law. Under the Tenth Schedule, a member can be disqualified if they voluntarily resign from their party or defy a party whip during a division of votes in the House. Engineered splits are now dressed up as mergers, letting groups defect without inviting disqualification. It also cannot be forgotten that many former Congress members of the state are now in the BJP, serving a force they once claimed to be inimical to country's interest.

Cleavage in AAP

In April, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MPs in the Rajya Sabha had joined the BJP, reducing AAP's Rajya Sabha strength from 10 to 3. Notably, Raghav Chadha, the Rajya Sabha AAP MP was one of the sharpest critics of the ruling BJP, delivering fiery speeches that often led to intense face-offs and even his temporary suspension from the House before 2026. But the same Chadha shocked the political landscape by resigning from the AAP and crossing over to the BJP alongside a group of AAP MPs, declaring himself "the right man in the wrong party". He alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party has strayed from its principles, morals and values, and no more work for the nation or nation-building but for its own interests. Ok. But then how could he overnight be effusive in praise for PM Modi, he was a vocal critic of even months back, and PM Modi describe his as a decisive governance and strong leadership? The reason for the somersault might not be explicit but can be surmised. Tapped in the decoy.

Now, it is learnt that an all-out effort is being made by the BJP to orchestrate a cleavage in the Samajwadi Party (SP) on the eve of the UP assembly poll. UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and minister Om Prakash Rajbhar claimed that 25 to 26 SP MPs are disgruntled and ready to break away. This is nothing but an aggressive tactic by the BJP to

Contd. on page 4

**AIDYO
held
March
and Rally
in Kolkata
to recall
60 years
of
glorious
struggle**



All India Youth March on 27 June from College Square to Subodh Mullick Square

Students' Protest organized by Odisha AIDSO in Bhubaneswar on 20 June demanding complete withdrawal of unscientific curriculum and defective textbooks prepared under National Education Policy-2020



As a part of a weeklong demand programme, AIDSO, Tripura, Organized a demonstration in Agartala on 18-06-26



Supreme Court gives licence to Election Commission to act as per its whims

The Apex Court has passed a verdict on constitutional validity of SIR. The verdict states that SIR is constitutionally valid. This ends the case but not the controversy. Directions that have been issued regarding the names deleted during the process of SIR at different stages in this judgement have not answered many important questions.

Question over the constitutional validity of SIR has been in the minds of the people as well as the opposition parties. Further, there were questions as to why, during intensive revision of voters list in the bygone years, the Election Commission had not raised objections which are now being focussed on. Why is the Commission raising so many objections now? Why did the Commission seek to complete intensive revision of the voters' list in a tearing hurry while the exercise requires much of time? The basic objection to SIR was centred on its process and procedure. Moreover, when it was obvious that a new process would indeed need a longer time, a new coinage 'Logical Discrepancy' was invoked by the Commission to postpone validity checking of over 27 lakh odd voters. There was no such provision earlier. What prompted it to invoke such a new type of objection?

Without any explanation or answers to all these questions, the Apex Court pronounced constitutional validity of SIR. In terms of legal scrutiny, the issue might appear to have been resolved, but the question has not been erased from people's mind. The judgement to them is inexplicable. The common perception is that perhaps all pros and cons have not been scrutinized following the due juridical process. So, it is doubted if the honour and dignity of the Apex Court has been

maintained by pronouncing such a verdict on so crucial an issue. Many are of the opinion that Election Commission's action which is tantamount to verification of citizenship has been akin to overstepping its jurisdiction. Has that point been looked into with due importance? Perhaps not.

Article 326 of the Constitution says, "*The election to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage, that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate legislature on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corruption or illegal practice.*" Referring to that article, the lawyer of the Commission argued that Commission has every right to conduct SIR. Who claims that the Commission cannot do that? But has the Commission limited itself to SIR or gone beyond to ascertain citizenship of the voters? Has this Article empowered the Election Commission to delete the name of the voters in a massive scale under the pretext of 'Logical Discrepancy'? One of the hon'ble judges of the bench that passed the order admitted that the word 'Logical Discrepancy' is very embarrassing. If article 326 is to be invoked, then it is to be construed that the names of the voters numbering more than 27 lakhs whose names did not feature on the voter list of 2026 because of so called 'logical discrepancy' are either mentally disbalanced or

criminals, miscreants, corrupt elements or illegal practitioners. Is it so? If not, how could have their names been deleted and now sought to be justified referring to article 326?

The moot question is whether the Election Commission has been legally empowered to declare the election schedule without finalizing the Electoral Roll and keeping 27 lakh names pending for verification?

So long no Chief Election Commissioner had to state emphatically that 'no eligible voter would be out of the Electoral Roll'. Because it is known to all that it is not the task of the Election Commission. But Gyanesh Kumar, the present Chief Election Commissioner who is a pick up of the ruling BJP, has been uttering this frequently but doing just the reverse. While releasing the final voters' list of West Bengal on 28 February last, 27 lakhs 16 thousand names were absent.

The deleted voters were asked to appear before the Appellate Tribunal for registering their protest. In between the two stipulated dates of polling, around 1600 names out of 27 lakh could be cleared. Also seen was that most of the adjudicated names were cleared by the appellate tribunal as valid for voting. With this speed of disposal, how many days will be required to clear the pending cases? And if 90-95% of the logical discrepancy cases are found to be clear, then how the SIR that excluded lakhs of valid voters could be termed as a legal one? Moreover, how could the result of election 2026 be considered as reflection of all people's mandate? There has been no answer to this in the Apex Court verdict, nor has there been any observation over such an apparent overruling of the right to vote granted by the

constitution by the Election Commission, arbitrarily and unilaterally?

Moreover, the Apex Court directed that the names of those removed at different stages of SIR should be forwarded to the committee appointed by the by the central government within 4 weeks for determining final citizenship. This means that the citizenship of the names deleted would be determined at the Foreigners Registration Office and Foreigners Regional Registration Office under the Home Department. This confirms that the so called SIR is nothing but preparation of the "National Citizens' Register" (NRC) by the Election Commission through back door and subverting constitutional stipulations.

With the abetment to the actions of the Election Commission by the Apex Court regarding SIR, it is now licensed to do anything in future. The BJP, it may be recalled, changed the procedure of selection of the election commissioners. As against a panel comprising the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India and the leader of the opposition, the selection panel now includes a cabinet minister in place of the Chief Justice. That means the members of the Election Commission would be handpicked by the ruling party and mandated to function as per its dictates. The greatest danger of this court ruling lies there.

Therefore, whatever may be the verdict, the SUCI(C) has raised the demand for inclusion of all the deleted voters in the Electoral Roll by the Tribunal on war footing. Because legality cannot overshadow legitimacy. The Party activists have started a signature collection campaign movement. The signatures so collected will be sent to the Chief Justice of India and the President of India urging fastest disposal of the adjudicated voters in the Tribunal and guaranteeing their right to vote.

Contd. from page 2

project vulnerability in the opposition camp. The buzz is considered by many as a 'mind game' in the defection-prone bourgeois vote politics. The surge in these crossovers, which has the cumulative effect of increasing the strength of the ruling BJP-led NDA in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, raises questions beyond technicalities.

Legal position in regard to turncoat politics

One might ask if such floor crossing is legally permitted. Let us turn to the legal position. The first anti-defection law was passed in parliament in 1985 during Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress government. The stated objective was "to curb the evil of political defections motivated by the lure of office or other similar considerations that endanger the foundations of our democracy." Notably, the law did not make it illegal for elected representatives to switch parties. So, the defections continued unabated. In 2003, the anti-defection law was tweaked. Earlier, legislatures could switch parties without getting disqualified if they represented 1/3rd of the party's strength. This was changed to two-thirds. Additionally, the role of the speaker in a legislative assembly became crucial. The speaker was entrusted the responsibility of deciding on disqualification pleas filed by political parties against the defected members.

Unfortunate role of Judiciary

In theory, India's Judiciary could stymie the decline of the anti-defection law. Instead, it seems to be helping to kill it. In Karnataka in 2019 as well as in Maharashtra in 2022, the Supreme Court effectively froze the law, allowing non-BJP governments to be toppled and for the BJP to assume office. In 2022, the Goa bench of Bombay High Court also upheld the merger of 10 Congress MLAs with the BJP in spite of the text of the law stating quite clearly that mergers only apply to "original" political parties and not their legislative arms. Since the "original" Congress and the BJP have clearly not merged, the High Court's decision is befuddling to say the least. This judgment is the basis of the present splits in the TMC, AAP and the Shiv Sena.

Why is BJP so desperate in engineering defections

By engineering splits in regional parties and poaching their legislators, the BJP is seeking to strengthen its legislative muscle, enabling it to push through legislation that could alter electoral democracy as we know it. The referees,

umpires, and administrators are metaphorically and literally under the control of the power pulling the strings from behind, as was seen in the functioning of the current Election Commission of India in the last five assembly elections. The recent display of the politics of overlordism by the BJP has an end game: redrawing India's constituencies and eventually realize the great Hindutva dream of One Nation One Election (presumably under a great "Hindu Hriday Samrat [emperor of Hindu hearts]").

An inflection points in the bourgeois democracy

This also marks an inflection point in the country's journey as a bourgeois parliamentary democracy when a few hard questions warrant to be asked. First, what is the point of elections when MPs or MLAs can be lured and purchased? Sure, it has happened in the past, but what is currently happening is on an unprecedented scale which is slated to change the very design of Indian parliamentary democratic system. Second, can one hypothetically end up with a single-party rule, not through military takeovers, elections, or revolutions, but by making way into the system through buying out one regional party after another? It does not seem impossible, even though one would still like to believe that it is improbable.

Parliamentary democracy reduced to a transactional business

As we can see, political defections have reduced parliamentary democracy to a transactional business, overriding the mandate of the electorates. A measure of what amount of rot bourgeois democracy is plunged in in this dying phase of capitalism can be made from the swelling number of defections and floor crossing during recent period. It is evident that those getting elected based on people's mandate have no principle, no ideal, no scruple, not an iota of self-respect. They win as candidates of one party, taste power and then hanker for more power and more money. If another party promises them with what they have been aspiring for, as a bait, they readily switch side in utter disregard to people's mandate. They even do not bother to quit as legislators and seek re-election on the ticket of the party they have shifted allegiance to. Thus, in keeping with the precepts of market economy in capitalist globalization, the bourgeois legislators have turned themselves

Parliament now turned into a shopping mall

into saleable commodities. Corrupt to the backbone, having no obligation to the people and guided by the sole objective of self-aggrandizement, these bourgeois politicians enter the arena of electoral politics. What they practise is "politics of material gains". If elected, they abuse their power to make money by defrauding the electorates and embezzling public fund. They feel no qualms for that. They stay with a party till the time another party offers them "better prospects" both in terms of money and power. And then they become turncoats in no time. All pre-poll unleashing of a bitter, fluent, and sustained torrent of angry criticism, blame, or abusive language against a rival party in the election are obliterated overnight and replaced by effusive praise, sometimes sycophancy of the highest order, once they desert their old party and land in the lap of the hitherto considered rival party. Switching parties after winning constitutes an abject betrayal of that electoral mandate, a breach of voters' trust. Even a chameleon would feel envious of them. With such feature of defection being dominant in parliamentary democracy today, common people wonder why there is then so much fanfare over election, so much boasting of being 'largest democracy'?

Election has turned into a farce

When elected representatives abandon their parties—often driven by financial incentives, lust for power or pressure from state agencies—they subvert representative governance into a mechanism for retaining or seizing power. Citizens vote for a specific ideological platform and party manifesto. When

a representative changes allegiances mid-term, the constituent's voice is essentially traded for personal or partisan gain. By transforming the legislature into a platform for engineering defection politics, the basic function of representative bodies—meaningful debate, oversight, and policy-making—is crippled. Universal suffrage then becomes a superficial exercise as class interest of the ruling capitalists which can no more allow democratic, codes, ethics and practices lest that should speed up its inevitable collapse, dominates and manipulates power structure through a slew of measures latest being engineering defections.

Thus, parliament once hailed as sovereign by the exponents of bourgeois democracy and bearing footfalls of esteemed freedom fighters and revered nationalist leaders has now been turned into a shopping mall, if not an auction centre, by the ruling monopolists and their hirelings for free trading of members elected on people's vote but up for sale and floor-crossing against suitable price.

Sign is ominous

The sign looming over the horizon is too ominous to be overlooked or be given a passing glance only. All democracy and peace loving people must now step out and unite on a broad-based platform to resist this fascist menace and raise the demand of 'right to recall'—a democratic mechanism that empowers voters to remove an elected official from office before the end of their fixed term via a direct vote. At the same time, it cannot be forgotten for a moment that all such attempts to resist and thwart such abhorrent practice must be directed towards ultimate overthrowing the root of all evils, the capitalist system by revolution.

Deshbandhu Death Centenary observed in befitting manner

On June 16, AIDYO, AIMSS, and AIDS O organized a tribute ceremony at Orient Chowmuhan in Agartala, Tripura, to mark the conclusion of the centenary year of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das's death. Bhabatosh Dey, the State President of AIDYO, spoke about his life and struggles. Badges bearing Deshbandhu's image were distributed to passersby.



Observance of death centenary in Guna, MP



“Free Electricity” Promise: What Does It Really Mean?

In recent election campaigns, PM Modi had repeatedly promised “free electricity” for all households, presenting it as “Modi’s guarantee.” At rallies, he often asked the crowd whether they would want free electricity, and the response was typically an enthusiastic “yes.” The implication was clear: soliciting support for the BJP in the recently concluded elections so that free electricity could be available to each household.

However, the pertinent question is: will electricity be really free? In other words, will all electricity consumed by households be fully subsidized by BJP-led state governments? The simple answer is, No. So where does the “magic” of this promise lie?

What the BJP leaders did not disclose clearly was that this promise of free electricity was not with respect to present modes of power generation. It was based on a proposed scheme of installation of solar panels by domestic consumers. But would that make electricity entirely free? Again, the answer is,

No.

Let us consider a typical family of four, consuming about 300–400 units of electricity per month. To meet this demand, they would need to install a solar system of at least 3 kilowatts (kw), capable of generating roughly 250–400 units monthly. The initial cost of such a system is around Rs 2 lakh.

In addition, several conditions must be met:

- The household must have access to sufficient rooftop or open space.
- The installation area must receive direct sunlight for most of the day (ideally 7–8 hours).
- The consumer must own the property where the system is to be installed.

The electricity generated by the solar panels would be connected to the household grid through a ‘net meter’. The power produced would then offset against the electricity consumed, reducing the monthly bill. In Kolkata, for example, this would involve integration with CESC’s billing system.

To participate, the consumer must apply online under the *PM Surya Ghar Yojana*, providing relevant details. The installation must be carried out by an empanelled agency under the scheme. After successful installation, the consumer would be able to claim a subsidy of Rs 78,000 from the central government.

This means that although the upfront cost is Rs 2 lakh, the effective expenses after subsidy would stand at approximately Rs 1.22 lakh, which would be borne by the concerned household. The benefit would come in the form of reduced electricity bills over time, depending on how much electricity the solar system generates.

This, then, is the reality behind the claim of “free electricity.”

It is important to clarify that the use of solar energy as a replacement for fossil-fuel-based electricity is a positive and necessary step. The concern here is not with renewable energy itself, but with the politicization of a publicly funded scheme.

Several issues merit consideration:

1. Limited Accessibility: Only those who own independent houses with suitable rooftop space can benefit. This excludes a large majority of urban residents living in apartments or rented accommodations.

2. Pre-existing Policy: Subsidized solar energy schemes existed well before Modi became Prime Minister. Presenting this as a new or exclusive initiative is a travesty of truth.

3. Market Concentration: The solar panel market in India is significantly influenced by large corporate groups, including those associated with Adani and Ambani. Increased incentives for solar adoption would indirectly channel public funds toward these dominant players.

In conclusion, while rooftop solar adoption is a policy direction of merit, albeit for the well-off families, but describing it as “free electricity for all” is a distortion of the reality and aimed at misinforming the public.

Nasirnagar Demolition: a ghost operation?

On 29 and 30 May 2026, a large-scale demolition operation was carried out in Nasirnagar, a minority habitat, in Surat. Around one hundred houses were destroyed. Eyewitnesses reported the presence of police personnel, officials of the BJP-controlled Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), and officers of the Special Operations Group (SOG). Residents recall scenes of women, children and elderly people desperately attempting to save their homes and belongings while bulldozers razed the settlement into wreckage.

The operation was conducted under heavy security arrangements. Mobilized police personnel stood as indulgent onlooker. Queerly, senior SOG officials denied knowledge of the operation despite visual evidence showing their presence at the site. The Surat Municipal Corporation claimed that its officials were present only for land demarcation and road-margin measurements. Thus, no authority claimed responsibility for this demolition in spite of their presence at the place of occurrence. Are we then to conclude that this was an unauthorized demolition?

First, if the demolition was unofficial, why were police and SOG personnel present throughout the operation? Second, if municipal authorities had no role, why were

senior civic officers observed supervising activities at the site? Third, if the structures were illegal, why were the residents not served proper notice and rehabilitated at a suitable place? If nothing of that sort was done, why should not those responsible for this ‘illegal’ operation be charged for committing a horrendous crime? Particularly significant is the reported involvement of contractor networks linked to municipal structures. The bulldozers demolition had allegedly been hired through individuals associated with municipal contracting systems.

Moreover, the very attempt by the different segments of authorities to skirt their responsibilities by giving ludicrous alibi further confirms a covert operation on the part of the power that be. A resident of Nasirnagar locality in Surat has filed a petition in the Gujarat High Court against the demolition drive. According to Katargam MLA Vinu Moradiya the Municipal Commissioner Corporation officials informed him that they had only gone to the site to measure the land and road, and that the equipment used in the demolition did not belong to the civic body.

If the civic body was not responsible, then on whose instructions the action was taken?

SMC Standing Committee Chairman Rajan Patel, meanwhile, clarified that the corporation sought police deployment for the demarcation of land in the area and that the municipality took no part in the act. Meanwhile, Municipal Commissioner M. Nagarajan clarified that the SMC team only visited the site for the demarcation exercise. Such rigmoroles further corroborates to institutional complicity. Rightly observed a section of the media it has been a “ghost demolition”.

It warrants mentioning that Nasirnagar is not a newly cropped up settlement on any encroached land. Residents have been living in that area for decades. They possess tax receipts dating back to 1996, along with electricity bills and other documentary evidence confirming long-term habitation. The settlement had evolved into a stable working-class neighbourhood whose residents contributed to the city’s economy as labourers, informal workers and small service providers.

According to the residents, pressure was mounting for past several months to vacate the area. Agents linked to private builders repeatedly visited the locality, urging people to leave as soon as possible. Residents were reported to be threatened that if they refused to vacate the place voluntarily,

bulldozers would eventually be used to demolish their homes.

Recognizing the growing danger, local residents had organized themselves and submitted a written representation on 15 October 2025 to the Municipal Commissioner, the Police Commissioner, the Katargam Zonal Officer and the local police station. Official seals on the petition indicate that state authorities were aware of the dispute and the apprehensions of the residents. Nevertheless, no meaningful intervention or protection was provided.

The Nasirnagar incident is not an isolated event. Rather, it reflects a typical design of forcibly evicting poor people from their home and hearth and the vacated land is then handed over the realty syndicates run by the corporate behemoths for, what the ruling authorities call, commercial development and beautification as well as modernization of the cities. With crass Hindu communal BJP at the helm of affairs, the downtrodden hapless minority community is mostly the soft target.

Gujarat Unit of ‘Center for Protection of Democratic Rights and Secularism’ (CPDRS), a Citizens’ Forum has sent a petition to The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to intervene and take immediate steps to rehabilitate the residents.

Borrowing heavily to fund losses due to fraud, plunder and liberal tax waivers to corporates

According to media report. BJP-led Indian government is in talks with multilateral lenders to secure about \$2.5 billion in funding from existing credit lines as it tees up fresh sources of money after the West Asia conflict crimped its ability to step up spending. The World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) are stated to be in discussions to disburse loans worth \$1.5 billion and \$1 billion, respectively, with announcements likely within the next two months. It is further claimed by the ruling quarters that India is facing a wider-than-expected budget gap at the start of the financial year after it had to spend more on subsidies to shield citizens from higher oil prices triggered by the US-Iran conflict. But is that a fact or a subterfuge to hide total failure in so called pursuit of fiscal prudence and financial management, not for securing people's interest but to satiate unending hunger for profit maximization of the ruling monopolists and multi-nationals through exacerbation of ruthless oppression of the toiling masses.

National Debt of India

The total outstanding internal and external debt of the Government of India (combining central government and state liabilities) has grown by roughly 260% to 270% over the past decade, increasing from around Rs 55–58 lakh crore in 2014 to 2025. The overall outstanding debt of the Government of India is projected to be around Rs 214.82 lakh crore. While the absolute debt figure has trebled, the critical measure—the General Government Debt-to-GDP ratio—stands at around 80.6%. The surge was primarily driven by the heavy borrowing required to fund post-pandemic economic recovery and significant revenue loss because of a splurge of tax waivers, concessions and condoning of large loan defaults to the corporate houses. The Union minister of state for finance has finally confirmed that the Indian banking system has written off Rs 16.11 lakh crore during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first 10 years. Over the last ten years, frauds and corporate sharks frittered away at least Rs 12 lakh crore of the Rs 16.11 lakh crore

our banking system has written off. The union finance ministry has given the 'recovery' figure, which is around Rs 2.5 lakh crore, and if that be so, the actual hit (net NPA) by the banks would come down to Rs 13.62 lakh crore. We have no idea how much of the recovery was from cases that were being pursued or relate to those that are already 'written off'. What is lost matters the most to the common Indian citizens, as it is their money.

Waivers to monopolists

All India Bank Employees Association has, of late, exposed how public banks were made to accept Rs 16,000 crore from ten financially stressed companies after they were taken over by Adani groups, against their claim of Rs 62,000 crore. Anil Ambani's Reliance Communications owed Rs 49,000 crore to 53 banks, but the National Company Law Tribunal admitted only Rs 47,000 crore and settled for just Rs 455 crore—which is a ridiculous 0.92% of the total debt. The other major query one asked of the finance minister was about scamsters who have fleeced the banks. To this, the minister was cagey and gave a bland statement, the sum and substance of which is that frauds accounted for Rs 92,193 crore of losses in ten years "based on the date of reporting".

Plunders by business tycoons

This is obviously an understatement, hiding under banking terminology, as the combined loot of PM Modi's former associates, Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi, Nishant Modi, Ami Modi, Neeshal Modi, Lalit Modi, Jatin Mehta, Chetan and Nitin Sandesara and Gujarat-based ABG Shipyard would be larger than this amount. Then, there are mega frauds carried out by Vijay Mallya, DHFL, Yes Bank, PMC Bank and so many other cheats. Three years back, the RBI had responded to an RTI query saying that banks had lost Rs 4.69 lakh crore on account of frauds between 1 June 2014 and 31 March, 2023. This report was sent to the finance minister to confirm or rebut, but an otherwise verbose FM went silent. She did not even clarify whether there had been any overlap between 'corporate losses' and 'frauds'—which, one suspects, there is.

Apart from not changing the rules to stop this "legitimate" plunder of bank funds, viz, people's

money (the government does not compensate) and allowing fugitives to escape to better climes (by not issuing lookout notices), the BJP government has not seized properties of the fugitives made from such ill-gotten gains, unless they are company properties.

Fugitive diamond tycoon Mehul Choksi and his companies (such as Gitanjali Gems) have outstanding loan defaults and unpaid credits totaling Rs 27,544 crore (over \$3.2 billion USD). Mehul's nephew Nirav Modi's fraudulent bank guarantees and subsequent loan defaults total approximately Rs 13,000 crore (around \$2 billion USD). This massive debt primarily stems from the unauthorized Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) issued through the Punjab National Bank (PNB) to overseas branches of Indian banks. Vijay Mallya's defaulted loan amount involves approximately Rs 6,848 crore. However, with accumulated interest and penal charges, total outstanding dues reached an estimated Rs 17,781 crore. Moreover, one comes to the approximate figure of Rs 12 lakh crore by adding the amount banks lost to fraud between June 2014 and March 2023 (Rs 4.69 lakh crore) to 80% of the amount that banks have written off for "large industries and services" in the BJP government's first ten years (80% of Rs 9.25 lakh crore, i.e. Rs 7.45 lakh crore).

Windfall tax waiver

Then there is waiver of windfall taxes. To understand windfall tax, we have to first understand the windfall gains on which this tax is levied. Windfall gains are the unexpected profits or gains that are accrued to a business on account of external factors that are often beyond their control and the business has not made targeted efforts to earn the same. The recent increase in crude oil prices has led the domestic oil companies to gain unprecedented profits. Yes, unprecedented profits. These profits have been the result of the economic condition faced by the world that has been aggravated due to the ongoing war creating a perfect scenario for the oil companies to have a one-off case of unprecedented profits. Taxing these super-normal profits could prove to be a good revenue source for the government. But the government,

instead is raising retail tariff of petrol-fuel-LPG to squeeze the common people more and more. Amid the ongoing military invasion of US-Israel against Iran, which has impacted India's energy supply, the government announced export duties of Rs 21.50 per litre on diesel and Rs 29.50 per litre on Aviation Turbine fuel (ATF). But Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd has been exempted from paying the reimposed windfall tax on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) exports. This exemption allows Reliance to protect nearly 55% of its total refining production from the export duty, resulting in substantial indirect tax relief for the company. Levy on fuel exports cut; government spares SEZs from windfall tax. Exempting Reliance Industries Ltd from India's windfall tax on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) fuel exports is estimated to widen the government's annual revenue shortfall to roughly Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

Revenue foregone

Thus, over the past 10 years (FY 2014-15 to FY 2024-25), the Government of India has forgone approximately Rs 9.3 lakh crore (\$ 111 billion) in corporate tax revenue. Over the past decade, India's public exchequer has foregone a staggering Rs 11,812.98 crore in tax revenues due to exemptions claimed by donors to political parties, according to a study by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

Is it mark of resilient economy

The fiscal deficit target for the Indian government for the 2025-26 (FY26) financial year is exactly 4.4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This translates to an absolute borrowing amount of approximately Rs 15.58 lakh crore. Over and above that, the BJP government is now soliciting huge loan from World Bank and Asian development Bank to finance the deficit caused by limitless loot, fraud, liberal tax waivers and financial concessions to the corporate behemoths and corrupt businessmen.

This is just a glimpse of India's 'resilient' economy as claimed by the government circles.

FIFA World Cup — politicization and commodification of sports

Sport, as we all know, is a great character building tool. It is a device to sustain physical and mental nourishment—a means to create a healthy mind in a healthy body and foster the spirit of cordiality and friendship. Sportsmanship is an attitude that strives for fair play, courtesy toward teammates and opponents, ethical behaviour and integrity, and grace in victory or defeat. Fair play refers to all participants having an equitable chance to pursue victory and acting toward others in an honest, straightforward, and a firm and dignified manner even when others do not play fairly. It includes respect for others including team members, opponents, and officials. Character refers to dispositions, values and habits that determine the way that person normally responds to desires, fears, challenges, opportunities, failures and successes and is typically seen in polite behaviour toward others such as helping an opponent to get up or shaking hands after a match.

Sport is thus a time-tested device for bringing about social integration and sense of fraternity. That is why sport has always been regarded as complementary to education.

Origin of international sports events

In 1896, the Olympic Games which originated in ancient Greece in 776 BCE as a religious festival honouring Zeus, was revived in 1896 by French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin, establishing the modern International Olympic Committee (IOC) to foster international peace and athletic excellence. Football, unlike elite sports, was born in the industrial towns and working-class communities. The game transitioned from a chaotic village pastime to an organized sport in 19th-century British public boarding schools and soon spread across continents through migrants.

Similarly, the FIFA World Cup was envisaged to emerge as the highest expression of that ideal, and an occasion to heighten the standard of the sports through healthy competition among the teams from various parts of the world. First FIFA World Cup was hosted in 1928. It could be observed that both in football as well as in Olympics, performances of the then socialist countries right from Soviet Union to East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Eumani and others were highly noticeable. Prior to capitalist globalization and sad dismantling of the socialist bloc, international events like FIFA World Cup like the Olympics broadly centered around

sporting excellence and competitive spirit. The leash was broadly in the hands of the sports-loving people.

Commodification of sports

But once capitalist globalization had set in in a unipolar world, the process of commoditization and commercialization of sports was rolled out. First, Australian media tycoon Kerry Packer started 50-over pyjama cricket and brought most of the then famous cricketers within its fold offering them 5 to 10 times money they were earning from Test and one day cricket. Sports from then started to become a carnival. Even well-known football clubs both in the Western world as well as in our country were taken over by big business houses to reap profit by selling the sports to the consumer audiences. Every emotional experience becomes a commodity.

The imperialist-capitalist world, rather an unholy nexus of the corporates-moneybags-let loose a concerted and cunning hype through its latest brand of media, the electronic version, particularly the TV. A new set of terms were floated in the air; professionalism, sponsorship, infotainment meaning a brand of admixture of information and entertainment etc. On the one hand, a liberal flow of money was made available to the sporting world, supported by a campaign that the days of amateur sports are gone. Sports and business were punched together in an intimate way.

As it was apprehended, the nexus and its doctrine of commercialism-professionalism also gave birth to corruption. Betting, match fixing, bribing, illegally and artificially enhancing performance through doping, etc., became rampant in every sport, in this country or that. Soon the situation came to such a pass and its exposure to people caused such adverse opinion among them, that in different international sports and games meet, the organizers were forced at least outwardly to take measures against any attempt towards betting, fixing etc. The menace was particularly evident in football i.e., soccer. Even at its highest international level, there were reports of fixing results or manipulating performances to affect results.

FIFA World Cup a money-spilling event

In course of that, the 2026 FIFA World Cup jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, has been an extravaganza with prohibitive price of tickets, expensive accommodations, escalating transportation costs and

selling media rights at enormous price to a few global media barons. Sponsors dominate every aspect of the event. Hospitality packages cater to wealthy consumers. Host cities absorb public costs while private actors reap enormous profits. Corporate sponsors and elite guests enjoy privileged access while the same eludes millions of ordinary supporters and genuine football lovers. The language of the people's game is thus guillotined by profit maximization of the large corporates and multi-nationals. But not just that. The expanded 48-team FIFA 2026 World Cup is soiled with narrow geo-political sectionalism, racialism and such other features which brazenly militate against the intent, universal spirit, multiculturalism and international solidarity of a competitive sports at global level.

Discriminatory treatment galore

FIFA's wealthy officials have done nothing to protect the players, staff or supporters coming to the U.S. for the events. Their silence to and acquiescence in the US government reinforces racist US immigration and entry policies in determining who can participate. FIFA has left everything in the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Four countries—Haiti, Iran, Ivory Coast and Senegal — are facing the heaviest restrictions on any forms of visas. Fans from 52 African, Caribbean and South Asian countries, including teams in the World Cup such as Algeria and Cape Verde, had to compulsorily deposit \$5,000 to \$15,000 in bond payments for obtaining a tourist visa. The calculated denial of the right to travel to people from African countries and Haiti had created months of uncertainty about receipt of visa by administrators, medical staff, translators and other personnel. Fans from more than a quarter of the 48 countries taking part in the World Cup have been facing travel bans, tighter restrictions or high visa rejection rates. No European country faces this kind of restriction. Instead, 42 countries benefit from a US visa waiver programme, where applications are made online through the US's Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

Racialism in play

The controversy surrounding Somali referee Omar Abdulkadir Artan became emblematic of that noxious feature. Artan, one of Africa's most respected referees, reportedly faced entry difficulties despite being connected to the

tournament. Why? Because US is actively engaged in a covert, escalating military campaign of airstrikes against the Al-Shabaab organization in Somalia which is actively fighting the pro-US Federal Government of that country. Similar concerns emerged around visa restrictions affecting members of Iran's football delegation and supporters from countries subjected to heightened immigration scrutiny. FIFA regulations explicitly mandate that all competing teams must arrive at the match venue the day before a game to conduct mandatory stadium training and pre-match press conferences. Yet the Iranian team and its immediate support staff were prohibited from staying even one night in the U.S. This meant that Iran was forced to abandon its original U.S. training base in Tucson, Arizona, and set up camp in Tijuana, Mexico. Iran's football federation has lodged a formal complaint with FIFA regarding severe travel restrictions imposed on its squad in North America. US authorities required the team to enter host cities only one day before matches and leave immediately after, drawing severe criticism from team management. These logistical curbs have disrupted the team's preparation schedule, prompting the Iranians to cite unfair treatment. Again why? Because the US imperialist rulers are at loggerheads with the Iranian regime.

Double standard of FIFA and US

The irony is especially striking because the host US presents itself as the champion of openness and democracy. The US criticized Russia's World Cup, China's Olympics, and Qatar's World Cup for restricting freedoms and politicizing international sporting events. Now FIFA World Cup exposes a glaring double standard. In 2022, FIFA officials immediately banned Russia indefinitely from all official FIFA and UEFA Nations League international and club competitions, including the World Cup and European qualifiers, due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. However, despite international campaigns to ban Israel for its horrific and continuing genocide of the Palestinian people as well as pounding Lebanon, FIFA has not imposed even the mildest of reprimands. Instead, FIFA maintains that the Israel Football Association is in "good standing."

US seeking to refurbish image

The US is using the World Cup to project an image of openness, diversity, and democratic vitality at a

Contd. on page 8

The Death Centenary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das observed with deep respect



Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, a great humanist and an outstanding mass leader of freedom movement passed away on 16 June 1925. He was a renowned barrister who saved the lives of many revolutionaries through his bold pleading in the arena of court. He was the mentor of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

He strongly criticized Gandhiji for calling off the country-wide non-cooperation movement after the Chaurichaura incident. He formed Swarajya Dal which got enormous support from the people of the country. The imperialist government put him behind bar, but couldn't put down his fighting spirit. He donated his all belongings for the sake of the country's freedom movement. The year 2025-26 is his death centenary. The *All Bengal Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Death*

Centenary Observance Committee remembered his life and struggle through year-long programmes.

The concluding ceremony was held at Sesquicentenary Auditorium of the Calcutta High Court. Justice Dipankar Dutta, Judge of Supreme Court, Justice Sujoy Paul, Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty, Judge of Calcutta High Court, Justice Biswajit Basu, former Judge of Calcutta High Court, and Mr. Jayanta Kumar Mitra, former Advocate General of WB, were the speakers. Senior advocate Partha Sarathi Sengupta presided over it. Many states observed the death centenary in befitting manner at the call of the *Committee*. In Darjeeling (where Deshbandhu had breathed his last) and Siliguri, too, programmes were organized.

Sports is stripped of its kernel, commodified and commercialized

Contd. from page 7

moment when the Pentagon rulers are looked down upon by peace-loving sports-loving global populace as war mongers, aggressors, bullying others to submit at gun points, clamping draconian sanctions on countries refusing to carry out their orders and facing considerable turmoil at home because of growing anti-people measures. 'No Kings' movement, a decentralized mass protest coalition opposing the policies and executive overreach of US President Donald Trump during his second term which has been drawing millions of demonstrators across thousands of locations nationwide.

Who owns football

Hence arises the question: Who owns football? Does it belong to governing bodies, multinational corporations, media conglomerates, and state authorities? Or does it belong to the players, sport-lovers, supporters, and communities whose labour and passion transformed it into a global phenomenon?

The 2026 World Cup does not answer that question. What it does reveal is the extent to which football has become entangled with the structures of power that shape contemporary society. A tournament dedicated to global unity has

exposed unequal mobility. A celebration of diversity has highlighted the persistence of borders. A sport built by working-class communities has become a vehicle for channelizing corporate profit. And a supposedly apolitical event has become inseparable from the power that be.

The lesson extends beyond football. Behind the language of openness and inclusion lies a system of borders, hierarchies, and exclusions that determines who can participate and who remains outside the gates. Football promised a world without borders. The 2026 World Cup has reminded us that the borders remain—and that power still decides who gets to cross them.

Class angle

Finally, every institution in class society—including in education, culture, law, media, religion and sports—serves to legitimize and maintain the power of the ruling monopolists. The role of these institutions, including multibillion-dollar FIFA, is to ensure the economic and political *status quo* remains unchallenged. These institutions loyally defend the legal system, police and military, including the ICE agents, who directly enforce ruling bourgeois class interests and suppress dissent.

Memorial Meeting of Comrade Rabin Samajpati *Polit Bureau Member, SUCI(Communist)*

* * *

3 July 2026
at Sarat Sadan, Howrah

Victory of protest movement against renaming of Barkatullah University

In early June, the Executive Council of the Barkatullah University in Bhopal, MP, passed a unanimous resolution to rename the institution as Vagdevi Bhojpal University. "Vagdevi" refers to the Hindu goddess of knowledge, while "Bhojpal" honors the Parmar dynasty ruler King Bhoj. The decision sparked a major political row. Critics argued that the renaming erased the legacy of the freedom fighter Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali, whom the university was originally named after in 1988. There was a serious dissent among the students, teachers, guardians and noted academicians.

In a memorandum to the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, over 1000 citizens, academicians, and students said that with a profound sense of civic duty, historical responsibility, and deep emotional angst regarding the proposal passed by the Bhopal University Syndicate body to change the name of Barkatullah University, this communication was sent to him. Changing the name of the University named after a legendary nationalist freedom fighter Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali (1864-1926), will be tantamount to affront to such a legendary figure of Indian freedom struggle. So, they implored the hon'ble governor to exercise his constitutional authority to withhold assent to this proposal and preserve the legacy of a towering national icon. Erasing the name of a noted freedom fighter from an institution of higher learning is not merely a change of nomenclature; it is an erasure of our collective national conscience, they added.

Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali was not a localized figure but a global ambassador of India's freedom struggle. Operating from the US, Japan, and Europe, he co-founded the Ghadar Party and served as the Prime Minister of the first Provisional Government of India established in exile (Kabul, 1915) alongside Raja Mahendra Pratap. For over five decades, Barkatullah University has built a global reputation under this name. Altering it creates administrative confusion, dilutes the university's historical brand, and sets a regressive precedent of retrospective political editing. It is not possible to give Maulana Barkatullah his life back, nor can one change the fact that he died on foreign soil yearning for a free homeland. The very least a grateful nation can do is keep his memory alive in the halls of education, inspiring generations to come.

So, they urged upon the hon'ble governor of Madhya Pradesh who is also the Chancellor of the Universities of Madhya Pradesh and the custodian of the Constitution, to protect Indians' shared heritage. They reiterated their humble request to reject the Syndicate's proposal and ensure that Bhopal University continues to proudly bear the name of Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali.

Bowing before popular protest, the authorities in the state higher education department shelved the renaming drive, and the university will continue to operate under its original name. This is indeed a great victory of the education-loving people of Madhya Pradesh. AIDS activists were totally involved with this movement and took part in mobilizing people's opinion against such a menacing step.

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