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Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought illuminates the path to emancipation

Comrade Provas Ghosh on 5 August

[This is the speech delivered by Comrade Provas Ghosh, our beloved General Secretary, in Bengali on 5 August 2025 in Kolkata on the occasion of observance of 50th Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher and guide. The responsibility of translation error or inadequate expression, if any, lies with the Editorial Board of Proletarian Era.]

Comrade President, comrades and friends,

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day is being observed throughout the country today. After his demise in 1976, we observe this day every year with due solemnity. Our departed leaders like Comrades Nihar Mukherjee, Sachin Banerjee, Subodh Banerjee, Pritish Chanda, Hiren Sarkar who were revolutionary compatriots of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as well as the next generation leaders like Comrades Ashutosh Banerjee, Tapas Dutta, Sukomal Dasgupta, Anil Sen, Ranajit Dhar, Manik Mukherjee—everyone had paid revolutionary tribute to our great leader, teacher and guide on this Day. Even Comrade Mubinul Haider Chowdhury, who built up a new revolutionary party in Bangladesh based on the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, also paid his respectful tribute to this outstanding Marxist thinker and Founder of our Party, SUCI(C), on this Day. Before breathing their last, they all undertook a self-examination as to

how much they have been able to assimilate the essence of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teachings and apply the same in their lives covering all aspects. The conscience of all our comrades who have passed away was stirred by this very question. Almost 200 of our leaders and cadres were killed by the Congress-CPI (M) and TMC during their respective rules. Our martyred comrades were given a condition that they should either switch to the ruling dispensation or face death. Even in the face of death, they did not deviate from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought.

What were the teachings? What mental strength did those teachings confer on them so as to conduct such a death-defying struggle? The teachings were of embracing a higher revolutionary ideology, higher morality, unending love and

affection for the oppressed millions, the real meaning of self-dignity and the path of leading an honourable life based on that.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had enriched revolutionary ideology of Marxism-Leninism

Let me say something about myself. I was initiated into the Party at a tender age of 13. I was then a student of class VIII. I was attracted towards communism under the influence of the then social milieu. The names of Great Netaji Subhas, Great Stalin used to inspire us. Accidentally, through an incident, I came in contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, our great leader. I was then not of an age to understand everything. But I witnessed that a meeting of the activists comprised hardly 50 heads. A public meeting of ours used to be a gathering of 100-150 people at Hazra Park in South Kolkata. We were

taunted that ours was not a party but a club : a new mushroom had sprouted. If SUCI(C) was to be recognized as a party, then a bat also should be considered to be a bird. We were asked whether Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was superior to Comrades Stalin and Mao Zedong who had given recognition to the undivided CPI? Shibdas Ghosh was claiming himself to be a student of Stalin and Mao Zedong; then why was he saying that CPI was not a genuine communist party? We had to carve out our road amidst all such scoffing and derision. I have myself seen Comrade Shibdas Ghosh spending days going without food, or at best being half-fed. If some rice could be managed, he used to have that boiled rice with a little mustard oil and salt. Some days, some over-diluted soup of lentil along with a little quantity of rice were his diet. And on some other day, he had only some puffed rice. There were many days when even that little was also not available. I am an eye witness to

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Nepal

Interim Government, Act According to Essence of the Gen-ji Uprising!

After the bloody Genji movement, or the historic Baneshwor Uprising, which was fought with the sacrifice of more than three dozen youth and students, the oppressive Oli government has collapsed, and an

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interim government has been formed under the leadership of former Chief Justice Sushila Karki on 27 Bhadra as per the demands of the protesters. The Genji youth movement, which began with the protest against corruption and a corrupt government and the demand for good governance and rose on September 8 (Bhadra 23), was in essence an explosion of the systemic crisis of the Nepali capitalist system. This explosion has come to be marked as a historic youth and student uprising in Nepali politics. It is reported that more than 50 youth

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Media Say So

I fought in Gaza. Here Is Why I Would Not Go Back.

Yotam Vilks

On Oct. 7, 2023, when the scale of Hamas's massacre in Israel became clear, we went to war. The pain for those of us in the military was unbearable. The feeling that we had failed to protect our loved ones consumed me. Fueled by anger and guilt, we entered combat against a ruthless terror organization that showed with brutal clarity the depths of its cruelty.

I fought in Gaza for a year, first as a tank platoon commander and then as the deputy to my company commander. I led ground maneuvers

inside the Gaza Strip, took Hamas strongholds and helped dismantle the group's tunnels, weapons depots and command posts. Day by day, driven by duty, I confronted the stark reality of war: death and destruction at close range, the weight of irreversible decisions, the constant demand to act with clarity under fire.

As time passed, another harsh truth emerged: Our own state had lost its way. If we went to war on Oct. 7 to save what was dearest to

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those days of his arduous struggle. Myself and all my the then comrades-in-arm used to feel a magnetic attraction towards Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. We had heard of many legendary personalities like Vidyasagar-Vivekananda-Desbandhu Chittaranjan—Netaji Suhas-Rabindranath-Saratchandra and others. But we did not see them in person. But we have seen Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, a great man in every respect. So, we were so attracted towards him, spell-bound when listening to his talks. His conduct, his movements, his demeanour were all a living embodiment of higher human feelings and essence. Hence we were so captivated. He laboured day and night to develop us. If you see a bit of quality in me, that is his endowment. I had spent 26 years in close association with him, reared and nurtured by his love and affection. At this penultimate stage of life, I have been carrying with me whatever little I could learn from him.

The parties who used to jeer at us at that time like the CPI are now disintegrated into so many factions. The CPI (M) after being dislodged from power is now considerably enfeebled. The Naxalites are divided into so many groups. The RSP and Forward Bloc are on the verge of extinction. RCPI has wound up. Once upon a time, they were all big parties. On what basis is our Party growing and expanding throughout India? No mainstream newspaper has ever mentioned the name of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. His name has not featured in any of the propaganda media. Our Party is not gaining strength based on the number of MLAs and MPs. No minister had patronized us. But the strength of our Party is ever growing because it is based on the great ideology of Marxism-Leninism that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had grasped and further developed, elaborated and enriched.

Marxism gave due recognition to proper role of religion

Why did Comrade Shibdas Ghosh embrace Marxism-Leninism whereas in India there were religious philosophies of Vivekananda and Gandhiji? If the religious philosophies could provide solution to the emerging problems and predicaments of common people, he would have surely accepted them. Once the role of religion was glorious and progressive. There is a campaign that we, the Marxists, do not believe in religion and are atheists; and those who are atheists cannot do anything good to people. It is correct that we do not believe that the present day problems can be

Political leaders have become religious preachers

resolved based on religious preaching. At the same time, we hold that religion at a particular juncture of social development had shown the correct path to mankind. Religion appeared during slave-master society. Great Marx said: "*Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of the heartless world and the soul of the soulless conditions...is at the same time the expression of real distress and also the protest against real distress.*" (A contribution to the critic of Hegel's philosophy of right) This was his historic observation. He held that the pain—and grief of common masses had once given rise to the concepts of god and religion. Those who denigrate us over this question are either ignorant of this observation of Marx or deliberately want to consign his observation to the abyss of oblivion. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, an ardent student of Marx, had said that religion was first to provide mankind with the concepts of ethics-morality, sense of duty as well as vice and virtue. This is the historical evaluation of religion according to Marxism-Leninism. Later, feudal lords and monarchy used religion as a tool to oppress people. When mercantile capital was gradually transforming into industrial capital and industrial capital was fighting against feudalism, monarchy and feudal lords had sought to survive by using religion as the plank. The propaganda was that the king is the representative of god. So, a rebellion against the king was akin to declare revolt against god. So, religion stood as a stumbling block before the establishment of bourgeois republic in place of the obsolete feudal regime. Voltaire, Bacon, Spinoza, Hobbs, Bentham, Kant, Hume, Descartes, Feuerbach were the bourgeois philosophers and thinkers of that period of rising capitalism and advent of bourgeois democracy. They all said that religion was an aberration of history. They looked at religion with disrespect. Bacon had even said that the Bible should be burnt.

Political leaders are preaching religion

Marxism had never viewed religion like this. Rather, Marxism had respected the historical role of religion at the time of its emergence. But it is true that no discussion on the problems of present day human society can be found in the religious scriptures. Unemployment is soaring, lakhs and lakhs of workers are being retrenched, prices are skyrocketing, tax rates are going up,

rapes and gang rapes are rising, corruption has reached a pinnacle, those who are supposed to contain corruption from the seats of power are themselves corrupt to the backbone. Is there any discussion on these questions in the Gita, the Vedas and Vedanta, the Ramayana, the Bible or the Quran? Is any suggested remedy to these problems contained in such religious scriptures? No, there is not. Because such problems did not arise when such religious scripts were authored. The then religious preachers had given their individual opinions regarding resolution of the problems they had observed. The religious preachers then had fought against social injustice. Both Gautam Buddha as well as Mahavira did not believe in god. But they fought against the then oppression and repression. Shankaracharya had fought. Christ gave his life. Hazrat Muhammad had fought by risking his life. But does any of the self-styled religious preachers today fight against injustice? So many girls are being criminally assaulted, their modesty is being outraged but have any of the religious gurus, any temple, mosque or church authority raised voice of protest? They are only praying. Let me say for the sake of argument, if Buddha, Mahavira, Christ or Hazrat Muhammad had been alive today, would they advise not to protest since it is time for puja, prayer or namaz? Surely not. They would have rather stood against such crimes and injustices. Because they were the greatest characters of their times. We, the Marxists, pay our tribute to them like this. From Great Marx to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, all Marxist authorities have paid their respect to the religious preachers like this. Yet, it is true that religion cannot resolve the problems of today. Rather, the advocates of religiosity propagate that everything is creation of god including the rich and the poor. Why is a poor languishing in abject penury, dying on account of starvation? Why are their children dying in absence of rudimentary healthcare? Because, they had sinned in their previous life. And the Ambanis-Adanis-Tatas—who are amassing fabulous wealth by squeezing the last drop of blood of the impoverished millions, had all had done good work in their previous life. So they are reaping benefit of that now. God has sent them to enjoy life in this birth. These are the versions of the religious propagandists today.

Once, the religious preachers

had gone day after day without food. But today, properties of temples, churches or mosques are of astronomical figure. The industrial tycoons and big business provide funds to them. So also do the leaders of the BJP, Congress and TMC. They build temples and organize so many religious festivals. The spree of religious functions and propaganda is on account of this only. Now the leaders of these parties have themselves become preachers of religion. Each and every BJP leader is now a religious preacher. In fact, there is a competition among the leaders of the BJP of various states as to who is a better champion of Hindu religion. The TMC Chief Minister of West Bengal has also joined the bandwagon. In fact, there is a deep conspiracy behind this craze of showing over-devotion to religion. Let the people be confined to religious blindness so that they do not raise any question about the reason of their increasing predicament. Let the suffering countrymen believe that all oppression, suppression, deprivations are a *fait accompli*, the result of their sins from their previous birth, ordained by god. In that case, the exploited people would not rise in protest, not organize struggle against injustice and repression. That is why, so much ado over setting up Ram Mandir, establishment of Jagannath temple at Digha, West Bengal, by spending crores of rupees from public exchequer. In fact, these are all temples of vote, purported to plunge people more and more into the dungeon of religious blindness and obscurantism so that they vote in favour of the vendors of religion. This religious blindness and fanaticism is increasing among common masses because of absence of education and rational scientific mindset. They think—fair enough that we have not seen good days in this birth. But let us hope for a brighter life in next birth. So, lakhs of people rush to Kumbh mela and die because of stampede. Suffering people hop from this temple to that temple, scramble for collecting a bit of the dust of feet of this or that Babaji. This over-enthusiasm over religion is precipitated in a planned way. In this context, let us recall what Marx had said about this: "*...religion is the opium of the people*". What he meant was that today religion functions to alleviate the immediate suffering of the oppressed class by offering comfort and illusions, similar to how opium dulls physical pain. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also understood that the remedy to present problems cannot come by through religious cult.

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Emancipation cannot come by following the path of Vivekananda or Gandhiji

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh respected Vivekananda. He admired Vivekananda's firmness of character, determination and urge for liberty. At the same time, he noticed self-contradiction in Vivekananda's thought. Vivekananda said: "So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every person a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them". (Bani o Rachana) The quote criticizes educated individuals who ignore the plight of the poor and ignorant masses, framing their indifference as a betrayal of the very people whose resources funded their education. On another occasion, he pointed out: "First is roti, then god." (ibid) He further observed: "Millions of rupees have been spent only that the temple doors at Varanasi or Vrindavan may play at opening and shutting all day long ! Now the Lord is having His toilet, now He is taking his meals, now He is busy on something else we know not what. ... And all this, while the living God is dying for want of food, for want of education !" (ibid) This was one Vivekananda who was restless by seeing the woes and penury of common people. On the other hand, the same Vivekananda held that "All that is real in me is God; all that is real in God is I". (ibid) He taught that God dwells in every "jiva" (living being), providing service to any person, regardless of their social status, a service to God. This perspective emphasizes that true religion is not just a ritual but the realization of this universal divine presence through selfless love and service, not through power or wealth. His teachings may be summarized as follows — 'god is in the beggars as well as god is in the palace...god is among the educated and also god is among the uneducated'. 'When I am hungry, I am taking food through millions of people. This is Vedantic morality rooted in the Advaita Vedanta philosophy, which emphasizes the underlying unity of all beings. This means that one's hunger and the food one consumes are not solely one's own but part of a larger cosmic process. In his lecture on Vedanta in Lahore in 1897, he, *inter alia*, said: "Whether you know it or not, through all hands you work, through all feet you move, you are the king enjoying in the palace, you are the beggar leading that miserable existence in the street; you are in

So called Marxists of this country did not adopt Marxism as a life philosophy

the ignorant as well as in the learned, you are in the man who is weak, and you are in the strong; know this and be sympathetic. And that is why we must not hurt others. That is why I do not even care whether I have to starve, because there will be millions of mouths eating at the same time, and they are all mine. Therefore I should not care what becomes of me and mine, for the whole universe is mine...Herein is morality. Here, in Advaita alone, is morality explained...According to the Advaita philosophy, there is only one thing real in the universe, which it calls Brahman; everything else is unreal, manifested and manufactured out of Brahman by the power of Mâyâ." So, when Vivekananda had entered the arena of philosophy, he is another Vivekananda. Vedantic Vivekananda contradicted humanitarian Vivekananda. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh realized that there is no solution to the problems if one follows the Vedantic route prescribed by Vivekananda.

And Gandhiji had said clearly: "My claim to hear the Voice of God is no new a claim....I was not dreaming at the time I heard the Voice. The hearing of the Voice was preceded by a terrific struggle within me. Suddenly the Voice came upon me. I listened, made certain that it was the Voice, and the struggle ceased. I was calm....this was between 11 and 12 midnight. I felt refreshed and began to write the note about it which the readers must have seen. ... I have no further evidence to convince the sceptic. ...But I can say this that not the unanimous verdict of the whole world against me could shake me from the belief that what I heard was the true Voice of God." (My religion) He further said: "Even if I was assured that we could have independence by means of violence, I should refuse to have it. It won't be real independence." (Harijan, 13-2-37, p. 6) And his belief was: "God is the creator of both capitalist owners and the workers. While capitalist has the power of intellect, worker has the power of labour of the limbs'....We invite the capitalist to regard himself as trustee for those on whom he depends for the making, the retention and increase of his capital.... Earn your crores by all means. But understand that your wealth is not yours; it belongs to the people. Take whatever you need for your legitimate needs and use the

remainder for society..." (The Gospel of Trusteeship). Is there any capitalist who says that he does not take anything beyond what is legitimate? Gandhiji made it clear: "I do not bear any ill to the capitalists; I can think of doing them no harm...But I want, by means of suffering, to awaken them to their sense of duty; I want to melt their hearts and get them to render justice to their less fortunate brethren... there is for me nothing like an inevitability of class conflict..." (ibid) The outcome of following Gandhiji's philosophy is now clearly manifested. How ruthlessly the ruling capitalists are oppressing the people. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh understood long back that emancipation would not be achieved by toeing Gandhiji's line.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's historic struggle was based on Marxism-Leninism

He could realize that only Marxism-Leninism can bring about desired emancipation because this is a philosophy based on science. Truth cannot be judged based on one's individual opinion, words of any great man or writings in a holy scripture. Various great men have given different versions of truth, different holy scriptures speak of contradictory opinions about truth. Then how to determine what is truth? How can truth acceptable to all be arrived at? This can happen only by means of experimentation and verification. Marxism-Leninism is that philosophy which has adopted science and scientific methodology as the basis for knowing truth. The loudspeaker which is working here is an instrument developed and operated based on experimentally verified truth. So, the lights are on following the experimentally verified law of electricity. The transport vehicles, construction industry, machines, cultivation of crops—everything is governed by scientifically proven truth. Even the space technology enabling communication, navigation, weather forecasting, climate monitoring and sending astronauts to the moon is also operating based on scientific truth. It is not that the truth behind electricity generation or scientific prescription of space mission varies from country to country. The basic law of electricity is same whether it is India, England or America. We know water is a compound of hydrogen and oxygen. Will Japan challenge this truth by claiming that water in their country is composed of nitrogen and carbon? Such cannot

happen because these are experimentally verified established truths. Marxism is the only philosophy which is similarly based on experimentally verified truth. Marxism has appeared in continuity with the thoughts of all great men of yester years but at the same time creating a break because of change of era or objective situation. Right from the time of advent of capitalism, the contradiction between labour and capital also came into being. Marx had formulated the philosophy of dialectical materialism based on Darwin's theory of evolution, Morgan's theory, discovery of cell as biological unit of all living organisms, electromagnetism, the fundamental interaction of electrically charged particles, described by electric and magnetic fields that can form light and energy waves, and other discoveries of modern science, and presented before mankind. So, Marxism or dialectical materialism is no exclusive brainwave of Marx just like the understanding of atom or electricity or electron is no product of exclusive thinking of an individual. These are all, I reiterate, experimentally verified truths. These truths or laws were operative even before Marx. Marx only discovered the generalized concept of truth or general laws of governance of each sphere of the material world including man and society by dialectically coordinating, integrating and generalizing the particular truths of all the branches of science like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, Geography etc. These general laws are to be applied particularly in a particular situation. Marx discovered those general laws and here lies his genius. These laws are only known as Marxism. How is the weather forecast? Based on science only. Marx showed that the general laws are applicable in case of social development also. The transition of human society from the primitive clan-communist state to slave-master system, feudalism and capitalism has been as per general laws of governance and development. These change-overs were not accidental but law-governed. These laws were also discovered by Marx, and he showed that capitalism would also not continue eternally. Everything is subject to change and is in a state of motion. There is nothing eternal or permanent in this material world. According to the theory of relativity, truth is also in a state of motion and hence changing according to the change of time and domain. There is nothing known as eternal truth. Truth is relative but concrete. A

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specific domain or time has specific truth. Based on this discovery of social development had appeared the question of working class revolution. According to Marx, one day capitalism would cease to exist. The working class would overthrow it through revolution and establish socialism. Socialism would also not remain eternally. It would be followed by communism. Even communism would not be in any permanent stage but change to yet higher society. Thus, society would continue to change and develop from higher to higher stage. This is Marxism which is, as stated earlier, a scientific philosophy. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's struggle and accomplishment have been based on this philosophy.

Double standard of so called Marxist leaders raised question in Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's mind

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had joined the revolutionary trend of Indian Freedom struggle at the mere age of 13. Within a very short time, he came across the illuminating thoughts of Marxism-Leninism. He was arrested for participating in the 1942 Quit India movement and sent to jail. While in jail, there were discussions and debates between him and other inmates. At that time, one thing struck him. He saw that those who were explaining Marxism and denying existence of god were wearing a holy thread (mark of Brahmin origin) and offering pujas. He also saw some leaders who were calling upon the sons of others to leave home and join the revolutionary struggle but asking their own son to pursue a conventional career. He was disconcerted by this double standard. One basic question perturbed him. What was going to be the outcome of a glorious freedom struggle in which so many flowering boys and girls became martyrs, embraced gallows and faced bullets, so many patriots had spent years after years in jail? Why was it going to culminate in a tragedy as the state power was going to be transferred from the British imperialists to the Indian national bourgeoisie? From this, he understood that no genuine communist party had grown on the Indian soil. He could also realize that the so called communist party failed to concretely apply Marxism-Leninism in the concrete situation of India. Great Lenin had shown that Marxism had delineated the general line of proletarian revolution. But its application would differ from country to country based on the differences of respective concrete situations. In the words of Lenin: "*Marx's ...theory provides only*

Revolutionary life is most honourable

general guiding principles, which, in particular, are applied in England differently than in France, in France differently than in Germany, and in Germany differently than in Russia." (Our Programme CW IV)

But the leaders of the united CPI did not rack their brains as to how Marxism would be applied in the concrete economic-political-cultural situation in the then India. What they did was only reading the Marxist literature. In the initial stage, all of them were sincere and honest. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh used to respect them very much. But their failure was in not being able to accept Marxism-Leninism as a life philosophy, failure to apply Marxism-Leninism in every sphere of life, starting from husband-wife relationship, relationship with parents, approach towards children to leading social life. If I am a communist, then what should be my outlook towards each and every walk of life? None before Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had thought like this, let alone practising it.

CPI leaders did not obey Stalin's guideline

Great Stalin had advised the leaders of the CPI in 1925 that "*...in India, capitalism was growing at a rapid rate, giving rise to and moulding a more or less numerous class of local proletarians. ... the compromising section of this bourgeoisie has already managed, in the main, to strike a deal with imperialism. ... the Communist Party can and must enter into an open bloc with the revolutionary wing of the bourgeoisie in order, after isolating the compromising national bourgeoisie, to lead the vast masses of the urban and rural petty bourgeoisie in the struggle against imperialism.*" (The political tasks of the university of the peoples of the east) But the CPI acted just to the contrary.

The petty-bourgeois revolutionaries rallied behind Netaji Subhas in pursuit of their uncompromising line. Subhas Chandra was elected the President of the Congress in the Haripura summit. After being elected, he declared: "*When the imperialist conspiracy is raging in the world, only one country is standing up – Soviet Union – whose existence is putting tremors in the heart of the imperialists.*" (Crossroads) He further said: "*The first objective of the Congress is to earn total freedom (purna-swaraj); the next objective is the establishment of socialism; the workers and the*

peasants have to be drawn into the freedom movement, landlordism is to be abolished." (ibid) Hearing this, the Indian national bourgeoisie was unnerved. So were the British imperialist rulers. So, next time, the followers of Gandhiji did not agree to elect Subhas Chandra as President. Pattabhi Sitaramayya was pitted against Subhas Chandra by Gandhiji in the contest for presidency. But with the support of the petty-bourgeois revolutionaries, Subhas Chandra was reelected as Congress President. But then the Gandhites began to weave ploys against him. They suggested that the Congress President ought to take permission of Gandhiji before taking any decision. In other words, the President was to be stripped of all his powers. The CPI supported the Gandhites. So, Subhas Chandra was unable to work independently. Finally, he was forced to resign. He tendered his resignation at a meeting at Wellington Square in Kolkata. After some days, accusing Subhash Chandra for giving a call for the movement against the British rulers, his membership of the Congress was suspended. In effect, he was expelled. Even at that time also, the CPI did not stand by Subhas Chandra.

Thereafter, Subhas Chandra called a convention called 'left consolidation' at Ramgarh in Bihar. He appealed to the CPI to join him for strengthening left unity so that communist movement in this country could get a fillip. But the CPI did not comply with his request. With pain, Subhas Chandra said that a great ideology like communism could not get a berth in India because those who are viewed as communists here consider friends as enemies and hence keep away from them.

You know that during the 1942 movement, the CPI had supported the British imperialists. When Subhas Chandra launched struggle for independence with his Indian National Army (INA), the CPI called him a 'quisling' and agent of Japan. These incidents made Comrade Shibdas Ghosh realize that though the CPI talked of Marxism, it was not a communist party. Otherwise, it could not have erred in such a manner.

Mere claim of being Marxist is no proof of one's grasp of Marxism

In Russia, the Russian social democratic labour party (RSDLP) was known as a Marxist party. But soon Lenin could make out that it was not a genuine Marxist party. So, Lenin formed the Bolshevik party. In

China, also great Mao Zedong ideologically fought against the established leaders of the then Chinese Communist Party (CPC) and developed a new leadership. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also had to take initiative for founding a genuine communist party on this soil. When he took upon himself such an arduous task, he had only six revolutionary compatriots with him. He had no strength in terms of manpower, resources and acquaintances. Days after days, he slept on the platform of Sealdah railway station in central Kolkata, on the rooftop of nearby Koley market, on the footpath and passed days without food. He had no place to stay. He himself said that many summers and winters they had passed by sleeping on a torn mattress. They could not collect even a pittance to fend for themselves. But for that, they had no repentance. Because they thought they had failed to convince people about the objective they were in pursuit of. He said that they had not harboured any feeling of having sacrificed a lot. They had no such self-conceit. Apparently, by coming to know of their struggling life, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said, one might think they were suffering a lot. But they knew they had found the road to a high sense of dignity and happiness in the honourable revolutionary life.

Truth is always recognized by history

At a particular phase of this historic struggle, he along with a handful of comrades-in-arm founded the SUCI(Communist) in 1948. I joined the Party in 1950. I have heard from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and you would get it in his writings also that when he took initiative to form the Party, many had refused to accept his views. They said he was after an impossible mission. Even those who could not refute his impeccable logic had held that though he was theoretically correct, he would not succeed. Because he was not known to anyone, had no noticeable following. In such a vast country with so many big parties around, what would you achieve? When others were saying so, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh replied— "*... yes, you are right. We may face failure, but what can be done other than this, you just answer me. Should we accept the life of servitude? Should we sell our conscience? Should we conduct ourselves contrary to our realization? ...that I cannot do...I know that I may die starving and even nobody will care about it and even nobody cares to have*

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the news of it. ...but...I cannot do anything unethical and commit any injustice to anybody...I can be shot dead, but I cannot be bought." (Revolutionary life is the most dignified one) But he firmly held that if there were any truth in his struggle, history would recognize it. And history did give value to his struggle and the huge gathering here today bears testimony to that.

Do we have MLAs, MPs or ministership? Those who have come here had borne the cost of travel by train, bus or car by voluntarily contributing to the Party fund. For meeting the cost of today's rally, our comrades throughout the state have raised funds through street collections. Our Party does not go to the big business and monopolists for finance. We have not sold ourselves to them. We solicit funds from the common people by knocking at their doors or approaching them in the streets. Our Party had raised funds like this earlier also and that practice is continuing. Today this memorial meeting is held in almost all the states of the country. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said that if there were truth in his struggle, history would one day give value to that. And since there was truth in his realization, history is giving value to that today.

Why was socialism dismantled?

Another question stirs many people. They tell us that we are talking of socialist revolution but then socialism did not last long. So, what is the guarantee that if we accomplish revolution and establish socialism, that it would be sustained? What we want to say on this question is that from great Marx to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, no Marxist authority had claimed that once socialism is established, it would be permanent. Rather, Marx had clearly pointed out: "*What we have to deal with here is a communist society, not as it has developed on its own foundations, but, on the contrary, just as it emerges from capitalist society; which is thus in every respect, economically, morally, and intellectually, still stamped with the birthmarks of the old society from whose womb it emerges.*" (Critique of the Gotha Programme) So, the initial foundation of socialism does not have a socialist base. Marx further explained that socialism is a transitional phase between capitalism and communism. This stage might either move towards communism or might revert to capitalism through counter-revolution. Marx further said that only "*In a higher phase of communist society, ...the narrow*

Luminaries of the world saw emergence of a new civilization in socialism

horizon of bourgeois right (would) be crossed in its entirety" (ibid) This was a very important teaching of Marx. Great Lenin showed that after overthrow of the bourgeoisie from state power and removing it from ownership of the means of production, the bourgeoisie as class does not cease to exist. It very much remains, and its power becomes ten times more since it strives utmost to regain power. So, at any point of time, socialism can be endangered. And great Stalin had cautioned a year before his demise that though by overthrowing private ownership, social ownership of the means of production has been established, the mindset which had grown based on private property was still existing in the society. On the one side, many anti-Leninist forces were operative within the Soviet Union while the imperialists were hatching conspiracy from outside to destabilize Soviet socialism. He further added that since the comrades were thinking that since Soviet Union had emerged victorious in the Second World War, there was no further danger before them. So they have ceased ideological struggle. He then added: "*Ideological work is a prime duty of the party and underestimation of its importance may do irreparable damage to the interests of the party and state. We must always remember that if the influence of socialist ideology is weakened the effect is to strengthen the influence of bourgeois ideology...*" He sounded this caution at the 19th Congress in 1952. The leaders and cadres overwhelmed by self-complacency did not pay any heed to his warning. Stalin passed away within few months from giving this warning.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh noticed weakness within socialism despite its tremendous progress

Why did socialism collapse? Because the masses do not become communists once the revolution is accomplished. Even if one crore among the 30 crore odd population were members of the Communist Party of Soviet Union (CPSU), the rest of the people were not Marxists-communists. Then what was the state of mind of those vast masses? The influence of bourgeois thoughts, even remnants of feudal thoughts still persisted in them. That influence had impact on the CPSU as well. Secondly, the members of the Communist Party were not Lenin, Stalin or Mao Zedong. Many were lagging much behind, which

means they were still carrying many bourgeois thoughts. Apart from that, those who made revolution successful in Russia had witnessed abject poverty, hunger, starvation-deaths. In order to get rid of all such hardships, they fought tooth and nail to bring about revolution and saved revolution from the attack of domestic as well as foreign enemies. Three to four generations have passed since revolution. Many of those who had enjoyed the enormous progress of Soviet Russia in 1951-52 had not seen the acute penury and misery of the pre-revolution period. So, they did not feel that pain. So, deep emotional attachment with revolution eluded them. For example, when we read the works of Vidyasagar, how much do we understand about the painstaking life struggle of his? We only know that Shaheed Kshudiram had embraced gallows on 11 August. Our understanding about the freedom movement and valorous freedom fighters is limited to that only. Because today's generation does not have an emotional attachment with the freedom movement or the martyrs. Same thing happened in Russia in absence of correct scientific education in the post-Stalin period. And with that was mingled individualism. Individualism, which grew based on individual right to property during the advent of bourgeois democracy, was then progressive. The rising bourgeoisie then brought the concepts of individual right, individual freedom and uninterrupted development of every individual. So long the bourgeoisie fought against feudal orthodoxy, it was progressive. But when bourgeois democratic revolution was complete, individual right to property was established and capitalist exploitation began to intensify, the bourgeoisie lost its progressive role, the concept of individualism became reactionary, a privilege and began to get manifested in the form of self-centeredness and selfishness. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had elaborated all these things. So, during Russian revolution, the concept of subordinating individual interest to social interest played a progressive role. But, later in socialism, from this thought grew various shades of individual opportunism. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh called it 'socialist individualism'. If proper ideological struggle is not conducted in socialism, then every individual hankers for more and more privileges, and the phenomenon of

social individualism becomes more and more pronounced. In such a situation, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh provided our Party comrades concrete guidelines as to what should be the communist code of conduct in this present age. He taught that it is not enough for the comrades to renounce private property and conventional family life. They must be free from private property mental complex which features in the form buttressing individual interest, cultivation of populism as well as in individualistic approach towards the question of love, affection and fondness. The individual needs to be freed from the tentacles of individualism. The concept of higher communist ethics and morality which Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had taught has been of complete identification of the self with the revolution, the class and the party. In our Party, the struggle for attaining that higher communist character continues relentlessly. It was necessary to highlight this education in the socialist states of Soviet Union and China. As I said earlier, Comrade Stalin understood the imperativeness of conducting intense ideological struggle to elevate the standard of the leaders and workers of the CPSU. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also pointed out that class struggle was conducted in the economic-political spheres in Soviet Union. But equal emphasis was not given on intensifying class struggle in the realm of mind, in the spheres of conduct, habit and culture. So, bourgeois influence persisted in the superstructure which mainly triggered counter-revolution.

Socialism received ovation from all

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had said way back in 1948: "*While acknowledging with just pride and deference the very many achievements and successes and glorious sacrifices of the world communist movement, ... (there are) serious shortcomings and defects are largely due to the fact that ... instead of ...dialectical process, ... the world communist camp is, to a very large extent, influenced by mechanical process of thinking.*" (Self-criticism of the Communist Camp) The same outlook was reflected in the observation of great Stalin in 1952.

Lenin showed that Marx-Engels had laid the foundation of dialectical materialism which is Marxism. This science of Marxism has to be continuously developed and enriched covering every aspect of life. It is necessary to keep pace with the upward and onward development of life and society. In

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course of this continuously changing and developing panorama of life, many new problems, new questions arise. So also arise many confusions. To resolve those problems, answer the questions and remove the confusions, Marxism has to be developed in the light of newer discoveries of science. In the post-Lenin period, this task was not taken up in right earnest. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh fulfilled that task.

Socialism brought new civilization. The lesson of history is that for any new civilization to be firmed up requires time. It faces defeats after defeats and then only achieves victory. The religious preachers during advent of religion used to claim that they were messengers of god. Even then, they had to struggle for hundreds of years to establish a religion. No religion was accepted by the common people within few days. Much time was required for that. Few hundred years had rolled by in transition of slave-master society to feudalism. Similarly, capitalism has taken 350 years to overthrow feudalism. All these were oppressive civilizations based on exploitation of man by man. Slave-master society, feudalism, capitalism — all were divided between rich and poor, exploiter and exploited. So, socialism had to fight against class-divided societies of several thousand years. From that perspective, 70-80 years of socialism are nothing.

Those who are losing confidence in Marxism by seeing collapse of socialism of Soviet Union and China are making mistakes. In that case, it would mean that what is going on is quite alright. What, the rulers of US and India are committing no wrong? Do you want that to be sustained, or do you yearn for a change? If you want a change, then there is no other way but to accept Marxism and struggle for establishing socialism. Those who were accomplishing anti-capitalist socialist revolution would draw necessary lesson from the initial debacle of socialism, just like the way Soviet revolution had learnt from the failure of Paris Commune.

Please remember that after seeing the progress of Soviet socialism, Rabindranath had said: *"I am in Russia; had I not come, my life's pilgrimage would have remained incomplete...during French revolution ...the message of liberty, equality and fraternity was carried across the frontiers of France. But it did not endure....Russia has established this new era on a revolution; ... revolution is against the most cruel and powerful vices of mankind; this revolution is a*

Soviet Union saved mankind from fascist aggression

verdict of atonement against long years of sin." (Tagore Letters from Russia. Letter No. 3, Moscow, 25th September 1930.) Soviet Union under great Stalin appealed to all the imperialist countries for nuclear disarmament and ban on nuclear weapons and opposed war tensions. Soviet Union also proposed total and complete disarmament within the League of Nations and reiterated similar proposals at various disarmament conferences during the League's existence. But the imperialist powers turned a deaf ear to it. Rabindranath, in a letter to Amiya Chakraborty in 1939, wrote: *Nowhere else in the history of mankind did I observe such a permanent cause of joy and hope. I am aware that Russia has established this new era on a revolution; but this revolution is against the most cruel and powerful vices of mankind;...This new Russia is engrossed in an arduous practice of removing a death missile from the ribs of human civilization — that which is known as 'greed'...their struggle be victorious...* Let those who are now engaged in slanderous campaign against Soviet Union say that Rabindranath had no intellect. Was it so? You judge for yourselves.

Romain Rolland, another legendary figure of that time, whom Rabindranath deeply respected, observed in 1931: *"I will always stand by Soviet Union ...If it is crushed it would no longer be the proletariat of the world alone who would be enslaved, but all liberty, social or individual;...the world will be thrown several stages behind."* (I will not rest) Great secular humanist litterateur Saratchandra had eulogized socialism in his celebrated novel 'Pathar Dabi' (the demand of the road). Munshi Premchand, another giant humanist writer, also stood by socialism. So had been the stand of Subramani Bharati, the revered personality of Tamil literature. Netaji Subhas Chandra said: *"During the nineteenth century Germany made the most remarkable gift through her Marxian Philosophy. During the twentieth century Russia has enriched the culture and civilization of the world through her achievement in proletarian revolution, proletarian Government and proletarian culture."* (Speeches in Indian Political Conference at London, 1933). When his INA was on the verge of defeat, He, in his last speech, had said: *"In postwar Europe, there is only one power*

that has a plan which is worth trial, and that power is Soviet Union. If there is one man in Europe today who holds in his hand the destinies of the European nations for the next few decades, that man is Marshal Stalin." (Radio speech from Singapore, quoted in 'Subhas Chandra and National Planning' by Sankari Prasad Basu). Nazrul Islam, the poet of blazing lyre, had penned a song based on *the Internationale*. Will you say that these leading lights were no intellectuals? Bernard Shaw observed: *"There is only one country in the world where you can enjoy real freedom — it is Russia where great Stalin is still alive."* (New Statesman and nations, December 1934). And today, the reactionary quarters are on a spree to malign Stalin. It was Khrushchev, an agent of the capitalists-imperialists, who was the first to roll out the process of dismantling socialism in Russia. Khrushchev knew that in order to destroy socialism, Stalin must be vilified. But this very Stalin was highly respected by all the luminaries of that time. After demise of Great Lenin, it was Great Stalin who built up socialism in Russia. If you come to know of the achievements of socialist Soviet Union, you would think that it is a piece of imagination. There was no unemployment problem in Soviet Union. Rather the socialist state declared that if one did not work, one would not get food. Everyone has to work. The citizens of Soviet Union used to get potable water, fuel, and electricity free of cost. Transport and dresses were free for the working class. The workers also received 15 days fully paid leave in a year for rest and recreation in any healthy place, either in hill stations or on the banks of the sea. Everyone, whether male or female, were to do physical exercise to keep themselves fit. There was equal right of men and women in every sphere. The state had taken the responsibility of livelihood of all intellectuals, scientists, litterateurs and artistes. Numerous clubs, cinema halls, theatre halls and libraries were set up in both rural and urban areas. Who had authored the Constitution of Soviet Union? In our country, the Constitution was framed by some individuals within the confines of bourgeois legality. But in the Soviet Union, copies of the Draft Constitution were distributed among all the people for perusal and suggesting amendments. Cores of

Soviet citizens went through the draft and sent amendments. It was through this gigantic process that the Constitution of the Soviet Union was finalized and adopted. Nowhere in the world, was the Constitution prepared in a like manner.

In Soviet Union, the people's representatives were chosen from among the peasants and workers. Where is the scope for such workers or peasants to be elected as people's representatives in bourgeois democracy? If anyone is a bootlicker of any of the bourgeois parties, then it is a different story. The people's representatives of Soviet Union had to furnish regular reports of their performance to the voters. If necessary, the citizens could call for their dismissal. This was known as right to recall. In Soviet Union, education upto university level was free. Healthcare was also totally free. The numbers of doctors and nurses were increasing regularly. Newer medicines were being discovered. Also in other fields, newer inventions were taking place. Sixteen Soviet scientists were awarded Nobel prize. The capitalist world could not but be compelled to give that prize as they could not afford not to recognize the spectacular achievements of Soviet scientists. It was Soviet Union which sent the first astronaut to the sky. In this way, Soviet Union created a history.

Had Soviet Union still been in existence, could Zionist Israel carry out such genocide in Gaza? Could the war on Ukraine have been orchestrated? There is an artificial waterway in Egypt called Suez Canal in Egypt providing the shortest maritime route between Europe and Asia. It was owned by the British and France. The Egyptian government nationalized the canal in 1956. Following that, Israel invaded Egypt, followed by Britain and France. Soviet Union gave a 12 hour ultimatum. If the British-French troops had refused to withdraw by that time, it would bombard London and Paris. At the same time, Soviet Union said to the people of Britain and France that it had no animosity with them. You all prevail upon your respective governments to stop war on Egypt. 12 hours were not required. Within 6 hours, the British-French army fled from Egypt. British-France launched that attack with the backing of the US imperialists. Is there now any country like the Soviet Union? Israel is carrying out mayhem in Gaza. Even tiny children are shot dead. Cruelty and inhumanity have reached a pinnacle. US which proclaims itself to be a democratic

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republic, is supporting this carnage. The First World War broke out because of the conflict of two imperialist camps for plundering the global market. Similarly, the Second World War was also triggered by two imperialist camps. Did Soviet Union invade any country for plunder of market? Who had turned the relatively backward countries of Asia, Africa, including India into their colonies, and treated Latin America as their colonies? The imperialist countries only. Iraq was destroyed and occupied by the US imperialists on a false pretext of Saddam Hussein possessing weapons of mass destruction. Saddam was captured and hanged to death. But no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq even by digging the soil. Similarly, the US established control over Libya and got Col. Quaddafi assassinated. US imperialists devastated Afghanistan. Earlier they used Napalm bomb in Vietnam war. Who was guilty of such inhuman acts? Socialism or imperialism?

Attacking Stalin means uncrowning Lenin

There is a persistent attempt to malign Stalin by the quarters of vested interest. But he cannot be denigrated. Stalin was a great character and giant communist leader. Czarist Russia was very much underdeveloped. A few years after socialist revolution, great Lenin, the architect, had breathed his last. After that the mantle fell on great Stalin to take socialism forward. Within a few years, Soviet Union under Stalin's stewardship made tremendous progress in many spheres, so much so as to overtake US. It was the valorous role of the Soviet Red Army and Soviet Union guided by Stalin which defeated the fascist axis of Germany-Italy-Japan. Many of you may not be knowing that during the Second World War, Rabindranath was critically ill and bedridden. Scientist Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobish writes — "Just half-an-hour before the day he was operated upon, operation in the morning, ...he asked — 'Tell me the news of Russia'. I told him that it seemed to be a bit improved, they have perhaps been able to stave off the Germans. His face lit up and he said 'such was sure to happen, only they can do this, and they would succeed'." — (Kabikatha — Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobish) Indeed they did it. Though Rabindranath was not alive to see that. Not only Rabindranath, all luminaries of that period like Bernard Shaw, Einstein, Romain Rolland as well as the anti-fascist

people of the entire world were looking at great Stalin and Soviet Union with immense confidence and expectation.

Stalin led a very simple life. During the Second World War, British Prime Minister Churchill went to meet Stalin. He was stupefied to see that Stalin was living in a quarter which resembles the shanties of class IV workers of Britain. Sidney and his wife from England went to Russia. They were eager to know the whereabouts of Stalin's wife and came to learn that she worked in a factory. They thought she would certainly be enjoying a high position, but on visiting the factory, they found to their surprise that Stalin's wife was only an ordinary worker. They asked her: "Despite being Stalin's wife, you are working here as an ordinary worker!" Her reply was, "Comrade Stalin is the head of the state because he is worthy of it and I have become an ordinary worker according to my ability. All of us are working for socialism according to our respective abilities". The directors of the school where Stalin's children were admitted were specially told not to let any others know about their family background and not to provide any special privilege to them as Stalin's son and daughter. After the demise of Stalin, his bodyguard Alexi Ribin had said that throughout his life, he did not have more than two or three sets of dresses. Ribin wrote— "If his coat was torn, he would get it stitched. Many a time, we would be cross with him, seize his old clothes and replace them with new ones. He was very reluctant to change his worn out shoes unless he was insisted on." He used to mix freely with his bodyguards and attendants like one of them, chatted with them, played and dined with them, a fact mentioned by many of them with deep emotion, respect and pride. Stalin was from a poor cobbler family, and he stayed his entire life like a worker. The anti-Stalin quarters often raise question about the famous Moscow trial. What was that trial? Hitler had created groups known as fifth columnists in many countries whose job as German agents was to work secretly and act in their respective countries as internal traitors or saboteurs. In Russia also, those who conspired against Stalin and socialism to grab power were sounded by Hitler to be a part of the fifth columnists. The plan was

Stalin was a great Marxist leader

that Hitler would attack Soviet Union during the War and seizing that opportunity, these renegades would capture power through rebellion. When Kirov, a front ranking leader was murdered inside Kremlin, this conspiracy was exposed. Then the conspirators were arrested and were made to appear before a trial. This trial was open though the accused were traitors. The ambassadors, diplomats, journalists and jurists of various countries were invited to witness the trial. In his book, 'Mission to Moscow', the Joseph Davis, then US ambassador in Soviet Union, said that he had never seen such a free fair open trial. There was not even a single mark of torture on the accused. At that time, Romain Rolland, Bernard Shaw, Einstein, Rabindranath, Saratchandra, Premchand, Nazrul, Subhashchandra, Nehru — all were alive. None of them voiced any doubt at that time on the fairness of Moscow trial. They were convinced about the necessity of the trial to save Soviet socialism. But now salvos are being fired against that trial. If anyone conspires against the state in our country, would they be let off? Would such traitors be pardoned in any country? So, you are to give befitting reply to such motivated canards. Stalin's was a great character. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had pointed out that to denigrate Stalin would mean to objectively uncrown Lenin himself and destroy socialism. Exactly that had happened.

Problems cannot be solved through election

You all know that the country is now stricken with acute crises in every sphere — economic-political-social-cultural-moral. There is no peace, no solace in individual or family life. The entire capitalist world is enmeshed in acute crisis. Capitalism in our country has also reached its highest stage and given birth to monopoly, finance capital and multi-nationals. India is not just a capitalist state. It is an imperialist power. 10% of the population owns 75% of the wealth and the rest 90% owns just 25%. And 90% of the latter category are so impoverished that they do not possess even 1% of the total wealth. This is the condition of our country. Crores of people are unemployed. And this figure is climbing up with every passing day. With the advent of new technology, shutters are downed in more and more industries, more number of workers are retrenched. Please

notice the difference between a capitalist and a socialist country. New technology was also introduced in the socialist countries. But that boosted production and reduced the working hours of the labourers. In Soviet Union, working hour was reduced from eight to seven hours a day. After that, all workers could get rest or find time for other creative activities. Before passing away, Stalin had indicated that working hours would further be brought down to six hours a day. Thus working hours would continue to decrease. So, to increase production, more and more workers would be needed. No one would lose job. On the contrary, in capitalism, newer technology entails mass retrenchment.

Prices in our country are soaring sky-high. The more the leaders are talking against corruption, the more they are tripping into the dungeon of corruption. This is the spectacle of our country. Can bourgeois vote-politics bring any succour to all this? People thought that they had seen the misrule of the Congress. So, they would give a chance to the CPI (M). And when the CPI (M) rule was found to be no different, they opted for the TMC. And being fed up with the TMC, they might think of giving the BJP a chance. Thus, people languish in the labyrinth of electoral politics. Electoral politics in bourgeois democracy has been reduced to a farce today. The slogan of "by the people, for the people, of the people" is now found only in the pages of book. Is it that the people are deciding whom to vote and whom not to vote for, based on due evaluation of the political lines of the contestants? Does it so happen? No. It is the ruling bourgeoisie who decides who should be brought to power and who should occupy the seat of opposition. Just like the appointment of a manager by the capitalist owner to run the industry, the bourgeoisie appoints its political manager in the form of a ministry by manipulating the electoral process. These managers devotedly serve the class interest of the bourgeoisie. The bourgeois parties announce various doles and freebies like Abas Yoyana, Kanyasree, Lakshmi's Bhandar etc. before the vote to dupe the voters with such allurements. The TMC Chief Minister of West Bengal can claim special credit in this regard because she had started such "giveaways". Now the BJP and other vote-based parties are following suit in other states.

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Because such freebies beget votes. While keeping the masses hungry, jobless and deprived of rudiments of essential services, simple distribution of Rs 1000 or Rs 2000 per head per month serves the purpose of garnering votes. The downtrodden masses think that they have at least got some money. But can their families be run with this paltry sum? It can be recalled that the landlords in earlier days used to squeeze their subjects by extracting rent at high rate and then organized a feast for the poor once a year to feign how much they cared for the have-nots. The present practice of throwing some crumbs in the form of freebies is like that only. The bourgeois parties organize similar feasts before election. But this is nothing but colossal wastage of public money. These doles are not increasing production. This fund could be utilized for betterment of the condition of the peasants and agriculture, in productive investment like setting up of industries or undertaking dredging of the rivers to prevent regular devastating floods. Money from the public exchequer is not used for productive purposes, creating job opportunities and improving education and healthcare services. Instead what we find is that the government hospitals are in a shambles, while the entire education system is in doldrums. Both the sectors are being handed over to the private players for being sold as commodities. You are all aware how the National Education Policy 2020 is annihilating education. Two hundred years back, Rammohan Roy, the pioneer of Indian Renaissance movement, had said that Sanskrit education would keep the country "in darkness" and push it back to over several thousand years. So, he rejected Sanskrit education. He also held that the Vedanta denies existence of the material world. The Vedanta cannot build up modern man. For that is needed modern science. Vidyasagar moved a step ahead. Outwardly, he appeared like a Brahmin pundit. But it was he who at that period declared that the Veda and Vedanta were false systems of philosophy. He strongly advocated that in order to be free students from the influence of such erroneous philosophies, our people should get acquainted with the knowledge of science and the materialist philosophy of Europe. Then and then only our countrymen, knowing the material

BJP is trying to intensify religious blindness

world meticulously, would be able to grasp truth and on the basis of that alone could they evolve a new philosophy of life and a new sense of values.

BJP is trying to firm up religious blindness

Vidyasagar never visited any temple. Ramkrishna once went to Vidyasagar's house and invited him to come and see the garden of Rani Rashmoni. In other words, he invited him to visit Dakshineswar Kali temple. But Vidyasagar did not go there. Another luminary, Jyotibarao Phule of Maharashtra, also fought against religion and caste system. Today, the BJP is trying to take back India to the days of Manusamhita and the Veda-Vedanta, and bring back Sanskrit education. Because it wants growth of religious blindness, obscurantism and ignorance. In that event, rational mindset would be destroyed. There would be no one to raise questions or enter into a debate. The RSS-BJP need this. It is a dangerous attack on human essence and morality.

11 August is in the offing. How many people of our country are aware how a blooming teenager sacrificed his life and for what? 29 July, the death anniversary of Vidyasagar, went unnoticed. There is not a single line in the print media for either Vidyasagar or Netaji Subhas. The newspapers allocate substantial space to the glamour word – which cricketer or film star is dating whom, which couples have been divorced, which actor or actress has got a child and so forth. You can see their large photos and detailed coverage. Films, cricket, football were highlighted in earlier days also. But was there then so much of publicity about personal matters of the players or actors or their private life? But now with proliferation of such type of news and scoops, the minds of the youth get polluted and degenerated. Otherwise, could the number of rapes and gang-rapes rise so phenomenally? Did Vidyasagar-Rabindranath-Saratchandra-Nazrul-Subhas Chandra witness such a rotten vulgar society? Every day, rapes and gang-rapes are taking place in this or that college, university or hostel. Teacher is raping his student. Father is assaulting his daughter sexually. Even a 70-year old lady or a 5-year old child is not spared. Are such rapists worthy of being called human beings? Are all such things happening without any cause? No, not at all. These are happening because a process of dehumanization has been unleashed

by ruling capitalism. So, there is encouragement to consume alcohol and drugs, to become addicted to gambling and mobile phone surfing, mostly for viewing indecent uploads. Consumerism has been overwhelming. And above all is sex addiction. As if the lone motive of life is to anyhow satisfy sex urge. So, vile is the spectacle of the entire country. This is the way decadent moribund word capitalism is polluting mankind, inciting base instincts and stripping people, particularly the youth, of humanness. There is no peace in family life. Son is driving out old parents, even killing them to grab property. Some are dumping father and mother in old age homes. They do not take the responsibility of their old parents. They just end their responsibilities by providing some money. All such attacks on humanity have been brought down by the utterly reactionary capitalist system.

Another capitalist onslaught has descended on global climate. Reckless emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane are warming the earth, the atmosphere. Thermal expansion due to ocean warming, and melting of mountain glaciers and of ice sheets on Antarctica and Greenland is entailing rise of sea level. Many coastal areas are getting submerged by expanding seas. Yet greater catastrophe is on the anvil. But the imperialist-capitalist countries are in no mood to restrict discharge of greenhouse gases. So, capitalism has become the worst enemy of mankind in every respect. So, capitalism has to be overthrown for which is required Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought.

We are conducting a counter ethical-moral struggle

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had given maximum emphasis on the ethical-moral character. He said: "The essence, the living soul, the kernel of any great and revolutionary ideology of every age is ingrained in its higher cultural and ethical standard." (SW Vol. II) In our Party, there is a relentless struggle to acquire higher ethics-morality-culture. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us that we must first try to learn from the life and struggle of Rammohan-Vidyasagar-Vivekananda-Phule-Rabindranth-Saratchandra-Premchand-Subramania Bharati-Jyotiprosad-Netaji Subhas- Bhagat Singh-Chandrasekhar Azad-Surya Sen-Pritilata-Benoy-Badal-Dinesh and others. Thereafter, step by step, one can attain yet higher communist character. So you will see even if others are not interested in

observing the birth or death anniversaries of these men of genius and revolutionaries, our Party workers scrupulously do that. To us, such observances are not rituals. We derive lessons from such legendary personalities and try to inspire others also to learn from their life struggle and teachings. We are trying to conduct a counter ethical-moral struggle when all the bourgeois parties are trying to destroy human values and faculties. They want to purchase the clubs with money. So, they give grants for Durga puja, spend huge amount to organize Kumbh Mela, and so forth. Why do they do so? Not only to spread religious craze and backwardness but also to keep the youth engaged in fruitless activities. Because these youths are required by them during election. These youths also know that they are to be depended upon by these parties during vote. So, they are virtually licensed to do anything starting from murder to rape, loot, snatching, extortion and what not and get away with impunity. The power-monger parties cannot do without such gangs of youths turned into privilege-seekers and anti-socials. So, all these parties have built such hordes of gangsters. These youths get ample sum of money to eat, drink and be merry. This is another danger. So, we need to develop an ideological-political-cultural-moral movement throughout the country to counter this evil move. If you think that since you are common people, ignorant, you do not need to bother about politics and therefore leave it to the political leaders to decide everything, then you will not do the correct thing. People of this country have been repeatedly deceived because they think in this manner. During the freedom movement, how many of our countrymen tried to deeply understand whose line was correct—Gandhiji's or Netaji Subhas's? The consequence of that is now evident. Had Netaji received active support of the people, he would not have had to leave the country. Today also, the vote-based bourgeois leaders want the people to remain ignorant, blindfolded. They think that they would distribute some money among the voters and buy out the print as well as electronic media and even control the social media based on money-power. So the pliant media would give them ample publicity, print their photographs. The large cutouts of the leaders would be displayed at various corners of the streets. Did Netaji or other leaders of freedom movement need cutouts at any point of time? Today, you will find photos of the ruling party leaders in government

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On Gen-ji uprising in Nepal

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have been martyred so far due to the violent repression of the Oli government, while hundreds of protesters are still receiving treatment for their injuries. We strongly demand from the new interim government to immediately declare the youth who lost their lives in the movement as martyrs with dignity and provide free treatment to all the injured. In addition, we express our heartfelt respect to all the martyrs and our deep condolences to their families. The oppressive, arrogant, corrupt and autocratic government led by the then KP Oli, who refused to listen to the people's voice, has finally been overthrown by the spontaneous youth-student movement. The power of the movement has destroyed the dominance and arrogance of the major parties, who have been immersed in extreme corruption in the capitalist parliamentary regime, sometimes as the ruling party and sometimes as the opposition, for the time being. However, the fall or overthrow of a ruler does not mean the end of corrupt rule. Because the roots of corruption, irregularities, inflation, unemployment and economic inequality are buried in the soil of the capitalist system. The major parties that have been the 1 perpetrators of the capitalist system since 2062-063 and have been in power alternately are the Congress, UML and Maoists. Although the Maoist Center has been vigorously raising anti-corruption slogans in its speeches in recent times, it is clear that it has long lost its ideological and moral ground by sacrificing its past commitment to the people, revolutionary loyalty and ideals for power-sharing and participation. The old ruling party Congress-UML and the Maoist Center, which came to power after leading the recent great people's uprising (people's war) - all three parties are partners in the recent distorted parliamentary politics and sharers in the corrupt regime. That is why it is easy to understand that the general public and youth-students have expressed the most anger towards the top leadership of the three parties. To consider the youth uprising of 8 September (Bhadra 23) as a 'design of the power centers' or an 'external conspiracy' or to devalue it as 'driven by the plans of the reactionaries' is to defend the corrupt regime and the corrupt rulers in a roundabout way. Those who do not want to pay attention to the objective reasons for the uprising tend to explain every uprising of the people through the lens of the 'conspiracy theory'. Of course, this movement did not begin with the call of a clearly organized force and a well-thought-out and centralized leadership in ideological terms. This movement did not begin with the appeal of one or

two groups alone, as is propagated in the media. However, many events in world history have repeatedly confirmed that such uprisings have ideological, organizational, and destination-related limits. We have seen many times that such uprisings without a clear political program and without the initiative of a strong organization have successfully overthrown the government but failed to establish a new government. It is equally true that internal and external power centers try to use or divide such popular uprisings for their own wrong interests, which has been clearly seen during this movement. However, we should not underestimate the core truth revealed in the Baneshwor uprising, namely the anger that has been simmering among the masses for decades against the corrupt ruling class. In the context of the formation of a new interim government in the country with the success of the Genji Youth Uprising, the government needs to fully respect democratic rights and the sovereignty of the people while addressing the legitimate demands of the protestors to the maximum extent and taking the country in a more progressive direction. In addition, the interim government should as soon as possible.

1. Declare the protesters who lost their lives on Bhadra 23 and 24 as martyrs and provide all treatment and food to the injured free of charge.

2. The current constitution has its limits, however, it should implement the maximum provisions guaranteed in the basic features of republicanism, secularism, federalism, inclusiveness and fundamental rights that it institutionalizes.

3. Radical economic and political restructuring is necessary for a long-term solution to the problems of corruption, economic inequality, unemployment, inflation, social discrimination and other problems prevalent in the country and the ongoing crisis that they cause. For this, we demand a progressive amendment to the constitution by providing for a directly elected executive president based on a broader political consensus and comprehensive economic and political restructuring in line with the spirit of the movement.

4. To strictly control corruption, a high-level commission with full powers should be formed to investigate the assets of all political leaders, employees, close relatives of leaders, businessmen, etc.

5. The main focus should be on monitoring and eliminating bribery and tardiness in government offices, controlling high and unbridled market prices, and eliminating the sufferings of the people at various levels.

Lend your active support to SUCI(C)

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advertisements. Otherwise, they cannot carve out space in the minds of the people. Such pitiable is their position. So, we need a massive cultural movement against all these.

Save the tiny children and teenagers

I am not telling only our Party workers but to everyone present in this vast gathering—the children of the age of seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven years are getting spoiled. In the schools, they discuss about liquor. They celebrate birthdays with cocktail of hard drinks. It was unthinkable in yester years. They exchange views over sex and even get involved in sex. So I am making an appeal to the conscience of all of you present here including our Party workers—please find just an hour on Sunday morning to spend with the children of your localities. Conduct sports activities with them. Involve them in singing or dancing or dramas. Alongside, tell them who were Kshudiram, Bagha Jatin, and Bhagat Singh. Acquaint them with the lives of Vidyasagar-Vivekananda-Saratchandra-Nazrul-Netaji and others so that during the dawn of their life, a new dream enlivens them. At least, let some of the children become men worth the name. They might not join our Party. But at least let them possess some human qualities and better culture. What will be the fate of the society if the very process of man-making is inhibited? So, I call upon all of you to spare an hour every Sunday to save these children.

Real strength of SUCI (C) lies in its revolutionary ideology

Many people doubt whether we would be able to usher in a change because we do not have power. If by power they mean MLAs, MPs and ministership, then we really do not have power. And do not hanker for having that either. Yes we do contest in election. If we win any seat of MLA or MP, our candidates uphold

6. Progressive reforms should be made in the electoral process, system, and methods to end the tendency of winning elections by embezzling money and exploiting state resources and public property after winning the elections.

7. A legal system should be ensured to recall people's representatives who commit wrongdoing after winning the elections. If that happens, the corrupt or autocratic ruler can be removed legally, not from the streets. This will honor the movement of the young people and the blood that has been shed.

8. At this critical juncture in history, the House of Representatives

of the cause of people, reflect the voice of mass movement, protest against injustice in the assembly or parliament. Ours is a revolutionary party. We want qualitative change of the society, abolition of exploitation of man by man. So, our power lies in our revolutionary ideology and higher morality. What was the power based on which Buddha, Mahavira, Shankaracharya, Jesus Christ, Hazrat Muhammad, the doyens of the Renaissance like Vidyasagar had fought against injustice? Did their power rest on the number of MLAs, MPs, ministership or on their ideology and higher morality? We do possess that power.

We earnestly solicit your support. Please raise your voice of protest against any injustice in your locality. Develop people's committees to conduct the movements. Build up volunteer corps in every village or urban pockets. Wherever you would find any crime against women, jump in to protest. And if you think our line, our views are correct, please carry those to others. Please let children of your family join our Party. These children might not go for a lucrative job and earn a lot of money. But as parents, you will feel proud of your children because as they grow up, they would become men or women of worth. With this courageous mind, hand over your children to us. This is also an appeal of mine to you all.

I have been speaking for a long time. We are already getting your support. We expect more active support from you. You all have come from far ends of the state, from various districts braving the inclement weather. I will not take any more time. I conclude here.

Inqilab Zindabad!

Long live Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought!

Red Salute to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat!

should hold a new election for the directly acting President, while being vigilant against external forces and anti-people, anti-democratic and reactionary elements who are trying to fish in murky waters.

9. We would like to warn the interim government not to do anything that goes against the spirit of the Genji Rebellion.

In addition, we also sincerely appeal to all progressive forces and conscious politicians to unite in the organizational initiative of transformative politics according to the new situation and give the country a progressive solution.

(An Initiative for Political Dialogue)

Famine as Warfare: Gaza and the Imperialist Architecture of Hunger in other countries

On 22 August 2025, the United Nations finally declared famine in Gaza. By then, hundreds had already died of starvation. At least 273 confirmed, including 112 children. The real number is certainly higher. Israel's war machine, armed by US imperialism, has manufactured famine in Gaza. The UN's belated declaration exposes a crime not of nature, but of power — the latest chapter in imperialists' long history of weaponizing hunger. The UN's own famine monitor — the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) — found that more than half a million Gazans are in *catastrophic famine*. Another million hover on the brink.

And yet the declaration came late. Always too late. Bureaucrats counted bodies, reviewed spreadsheets, and debated definitions while people continued to succumb to prolonged hunger. By the time the world's "independent monitors" act, famine has already done its work. This is not an accident of process. It is how the system is designed. Famine is only declared after it has killed — after imperialist states can pretend it was inevitable.

Starvation by Design

The UN report leaves no doubt: Gaza's famine is "entirely man-made." Zionist Israel backed by US imperialism bombed bakeries, bulldozed orchards, razed farmland, cut off water supply, blocked aid. Ninety-eight percent of cropland is destroyed or inaccessible. Hospitals razed to rubbles. Food convoys turned back. 400 food distribution points opened by UN were shut down by invading Israeli authorities. They were replaced with four sites under the Israel-U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). Not relief centers. Killing grounds. Deliberately placed in combat zones, where desperate civilians were gunned down while scrambling for bread. Between May and August 2025 alone, more than 2,000 were killed or injured at these sites.

And then was the grotesque theatre of airdropping food parcels. Packaged as "humanitarian relief," they killed too: people crushed in stampedes, injured by falling crates, children trampled in chaos. Hunger is the show; aid showmaster.

This is not mismanagement. It is warfare. Hunger wielded as a weapon.

Famine in capitalism is social murder

Israel enforced the siege. US supplied the bombs. And then, together, they stage the optics of

"relief." This is typical imperialist machination: destroy with one hand, drop rations with the other. Both acts serve the same project — oppression and domination.

Global imperialism — capitalism makes this possible. Food is treated not as a human right, but as a commercial commodity. In a world of overflowing grain silos and industrial livestock feed, people starve because imperialist emperors maximize profit. As Great Marx had put it, famine under capitalism is "social murder" — preventable deaths engineered by the system itself. Gaza is not an aberration. It is the crime of imperialism-capitalism laid bare.

Charade of "Food Droppings"

Western media loves the image of parachutes drifting down. The spectacle reassures viewers that "something is being done." But parachuted rations are not humanitarianism. They are humiliation.

Ghassan Kanafani, a prominent Palestinian author and considered to be a leading novelist of his generation in the Arab world, who was assassinated in 1972 by Mossad, the Israeli secret service agency, wrote decades ago that colonialism does not just kill. It starves, humiliates, infantilizes. The airdrop is the perfect neo-colonial gesture. Scraps tossed from the sky to a starving population stripped of dignity, stripped of land, stripped of the ability to feed itself. Hunger is not logistics. It is bred by nasty politics. And so is the act of "feeding" it.

Imperialists' favourite Weapon

Gaza's famine is not new. It belongs to a long lineage of famines manufactured by imperialism-capitalism. In Bengal famine of 1943 orchestrated by the British imperialist rulers on the pretext of stocking ration for the army fighting the Second World War, caused over 30 lakh deaths. Winston Churchill, the then British Prime Minister sneered that Indians "bred like rabbits." Ships left Kolkata full of rice as peasants ate grass and corpses lined the roads.

Sudan, the oil-rich mineral-rich East African country was a prime target of the US imperialists after Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon and Palestine.

1998. When unable to force the then Sudan government to bend before them US imperialists with British imperialists in tow, in a planned way, fomented mistrust and division among the different ethnic

groups so that they are locked in internecine clashes, and remain ever poor, underdeveloped, weak and shattered. Throughout 2024, the population of Sudan suffered from severe malnutrition and famine conditions as a result of the planted civil war. Earlier, in 1998, famine killed 70,000 in Bahr el Ghazal, Sudan. Food convoys were blocked for weeks. Villages perished while UN trucks idled at borders. The declaration came after the fact — just as in Gaza. Similarly, Somalia is another site of an unfolding humanitarian nightmare — a massive famine that has cost tens of thousands of Somali lives in the past few months. Over 3 million people are affected right now, with more than 10 million at risk across the Horn of Africa. US imperialists hold Al-Shabab, a militant organization which has been battling Somalia's US-backed Transitional Federal Government for the past four years, responsible for the crisis. Calling Al-Shabaab a terrorist organization, US counter-terror laws restricted aid to war-torn Somalia. Already 2.5 lakh people have died. "Anti-terror" priorities overrode survival. Famine was declared only after the deaths piled high.

Then Yemen, a small small, very poor Arab country by the side of the Red Sea in West Asia, which borders the narrow Bab el Mandeb strait at the entrance to the Red Sea and the gateway to the Suez Canal, one of the world's most important shipping lanes, has long been targeted by Western imperialism particularly US. There also the Houthi organization, who represents majority of the Yemenis staunchly opposed interference and aggressive posture of the US, Israel, and their associates. Despite six years of relentless bombing, use of anti-personnel bombs, US naval blockade, economic sanctions and drone attacks, the US-Saudi alliance has utterly failed to defeat the Houthis. The Saudi Arabia blockade — armed and backed by the U.S. and Britain — starved tens of thousands. Ports bombed. Food shipments blocked. Hospitals flattened. From 2023, Yemen continues to face a humanitarian crisis, with two-thirds of its population, approximately 21.6 million people, requiring humanitarian assistance and protection services. This ongoing need stemmed from protracted war of aggression by imperialist powers and their allies, economic collapse, displacements followed by famine. The situation is

critical there. Across these cases, the pattern is identical. Famine is never a "natural disaster." It is a weapon of choice by war-monger imperialist-capitalist brigands.

Gaza in the Continuum

What makes Gaza unique is not the man-made famine itself, but the visibility of it. Satellite images of destroyed cropland circulate online. Videos of starving children hit TikTok before they hit UN reports. Journalists document queues for food that end in massacre. And still, official recognition lags. Still, Israel and its mentor US dismiss the famine as propaganda. Still, mainstream media echo Israeli talking points, recasting starvation deaths as "underlying conditions." Gaza is at once singular and emblematic: singular in its exposure, emblematic in showing how imperialist sharks wield hunger — both as weapon and as image.

The Law, and Its Limits

Under international law, deliberate starvation of civilians is both a war crime and a crime against humanity. By declaring famine, the UN has produced hard evidence for prosecution. Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister and his Defence Minister Katz, and their army generals stand criminally exposed.

But law, under imperialist-capitalist order, is fragile and one-eyed. The United States shields Israel at every turn. Arms flow. Vetoes pile up. The same states responsible for famine are the ones who control the tribunals meant to punish the culprits. The famine declaration matters only if seized upon by movements — organised movements of suffering people — in the streets, in unions, in parliaments — to force rupture. Otherwise, it is one more document in the archive of imperialists' impunity.

What Must Happen Now

The UN report could not be clearer: "Any further delay — even by a day — will result in a totally unacceptable escalation of famine-related mortality."

The demands are not negotiable:

- A permanent ceasefire to allow unrestricted humanitarian access.
- Therapeutic food and medical teams — not just sacks of flour — to treat acute malnutrition.
- Restoration of agriculture and infrastructure to end manufactured dependency.
- Accountability: recognition that deliberate starvation is a war crime and must be prosecuted.

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Media Say So

“Sanatan is an axis of development and science is the axis of destruction”— declares ‘Gau Mahakumbh’

Clad in a saffron kurta and clutching a bottle of “*gaumutra* (cow urine)”, 55-year-old Pradeep Gupta – an advocate by profession – flashes a friendly grin towards everybody who visit his stall at the “Gau Mahakumbh” – a four-day event in Jaipur which kicked off on Thursday (September 4) and has been described by the organizers as a “cow-based global summit and exhibition”.

As Gupta mans the stall of Gayatri Parivar Gaushala Samiti from his hometown Kota, he smilingly answers questions about the bottles – each with different labels – kept on display.

“Each of these are for different ailments, and the main element in all the medicines is cow urine. In the future, every person will keep cows at home because *gaumutra* and *gobar* (cow dung) will be sold at a price of Rs 100 per litre/kilogram,” says Gupta, as he picks up a bottle and gives it to a visitor who has asked for a cure for fatty liver.

Gupta, who describes himself as a supporter of the Hindutva ideology, says that he is associated with four *gaushalas* (cow shelters) and apart from practising as an advocate in the Rajasthan high court, he volunteers to make people aware about the various benefits of cow products.

He says that it is good that there is more research being done on cow products these days, “be it because of Modi ji coming to power or owing to the public’s interest in the subject”.

“*Arjun ark* is for patients with heart ailments, even those who have been suggested surgery by doctors. Those with bone ache will be cured with *nirgundi ark*. The *varun gokhru ark* is for patients of kidney disease and *go teeth* is an antibiotic that cures cold, cough and asthma. The main element in all these medicines is *gaumutra*. It is full of medicinal properties,” says Gupta, listing the various cow urine-based medicines kept at the stall.

The website of the Gau Mahakumbh says that the event, which concludes on September 7, is being organized by Devraha Baba Gau Seva Parivar, a unit of Rudrashivam Livestock Association, a not-for-profit private company.

Those who visited the event on Thursday included senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) politician and former governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra, Rajasthan education minister Madan Dilawar, urban

development and housing minister Jhabar Singh Kharra and BJP MLA from Hawa Mahal Balmukund Acharya.

Rajasthan education minister Madan Dilawar visiting the “gau mahakumbh” in Jaipur on Thursday (September 4, 2025). Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/DilawarMadan>

Cures on cures

The many stalls at the two exhibition halls of the event include those selling cow products such as ghee, milk, fertilizers and cow dung processing machines, artwork made of cow dung, notebooks and stationary items made from cow dung paper along with cosmetic items.

A large number of stalls focused on medicines made of cow urine which claim to treat ailments ranging from constipation to cancer.

“We have found excellent results from cow urine when it comes to curing kidney disease. It has been noticed that patients who earlier had to undergo dialysis no longer needed it because they have recovered after taking medicines made from cow urine. *Gaumutra* cleanses the body, and its role is that of a detox,” says Bhanu Prakash Sharma, who is managing the stall of the Rajasthan Gau Seva Sangh.

A pamphlet at a stall in the “gau mahakumbh” in Jaipur, listing diseases and claiming that cow urine can cure them. Photo: The Wire

A brochure of the Rajasthan Gau Seva Sangh lists the number of diseases they claim cow urine can cure including cancer, kidney diseases, heart ailments, skin diseases, gynecological diseases, obesity, asthma and mental illnesses.

Asaram devotees selling cow products, ‘gaucrete’ replacing concrete

At another corner of the exhibition hall, Shashikant Pawar is among those managing a stall named “Sant Shri Asaram ji Gaushala Niwai”.

The stall has a large picture of self-styled godman Asaram Babu who is presently lodged at the Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan after being convicted for the rape of a minor girl and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Pawar says that he has come to the Gau Mahakumbh from Maharashtra to join other devotees of Asaram from Rajasthan’s Tonk district who are managing the stall selling various cow products.

“It’s the first day but most of our medicines made with cow urine are already sold out, such is

the demand,” says Pawar.

Another stall where a large number of participants are visiting is owned by Manoj Doot, the creator of “Vedic paints”, who makes a strong case of using “gaucrete” – plaster derived from cow dung – instead of concrete as building material.

“The Vedic plaster is made of cow dung and elements like lime which we use instead of cement and sand. The paint is also made of cow dung. We are witnessing high demand because of the move towards an eco-friendly lifestyle. We have supplied Vedic plaster and paint for building KV Kutir, the organic farmhouse of poet Kumar Vishwas,” says Doot.

“When we use Vedic plaster and paint, the room temperature decreases in summer and increases in winter along with improving the energy of the house,” he says, adding that the response he is getting from the Gau Mahakumbh is “mind blowing”.

‘Sanatan and science cannot walk on the same track’

At the seminar hall of the Gau Mahakumbh, Niranjan K. Verma, the “gurukulapati” of the Panchgavya Vidyapeetham in Chennai – an institute that offers courses in curing ailments through products derived from cows – delivered a long speech on the significance of cows, with scathing criticism of modern science.

“Sanatan and science cannot walk on the same track because Sanatan is an axis of development and science is the axis of destruction. All discoveries made by modern science are for destruction, but Sanatan talks of building not of destruction,” said Verma.

“When the entire world got the science of Ayurveda from Lord Brahma in the beginning of creation”, why should it be validated by reading theories of Europe and America? Why should we not know the Ayurvedic names of plants and instead know their botanical names, he added.

Verma said that it is our “misfortune” that even today the Macaulay education system – a reference to 19th century British educationist Thomas Babington Macaulay who played an important role in determining the Indian education system – is not only still functional but thriving.

“Even after 80 years after independence, we haven’t been able to rejuvenate the gurukul

system. Earlier the village *vaidya* was so proficient that there was no need to open hospitals. If nobody falls sick, why would one need hospitals? The only way to save our homes is cows,” said Verma.

He added that the chemistry table – the periodic table of elements – isn’t updated enough yet to identify all the elements found in cow urine.

“Modern science has no way of purifying the five compound elements which make up the Earth. This power has been given by nature only to the cow. You can take 10 litre polluted water from drains and then mix it with 200 ml or half litre cow urine. Within 24 hours that water will be fit for drinking. Its colour or smell won’t change but it will be drinkable,” said Verma.

Dismissing science

While there was much talk at the event about the “medicinal properties” of cow urine, the participants didn’t provide any examples or cite actual cases wherein people have been cured from serious diseases after taking cow urine.

Different organizations participating in the event did mix elements of modern science in their rhetoric to bolster their claims, claiming that cow dung used in plaster prevents radiations and sprinkling cow urine keeps snakes away, but no scientific basis for these claims was provided.

In fact, when speaker Niranjan K. Verma was asked whether benefits of cow urine should also be demonstrated through clinical trials and scientific research, the suggestion was met with vehement opposition from him, who said that science is “not advanced enough to understand all the properties” found in cow urine.

In recent years, while the ruling BJP and allied organizations of the *Sangh Parivar* have routinely tried to promote the so-called medicinal properties of cow urine, the scientific community has reiterated that such claims are “unscientific”. Back in 2020, more than 500 scientists had asked the Indian government to withdraw a call for research proposals about the “uniqueness” of indigenous cows and the curative properties of cow urine, dung, and milk, including potential cancer treatments, science.org had reported at the time. (Deep Mukherjee in The Wire 05-09-25)

Israeli soldier said he wouldn't go back to Gaza to kill people

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us, it soon became clear to me that we were fighting because our leaders were never planning to stop. It was a war waged by nationalist populists who refused to pay the political price necessary to make the decisions to bring an end to the war, and instead demanded that we, the soldiers, the hostages and the Palestinians, pay it in blood.

Gaza became a lawless zone, with little effective oversight of the military and almost no personal accountability for soldiers. We came to wage a war without a timeline, without attainable goals, without an exit strategy — a status quo that undermines the idea of a modern state.

On Oct. 9, 2024, a group of Israel Defense Force soldiers, including me, issued a public letter declaring that our service had become untenable in light of Israel's policy in Gaza and mounting evidence that the government was deliberately sabotaging hostage deals. My brigade commander immediately suspended me from my unit, despite the protests of my subordinate soldiers.

Today, as the government calls on tens of thousands of reservists to participate in the cruel re-occupation of Gaza City, I implore my fellow soldiers: Refuse to report. Thousands have already stopped showing up. Some have been sent to prison. Many remain silent. This is the time to speak. It is your duty.

Everyone who cares about Israel's future must understand that what is at stake is not only lives but also the very idea of Israel itself. If we continue on this path and take permanent control over Gaza, nothing will remain of the fragile vision of a liberal democracy that once defined this state. Under a reckless nationalist-populist government that denies the limits of its own power, Israel has no sustainable future. Everyone who loves Israel, a country that once knew how to survive the impossible, must do all in their power to steer us away from this collision course.

Public refusal of military service is an almost unthinkable act in Israeli society, given the central place of the army in our national identity and how it shapes who we are as individuals. But my belief is basic to any democracy: Military power is an important tool, but a dangerous one. It is meant to serve

political goals, not replace them. The moment force becomes an end in itself, it brings only destruction.

The plan to reoccupy Gaza City is not a measured military move but a symptom of an addiction to occupation by a government that knows only how to destroy, not build.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's announcement last week about returning the Israeli team to the negotiating table was part of a familiar pattern. Every time public protest intensifies, he declares progress or a return to talks — only to let the process collapse again. The real question is why Israel ever leaves the table in the first place. Why are we being led instead of leading?

The Israeli government keeps selling the public an empty goal — "total victory" — as if it were strategy rather than marketing. Anyone with open eyes knows it is a lie. Hamas as a governing or military organization has long been defeated; I bet every senior security official knows this. Most Israelis, among them many active-duty soldiers, oppose this reckless course — including the I.D.F. chief of staff, who has openly voiced his opposition to reoccupying Gaza.

It is clear to all that this war will end with a deal. Every delay brings more casualties, more likelihood that hostages will not return alive and further erosion of Israel's position with mediators and international partners.

Against this populism, against a government without a moral or political mandate to lead Israel, only public protest — especially by military reservists — can help force a change of course. Moments of national crisis have given rise to refusal movements that ultimately helped push societies to confront disastrous policies. They demonstrate that only those willing to pay a personal price to expose the lie can truly fight for the truth. It happened before in Israel, during the 1982 Lebanon war and the 2000-5 second intifada, and in the United States during the Vietnam War. Ministers pay no price. We, the soldiers, and so many others, do pay.

I am a Zionist. Israel has a right to repel its antagonists. I am not a pacifist and do not regret fighting. But precisely for that reason, I now understand this: To be brave today means to stop, to say,

Peasants' Meeting in Uttar Pradesh

A peasants' meeting was organized by AIKKMS at Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, on 31 August last over various demands.



Medical Relief Camp in Punjab

Medical Relief Camps were jointly organised by AIKKMS and AIMS in Punjab among the flood-hit victims with help from Medical Service Centre.

Protest at Kolkata Corporation and CESC over waterlogging in the city and death of 11 people

Though there was well-advanced warning from the Meteorological Department, the Kolkata Corporation, Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), and the State Government did nothing to protect the citizens from the consequence of heavy rainfall which caused water-logging and horrible death of 11 people. The Kolkata District Committee of the SUCI(C) staged protest at Kolkata Corporation and CESC Headquarter on 24 September.



Significant Victory : State has to post Dr. Aniket Mahato at R G Kar Hospital



Dr. Aniket Mahato, a key protest leader of the Abhaya Movement which tormented West Bengal as well as the entire country after the ghastly rape and murder of Abhaya inside of the R G

Kar Hospital, was vindictively posted at Raiganj Medical College instead of his choiced R G Kar Hospital. It was designed to remove him from the heart of the justified movement. A single bench of the Kolkata High Court dismissed the Government order and directed to post him at R G Kar Hospital with immediate effect.

"No more." With over 60,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, dead, according to Gazan health authorities, and growing starvation in the territory, with Israeli hostages languishing for nearly two years, this war has crossed every boundary. There is no longer any goal worth achieving by prolonging the war.

Every Zionist who believes in a Jewish and democratic state, every citizen who believes in the values for which we went to fight, must grasp that the responsibility is in our hands. Now is the time to say no to cooperation. No to silent consent. Refusing to serve is not betrayal of the state. It is the only way to save it.

(Yotam Vilk is a reserve captain in the Israel Defense Forces and a member of Soldiers for the Hostages, an organization of I.D.F. veterans who served in Gaza and are refusing to return. He lives in Tel Aviv) [New York Times 30-08-25]

Famine in Gaza

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Anything less is complicity.

So, the famine in Gaza is not a humanitarian crisis. It is an orchestrated political crime. It is the logical outcome of a system where empire starves the weak and calls it security, where capitalism treats hunger as collateral damage, where aid is weaponized as spectacle. What is different now is visibility. No government can claim ignorance. No politician can plead surprise. Every state sees the evidence. Every state knows what is happening.

The urgent call of the hour is not more parachutes. Not more platitudes. But rupture: break the siege, dismantle the imperialist architecture of hunger, and end the system that starves millions for profit and power. History will not judge famine as a natural disaster. It will judge it as a crime. And it will judge those who let it happen — harshly.

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