

# Proletarian Era

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## LONG LIVE GREAT NOVEMBER REVOLUTION

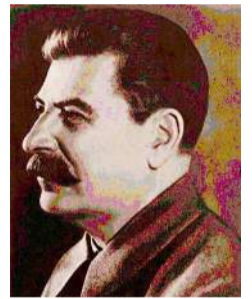


“ The question of imperialist wars, of the international policy of finance capital which now dominates the whole world, a policy that must inevitably engender new imperialist wars, that must inevitably cause an extreme intensification of national oppression, pillage, brigandry and the strangulation of weak, backward and small nationalities by a handful of "advanced" powers -- that question has been the keystone of all policy in all the countries of the globe since 1914.” (Lenin—Fourth anniversary of October Revolution, CW Vol 33)

“ ...no capitalist would ever agree to the complete abolition of unemployment, to the abolition of the reserve army of unemployed, the purpose of which is to bring pressure on the labour market, to ensure a supply of cheap labour. ... planned economy presupposes increased output in those branches of industry which produce goods that the masses of the people need particularly.

But you know that the expansion of production under capitalism takes place for entirely different motives, that capital flows into those branches of economy in which the rate of profit is highest. You will never compel a capitalist to incur loss to himself and agree to a lower rate of profit for the sake of satisfying the needs of the people. Without getting rid of the capitalists, without abolishing the principle of private property in the means of production, it is impossible to create planned economy.”

(Stalin—Marxism vs Liberalism)



### SUCI(C) on 6th Supreme Court hearing on R G Kar hospital case

*Comrade Provash Ghosh,  
General Secretary, SUCI(C) has  
issued the following statement on  
16 October 2024:*

We are constrained to state that outcome of the sixth hearing of the R G Kar case in Supreme Court yesterday has been extremely disappointing. While the hon'ble Supreme Court had taken *suo motu* cognizance of the incident obviously acknowledging the gravity of the case, people at large expected that the Apex Court desired expeditious completion of the enquiry and arrest of the culprits who, as per medical scrutiny of the mortal remains of the victim PGT doctor, are bound to be more than one in number.

But the CBI which failed to complete the investigation even within about two months' time and in its initial report virtually rubber-stamped the findings of the Kolkata police that only one civic volunteer was the offender, has been applauded for making "substantial progress" and given more time to complete the investigation thereby endorsing further delay in the justice delivery system. It is also unfortunate that hon'ble Supreme Court spent substantial time on ascertaining the criteria of recruiting the civic volunteers. The fixing of the date of next hearing after Diwali holidays is tantamount to further lingering of the judicial process.

## Jammu and Kashmir Election a few observations

The recent elections in Jammu and Kashmir have unfolded some of the objective realities. Five years have elapsed since Article 370 was unilaterally and arbitrarily revoked by the BJP government on 5 August 2019, trampling underfoot all democratic norms and in total disregard of the historical context in which the clause was inserted in the Constitution as a part of the accession treaty of Jammu and Kashmir, then an independent kingdom, with Indian republic. Not only that, the BJP government reorganised the state into two Union Territories, in complete exclusion of the opinion and consent of the state legislative assembly as well as the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Though the BJP government claimed that this would bring peace and prosperity to this state and contain rising terrorist activities, facts speak otherwise.

The urges and aspirations of the people of this picturesque state have worsened further. Thousands of political workers have been detained, or house arrested; schools, colleges and all public places turned into battlefield with army and CRPF, empowered by draconian AFSPA, virtually ruling the roost. Added to this is the highhandedness of the Central government appointed governor whose conduct often is alleged to be so as if the state is his fiefdom. The people were gagged, taunted, tortured, bullied and what not. They are mostly forced to remain confined at their homes and at times when curfew-like situation is clamped on the pretext of combating terrorism, it is difficult to go and purchase even medicine for the ailing and old age people. Many of the youths are being picked up branding them as terrorists and are either thrown into jail or secretly assassinated. The entire state has been converted into a big jail. These moves have virtually made the people heart-broken and completely disillusioned about the ruling BJP government.

Even the BJP was deliberately delaying election in the state and reneging on the promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir so that it could continue its de facto tyrannical rule there using the

governor as its stooge. But then they were compelled to hold the election due to firm directives by the Supreme Court.

The assembly elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir after a period of 10 years. During these years, people have witnessed how the different vote-based bourgeois parties, both national and regional, have sought to use them as pawns to ride to power. While the BJP was virtually rejected by the people, particularly in the Kashmir region and the Congress already discredited for its misrule in earlier years and non-fulfilment of the conditions of accession treaty, people do not have trust on any of the regional parties, be it National Conference, PDP, Apni party, Aitihad party of Engineer Rashid, etc., either.

While there was no question about any foothold of the BJP in the valley, they tried to make a backdoor entry using the provision of delimitation (reorganization of the assembly seats). The final delimitation report released on 5 May 2022 recommended additional 6 seats to Jammu division and 1 seat to Kashmir division, taking the total tally to 90 seats. Not only that, to ensure control over the state, they gave extra powers to the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to nominate five members to the assembly. And then the BJP raised its arch communal campaign to the peak to woo Hindu votes in the Jammu segment. On the other hand, the National Conference (NC) formed alliance with the Congress and the CPI (M) and PDP decided to go alone.

Surprisingly, fundamentalist organisation Jamat-e-Islami, which is banned by the Indian government on the plea of its fundamentalist and insurgent stand, participated in the elections after many decades. Some people believe that Jamat-e-Islami chose to contest the elections to divide Muslim votes and help BJP gain victory in the valley. The BJP was also alleged to have tacitly backed the Aitihad party of Engineer Rashid with the same objective.

In this backdrop, elections were held in Jammu and

*Contd. on page 2*



Jamshedpur



Chandigarh



Patna, Bihar



Kolkata, West Bengal

## Party Book Stalls on the occasion of Autumn Festival

Save Public Education      Resist NEP-2020

Job For All      Stop Atrocities On Women

**To strengthen students' movement**

November 2024

**27 28 29**

**10<sup>th</sup> All India Students' Conference**

Venue: Jyoti Singh Nagar, Takhatore Indoor Stadium, New Delhi

**SAVE EDUCATION - CULTURE - HUMANITY**

<p><b>Open Session</b> 27 November</p> <p>Chairman <b>Prof. Arun Habib</b> Emergent Education</p> <p>Chief Guest <b>Prof. Chaitanya Lal</b> Member, AICHR &amp; AICHR</p> <p>Special Guest <b>Arun Kumar Singh</b> Former President, AIDS</p> <p>Secretary <b>VN Rajakhar</b> President, AIDS</p> <p>President <b>Sourav Ghosh</b> General Secretary, AIDS</p>	<p><b>28-29</b> November</p> <p><b>Delegato Session</b> 28-29 November</p> <p><b>Concluding Session</b> 29 November</p> <p><b>Comrade Poojash Ghosh</b> First General Secretary, AIDS General Secretary, SUCI</p> <p>Session with Intellectuals, Exhibition, Sessions with the Fraternal Organisations &amp; Cultural Session</p> <p><b>AIDSO</b></p> <p>All India Democratic Students' Organisation</p>
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### Kashmir

## BJP's defeat is redeeming but nothing much to expect from the NC-Congress government

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Kashmir. The voting pattern was not any better than the election of 2014 in the valley but voting percentage was very high in Jammu region where the BJP had some hold. Though the percentage of voting was on an average near to 60%, overall there was lukewarm response of the people because they did not foresee anything tangible after the election. The people did not nurture any hope that this election would address their burning problems like price rise, unemployment among youths, deteriorating condition of small enterprises and traditional occupations, large scale infiltration of corporate sharks and multi-nationals for exploiting natural resources and tourism potential of the valley by reckless deforestation and rock-cutting while further subduing local populace. Except laying some new railway tracks to facilitate army movement, no other development was witnessed in the valley in last five years. Moreover, the property tax which was not there before the abrogation of Article 370, is now in force and people have to pay it. Previously, liquor was not available openly in the valley of Kashmir except in some licence holding five star hotels. But now there are so many liquor shops under the pretext to attract more and more tourists, which was also a matter of discontent among the people of Kashmir valley.

As anticipated, the BJP has been virtually trounced while the NC-Congress alliance secured

majority and formed the government. Evidently, they could somewhat encash on the anti-BJP sentiment as well as a few local sentiments though neither they nor their ally, the CPI (M) had taken any initiative to develop democratic mass movement on the burning problems the valley people have been grappling with. The BJP is expectedly tight-lipped over the poll results. Though they banked on the "Hindus in danger" slogan in 11 seats of Jammu, the result for them has been disappointing. Even Kashmiri pundits did not find any trace of honouring the promise of their safety from the terrorist-fundamentalist organizations by the BJP. The Congress had promised that if they would win the election, they would bring back Article 370, though they know very well they cannot do it as it necessitates a change of the legislation in Parliament. However, this was not mentioned in the election manifesto of the Congress. Also, there was a lot of discontent in the Jammu region too regarding the burning issues of the people.

The BJP's defeat has no doubt been a redeeming feature but there is nothing much to expect from the NC-Congress government which also pursue anti-people bourgeois policies. Time has come for the suffering valley people to understand that they could bring some relief to their gruelling life condition only if they develop united organized mass movement along revolutionary leftist line under correct leadership.

## Make SUCI(Communist) candidates victorious in Jharkhand and Maharashtra assembly election

### Jharkhand

1. Chandankiyari
2. Bokaro
3. Ichagarh
4. Chaibasa
5. Bhawanathpur
6. Jharia
7. Pakur
8. Godda
9. Ghatshila
10. Potka
11. Baharagora
12. Jamshedpur (West)
13. Hatia
14. Saraikela

- Comrade Raju Rajwar
- Comrade Ramesh ch. Mahato
- Comrade Ashudev Mahato
- Comrade Chandramohan Hembram
- Comrade Ajay Singh
- Comrade Anil Bauri
- Comrade Sanjay Kalindi
- Comrade Raju Kumar
- Comrade Diku Besra
- Comrade Bijan Sardar
- Comrade Haraprasad Singh Solanki
- Comrade Bipin Mandal
- Comrade Nirmala Sharma
- Comrade Ratna Purti

### Maharashtra

1. Nagpur West
2. Hingna
3. Dindoshi (Mumbai)

- Comrade Narmada Charote
- Comrade Madhuri Nikure
- Comrade Dattu Govind Kajle

## Medicine prices increased in "public interest"

The caption is absolutely true. The BJP-led central government has hiked prices of eight essential drugs like Salbutamol (used for asthma), Streptomycin powder for injection (used in case of tuberculosis), lithium (for bipolar disorder), and Pilocarpine eye drops (for glaucoma) by 50% from 14 October last. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority of India (NPPA) which under the department of pharmaceuticals under the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers regulates the ceiling prices of drugs has stated that it has increased the prices of "poor people's drugs", used against common diseases, and often taken for a long period of time for illnesses that are chronic, in the "larger public interest".

Never has one heard of such a steep rise in the prices of crucial medicines effected for public benefit! It is ludicrous indeed! And what prompted them to raise the price?

Readymade answer is "unviability in sustainable production" of drugs, and some of drugmakers have applied for "discontinuation of some of the formulations on account of their unviability."

According to media news, the latest National Health Accounts—a report released by the government in September last—said, out of the current healthcare expenditure, about one-third (30.84%) is incurred as 'pharmaceutical expenses'. Then how could this step to 'slay the slain', as goes the proverb, be for the welfare of the slain?

Is it that the giant pharmaceutical companies which contributed hefty amount to the coffers of the ruling BJP through electoral bond route are now extracting their pound of flesh? May be that is what the NPPA has meant by saying that the hike has been necessitated under 'extraordinary circumstances'.

## New Labour Code to make life of workers more miserable

Industrial accidents causing deaths and grievous injuries to the workers are increasing alarmingly in the country. On 21 August last, a fatal accident, at the Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited in Atchutapuram Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh (AP) took away 17 precious lives and seriously injured 36. On 22 August, the Chandrababu Naidu, AP chief minister, informed the Press that since 2019, in the undivided Visakhapatnam district alone, 119 industrial accidents, leading to 120 deaths have occurred. It shows how accidents have become a norm in these SEZ. The double engine BJP government of Gujarat informed the assembly, in September 2023, that around 700 workers had died and 213 sustained injuries in the 587 industrial accidents across the state since 2020. The "vibrant" state saw a 17 per cent increase in industrial accidents between 2020-21 and 2022-23. As per data received from Delhi's labour department released on 11 November 2022, the state, as on October 2022, recorded 118 fatalities between 2018 and 2022 in its 13,464 registered factories. Just a few days back, on 7 October, eight workers died and many more injured when a blast occurred in the privately-owned Gangarampur mine in Birbhum district of West Bengal. Published data of the Ministry of Labour shows that between 2017 and 2020, on an average three people died and 11 were injured daily because of accidents in the registered factories. 3,21,578 factories across India recorded a total of 1,058 severe accidents and 988 'fatal injuries' in the year 2020-21. In 2016, a study by the NIT Surat and IIT Delhi estimated that around 48,000 people are killed in accidents at work in India every year, with construction sector accounting for at least 11,614 of the fatalities.

### Unorganized sector and MSMEs

This data may just be a tip of the iceberg as it is sourced from only

registered industrial establishments in the country, which are bound by industrial laws. Accidents are not reported by the employers to avoid payment of compensation and reimbursement of cost of medical treatment. In MSME sector, 35% workplaces are prone to fatal accidents anytime anywhere. What is more important to note is that over 90% of 522 million workers in India are employed in the informal sector. As per government data, the unorganized construction sector employs 51 million workers and reports on average 38 fatal accidents a day. In an RTI response, Delhi labour department admitted that safety of informal sector workers does not come under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948, and the figures of accidents in the unorganized sector are not compiled. Further, construction work is mostly assigned to contractors who employ migrant workers. These migrants are employed at paltry wage and forced to work long hours in hazardous condition like climbing high scaffolds without safety, exposed to easy electrocution and being buried under debris. These migrants virtually lead a life of bonded labour and are subject to inhuman treatment. Having no other means to eke out a bare living the hapless migrants, mostly rural poor, are forced to work under such risky condition for a pittance.

### Tweaking laws by employers

Also, the employers merrily tweak labour laws with impunity. Clause 88 of the Factories Act mandates due reporting of accidents in a factory which cause any bodily injury or disability to a worker. Further, medical officers or doctors (MLCs) to police under section 39 of the Criminal Procedure Code, failing which they could be prosecuted. The labour ministry's Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) booklet on MLCs also specifies this. But the workers are forced to choose working in unsafe conditions lest they are fired. This fear of losing job

refrains the workers from speaking out. Also, in our country, mired in unabated corruption, personnel from the inspectorate of factories either ignore or remain silent on violations of stipulated norms and practices in the industries as they are either lured of being bribed or fear political intervention.

### Why are industrial accidents on the rise?

It does not need rocket science to understand the reasons behind frequent industrial disasters. Inadequate preventive measures, lack of infrastructure to manage emergencies as well as undertake regular maintenance and the failure of the authorities concerned to conduct safety audits lead to such recurrent accidents. For example, in the chemical and pharmaceutical factories, most accidents were caused by reactor blasts, meaning abject failure, if not utter callousness, on the part of the management to adequately control pressure and temperature. Workers are neither imparted basic training about proper operation of reactors nor are they provided with proper safety gears. Chemical industries are not even storing foam and dry chemicals to deal with any leakage or fire.

### There is hardly any punishment for those responsible for accidents

Despite accidents claiming lives and causing grievous injury to and even maiming of the workers, there has hardly been any instance of meting out any punishment to the owners or responsible managerial staff of industrial units. The officials held responsible are neither arrested nor suspended. The nexus between political leaders and industrialists seems a common cause behind those responsible for the mishaps not being booked. In May 2024, a boiler blast in a chemical factory at the Dombivli MIDC in Maharashtra claimed the lives of at least 13 people and seriously injured more than 60 workers and residents in the area. The blast culminated in the arrest of

of God! Despite the disconcerting reality of the data of huge accidental deaths, the 'Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes' (DGFASLI) data revealed that only 2,563 persons were accused yet, barely 10 imprisoned for violations of the Factories Act, and only about Rs 30 million in compensation obtained during all these years.

### Labour safety laws diluted in name of reforms

Under the circumstances, what was expected of the government of a country which claims to be the largest democracy in the world? Such lackadaisical attitude towards the life and safety of the workers and non-compliance with prescribed labour laws assumed to be for protection of the workers' rights are main factors behind such recurrent debacles. All these frightening data coming to light in the recent years called for more stringent laws protecting the rights of the working populace and covering the loopholes of the existing labour laws.

But what did the government do? To facilitate the already swelling bellies of the domestic capital and to lure foreign capital in the name of 'ease of doing business', the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, as part of its much championed 'labour law reforms', has promulgated around 44 labour-related statutes, of which 29 have been consolidated into four new labour codes, worsening the already pathetic condition of the working class.

Out of these four codes, 'The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code' (OSHCW Code) passed in 2020, consolidates and amends the laws regulating the occupational safety, health and working conditions. Evidently, the Code excludes many branches of economic activities, most notably, the agriculture sector employing more than 50% of the total working population, employees in unorganized sectors like small mines, hotels and eating places, machinery repairing centres, construction, brick kilns, power looms, fire-works, carpet manufacturing, and also informal workers of organized sectors, including IT and IT enabled services, digital platforms, e-commerce as well as domestic workers, home-based workers, trainees and paid volunteers, etc. Thus, the hollowness of the tall claims of vast coverage of the 'Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code' (OSHCW) is vividly exposed.

The Factories Act, 1948, outwardly, makes it mandatory to form a safety committee in all hazardous factories, irrespective of size, while under the OSHWC, the required threshold for such committee has been increased to a number of 250 workers in hazardous factories or at least 500 workers in other factories and that too only after

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## Significant victory of AIDS in Assam

*AIDS won important posts including those of General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary in the students' union election in Kamakhya Barua Girls' College in Guwahati. The result vindicates acceptance of the just struggle conducted by the AIDS against disastrous National Education Policy 2020 and ideological victory over communal-chauvinist forces.*



factory owners under charges of homicide not amounting to murder. The prompt eyewash reaction by the state in this incident resulted in no punitive legal action against the owners, who were released on bail just three weeks after the blast and the incident was labelled as an 'act

## Labour safety

## No rocket science needed to understand reasons behind frequent industrial accidents

*Contd. from page 3*

a government order or notification. This provision will effectively mean that more than 90% of the country's workforce will not be under ambit of workplace safety. Further, the definition of "factory" has been changed. Now, industries with 20 to 40 workers without aid of electric power, and of 10 to 20 workers for those using the aid of power are only to be called factories. Fact is, according to India's latest sixth economic census, less than a million or 1.4% of establishments in India have more than 10 workers. Increasing the threshold thus leaves the majority of establishments out of the ambit of the new OSH Code and legal purview of safety requirements.

It is indignant to note that no responsibility has been fixed on employers with respect to safety and health. Even the minimum standards for 'Occupation Safety and Health', or daily and weekly working hours has not been specified in the code. Rather power has been delegated to the central government to decide that from case to case basis through notification.

No provisions have been made in the code to treat the growing number of contract labourers on par with permanent workers in the same establishment in the matter of wages and other conditions of employment, paving way for all kind of insecurity and exploitation of most of them. Regarding the most vulnerable, the migrant workers, the primary onus has been placed on the contractor, many of whom are themselves marginal players and scapegoated by principal employers and large industries, for any serious default in regard to workers' protection.

Again, the reforms talk of registration and portability of benefits of Public Distribution System and Building and Other Construction Workers to migrant workers, providing toll-free numbers to inform the authorities of their problems. But dismal track-record of the enforcement agencies leaves a question mark about implementation of these prescripts. Further, no mention has been made in the Code about protections for intra-state migrant workers, whose number is much higher than inter-state workers, although the vulnerabilities they face are equally dire.

A social security funds for migrant and unorganized sector workers has been announced. But there is no specific budget allocation for the same. It means that the migrant workers will be left without any sort of special protection from the government in the event of an accident, closure of business or emergencies related to a pandemic lockdown.

### What do the Directive Principles of the State Policy say?

PM Modi, while taking oath for the third term held a copy of the Constitution on his forehead to show how he abides by it. 'Directive Principles of the State Policy' direct the state to devise policies and/or laws to enable both men and women to have the right to livelihood, ensure health and strength of workers (Article 39), provide public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want (Article 41), secure just and humane conditions of work (Article 42), earn living wage and extend conditions of work enabling a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities (Article 43), among others. This means all economic activities should be such as to provide workers uninterrupted employment with due emoluments, and in the event of an interruption, suitable compensation. Does the reality conform to that? Are not the government answerable for that?

### Enforcement of the labour codes has been done away with

However lofty the claims and talk of the welfare of workers in the codes, the devil is in the detail of their enforcement. Whatever little teeth the inspectors and inspectorates, the labour courts and tribunals entrusted with the enforcement, had earlier as per the Factories act 1948 has now in fact been taken away. The introduction of a new cadre named "inspector cum facilitator" may give an impression that the codes are labour friendly. But actually, it would make surprise inspections difficult. The government has amalgamated 13 pieces of legislation including the Factories Act, 1948, and Newspaper Employees Act, 1955. Under the latter, the labour inspector cannot make surprise inspections. There is also another eyewash. The penalties for the offences under the Code, ranging from fines to imprisonment up to three months, has been provided but no court will be allowed to proceed with the trials of the offender without prior sanction of the appropriate government.

Again, as mentioned above, workers in the unorganized sector are mostly compelled to work in hazardous conditions fearing the possibility of being retrenched or replaced, because they are not covered by any labour law. But now the workers of the organized sector are also deprived of even the bare minimum rights they hitherto enjoyed.

When the law of the land does not come to the aid of the dying and victimised workers, the sole instrument left with them is to unite, form unions and fight collectively.

*AIDYO  
camp in  
Ghatsila  
from  
27-29  
September  
2024*



The Indian workers fought and compelled even the tyrannical colonial rulers to bend and make certain laws to accord a minimum protection to the workers. Result was promulgation of The Trade Union Act, 1926; the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946; and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. As per the right recognised by law, workers can unionize, but it is one of the most violated rights. Unionizing workers are punished by firing under some pretext or another. The vacancies, of necessary, are filled by employing contractual labour. Despite this, the small numbers of organized workers daring to form unions, have not escaped the cautious eyes of the ruling dispensation. So, in the "Amritkal" of the BJP, its government has not faltered to snatch away the hard-earned right of the workers of collective bargaining through unionization in the revised Industrial Relations Code (IRC).

The objective of the Bill is to "achieve industrial peace and harmony as the ultimate pursuit in resolving industrial disputes and to advance the progress of industry by bringing about the existence of harmony and cordial relationship between the employers and workers." But the pertinent question remains, peace and harmony for whom? If the workers die of accidents because of absence of proper safety measures, talk of maintaining peace and harmony in the industry sounds absurd. The IRC has also stipulated many conditions for forming union and restrictions on the right of workers to go on strike. A strike is defined as "concerted casual leave" where 50 per cent or more workers are required to give notice. A registered union will be one where either a hundred workers or 10 per cent of the total workers are its members and should at all times retain this proportion. Similarly, only a union having support of 51 per cent or more of the workforce on the muster roll of an establishment can be regarded as the sole negotiating agent. This is a climb-down from the earlier criterion of 75 per cent in the draft version of the code which allowed monopoly of a single union.

No doubt, it will still result in the monopoly of a single union at the negotiating table. Also, it is not in conformity with even the ILO conventions on collective bargaining. The extant Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 prescribed that a settlement is necessarily between a union or group of employees and employer, not

between an individual employee and employer. As against the very concept of collective bargaining, the definition of "settlement" as provided in the new code has been included in the IR code which recognizes fixed-term contracts and states that the service conditions of even permanent workers are going to be fixed individually. How "committed" is the government to welfare of the workers could be gauged by the fact that the annual meeting of the Indian Labour Conference (ILC), the highest tripartite body, was not convened even once in last five years. No wonder, the industry has welcomed the Codes with open arms. The Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was quoted as saying that the reforms would make India a preferred investment destination and facilitate expansion of establishments to create employment opportunities.

While viewing this new labour code in tandem with the provisions of the Section 172 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) which states that people must comply with lawful directions given by police officers, disobeying a police officer's lawful direction shall result in arrest. Section 223 addresses the legal consequences of disobeying orders issued by public servants having enforcing authority. This means any such officer can now order the workers to end their strike or agitation pending which they could be taken into custody and penalize them otherwise. And last but not the least, under the draconian UAPA act, strikes can also be termed as a terrorist or disruptive activity, whenever required.

No doubt that the aim of labour reforms has been to improve India's ranking in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' rating caring a fig for the workers' safety, security and their right to protest against injustice. So, the employers are under no obligation to put in place due safety measures, prolong the working hours, allow the workplace to be unhygienic, and even suitably compensating the bereaved families in case any worker die in accident or in harness. The working class has two options: either to tamely accept the directives or muster courage to unite and organize themselves for taking up cudgels against such draconian legislations. History shows that no autocratic ruler could survive when the oppressed and repressed rose up unitedly under correct leadership against all ploys to subvert their legitimate rights.

## SUCI(C) participates in the Fifth International Conference of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations held in Germany

[Comrade Amitava Chatterjee, Polit Bureau member, SUCI(C), recently visited Germany on being invited to attend the 5th Conference of 'ICOR' which commenced on 8 September followed by a seminar on Lenin at Tuckenthal-Thuringia in Germany.

He narrated his experience during his conversation with Ganadabi, the Bengali organ of the Party. The essential portions of that discussion are given below.]

Q: Tell us a little about the organization 'ICOR', for what purpose has it been constituted?

A: 'International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations' (ICOR) is an international organization. The backbone of this organization is the Marxist-Leninist Party of Deutschland (Deutschland means Germany), abbreviated as MLPD. This organization was formed in 2010 at the initiative of MLPD with the purpose of uniting all parties and mass organizations of the world who profess communism and aspire for proletarian revolution. Their aim is to build an international communist platform—as was once Comintern, later Cominform.

Q: What is the prospect of this initiative?

A: This time, ICOR itself said that in order to build such a platform, consensus among its

A: A pro-Naxalite party or group named CPIML-Mass line had attended.

Q: What did you say at the conference?

A: I said that if we wanted to discuss the current political situation in India, we should start with the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. I explained that how the contest was polarized between two bourgeois groups, the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led INDIA which included pseudo-communists like the CPI and the CPI (M). As against the two bourgeois blocs, we fought the elections alone in 151 of the total 542 Lok Sabha seats based on our proletarian revolutionary line and exposing the subservience to ruling capitalism by the mainstream parties. We received tremendous response from the people. I

further clarified that we are at the stage of mass movement and hence our duty is to build democratic movements on various burning problems of people's life. We are in favour of conducting united left movement. But the other parties calling themselves Marxists-leftists are in avid pursuit of parliamentary vote-politics and virtually spurning the path of movement. We are willing to join hands with those who are ready to

participate in genuine left movement.

Q: Was there any opposition to what you said?

A: First, there was no provision for that. Everyone was to express one's own opinion there. According to the rules of ICOR, there might be disagreements between parties or groups, but they were not to spell those out there, nor would these differences prevent membership of ICOR. I did not say anything against any party though five or six groups from Turkey had criticized each other. I also pointed out that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our founder General Secretary, had shown way back in 1948 that the military power of Germany-Italy-Japan axis had been defeated in the Second World War, but not fascism. Fascism has become a feature of all capitalist states in the world ridden with crisis.

Q: What had emerged from the ICOR conference? Are there any plans for the future?

A: Many decisions were taken, and many proposals were adopted. A resolution in support of

## Increased working hours-part of ruthless exploitation of labour in decadent moribund capitalism

In the slave-master society, the slave owner had total ownership on the slaves, including their labour. The slaves had to work even under adverse situation and for any hours of time at the dictate of their masters. But at the same time, the slave owners were aware that the slaves should not be made to overwork to such an extent that they die. Because loss of slaves means loss of their comfort and luxury. Later, however, as vouched by history, with the availability of slaves aplenty from Africa and elsewhere, that little relief from work of slaves was also taken away. America's slave labourers worked and died prematurely to become manure on plantations. It also found to be profitable to exhaust a slave's labour capacity as soon as possible and then put him to death.

We have now progressed to a relatively advanced capitalist society. But the slavery continues to be present in a different form. The workers in capitalism are nothing but wage slaves as pointed out by Great Marx. They are underpaid for the labour expended by them as the unpaid labour constitutes profit of the capitalist owner. The lust for profit maximization prompts the capitalists to extract more labour from the workers through coercion, one of the features of which is extended working hours without any compensatory payment. The propensity to increase working hours is akin to wolf's appetite, disregardful of all humanitarian considerations. The call for eight hours of work was first heard in the second half of the 19th century. In 1866 that slogan was raised at the American Labour Congress and the First International under the guidance of Marx. The struggle for eight hours of work has become an integral part of not only the economic but also the political struggle of workers all over the world. In the late nineteenth century, the working class was in constant struggle to gain the 8-hour work day. Working conditions were severe and it was quite common to work 10 to 16 hour days in unsafe conditions. Death and injury were commonplace at many work places. In 1886, a violent confrontation between police and workers took place at Hay market Chicago, USA when the workers organized a demonstration in demand for reduction of working hours to eight hours a day as against the then prevailing atrocious 12 to 16 hours a day or even more. The Red Flag which symbolized subsequently, and till to date, the resolve, the courage, the justful audacity of working people all over the world, was born in the flood of blood of the martyr-workers of this Chicago movement, to become the emblem of struggle against all sorts of exploitation and injustice and manifestation of the dignity of the exploited masses, at the same time.

The legendary May Day struggle in 1886 and the martyrdom of workers awakened workers all over the world. In 1889, the International Socialist Conference in Paris



Signature Campaign by MLDP



Mass Collection by MLDP

members on various issues is needed. That is yet to be arrived at. But the attempt is on. If one agrees with all the rules and regulations of 'ICOR', one can become its member. Last year, when we, on behalf of our Party, attended the congress of the MLPD, we came to know about ICOR and became its member.

Q: What are the minimum common area of agreement among the participant parties? What were the topics of discussion?

A: All these parties and groups are believers in socialism and working towards the establishment of communism. As decided by ICOR, each of the members had to first present a brief report about socio-economic-political situation of his or her own country and the role of his or her party. Secondly, one was asked to speak about Israeli aggression in Palestine.

In the 'Lenin Seminar' to mark the death centenary of great Lenin, representatives were asked to speak on various teachings of Lenin.

Q: Apart from SUCI(C), did any party or organization from India attend the conference?

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## ICOR conference

## ICOR is sought to be developed as Comintern

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the RG Kar movement in Kolkata was also adopted. The MLPD who fought in the recent elections in Germany, expressed concern at the fascist party AfD having cornered 30% vote.

Q: What was the reason cited for this support of AfD?

A: Concern was expressed at this growing influence of right-wing fascist forces on people. And the need to fight fascism was emphasized upon.

A: Has there been any talk about the future programme in the Asian region ?

Q: No. ICOR has separate bodies for each continent. From Asia, apart from us, Masline and BASAD from Bangladesh and two parties from Nepal were present. It is heartening to see BASAD (Marxist) also from Bangladesh becoming a member of ICOR this time.

Q: What about Sri Lanka?

A: There was no official participation. Only a representative living in Britain was present as an observer.

Q: Did the MLPD or any other participant talk about weakness of international communist movement?

A: The main reason for this weakness is the lack of correct communist leadership. The views of our Party are in consistence with the views of the MLPD. As you know, a delegation including MLPD's top leader came to Kolkata for two days in last March, visited our central office, met Comrade Provash Ghosh, our beloved General Secretary, Comrade Asit Bhattacharya, veteran Polit Bureau member and other available Central Committee-Polit Bureau members and exchanged views with us. The aim of the ICOR conference was to strengthen the communist movement and establish a communist leadership internationally.

Q: Do they have any opinion on the collapse of the Soviet Union ?

A: Of course there is. There are booklets, discussions and written statements. I have brought some books.

Q: Has there been any condemnation of Israeli aggression on Palestine?

A: ICOR earmarked a conference day on Palestine. After the conference in the evening that day, a discussion was arranged only on Palestine. But the Palestinian representatives had a conflict with the MLPD over the question of

Hamis because MLPD did not take Hamis attack on Palestine kindly. MLPD feels that Hamis is a fundamentalist force and should be condemned. But Palestinian representatives while opposing the resolution condemning Hamis said that Hamis was a part of Palestinian resistance struggle. Because of this conflict, the discussion was stalled. Our point was that, although Hamis is a radical force, it is not appropriate to criticize it now. It has to be fought ideologically and culturally. Further, according to the ICOR resolution, no ideological issues were to be decided by voting. In this case too, their views match with us. Ideological disagreements should be decided through debate, not voting, as taught by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Q: During discussion with MLPD, was there any glimmer of building a communist international in the future ?

A: Of course! We are a member of the ICOR, we are in the Asia group of ICOR—all for that purpose. Our aim is to materialize that possibility. Already, we have been contacted by the anti-imperialist powers of America and Spain. Talks are also going on with the Communist Party of Venezuela.

Q: Did any discussions appear with other groups or parties or people of any other country in Germany ?

A: I did not discuss with any group separately but tried to understand the views presented in the house. Surprisingly, two groups came from Russia. Another young man has arrived from Russia who identified himself as a Russian Maoist. Another representative from one group of the RCWP (Russian Communist Workers Party) said they were blasted for protesting Russia's invasion of Ukraine. On enquiry, it came to be known that though the RCWP initially took an anti-aggression stance, later Russian nationalism reared its ugly head, and a section opted to rally behind the Russian bourgeoisie. So has been the split. Also, there was a group from China calling themselves as Marxist-Leninist-Maoist. I had a talk with the representative of the Communist Party of Kenya also. Let me inform you that our characterization of India as an imperialist state has drawn MLPD close to us. MLPD also thinks that India is an imperialist country. I elaborated a bit this point in the Lenin Seminar.

*Convention in Gwalior by MP state AIDS, AIDYO and AIMSS on 13 October against the burning problems of people's life*



Q: Have you found any other party with whom our party's viewpoint is similar ?

A: I tried but there were so many factions because the communist movement in the world is in disarray and confused. MLPD is the only organized party with concrete viewpoint on the domestic and international affairs and have published literature on those. For example, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had provided an analysis of the role of the resurgent capitalist countries. MLPD says many of these countries are now resurgent imperialist powers. While we broadly agree with this analysis, many others disagree.

Q: Tell us about your experience of the Lenin seminar.

A: At the Lenin Seminar, I first referred to the Leninist model of party formation. It is not that some people, apparently like-minded, sit together, adopt a resolution and form the party. As shown by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, those who intend to form the party, must first conduct an arduous ideological struggle covering all aspects of life including sex, to develop uniformity of thinking and approach. Our Party is a model of that. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also showed that by revolutionary theory, Lenin did not mean strategy and tactics of revolution but a comprehensive revolutionary theory to guide every aspect of revolution. That is why we have three types of membership in the Party—applicant members, members and then staff members based on the level of one's identification with the Party.

Second was about imperialism. Imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism presupposes development of monopoly capital and based on that are to examine whether a country is imperialist or not. I have said this, everyone has heard. Thirdly, in all their submissions, the participants expressed apprehension of about outbreak of a world-war., particularly nuclear war. I asserted that Lenin nowhere said, 'Imperialism generates world-war'. He said, 'Imperialism generates war'. That war could lead to a world war.

Secondly, what is the possibility of a nuclear war today? Russia has

threatened Ukraine of nuclear war. But have they embarked upon that? Why? Because Russia knows that in that case, Ukraine will retaliate with nuclear weapons. Similar is the case with India and Pakistan, both of which are nuclear powers. So, it is not right to suffer from a panic of 'nuclear war'. In that case, we shall fall victim of a pacifist approach, embrace compromise and beg for peace with folded hands. We cannot support this. After hearing me, an elderly participant from Italy approached me, took my address to contact me later.

Q: How many countries were represented in the conference ?

A: 32 countries.

Q: Tell us about your overall feeling.

A: Overall, there was a broad acceptance of our Party, and everyone wanted to know more about us. As regards formation of a genuine communist party, I clearly said that the teachings of and example set by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh based on Leninist principles can only be the beacon. Otherwise, the real communist party will not be formed, even if a party is formed, it cannot be saved.

Q: Were the conference and seminar held in the same place?

A: Yes. Tuckenthal in the district of Thuringia.

Q: How many people were there ?

A: About 700. Apart from the elderly persons, quite a good number of young people were MLPD volunteers.

Q: Anything else you like to mention?

A: Comrade Emil Bauer of MLPD was with me as constant companion during my stay in in Germany. On 17 September, an inhouse meeting was held at Emil's initiative in Augsburg. There too I had to talk about India. I have seen that MLPD also undertakes mass collection and collects signatures of people on the streets on various issues and thereby increases mass contact. I understood from the experience of Germany that without following Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, it is almost impossible to build a real communist party in any country today.

# Man-made disaster in Sikkim

Of late, one after another devastating 'natural' disasters rocked the entire country. In our previous issues of Proletarian Era, we have shown in detail how global warming, caused by greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted due to fossil fuel burning and other miscellaneous causes, is responsible for extreme weather events around the world, including abnormal rise in temperature, intense rainfall and frequent and more powerful cyclones accompanied by severe and lethal thunderstorms. Alongside, mindless deforestation, in the interest of corporate investors, is also contributing towards occurrence of such catastrophes. But the bourgeois governments, both at the Centre and in the states, wedded to the task of buttressing commercial interest of big contractors and private houses simply ignored such warnings and went on violating the scientific principles of construction and instead did it in fragile hill regions. Recent disasters in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala are no simple 'wrath of nature' but evidently man-made. Latest example of such man-made disaster caused by climate change and unplanned exploitation of natural resources causing serious geological and ecological disbalance is the devastation in the hilly state of Sikkim.

On 4 October 2023, due to 'cloud burst', i.e. sudden and extremely heavy rains for a period of time, resulted in failure of the banks of the glacial South Lhonak lake in North Sikkim, to prevent a glacial lake outburst flood in Teesta River. The flood reached the Teesta III Dam at Chungthang by midnight, and before its gates could be opened, destroyed the dam in minutes. Several hundreds of people died and went missing, being buried in heavy morass and swept anything by the immense flood water, coming down the river after failure of the dam. A few villages in North Sikkim have been completely washed away due to this flash flood. The government described it as a 'natural disaster', but was it so? The South Lhonak lake, which is situated at 5,200 metres above sea level, is one of the 21 lakes identified by a 2021 scientific study as "potentially dangerous with a high outburst probability". A 2020 report by the National Disaster Management Authority, while comparing potentially critical lakes in the Himalayan region, had noted that the "threat to hydropower is the highest in Sikkim". Thus, according to the Scroll report, both the Sikkim State Government and the central government knew beforehand that the dams built on the Teesta River had been under threat from the South Lhonak lake. This means both the Central and Sikkim State Government, in spite of being well aware of the possibility of such danger, made no attempt to prevent the imminent disaster and save the life and property of the common people.

Not only the flash flood of October 2023: in the month of June this year the continuous pre-monsoon rain caused a series of devastating landslides in different parts of Sikkim and Darjeeling Hills. Due to these landslides, not only the NH 10, which is virtually the lifeline of Sikkim, essential for food and medicine supply, but also other state highways got severely damaged. More than 14 bridges collapsed. In the side roads and even in some villages, landslide caused loss of lives, heavy

damage of property and stranding of thousands of tourists from outside the state. Many localities had to remain without water supply and electricity for days together. Virtually the roadway link of Sikkim with rest of India and links within the state remained paralyzed for a long time. Moreover, on 20th August this year a huge land slide on the Teesta V Power Plant near Singtam, heavily damaged the Power Plant that halted power production for many days.

It is noteworthy that during 2005-08 a large number of dams and hydel power projects had been announced and some constructions had started within a comparatively very small area of upper part of Teesta river basin comprising Rangeet and other rivers, spread over the state Sikkim and the adjacent parts of Darjeeling Hills in West Bengal. At that time many environmental experts, NGO's and well-meaning citizens opposed the plan, pointing to the possibility of excessive augmentation of landslide, flash flood and such other natural calamities in these areas. Many cases had been filed in the Supreme Court. But both the West Bengal and Sikkim State Governments and the central government, in the interest of corporate investors, paid no heed to these pleadings. Rather, there were strong allegations that the projects had been launched in such a highly eco-sensitive, geologically fragile and extremely earthquake prone zone, without proper E.I.A (Environmental Impact Assessment), Public Hearing (which is supposed to be an essential part of EIA for such projects) etc. The CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General)'s Sikkim Report 2009 stated in its Para 1.1.12 that EIA was done evading the Department of Forest Environment and Wildlife Management (FEWM Department), which is mandatory according to Environment protection Act 1986! Furthermore, it is a standing international convention that in seismically active hill areas only 'low dams' should be constructed. There are allegations that instead of low dams many large dams have been constructed, ignoring the possibility of cracking and collapse of the dams during strong earthquake (Sikkim is in 2nd category of most earthquake prone zones in among the six possible such zones) and resultant disaster. Last but not the least, there had been strong allegations of corruption in the process of allotting the tender for construction of these dams and power stations to companies, even to companies of dubious identity, who had no earlier experience in construction of dams, particularly in such eco-sensitive zones. The CAG Sikkim Report 2009 said, "*Despite considerable hue and cry in the State regarding the methodology adopted for award of the projects, the Government had not notified the details of potential available. modality for award of projects, technical capability, financial strength and experience of IPPs chosen, etc. to the public*" (1.1.9.1, Cag-sikkim-report2009-civil-chap1). Thus, in an anarchic, unplanned, corrupt method the Hydel power Projects had been imposed upon the people of hills, in order to exploit the natural resources and human resources of the state, without any heed for the safety and security of the inhabitants of the Sikkim, Darjeeling hills and the downstream

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## Working Hours

### Enfeeblement of international communist movement has facilitated despotism of monopolists and multi-nationals

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declared May 1 as the International Workers' Day. In 1917, for the first time in the world, the workers of Russia ousted the capitalist regime and established their own government. With that, labour exploitation by extending working hours ended in Russia. Working hours were gradually reduced with the progress of socialist reconstruction. In 1927 working time of 6 hours and a total of 104 days of paid leave were introduced. In 1929, it was reduced to five working days per week.

But now, with the enfeeblement of international communist movement following sad dismantling of Soviet and then Chinese socialism, the monopolists and multi-nationals enmeshed in an hourly crisis stemming from the very law of capitalist system, are desperate to squeeze even the last drop of blood of the oppressed workers. With an army of unemployed waiting at the factory doors in search of employment, a situation has been created where workers fearing dismissal are forced to submit to any form of abject exploitation. In the era of globalization - liberalization - privatization, all the civilized laws that stood in favor of the workers have been withdrawn. 93% of the total labour force in India is employed in the unorganized sector. They are a group that has been subjected to brutal exploitation by the capitalists without any job security. Working hours are prolonged in a primitive way. They are condemned to work for fourteen to sixteen hours. About 42 crore migrant workers in India are uprooted from their familiar social conditions. Unorganized and orphaned without social support and even family support, they succumb endlessly to slave-like exploitation. The situation of contractual employees within government establishments which are considered to be organized sector, is no different. Instead of filling permanent posts, contract workers are being appointed as any labour law is not applicable to them. Many levels of labor contractors work in this field. The contract workers can be made to work for any number of hours for a humiliatingly low salary. The case of scheme workers numbering around one crore is no different. They work tirelessly without any consideration as workers. Workers in the private hospital sector employing 50 lakhs and four crore workers employed in small businesses work for 12 hours and more.

And now the proposition of extended working hours is extended to the high-tech sophisticated IT industry. Most of the IT industries are located in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which are not within the purview of labour laws. Gone are the days of gainful permanent employment as stated above. In the IT industry also, there is no guarantee of continuation of job. The method followed in the IT sector is to squeeze the youthful energy as far as possible within a short time. When productivity of an IT official is found to have either faded or not commensurate with the changing needs, he or she is kicked out of the job and replaced by new blood. IT personnel, particularly the IT-enabled service personnel are made to work for 12, 14, 16 hours. Recently, the Congress-led Karnataka government has come up with a law which permits working hours in IT industry to be extended upto 14 hours at a stretch. Legalizing rampant labor exploitation

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## Meeting in Delhi with Sonam Wangchuk, eminent environmentalist from Ladakh



AIMSS  
delegation

## AIUTUC state level conferences



Kerala



Bihar

## Increased working hours

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on the like manner is beyond all notions of human justice and civility. This move is going to affect 60 lakh IT professionals. The CPI (M)-ruled Kerala is no exception to such exploitation of the workers, bypassing labour laws, by subjecting them to work longer hours. The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) which was initially a government department was later converted into a corporation. The government brought in a company within KSRTC called SWIFT. The working time here is 12 hours. A section of the staff comes to the bus station early in the morning and waits for their turn till they are allotted duty. Working time is counted only from the commencement of duty till the end. The waiting time which often runs into hours is not included in 12 hour duty time. In this way, the transport workers responsible for safety, security and smooth and timekeeping service to the passengers are forced to overwork at the cost of their health and even desired concentration while on the wheels. In BJP-ruled Gujarat, the working hours for workers in shops and establishments are 12 hours per day in certain circumstances. In the IT sector, working hours could be extended beyond 10.5 hours per

day if they are doing urgent or intermittent work. We leave out other examples for brevity's sake.

Why are the ruling capitalist class and the government subservient to them are extending working hours? Because their insatiable appetite for profit maximization by ruthlessly exploiting the labour overrides all other considerations. More the ruling capitalism is crisis-ridden and tilting towards fascism, more they are trampling all democratic norms, codes and practices and snatching away all hard-earned rights of the workers. At the same time, by overworking the labourers and employees at either no extra wage or in exchange for paltry compensation as well as opting for contractual employment with no obligation of payment of need-based salary or fixed working hours, they are keeping their production cost as low as possible thereby triggering mounting unemployment.

The working class including the white-collar IT professionals ought to imbibe the truth that if this inhuman working condition is not protested against by closing their ranks and spearheading united, organized, conscious, sustained and powerful labour movement in right earnest, things will worsen further in the days to come.

*Observance of  
Birthday of  
Shaheed  
Bhagat Singh  
by AIDYO at  
Shimla,  
Himachal Pradesh*



## Man-made disaster in Sikkim

*Contd. from page 7*

locations of Teesta River basin! The moans and lamentations of bereaved people make the air of the state heavy. But, neither the central government, nor the state government, made any attempt to prevent this imminent danger and ensure safety and security of common people. What is in abundance is lip-service and hollow promises of taking necessary remedial actions. But the toiling impoverished people are virtually left in the lurch.

Such disasters are results of insatiable profit greed of the corporate investors of our country, without any care for the safety and well-being of the common people. The governments, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, under the pressure of global environmental movement and the movement within our country, to whatever extent might be, have enacted laws to protect the ecology and environment of our country. But, a) those laws have not been properly implemented, Often, taking bribes or under pressure from influential lobbies, government officials, who are supposed to strictly implement these laws, allow gross violation of these laws. b) When the laws are implemented, that too goes against the interest of poor people alone, but not against the powerful corporate investors. As for example, the tribal forest dwellers, generation after generation, for thousands of years lived in forests, depending upon the forest resources, without much altering the ecology of forests. But when capitalist investors started viewing the forests as site of investment- for mining, for tourism, for establishing industry etc. that is seriously destroying the forest ecology in large scale. The 'guardians of law' are implementing the laws against the traditional poor forest dwellers, without providing them any alternative means for living. But they are keeping their eyes shut to the activities of the powerful investors, in the so-called 'public interest'. c) Often existing competent environmental laws are being modified in the interest of profit greedy corporate giants. Last year The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act (FCAA) of 2023,

created the provision to evict the forest dwellers from their ancestral lands and allowed the corporate investors to use large-scale forest lands for mining, tourism and such other investment purposes.

The climate change, the global warming, the crisis of our environment is a big issue today. But nearly 150 years ago, the leader of the world proletariat, great Marxist thinker and co-author of Marxism with great leader of the proletariat Karl Marx, Frederick Engels told, "Let us not, however, flatter ourselves overmuch on account of our human victories over nature. For each victory nature takes its revenge on us. Each victory, it is true, in the first place brings about the results we expected, but in the second and third places it has quite different, unforeseen effects which only too often cancel out the first." (Part played by Labour in Transition from Ape to Man)

He said further, "Thus at every step we are reminded that we by no means rule over nature like a conqueror over a foreign people, like someone standing outside of nature-but that we, with flesh, blood and brain, belong to nature, exist in its midst, and that all our mastery of it consists in the fact that we have the advantage of all other creatures of being able to learn its laws and apply them correctly." This teaching of Engels, instead of anarchic exploitation of nature out of capitalist class greed for profit, calls for a holistic approach in utilizing the natural resources, in the collective interest of mankind. In fact, Marx-Engels provided this approach by the end of 19th century, with which the global environmental movement started.

Today, only a planned economy, optimization of use of fossil fuels in the aggregate interest of the society, can deter or prevent this onrushing doom. The capitalist society driven by the motive of maximum profit of the corporate giants is an orthogonally opposite system to such a planned economy. The public safety from such natural disasters demands an environmental movement, but not free from political view, rather directed against this inhuman ruthlessly exploitative capitalist system.

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