

# Proletarian Era

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## SUCI(C) expresses deep shock over death of innocent citizens in a blast near Red Fort

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 09-11-25:

We are deeply shocked at the death of around 10 innocent citizens and grievous injury to many more due to a massive blast near Red Fort, Delhi, a highly populated area and a spot of tourist attraction. The government is claiming this to be a subversive activity.

We strongly feel that the government cannot fight shy of its prime responsibility of ensuring

## LONG LIVE GREAT NOVEMBER REVOLUTION



“...the dialectical materialists and the devotees of science knew only, but common people, even if they could understand the reason of that, yet they could not wholeheartedly accept it. They had their doubts as to whether it was at all possible that the starving, ignorant and the illiterate masses could ever get organized to give birth to such an alternative political power of theirs, the force of which could smash the deadweight of the repressive bourgeois state organ which has at its command so much power, so much might of the military, the power of capital, and thus accomplish revolution. The November Revolution, for the first time in the history, proved to the world, not in theory alone, but by concrete instance that—yes, it was possible.” Comrade Shibdas Ghosh (SW Vol. III p454)

safety and security of the citizens.

We demand that the government ought to be more vigilant in securing life and property of the countrymen and a proper investigation to the incident be conducted in right earnest, the culprits arrested and meted out stringent punishment.

We also demand adequate compensation to the bereaved families and best of medical treatment to the injured at government cost.

## Impressive workers' rally in Kolkata



Comrade Swapan Ghosh, Vice President, AIUTUC, addressing an impressive gathering organized by West Bengal state AIUTUC, at Shaheed Minar, Kolkata, on 10 November. (news in next issue)

## SIR triggering widespread uncertainty and terror

A terror has been haunting countless citizens of India—the terror of being disenfranchised if they are declared defaulters in complying with the fiats of The Election Commission of India (ECI), stripped of its apparent neutrality and virtually turned an appendage to the ruling dispensation, which goes under the name of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. After Bihar, where elections have concluded, 51 crore electors of 12 more states and UTs would have to submit prescribed enumeration forms complying with most hazardous and inexplicable, if not incongruent, formalities by 4 December to remain on the draft electoral roll and by implication qualify as citizen of India. When common people are bleeding white under extreme economic exploitation, strangled by ruthless political oppression and assailed by polluted socio-cultural milieu, a Damocles' sword has been made hang over them.

### Hitherto followed practice of electoral role revision

Annual revision of the voter list

is a regular procedure. It is done every year. Names of new eligible voters are added, and the names of the diseased persons or absentees are deleted. The updated voter list is generally published on 1 January every year. There is also a provision of additions, alterations or deletions, if any, between two publications. Anyone or any political party can also register their objections with proper proof about existence of names of fake or ineligible voters to the Election Commission. After independence, electoral rolls have been updated in three ways—intensive revision, summary revision or continuous revision. With the last electoral roll, the authorized persons of the ECI used to go house to house, verify existence of the names and deleted the names of the diseased or those having shifted residence to some other constituency. No documents were asked for even during 2002 revision exercise. Also, the ECI used to declare the dates when new voters could enumerate their names based on prescribed documents like birth

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## After Gaza, US-sponsored war zone shifted to Venezuelan coast

Aircraft carrier warship USS Gerald R Ford, the biggest in the world, after eleven strikes on boats alleged to be ferrying drugs in Venezuelan waters, which the US claims are trafficking drugs is now inching towards Venezuelan coast enroute Columbia. Earlier, eight US warships already patrolling the South American waters had blasted ten small boats and murdered over 40 crew members since last September on the pretext of frustrating narco-traffic, though the boats needed dozens of refueling to reach US shores. Now with the arrival of the USS Gerald Ford with 35 warplanes, the existing air bases in US-ruled Puerto Rico and massive military buildup in the Caribbean of 15,000 US troops, eight war ships, P-8 surveillance planes, F-35 jets, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and nuclear submarines are reinforced. Does one need Darth

Vader's Death Star to stop speedboats? Surely not. Hence the US military movement is not for conducting counter-narcotics operations but is a signal of unspoken intent of orchestrating massive military operation to capture the sovereign wealth of Venezuela holding the world's largest oil reserves. Columbia whose government is having fraternal relation with Venezuela is also on the radar. After invading Iraq, pulverizing Gaza, destabilizing Syria, the barrel of the imperialist gun of Pentagon regime is now turned towards Western hemisphere. US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, has been openly calling for the military overthrow of President Maduro in Venezuela and the replacement of President Petro in Colombia.

### Colombia is also on radar

Alongside Venezuela, the US

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certificate, Aadhaar card, etc. But Special Intensive Revision with a view to a thorough overhauling of the list by asking each and every voter who does not feature in the rolls of 2002 to submit fresh form of enumeration accompanied by some newly prescribed documents like date of birth of the parents, lease deeds of land, etc., and affixing latest photos had never been undertaken hereinbefore. Thus, all those who cannot be traced back to the last intensive revision of rolls in 2002 would be required to submit documents to establish their eligibility to remain on the final list as per SIR. This exercise is completed in Bihar and now would be rolled out in 12 states and UTs slated to for election in the coming year.

### **Why is this SIR?**

The BJP government guided by its arch communal Hindutva doctrine has suddenly 'discovered' that there is a huge number of "illegal migrants" or "foreigners" whose names are featuring on the list. So those are to be identified, and their names removed from the list. And it is of the opinion that such intruders are mostly Muslims from Bangladesh who have entered the country illegally and staying here unlawfully. So, is necessitated this massive exercise to detect the illegal migrants and send them back to their countries.

Now, the question is who can be voters? According to clause 16 of The Representation of the People's Act 1950, "a person shall be disqualified for registration in an electoral roll if not a citizen of India". The voters' list is being prepared by the Election Commission, an autonomous body. And so, if the name of any person appears on the voters' list, he or she cannot be anyone other than a *bona fide* Indian citizen. But in 2003, the then BJP government led by Atal Behari Vajpayee, brought an amendment to the People's Representation Act which held that those who were born after 1987 cannot be straightway recognized as Indian citizens. They have to prove their Indian citizenship by producing evidence that one of their parents is or was a citizen of India. Now the ECI is saying that voting eligibility of those born after 1987 is to be proved by confirming that any of their parents was a voter as per 2002 electoral roll. Clearly, this is akin to The Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2003 which significantly amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 and introduced, *inter alia* the term "illegal migrant" and establishing provisions for the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRI). This

## **Citizenship survey under the guise of electoral roll revision**

amendment also modified how citizenship is acquired by birth, descent, and registration. What happened in Assam NRC exercise? After making all possible efforts to anyhow exclude certain category of genuine Indian citizens belonging to the Muslim community, it turned out that of 19 lakh "illegal migrants" so discovered by the authorities, 12 lakhs are Hindus. And now, there is a fresh attempt to undertake that NRC exercise in disguise to justify at any cost the theory of "mass infiltration of Bangladeshi Muslims and Rohingyas" and thereby intensify the anti-Muslim hatred to consolidate Hindu vote bank.

And for that, an initial homework was done by changing the selection procedure of the Election Commissioners. So long, the Chief Election Commissioner and two of his or her deputies were selected by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India. But in 2023, the BJP government amended the rule to substitute the CJJ by a cabinet minister. Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha. Thus, at any point of time, the government nominees would be elected even if the Leader of the Opposition raises objection. And accordingly, officials pliant to the government dictates have been picked up to constitute the new ECI and thereby making the Commission

a virtual appendage to the government. And so, the newly appointed ECI is tasked to carry out the job of verifying citizenship, which is not in its jurisdiction, under the garb of electoral revision.

Secondly, if the present voter list, as claimed by the ruling government, is full of names of illegal voters, then how could the present ministers and legislators stay in power? They ought to resign forthwith as they were elected based on a flawed electoral roll. Why are they not doing so?

### **Harassment of the voters**

The ECI has declared at least one of the 11 documents has to be produced with the SIR application form. Though the Aadhaar Card is now treated as the 12<sup>th</sup> Document after the order of the Supreme Court, the list of required documents starts with passports. How many Indians have this?

Certainly, very few. How many Indians have birth certificates or school certificates? How many of them have the birth details of their parents? How many of them possess land and have a deed? There are countless people who have lost their documents due to flood, landslides, fire, or other natural calamities and accidents. This was evident during so called NRC exercise in Assam. Now each and every voter has to fill up fresh enumeration forms complying with all formalities. Can the poor or illiterate fulfil such stipulations? In fact, there are reports that out of fear of not possessing any of the prescribed documents, some persons have committed suicide also. Is it that people have voted a government to trigger suicides of the citizens? Moreover, if ECI alleges that someone is not a citizen, it is incumbent on the ECI to prove it. Why should the alleged person need to prove that.

### **Hidden motive behind SIR**

The government is arguing that many of the illegal migrants have "managed" to secure Aadhaar cards, ration cards and even voter cards through illegal means. Assuming that is true, how could they get those things unless a corrupt racket is in operation in league with a corrupt administration? And whose responsibility is this to check such illegal activities? Aadhaar needs biometric details. How could those biometric details be manipulated and fed into the server to extract Aadhaar card?

How can the government fight shy of its responsibility of preventing such illegal activities? Secondly, how can infiltrators enter the country when borders are guarded 24x7 by paramilitary force? Whom does the Border Security Force (BSF) report to? The Union Home Minister. Are we then to conclude that the BSF is either hopelessly incompetent or in connivance with the trespassers or the middlemen organizing such cross-border infiltration in exchange for money? When the Congress was in power, the present PM Modi had fired salvos against the then government for the same reason. And now when his government is ruling, he is tight-lipped over the matter.

Home Minister Amit Shah once claimed that there are 2 crore illegal infiltrators in the country. Pertinent to mention that in 2019, the then Bangladesh government

requested the Indian government to provide a list of Bangladeshi nationals living illegally in India and stated it would allow them to return if their nationality was verified through proper channels. But the Indian government replied that they do not have any such list. Then where does the Indian Home Minister get the figure from? The BJP leader of the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikary, a TMC turncoat, claimed that 1 lakh Rohingyas are living in West Bengal. Can he confirm that based on evidence? No. Because the number of stateless hapless Rohingyas, originally residents of Myanmar and criminally driven out by the ruling junta there, would hardly be a thousand in West Bengal. Rohingyas are targeted because they profess Islam. What is it other than reflection of obtuse, inane and vile communal outlook which militates against the very concept of a civilized mind?

The inner story is that the ruling BJP and its mentor RSS want to delete the names of voters particularly belonging to the religious minority sections who, the BJP leaders consider as supporters of the opposition. At the same time, attempt is being made to insert new names of the BJP's own supporters even if that requires tampering with the procedure and striking deals with the pliant ECI.

### **Result of SIR in Bihar**

These derivations are not on assumptions but corroborated by available facts. The draft electoral rolls, released in early-August, had included 7.24 crore people, and finally excluded around 47 lakh voters. But those exclusions did not declare any voters deemed ineligible — they were related to voters who were dead, absent, shifted, or registered more than once. On the contrary, 21.53 lakh new voters have been added. Though the ECI and the government touted SIR in Bihar as a smooth process with significant form submissions, the claim is riddled with contradictions and poses a serious threat to voter enfranchisement. Despite claims of progress, with a mere 11% of the estimated electorate submitting forms, conflicting statements from the ECI highlight deep-seated issues. For example, 16.93 lakh voters had reportedly applied for fresh registration as voters. But actual numbers ECI has freshly registered in the final list are 21.6 lakh voters. How did the ECI find 3.7 lakh additional voters register?

Next is that 33% of the total votes deleted are those of Muslims when they constitute merely 16% of

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**Only 0.012 of the total voters detected ineligible**

# International Symposium on Philosophy and Sciences

[The international journal 'Marxism and Sciences' organized the 2nd International Symposium on "Philosophy and Sciences: Towards an International Critical Knowledge Network", from 1 to 6 September 2025. The venue was in a small village called Hypha in the mountainous Transylvania region of Romania. The participants came from Germany, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Turkey, and the USA. Some were political activists in their respective countries, while some were Marxist philosophers involved in academia. The meeting had threadbare discussions on various aspects of dialectical materialism, historiography of science, and Marxist analysis of various problems in modern society. Comrade S Banerjee, a member of the West Bengal State Committee of SUCI(C), being the only participant from India, delivered the following speech.]

## **Dialectical Materialism as the Basis of the Scientific Method**

With the dismantling of the socialist camp and the establishment of capitalist hegemony over the world, there is a campaign that Marxism has failed. The philosophical foundation of Marxism, dialectical materialism, has come under attack. It is being painted as 'out of fashion', 'outdated', and a matter of academic-historical interest only. However, science continues to function with this philosophical foundation. Science discovers the truth about the material world and tries to develop theories to understand and explain how nature functions. In science, any idea is accepted only if it is objectively tested through observation and experiment. However, scientists' mindsets and philosophical views are also significant factors in interpreting the observations and experiments. In the history of science, many eminent scientists and their respective schools of thought have inadvertently obstructed important discoveries due to their beliefs and philosophical tenets. Therefore, it is difficult for science to advance without a sound philosophical outlook.

Dialectical materialism, which developed based on science, provides that philosophical outlook, even though most scientists may not be aware of that fact. Many believe dialectical materialism is just a collection of 'three principles'. However, before the advent of dialectical materialism, mechanical

materialism and the metaphysical way of thinking were predominant, and in developing dialectical materialism, Marx and Engels analysed the weaknesses of these approaches critically and created an alternative worldview to guide scientific pursuit. Lenin further consolidated the position of dialectical materialism by clearing the cloud of confusion created by positivism.

Dialectical approach vis-à-vis metaphysics and mechanical materialism Of the two major schools of philosophy—materialism and idealism—science firmly takes the side of materialism against idealism. Science starts with the premise that the world exists independently of our consciousness. Scientists simply cannot work with the assumption that their subjects of investigation do not have any objective existence or that these are formed in the image of some primordial idea. The metaphysical approach would study things assuming their characters as given, fixed, and stable, without any change or development. Metaphysics advocated studying 'things as they are'. It assumed some inherent quality of every material entity without reference to its conditions of existence. Metaphysics presupposes that each thing has its own fixed nature and properties, and considers each thing by itself as isolated from all other things. Dialectical materialism asserted that the world is not a collection of ready-made things with fixed properties. Everything in the material world is going through change and evolution. Moreover, things are continuously coming into being and going out of being. Therefore, the task of science should be to study matter in its change and development, to understand how things come into being and go out of being. It emphasized that science should direct its attention not only to the study of things, but even more to the study of processes. We should not view the material world as a complex of things; we should view it as a complex of processes in which things continuously change, come into being and go out of being. The dialectical worldview taught that things are connected with, dependent on, and determined by each other. It insisted that science should not study things in isolation; rather, it should study things in their interconnections and interactions. Science should not abstract properties of things divorced from

their conditions of existence. Rather, it should study how the properties of things change as the conditions of existence change. In the post-Newtonian period, the viewpoint of mechanical materialism was prevalent, which viewed the world as a gigantic machine, each component working according to fixed laws. Any piece of machinery keeps on working in the same way throughout its life, eternally repeating the same cycle of mechanical processes. So, the mechanical materialists looked for something that did not change, something that was permanent, within the observed processes. They took it that the material world is basically unchanging and that mechanistic laws govern all changes we see. Mechanical materialism viewed changes in the material world as mere repetitive cycles of the same process. Engels observed in the introduction to his *Dialectics of Nature*, "But what especially characterizes this period is the elaboration of a peculiar general outlook, in which the central point is the view of the absolute immutability of nature." Mechanical materialism saw the world as composed of hard, impenetrable particles and believed that all phenomena in nature can be explained in terms of the external forces acting on these particles and their motions. The main problem was that mechanical materialism treated matter as inert mass, to which motion had to be imparted from outside. The developments in science in the nineteenth century showed that all forms of energy are nothing but matter in motion. When one form of energy is transformed into another, one form of motion is transformed into another. But motion always remains. Nothing can be at rest. Based on these observations, dialectical materialism forwarded the idea that matter cannot exist without motion, and motion is meaningless without reference to matter. "There is nothing in the world but matter in motion", said Lenin, "and matter in motion cannot move otherwise than in space and time." Hence, the correct understanding is to say that motion is the mode of existence of matter.

It was also realized that all changes cannot be understood in terms of interactions among separate units entering into external relations with other things. If this were true, it follows that the whole of a body is nothing but the sum of the parts. Various scientific developments (e.g., cell theory) had already shown the futility of such a

position. Dialectical materialism showed that, at a particular level of aggregation and interaction of the constituent parts, a particular new characteristic can emerge. The properties and laws of development of the whole cannot be fully understood by simply breaking things apart and studying the properties of their parts. It thus countered the effects of reductionism.

## **The three principles and their applications in science**

As the focus of science shifted to studying matter in its change and development, Marx and Engels showed what the guiding principles of such study should be. When investigating the change and development of any physical entity, one faces the following questions.

1. Why do changes occur? Dialectical materialism showed that there are opposing forces or tendencies in any entity, and unity and contradictions between these are the basic cause of any change.

2. How do changes occur? Dialectical materialism showed that there are two types of changes: quantitative and qualitative. While undergoing a quantitative change, a nodal point may be reached when the entity undergoes a qualitative transformation.

3. What results from a qualitative change? Dialectical materialism showed that a qualitative change results in negating its earlier form and the birth of a new one. Doesn't modern science follow these guiding principles? It does. Even though the three principles of dialectics have been thoroughly confirmed in the light of modern science, scientific literature generally uses a different language, which makes the role of the dialectical tenets not apparent to scientists. For example, scientific literature does not talk in terms of contradictions. But whenever a scientist writes an equation on the balance of forces in a mechanical system, he applies the unity of opposites unknowingly. Our task is to impress upon the scientist that he should do that knowingly.

In the domain of mechanics, Newtonian mechanics in particular, one talks about the mechanical status of a system, quantified by the positions and velocities of all the interacting bodies. When one talks about the rotation of the moon around the Earth, the state of the system is given by the position and momentum of the Earth and the moon, and the equation is written in terms of the gravitational attraction

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the total voter population. PM Modi had asked the Bihar voters in a rally "Tell me, will you decide the future of Bihar, or will foreign infiltrators?" "Playing a second fiddle, Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that the SIR had successfully removed them from Bihar's electoral rolls. While the Election Commission had said on 24 June that one of the reasons for the conduct of the SIR so close to the elections was the presence of 'foreigners' on the voter rolls, the poll body has not yet provided any figures of the number of such foreigners found at the end of the exercise. The poll body has not even provided the reasons for the deletions of 47 lakh voters from the rolls.

A media report says that after the dataset, it was found that only 9,500 people out of 7.42 crore voters were detected ineligible. Percentage wise, it is only 0.012 of the total voters. Is it worth troubling around 8 crore voters and incur so huge expenditure from public exchequer to find a few thousand? Rightly observed Shri Yogendra Yadav, an Indian activist and psephologist that it is tantamount to "using a hammer to kill a fly sitting on your nose". Also, names of the so called dalits, the backward class people, and women have been deleted randomly. A vast section of the migrant workers who were outside also could not submit their documents to the BLOs. In some slum areas, no

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between the two bodies and the centrifugal force, which act in opposing directions. These two forces thus embody the mechanical contradiction present in that system. In any system, the change of state is predicted using equations that actually utilise the balance of opposing tendencies. Therefore, such equations assume the unity of opposites.

Furthermore, dialectics teaches that the struggle between opposites is the prime cause of change and development of any phenomenon. Internal contradictions are the driving force of all change, and external contradictions, though very important and sometimes decisive, can act only through the internal contradictions. The phenomenon of stellar evolution elegantly illustrates this. When scientists study the evolution of a star like the sun, they actually study the internal contradictions. The gravity of the star acts inward and tries to shrink its body. The thermonuclear reaction occurring at the star's core produces a great amount of heat. The heat causes high pressure,

## Weaponization of India's election system in favour of ruling dispensation

proper meticulous survey was done.

Secondly, 85 percent of the voters declared ineligible in Bihar were clustered in four districts along the state's border with Nepal: Supaul, Kishanganj, West Champaran, and East Champaran. Another finding says that of just 313 infiltrators detected in Bihar only 78 are Muslims which prove that the major theme in the BJP's electoral campaign about the presence of thousands and thousands of 'illegal Bangladeshi Muslim immigrants' proves to be hoax. Moreover, votes have been found to have increased in the BJP strongholds while the elections have mainly been in the constituencies where the opposition has a better following.

A report of 'Reporters Collective' revealed that the final Bihar voter roll for all 243 assembly constituencies now holds 14.35 lakh suspect duplicate entries. Of these, 3.4 lakh entries are exact matches on all three demographic parameters: name, relative's name, and age. This is another mystery. Since 2018, ECI has been having a software called ERONET which can detect similarities in names, names of relatives, addresses, and ages to identify suspect duplicates and fraud. It can also match photographs on Voter IDs (called EPIC) to detect potential fraud and duplicates. Then

how could so many duplications remain undetected? It is alleged that several BJP leaders had voted in both Delhi and Bihar Assembly polls. Other anomalies include clubbing of 650 voters in at least 20 households, voters whose addresses are marked as zero (0) and so forth.

### Maharashtra scenario

In the Lok Sabha election in Maharashtra held in May 2024, the BJP-led alliance trailed behind the opposition bloc of Congress-Shiv Sena (U) and NCP (S). But in the Assembly election in November 2024, the result was reversed. In just five months, Maharashtra's voters in the electoral rolls grew by a staggering 46 lakhs, concentrated across 12,000 polling booths in 85 constituencies, predominantly in areas where the BJP had lost in the parliamentary elections. This does defy demographic logic. The surge was clustered in seats the ruling alliance won and came in abrupt spurts rather than through a steady, organic process, raising urgent questions about electoral integrity and official accountability. Official records also showed discrepancies, with the ECI reporting over 9.64 crore voters on 30 August 2024, while the CEO of Maharashtra reported 9.53 crore for the same date. Within weeks, these numbers fluctuated sharply, with a sudden increase of over 16 lakh

voters between 15 and 30 October 2024. VFD report also brought to the fore that during the November 2024 polls, Maharashtra recorded a sudden late-night surge in turnout. At 5 p.m., voter turnout stood at 58.22%, but by midnight it had risen to 66.05%, a jump of 7.83%, which amounted to about 48 lakh extra votes.

### Manipulation of electoral roll

Glaringly, voters' lists across India, as is gradually coming to light, are being manipulated via fake additions and deletions. The grave danger is that technology and other offline resources are being deployed to manipulate the voters' lists on a scale that is threatening the democratic process and denying the people their voting choice. These voter surges, data mismatches, and procedural lapses smack of 'weaponization' of India's election system in favour of the ruling dispensation.

The right to vote is a constitutional right in adult franchisee. Depriving any genuine citizen of this right is subversive of the constitutional mandate. Also using tricks to manipulate people's verdict is nothing short of an offence and an affront to the bourgeois parliamentary system the bourgeois petty-bourgeois parties are loud protagonists of. But will the citizens remain silent onlookers or rise in protest against this menacing development in the name of SIR and close rank to expose this design.

## Philosophy and Science

pushing the star's material outward. The stability of the star is determined by the balance of the two opposing tendencies. Scientists study exactly this, which is nothing but the unity of opposites.

The principle of 'quantitative change to qualitative change and vice versa' was inspired by the developments in biology and sociology, and the understanding of physical systems where a change in the state of matter takes place (like ice turning into water). Newtonian mechanics, as such, does not talk about quantitative and qualitative changes. Only over the past fifty years has it been understood that there can also be fundamental and qualitative changes in the state of a system and the state of its motion. A qualitative change in the state of a system is studied in physics under the heading 'phase transition and critical phenomena'. Examples of such qualitative transformations are the onset of magnetisation, superconductivity, superfluidity, Bose-Einstein condensate, etc. Qualitative changes in the state of

motion (like a change from periodic to aperiodic motion) are called 'bifurcations'. The universal applicability of the dialectical principles has again been vindicated in these areas.

The 'vice-versa' part is usually seen as the succession of quantitative and qualitative changes in a time sequence. In this view, the process of quantitative change in a system reaches a tipping point, leading to a qualitative change. A new entity is born, negating its earlier entity. But the process of material evolution does not stop there. The new entity starts a new process of quantitative change, which will result in another qualitative change, and the process will continue. In his *Dialectics of Nature*, Engels gave examples of vice versa, such as the change of heat energy into mechanical motion and the change of mechanical motion again to heat energy.

Shibdas Ghosh, an eminent Marxist thinker from India, enriched the concept by showing that both the 'quantitative change to qualitative

change' and its 'vice versa' parts operate together in the process of change of any entity. According to him, a process of quantitative change has innumerable qualitative changes within it. Every entity is composed of certain 'building blocks'. For a glass of water, the building blocks are the water molecules; for a biological species, the building blocks are the individual organisms of that species; for a society, the building blocks are the individual humans. When the entity undergoes small quantitative changes, some of its building blocks undergo qualitative changes. When the temperature of a glass of water increases (a quantitative change), some water molecules vaporise (qualitative change). When a capitalist society undergoes quantitative change, individual human beings undergo qualitative change and become revolutionaries, ultimately leading to a qualitative transformation of the whole society. Thus, quantitative and qualitative change are inseparable and occur concurrently, not one after the other.

Two critical concepts in

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## Vocational education or vocationalization of education?

In the last issue of P Era, we dealt with the scenario of virtual ruination of school education in the government and government aided schools through hurried and drastic implementation of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) by the BJP-led Union government. In this issue we shall deal with the issue of vocational education, also a prescript of NEP 20.

One of the most startling things set for school education is the introduction of vocational education from class six. What is vocational education? According to the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCFFS): *“In the Foundational and Preparatory Stages, multiple capacities will be developed through play and other activities, which will be subsequently useful in vocations. These capacities will be called prevocational capacities. In the Middle Stage, exposure to a wide range of work will be given to students. This will equip them to achieve skills in a vocation of their choice in the Secondary Stage and help them progress into gainful employment.”* [pp 425]. Also, “Students will have to go for “relevant internships” in “poultry, dairy farms, pest control units, nursery, local mechanic workshops, carpentry workplaces, tailoring units, hotels, restaurant, hospitals, gyms, old age homes, beauty salons, etc.” [pp 432] In other words, emphasis will be on making the students ‘fit for job’ rather than acquainting them with the treasure of knowledge enshrined in the pages of books of different disciplines.

But the question arises why is this so called ‘job oriented education’ introduced from the early stage? The government argues that so long the students were getting degree but not acquiring job oriented skills. Hence they remained unemployed. Is it at all true?

### Striking reality of the job market

Are the youths unemployed because of lack of job-oriented skills? Then why are lakhs of students passing out from ITI, CTI, degree and diploma engineering colleges and other professional courses jobless. Unemployment rate among engineering graduates in India, is as high as 48% to 83%). A survey by ‘Unstop’ (a well-known NGO) found that even 50% MBA degree holders are unemployed. Examples are many. The ‘vocationalized’ students will end up being ‘self-dependent’ as per the

opinion of the government and if job remains elusive, they will make a career in ‘self-employment’ and the government would be able to shirk off its responsibility of providing jobs, which, as per its version, is attributed to factors like market saturation and over supply of graduates. (NASSCOM report)

Employment scenario in India is indeed grim but not because of absence of job skills. In this decadent moribund capitalist system, buying power of the people at large is dipping entailing fall in demand and concomitant squeezing of market. So, labour intensive industries are closing down one after another throwing crores of people out of job. Only capital intensive industries with very limited manpower are in operation. Again, due to the impact of automation and A.I., the unemployment problem is further aggravated. Every Government starting from the Centre to the states has declared virtual moratorium on recruitment and increasingly resorting to contractualization of labour. Are there lakhs of posts lying vacant in every government sector because of absence of skilled employees? Then why is the government clamouring for vocational education? Is there any guarantee that students who are getting vocational education will get a job?

In this context let us quote from NEP 2020: *“By 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to vocational education,... Vocational education will be integrated in the educational offerings of all secondary schools in a phased manner over the next decade...”* (NEP-20, Article 16.4). Surely the government is not eager to introduce vocational education from such an early stage out of concern for lowering mounting unemployment. Then what is the object?

### Role of education in human life

Government’s objective is to strip education from its essence. Is it that the role of education in human’s life is only of an enabler to get job? No, not at all. What is education? From the dawn of civilization, human experience and knowledge have continuously grown through struggles of man against Nature and through the conflicts and contradictions within society. It is the abstraction of this accumulated human experience that is conveyed through books and other media within the educational structure. The social necessity which acted behind

the evolution of idea of education is that the individuals should assimilate the abstraction of this past human experience and by applying this knowledge in practice gain newer experience to be handed down to the next generations and thereby add to the repository of human knowledge. This is how education ought to illumine the path of social progress. Real education equips man to find truth, to study and know material world; it imparts in him the ability to understand the contradictions in his environment, both natural and social, and to comprehend his role in these contradictions.

So, the purpose of education is to impart ethics, human values and social consciousness to the students so that they will become a harmoniously developed responsible citizen with developed thinking as well as developed humane faculty. In fact, education is a tool for man-making and character building. And only a comprehensive secular, scientific and democratic education system can fulfil that objective. Long back seeing the educational curriculum of the USA, a celebrity like Einstein opined: *“It is not enough to teach a man a speciality. Through it, he may become a kind of useful machine, but not a harmoniously developed personality. It is essential that the student acquire an understanding of and a lively feeling for values. He must acquire a vivid sense of the beautiful and of the morally good. Otherwise, he—with his specialized knowledge—more closely resembles a well-trained dog than a harmoniously developed person”*. (Ideas and Opinions 1954) Rabindranath held that purpose of education is to create a ‘whole man’. May be the formulators of NEP 20 consider themselves wiser than these legendary personalities.

There is another danger. Vocational education will impart

technical aspects of a job, not the epistemological part of learning. So, a student instead of acquiring a rational bent of mind would only emerge with a mechanical mindset devoid of scientific temperament. Since from early school life, the students will be deprived of comprehensive basic education covering every aspect of life and nature, they will end up developing job-specific expertise like a robot. Such robotized mind would never raise question about any injustice and illegitimacy of anything but blindly obey orders to eke out a livelihood.

### Resist vocationalisation of education

But what will be the fate of carpenters, electricians, metal workers etc., produced by vocational education when cottage and small scale industries which are almost on the verge of closure due to the pressure of monopoly and corporate industries. ‘Vocationalized’ students would at best sell their skill as cheap labour.

It is to be understood that nobody rejects necessity of vocational education outrightly. Diploma courses in polytechnics, ITIs, CTIs, and other vocational and professional courses which could be pursued only after a certain level of school education, (say secondary) after independence, as it was necessary for the industrialization which was taking place in the country. Now as the industrial scenario is so bleak, over-emphasis on vocationalization is to shield the fact that vocational education itself does not *ipso facto* generates employment. Vocational education must grow hand in hand after school education with proper opening for being absorbed as skilled hands. Otherwise, it is a deception. That is what we have sought to explain in this article. Any sensible person should oppose and raise their voice of protest against this heinous design to ruin school education.

## Kerala ASHA workers achieve significant victory after prolonged struggle

The strike at the call of the Kerala ASHA Health Workers Association (KAHWA) affiliated to AIUTUC that began on 10 February 2025 had continued for 264 days braving police atrocities and other intimidations. 26,215 ASHA workers participated in the strike. Entire people of Kerala stood by the justness of the main demands of the ASHA workers. The CPI (M)-led state government has taken an extremely anti-democratic approach to break the strike and its

demands. The apparent eagerness shown by the government to come to a settlement was proved to be a hoax. Finally, under pressure of a sustained determined struggle, the government finally conceded to increase the honorarium by Rs 1,000, incentive by Rs 1500, freezing compulsory retirement at 62 and other legitimate demands.

KAHWA expresses its gratitude to all the organizations, individuals, and media outlets that supported this strike.

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imperialists continue to escalate threats and military pressure against Colombia as well since Colombian President Gustavo Petro has been one of the most outspoken defenders of Venezuela amid the latest bout of US aggression, condemning the US military attacks in the region. At the UN General Assembly in September, Petro said the passengers on the boats were not narco-traffickers but rather “poor young people from Latin America”. He went as far as to call for legal investigations against the US President for the extrajudicial killings.

### **US strategy to overturn Venezuela and Bolivarian Revolution**

In fact, US imperialists have been nurturing a twenty-year project, and prime target is Venezuela whose government has been refusing to bend before US dictates. Their first strategy has been of economic strangulation, systematic isolation of the country from the global financial system, which has crippled its ability to trade with others, virtually frozen access foreign currency and forbidden import of essential goods like food and medicine. Next was a strategy of naked intervention in the internal affairs of another country by planting agents to orchestrate coups, creation of a parallel, US-anointed “government”. By recognizing a self-declared interim president and attempting to seize Venezuela’s international assets—including its US-based refiner Citgo—the Pentagon rulers sought to create a political reality through fiat. This gambit, which ultimately failed to dislodge Maduro, was accompanied by liberal funding and promotion of a so called opposition faction to engineer coups, tamper elections to orchestrate regime change and undermine moderate elements that might seek a negotiated settlement.

The third one is of course a military operation. President Trump himself is on record to have said that he was considering land attacks and had authorized the CIA to conduct covert operations inside Venezuela. Rex Tillerson, former US Secretary of State (and former CEO of ExxonMobil) visited Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Jamaica from February 1 to 7, 2018, i.e. during the first term of presidency of Donald Trump, with the objective of ensuring that these regimes would side with US against ‘Bolivarian’ Venezuela. He also commented: “It is often times that the military is the agent of change when things are so bad, and the leadership can no longer

## **Does one need Darth Vader’s Death Star to stop speedboats?**

serve the people”.

### **Venezuela has not cringed**

But Venezuela has not cowered. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro stated in no uncertain a term that “*The peace we want is not just any peace...it is not the peace of the ruins of Gaza. ...do you want to be slaves of US supremacists, for us to lose our freedoms and for them to come and treat us like they treat migrants in the US, with kicks and bullets? ...Do you want us to become a colony again and for them to dictate everything and for them to come and steal our oil and our riches? Neither slaves nor colony: free, sovereign, and independent, today, tomorrow, and forever.*”

### **Flag of anti-imperialism held high**

In fact, departed Hugo Chavez who was President of Venezuela from 1998 to 2013 and founded the clandestine anti-imperialist Bolivarian Movement-200 (MBR-200) in the early 1980s against pro-US imperialist regime of Carlos Andrés Pérez, had instilled and strengthened an anti-imperialist, especially anti-US imperialist, “fighting spirit” among a significant section of the Venezuelan population. His approach, known as “Chavismo,” was built on a foundation of Bolivarianism (named after Simon Bolivar who launched independence movement in Latin America) and, which explicitly opposed US hegemony and neo-colonial moves in Latin America. He was elected Venezuelan President four times and was hailed as undisputed nationalist leader of Venezuela. Even after his demise, “Chavismo” continued to invigorate Venezuelan people in fight against imperialist machinations of US and its allies. Two important elections in Venezuela in 2017 showed mass support for the anti-imperialist line of President Hugo Chávez. Nicolás Maduro Moros, a staunch follower of Hugo Chavez has been occupying the Presidential seat of Venezuela since 2013. N-number of attempts by the US imperialists, and their stooge monopolists of Venezuela, like orchestrating coups, inciting civil war, decrying election results as rigged etc., to dethrone Maduro have proved abortive. In the lead-up to the Venezuelan presidential election on 20 May 2018, the United States put as much pressure as it could on the people of that country to reject the sitting government. US

agent Leopoldo López, the so called Venezuelan rebel leader and a vocal critic of Nicolás Maduro government who had fled the country in 2020 and is now exiled in Spain, expressed his full support for the deployment of US ships in the Caribbean ostensibly to attack Venezuela.

### **US imperialism and its political managers vend utter falsehood with elan**

As we know that the US presidents like George Bush and now Donald Trump has unleashed a series of lies and falsehoods to buttress the imperialist interest of his mentors, the US monopolists and multi-nationals. The US corporate media once had attacked the Venezuelan government by reporting that 130 people were killed in anti-government demonstrations in 2024. That completely distorted the fact that fascist gangs killed pro-government people and most of the fatalities were supporters of the present Maduro government. Trump is accusing Venezuela of drug production. But Venezuela does not produce cocaine leaves. So far, the US has not produced any evidence that the Venezuelan boats it has targeted were carrying drugs. Furthermore, experts say that most drugs are smuggled into the US via the Mexican land border by US citizens only. So, US allegation of drug-peddling by Venezuela is a manufactured allegation just like the way, former US President George Bush annexed sovereign Iraq on the fraudulent pretext of it being a hub of weapons of mass destruction. George Bush and his administration later acknowledged that the specific pre-war intelligence regarding active weapons of mass destruction (WMD) stockpiles was incorrect. But he did not admit the war of invasion launched by him on Iraq that killed over 4 lakh innocent citizens and razed the country into rables, was a mistake, if not a crime, or that the intelligence was intentionally falsified.

It also bears recall that in March 2019, John Robert Bolton II, former national security adviser had admitted that US had heavily invested in political outcomes in Venezuela and has “a lot at stake” in Venezuela’s political crisis, specifically citing the country’s oil and the economic benefit it could bring to the US. In a separate interview on US television Fox Business, Bolton said that getting rid

of Maduro was paramount since he was bringing “countries with interests hostile to ours” into Venezuela and ousting him would be a “potential major step forward” for “business” opportunities in the region.

### **Plot is unmasked**

So, the plot is fully unmasked. The foundational motive was laid bare with shocking candour by a top adviser to President Trump: the US is “heavily invested in political outcomes in Caracas (Venezuelan capital city)” and focused on Venezuela’s “vast oil reserves.” This was not a secret; it was a confirmation. Since Hugo Chávez renationalized the oil industry and redirected its revenues toward social programmes, Venezuela has been marked for “correction” at gunpoint. The goal is the reversal of the policy of resource nationalization of the present Venezuelan government and the restoration of a neocolonial economic model, where the profits from a nation’s subsoil flow to international shareholders rather than its own citizens. The legal and humanitarian justifications crumble upon inspection. International law, specifically the UN Charter, strictly prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of another state. The “drug interdiction” pretext is a legal fiction, a thin cover for what is unambiguously an act of intimidation.

### **Farce of awarding Nobel Peace Prize to a US-loyalist**

But to everyone’s dismay, when peace is being sacrificed on the altar of rank war cry, the Nobel Peace prize has been awarded to Maria Corina Machado, a loyalist of US imperialist regime who has been an apologist of foreign intervention against the elected Nicholas Maduro government. It is not a mere coincidence; it is a glaring imperialist wizardry that turns black into white. Very few might have heard her name as a *bete noir* of President Maduro whom she calls a narco-dictator. She also said that she wanted him to be alive so that she could send him to jail when elected in his place. In 2025, The Wall Street Journal wrote that she often advocated for US imperialist rule to confront the Venezuelan government more forcefully. Others are suspicious of her ties to reactionary right-wing politicians such as Trump and Brazil’s former president Jair Bolsonaro, and her support for Trump’s widely discredited claim that a Venezuelan gang, the Tren de Aragua – has launched an “invasion” of the US. She drew

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## US imperialists do not have even most flimsy connection with truth

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criticism over her past posts on X, supporting Israel's military action in Gaza and urging Argentina and Israel to "dismantle" the criminal Venezuelan regime. Machado has also voiced support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Zionist government, and has said that, if elected Venezuelan President, she would move Venezuela's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem—a move that would align Venezuela with US. Bjornar Moxnes, a Norwegian lawmaker, pointed out that Machado had signed a cooperation document with Israel's Likud party in 2020. The Likud party is responsible for the "Gaza genocide" and therefore the award is not in line with Nobel's purpose, he said.

By describing a person belonging to the pro-interventionist faction of the Venezuelan opposition and aligned with the most virulent, war-monger US and its cohorts as a "brave and committed champion of peace" and elevating her to the status of Nobel Peace prize winner, the Nobel Committee has exposed how it has become a puppet in the hands of the US-led imperialist bloc.

### Why is US imperialism so unbridled in international gangsterism

The giant US warship, steaming off the coast of Venezuela, is a symbol of an order that believes sovereignty can be vetoed by brute military power and that resources can be seized through economic torment. This order—dying

imperialism-capitalism has nothing to offer to mankind other than death, deprivation, destruction, misery, penury and inhumanity. But the point to be pondered over is that why are the imperialist sharks so unbridled in pursuing their hegemonism, overlordism, invasion of foreign land, genocide and reviled interference in the internal affairs of other countries? It is because the mighty socialist bloc which hitherto acted as bulwark against imperialist war machination and brigandage is absent and the desired surge of worldwide well organized, well-coordinated anti-imperialist movement is in its infancy.

Let there be no doubt that after ravaging Palestine, this imminent dastardly attack on Venezuela is an attack on the entire humanity and has to be repelled by way of rousing powerful worldwide protest against the intrigues and felonious acts by the US imperialists and their cohorts.

We call upon the anti-imperialist peace-loving people of all countries to raise united voice against these self-appointed gendarmes and extend fullest solidarity with the Venezuelan people in protecting their sovereignty. We also urge upon the people of US to staunchly oppose the US machination in Venezuela and other countries and consider this as a part of their own fight against gross injustice and death merchants. To stand with that principle is the urgent task of all internationalists today.

## AIDSO holds seminar on Vidyasagar in Telangana



*A seminar was organized by Telangana AIDSO on Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, an ardent proponent of uncompromising secular trend of Indian renaissance, in Hyderabad. Shri Patanchuru Jani Basha, professor of Gitam University was the main speaker.*

## Philosophy and Science

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science are probability and determinism. Many believe that these are mutually exclusive concepts: If something is deterministic, there is no role for probability, and if something is probabilistic, it violates determinism. This position led to much confusion regarding some modern scientific developments, including quantum mechanics.

In the quantum world, the motion of particles is governed by probability.

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle states that a micro-particle's position and momentum (mass times velocity) cannot be simultaneously determined with infinite accuracy. The more precisely the position of a particle is determined, the less precisely can its momentum be determined and vice versa. A mathematical inequality expresses the relation. This is not a limitation of our instruments or observational techniques. It is a law of nature: if a particle's momentum has a definite value, its position does not have a definite value. It can be in any position (within a range), and the probabilities of its being in different positions can be determined.

Some scientists and philosophers have construed this as signifying that causality and determinism do not operate in the quantum world. However, it is not as if the motion is anarchic or wild, not following any law. The motion of microparticles is completely law-governed, determined by the law of probability. In a quantum system, probabilities evolve deterministically, through a law-governed process. It would be wrong to say that the operation of the law of probability in the quantum world falsifies determinism. "The prevalent conception of determinism suffered from a mechanical bias", Shibdas Ghosh said, "Strictly, this conception of determinism was overshadowed by pre-determinism. It induced many people to reckon determinism as meaning fatalism. I hold, therefore, that it is not true that the concept of probability in modern science, as in the instance of the Uncertainty Principle, or for the many other issues concerning the microparticle, has undermined determinism or done away with causality. The correct understanding is that this law of probability has freed determinism from the preconception of pre-determinism to set it up on a stronger foundation." In the chapter on 'Chance and Necessity' in Dialectics of Nature, Engels also pointed to the issue of pre-

determinism in the mechanical materialist approach.

### Example: Darwinian evolution in the light of modern genetics

To illustrate how modern science adopts the dialectical method, let us consider the process of biological evolution as propounded by Darwin and enriched subsequently through the development of genetics. The issue has two aspects: the individual organism and the whole species to which it belongs. Each individual organism is in constant contradiction with the environment. The physiological makeup of the organism is largely given by what is known as the 'genetic code', subject to the limits imposed by its food intake and other environmental factors. Without going into the details, it can be said that in order for an embryo to develop into a horse or a fish, the information about the physiological structure of the animal must be available in the first cell. It has been found that this information is contained in a certain molecule, called DNA, that is found in the nucleus of every cell. The various parts of the DNA — the information-containing units — are called genes. The information comes from parts of the DNA molecules in the mother's and the father's sex cells.

In a population of a certain species, the DNA molecule of every individual is not the same. Though grossly similar (so that two crows or two donkeys have many common features that enable us to categorise them as crows or donkeys), there are some finer differences in the molecules that can be discerned with modern gadgets. This is what gives them the variation that Darwin talked about. New variations come about when, in the process of copying the DNA in reproductive cells, some errors occur. Such events, called 'mutations', are quite common in the biological world.

All the organisms of a given species are in contradiction with the environment, and the variation caused by minute differences in their genetic code gives them unequal survival probabilities. The ones that survive to reach maturity can transmit their genetic code to their offspring. Thus, natural selection favours certain genes while weeding out the genes that are unfavourable for the survival of the organisms. This is what causes gradual and quantitative changes in the population. In modern terms, the relative frequency of competing genes changes with time.

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Qualitative changes may occur when a new gene that significantly impacts the physiological organization enters the species. A mutation first occurs in a single individual. If it confers a survival advantage, the individual is more likely to reach maturity and pass the new, mutated gene to its offspring. Should carriers of this gene have a higher survival probability than non-carriers, the gene will spread rapidly through the population. Within just a few generations, it may be present in every individual. If one looks at the species as a whole, one sees that the characteristics of the population have changed, and it is now a qualitatively new species. This is how quantitative change in the relative gene frequency leads to a qualitative change in the species.

However, if we examine individual members of the species, we find that some undergo the qualitative change well before the species as a whole can be said to have changed qualitatively. The qualitative change in the individual organism (who has inherited the new gene) leads to a quantitative change as far as the species is concerned. This is how the 'qualitative change to the quantitative change' part operates.

The modern understanding of the process of biological evolution has made it clear that probability does not oppose causality. The lack of understanding of this issue made some communists oppose genetics in its early days. Now we understand that even though new variations appear through mutations that are random in nature, whether or not that variation will survive, whether or not it will have any impact on the subsequent evolution of the species—are all completely

causally governed—because natural selection gives specific survival probability to specific variations.

The development of modern genetics has explained the issues that were unresolved for a long time. It has re-established the proposition that the basic cause of any change is internal. It has redefined the role played by external contradiction. In the early days of the development of genetics, the Darwinian theory's causal nature was unclear. That has also been clarified now.

### Conclusion

The main point is that science continues to operate following the path shown by dialectical materialism, though scientists may not be aware of it. Therefore, our task is to highlight this aspect to bring dialectical materialism back to the centre stage of scientific discourses.

We should take note of the enrichment of the concepts of dialectical materialism done by later Marxist philosophers to create a coherent body of knowledge and methodological outlook. If we are convinced that this philosophical outlook helps in understanding and assimilating the various developments in science in the modern age, we should resist the tendencies to 'revise' dialectical materialism in the name of post-modernism, empirio-monism, new materialism, post-humanism, etc.

At the same time, Marxists worldwide should take critical note of the conceptual developments in various branches of modern science. Historically, the philosophy of dialectical materialism developed based on the developments in science, and so efforts to enrich it further should continue as science develops further.

## Movement against change of name of Karimganj district

On 6 September 2025 in continuation of the mass movement in Barak valley in Assam against the change of name of Karimganj district to Sribhumi district by the BJP-led state government evidently in keeping with its anti-Muslim hatred based on arch communal Hindutva, a twelve hour all out strike was called by a public committee, formed to launch a movement against this ill-motivated change of name. On that day women picketers were attacked by some RSS-BJP hoodlums. Police remained passive onlooker and instead of the attackers, they arrested the women picketers who were detained in custody for 10 days.

After assuming power, the BJP government has changed the names of many historical places of India on the plea that those names smell the Muslim culture. Though such a communal outlook is hated by all sections of saner people, no movement crystallized against such moves. Karimganj's is the solitary case of protest.

The Hindu Muslim ratio of Karimganj district population is almost 50/50. But the BJP is the dominant political force here. Initially, it seemed to be a very difficult task to launch a united movement against this decision of the government. But at the instance of our Party leadership, a committee was formed with representation of both Hindu and Muslim communities. A good section of Hindu population is also resentful against this communal move of the BJP. It needs to be mentioned here that Karimganj was a subdivision of Sylhet district. After the partition of the country, Karimganj subdivision is

detached from the Sylhet district, and it is annexed with India. While changing the name, Assam Chief Minister said that the name Sribhumi is given by great poet Rabindranath Tagore. Rabindranath came to Sylhet and seeing the natural beauty of the region, named the entire Sylhet district as Sribhumi. Rabindranath died in 1941 and Karimganj came into existence as a part of India in 1947. Besides that, the Barak valley which Karimganj district is a part of, has been neglected by all the governments after independence. The official language of Barak valley is Bengali as the majority of the people of this region is Bangali-speaking. The Assamese chauvinistic forces took many attempts to impose Assamese Language against the will of the people of that region. At the cost of 13 precious lives in course of movement, Bangali remained as the official language of that region which has been facing discrimination and neglect by the state government in every respect. Recently, in the name of delimitation of assembly constituencies, two assembly seats have been removed from Barak valley and included Brahmaputra valley with a view to reducing the representation of the Bangali people. When all the hideous moves are explained by the Committee, people irrespective of religious affiliation began supporting the movement. Following surge of the movement, a healthy atmosphere of amity and fraternity between two religious communities has developed in the district which, if further firmed up, would work as a deterrent against the mischiefs of the BJP government. The movement is continuing

## Convention of South Zone Electricity Consumers

In a unified display of consumer opposition to current electricity reform policies, the All India Electricity Consumers' Association (AIECA) organized the South Zone Electricity Consumers Convention on 26 October 2025. Held at Gandhi Bhavan, Bangalore, the convention was part of the ongoing all-India protest movement. The primary demands highlighted were the immediate withdrawal of the draconian draft Electricity Amendment Bill 2025, to stop the privatisation of electricity and to halt installation of smart meters. More

than 300 consumer delegates across southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu participated in the convention.

Those who addressed were Swapan Ghosh, President of AIECA, M.G. Devasahayam, Author, former IAS officer and former Chairman of Haryana Electricity Board, S. Gandhi, President of the Tamil Nadu Power Engineers Society, Samar Sinha, Working President, AIECA, and K. Somashekar, AIECA Vice President, Shri. B. Dileepan, State Vice

President of the Janakeeya Prathirodha Samithi (JPS), Kerala.

K Venugopal Bhat, General Secretary, AIECA, presided over.



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