

Proletarian Era

Release of Dr. Sandeep Ghosh and Abhijit Mondal on bail: a blow to Justice for Abhaya

The entire country is awestruck to see that the Sealdah Special CBI Court, Kolkata, has granted bail to two key accused Dr. Sandeep Ghosh, and Abhijit Mondal, in the brutal rape

principal of R G Kar Medical College and Abhijit Mondal, ex-OC of Tallah P.S. under whose jurisdiction falls the concerned Medical College. The brutality of the incident as well as

countless concerned citizens. Such spontaneous outburst of people's rage and participation in street demonstrations have been unprecedented. Nights after nights,



Protest near CBI office in Kolkata

and murder of a lady PGT, now known as Abhaya (fearless), within hospital premises on 9 August last. The aforesaid persons are also alleged to have hushed up most of the evidences of this horrific crime. Dr. Sandeep Ghosh is the former

exposed connivance of a nexus headed by Dr Sandip Ghosh in orchestration as well as suppression of such a horrendous offence triggered massive protests and demonstrations by junior and senior doctors, nurses, health workers, and

outrage across the globe. Abhaya's tragic death awakened the collective conscience of humanity. Despite the nationwide and global outcry, the CBI failed to file a chargesheet within the stipulated 90 days' time, allowing the accused to walk free. This, no doubt,

is a severe setback to the fight for justice for Abhaya. Has it simply been due to worthlessness of the CBI or there is a deep-rooted conspiracy behind it?

Background of the Chargesheet Delay

Before seeking answer to the question, let us recall what is the background of the case. On the day of the incident, Dr. Sandeep Ghosh, Abhijit Mondal, and their associates arrived at the crime scene early in the morning, cordoned it off with a big police force and by a group of ruling party supporters who are stated to be part of the infamous 'threat syndicate' known to be behind all evil and illegal activities going on in the college campus. When junior doctors and health workers learned of the incident and began protesting, they were denied access to the site. Even though Abhaya was dead, the principal reported to the police that an unconscious body had been found. Initially, the administration sought to pass it as a case of suicide. But then because of the firm stand of the protesting doctors, weird as well as ill-motivated claim was dismissed. It took 14 hours for an FIR to be filed,

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22nd All India Conference of AIUTUC resolves to build up powerful united countrywide working class movement

The 22nd All India Conference of the central trade union, 'All India United Trade Union Centre' (AIUTUC) held from 15 to 17 December 2024 in Bhubaneswar, concluded with the firm resolved to build up mighty united and sustained movements against the mounting onslaughts of the successive central and state governments on the working people at the behest of the ruling monopoly houses.

The all India conference was preceded by months long preparations by holding the conferences of the affiliated unions, followed by district and state level conferences of AIUTUC in 24 states and union territories of the country. Thousands of workers and employees of the organized and unorganized sectors including ruthlessly exploited working women, working under different schemes of the governments at the centre and the states as also the newly emerged Gig and Platform workers actively participated in these conferences. The organization in the process got further strengthened through its expansion and consolidation. The preparations for the all India conference witnessed increasing support and good will for AIUTUC among the working people who extended

generous help and assistance to make the conference successful.

The open session of the conference held on 15 December afternoon at PMG square, in front of the state assembly of Odisha, was attended by around 25 thousand working people of Odisha who conglomerated there after travelling all the way from the nook and corner of the state overcoming innumerable hurdles and odds. The delegates coming from 24 states and union territories marched from the Rajmahal square to converge in the meeting place of the open session in a well decorated colourful procession, shouting slogans on the burning issues of the working people which created deep impact on the common passersby of the city. The meeting chaired by Comrade K. Radhakrishna, President, AIUTUC, was addressed by Guest-in-Honour comrade Mzwandile

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Comrade K. Radhakrishna, President, AIUTUC, addressing (extreme left) the massive gathering in the open session (right)

SUCI (C) strongly condemns Home Minister's remark on Ambedkar

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), in course of statement issued on 20 December 2024 strongly condemned the most derogatory remark by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah against B R Ambedkar, which, he said, is unbecoming of no.2 of the central cabinet.



R G Kar

Medical fraternity, common people are pledge-bound to scale up their protest

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despite mandatory rules requiring health institutions to immediately report incidents of violence or murder. The FIR was later altered, and under pressure from the junior doctors' protests, a post-mortem was conducted in the presence of a magistrate. However, Dr. Ghosh and his associates evidently manipulated the process, preventing Abhaya's parents from seeing the body, which was hurriedly cremated.

Then the Kolkata police in a tearing hurry arrested Sanjoy Roy, a civic volunteer (helpers to the police force employed on contract) and close associate of Dr Sandip Ghosh and declared him as the sole accused. The TMC-led state government also lent credence to this. But the condition of the body of the victim and other circumstantial evidences which remained despite attempt to remove all proofs clearly attested to the fact that it could not be handiwork of a single person. An autopsy revealed that the victim had been raped and sexually assaulted before being killed via strangulation. The report, spanning four pages, also noted deep wounds in her genital tract, lips, left leg, right hand, ring finger, neck, and face. The report revealed that the scratch marks on the woman's face were likely caused by the culprit's fingernails. According to the report, pressure was applied to her mouth and throat, and she was strangled, resulting in a fracture of the thyroid cartilage. The report also noted bleeding from her eyes, mouth, and genitals, with the injuries in her genital area attributed to "perverted sexuality" and "genital torture". The exact cause of the injuries to her eyes remained undetermined. Could it be done by one single person?

Sensing rot, on 14 August, a group of miscreants obviously pressed into action by the quarters of vested interest, raided the college premises, went on vandalizing everything to destroy any remaining evidences at the crime scene with a large police contingent under the supervision of an officer of the rank of Deputy Commissioner standing as mute spectator. Could all such things happen without connivance of the government administration?

Thereafter, on 18 August, the Supreme Court took suo moto cognizance of the case, in addition to the Calcutta High Court, which was already hearing the case. By this point, the Calcutta High Court had ordered a CBI probe in the matter. The CBI initially claimed significant progress in the investigation, citing

evidence such as repeated phone calls between Ghosh and Mondal, missing CCTV footages from the hospital and police station, violating many of the standard norms and procedures. Even it is alleged that some outsiders were conspicuously summoned by Dr Sandip Ghosh to the place of occurrence in early morning after the crime.

Then, based on available evidences, CBI on 14 September night, 36 days after the incident, arrested Sandip Ghosh and Abhijit Mandal on charges of destruction of evidence. The agency submitted a petition to the CBI court the following day seeking the custody of Dr. Sandip Ghosh, accusing him of being involved in causing "considerable delay in registration of FIR in

registration of FIR in conspiracy with others which led to destruction of vital evidence in this grave and heinous crime of rape and murder and thereby committing clear offences punishable u/s 238, 199/w 61(2) of BNS-2023," the senior CBI officer added in the petition. It was also stated by the CBI officials that CBI sources said the investigating officers found Mandal's statements inconsistent. Ghosh's statement during interrogation also gave the CBI some leads and raised suspicion about the role of Mandal.

In the meanwhile, the case began to be heard in the Supreme Court by a 3-member bench headed by the Chief Justice. The CBI had filed reports in tranches to the Bench in sealed covers. The Bench on 17



Protest in Agartala, Tripura

conspiracy with others" and thereby "leading to deliberate destruction of vital evidence". The central agency has also mentioned in the petition that Ghosh "committed the offence with mala fide intention of safeguarding the prime accused and other co-accused persons, if any". The investigating officer of the CBI's special crime unit (I), who is also an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) has stated in the prayer that Ghosh, along with others, "conspired" and delayed the FIR which led to the destruction of "vital evidence".

"That in compliance of the order dated 13.08.2024 passed by the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta in WPA (P) No. 331/2024, 332/2024, 333/2024, 334/2024, 335 of 2024 and 339 of 2024, the investigation of FIR No 52/2024 dated 09.08.2024 of Tala PS has been taken over by CBI and re-registered as case RC0482024S0010 dated 13.08.2024 u/s 64/103(1) of BNS against unknown accused persons. The investigation of this case is in progress," the plea said. "During the investigation of the instant case, the involvement of Dr. Sandip Ghosh, has emerged in deliberate destruction of evidence by not declaring death of the victim immediately, considerable delay in

September observed that revelations in the status report filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation were "disturbing." However, the Court refused to divulge the details furnished by the CBI, saying that disclosures might hamper the investigation. on September 30, the top court had stated that the CBI had uncovered "substantial leads" in its probe.

"There are a number of recorded incriminating calls, as well as videos, in the extracted data from the cellphones of both (Mondal and Ghosh)," the CBI had said and informed the Supreme Court on 10 December that the trial in case has progressed significantly, with 43 out of 81 prosecution witnesses already deposed.

It is obvious from the details of proceedings of the case that the CBI itself claimed to have substantial progress in the case and cited considerable proofs of involvement of the two accused. However, despite these claims, the CBI failed to file the chargesheet on time (i.e. within 90 days of taking into custody). The CBI's counsel left the decision on the court whether to grant bail to them meaning that he had no objection to let the accused come out of jail on

bail. This has have cast a shadow over the investigation and raised questions about the CBI's efficiency and commitment. How could it fail to submit the chargesheet despite having openly claimed of receiving so many proofs in support of the involvement of the two accused in the gruesome murder case? Why were not the forensic and MIMB (Multi-institutional Medical Board) reports which confirms that the crime was committed by a group of people, considered? What is more astonishing is that the accused of a such a grave crime were granted bail on a surety bond of Rs 2,000 only. Also, eyebrows are being raised over dilly-dallying of the hon'ble Supreme Court in hearing the case and postponing the next hearing by three long months.

Many apprehend that these smack of something very fishy and possible cooking up of something behind the scene to free the two accused. They also ask who had given the CBI authority to trample on humanity's awakened conscience in such a manner? Has anyone ordered to apply brake on the investigation to benefit the accused? None of these questions can be fought shy of given the backdrop of the proceeding of the case.

Despicable role of the state TMC government

The TMC-led West Bengal government from the very beginning was not that interested to proceed with the case. Its view appeared to be that the civic volunteer Sanjoy Roy who was arrested by the Kolkata police was the lone culprit and hence no further enquiry was required. It also tried to highlight the 'spectacular' achievement of the Kolkata police under command of the CM herself in catching the culprit within 24 hours. On 13 August 2024, the Calcutta High Court, unsatisfied with the police's handling of the investigation, assigned the case to the CBI. They also flagged the possibility of destruction of evidence if the state police continued with their investigation. For playing to the gallery, the state CM said on 12 August that she would hand over the case to the CBI, if the police failed to solve the case within a week and vowed to seek death penalty for the accused. But, by that time, the junior doctors had pointed finger at Dr. Sandip Ghosh and his racket as well as Abhijit Mandal, his close aide. So, the government, as a face saving, first suspended Dr. Ghosh and then on the same day transferred him to another Medical College. When this was vehemently protested by junior doctors' front spearheading the movement for Justice for Abhaya, the state government was compelled to

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Syria-latest hotbed of imperialist machination of engineering regime change

War-torn Middle East has another worrying development worth reckoning. Hitherto, Zionist Israel with the backing of US imperialism and its allies has been upending the fragile equilibrium in the Middle East by conducting wars of aggression against Palestine and Lebanon. Now, Hai'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) (Syria Liberation Committee), backed by the US, Israel and Turkey, took over Syrian capital Damascus on 9 December last with least resistance and overthrew the government of President Bashar al-Assad. Alongside, Israel had launched more than 480 strikes against Syrian arms depots and is now pushing troops well beyond the demilitarized buffer zone extending from the Golan Heights which it has been occupying since 1967. Not only US, even UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy has defended Israel's extensive bombing of Syria by saying Israel had "legitimate" concerns. Assad is stated to have fled to Russia seeking asylum there.

Syria on the cusp of war from 2011

Before focusing further on current developments, it may be necessary to recapitulate that since 2011, Syria has been goaded into a gruesome battle between the Assad government, its army and security forces and US-backed so-called 'Free Syrian Army' (FSA), Al Qaeda elements and others. The pattern followed in Syria by US imperialism and its allies is very similar to that adopted in Iraq or Libya i.e. aggression based on fabricated pretext. Since President Assad has long been refusing to bow down before US dictums, the US imperialists and its allies created 'Free Syrian Army' (FSA), fed it with all aids and assistance to start a movement, under the cover of a so called movement for democracy, with a declared demand for ouster of the President Assad. FSA has clearly been an outfit whose 'nerve centre' was reportedly located at a secret base in Adana province in Turkey near its border with Syria, adjacent to the US military base of Incirlik. Alongside, with a view to enfeebling Assad, they went on financing, training and arming terrorist insurgents and tens of thousands of mercenaries like Al Qaeda terrorists, recruits of Jihadist fanatics etc., operative within Syria. Over 10,000 mercenaries were sent to Aleppo, the second largest city of Syria, as part of that design. Even the US media finally acknowledged that Al Qaeda and its ally Salafist fighters had infiltrated Syrian land from the

neighbouring countries. Clerics and the fundamentalist Sheikhs of Turkey and Saudi Arabia, the US allies, have been spitting venom against the 'heretical' Syrian government and urged young Syrians to turn Syria into another Afghanistan. Following that, US and Turkish mercenary and terrorist forces succeeded in taking control of one-third of Syrian territory, mostly the oil-rich and agricultural bases. The Syrian civil war perpetrated by the US-Israel duo and their allies took the lives of more than 3,50,000 and displaced at least 1.3 crore Syrians.

In spite of planting 'rebels' and so-called insurgents, they could neither topple the Assad government, nor could elicit any leniency from Assad. For, Russia, now turned an imperialist country like China after counter-revolution, was equally interested to pursue its hegemonic interest in the Middle East, including Syria, and was trying to build up a counter-axis in that region with Iran. Russia has been a staunch defender of the Assad government and protected it so far with its military might. Hence, US imperialism's ploy to take full control of Syria had stagnated so far. So, it planned to hit hard at the economy of Syria by imposing draconian sanctions, another act of war. These sanctions were purported to deny vital services, to starve the population and to hollow out the Syrian economy until it collapsed. On the other hand, imperialist Russia, to prioritize its own class interest, had sought to develop an insulated and self-sustaining ecosystem for Syria by supplying food, clothes and medicines. Russia also sought to thwart flow of aid from US and its allies through UN proposals since it held that such aid was aimed at establishing US dominance in Syria.

Thus, it can be observed that Syria became a hotbed of imperialist-imperialist contradiction centring on extending sphere of influence in foreign territory.

What caused collapse of Assad government

But now Russia and Iran, hitherto defending Assad both militarily and diplomatically, are in tight corner. Russia is stretched too thin to fight in Ukraine and Syria, and Iran has clearly taken a hit after a year of conflict with Israel and the US.

Moreover, notwithstanding its consistent anti-US imperialist, anti-Israel stand and making every effort to frustrate their heinous design of destabilizing the country, there is no denying the fact that Syria under

Assad has been a unitary semi-presidential republic or a bourgeois dictatorship regime and hence no less repressive. Obviously, people there have also been subject to bourgeois oppression and exploitation. Like all other ruling bourgeoisie in the capitalist countries, the Syrian bourgeoisie also, in decadent moribund capitalism, cannot and could not fulfil the democratic aspirations of their people.

As a result, economic distress mounted menacingly. The country's GDP contracted by over 60 percent from 2011 to 2021 alone. Unemployment has exceeded 50 percent. Consumer price inflation is estimated to have risen by 93%. Over 90 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, surviving on less than \$2 a day. According to a 2023 survey, around 11 percent of families in the Aleppo area reported that their children were engaged in labour, primarily due to insufficient household income. Hyperinflation, exacerbated by US sanctions and a banking crisis in neighbouring Lebanon—also caused by US sanctions—has plunged millions into destitution. In 2023, the Syrian pound depreciated by 141% against the U.S. dollar.

So, there did exist grievances among the Syrian people who were so demoralized with the regime that they no longer cared whether the Assad rule had stayed or was overpowered. Many Syrians nurtured a belief that the Assad government would be able to repel the HTS onslaught. But much to their disappointment, Russia clearly backed out and even highly skilled Republican Guards tamely surrendered to the rebels. This also showed how low the morale of the Assad army ebbed once Russian and Iranian support ceased to be available. Hence, the mood of the majority of the Syrians has been just opposite to what was seen during the civil war orchestrated by the US-led imperialist powers in the earlier period. At that time, the majority of the population swung behind the Assad regime to oppose the jihadi fundamentalists. With people having been sunk into such despondency, and with hitherto available support of Russia and Iran eluding the jihadis like HTS could launch a sweeping offensive that captured swaths of territory cutting through the important cities like Aleppo and Damascus and creating the opportunity for ousting President Bashar al-Assad with relative ease. Seizing this opportunity, US lobby went full throttle to edge out Assad.

Why US imperialists were so eager to overrun Syria

Next point is, why were the US imperialist hegemon and their allies hell-bent to dislodge President Assad? Syria, unlike Iran or Iraq, is not a major crude oil producing country. But both Saudi Arabia and Iraq oil pipelines have gone through Syrian deserts. Secondly, the world's largest known natural gas reservoir sits in the middle of the Persian Gulf straddling part in the territorial waters of Qatar and part in Iran. In July 2011, the governments of Syria, Iran and Iraq signed a historic gas pipeline energy agreement. The proposed pipeline was to run from the Iranian Port Assalouyeh in the Persian Gulf to Damascus in Syria via Iraq territory. This agreement was envisioned to be a geopolitically strategic space extending from Iran to Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. Shortly after signing the agreement, Syria announced discovery of a gas well in its area of Qarahand. Gazprom, a large Russian company in the business of extraction, production, transport, and sale of natural gas, was chosen to be a major investor or operator of these newly discovered gas fields in Syria. Further, European Union (EU) is the world's largest market for gas. Iran, which also has gas fields, had planned to extend the pipeline from Damascus to Lebanon's Mediterranean to cater to the huge EU market.

This did not go well with the US imperialist rulers having a hawk's eye on these crucial natural resources and the oil transportation network for long. But they could not manage to bring Assad under their fold. The US monopolists, giant oil multinationals and banks—who constitute the ruling class of the US imperialist state—feared that if Russian imperialism stabilizes its presence in Syria and takes control of its natural resources and pipeline network, US economic-political strategies in the Middle East would be severely affected much to the detriment of their class interest. They also apprehended that if US interests are jeopardized there and US military is compelled to pull out from the region, it would benefit imperialist Russia and China that have appeared as major contenders in the global capitalist market. Also, they thought, it might strengthen the position of Iran, another formidable anti-US pro-Russia regime in West Asia. So, has grown the 'imperativeness' on their part to overrun Syria and plant a client regime there.

HTS and its objective

HTS which has now seized power in Syria has evolved from Jabhat al-Nusra, the Syrian branch of Al-Qaeda which has been the biggest beneficiary of the grooming programme of CIA and Mossad

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Neither BJP nor TMC can afford to allow exposure of systemic rot of capitalism

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keep Dr. Ghosh under suspension. This very act of the state government to reinstate him within hours of his suspension made it amply clear of his extreme closeness to the ruling dispensation. It was also clear from the various activities and statements of the TMC government that it was making every possible effort to shield Dr. Ghosh and Mandal. Moreover, the arrested civic volunteer Sanjoy Roy has been repeatedly pleading innocence and openly said to the media while on the way to the court that "senior officers are involved in this. The government is backing them. They have been threatening me. I am giving you the names". From next day, all precautions were taken by the police to ensure that he was not in a position to open his mouth before media and common people outside the court.

Why was it so? Was the state government fearing that if Dr. Ghosh and Mandal were prosecuted, many scams, irregularities, overlordism and forbidden activities of the 'threat culture' lobby ruling the roost in the healthcare system would be unravelled putting it into inconvenience? Was it for that reason that the state government did not give permission to the CBI to prosecute the two accused? Was it to protect the accused that the state government often demonized the fighting junior doctors and the senior doctors sympathetic to their cause?

Suspected collusion between state and central governments

Now if one seeks to relate the role of the state government with the failure of the CBI to file chargesheet on time, there would be every reason to suspect a collusion between the state and central governments in delaying both the investigative as well as juridical process so as to deny justice to Abhaya. Because, if the accused are pronounced guilty and all facts come to fore, it would unravel how rampant corruption, nepotism, dominance of syndicates, illegal businesses, organized crime and such other notoriety have devoured the entire government healthcare system. And consequently, the fads and aberrations precipitated by the rotten inhuman capitalist system would be laid bare. Neither the BJP-led central government nor the TMC-led state government can afford to allow that since both of them are servitors of ruling capitalism. Moreover, the way the people's movement in demand for justice for Abhaya has erupted and gained momentum with every

passing day has also been of grave concern for the ruling capitalist class and its pliant governments. So, it has been a class need of the ruling bourgeoisie to ensure that the movement instead of being led to its logical culmination subsides and be frozen. That is why, Union Home Minister Amit Shah skirted meeting the parent of Abhaya during his recent visit to Kolkata and did not pronounce a single word about the case. Hence the apprehension of some covert understanding which might have put a rein on the CBI, now known to all as a "caged parrot" of the central government. When questioned, CBI officers dismissively argued that "non-bailable charges don't mean indefinite imprisonment," especially for "important officials." This callous response bears testimony of a futile attempt to justify an otherwise non-justifiable act and does further erodes public trust in the investigating agency. It would also give impetus to the miscreants, frauds, wrong-doers, rapists, killers and corrupt rackets to carry on their criminal activities with impunity and alacrity.

Aggrieved protestors would not relent

But if the ruling class and the governments subservient to it think that by their action, they would be able to silence the aggrieved protestors and such a historic movement would die its natural death, they are living in fool's paradise. There may be a slight disappointment in them at the outset but not slightest of ebb in their morale. So, movement is once again picking up momentum and along with the medical fraternity, common people are pledge-bound to scale up their protest in a much organized manner. They are aware that it is an uneven battle between the ruling dispensation having an array of arsenals and the oppressed repressed unarmed toiling millions strengthened by their rock-cement unity for realizing a just demand.

Already under pressure of movement, the West Bengal government has been forced to concede some of the demands like initiating some reforms to improve safety and security measures. But overhauling of the system is in limbo and needs to be given push by the force of movement for 'Justice for Abhaya movement' which has awakened the conscience of millions, especially the educated middle class. Not only West Bengal but the entire country is now ferment with the spirit of resistance and justice.

Syria

Syria—a prey to imperialist-imperialist contradiction over hegemonism

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(Israel's espionage agency). In fact, HTS traces its roots back to notorious terrorist outfit Islamic State (IS) and the international Islamist Al Qaeda network. Mohammed al-Bashir, having close ties with HTS, has now been appointed caretaker prime minister of the transitional Syrian government until 1 March 2025. There are unmistakable indications that HTS wants to impose on Syria an Islamic theocracy. The word democracy is totally absent in all interviews with and statements from the HTS. The US, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have admitted providing "non-lethal" support to the Syrian militant groups.

US ties with HTS laid bare

Expectedly, the US and the European Union have welcomed the collapse of the Al-Assad regime. Both see it as a major blow to Russia, as well as Iran. US, which hitherto branded HTS as a terrorist organization, is reported to be holding discussions on whether to remove the foreign "terrorist" designation from HTS. The sanitized language of pro-imperialist media lauding Israel's blood-soaked regime as the 'only democracy in the Middle East' and 'Syrian rebels' as 'moderates' has helped HTS launder its reputation. And the Western imperialist bloc which denounces anti-Israel Hamas (Palestine), Huthi (Yemen) and Hezbollah (Lebanon), as 'barbaric groups' portray HTS, armed and funded by notorious CIA, as a respectable outfit fighting against oppression and injustice. Also, Turkish President Erdogan, who has never been shy of flirting with Islamic fundamentalists and is stated to have connived in overthrowing Assad government, will now be able to exert influence over a territorial corridor that links Europe and the Gulf through Syria.

Israeli concern about HTS

Though HTS and other jihadi groups have thrown out Assad government, it has come out in the media that the Israeli government does not seem to be comfortable with the regime change in Syria. Why so? Perhaps it has seen how the strategy of fostering "controlled chaos" by it in alliance with US has unleashed forces that escaped their control. The rise of IS and the proliferation of jihadist factions are testaments to the extreme cynicism of the imperialists that they would rather drag the region down the path of barbarism than concede their domination over it. So, Israeli rulers might be apprehending that the new governing dispensation in Syria might slip out of

their control and exhibit greater solidarity with the Palestinians and others. Perhaps to forestall such an eventuality, Israeli army has been conducting a massive aerial bombardment of all of Syria, seeking to destroy the Syrian strategic arms reserve.

Inalienable right of people to choose their own regime

But the growing plight and penury of the people by no means authorizes any imperialist power or any reactionary pro-imperialist force like Zionist Israel to interfere and stimulate dissention with a view to bringing about a regime change and installing a puppet government composed of reactionaries favoured by them. It is the inalienable right of the people of any country to choose their own regime and no foreign power should illegally and unauthorisedly interfere in the internal affairs of any sovereign country, let alone bring down military assault. Syria must be left to the Syrians to decide the course that people of that land would follow.

Lessons

The lesson to be drawn from Syrian example is that until the reactionary conspiracy that the US-Israel combination and their associates have hatched is foiled, it will continue to spread its poison throughout the Middle East and beyond. Next learning is that the suffering masses cannot rely on any capitalist regime to defend their interests in the fight against imperialism. They need to struggle for emancipation by giving birth to revolutionary leadership and treading along the correct base political path. Till that time, free and fair elections with the full participation of all political groups under a new secular democratic constitution that enshrines equal citizenship for all and the complete dissolution of all armed militias under proper impartial UN supervision are the only way out from decades of turbulence in the country. Given the equivocations and one-upmanship of the HTS in the past week, it is amply clear that they will not countenance giving an inch of political space to communities that they often described as heretics, blasphemers and apostates.

US imperialists Hands off Syria

The situation indeed is explosive. The cruelty and inhumanity of the US imperialists for fixing their tight grip have been boundless. The US along with its camp-followers in Europe and its gendarme in the Middle East, Zionist

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Ground Zero of Hunger Weaponization of Starvation by war-monger imperialists

The silence in Gaza is laden with more than despair; it carries the weight of an engineered calamity. Over the years, this embattled strip of land has become a crucible where starvation is not merely a

This phenomenon is mirrored elsewhere. In Sudan, blockades sever communities from essential supplies, turning hunger into a tool of subjugation. In Ukraine, strikes on grain silos and infrastructure ripple

Ukraine, targeted strikes by Russian imperialist army on agricultural infrastructure weaponize famine on an unprecedented scale. The mechanisms of accountability-so robust on paper-collapse under the weight of muscle flexing by the imperialist-capitalist forces, euphemized as political inertia, leaving a gaping void where justice should be.

Lives reduced to statistics

Behind every data point lies a human story, one that statistics cannot fully capture. In Gaza, families sift through rubble for scraps of food. A father holds his malnourished child, haunted by the knowledge that he can do little to stop the withering. In Sudan, famine stalks displaced populations, while in Ukraine, infrastructure bombed into oblivion leaves entire regions dependent on sporadic aid.

The psychological toll of starvation is profound. It robs individuals of not just their physical vitality but their dignity, their hope. For children, the long-term consequences are catastrophic: malnutrition stunts their growth, both physical and cognitive, embedding cycles of poverty and despair that endure long after the conflict subsides.

History's Haunting Echo

This tactic of engineered hunger is not new. The attempted siege of Leningrad by the Nazi forces in September 1941, the famines in Biafra following the Nigerian Civil War, a political-ethnic armed conflict that took place from 1967 to 1970 because of instigation of imperialist powers from outside just after decolonization of the country from British hold, and the blockades in Yemen by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition backed by the US imperialists—all bear witness to its enduring cruelty. The resurgence of using starvation as a weapon to overrun the opponents in Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine signals a dangerous portent.

Unchecked, this strategy sets a perilous precedent. It suggests to the world's aggressors—the imperialist superpowers in particular—that starvation can be employed with impunity, eroding the fragile edifice of international humanitarian norms. It also risks desensitizing global audiences, numbing us to the human suffering behind every blockade, every razed field, every empty plate.

The Politicization of Aid

In Gaza, the conditional acceptance of limited aid by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu under external pressure exemplifies

the cynical calculus behind humanitarian relief. By allowing just enough aid to temper international outcry, the siege maintains its stranglehold while projecting an illusion of concession. Aid convoys are delayed, diminished, or denied, leaving relief agencies struggling against impossible odds.

This pattern repeats in Sudan, where warring factions propped up by US imperialists manipulate aid as leverage, and in Ukraine, where fractured supply chains leave millions vulnerable. The politicization of humanitarian assistance weaponizes relief itself, trapping populations in a grim cycle of dependency and bares the inhuman face of global imperialism-capitalism.

A Call to Action

The international community must confront the stark reality of starvation warfare with more than platitudes and exerting pressure of united organized well-coordinated powerful anti-imperialist movement round the globe. Independent investigations into the destruction of food systems and the obstruction to provide aid are not just necessary—they are urgent. Enforcement mechanisms must evolve from paper tigers into tangible deterrents that hold perpetrators of war crime accountable.

But the fight against starvation as a weapon demands more than legal action. It requires a moral awakening. The stories emerging from Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine are not just accounts of suffering—they are indictments of imperialist-capitalist global order that permits such atrocities to persist. And this moral awakening beseeches surge of mighty anti-imperialist movement under correct revolutionary leadership in right earnest.

The Test of Our Times

Starvation warfare is more than a humanitarian crisis; it is a test of our collective conscience. To ignore it is to concede to a world where the basic tenets of human rights crumble, where the most vulnerable are left to starve in the shadows of brigandish political expediency.

The numbers are staggering, but the human cost defies quantification. For every statistic, there is a life—a mother, a child, a community—that demands justice. Addressing this crisis is not just about saving lives; it is about reaffirming the principles that define humanity itself. As the world confronts this grim weapon of war generated by the imperialists, inaction is not an option but suicidal. The stories of Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine are harrowing, but they are also a plea: a reminder that our capacity for compassion and justice must rise to meet the darkest of times.



At the call of Communist Party of Israel, demonstrations were held on 14 and 15 December by 5000 Israeli people outside Israeli Army Headquarters in Tel Aviv in protest against war and genocide by Zionist Israeli government in Gaza land of Palestine, Lebanon and Syria. Similar anti-war demonstrations took place in Jerusalem, Haifa, Beersheba and other cities. On 15 December, over 100 women protested at Habina Square, Tel Aviv.

consequence of war but its calculated instrument. It is a strategy as insidious as it is devastating, targeting the most basic human necessity—food to unravel communities and shatter resistance. Gaza of Palestine is not an anomaly. As wars from Sudan to Ukraine, orchestrated by profit-hungry imperialist sharks, illustrate, the weaponization of hunger has emerged as a defining feature of modern warfare.

By 2022, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that the localized wars had claimed over 3,77,000 lives across war zones like Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine. Of these, 60 percent were not direct victims of violence but casualties of hunger, disease, and the collapse of healthcare. "The Lancet" echoes this grim arithmetic, painting a stark picture of how deprivation is weaponized, not just to weaken combatants but to break civilian populations.

Anatomy of Starvation Warfare

In Gaza, the decimation is visible in the skeletal remains of orchards, the shattered irrigation systems, and the empty reservoirs. These are not collateral damages of war but deliberate acts of destruction by the war monger Israel backed by the US imperialists. Citrus groves that once provided sustenance have been reduced to rubble by bulldozers and airstrikes. Fields are razed, wells poisoned, and an entire agricultural economy has been methodically annihilated as part of the war design of the imperialist aggressors.

far beyond its borders, disrupting global food supplies. The weaponization of hunger erodes not just lives but the very fabric of societies, dismantling the threads that bind humanity.

A Legal and Moral Vacuum

International humanitarian law, enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, unequivocally prohibits the starvation of civilians. Articles 54 and 14 of the Additional Protocols declare it illegal to deny food and water to non-combatants. Yet, such principles falter in the face of geopolitical realities because the powerful imperialist camps, US and its allies on one side and Russia and China on the other side, care a fig to obey the protocols as they are undeterred in the unipolar world.

Consider the chilling declaration by Yoav Gallant, Defence Minister of Zionist Israel, the front-office of US imperialism in the middle east: "No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel." Statements from other officials, like National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, reveal a policy aimed at collective deprivation. These pronouncements are not merely rhetoric; they are the foundation of a siege that systematically deprives the hapless people of Gaza' of basic necessities.

The impunity with which these acts unfold extends beyond Gaza. In Sudan, where US imperialism and its allies have fostered a civil war by planting rebels and then bifurcating the oil-rich country into two, humanitarian corridors are transformed into battlegrounds. In

Delegates from 24 states and union territories participated in AIUTUC conference

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Michael Makwayiba, President, World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) to which AIUTUC is affiliated since long. On the dais were also trade union representatives from Palestine, Nepal and Bangladesh along with the all India leaders of AIUTUC. The President of WFTU in his forceful emotional address called upon the working people across the globe including India to develop their class-based rock bottom unity and solidarity in order to unleash militant movements against world capitalism-imperialism. He congratulated the working people of India and AIUTUC for consistently

youths, both ideologically and organizationally, to carry forward the struggles of the working people without any break, to achieve its ultimate objective of exploitation free human society. He also emphasized building up strong working class women's organization. Comrade Hussein Karsaba of Palestine expressed his gratitude for AIUTUC's consistent support to the struggling people of Palestine. The representatives of ANTUF of Nepal also called for the cemented unity of working people of the world. The message of Bangladesh representative was read out in the session. Being invited, the leaders of

the coming days. The Resolutions and the Report as well as the Amendments to the Constitution were adopted unanimously after duly considering the amendments.

The delegate session unanimously elected Comrade K Radhakrishna as President and Comrade Shankar Dasgupta as General Secretary with a new 191 member-strong All India Committee from different states and union territories representing both organized and unorganized sectors as well as scheme workers, 96 member Working Committee bearers and a 95 member General Council. The 'Progressive Cultural Association of India' (PCAI), Odisha, performed many cultural events including revolutionary and progressive songs, drama, dance, drama, etc., in the 'Cultural Session' held in between the

conference was addressed by comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), and the Guest-in-Chief. In his valuable discourse, Comrade Provash Ghosh dwelt on the essential tasks of the leaders, organizers and activists of a revolutionary trade union organization like AIUTUC, particularly in the present critical juncture of our country as well as the world over when decadent moribund capitalism, for profit maximization, is not only ruthlessly exploiting the working people but also launching devastating onslaughts on socio-moral fabric, thereby dehumanizing the common people including the working class.

He said, as the working class has been historically bestowed with the responsibility of not only to free itself as a class from the clutches of reactionary capitalism, is forebearer of emancipation of the entire mankind from exploitation of man by man.

The activists of the revolutionary trade union has to arm itself with proletarian class outlook and proletarian culture to be equal to that historic task. The conference ended with the song on the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, former President of AIUTUC, and *The Internationale*.



Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) (extreme left) addressing the delegate session

developing working people's movements in this country. Others who spoke in the open session were Comrades Satyawanji and Swapan Ghosh, Vice-Presidents, Jayasen Meher, Odisha state secretary, Arun Singh, All India Secretariat Member and Shankar Dasgupta, General Secretary, AIUTUC. They appealed to the working people to resist with all might the growing attacks of the ruling capitalist class and its governments, more particularly that of the present BJP government at the Centre and expressed wholehearted solidarity with the working class movements across the globe as a mark of proletarian internationalism. Comrade K. Radhakrishna, President, AIUTUC in his concluding speech cautioned the working people about the fascistic machinations of the existing capitalist state and its governments and appealed to thwart the anti-worker, anti-people designs to save the humanity from growing fascistic threats. The inaugural session of the conference presided over by comrade K. Radhakrishna was held on the same evening at the premises of Royal Resort.

This session was attained and addressed by President, WFTU, Comrades Michael; the trade union representative from Palestine—Hussein Karasba; Opendra Kumar Roy and Tikaram Parsai from 'All Nepal Trade Union Federation'; Sekhar Roy from 'Bangladesh Workers and Employees Federation' as fraternal dignitaries from abroad.

President of WFTU called for unity and united actions of the working people across the globe. He stressed developing the working

the fraternal central trade unions like AITUC, CITU, AICCTU and TUCC also attended this session and addressed the gathering. Comrade Shankar Dasgupta read out the 'Messages of Solidarity' received from the fraternal trade unions organizations from abroad, like COSATU of South Africa, BWEF of Bangladesh, ACFTU of China, FFTUZ of Zambia, trade union from Mauritius, NPFU of New Zealand and trade union international UIS.

Two day delegate session held on 16 and 17 December was inaugurated by Comrade K Radhakrishna at Royal Resort premises followed by garlanding the Martyrs' Column. A condolence resolution on the sad demise of Comrades Sankar Saha and Krishna Chakraborti, both former Presidents, Achintya Sinha, member, All India Secretariat, other General Council members and those who sacrificed their lives across the globe in struggles against imperialism-capitalism.

The delegate sessions attended by 1105 delegates from 24 states and union territories was conducted by a 4 member presidium comprising of Comrades K. Radhakrishna, Satyawanji, Sambhunath Naik and R. Kumar. Delegates deliberated extensively on the Main Resolution, General Secretary's Politico-Organizational Report, amendments to the Constitution of AIUTUC and 13 other Resolutions on the burning issues confronting the working people including the 'Resolution on Charter of Demands' based in which the conference decided to chalk out a comprehensive plan of actions in

delegate sessions.

The concluding session of the

Syria

Suffering masses cannot rely on any capitalist regime in fight against imperialism

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Israel, Saudi Arabia and their cohorts have turned the entire Middle-East into a killing field. Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Syria—who knows who comes next to witness imperialist fury and carnage of unprecedented dimension; how many innocent citizens, including women and children, would be mercilessly killed, how many would be maimed, how much of property would be destroyed. With sad dismantling of socialist bloc and both Russia and China turning into imperialist powers, the US-Israel brigandage is undeterred. On the other hand, Russia and China are also hunting for opportunity to pursue their own imperialist aspirations.

And who bears the brunt of this imperialist war machinations and overlordism? Obviously the common people. While they are left half-starved, sunk in abject poverty and misery, the bourgeois governments spend public money from the exchequers for manufacturing lethal weapons which then are used against the people. While the imperialist-capitalist rulers and their war-merchants multiply their wealth, the innocent hapless people pay the price by losing life and property. So, the only alternative for people is to rise up. The toiling millions of different imperialist-capitalist countries need to

spearhead in right earnest revolutionary working class struggle against their respective bourgeois rule by developing correct revolutionary party and leadership. As against the unholy nexus and alliance of the oppressive imperialist-capitalist powers, unity and fraternity among the toiling people and emergence of people's power is the crying need of the hour. Alongside, in absence of the mighty Socialist Bloc that once could restrain the imperialist brigands from doing whatever they wanted, the bulwark of resistance needs to be created by exerting pressure of worldwide organized militant anti-imperialist movement. United, sustained and well-coordinated anti-imperialist, anti-war militant peace movements with the communists at the core ought to be developed in every nook and corner of the world with a view to creating a powerful pressure upon the war-monger US imperialists and their associates to immediately withdraw from Syria and for that matter, every occupied as well as war-torn region. That struggle will not only encourage the struggle of Syrian people against US intervention, together it will also enhance their cause. Let the toiling people of the world unite and unanimously raise the slogan—US imperialists! Hands off Syria!!

Trojan Horse of Reform: How the Draft UGC Regulations masks annihilation of education

In the labyrinth of reforms proposed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the "Draft UGC (Minimum Standards of Instruction for the Grant of Undergraduate Degree and Postgraduate Degree) Regulations, 2024" (henceforth called as Draft UGC Regulations) published on 5 December last glisten like a polished Trojan horse. Promising a host of schemes like (i) biannual admissions, (ii) dual UG and PG degree programmes, (iii) a multiple entry-exit framework in both UG and PG levels etc., the policy is heralded as a revolutionary stride toward inclusivity and flexibility in higher education.

To mention similar other flexible tools that have been proposed for higher education are: (a) irrespective of the disciplines taken by a student in class 12 schooling, a student is eligible for admission in any discipline of UG programme, (b) irrespective of the major or minor disciplines taken by a student in a UG programme, a student is eligible for admission in any discipline of PG programmes, (c) dilution of minimum attendance requirement of students in classes in different programmes, (d) Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), (e) Accelerated Degree Programme (ADP) and (f) Extended Degree Programme (EDP), etc.

Beneath this veneer of much-touted progressivism lies a disquieting truth: the calculated dilution as well as commodification of education. What masquerades as reform may well be a ploy to destroy education, the harbinger of privatization, a surreptitious restructuring that subtly aligns public institutions with the imperatives of profit.

Ambitious degree regime with poor infrastructure

The four year undergraduate programme (FYUP) has been imposed on the higher education institutions (HEIs) which were already hard-pressed due to serious lack of number of faculties, classrooms and other necessary infrastructure. To accommodate the one extra year for implementation of the FYUP, further augmentation of infrastructure was badly needed—the fund for which neither the central nor the state governments seemed to be willing to grant.

Added to these woes of the HEIs are the burden of multiple entry and multiple exit (MEME)

system and biannual admission procedure. MEME would enable a student to study for a few semesters in one HEI and earn some credit points, then leave that HEI, drop some semesters, if he or she so desires, and then get admitted in another HEI for studying few more semesters and so on. In this way, a student would acquire the required credit points that would make him or her eligible for getting a diploma or degree, with or without honours, even a research degree. Credits acquired by virtue of one's study in different HEIs in phases would be stored in academic bank of credit (ABC) that would compute the total credits earned by a student. Scheme of biannual admission would enable a student to get admitted in any semester and in any HEI according to his or her choice.

These flexible schemes of learning will not be operative for one degree per student—it would work for dual UG/PG degree. For example, a student now will be allowed to try for obtaining two degrees simultaneously. The extent of freedom of a student to decide the pattern of his or her academic learning does not end here. The students would still enjoy option for "Accelerated Degree Programme" (ADP) and "Extended Degree Programme" (EDP). By ADP a student will be allowed to finish his or her UG and PG degree programmes by less than the stipulated time frame of 4 years (8 semesters) and 2 years (4 semesters) respectively while EDP would leave scope for completing more semesters than the stipulated numbers for completion of the courses. Bar of minimum percentage of attendance in classes would virtually be done away with. All these hitherto unpractised or unknown flexibilities are being extended in the name of 'learner-centric education'. All these so-called flexible provisions have been blindly copied from US education system by the proponents of 'make-in-India'.

Before discussing the academic viabilities of these schemes, should not one question whether the HEIs across the country are at all in a position to allow students so many options? Central budget for education is sharply declining during the BJP rule and has touched an all-time low. UGC budget this year was cut by 61%. Let alone other infrastructure, no additional post of teacher is

created. Vacant posts are not even filled up by fresh recruitments under this or that pretext. And the HEIs are crowded with ad hoc faculties getting paltry sum of money as remuneration. Who would then teach in so many variations in the bunch of ambitious schemes? Or there will be simply conferring of degree without caring for whether and what the student has learnt.

Attempted academic justification of proposed schemes

If a student is allowed to get admitted in any discipline of UG programme irrespective of the disciplines he or she had chosen in class 12 in school and similarly if any student irrespective of the major or minor disciplines in a UG programme becomes eligible for admission in any discipline of PG programmes, what will be the standard of learning? If a student with a combination of, say, history, philosophy and political science can study physics as a major subject in UG level, will there be any comprehensive learning in one stream? Equally horrible will be the situation if a student, say, with chemistry as major discipline and physics and mathematics minor discipline in UG studies is allowed to take up economics in PG course. Would they learn anything? Along with this, imagine the situation when that particular student is offered computer science for dual PG degree at the same point of time! Combined with this is the discontinuation of study for some semesters as and when the student would desire taking advantage of the provision of multiple exits and entries. Is it a sensible proposition by any stretch of imagination? Regarding 'RPL' it is stated in UGC document that "Learnings achieved outside of formal learning or through learning and training in the workplace or in the community shall be based on the validation of prior learning outcomes achieved." The verbosity of the proposal is attractive as if the government is out to recognise both learning and training in the workplace. However, it is not specifically mentioned how, on the basis of 'RPL', a student would get entry into higher education. Can there be any academic justification of all such hotchpotch propositions other than a complete mockery of the learning process? We are reminded of a famous comment of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy, an

internationally recognized most revered scientist and academician during the days of freedom struggle. He said he was finding a bunch of 'pedant ignorant' holding degree of science coming out of the university. Perhaps that is what is intended by the authors of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 20)—strip education of its essence and alienate degree from learning.

Sidelining of Public Institutions

The structural imbalance in this framework is hard to ignore. Public universities, already underfunded and overstretched, will struggle to implement the logistical demands of biannual admissions, dual-degree, ADP, EDP, MEME programmes. Obviously, the private institutions, with their profit-driven models, would capitalize on these changes. The result? A gradual sidelining of government-run academic institutions, which have long been sanctuaries of affordable, equitable and desired education in India.

This shift is not merely an administrative or financial one—it is propelled by a definite design orchestrated by the ruling dispensation which has already announced commodification of education luring the private operators to mint profit by selling education to the prospective well-to-do buyers thereby automatically debarring the majority of the impoverished countrymen to get their children properly educated. Public institutions, notwithstanding their limitations, have historically been spaces of equipping the students with critical thought process, rational method of analysis and cohesiveness of thinking. Their marginalization paves the way for an academic system that is less about fostering democratic and scientific education and more about churning out workforce-ready individuals, bereft of the capacity or inclination to question structural inequities and flawed informatics.

Turning education as a commodity of capitalist market

The Draft UGC Regulations align neatly with the broader agenda of capitalist globalization that seeks to entrench profit-based market theories within every sphere of public life. Even Noam Chomsky, in his critique of privatization, has argued that the commodification of education serves to manufacture consent for a pro-market worldview. By shaping students into compliant workers rather than critical thinkers, privatized education systems reinforce the dominance of corporate behemoths.

The BJP-led central government, with its penchant for

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**Remembering
the
Martyrs of
daring
Kakori
incident
on
22 December
by
AIDYO**



Shimla, Himachal Pradesh



Jaipur, Rajasthan

AIBEUF opposes writing off huge NPAs

All India Bank Employees' Unity Forum (AIBEUF) in a statement issued on 10-12-24 strongly opposed the decision of Public Sector Banks to write off NPAs to the tune of Rs. 42000 Crore in the first six months of current financial year (April'24 to September'24). Already as high as Rs.15,31,453 Crore (RBI report 15-05-24) worth of defaulted loans have been written off from the books of account. Major benefits of this waiver are the large corporates.

Thus, the central government is giving subvention to the corporate behemoths from hard-earned public money deposited with the banks.

Forced Nudity, Sleep Deprivation: How CIA Tortured Prisoners At Black Sites

A former Guantanamo detainee's self-portraits depicting the alleged torture he faced at the hands of the CIA have surfaced from sealed court records. Mohammed Farik Bin Amin's drawings, presented during his sentencing trial earlier this year, provide a visual account of interrogation techniques used on detainees following the 9/11 attacks.

Bin Amin, a Malaysian national, was held in CIA-run black sites and later at Guantanamo Bay after he was detained in 2003. His sketches, presented before a military jury in January 2024, show scenes of abuse he claims to have endured during his detention. These include forced nudity, stress positions, sleep

deprivation and other inhuman interrogation methods.

One of the drawings depicts standing sleep deprivation, with Bin Amin shackled and forced to shift his weight to cope with the pain. Another shows him squatting with a broomstick behind his knees while shackled—a technique reportedly used by a CIA interrogator. ... Hooded solitary confinement is also shown through an image of him naked, shackled and subjected to white noise in a cold and isolated cell.

Then there is also a scene of a dark dungeon that captures him chained to a wall, resulting in physical injuries and discomfort. (NDTV 23-12-24)

Bookstall in Karnataka

**During the 3-day
Akhil Bharat
Kannada Sahitya
Sammelan held
in Mandya from
20 to 22
December, a
bookstall was put**



up by AIDYO. The response of interested readers was overwhelming and books worth Rs 1, 75, 000 were sold. Shri Go. Ru. Channabasappa, President of the Sammelan also visited the stall.

AIMSS Karnataka State Level Convention

All India Mahila Sanskritika Sanghathane (AIMSS) organized a "State Level Convention demanding preservation of Women's Dignity and Women's Health" on 16-12-24 at Kasturba Auditorium, Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru. Well-known Senior Litterateur Prof. Nadoja Baraguru Ramachandrapa inaugurated the conference.

Sri. Nadahalli Vasanth, Psychologist and Counsellor from Shivamogga was the main speaker of the sessions. Smt. Shobha S., State Secretary, AIMSS presided over the event. She welcomed the

eminent guests and the gathering which consisted of women from all walks of life who had come from different districts of Karnataka. Smt. Gundamma—AIMSS, Gulbarga presented her introductory speech touching upon the recent deaths of pregnant women in Karnataka and the ever rising atrocity on girl children not sparing even a one year infant. Prof. Baraguru Ramachandrapa applauded the hard-work and commitment of AIMSS in continuing relentlessly the fight for women's rights.



Burring asunder kernel of education

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centralization and market-driven policies, appears to have taken this lesson to heart. The rhetoric surrounding the UGC's reforms is replete with phrases like "global competitiveness" and "self-reliance," terms that veil the encroachment of privatization with the allure of progress. Yet these narratives conveniently omit the erosion of public institutions and the growing inequality in access to quality education.

Resisting the Tide

To counter this tide of privatization, it is imperative to reaffirm the role of education in man-making and shaping correct thought process. This requires not just increased public funding for universities but also a concerted effort to resist penetration of market theory in the academic arena. Education must be regarded as a space for cultivating critical, independent thinkers capable of developing a rational outlook, correctly differentiating between right and wrong and challenging oppressive structures, rather than as a factory for producing market-ready employees.

India's public universities, despite their challenges, remain vital arenas for imparting desired

scientific, democratic and universal education. Policies that erode the viability of providing proper education as defined above must be scrutinized with the utmost rigour.

The Trojan Horse Unmasked

The UGC's Draft Regulations, for all their claims of inclusivity and progress, bear the unmistakable marks of the agenda of capitalist globalization. They represent not a genuine effort to democratize education but a calculated move to entrench corporate interests within India's education system.

As with the Trojan horse of legend, the danger lies not in the structure itself but in what it conceals. The reforms, if left unchallenged, will not merely reshape India's education system—they will redefine its very purpose.

The question is whether we are prepared to see through the illusion and confront the realities of this market-driven transformation. What is, therefore, needed is to intensify the save education movement that has already surged forth with involvement of education-loving people including renowned academicians and intellectuals of diverse fields. This alone can put a break on the sinister design of the ruling Indian monopolists to bury asunder the kernel of education.

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