

Proletarian Era

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Remembering Teachings of Great Lenin on his death centenary

“ The forms of bourgeois states are extremely varied, but their essence is the same: all these states, whatever their form, in the final analysis are inevitably the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. The transition from capitalism to Communism certainly cannot but yield a tremendous abundance and variety of political forms, but the essence will inevitably be the same: the dictatorship of the proletariat.”

(The State and Revolution)

“ Bourgeois democracy, although a great historical advance in comparison with medievalism, always remains, and under capitalism cannot but remain, restricted, truncated, false and hypocritical, a paradise for the rich and a snare and a deception for the exploited, for the poor.”

(The Proletarian Revolution and Renegade Kautsky)



10.04.1870 - 21.01.1924

New National policy framework on Agricultural Marketing Backdoor entry of three anti-people anti-peasant black acts

Braving severe cold and scorching heat, the peasants at the Delhi border fought a determined thirteen month-long historic battle in demand for repealing three anti-peasant pro-corporate Black Farm Acts and for introducing legalized guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of crops. 735 precious lives were lost in course of the struggle. Yet the peasants remained steadfast and unwavering. Finally, under pressure of movement, the central BJP Government had to bend before the grit and fighting spirit of the peasants and repeal the acts. But the BJP government, in servile servitude of its monopolist and multinational masters, has been weaving new ploys to make the import of the Black Acts operative through backdoor.

With introduction of a new "National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing" on 25 November last, it has brought in old wine in a new bottle. The object of this policy, the government stated, is: "To build a vibrant marketing ecosystem in the country wherein farmers of all categories find a market of their choice to realize best price for their produce." (Chapter 2) And it will be done "with involvement of both public and private sectors. To achieve this, reforms in agricultural marketing laws and policies will

be instrumental." (Chapter 3.2)

Main propositions of new agricultural reforms

The intended "reforms" are, to state in brief:

- "Allowing setting up of private wholesale markets". (Chapter 7.1.3.1)
- "Permitting wholesale direct purchase by processors, exporters, organized retailers, bulk buyers from farm gate." (Chapter 7.1.3.2)
- "Allowing establishment and operation of private e-trading platform." (Chapter 7.1.3.4)
- "Contract farming as Tools for market and price risk management". (Chapter 10.1.1)
- "Price Insurance scheme on the lines of PM-Fasal Bima Yojana." (Chapter 10.1.3)

Ironically there is no mention of legally guaranteed MSP in this new policy framework.

The prevailing system and proposed changes

Before analyzing this reform programme, let us see what is the prevailing system of marketing of agricultural produce. At present, in India, there are 7057 organized wholesale markets established under APMC acts. Besides, there are 500 unregulated markets and 22,931 Grameen Haats (village market)

mainly controlled by small rural capitalists.

As per APMC acts, agricultural produce is to be sold by the peasants in the APMC yard to a group of licensed merchants. The APMC is a body elected by the peasants, which notwithstanding its failure to safeguard the interest of the peasants, had some control over

the licensed merchants and thus could partially implement some kind of fair pricing mechanism, and thus had at least a semblance of regulations. But after implementation of the prescripts of capitalist globalization, the then Congress government had decided to establish private markets besides

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Significant victory of Karnataka ASHA Workers



A significant victory was achieved by the ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers in Karnataka by spearheading an intense movement. More than

42,000 ASHA workers of Karnataka have conducted an exemplary struggle facing biting cold and all sorts of odds and difficulties under

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APMC Act

Total privatization of Agricultural Marketing system is the objective

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APMC yards. Then they argued that this would protect the interest of the peasants who will be free to sell their goods either to government procurement agencies or private operators. Through this market-based selling procedure, they would be able to realize best price for their produce. But those were all pretexts to operationalize just the opposite. In 2004, the APMC act was modified establishing parallel markets and free entry of all and sundry including the monopolist agro-giants and MNCs in the agricultural produce markets. Initially, the monopoly houses, to get a foothold in this extremely lucrative market, offered a bit higher price than those of government-run APMC yards to not only corner the produce, but also wean away the primary producers from the APMC approved merchants. Once they accomplished that and render the APMC yards defunct, the APMC licensed merchants were virtually wiped out from the scene. That is what the government then called "downsizing of distribution chain". Thus, crop procurement mechanism has virtually been in the hands of private players.

After coming to power, the central BJP government followed the same path with a giant stride and as a result the condition of the peasants became far more precarious. And now the central BJP government is embarking on a comprehensive planning to privatize all agricultural produce—rice, wheat, dal, vegetables, oil seeds, milk, meat and other articles of consumption through this "National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing." Not only this. They are trying to hand over the present system of marketing through APMC altogether in the name of modernization to the multinationals and even planned to control the operation of vast 29,000-odd Grameen haats. That means all out privatization of the Agricultural Marketing system.

Pro-peasant procurement system remained elusive since independence

Since independence, one of the major problems that confronted the peasants has been the lack of appropriate mechanism to sell their produce at remunerative price. And now, an unholy nexus of panchayat headmen-corrupt administration-ruling party satraps-contractors-price manipulators-blackmarket-

middlemen-agents of private operators control purchase of agricultural produce and coerce the hapless peasants to sell their crops below the cost of production and thereby incur heavy loss. For instance, a study has revealed that peasants get only about 53% of the price of cultivating rice, 31% being the share of middlemen and the remaining 16% being the marketing cost. In case of vegetables and fruit the share is even less—39% for vegetables and 34% for fruits. The share of middlemen in the case of vegetables is stated to be 29.5% and

giant multinationals are not their friends but foe. Their aim is to maximize profit by squeezing even the last drop of blood of the peasants. So, they have been opposing privatization of agriculture tooth and nail.

Anti-peasant features of new APMC policy

Now let us discuss some salient features of the new policy document:

First of all, we have shown above how an evil nexus deprives peasants of remunerative price. If any government wants to provide

Resist the National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing (NPFAM) by building up protracted powerful struggle — AIKKMS

In a statement issued on 4 January 2024, Comrades Satyawan and Sankar Ghosh, President and General Secretary, respectively, of AIKKMS stated:

"The draft National policy framework on Agricultural Marketing system, released recently by the Union Agricultural Ministry is more dangerous than the three farm laws repealed in 2021. If the new draft policy is implemented, will be devastating for the peasants, agricultural workers, petty producers and small traders. It's objective is to facilitate entry of giant agro-corporates into the 7057 registered markets and 29,931 Grameen Haats across India to be integrated with digital

public infrastructure. Its aim is to serve the interest of finance capital of home and abroad. This policy framework did not mention about legalizing guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP), a long standing demand of the Indian peasants.

We urge upon the peasants and the common people of India at large to build up united mighty sustained movement to foil this anti-peasant, anti-people, pro-monopoly policy of the central BJP government."

in case of fruits is 46.5%. Failing thus to realize even the input cost, let alone earning at least a pittance from selling crops, they fail to repay the loan they take mainly from the private moneylenders to finance cost of cultivation. Unable to bear with the mounting indebtedness, the peasants are in so much of despair as to commit suicide.

Privatization spree is wreaking havoc among peasants

Are the peasants demanding this privatization of agricultural marketing systems? No. Because they know that this privatization is ruining their lives. What is the experience of privatization of agricultural input production—fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, etc.? The prices have gone up to such an extent that it is practically intolerable for the peasants to bear that. Peasants know very well that the profit-hungry corporate sharks and

that to the peasants, it must first dismantle that nexus. But far from doing that the provision of the document suggests to strengthen these unscrupulous constituents of the nexus.

Secondly, the reform proposal suggests an all-out public-private partnership (PPP) model in the entire food chain system—from the farm to storage to food processing centres. It means, the reform proposal suggests to hand over trading of all food articles to the corporates including multinationals which means operation of the entire chain based on profit maximization, entailing not only further distress of the peasants but also rise in retail price of agricultural produce.

Thirdly, these reforms propose total deregulation, meaning allowing the private sector—specially giant agro-corporates—to establish dominance over production,

processing, and marketing. Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs), stated to be tasked with bypassing middlemen and traders to ensure a smooth and direct supply of desired and necessary raw materials to corporate industries, trade and export channels, are envisioned as key players in this system. This again will facilitate consolidated control of large corporations, marginalize small producers further and severely weaken the bargaining power of the crop cultivators and small traders and shop owners would be ousted from the market and turned into paupers.

Fourthly, the reform proposal suggests participation in speculative futures trading in the capital market through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Besides paving the way for complete corporate control over the domestic agriculture and food industry this will be instrumental in manipulating prices by the punters. Its consequences will be dire: increased indebtedness of the peasants being denied due price, forced migration of the wretched peasants in search of alternative livelihood, rising unemployment and escalation of peasant suicide. It means suffering and misery of the peasants and agricultural workers along with other sections of the common people will be increased manifold.

Fifthly, there is a proposal for using "Contract Farming as tool for market and price risk mitigation." (Chapter 10.1.1)

This is not a new thing. From the very inception of capitalist globalization, there has been an effort by the multinational corporations to introduce Contract Farming in our country. The moot question is contract between whom? On the one side are the giant multinationals with huge money power and having control over the governmental machinery and on the other side, the poor and marginal peasants. The giant multinationals are the buyers, and the small peasants are the sellers. So, if there is a contract between the two widely uneven entities, will not the terms be heavily tilted in favour of the contracting multinationals and agro-giants and the peasants would have no say and once they are entrapped in contract farming, they will have no way out but to remain in the thralldom of the corporate behemoths.

Sixthly, the reform proposal declares that there will be a "Price Insurance scheme on the lines of PM-Fasal Bima Yojana". Who has been the beneficiary of this much trumpeted Fasal Bima Yojana so

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BJP Rule erasing last vestiges of Parliamentary Democracy

As PM Modi had entered parliament during the first session of the House after 18th general election, he, in his usual dramatic posture, took a copy of the Constitution in hand and touched it on his head. The very intention was to pretend how much he and his government adore the Constitution and follow its directives. But fact is that notwithstanding his gesticulations, the last ten-year rule of the BJP government had been a saga of systematic wiping out whatever little vestiges of bourgeois parliamentary democracy have still been in vogue and clamp instead a fascist autocratic rule. Though denied absolute majority, the third term of the BJP rule is also poised to continue the process as the ruling monopolists the party is pledge-bound to serve as an obedient political manager, can no more afford to preserve the prescripts of parliamentary democracy, which following the inexorable law of social development, would endanger their very class rule.

Advent of bourgeois democracy

Many are still having illusion about parliamentary democracy and believe that this alone is the system of a civilized rule. Some even consider it as unchangeable since they do not fathom the course of historical development of political systems as superstructures of given economic bases. So is the necessity to recollect the advent of bourgeois democracy at a particular stage of social development. The present bourgeois parliamentary democracy and its codifications ensconced in the constitution evolved at a particular stage of historical process of social development as political superstructure of the capitalist economic base.

The bourgeoisie during its advent being a progressive force, replaced the old obsolete feudal order through bourgeois democratic revolution, established a new capitalist economic system, propelled industrial revolution and created a new order. In the sphere of economy, it was a period of free competition among the capitalists, politically termed as the period of *laissez faire*. The prevalence of this right to free and equal competition in the economic field necessitated creation of a new superstructure covering political, moral, ethical, cultural and juridical aspects of life to protect the interest of the bourgeoisie—a superstructure not only compatible with the bourgeois

economic system but also conducive to the growth and development of capitalism. It was a time when the bourgeoisie was the standard-bearer of democracy, individual freedom and liberty, albeit in the bourgeois sense.

To run this bourgeois political system, the rising capitalists established three permanent organs of parliamentary democracy—the Legislature (law-making body), the Judiciary (responsible for correct interpretation and implementation of the laws) and the Executive (meaning police military and bureaucracy who will ensure proper governance mandated by the other two wings) with definite delineation of their respective functions and hence granting each wing a relative autonomy. Lest there should be an overlapping of functions, a system of 'check and balance' was put in place. A term "fourth estate", attributed to British politician Edmund Burke, reflected the unofficial but widely accepted role the news media play in providing citizens with information they can use to check government power. Hence, an independent press which would include a diversity of voices and opinions, not just those that the power that be wanted, was sought to be in place.

Second, it was stated that as against hitherto monarchical rule of feudalism, a rule of people would be established. But how? So, it was decided to establish various democratic organizations like the political parties, trade unions, etc., to voice people's opinion. Through free and fair election, representatives of the people from different parties or even individuals were elected to the Legislature. The majority would form the government, and the others would be in opposition. At the same time, to prevent democracy sliding down into 'mobocracy', the founding fathers of bourgeois democracy also called for development of people's consciousness, so that they could be aware of their rights and responsibilities, judge the performance of the government and parliament.

And this was to be attained through constant debates and discussions on thousand and one problems of people's life. Through meaningful debates and discussions in parliament between the government and the opposition, laws were to be framed, and policy decisions undertaken. The government was to give due respect

and weightage to the opposition as both were to be people's representatives.

In this parliamentary democracy though a handful of people was to form the government, they were supposed to rule with the consent of people, and they remained accountable to people for their activities. So, it was a Rule by Consent; at the same time, it also provided the Right to Dissent, and the Right to the Minorities who dissented. It offered freedom of expression. The bourgeois parliamentary government was thus envisaged as a government "Of the people, for the people, by the people", the famous coinage by Abraham Lincoln. To ensure that the government gives effect to people's aspirations, demands and desires in totality, parliament was to be fully accountable to people. Thus, the Legislature was to be sovereign. And the sovereignty of parliament was to be contingent upon the sovereignty of the people. This was the concept of a bourgeois republic.

Degeneration of bourgeois democracy

But all these codes of an 'ideal' system were followed only for a temporary period as the capitalist system like the old feudal order was also premised on exploitation of man by man. Though touted as rule of people, it was in fact a rule of the bourgeoisie who was and is still minting profit by exploiting the working class and other oppressed sections of the masses. Notwithstanding the character of production becoming social (i.e. a produced good was not for exclusive consumption of the producers but for the masses in general), the ownership of the means of production (both industry and agriculture) was vested with the profit-monger bourgeoisie, the ruling class who assumed state power. This has been the point of contradiction. And so, the process of deviation from the ideal model of bourgeois democracy commenced within a short time.

As we had pointed out earlier also in the Proletarian Era, as soon as monopoly appeared in society, that brought about a marked change in the system of governance and functioning of the state. In place of free competition, there developed strong concentration and consolidation of capital in the hands of a few monopolists; in place of what so ever equality and liberty was there the change led to

concentration of power in the hands of a few and curtailment of rights and freedom of the vast majority. As capitalism grew more reactionary, the erosion of democratic norms accelerated, culminating in a form of fascist autocracy disguised as democracy in many capitalist-imperialist countries.

The once proposed doctrine of liberty-equality-fraternity has turned into ruthless colonialist-imperialists' and presently the neo-colonialists' policies. In the realm of culture, instead of following secular concepts, what has come out is mechanization and regimentation of thoughts effected by a fusion of spiritualism resting upon blind religious faith and technological aspects of science thus circumventing the true secular scientific rational outlook towards life.

So, in the present age of decadent moribund capitalism, or imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism, the ruling capitalist class, rather the monopolists in one and all countries are systematically subverting all canons of democracy, reducing parliament to a mere facade, curtailing the power of Judiciary and becoming more and more attached to autocracy and militarism. Military has in fact appeared as an important wing of imperialist-capitalist states relegating Legislature to the back, if not reducing it to a virtual non-entity in governance. The authority now is resting with a few chosen faithful servitors of the monopolists who act as executives even from within parliament itself. Elections, with every passing day, are reduced to a farce with money-muscle-media-administrative power ruling the roost. Free debates and discussions on people's problems, aspirations and demands in parliament, have virtually been dispensed with and gradually a small group of ruling dispensation is calling the shots.

Instead of promulgating legislations through democratic process of debates and discussions in parliament, and instead of Parliament having the sovereign power for making legislations, the power of legislation has virtually been vested in the hands of a few *de facto* executives within parliament. And there is a persistent attempt to create a committed Judiciary though jurisprudence which evolved during the period of rising democracy professed that none, whoever it might be, could interfere with the liberty of a citizen, except on the condition that he could support the legality of his action before a court of justice. In fact, the Judiciary was entrusted

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Legitimate demand for all-out state trading is cunningly skirted

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far? Fact is that this scheme has proved to be a bonanza for the private insurance companies who have reportedly siphoned out 97% of the premium income amount while claim settlement rate has been only 6.61%. In some cases, settled insurance claim has been as low as Rs 12. Can the proposed price insurance be any different?

Thus, it is clear that the proposed reform is a blueprint of complete corporate takeover of Agricultural Marketing system.

Devastating Consequences

What will be the consequence of this new proposal?

- 1) Peasants at large will be ruined and converted into landless people.
- 2) Millions and millions of small traders and shop keepers will be thrown out of the market.
- 3) Multinational corporations will control production, procurement and distribution of food grains and essential commodities bringing in its wake a continuous price spiral.

This is how the central BJP government is poised to serve the interest of their corporate masters.

All-out state trading

But the peasants and the common people at large are determined to fight to the last to resist this heinous design of the corporates and their henchmen. They once proved that during the year-long movement at the Delhi border. If, necessary, they will prove it again by organizing yet more powerful peasant movement across the country. Their concrete demands are as follows:

- i) Oust the capitalists from the business of food articles and essential commodities,
- ii) Legalize MSP and governmental procurement of the agricultural produce based on the C2+50% (entire cost of production) formula and
- iii) introduce all-out state trading immediately."

What does all-out state trading of food articles and essential commodities mean? It means there will be no private operator in either procurement or distribution of food articles and other essential commodities. The government would directly purchase the produce from the peasants at due price and then sell those to the countrymen through Public Distribution System (PDS) at cheaper affordable rate. For this subsidy if so needed, would

be provided by the government. All private shops selling foodgrains and other items would be transformed into government outlets. No civilized government can shun the responsibility of providing food to the people and instead commodify agriculture to swell the purse of the corporate sharks. Earlier, the Congress government refused to introduce all-out state trading. Now, the BJP government is not only toeing that pro-monopolist policy but out to formalize total corporatization of the agricultural sector.

BJP government's mischievous propaganda

To confuse the people, the BJP government is arguing as follows:

- 1) At this hour of financial crisis, it is not possible to bear the huge expenditure required for legalized guarantee of MSP.
- 2) If the government has to purchase agricultural produce at the rate of C2+50%, the prices of essential commodities will go up implying that demand for legalized guarantee of MSP is anti-people. Both the arguments are baseless.

Why is the general priceline shooting up? Why are the prices of industrial commodities increasing day by day? Why while the peasants are selling their produce at throwaway price, common people are purchasing that produce at an exorbitant price? Why? Because the monopoly houses, big business and their lackeys are controlling the entire pricing mechanism with the bourgeois government remaining as an indulgent onlooker.

Second argument of the government's argument is paucity of fund. Another fraudulent pretext. Recently, the central BJP government has announced MSP of 23 agricultural produce which, if procured 100%, would cost the exchequer Rs10.78 lakh crore. But the fact is that entire produce of these 23 crops is not marketable. Because, 1) A portion of the food articles produced are consumed by the peasants themselves. 2) A portion of the produce is preserved as seeds for the production next year. 3) A portion is used as fodder.

Based on this objective reality, Marketable portion of the agricultural produce is as below:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1) Wheat | : 75 percent |
| 2) Rice | : 80 percent |
| 3) Sugarcane | : 85 percent |
| 4) Lentil | : 90 percent |
| 5) Cotton and Jute | : 95 percent |

If we assume that overall 75% percent of agricultural produce is

marketable, then cost would be Rs 8 lakh crore. But from this, we are to subtract the cost of sugarcane which is purchased directly by the sugar-mill owners at their own offer price. Again, the government need not purchase entire cotton or jute. If it purchases 50% of the produce at the rate of C2+50%, the peasants would get remunerative price for rest of the quantity as rest could be sold to jute merchants. If the government procures food articles and essential commodities at MSP and then sell to the common people at an affordable rate, a substantial amount of money will fill the exchequer while countrymen would not feel the pinch of purchase price.

If we consider all these points together, then maximum Rs 2 lakh crore rupees over the present expenditure will be required for MSP. So, raising the point of shortage of fund is a bunkum. If the government is so concerned about revenue loss, how could it waive around Rs 15 lakh crores of tax and bank loan defaults for the multinationals during last three years? So, the problem is not

scarcity of fund, the attitude of the BJP government like its predecessor Congress government is to benefit the corporate houses at the cost of the toiling millions. That is the moot point. What prohibits a government to introduce all-out state trading even under the capitalist system?

Concluding lines

So, will it be wrong if one concludes that the government's unwillingness to legalize guaranteed MSP and introduction of new APMC policy framework are attempts to operationalize the essence of the three Black farm Laws? Because the purpose, as explained above, is to put a seal on whole-hog corporatization of agriculture and leaving the peasants at the mercy of the giant agromultinationals. In the process, the common people will also be further squeezed and pushed to the precipice of ruination. We are sure peasants and people at large will again rise up to the occasion and fight to the last to defeat the heinous design of the central BJP government. "We shall fight, we shall win."

Significant victory of Karnataka ASHA Workers'

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the leadership of Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha affiliated to AIUTUC. Finally, they have won this battle and state government had to bow down in before their heroic dogged struggle and announced a fixed honorarium of Rs.10,000 along with additional incentives.

Due to RCH portal, an online payment mode, ASHA workers were facing many kinds of problems in regard to receipt of payment because of absence of recording proper feedback of the work done by them. As a result, only a fixed payment of Rs. 5,000 from the state government was being received by them and receipt of remaining incentive given by the central government was very uncertain. Most of the times, it was much less compared to the work done. Hence a demand was raised for a consolidated payment of Rs 15,000 per month instead of incentive payment method through RCH portal. But health department never considered these genuine demands and somehow wanted to continue with RCH portal. In February 2024, deprived ASHA workers organized day and night protest for 2 days at Freedom Park, Bangalore.

Under the pressure of movement, chief minister of Karnataka assured that soon a

meeting would be convened to sort out the issues. But nothing happened despite 16 meetings. Finally, the ASHA workers decided to go for an indefinite strike from 7 January 2025, at Freedom Park at Bangalore. Bending before the firm determination and struggling spirit of ASHA workers, the CM alongwith his health minister had to agree to fix a consolidated amount of Rs 10,000 per month to each and every ASHA worker besides promising additional performance-based incentives and keeping door open for discussion on other demands.

Public support for this movement was worth taking note of. Retd. Supreme Court Judge and former Lokayukta, Justice Santhosh Hegde, Former Vice Chancellor of Hampi Kannada University Dr. Murigeppa, Educationist Niranjana Aradhya, writer Chandrakanta Vaddu, President of State Women commission Dr. Nagalakshmi Chaudhary came to protest and extended their full support. Somasekhar Yadgiri, State president and D. Nagalakshmi, State Secretary of ASHA union led the movement along with others. This significant victory once again proved that united organized movement under correct leadership can alone compel the power that be to yield to the just demands of the toiling people.

Falling Rupee — Cause of Concern

Every day, there is an unchanged headline in the media—"Rupee plunges to its all-time low". In other words, the slide of rupee vis-à-vis US dollar continues unabated. And that has made the operators and defenders of prevailing capitalist economy lose their sleep. Because, they are running out of options to either suppress or camouflage this reality. When India became politically independent, one US dollar was equivalent to Rs 4.16. Now it is Rs 85.48. Common people might not be aware of the adverse repercussion of this economic phenomenon. But fact is the sign is ominous and will contribute to their continuing economic distress. The PM Modi, his FM, other cabinet colleagues and the economists-columnists on their pay roll have been asserting that the fundamentals of Indian economy are strong enough to the Indian growth story is intact and India is 'decoupled' from the global economic downturn and would continue to remain unscathed. With presentation of union budget in the offing, the pedagogues and demagogues of capitalist economics will be pressed into action to cull various spurious data and titivate explanations to prove robustness of Indian economy despite continuously plummeting rupee, stubbornly high inflation, evident onset of recession, falling industrial output, close down of over 2.5 crore industries in last 10 years, rising unemployment, fast eroding income of toiling millions and plummeting household consumption. But now people have started to understand that the tall claims of the ministers and experts are hoaxes and are mockery of the objective reality.

With global crisis of capitalism accentuating with every passing day, apologists of capitalism who were hitherto portraying a wonderful picture of the Indian economy with their scholarly statements have no other way but to meekly admit that things are no more that hunky-dory for India. Rather, there is now a covert recognition in the government and its pliant circle that the impact of global economic gloom could be huge on India given the trade and financial linkages of the domestic economy with the global economy. Dipping value of rupee is latest manifestation of that and if this downslide is not arrested forthwith, economy might be in further peril. Dipping value of rupee is manifestation of that only.

What is meant by rupee depreciation? It means that there is a fall in the value of rupee in a floating exchange rate system. Floating exchange system is a currency system where the price of a nation's currency is determined by supply and demand in the foreign exchange

market, rather than by the government. To put it simply, a currency tends to become more valuable when its demand is higher than supply. On the contrary, a currency tends to become less valuable when its demand is less than supply. It is the basic theory. So, it is obvious that currently demand of rupee is much less than their supplies while the demand for US dollar is rising. Next point is, when the currency will have more demand and when it will have less demand. One of the prime reasons for this plummeting of rupee value is the growing trade deficit meaning that imports are increasingly overshooting exports. When we import, we pay in foreign currency, mostly in US dollar or Euro. Similarly, when we export, we receive payment in foreign currency. If exports are less than imports, there is a depletion of foreign currency reserve. Statistics would show that India's trade deficit is spurting by leaps and bounds. In November 2024, India's merchandise trade deficit reached a record high of \$37.8 billion. This was due to a 27% increase in imports to \$69.95 billion, and a 4.8% decrease in exports to \$32.1 billion. Thus, India's merchandise trade deficit in November 2024 surged to a record \$37.84 billion, up from \$27.1 billion in October 2024, according to government data. (Economic Times 16-12-24)

How were these deficits being financed? Apart from massive borrowings from either market or international agencies like IMF, foreign currency received in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and foreign currency remittances by non-resident Indians (NRIs) which fall far short of requirement, the source the government had been falling back upon heavily to cover its trade deficit was hefty inflow of speculative investment made in foreign currency by foreign entities and institutional investors (FIIs) in Indian capital market (both stock market and debt market as well as in derivative trading). But when this 'hot money' is withdrawn heavily by the FIIs by way of selling their shareholdings, government has to pay them mostly in dollars which reduces dollar reserve. Portfolio investment, as it is called in the economic parlance, is fickle because unlike productive investment, shifting speculative investment is fast and easy particularly in today's technology-enabled modes of transaction and international operation. If there is slightest indication that speculation in one particular market might not yield expected gains, the speculative foreign investors including FIIs would

desert that market in no time and look for better option. But the government shows amount of fickle FII inflow in speculative stock market as accretion to foreign currency reserve. Likewise, the parking of funds in banks and other financial institutions in foreign currencies mostly dollar by NRIs are also shown as foreign currency stock of the government though is no stable stock and can be withdrawn any time by the overseas Indians.

You can put it down to any number of reasons: strength in the US dollar, rising geopolitical risks, volatile and often high crude prices, and unpredictable foreign investor interest. The crux of the matter is that it is now an uncomfortable trophy to flaunt. The PM Modi before ascending to power at the Centre, linked the rupee's fall to corrupt governance of his predecessors and even warned that a falling rupee would lead to other countries taking advantage of India. This vilification of depreciation in the currency now leaves the BJP government and its leaders as well as many of its admirers in an awkward spot. What should a weak rupee now be a barometer of? Corruption, poor economic fundamentals or incompetent financial management?

In what way does the Indian government handle the situation? RBI can intervene in the currency market by buying or selling US dollars, which is the benchmark currency, to influence the exchange rate of their local currencies. The RBI, for example, can buy dollars to prevent an appreciation in the rupee, and sell dollars to prevent a depreciation. The mechanism is a function of demand and supply. When the RBI buys dollars, it floods the market with rupees, which lowers the value of the rupee-or depreciates it—due to this increased supply. On the other hand, when it sells dollars, the RBI reduces the supply of rupees in the market, thereby appreciating its value. For example, RBI has sold a little more than \$26 billion worth of its foreign currency reserves since end-September in a likely bid to stabilize the ongoing fall in the rupee and ensure the currency hovers around a particular benchmark. That benchmark seems to be Rs 84 to a dollar. In what feels like chucking pails of water at a forest fire, the RBI has now been selling dollars in the spot market to support the rupee. Another way of arresting fall of rupee by boosting export.

But despite PM Modi's drumming into the slogan "Make in India", Indian goods are finding overseas market too competitive for them to enter. On the other hand, imports are increasing because

manufacturing the imported goods or spare parts would be more expensive and hence disfavoured by the Indian industrialists concerned solely about profit maximization. So, exports are not just stagnating but dipping. India has recorded a fall of 4.85 per cent in the merchandise exports in November last.

How does rupee depreciation impact people's life? As stated above, India's imports are far more than exports. What are the things does India import? It imports crude oil, electrical goods and spare parts, computers and spare parts, various chemicals, edible oil, iron and steel and medical equipment among others. So, if the import cost increases, prices of these goods as well as other items manufactured in the country with the imported parts shots up. Likewise, if import price of raw materials goes up, the cost of finished goods also soars. So, these increased prices makes a dent into the pockets of the growingly pauperized people. Also, there is huge import of gold, diamond, gems and platinum by the affluent and merchants which also spikes import bill and the brunt is borne by the common people.

Finally, why is this downturn? If one asks the Union Finance Minister, the batch of economic advisers to the government or the academicians belonging to the stream of economics and finan—"This is temporary, and economy will bounce back because our fundamentals are strong". But with every passing year, this optimism is found to be a daydream as economy is not just faltering but is on a steady downslide. The reason? The reason is that everyone is veering around the confinement of capitalist economy which, in its present decadent moribund stage, is not only turned obsolete but enmeshed in a growing unsolvable crisis created by its inherent law of operation. When capitalism itself is gasping in its death throes, how can there be a turnaround or revival? In fact, all economic problems including the feature of currency depreciation are stemming from capitalist system itself. So capitalism will continue to rot but the festering sores will be cured—such a thought is an absurdity of highest order.

Let it be absolutely sure to the toiling people that remedy to all menaces, whether currency depreciation or price rise or unemployment, lies in overthrow of capitalism. Seeking reprieve through reform is a deception of highest order. Till the time capitalism is not overthrown, the only course is to intensify people's movement to exert pressure on the government to dissuade it from adopting more and more pro-capitalist policies and not to be carried by the sham positivity of the apologists and servitors of capitalism.

Bourgeois Democracy

Military has replaced legislature as one of the key pillars of bourgeois governance

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with the special power to safeguard the liberty of a citizen against any arbitrary exercise of the power by the Executive.

Tyranny of BJP rule

In this backdrop, if one looks at the last ten years of the BJP rule, it would be evident why and how the remains of bourgeois democracy have been wiped out in a planned way much to the glee of the ruling monopolists and peril of the toiling millions. It is pertinent to mention that this erosion of parliamentary democracy began right from the day India became politically independent, and the aspiring Indian bourgeoisie was saddled in state power. The Congress, which as trusted representative of the ruling bourgeoisie, worked as handmaiden in fostering the process of gradual degeneration. And now the BJP is engaged in carrying out the course as expeditiously as possible. It is not possible to discuss at length each measure adopted by the BJP in accelerating this degeneration. So, we shall confine ourselves to some of the major steps the BJP has taken to subvert democratic norms, practices and ethics.

Subversion of autonomy of independent democratic institutions

India's democracy is undergoing a profound transformation under the rule of PM Modi and the BJP. The BJP's actions over the past decade have been to systematically undermine the relative independence of the autonomous democratic institutions like Planning Commission, University Grants Commission, Election Commission and make them virtually appendage of the government i.e. Executive. This is grossly violative of the laid down democratic principles which stipulated that the three wings of democracy-Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary-were to function with clear delineation and a system of checks and balances to prevent encroachment on each other's autonomy.

Farce of election and exacerbating people's apathy towards politics

Herbert Spencer, the English philosopher, democrat, and psychologist who is known for introducing, what he called, social Darwinism to promote societal stability once questioned: *"If men use their liberty in such a way as to surrender it, are they, therefore, nonetheless, slaves? If people by a plebiscite elect a man to be despot, do they remain free because despotism of their own making? And the coercive edicts issued by him to be regarded as*

legitimate because they are the ultimate outcome of their own votes?" What he meant to say was that people must exercise their franchise in such a way that no despot is elected and coerce them with draconian edicts. He was right because that called for political consciousness, involvement in and not aloofness towards political affairs by the common people. But is that happening in our country? For quite a long time, there has been a persistent attempt on the part of the ruling class to turn the entire voting exercise into a farce through a slew of manipulations. It is ensured that only politicians subservient to bourgeois class politics are elected as legislators and then use that position to serve their masters alongside full scale self-aggrandizement. Since the bourgeois system in its decaying stage has become utterly corrupt by giving all principles, scruples, ethics and morals a decent burial, those who are servile to the system are also plunging into the dungeon of bare-faced corruption. And we are seeing these corrupt self-seeking unscrupulous bourgeois politicians who manage to win in the hustings with the backing of the ruling class, indulge in all sorts of unwanted activities, care a fig for people's interest and merrily switch sides for lucre and power. This makes people develop an apathy for politics as a whole. BJP leaders including bourgeois politicians and leaders of all hues have been telling white lies in public, skirting issues of people's concern, shamelessly indulging in self-projection and conducting themselves in undemocratic manner. This has increased significantly during the BJP rule when, leave aside uplifting political understanding of people, attempts are made to regiment their thought process by incessant fomenting of crass communalism-casteism-parochialism-chauvinism and paralyzing secular scientific education to inhibit the process of development of political consciousness.

Curtailment of individual liberty

Under PM Modi-led BJP rule, there has been a significant encroachment on individual liberties and curtailment of hard-earned democratic rights. Haunted by the fear-complex of anti-capitalist revolution ordained by the laws of social development, the ruling monopolists are now desperate in snatching all civil and democratic rights of the people lest those

become boomerang on them. So, draconian black acts are being promulgated, voice of protest gagged, legitimate democratic movements brutally suppressed. Of late, the criminal laws have been so amended as to be more stringent and provide unbridled power in the hands of the Executive to put anyone behind bars on any flimsy pretext. Now, criticizing the ruling party has been made synonymous with sedition. Anyone critical of the actions of the government is branded as anti-national or terrorist. The coercive measures to contain historic peasants' movement bear eloquent testimony to that. Confinement in jail for years without trial has become commonplace. Using investigating agencies like CBI, ED and Income Tax office to harass and even arrest opposition leaders including chief ministers has become a daily affair. Legislating highly anti-working class wage code and other pro-capitalist labour laws are all aimed at curbing trade union and other rights even the very right to work.

Curbing freedom of expression

Freedom of expression, a cornerstone of democratic society, has been systematically undermined. The BJP government has targeted journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens who express dissenting views. Thomas Jefferson, one of the proponents of bourgeois democracy, aptly stated, *"Nothing is unchangeable but the inherent and inalienable rights of man."* Yet, under PM Modi's rule, these inherent rights have been under constant threat. The use of sedition laws and other legal instruments to silence dissenting voices has created a climate of fear and self-censorship. Arrest of editors and vocal journalists who dared to criticize government's policies, raid on dissenting media houses including reputed foreign media like BBC has brought India's position down to 159 among 180 countries considered in the 2024 edition of the press freedom index, published by the international organization 'Reporters Without Borders'. Top monopolists are buying out the media houses so that nothing adverse to their class interest is circulated. So, the concept of "Fourth Estate" has been consigned to the abyss of oblivion.

Promulgating Black Laws to snatch civil and democratic rights

The BJP has also promulgated several other controversial laws.

The proposition of preparing National Citizens' Register (NRC), promulgation of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the abrogation of Article 370 to take away the special status of Kashmir agreed to at the time of accession of that land to India are prime examples of legislations that have sparked widespread protests and criticism. By pushing through such legislation without adequate debate, the BJP has demonstrated a disregard for democratic processes of governance involving all.

Avoiding debates in parliament

As pointed out above, vibrant parliamentary democracy thrives on robust debates and discussions in the House on important issues concerning people. However, the BJP government has shown a penchant for bypassing parliamentary procedures. Many important legislations have been passed with minimal debate in parliament and even bypassing parliament through ordinance route. This avoidance of debate stifles the opposition's ability to scrutinize government policies and hold the Executive accountable. In fact, the number of parliamentary sessions have also been drastically reduced. In many sessions, the PM is found to be absent.

Undermining role of Opposition

As mentioned above, a healthy democracy requires a strong opposition to keep governance under check and scrutiny. Opposition members are also elected representatives and have right to be heard. The BJP government, however, has virtually been denying the role of the opposition. In the House, the speaker, a ruling party appointee, is often found to be disallowing the Opposition to speak. Even on flimsy pretext, almost all the Opposition leaders are suspended to enable the government to have an easy passage to controversial, if not highly objectionable bills. Opposition leaders also face relentless persecution, often through politically motivated investigations and arrests. This strategy of targetting opposition leaders and legislators by letting loose investigating agencies on them is perceived as an attempt to weaken and intimidate political opponents.

Inciting religious blindness and communal passion

The BJP ministers including top leaders have been openly inciting communal passions, spreading anti-minority hatred and deepening societal divides even, at times, within the House. Raising slogans like "Jai Sriram" inside the House clearly breaches its basic democratic character. By promoting crass communal Hindutva agenda and

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90-hour week — 'compassionate' proposal from stable of capitalism

In February 2023, Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy, while speaking at the All India Management Association's (AIMA) foundation day celebrations and addressing specifically a question on loss of human resources due to brain drain, said on the sidelines of the event that compassionate capitalism should be embraced universally. Then he said: *"Compassionate capitalism combines the best aspects of free-market capitalism with the compassion found in liberalism and socialism. By doing so, we can create a model for the world—an India that stands as a shining example of how capitalism can succeed while still uplifting the most vulnerable members of society."* What a novel proposition! Integrating capitalist market economy, a prescript of capitalist globalization, with compassion found in socialism! Mixing oil with water!

After two years, he again advocates the same theory but now in a bit concretized form. In his speech at the Indian Chamber of Commerce's centenary celebration in Kolkata in last December, he said that young Indians should commit to a 70-hour work week "to help India achieve the top global position". In the same speech, he admitted that 80 crore Indians are languishing in poverty and combating poverty requires generation of employment which results in disposable income. Really a novel innovation(!) as if it was hitherto unknown to all of us. But who is not creating job at proper remuneration to generate disposable income? No, he did not enter into this basic question because he knew he would invite trouble in that event and might need to eat a humble pie. But then he craftily switched to his strong advocacy for 70-hour workweek without explaining how is this proposition related to poverty alleviation or making capitalism compassionate. But he did not elaborate how capitalism, which obviously, according to him, is not compassionate, would acquire that quality.

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Now, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Chairman S.N. Subrahmanyam has suggested that employees should work not 70 but 90 hours a week including Sundays to remain competitive. He then shared an anecdote to justify his stance. He spoke of a conversation with a Chinese person who said that China could surpass the US because of the country's strong work ethic of working 90 hours a week as against 50 hours a week in US. Subrahmanyam's comments come at a time when mental health and work-life balance (WLB) have become an important part

of the discussion between employers and employees. In July 2024, the death of a 26-year-old Ernst & Young (EY) consultant brought attention to issues concerning work culture and job-related stress. *"What do you do sitting at home? How long can you stare at your wife? How long can the wives stare at their husbands? Get to the office and start working"*, Subrahmanyam commented. But his flippancy did not go without retort. Expressing ire, one rebuffed in this very language, *"L&T is one of the worst when it comes to WLB and also pays peanuts. Even a tier one engineering graduate gets only 35,000 per month in hand after working for 6.5 days a week in some remote location devoid of even the basic facilities. During the first 12 months after joining, they only give 7 casual leaves. That means you can't even go home once. More than 90% of campus hires leave the organization within the first 3 years. 50-60 per cent leave in the first year itself."* Media has not reported if Subrahmanyam had answer to this pointed question.

In fact, what is evident is that the apologists of ruthlessly exploitative capitalism which is breeding all evils and aberrations like mounting unemployment, retrenchment and falling wages wreaking havoc in people's life, has now fielded some its spokespersons to bamboozle people with pot-hooks and extravagant hopes destined to turn into dust and ashes. Preaching 90 hours a week is a clear espousal for turning the employees into devout wage slaves to further swell the purse of the giant monopolists. Advancement of the country means continuous upliftment of the standard of life of countrymen and not yawning gap between a few super rich and the wretched millions. That was seen in socialist Soviet Union where progressively working hours were brought down from 8 to 6 hour a day and plan was afoot to further reduce it to 5 hours. That gave people enough time to spend with their families, neighbours and friends, leisure hours for enjoying cultural events and intellectual exercises. Narayana Murthy, Subrahmanyam and co. know these very well and also are aware of the growing crisis of capitalism endemic of the system. They also know that capitalism now in its death throes is utterly inhuman, extremely corrupt and distinctly anti-people, anti-employee, anti-worker. Hence, the talk of compassionate capitalism or capitalism with a human face is akin to a square in a round hole. Don't worry sirs! You carry on your mission and the working people know that the devil never runs short of subterfuge.

Trump's acquittal — bares the rickety skeleton of US democracy

US have been one of the first modern bourgeois democratic states, and its first president George Washington is called father of democracy. US rulers still boast of that. But much to the dismay of not only common US citizens but people worldwide, democratic norms and the country's legal procedure are far from uniform for all. There have been many instances in the past to substantiate this opinion. But the latest example is so naked that even slightest of apprehension, if any, about law not being equal is destined to be wiped out. Thus, we find the example of President-elect Donald Trump who has as many as 36 cases against him including falsifying records to cover up a sex scandal. On 30 May last year, he was convicted on all 34 felony counts by the Manhattan jury. He fought tooth and nail to avoid the spectacle of being sentenced. Prosecutors argued that despite the tawdry nature of the allegations, the case was about an attempt to corrupt the 2016 election. Trump flipped the script. He has argued that the case—along with three other criminal indictments and civil lawsuits accusing him of fraud, defamation and sexual abuse - was an effort by opponents to weaponize the justice system against him and harm his reelection campaign. He frequently lashed out at prosecutors and witnesses, and the trial judge, Juan M. Merchan ultimately fined Trump \$10,000 for violating a gag order.

Then the Supreme Court rejected his effort to block it clearing the way for him to be sentenced for felony crimes days before he is poised to return as the country's president for the second term. But then, though the same New York judge Merchan sentenced Trump in his hush money case to unconditional discharge, which means the incoming president will serve no jail time and pay no fines even after being convicted on 34 felony business fraud charges. One has been the hush money case in which Trump allegedly paid \$1,30,000 as compensation to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels to stay quiet about sex he had with her in 2006.

This payment is alleged to have been made by falsification of business records which is punishable by up to four years in prison. The other three serious charges have been to overturn the 2020 election loss, retention of classified documents after defeat in the 2020 election and leaving the White House, conspiracy to defraud the US, and conspiracy against the rights of citizens.

Penalties for the charges include:—

- Conspiracy to defraud the US is punishable by a fine or up to five years in prison
- Obstructing an official proceeding is punishable by a fine or up to 20 years in prison
- Conspiracy against rights is punishable by a fine or not more than 10 years in prison, or both

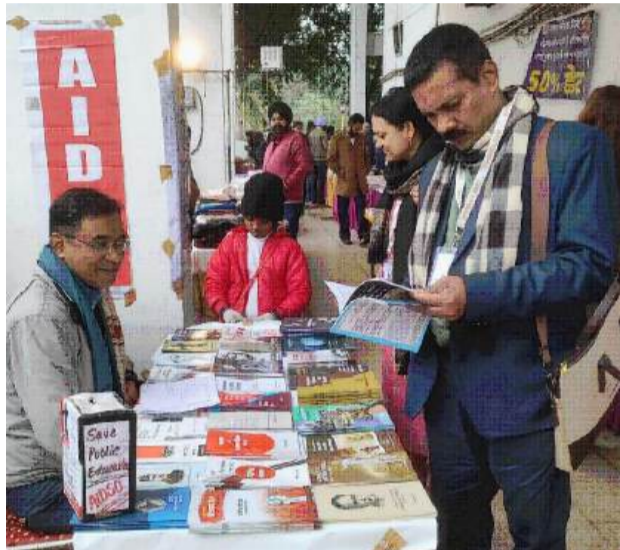
Trump, it is pertinent to mention, did not testify during the six-week trial last year but went on repeatedly disparaging Justice Merchan and Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who filed the case, in public statements. Yet, the President-elect walked out scot-free. Justice Merchan acknowledged that leniency was shown viewing Trump's ascendancy to the presidential post in 10 days hence.

Trump thus becomes the first US president to be a sentenced felon. Earlier, we had seen that the then US President Bill Clinton was accused of having illicit sex with Monica Lewinsky, an intern at white house. Clinton admitted in a taped grand jury testimony that he had engaged in an "improper physical relationship" with Lewinsky. But he was also granted acquittal by a US senate trial. So, it is evident that everyone, the unlike claim in the doctrine of bourgeois democracy, is not equal in the eyes of law. Under 18 U.S. Code § 2242 Sexual abuse, a sexual act with another person without that other person's consent, to include doing so through coercion; or attempts to do so, shall be fined and imprisoned for any term of years or for life. Though this clause is applied in case of ordinary US citizens, the political high-ups, the powerful and influential are conveniently granted impunity for sexual promiscuity or crimes. Trump, an industrial baron, tax evader and a person of questionable character is now going to be at the helm of the governance of a country which had once played a remarkable role in augury of bourgeois democracy.

But now, with passage of time, capitalism there had long reached the stage of monopoly and imperialism in its most decadent state, utterly reactionary, wantonly corrupt and despotic, trampling underfoot even the barest precepts of bourgeois democracy. So, the country which once talked of equality, fraternity and liberty is now an abode of inequality, with liberty only for a few super-rich in the ruling quarter and equality among or for people buried for good.



Observance of birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule by AIMSS in Maharashtra, Nagpur



A book stall was set up by AIDS0 at the venue of the 83rd Indian History Congress at Punjabi University Patiala, Punjab from 28th to 30th December 2024

All India Convention, by All India Jan Adhikar Suraksha Committee

At the call of All India Jan Adhikar Suraksha Committee, a national convention on Environmental Hazards mainly due to deforestation, Forest Conservation Rules-2022, Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act-2023, Forest Rights Act-2006 and present scenario of tribal, traditional forest dwellers and toiling poor people, was held on 5 January 2025 at Ram Mohan Library Hall, Kolkata. Hundreds of delegates from different states attended the convention. Shri Shambhunath Nayak, a popular mass leader of the movement to protect forests and forest dwellers from Odisha presided over the convention.



Padmashree Madhu Mansoori (Hangsmukh) inaugurated the convention. Nationally acclaimed scientist Dr Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay, ex-Head of the Department of Geology, Calcutta University, Shri Vikram Acharya, leader of the movement to protect forest and forest dwellers and founder senior member of JAYS from Madhya Pradesh, Prof. Soumitra Banerjee, Bhatnagar prize awardee scientist and former director of Indian Institute of Scientific Education and Research, Kolkata and Sri Swapan Ghosh, Chief Advisor, All India Jan Adhikar Suraksha Committee delivered their valuable speeches. The main resolution of the convention was placed by Shri Bisambar Mura, General Secretary, All India Jan Adhikar Suraksha Committee.

Dharna in demand for repealing anti-education NEP 20 at Chaibasa, Jharkhand, on 1 January 2025, on the occasion of 71st foundation anniversary of AIDS0



Bourgeois Democracy

Democratic laws, codes, principles given a decent burial

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using inflammatory rhetoric, the party has long been talking of converting democratic India into a theocratic state like Pakistan or Bangladesh thereby banishing India's secular ethos.

Overstepping into Judiciary's jurisdiction

The BJP's interference with the Judiciary is another alarming trend. Efforts to dismantle the collegium system of judicial appointments and remove the Chief Justice of India from the panel for choosing the Chief Election Commissioner indicate a concerted effort to undermine judicial independence. Also, there is a noxious policy of the BJP to extract legal verdict on crucial issues in its favour by dangling carrot of plum post-retirement assignments to the judges. For example, one CJI whose bench authored the most controversial Ayodhya judgement was inducted in the Rajya Sabha immediately after his retirement. Another CJI who quashed a second FIR against union Home Minister was appointed as governor of a particular state. On the other hand, a judge who was slated to hold Hindutva brigade responsible for Delhi riot was transferred in the wee hours of night so that he could not pronounce the judgment next morning.

A High Court Chief Justice was meted out punishment transfer after reporting to the Chief Justice of India about corruption of some judges, backed by evidence. Thus, the BJP government is trying to either lure or bully the judges—an act militating against the basic tenets of parliamentary democracy. It was once asserted: "Appeal to reason must not be restricted by law, for it is the basis of the democratic form of government."

This underscored the importance of an independent Judiciary in bourgeois democracy. But the actions of PM Modi-led BJP government threaten to mummify this vital pillar of democracy.

In sum

Instances are many but we need to stop at this for brevity's sake. But whatever little has been narrated is enough to show how in the BJP regime, there has been a systematic subversion of democratic principles and institutions, how it has taken steps that threaten the very foundations of India's democracy and firm up fascist autocracy. Let us conclude with what Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the outstanding Marxist thinker and our leader, teacher and guide, observed way back in 1962. "...fascism has

become the order in all the capitalist countries now...In a definite conjuncture of circumstances, when the normal form of its economic organization, political institution and administrative apparatus fails to cope with the mounting capitalist crisis, when it becomes next to impossible to maintain any amount of stability of market and earn maximum profit, when the masses of the people, hard-hit by insecurity in life owing to crisis, feel the necessity for change in the existing conditions, the bourgeoisie, in order to maintain the most effective operation of the basic law of maximum profit of the capitalist economy under the circumstances, throws aside all veils from class dictatorship which parliamentary democracy puts on...

The distinguishing features of fascism, namely, economic centralization, maximum concentration of political power in the state, administrative rigidity, cultural regimentation and identification of the interests of the monopolists with that of the state are no doubt discernible in varying degrees in all the capitalist countries of the world, not excluding the backward countries in Asia and Africa....fascism ... assumed different forms in different countries...

Somewhere it has adopted the form of individual dictatorship, somewhere the autocratic rule of a military junta and yet in some other countries it has assumed the democratic garb, keeping parliament still alive but limiting its power by way of economic and political centralization."

(Call of the Hour, SW Vol. II)

★ Prosecute and punish all criminals involved in the Abhaya incident and corruption and threat culture in the health and education system ★ Withdraw immediately The disastrous National Education Policy 2020 and its copy State Education Policy 2023, Labour Policies against workers and public interest including Four Labour Codes, and the Electricity Policy 2022 and the Smart Meters in Electricity ★ Fair price for Farmer's Crops ★ Opening of all closed tea gardens, announcing minimum wages for tea workers to live like human being ★ Demanding Fare Wages and year-round work for agricultural laborers ★ Against unemployment, exorbitant price hikes, violence against women and communal politics



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