

Proletarian Era

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Rally of pledge

ignited glowing flame of women's upsurge

Gliding, flowing, running like streams

Disgorging from hills above,
Flooding like tides flushing through meadows,
Messengers sweep through arches overhead.

From north, from south, From east and west,
From all over the land.

All else had stopped, but this flowing, rumbling tide. All talks had ceased, but this chorus of slogans. Behold, my people, what a moment of history to be a witness to: A wave of fluttering white flags, a stream of white-capped, white-dressed marchers, occasional glimpse of green-capped volunteers were echoing the roar of a firm pledge to resist the sustained savagery of outraging modesty of the women. Never has the state seen such unending disciplined, determined procession of awakened women,



fists clasped in resolve to build up a sustained powerful movement to resist ongoing atrocities against their sisters, their children or even mothers. In the abyss of darkness

and gloom appeared an epitome of light—yes, human conscience is no more dormant, voice of protest has not been muted, fighting spirit has not died down.

Dragged into subjugation, women had long been doomed to languish in fetters in the patriarchal society. But instead of abatement of their woes, the world for women is not just in a downward spiral but become horrific. Objectification of women has assumed such a proportion that it has become nightmarish for them to protect their modesty and dignity. Rapes, gangrapes, lynching, dowry deaths, trafficking, acid attacks, honour killing, female foeticide and infanticides—such is in store for women in this rotten inhuman capitalist society.

Reckless bestiality started raving wild from the Nirbhaya episode in Delhi in 2012, followed by a spate of such savage attacks in Unnao, Hathras in UP, Kathua in Kashmir and of late in the gory episode of Abhaya in R G Kar

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Don't push the country into abyss of darkness—BASAD (M)

Comrade Masud Rana, coordinator, BASAD (Marxist) issued a statement on the concerning situation of Bangladesh on 19-12-25:

While being treated at a Singapore Hospital, Osman Hadi, spokesperson of Inquilab Mancha and a participant of July upsurge, has succumbed to his bullet injury caused by an assassin. We express profound grief at his demise. Such an untimely death of a July fighter is in no way acceptable. After the end of a prolonged fascist rule, the entire population of the country expected establishment of democratic system.

But, on the contrary, law and order situation has considerably deteriorated in last one year and a half. As a consequence, a July fighter like Osman Hadi was shot dead while electoral campaign was going on. What is of grave concern is that the killers could not be taken into custody with due expediency. The interim government can in no way deny its responsibility for having not been able to arrest the culprits. Failure to properly handle such a sensitive issue warrants resignation of the Home advisor. The government must ensure that

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AIMSS on Unnao rape case

Expressing serious concern at with suspension of life sentence of and granting bail to former BJP MLA Kuldip Singh Sengar, accused in the infamous 2017 Unnao rape case, Comrade Chhabi Mohanty, General Secretary, AIMSS, in statement on 25-12-25 said that apprehension about safety of the relatives of the victim girl cannot be ruled out and such a reprieve to a perpetrator of a heinous crime does militate against justice to the victim and her family.

SUCI(C) strongly protests planned destruction of Aravalli hills



Comrade Provas Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 24-12-25:

“The recent Supreme Court judgement accepting the new

definition of the 692 kilometer long Aravalli Hills spread across north-west India that ‘any landform having an elevation of 100 meters or more from the local relief’ would only be reckoned as part of that Hill range, as proposed by a committee spearheaded by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is going to be catastrophic for

this already beleaguered landscape. Under the new definition, only hill areas above a certain elevation (around 100 meters) are officially recognized as part of the protected

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hospital and rape of a student in a law college in Kolkata—the list is endless. No one, from a six month old baby to 80 year old lady—is spared by the insane rapists and killers. However, hardly any offender is brought to book as the power that be protects them. It was even seen that when such woman-bashers and murderers were released from the jail, they were greeted with garlands by the ruling party leaders. So, such growing crime against women is often found to become a virtually state-sponsored affair.

When the sexual assaults, domestic violence and persecutions have become beyond endurance and justice remained elusive, something cherished, long cherished so fondly, appeared with splendour. The women themselves closed their ranks and built up a platform named 'Awaken ye women, the glowing flame'—a line from the blazing lyre of revolutionary poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. They planned out a detailed programme, with twelve distinguished personalities—all women—from different professions as convenors. They roused their friends, neighbours and relatives to join in marches throughout the state for 7 long days from 9 December and then converge at College Square, Kolkata, on 16 December in front of the statues of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, doyen of Indian Renaissance and an uncompromising fighter who undauntedly upheld the cause of women. 9 December was the birth as well as death anniversaries of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, a thinker, writer and educationist of the 19th century Bengal, a legendary figure for her efforts in support of women's independence and

Rally of Pledge

women's education. And 16 December was the Nirbhaya Day.

The marches originated from four points—Coochbehar in North Bengal, Purulia in Western part of the state, Jhargram, a tribal belt and Kakdwip in South Bengal. The marchers *en route* to Kolkata passed through different districts where reception committees, formed by the persons of eminences, greeted them.

At every spot, there were rallies, meetings and cultural programmes. The response was overwhelming since everyone wants the question of women safety to be addressed in right earnest. Defying cold, the marchers moved from place to place, had brief stopovers at the venues organized by the reception committees of various districts, relished whatever food was offered and then again stood in queue to trudge to the next destination. For all these seven days, they felt no tiredness, no fatigue nothing because they imbibed the cause and prepared themselves for the strenuous voyage. And they also felt the warmth of close association, fervour of fraternity and joy of collectively raising voice in favour of a just cause.

College square, Kolkata, wore a different look on 16 December, the closing day of the first phase of the Rally of Pledge. Right from the morning, people from all walks of life began to reach the spot and be a witness to a really historic event. The marchers from the different parts of the state first assembled at three different spots. From there, three well-decorated rallies

congregated at the venue from three directions as if it was confluence of three tidal rivers. People on the streets had made common cause with the onlookers stranded on the street sides. Invisibly and silently now the two were bound together. Hardship of being stranded for hours has melted into tolerance born of identity of cause.

During three hours of concluding programme on a well decorated dais, the convenors of the momentous rally, and well-known personalities briefly addressed the gathering. Also, various groups presented inspiring songs, staged street dramas and gave dance performances.

These marchers of the 'Rally of Pledge' kindled a new hope among the masses because what they witnessed was a real people's struggle which surged forth spontaneously but in a well-organized well-coordinated manner with a promise of being sustained in different forms. Only in this way, the wails of assaulted women can be halted, the lust of the pervert beasts can be curbed, flame of insensate cowardly violence on innocent women, and the government-administration turning a blind eye forced to undertake some remedial steps.

Our Party, the SUCI(C), has long been exhorting the suffering citizens to come forward, close their ranks, form people's struggle committees and spearhead people's movement on the burning issues of life. So, this surge of people's power has delighted us. We wholeheartedly support sprouting of such people's movement, earnestly want these kinds of movements to be organized and sustained and led to their logical destination following right track.

SUCI(C) on Aravalli

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range. This excludes a vast majority of the low-lying hills in Rajasthan, making them vulnerable to mining and commercial development. Forest cover in the Aravalli enhances precipitation and checks drought across the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. Trees and canopy cover of the Aravalli hills preserve humidity in the atmosphere, modulate

wind velocity and thereby help regulate rainfall patterns. Also, new, narrow legal definition (hills > 100 m) would destroy natural recharge zones, disrupt underground water flow, and increases runoff, ultimately depleting aquifers that feed lakes and rivers,

worsening water scarcity. As a result, more surface-water bodies will disappear, severely impacting water availability in north-west India, agricultural productivity, which has declined across the Aravalli region in south Haryana and Rajasthan as a result of the unavailability of water due to excessive mining and because a layer of dust from stone-crushers covers the crops, will be further negatively impacted with more hills being opened for mining.

The remnant forests of the Aravallis which act as a critical forest habitat and corridor, and a biodiversity hotspot will shrink further and increase

human-wildlife conflict in the region. Also, reckless destruction of the Aravalli hills which act as a crucial natural barrier against the Thar Desert could lead to desertification meaning extension of the desert areas.

Visibly enraged, the downtrodden tribal communities across southern Rajasthan are agitating fearing widespread displacement and the destruction of their culture and livelihoods. Protesters have rightly been warning that unregulated mining has already caused severe environmental harm, including increased air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region and any further leniency in this regard would spell complete disaster to both the ecosystem and human habitats.

We strongly protest the capitalist conspiracy of such a planned destruction of more than 90 per cent of the Aravalli hills, including vast stretches of low-lying scrub hills, grasslands and ridges, for the purpose of commercial mining in the interest of the giant corporates and extend our full support to the just struggle of the affected tribal Indians. We also call upon all well-meaning people, environmentalists, scientists, foresters and biodiversity specialists to raise a united voice of protest against such a planned assault on nature and thereby seriously damaging the ecosystem much threatening human civilization just to satiate profit greed of mining mafias and corporate sharks.



Save Aravalli. Protest in Delhi by AIDS, AIDYO, AIMSS, AIKMS, and AIUTUC. Similar protests were held countrywide.

BASAD (M) on Bangladesh situation

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the culprits are booked without further delay under both national and international laws and trialled.

Once the news of demise of Osman Hadi had spread, spontaneous agitations have surged forth throughout the country including Dhaka. But what is observed with concern and pain is that the ultra-communal groups have first ransacked and then set fire to the offices of 'Pratham Alo' and 'Daily star.' Even the office of 'Chhayanat', a cultural group, was raided and burnt. Nurul Kabir, a noted journalist and an uncompromising fighter against fascism, has also been attacked. Such anarchical incidents are being observed round the country. In the meanwhile, a Hindu Youth was lynched in the Bhaluka area of Mymensingh on the pretext of sacrilege. Such a brutal incident will make the country further instable and turbulent, exacerbate communal divide. All such incidents are raising apprehension as to whether election scheduled in February next would be held or not. But in order to bring stability and improve law and order situation, election at this moment is imperative. By creating such anarchy, the vested interest is trying to buttress its sinister interest by countermanning the election.

We strongly demand of the government to take stern action against the perpetrators of anarchy. We call upon the countrymen to compel the government to conduct trial of the assassins of Hadi and maintain peace and harmony by rejecting the incitement of the forces of reaction. We shall continue the struggle with all our might for establishing democracy and justice.

Comrade Provash Ghosh on social media

(Speech delivered at the Social Media Workshop held from 9 November 2025 in Kolkata)

Comrades,
My revolutionary greetings to you all.

I welcome your bold initiative to develop social media of our Party, the revolutionary party of the Indian proletariat. Comrades, in order to discuss on this subject, I am almost compelled to enter a field where I had never stepped in before. I have no knowledge at all about this. Concluding a discussion means, to sum up all the points of the discussion and to provide a guideline about our tasks, whereas I have not participated in the discussion at all. Anyway, I like to speak a few words before you.

Actually, I am habituated to use this cellphone only to contact the comrades. The comrades also contact me on cellphone. Occasionally, I listen to some songs. Sometimes, I observe some news or movements. That is my normal practice. It is a fact that social media has developed as a powerful weapon of propaganda. And it is also a fact that forces subservient to bourgeois class interest along with the bourgeois parties are in control of this social media. And they utilize it in their own class interest. Now, there is a necessity to counter it from the point of view of the revolutionary proletariat, to expose the bourgeois propaganda, to free the mind of the people from its vile influences. So, it is also a class battle in this field.

I have heard that comrades are technically equipped. I am told by the senior leaders that many are advancing in this field also. But only technical knowledge is not enough. To be a good propagandist, it is an imperative necessity that one must be theoretically, politically, organizationally and culturally equipped. It is a precondition. So, comrades who are engrossed in class struggle, having feeling for the oppressed people, can only become good propagandist. This feeling should not be in an abstract form, but in a concrete form. My heart, my conscience, always feel the pains of the people who are dwelling in the pavements, staying in the street, who are begging, who are crying for survival. I feel for them. My mind is always absorbed in it. For that, I seek the path of emancipation. That is what makes one a revolutionary, a good communist. For that, I need to acquire the revolutionary knowledge from Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. It should be a constant struggle, not for a particular period, particular hour, or particular moment. One's mind is always absorbed in it. Otherwise, technically one may be finished, but that will not serve.

Presentation must be living, concrete, which will educate the people, enlighten them, inspire them, help them to unite and organize themselves to fight against injustice. So, as fighters in this field, they should not remain in a room only. They must be engaged in class battle, in the street battle.

Now, I need not explain theoretically in this sitting what is happening throughout the world, as you are all developed comrades. You are observing it. Two imperialist powers, US imperialism and Chinese imperialism are at loggerheads with each other. There are also second-ranked imperialist powers and third-ranked imperialist powers in the world. India belongs to the third category. Second ranking imperialist powers are the advanced European states like UK, France, Germany and Japan. Trade war is a proxy war but a war—war of gaining economic domination. Armed war is also going on. Regional war is not merely confined to a region. All the super powers are involved in such regional warfares, directly or indirectly. Don't think that Chinese imperialists are not involved in such wars. They are also involved. Sometimes, they are waiting in siege so that when US imperialism withdraws from the Arab or African countries, they could step in at opportune moment. That is their real interest. In the name of giving aid, they are entangling them. Such is also going on. Imperialism-capitalism is in its death throes and mired in acute crisis. Mounting discontents are resurging through mass protests, just like surging waves. Such protests are sprouting but are then fizzling away.

Demonstrations, movement, strikes, these are the order of the day in European countries as well as in many other parts of the world. That's why, you have witnessed, American people, now raising the slogan "NO KING" by coming out in the street. But these people lack class outlook, lack revolutionary outlook, do not have a real revolutionary party to lead them. Guiding the people's protests to their logical culmination under correct revolutionary leadership is the cry of the hour.

So, the need is that our Party develops rapidly, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Indian situation is known to you. People are disgusted, frustrated with all the parties. But these parties are not exposed ideologically and politically. That is the condition. So, under these circumstances, you will have to understand what is your task in regard to handling social media.

As revolutionary fighters, you



are to engage yourself in this field with a purpose. But, my view is that social media cannot be a substitute for print media. Social media cannot provide comprehensive outlook what print media can provide.

Print media is the primary weapon. Social media can serve as an auxiliary weapon. For example, we can give a quotation in a wall writing. But that can only provide a brief aspect of a particular subject. But it cannot provide a comprehensive outlook on that subject. What I mean to say is that grasping the essence of a subject by going deep into it is possible only by reading a book or an article repeatedly from a hard copy or through digital media. Only then one can develop a comprehensive understanding of the subject. This is my opinion though one may differ with me.

There is a growing problem affecting some comrades of our Party also—that of comrades avoiding print media. Throughout the world, people are very restless. As the people are restless, they cannot spare one hour, two hours to read a newspaper or an article. So, a mind has developed to be acquainted with something in a summarized form, in a brief form. Within a few minutes, one wants to be aware of a subject. It is not always because of shortage of time. It is because they lack patience. Restlessness is the primary cause. So, reading habit is virtually going away. This is a capitalist attack on mind. Society is rotting, moral fabric is sullied, thought process is misdirected. So, restlessness is developing. And with the advent of social media, this tendency of having a quick glance or perfunctory view is gaining ground by almost substituting the print media. It should not be encouraged. We must emphasize on print media. Comrades must be repeatedly educated to go through books, to go through printed articles so to acquire a comprehensive knowledge. At the same time, we should use social media as an auxiliary mode of communication. That is my view.

And you should not run for any glamorous upload like others. Your effort should be to do it perfectly, learn how to develop it further, purposively and creatively. But stunt or too much choreographed presentation should be avoided. Because then the form will rule over the content. Consider carefully which presentation can serve the revolutionary purpose. You can learn from others, but don't imitate others. Learning means, I judge what to

accept and what not to accept from others. Imitation means blind following. That also you should avoid. Another important point here is about team functioning. Some are engaged in this field, some others are engaged in some other political activity. Your team functioning based on collective approach should be to serve a common purpose. There is no individual purpose to be served. There is no individual aspiration, no craving for individual name and fame. Here also you will have to fight tendency of self-projection or self-conceit. Enemy is resting within us, and that enemy is individualism. We are all products of capitalism and so are often falling victim to capitalist individualism. Within our Party, it is an imperative necessity to constantly fight it out.

While working in the social media team also, you have to fight it out. Comrades are engaged in work in a particular state as well as in different states or centrally. But all of them are serving a common revolutionary goal and hence need to help each other. Coordination does not mean mechanical coordination. Coordination means helping each other, learning from each other, how to develop something further, making it more perfect through collective effort.

And remember, this is a field which can distract you from revolutionary movement also. Again, I emphasize here that we should maintain constant contact with the oppressed people, feel their pain and agony, participate in the revolutionary movement, mass struggles and maintain constant contact with the respective Party bodies. There are two ways of acquiring knowledge. One is the direct way. You are with the masses. You know them. You know their questions, confusions, frustrations. These vary from man to man also. But you feel it by way of direct contact. Another way is of indirect contact. You know it through other comrades also. You are exchanging with them and by that you are enriched, You are helped. So this indirect way is also necessary. Regarding other technical aspects, there are leaders who can guide you, help you. You should always seek guidance from the Party in regard to whatever you are doing in your own state or centrally.

Facts are not necessarily the truth. Bourgeois media is also presenting facts. There is talk of oppression, rape, gang-rape, and corruption. Bourgeois media is placing all these in one way. You will also have to present the same facts but in a different way. Merely placing a fact should not be your purpose. Your job is to find the truth out of these facts and highlight before the masses. That means not just narration of facts. It should be presented in such a way that people can understand the root

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Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana—a treacherous proposition

On 25 October 2025, national launch of a scheme called 'PRIME MINISTER DHAN DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA (PMDDKY)' has been inaugurated by PM Modi who exhorted the farmers to shift their focus from producing rice and wheat to the production of crops which can be exported. Its inauguration at Kerala state-level was done by the state Agriculture minister at a function organized by the Vegetable & Fruit Promotion Council Kerala (VFPC) at its Seed Production Center at Alathur in Palakkad District. In that function, the Minister stated that the Centre would be requested to include Palakkad and Alappuzha districts, which are the largest rice producing districts in the state, in the first list of 100 districts where the project would be launched for the first time. The minister also expressed desire that all the districts of Kerala with high agricultural activities be included under the scheme. (Malayala Manorama 12/10/25).

What new is this 'PMDDKY'?

Let us delve into the details for a clear understanding of this much-trumpeted scheme.

As per 'The Operational Guidelines (2025)' released by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, the scheme is for raising the agricultural productivity of under-performing agricultural regions in the country. It is an initiative to address the root causes of low productivity, inadequate infrastructure, and poor credit access, and hence it aims to create a sustainable and productive agricultural ecosystem in 100 districts through the convergence of existing schemes and specialized measures adopted by the key ministries, within a specified timeline. It claims that this plan will revitalize agriculture in rural India, improve farmers' incomes, and ensure long-term sustainability and food security. It also claims that the farmers' income will be 'doubled'. This claim echoes the promise made by the BJP during the election campaign of 2014 and then assured by PM Modi subsequently. But, as all know, the assurance has not materialized.

The document states about the announcement made in the Union Budget of 2025 - 26 and the approval given by the Union Cabinet on 16 July 2025. Further it is stated that 'PMDDKY' is a scheme with an annual budget of Rs 24,000 crore for six years (from 2025-26 to 2030-31). In other words, Rs 1.44 lakh crore have been earmarked to support 1.7 crore farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers owning less than 2 hectares of land, who constitute 86% of India's farming population (Economic Survey 2024-25), over five years. And again, it states that

motivated by the success of the 'Aspirational Districts Programme', the government will undertake a 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' in partnership with the states, through convergence of the existing schemes and the fresh specialized measures. The number of districts in each state will be decided based on the share of Net Cropped Area and number of operational holdings. However, at least one district will be compulsorily selected from each state.

Objective of PMDDKY

Further, PMDDKY aims to (1) enhance agricultural productivity, (2) adopt crop diversification and sustainable agriculture practices, (3) augment post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block level, (4) improve irrigation facilities, and (5) facilitate availability of long term and short term credit. To ensure the success of this ambitious programme, the government will leverage existing schemes across various Ministries/Departments.

Since all are existing schemes and the farming community is very much familiar with those, it is not necessary to dwell here with all the details of the existing schemes listed in annexure-2. However, for a general understanding, we cite here only some of such schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) through Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM), Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) etc., are some of such the examples. As far as the peasants are concerned, these schemes have not been able to even ameliorate their miseries.

According to clause 5(3) of the Operational Guidelines (2025) a baseline survey will be conducted for ascertain the existing status which, *inter alia*, will include:

- (i) Agriculture productivity of main crops, fruits and vegetables having substantial coverage along with identification of those blocks / villages where the productivity is less than the district average.
- (ii) A diagnostic analysis of reasons where productivity is low so that short, medium and long term measures can be identified and interventions linked to the ongoing schemes.
- (iii) Identification of post-harvest infrastructure gaps including warehouses, ripening chambers, market yards, etc.
- (iv) Identification of cold chain gaps

including cold storage, refrigerated vans, etc.

- (v) The average productivity of fisheries and milk and the reasons for any shortfall.
- (vi) A general soil health map of the district identifying key nutritional deficiencies.
- (vii) Specific region wise gaps in availability of horticulture seed / plant materials as well as availability of latest climate resilient seed authority in major crops being grown in the district.
- (viii) The credit deposit ratio and the level of priority sector lending in the district and the reasons for shortfall in the achievement of the targets of the district credit plan.
- (ix) Identification of regions sensitive for natural disaster, pests and diseases of crops and diseases of livestock etc.

Based on the above Baseline Survey and diagnostic analysis, the district will prepare a comprehensive and sustainable agriculture and allied sector development plan, conforming to agro-climatic area and resources, which will cover the following:

- (i) Five-year outcome based targets linked to cropping intensity, productivity, post-harvest infrastructure, diversification to horticulture/ fisheries/ animal husbandry and credit flow.
- (ii) Physical target of various schemes that would be necessary to achieve the five year outcome. These targets can be broken down to yearly targets of five years in physical and financial terms.
- (iii) The action plan will also include specific responsibility of district level officers/ identification of agency responsible for achievement of these targets. Such are the things envisaged in 'PMDDKY'.

Now let us discuss in brief the condition of the peasant community in the country which constitutes about 64% of the rural population. After the policies of capitalist Globalization-Privatization-Liberalization were announced, the focus of the governments, both at the Centre and in the states, had changed radically. Instead of domination of government sector in agriculture, thrust was on entry of the giant multinationals so that they could make huge profits by controlling the markets of both inputs and procurement. After the PM Modi-led BJP government assumed power at the Centre with a brute majority, the ruthless capitalist onslaught on the toiling masses including the peasants increased manifold. Consequently, the agricultural sector has also been afflicted with acute and insurmountable crisis. The vast majority of the rural population comprising peasants, agricultural and

allied workers, tribals etc. are facing acute distress for the last three decades and a half. Debt trap and suicidal deaths are mounting. Spurt in cost of agricultural inputs and non-remunerative prices of the agricultural produce is causing this crisis in the life of the peasants. So, addressing the issue of mitigating the hardship of the pauperized peasants has assumed paramount importance. Unless the cost of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, diesel etc. are brought down within the affordable limit of the peasants and guaranteed procurement of the crops by the government-controlled machinery at least at Minimum Support Price (MSP) based on the formula $C2 + 50\%$ for all agricultural produce is ensured, the condition of the peasants cannot be improved.

In this connection let us recall the 13 month long Historic Delhi peasant movement, in course of which more than 750 demonstrating peasants had embraced martyrdom. Under pressure of movement, the PM, besides withdrawing the three Black Farmers' Laws, gave a written assurance to introduce a guaranteed MSP regime. Only after that, the glorious movement was called off. Instead of honouring the commitment, the government has now been trying to bring back the three draconian laws to favour entry of multinationals in agricultural sector through backdoor under the name of 'New National Policy Framework on Agricultural marketing' through the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare. It is revealed that this new policy is also aimed at handing over the Agricultural marketing to the hands of the agri-giants by dismantling the APMC Mandis and thousands of agriculture markets including the village markets (huts) spread across the country. Again, the provisions for promoting the contract farming also has been included in the new framework. It turned out to be a comprehensive plan for privatization of all agricultural produces like rice, wheat, pulses, vegetables, oilseeds, milk, meat etc. Due to stiff opposition from the peasantry and also because of the recent developments in the international situation, the government is forced to defer finalization of the same for notification and implementation. The development in the international situation particularly the tariff war perpetrated by the American President Donald Trump and the subsequent 'Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreements' (CETAs) signed between India and Britain and other EU countries on the one hand, and the Enhanced Economic and Military Cooperation with the Zionist Israel on the other hand, are going to adversely affect Indian economy including production

COP-30-Repeating failures of Global Climate Diplomacy

Every major climate summit is announced as a turning point. Every few years, the language is reset: *last chance, decisive decade, implementation COP* [COP means *Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*], *people's summit*. And yet, viewed from a distance, the arc of climate diplomacy since Copenhagen in 2009 looks less like progress than repetition—a cycle of inflated expectations, partial agreements, and carefully managed disappointment.

COP30 in Belém belongs squarely within this pattern. To understand why, it must be read not as an isolated failure but as the latest iteration of a system that has repeatedly promised transformation while delivering delay.

Copenhagen: Collapse Without Illusions

Copenhagen remains the climate summit against which all others are measured. COP15, held in 2009, ended in open failure. The talks collapsed into acrimony, backroom deals, and a weak political accord drafted by a handful of powerful states. The Kyoto Protocol, with its stated aim of 'common but differentiated responsibility' towards mitigation of climate change or global warming problem, that involved binding greenhouse gas reduction targets for industrialized countries and voluntary reduction for developing countries with the help of finance and technology transfer, was silently dropped. Developing countries accused rich nations of betrayal; activists denounced the process as captured by elites.

Yet Copenhagen's failure had a certain honesty. It revealed, starkly, the unwillingness of advanced economies—then responsible for the bulk of historical emissions—to commit to binding reductions or meaningful climate finance. The fiction that climate action could be neatly reconciled with existing growth models was exposed.

The backlash was severe. Trust in the UN climate process plummeted. But Copenhagen also taught negotiators an important lesson: open failure damages legitimacy. Future summits would seek success not through substance, but through optics.

Paris: Success Redefined

Paris, in 2015, was designed as Copenhagen's antidote. Where Copenhagen imposed targets from the top down, Paris offered flexibility. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) allowed each country to set its own goals. Binding enforcement was replaced by transparency and peer pressure.

The Paris Agreement was hailed as historic. Nearly every country

signed on. The language was inclusive, diplomatic, and carefully calibrated. But its core innovation—voluntary pledges—also embedded its central weakness.

Even at the moment of adoption, analysts noted that the sum of national commitments fell far short of limiting warming to 2°C, let alone 1.5°C. Paris succeeded politically by lowering the bar. It preserved participation by sacrificing adequacy.

In retrospect, Paris did not fail at its stated objective. It redefined success itself—from emissions reduction to process management. The agreement stabilised the climate regime, not the climate.

Glasgow: Promises Without Power

Glasgow, in 2021, arrived amid renewed urgency. Extreme weather events were intensifying. Youth climate movements had reshaped public discourse. The phrase "keep 1.5 alive" became the summit's rallying cry.

COP26 did introduce new language. For the first time, a COP text explicitly referenced fossil fuels, calling for a "phase down" of coal. Yet even this modest step was diluted at the last moment, under pressure from coal-dependent economies.

More broadly, Glasgow exposed the limits of voluntarism. Countries updated their pledges, but global emissions trajectories barely shifted. Climate finance targets remained unmet. Adaptation funding lagged far behind mitigation. The summit generated momentum in rhetoric, not in material outcomes.

Glasgow's lesson was sobering: even with heightened public pressure and scientific clarity, the structure of climate negotiations remained resistant to transformation.

Belém: Inclusion Without Redistribution

COP30 in Belém was framed as the next evolution—a move from pledges to implementation, from elite negotiation to popular participation. Hosting the summit in the Amazon was meant to embody this shift.

In some respects, Belém differed from its predecessors. Indigenous mobilization was unprecedented in scale. Grassroots movements were highly visible. The language of justice, health, and equity was more prominent than before.

But these shifts occurred largely outside the negotiating core. Inside, the familiar dynamics reasserted themselves. Fossil fuel and agribusiness interests maintained privileged access. Indigenous delegates were present but marginalized. Climate finance remained voluntary and insufficient. The final text avoided explicit commitments on fossil fuel phase-out.

Belém did not abandon the Paris framework; it deepened it. Implementation was pursued through side deals and trust funds, not through binding collective action. Participation expanded symbolically, while power remained concentrated.

The Common Thread: Managing Contradiction

Across Copenhagen, Paris, Glasgow, and Belém, a consistent pattern emerges. Each summit responds to the failures of the last, not by altering the system's foundations, but by refining its techniques of management.

Copenhagen's chaos gave way to Paris's flexibility. Paris's inadequacy was met by Glasgow's urgency. Glasgow's rhetorical escalation led to Belém's emphasis on inclusion. At no point was the underlying political economy—fossil dependence, corporate power, global inequality—directly confronted.

Instead, climate diplomacy has evolved into a mechanism for managing contradiction. It absorbs scientific warnings without acting on them. It incorporates dissent without redistributing power. It sustains legitimacy while postponing transformation.

This is why each summit appears, in isolation, to make modest progress, while the aggregate outcome remains failure.

Why Incrementalism Persists

Defenders of the process argue that multilateralism is slow by nature, and that incremental progress is preferable to collapse. There is truth in this. But incrementalism assumes time as an abundant resource.

The climate system does not share this assumption. Rising temperatures are already straining energy systems, food supplies, and public health infrastructures—particularly in the Global South. At the same time the increasing frequency of destructive, extreme weather events are putting ever larger

sections of people at risk of losing life and livelihoods. Delay is not merely suboptimal; it is lethal.

Incrementalism persists not because it works, but because it aligns with the interests of incumbent powers. It allows governments to signal concern without disrupting growth models. It enables corporations to shape policy while avoiding regulation. It defers costs onto future populations and poorer regions.

Illusion of the People's COP

Belém's greatest contribution may be its clarity. By staging a "people's COP" without transferring power to people, it exposed the limits of inclusion without redistribution.

The People's Summit outside the official talks articulated a systemic critique linking climate breakdown to capitalism, militarism, and extractive development. Inside, the official process remained bounded by what capital and geopolitics would permit.

This gap—between recognition and action, between presence and power—is now the defining feature of climate diplomacy.

A System at Risk of Irrelevance

From Copenhagen's collapse to Paris's compromise, from Glasgow's urgency to Belém's symbolism, the UN climate process has proven remarkably adept at surviving its own failures. What has not proven is its capacity to deliver outcomes commensurate with the crisis it seeks to manage.

Unless future summits break with the logic that has governed the past fifteen years—COPs risk becoming increasingly performative. Not sites of decision, but rituals of delay. Belém was not an anomaly. It was the latest mirror held up to a system that has learned how to talk about survival without reorganizing the conditions that make survival possible.

SUCI(C) strongly protests creation of a single entity to regulate education

Comrade Provas Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 16-12-25:

We strongly oppose introduction of the 'Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025' in Parliament by the BJP-led central government to create a single umbrella regulator for higher education, which will amalgamate and replace existing bodies like the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). This is a heinous design to abolish whatever little of academic autonomy is still existing in the country thereby establish total control of the government on education.

We call upon all teachers, students, educationists, intellectuals and education-loving people to raise a joint voice of protest against this pernicious move and compel the government renege on the decision under pressure of united movement.

Higher Education is gasping under Centralisation and Government Control

The PM Modi-led BJP government has placed a 'Vikshit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan Bill' in the winter session of the parliament. If this bill is enacted, the newly formed regulatory council namely "Vikshit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan" (VBSA) will abolish regulatory bodies such as the UGC, AICTE and NCTE and bring most part of the higher education, barring the law and medicine, under the control of a single authority. Until now, the UGC was responsible for general higher education, AICTE oversaw technical and management education, and the NCTE looked after the quality of teacher education. All these will now come under the supervision of a single regulatory authority — amounting to virtually all-out centralization of higher education and subversion of academic autonomy. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) had envisaged precisely such a control of the central government over the country's education system, brushing aside the federal structure. In fact, in the NEP document, there was indication of creation of such a commission.

Second attempt to completely subvert academic autonomy

This is the second time the present BJP-led central government has sought to legalize centralized control of higher education through the route of legislation. The first attempt was in 2018 when the "Repeal of University Grants Commission Bill 2018" was introduced. The design was to set up a "Higher Education Commission of India" (HECI) with the intention of abolishing UGC. There was widespread criticism across the country on this. It was apprehended that had the Bill become law, autonomy of higher education would be lost and education would be completely centralised. Under pressure of protest, the government was forced to withdraw the Bill. In 2025, however, the law has been pushed through hastily in a new form, with sharper tooth and claw. While the 2018 Bill sought to abolish only the UGC, in the present 2025 Bill two more bodies—AICTE and NCTE—have been added for elimination. The UGC has so far enjoyed the power of funding higher education institutions (HEIs) and appropriate provisions are there in the existing UGC Act; this power of granting fund was also recognized in the 2018 Bill and even in the NEP 2020.

Financial grants issue

Although the legal provision existed, in practice financial grants were stopped due to government

policy and largely due to gradual cut in the budget for the UGC. In fact, the UGC's budget was cut by as high as 61% per cent just a year back amidst protests from the academic community. In 2025, the government has now formally stripped the new commission, the VBSA even of the notional authority to provide financial grants. There are far severer clauses in the Bill. "If a higher educational institution contravenes the provisions of this Act ... the Regulatory Council may impose a penalty which shall not be less than thirty lakh rupees" [Art 33(b)]; "if the higher educational institution again contravenes the provisions of this Act or rules and regulations" ... it "may impose a penalty which shall not be less than seventy-five lakh rupees" ... "or recommend to the Central Government or appropriate State Government, as the case may be, the closure or winding up of the higher educational institution" [Art 33 (c)]. This "closure" will be similar to closure of thousands of public schools that is going on across the country in line with the provisions of NEP 2020. However, in other words, the commission will only wield the stick over the HEIs.

Consequences would be disastrous

The consequences of this stick-wielding are already visible. Curricula in universities are now prepared by statutory bodies such as Academic Councils, whose members are teachers themselves. In other words, constitution of syllabus is in the domain of experts. Yet the government has handed over this responsibility to the UGC. Recently, the UGC circulated draft syllabi in subjects such as Mathematics, Chemistry, Commerce, Economics, Geography, Anthropology and Political Science that left the professors aghast. The Mathematics syllabus includes topics like "Mathematics for Life Sciences", "Mathematics for Meditation", methods for determining lunar dates, constellations, and auspicious and inauspicious moments. There is a clear tendency among the syllabus-framers to sideline core mathematical content and promote various forms of quackery in the name of "Indian Knowledge Systems". Above all, there is "Vedic Mathematics", whose very existence is under question. Such syllabi may help RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's project of building a 'Hindu nation', but teachers are deeply concerned about students' future. Reflecting this concern, 900 plus Mathematics professors wrote a protest letter to the

UGC, stating that most of the syllabus is archaic and unscientific, and would push our civilisation back by hundreds of years, leaving the students ignorant of modern Mathematics. They have advised the UGC 'to do some mathematics' to prevent such a catastrophe. The syllabi in other subjects are no better.

The problems have multiplied many times over since the NEP-20 extended undergraduate courses from three to four years. Under the pretext of "skill enhancement" and "value-added" courses, core or major subjects have been pushed out of the curriculum. Students are forced to study low-quality and unnecessary subjects such as "Happiness Studies", "Fit India", "Swachh Bharat", "Personality Development", "Cow Welfare", "Brahmin Welfare", and the like. An already extended course duration, combined with such content, has taken a heavy toll on students. They feel no attraction towards higher education. In deep frustration, many are either not enrolling themselves in colleges, or are dropping out after enrolment, or remaining enrolled only on paper without attending classes. Once-crowded classrooms now have professors teaching just five to seven students. This is the picture across the country.

Plenty of vacant seats in Government institutions

The situation regarding students' admission is equally grim nationwide. This year, Delhi University conducted admissions in three phases—one "spot round", two "mop-up rounds" and one "spot mop-up round". Even then, 5,000 out of 71,000 seats across 69 colleges remained vacant. Just five years ago, the minimum cut-off mark for admission was 98–99 per cent in the Class XII board examinations, and yet colleges routinely admitted around 30 per cent more students due to overwhelming demand. Now, however, "spot mop-up rounds" are needed to fill vacancies. Compounding this is the fact that female enrolment has fallen to an all-time low—from 61 per cent in 2021 to 54 per cent now. The downward trend in admissions is clearly visible in other states also. In West Bengal, the government and government-aided colleges have 9,36,215 undergraduate seats. While 4,21,301 students had registered on the centralised admission portal, only 2,69,777 too admission—just 28.81 per cent of total seats. In the previous academic year, 4,44,000 seats had been filled. In 2024-25 academic year 1.15 lakh seats were vacant in Odisha.

In a central university like BHU (Banaras Hindu University), 2700 seats remained vacant after first round.

Benefits handed down to private education

Moreover, admissions in the undergraduate courses are conducted by the centrally administered CUET, which is coaching-dependent and therefore expensive, making access difficult for anyone other than the affluent. At the same time, delays in the declaration of CUET results force the meritorious students to join private universities such as Ashoka, Azim Premji and others. In effect, CUET is thus aiding the private sector who views education as a commodity for profit maximization. As a result, private owners are very happy. In other words, students are being forced to depend on high-cost private institutions—both at the central as well as the state levels. Privatisation, commercialisation and commodification of education are going on in an orchestrated manner. This is shrinking the right to have access to higher education—something that is wholly unacceptable.

Draft 'People's Education Policy' as alternative

Now the situation demands that there is no alternative before the people but to raise their voice of protest against this most pernicious, undemocratic and anti-people education policy. Eminent educationists like Professor Irfan Habib, Professor Romila Thapar and many others including good number of former vice chancellors, jurists, renowned intellectuals and education-loving people throughout the country are coming forward to combat this onslaught on education. A people's forum named the 'All India Save Education Committee' has taken the initiative to spearhead an all out education movement against this disastrous policy.

Taking the suggestions of thousands of teachers from primary level to University and also from different enlightened sections of the society, it has prepared a 'Draft People's Education Policy 2025' as an alternative to NEP 2020. NEP 2020 was not at all discussed in the Parliament of India, whereas the AISEC has decided to discuss the Draft policy thoroughly in the People's Parliament scheduled to be

held on 24 January 2026 in Bangalore. Thousands of educationists and intellectuals will take part in it and thoroughly discuss the various propositions of the draft People's education Policy. From there, voice will be raised by the academic community to implement the 'People's Education Policy' and discard anti-people NEP 2020 lock stock and barrel.

Kerala is free from “extreme poverty” —claims CPI (M)-led government

CPI(M)-led Kerala government has boastfully claimed that it has eradicated extreme poverty from the state. And this announcement made on 1 November, Kerala Piravi Day. In support of its claim, the CPI (M)-led government has said that prior to its launching of the ‘Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP)’ in 2021, there were reportedly 64,006 people languishing in extreme poverty. But, by implementing various poverty alleviation schemes, those people have been lifted above extreme poverty level. According to Minister M. B. Rajesh, these 64,006 families were identified through a survey conducted via local self-government institutions.

Definition of extreme poverty

Extreme poverty has been defined by the World Bank as living on less than \$2.15 (Rs193 approximately) per day (based on 2017 PPP). However, India government reckons that anyone with income below \$1.25 per day (Rs 112.50) as living in “extreme poverty”. If one looks at calorie consumption criteria, those receiving less than 2,400 calories per day in the case of men and fewer than 2,100 calories in the case of women fall below the poverty line. If seen in terms of food intake, consumption of 2400 calories can be had from a diet which is unthinkable for a common Indian who might earn even Rs 200 per day. So, the mismatch between earning level criteria and calorie consumption-based criteria is too high.

Kerala scenario

On 30 September 2024, one Kerala Minister G. R. Anil stated in a written reply in the Legislative Assembly that 5,91,194 extremely poor persons in the state had been issued AAY cards under the ‘Antyodaya Anna Yojana’.

There are nearly 4.5 lakh Adivasis and tribal communities such as the Paniya, Adiya, Kattunaikka, and Vetakuruma whose penury and misery defy description. A study published in 2022 in the *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health* pointed out that 54.8 per cent of children under the age of five in Wayanad district suffer from severe malnutrition. The situation in Attappadi is no different. According to a study conducted by the *National Institute of Nutrition*, 48 per cent of children there are underweight, while 40 per cent suffer from stunted growth. The study further noted that 91 per cent of children, 96 per cent of adolescent girls, and 80 per cent of pregnant women suffer from anaemia.

A similar plight confronts plantation workers, fisherfolk, so

called *dalit* communities, ASHA workers, and other scheme workers. A NABARD survey has already pointed out that 65 per cent of the state’s population does not earn an income sufficient to lead a dignified life.

But if one asks the Kerala government, the answer would be that they all are merely poor—but not extremely poor. This is because the government has introduced new and exceedingly restrictive criteria to define extreme poverty. Those with no income at all, those who cannot afford two meals a day, those who cannot cook even if they receive rations, and those whose health has completely broken down—these alone are deemed *extremely poor* by the government. But if “those who cannot afford two meals a day” are counted as extremely poor, does that not imply that those who can manage only one meal a day are neither extremely poor nor destitute? Economists have rightly asked whether such people are to be considered merely poor or abandoned altogether. In reality, what the government has done is to declare a small fraction of the destitute among the extremely poor as having escaped extreme poverty. Even then, the fact remains that not all destitute persons in the state have found a place on that list.

For lakhs of people enduring severe poverty, calorie intake is pathetically inadequate. Does the government seriously claim that extreme poverty has been eradicated merely by distributing a food-grain kit once a month to extremely poor families—a kit that, in practice, often reaches them only once in two or even three months? If so, that claim is nothing short of a cruel mockery.

Extremely poor households, or AAY yellow-card holders, are entitled to 35 kilograms of food grains per month. But this alone does not alter their wretched living conditions. It is true that they also receive some minor benefits for medical treatment and other needs. Yet, if the declaration that Kerala is now free of extreme poverty leads to a situation where even the meagre ration entitlement provided by the Union government is withdrawn, what would be the consequences? Is the Left Democratic Front government in Kerala paving the way for the central government to dismantle such social welfare schemes?

Spectacle of Proclamation, Hands in the Begging Bowl

What makes this announcement even more disturbing is the pomp and extravagance with which the state

government chose to make the announcement. A sum of as high as Rs1.5 crore was spent to organize the event where the announcement was made. This amount was reportedly apportioned from Rs 52.8 crore that had originally been earmarked for constructing shelters for the poor. The order authorizing this apportionment was issued by the Local Self-Government Department on 26 October without the slightest pang of conscience.

Through these advertisements, the Pinarayi government sought to falsely project the image of Kerala as a prosperous state. It is no coincidence that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his colleagues chose to announce, on 1 November that the state had become free of extreme poverty while surrounding themselves with a handful of ultra-wealthy public figures—an announcement made in the presence of thousands who lack even the bare minimum for survival. Are we to believe, based on aforesaid calorie criterion, that no one in Kerala suffers from malnutrition?

The calculation may well be that such hollow declarations of development might yield short-term political gains for the CPI (M)-led government on the eve of election. The recent municipality elections, the CPI (M) and its allies have faced a crushing defeat. So, to fare better in the assembly poll and hold on to power, the CPI (M)-led front does not hesitate to conceal truth and paint a rosy picture of progress just the way, the BJP, the Congress and other bourgeois governments in various states do. One would find advertisements almost every day in newspapers released by different state governments highlighting how a spate of developments has uplifted their respective states have ushered in better days. But, such advertisements released by spending from public exchequer are cruel jokes on the decimating life standard of the toiling millions as held out by the inequality index and other data. Just as they propagate the false narrative, the CPI (M)-led Kerala government is also blowing its own trumpet knowing fully well that there is no truth in what are being highlighted with so much of pomp and grandeur. To propagate the grand falsehood that Kerala has become free of extreme poverty, the Kerala government has also splurged on massive advertisements, even in national media. But, what else can one expect from a government that fawns over the super-rich, organizes conclaves for

them, and appoints a corporate magnate like Yusuf Ali as the state’s brand ambassador?

False claim of development in education and healthcare

Earlier, the CPI (M)-led Kerala government has recently claimed that there has been extraordinary progress in education and healthcare. But people at large how much such weird claims are at variance with their daily experiences. 201 schools have been closed. 47 schools have no students. Over 70% of all colleges being privately managed (aided & unaided). Recent focus is on new private university bills (2025), indicating more private higher education growth, especially in areas like engineering, arts, science, and medicine, with some reports showing dozens of private medical colleges alone. The government schools in Kerala have witnessed a sharp decline in student enrolment over the past two years, with around 50,000 students dropping out. Even educational projects such as the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) were linked to poverty-alleviation strategies. Both the PM Modi-led BJP government, which promotes skill development through the National Education Policy, and the Pinarayi Vijayan-led CPI (M) front government in Kerala, which has been advocating employment-oriented education through four-year undergraduate programmes, function as executors of the same global capitalist agenda of destroying secular, scientific, democratic education.

Recent news reports and audits indicate that while Kerala has historically been a model for healthcare in India, its public healthcare system is currently grappling with significant challenges, including infrastructure decay, equipment shortages, staff scarcity, and high out-of-pocket expenditure for citizens. This has led some critics and a government audit to describe the system as being in a state of decline or “shambles”. The decay of the public sector has fueled the growth and commercialization of private healthcare, which some argue is profit-driven and incompatible with the needs of the common people. The Kerala assembly recently held a heated discussion on the alarming rise in deaths from communicable diseases.

Just as they propagate the false narrative that Kerala has made extraordinary progress in education and healthcare, what political message are those who call themselves communists sending to society—and to their own cadres—by proclaiming that poverty has been eradicated in this state? Are the leaders of the CPI(M) and its allies so ignorant as to have forgotten even the most elementary lesson: that it is the capitalist system

Comrade Binapani Das passes away



Comrade Binapani Das, a veteran leader of the Party and member, Odisha State Secretariat, breathed her last on 23 December last after prolonged illness, at an age of 79. (Obituary in next issue.)

Condemn US blockade against Venezuela— SUCI(C)

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 19-12-25:

Warmonger US imperialist rulers, in flagrant violation of international law, have completely surrounded Venezuela, a small Latin American country, by mobilizing largest armada, threatening its independence and sovereignty, blocking its oil exports which the country's economy mostly depends on as well as with an ulterior motive of compelling Venezuelan President Maduro to resign so that a puppet regime of US imperialism could be installed.

We strongly protest its present design and call upon all anti-imperialist peace-loving people to raise their voice of protest against the heinous conspiracy.

Comrade Provash Ghosh on social media

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cause of these problems. That will be your art. I mean revolutionary art. By presenting that way, you are providing some political education also. This also you will have to cultivate in your field. At state level, you must always seek state Party leadership's guidance. At central level also, you must be in constant contact with the central Party leadership, particularly those leaders who are assigned for this purpose. Not only in taking decision, but in the manner of presentation also, you should seek opinion. Not for tit-

SUCI(C) denounces repeated hike in train fare

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 22-12-25:

"For the second time in 2025, the BJP-led Central government has arbitrarily and unilaterally raised railway fare in all classes—from ordinary to AC—from 26 December 2025 on a flimsy pretext of meeting the demand of high manpower. While such periodic raise in fare has become a convention, train travel continues to be a nightmare for the passengers. Accidents are increasing, punctual running has become a thing of dim past, maintenance of the rakes is squarely neglected, toilet hygiene is compromised with, platforms are dirty, waiting rooms are in dilapidated condition, food quality is horrific despite being costlier, corruption is random and above all, passenger safety is at peril. Without addressing these important issues of passenger amenities, the government's only concern has been to hike fare periodically and increase revenue by squeezing the passengers more and more. The proposed increase in fare would bring as high as Rs 600 crores to the kitty while the woes of the train travellers would continue to remain unabated. When people are reeling under spiralling price line, mounting unemployment and growing pauperization, such a hike in train fare is akin to slaying the slain and that too bypassing parliament.

We vehemently denounce this raise in passenger fare and call upon all to raise their voice of protest and form passengers' committees in right earnest to build up powerful movement to not only thwart further rise but bring down the existing cost of train journey as well as ensure safety, punctuality and availability of proper amenities."

Victory of just movement at Punjab University

After, 27 days of sustained protest under the banner of the "Punjab University Bachao Morcha", Senate Election in Punjab University, Chandigarh, has been announced under pressure of the movement. Once again, it has been proven that just demands can be achieved through united and democratic mass movements along right track.

Protest against Ethanol Plant in Rajasthan

Comrade Rajinder Singh, leader of AIKKMS, addressing the SKM protest meeting on 20 December against establishment of an Ethanol plant in Hanumangari, Rajasthan.



Kerala poverty

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now in its death throes following inexorable law of social development which is generating poverty, hunger and all other miseries in people's life?

CPI (M) Chief Minister's argument

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared that the feat was achieved through collective will. The primary objective of the 'Nava Keralam' (New Kerala) initiative — which is to elevate Kerala's standard of living to be on par with developed countries — is not far away. He said that Kerala is already ahead of America in many respects. This is the true "Kerala Story". "The eradication of extreme poverty we have declared today is the victory of the people-centric alternative development model that Kerala presents to the world. At a time when neo-liberal policies are increasing inequality across the country and wealth is accumulating only in the hands of a few, Kerala stands tall and proud, declaring to the world that a compassionate, egalitarian, and welfare model that embraces all sections of society is possible," the chief minister said. (People's Democracy 09-11-25)

PMDDKY

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and distribution of agricultural produce. Hampered production of pulses, vegetables, oilseeds, milk, meat etc. are also going to impact the businesses of the retail outlets controlled by the Indian monopoly houses who compete with giant Multinational Corporations in the field.

From the foregoing discussion, anybody can understand that with the merger of the existing schemes and specialized measures from the key ministries under 'PMDDKY' is not going to reduce the predicament of the peasantry. It is a renewed attempt of the PM Modi-led BJP government to

Mark the word "egalitarian", which means believing in or based on the principle that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities. It implies that according to Kerala CPI (M) chief minister, it is possible to create an egalitarian society through reform by a government in a capitalist society. By the time he wrote 'The German Ideology' in 1846, great Marx characterized the capitalist state as a creature of the bourgeois economic interest. Two years later, that idea was expounded in 'The Communist Manifesto': "The Executive of the modern (capitalist) state is nothing but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie." The government, as every real Marxist knows, is a part of the Executive, one of the three wings of the capitalist state. Lenin said: "In fact, the forms of government varied extremely, but their essence was always the same: the slaves enjoyed no rights and constituted an oppressed class; they were not regarded as human beings." (The State)

So creating an illusion that poverty could be removed within capitalist system by certain reforms contradicts basic principles of Marxism-Leninism.

hoodwink the people in general and the peasantry in particular so as to diffuse rising temper against the government for denial of remunerative price of agricultural produce. The BJP government must honour the commitment of Guaranteed procurement of crops with MSP @ C2+50%. Anything other than this would be nothing but treachery. In such a situation, the suffering peasants and the supporters of their just demand are called upon to come forward and build up a powerful movement for implementation of guaranteed MSP @ C2+50% and thwart the proposed Agricultural marketing through 'NFAM', 'PMDDKY', and 'CETA's .

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH