

SUCI(C) congratulates countrymen for observing 26 May as 'Black Day' responding to the call of Sanjukta Kisan Morcha

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 27 May 2021:

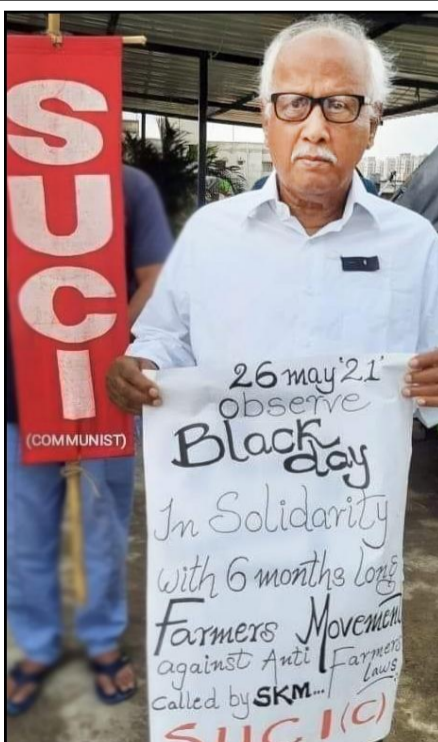
"We congratulate the people of the country for observing 'Black Day' responding to the call of Sanjukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the leadership of the historic peasant movement.

The peasants' movement going on for the last six months in the different borders of the state of Delhi in which lakhs of peasants braving all odds, difficulties and attacks are involved, is unparalleled in the history of democratic struggle of the people of our country. This struggle against the three Farm Acts of the BJP led Government which are aimed at allowing grabbing of agricultural lands and products by the profit-greedy multinationals evicting millions of peasants and agricultural workers in a country where already billions are landless and jobless. During the last six months, nearly five hundred peasants have embraced martyr's death in this struggle. Their sacrifice, courage, undaunted spirit and firm

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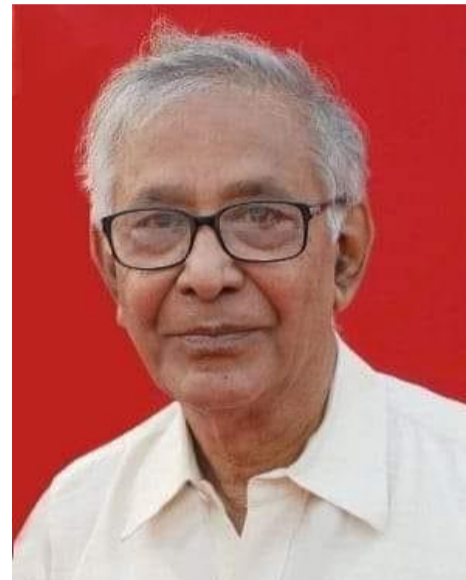
Observance of 'Black Day' on 26 May at the call of SUCI(C), AIKKMS, AIUTUC, AIDS0, AIDYO and AIMSS in support of the historic ongoing peasants' movement

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Comrade
Provash
Ghosh,
General
Secretary,
SUCI(C)
at
Shibpur
Party
Centre,
West
Bengal



More Photos on P. 8

Red Salute Comrade Sankar Saha



Comrade Sankar Saha, Polit Bureau and Central Committee member of SUCI (Communist), President, AIUTUC, a life-long revolutionary and a veteran front-ranking trade union leader breathed his last on 31 May 2021 at 8.10 a.m. He was 81.

Comrade Sankar Saha was admitted to Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital on 12 April 2021 with high fever. Investigation detected that he was infected with Covid-19. After initial stabilization, Comrade Sankar Saha had developed severe restlessness and worsening pneumonia. On 27 April 2021, he required invasive ventilation. After prolonged treatment, his Covid-19 test report on 8 May 2021 was negative. But he had acute kidney injury and required intermittent haemodialysis. His condition gradually deteriorated to a very critical stage. Despite untiring efforts of the doctors, nurses and medical staff, Comrade Sankar Saha could not be saved.

His body was brought to the Party's Central Office where floral tribute was offered on behalf of Comrade Provash Ghosh. Other Polit Bureau and central Committee members as well as State level leaders also paid their revolutionary tribute. Then his body was taken to the AIUTUC Central Office, from where he guided the trade union and working class movements. There, the AIUTUC leaders paid their respect with tears. Finally, he was cremated at Keoratola crematorium. His demise has caused a serious loss to the Party as well revolutionary working class movement of the country.

To pay respect to his revolutionary life and struggle, there will be three day mourning when Party Flags would dip half-mast in all Party offices and comrades would wear black badges from 31 May to 2nd June 2021.

Historic Peasants' Movement completes six months, shows grit to continue till demands are met

No. Iron fencing, boulder barriers, dug trenches, spike plates, police brutality, disruption in power and water supply, inhuman and callous attitude of the autocratic government, vicious spread of deadly pandemic, chilling winter cold, scorching sun of summer, heavy rain-nothing could play spoilsport to the indomitable spirit, resolute courage and fighting zeal of the lakhs of peasants who have been continuing their just struggle since 26 November 2020 in demand for repeal of the three anti-farmer pro-corporate Black Laws and Electricity (Amendment) bill in the three border points of capital city of Delhi. Already, around 500 precious lives of the

struggling peasants have been lost during the course of the movement. But the peasants are unwavering, ready to make more sacrifices, if need be, to realize their just demands.

To strengthen the movement in this situation of covid pandemic, Sanjukta Kisan Morcha and one of its key constituents, AIKKMS, appealed to the people to observe 26 May 2021 as 'Black Day' across the country. The people of India, irrespective of caste, creed, gender, religion, region or ethnicity wholeheartedly responded to this call and made it a grand success.

AIKKMS workers and organisers worked in

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AIKKMS, a key constituent of SKM, is behind the movement with all its might

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21 states and hoisted black flag on the roof of thousands of houses and organised small gatherings in hundreds of villages maintaining covid protocol. Comrade Satyawan, President and Comrade Shankar Ghosh, General Secretary of AIKKMS, congratulated the people for their unstinted support to the cause of the peasants. They expressed conviction that the movement would continue till the 'Black Farm Laws' and the ill-conceived Electricity bill-2020 are repealed.

Earlier, AIKKMS organized an on-line national convention on the 'Ongoing Peasants' movement on 15 May 2021. The main resolution adopted at the convention is given below:

"This online National convention, at the call of All India Kisan Khet Mazdoor Sangathan, AIKKMS, expresses its wholehearted revolutionary greetings to the struggling farmers across the country, particularly the farmers of the states of Punjab, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan etc. sitting on the Delhi borders, facing all kinds of repression-harassment, heat-and-cold, various kinds of conspiracies, malicious propaganda, crisis due to Lockdown, fighting with undaunted spirit to advance this movement since last 6 months to repeal the three black farm laws and the electricity bill -2020 and to ensure the legal guarantee for government procurement of farmers' produce at one and a half times the cost price. This convention holds this opinion that three farm acts and electricity bill-2020 are detrimental to the interest of the peasantry, as well as of the

common people of our country and will serve the interest of the corporates of home and abroad. So this convention demands to repeal these acts and bill immediately. This convention also demands the legal guarantee for the government procurement of the agricultural produce at one and half times of its production cost.

The whole country is now in a very precarious condition due to second wave of covid pandemic. This convention demands of the central and state governments to make adequate arrangements to make the lives of our people safe.

This convention notes that Government of India is sitting with its eyes and ears shut towards this largest and completely peaceful peasant movement. This is a matter of great regret. This convention strongly condemns this anti-people attitude of the BJP-led central government. This convention expresses its gratitude to the students, youths, women, trade unions, intellectuals, lawyers, doctors, medical organisations who have been providing support to the kisan andolan since the very beginning.

This convention firmly believes that this peasant movement is committed to protect agriculture and the peasants, as well as the interest of the toiling people across the country.

This convention urges the people of India to come forward and stand by the peasant movement to defeat the heinous design of the BJP government to serve their corporate masters. We shall fight, we will win."



'Black Day' observance at Singhu border on 26 May

SUCI(C) and its mass and class organizations like AIDS, AIDYO, AIMSS and AIUTUC also endorsed the 'Black Day' call and observed it with due solemnity.

AIKKMS has also given call to observe 5 June 2021 as the "Save Agriculture, Drive Out Corporates," Day.

SUCI(C) congratulates countrymen

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determination are inspiring example before all the exploited and oppressed people of our country.

From the very beginning, we are in this movement with all our might and resources. And we shall fight to the last. Because we know mere issuing statements in support will not help. The situation demands active participation of all left-democratic parties and forces to develop countrywide movement to compel the fascist BJP Government to concede to the legitimate demands of the peasants. Moreover this movement represents the interest of all sections of people of the country.

From the very beginning our party is in this movement with all our might and resources. And we shall fight to the last. The situation demands active participation of all left, democratic parties and forces to develop countrywide well organized, sustained movement involving workers, peasants, students, youths, women and other sections of people to compel the fascist BJP Government to concede to the legitimate demands of the peasants."

Earlier, Comrade Provash Ghosh in a statement dated 24 May 2021 had called upon the people of the country to observe 26 May as 'Black Day' to express solidarity with the fighting peasants.

Who says 1621, only 3-claims UP government

At least 1621 teachers and support staff have so far died from COVID-19 following poll duty during the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh panchayat elections, according to information provided by the Uttar Pradesh Primary Teachers' Association on May 16.

The Uttar Pradesh Primary Teachers' Association has sent a list of the victims to the chief minister demanding financial assistance of Rs 1 crore and jobs to their dependents.In the list sent to the chief minister on 16 May, the teachers' association has put forth eight demands including financial assistance of one crore rupees and jobs to the family members of the teachers, shiksha mitras, instructors and employees who have died while on poll duty. The list submitted contains the names of the deceased teachers, the name of the school, their designation, block and district name, date of death and the mobile number of a family member.

However, dismissing the claim, the Basic Education Minister of the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government said that only three government teachers succumbed to Covid-19 during the recently held panchayat polls. Uttar Pradesh Prathmik Shikshak Sanghsaid said that as per the rules of the state election commission, a government official is considered on election duty from the period the employee leaves their residence for attending poll-related training, includes the time of polling and counting work, and ends when they reach their residence after

duty. It implies that anyone falling victim of the pandemic afterwards would not be counted as having fallen sick or died in harness. Incredible indeed! Only the BJP can give such ludicrous and inhuman argument. Sensing backlash, the BJP chief minister of UP immediately came out with a face-saving by putting the onus on the Election Commission. He said that in order to provide proper support to the teachers, who died due to Covid-19 during the panchayat poll duty and their families, the Election Commission should be consulted and requested to make necessary recommendations. Such weird attempt to suppress facts or sidetrack accountability has become a hallmark of the BJP ministers and leaders. Incidentally, UP State SUCI(C) has already raised this issue and sought justice for the bereaved families.

It is also noteworthy that in the panchayat election that the ruling BJP was so keen to hold despite harrowing rise in Covid 19 infection throughout the state proved a dampener as the BJP lost it to the opposition. Even in Ayodhya, Mathura, Gorakhpur and Varanasi, where Hindutva cry is so pronounced, the BJP had to face defeat. Not only that. The arch communal Hindutva slogan failed to precipitate religious polarization even in Ayodhya. Rajanpur, a Hindu dominated village in Ayodhya has elected a Muslim gram Pradhan (village head). "If religion could provide bread, could I win", said the elected Pradhan.

(Source: scroll.in 05-05-21, Indian Express-11-05-21, Hindustan Times-11-05-21, The Wire and Hindustan Times dated 19-05-21, NDTV dated 20-05-21, ABP 23-05-21))

Zionist Israel must stop renewed naked aggression against Palestine

Fresh provocative initiatives followed by armed attack on 10 May by the Zionist Israeli rulers in the narrow coastal strip of land called Gaza in the east of the Mediterranean Sea where about 2 million Palestinian Arabs are huddled in, have thrown the region again into bloodbath. Gaza is one of the three territories occupied by Israel, the other two being West Bank at the border of Jordan and Golan Heights at Syria border. On and often, the armed conflicts assumed dimensions when the Israeli regime backed by the US imperialists escalated military assault on the Palestinian inhabitants who have been continuing struggle to be liberated from the clutches of the most ferocious power in the Middle East and regain a part of their motherland. To add fuel to the fire, Donald Trump, former US President unilaterally declared on 6 December 2017 that the United States would move its embassy in Israel from the capital city of Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It implied that Jerusalem would be Israel's capital and would thus come under Israel with control over the entire Jerusalem. It bears recall that during the 1967 Six-Day 'blitzkrieg' war between Israel and Arab countries like Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Israel seized control of East Jerusalem and the West Bank located in Palestine from Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and the Golan Heights from Syria. Since then, all of the city of Jerusalem has been under Israel's authority. Palestinians see East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state and even today, Israel's sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem is not internationally recognized. Jerusalem is supposed to belong to Palestine. But Trump trumpeted that his declaration was a mark of 'beginning of a new approach to conflict between Israel and the Palestinians'. This overlordism of the US imperialists who have been using the Zionist Israeli state as its springboard for its hegemonic designs and mounting attacks on the Arab countries refusing to bend before their dictates sowed the seed of renewed trouble in the region. The present outbreak of armed clashes in which over 200 lives mostly of the Palestinian people including children have been officially reported to have perished and 1440 grievously wounded, has its cue in this brigandish move as well. After 11 days, airstrikes on and rocket attacks from Gaza, Israel and Hamas, the organization now at the forefront of Palestinian resistance to Israeli war threats, agreed to an Egypt-mediated ceasefire from the night of 20 May. However, both sides have warned that the ceasefire would hold based on the ground circumstances. Clearly, this is a fragile truce until and unless the original conflict is resolved.

A brief recap of the perspective

Before entering into a detailed analysis of the present context of Israel-Palestine conflict, it needs a brief recapitulation of the origin of the issue.

In the later part of 19th century, a movement started developing in Russia after a series of pogroms against the Jews, and later spread to other countries in Europe including Britain for the creation of a nation exclusively for the Jewish

community. In those times, Jewish people were scattered all over the world. They were generally more concentrated in eastern part of Europe and relatively scarcely in other countries of the world. Their logic was that every community in the world has a nation of its own, which was not the case with only the Jews and this was the reason for them to be discriminated against and vilified across the globe. And they were swayed by a thought that if they had a nation of their own, they would assert themselves and command the respect of the world. This paved the ground for emergence of Zionism. Zionism as a worldwide movement was started by Theodor Herzl in 1896 whose goal was the return of Jews to Eretz Yisrael, or Zion, the Jewish synonym for



Israeli Citizens Demonstrate Against Zionism and in support of free Palestine in Tel Aviv

Jerusalem and the Land of Israel. Thus, modern Zionism emerged in the late 19th century in response to the violent persecution of the Jews in Eastern Europe and anti-Semitism in Western Europe. In course of its emergence, modern Zionism fused the ancient Jewish biblical and historical ties to a long-lost homeland with the concept of ultra-chauvinistic nationalism into a vision of establishing a modern Jewish state in the land of Israel.

Where was this to be created? This was to be created in the midst of Palestine homeland by pushing out the original resident Palestinians from their homeland! Thus began the influx of Jewish settlement in Palestine in the beginning of 20th century with the active and direct connivance of British imperialists. Palestine was a British protectorate at that time. With these settlements came friction between the Arab Palestinians and the Jewish settlers. Following the holocaust in Germany and other countries under Nazi rule, the exodus of Jewish people to Palestine increased manifold. The demand for creation of Israel gained currency even more. The Arab Palestinians who wanted one single state where both Jews and Arabs lived together, were opposed to partition or a bi-national state, either way leading to the loss of their homeland. But their demand was not acceded to. Israel proclaimed a Zionist state in the land of Palestinian people where Jewish settlers constituted only a minority and thereby betrayed the cause of its own common people. Treacherously, by the end of WWII, with the

active connivance of the British and American imperialists Israel was carved out of Palestine in 1948, in spite of opposition by all the countries of the world, most illegally and illegitimately! In 1948 the Jews made up 33% of the population of Palestine, but owned only 7% of the land. Since then Israel has been expanding its territory at the cost of Palestine by brutal force backed by American imperialists, to such an extent that most of Palestine has become Israel and what has remained as Palestine is Gaza and West Bank areas majorly. Such is the brutal history of creation of Israel in short.

As regards birth of HAMAS (ʔarakat al-Muqʔwamat al-Islʔmiyyah, meaning "Islamic Resistance Movement"), the first thing the Zionist Israeli rulers did after defeating mighty Egypt in 1967 to take hold of Gaza territory, was to subdue secular Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) headed by Yasser Arafat, which had taken up the cause of the Palestinian Arabs. The latter were thrown into a pathetic life of terrible destitution and uncertainty. In their frantic efforts to survive with freedom and dignity, they ultimately built up organized struggle under the leadership of the PLO. What started as their war of resistance was transformed soon into a struggle with demands for their independent homeland, that is the Palestinian state, and right for the Arabs to return to their homeland. They fought heroically true to their spirit. So, decimating PLO or bringing cleavage into the fighting unity of the Palestinians was a pressing necessity for Israeli rulers. Hence they started inciting the various Islamic groups against PLO. Sheikh Ahmed Yaseen was then leader of Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza. Israeli rulers gave him the responsibility to revitalize the Islamist groups. Seizing the opportunity, Yaseen formed an ultra-Islamist group called Muzama-al Islamia. Israel called Muzama a charitable organization and wanted to suppress the leftist and secular forces with the help of it. Within few years, Muzama virtually cornered PLO and its influential organization, Fatah. Israeli authorities funded Muzama liberally. But, after a decade, Israel came to know that the followers of Sheikh Yaseen were procuring arms in Gaza. Yaseen was immediately arrested. But cunning Yaseen convinced Israel that the arms procured would be used against the secular forces. In 1987, Palestine became explosive centring on a street accident in which a few Palestine citizens were run over by a car driven by an Israeli person. Rebellious protests spread throughout Israel-occupied West Bank and Gaza. Yaseen led the protests and received support from the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas was born out of this rebellious outbreak. In a sense, Hamas proved to be a Frankenstein for Israel.

Three steps that triggered the present crisis

Peace-loving people round the globe are visibly disturbed at this development. Many of them are in dilemma as to which side initiated the assault since a large section of media and their columnists are posing a neutral reporting. They quote the Israeli PM and military leaders saying

Contd. on page 4

Israel-Palestine Conflict

Present conflict has been evidently provoked by Zionist Israeli rulers

Contd. from page 3

that they did not start the attack but Hamas only showered salvos of rockets on Israel. The Israeli military acted in retaliation. But facts speak otherwise.

In April, at the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Israel's police chief fenced off the wide steps leading into the Damascus Gate, one of the ancient entrances to Jerusalem's old walled city. During Ramadan, these steps are a favourite place for families to celebrate the evening iftar meal. There was no apparent logic to closing them off allegedly for "security reasons". The only apparent goal was a wish to humiliate Muslim Palestinians at a particularly sensitive moment. The Muslim Palestinians were naturally outraged at such a provocation. So, fiery protests erupted leading to clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police. Eventually, the police removed the barriers. By then other processes had been set in motion. Hundreds were injured. The rockets started flying.

Apart from this, there was another treacherous move on the part of the Israeli government. Disregarding presence of a sizeable section of Palestinians in the eastern part of the city, Israel had built a wall separating Jerusalem from the Palestinian hinterland. The motive was clear. It sought to strengthen Israeli claim to the whole city by ringing it with new Jewish homes and squeezing Palestinians out. Most local Palestinians now living there are not citizens but mere "residents", granted access to health care and social security, but not the same rights as Jews.

What brought increasing tensions in Jerusalem to a boiling point, is the fact that Israel's Supreme Court started reviewing a judgment with a view to evict Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. Their homes sit on land that had once been owned by Jews before the State of Israel came into being and before Jordan occupied the eastern part of Jerusalem in 1948. Palestinian refugees from the 1948 war (friction between the Palestinians and Israel commenced in 1948) were settled there by the Jordanian government in the 1950s, and they have been living there ever since. But Israeli settlers belonging to the ultra-right groups have been trying to reclaim these lands from the Palestinians and the courts have cruelly gone along with them.

Noteworthy is the fact that Israeli law allows the heirs of the original owners to reclaim property in East Jerusalem. But in Israeli West Jerusalem one third of the properties belonged to Palestinian families who lived there before 1948 and had been evicted since then; yet under Israeli law, Palestinians have no hope of recovering their lost homes in West Jerusalem (or anywhere else in Israel). No wonder



Demonstration in USA in support of Palestine people's struggle for freedom

Palestinian residents of the city are always ready to protest. On the contrary, settler thugs, ultra-right-wing Israeli Jew gangs descended upon Sheikh Jarrah and marched through the city chanting 'Death to Arabs' in order to terrorise the Palestinian residents. Night after night, the neighbourhood turned into a battle ground, the police often siding with and protecting the settlers and coming down brutally upon Palestinian protestors. Quite understandably, such violent suppression turned Sheikh Jarrah issue into a rallying cry for Palestinians everywhere in Israel and the West Bank or Gaza, also for the Arab world beyond Palestine.

The height of frenzy of the Israeli authority was witnessed in the Haram al-Sharif during the final days of Ramadan, when tens of thousands of worshippers come to the Al-Aqsa mosque -- the third-holiest site in Islam considered sacred to over a billion Muslims. The place is also a site revered by the Jews. There were slogans in favour of Palestinian state with some enthusiasts waving a flag too. This was counter-posed by a heavy-handed police raiding of Al-Aqsa Mosque and thus setting off an instant backlash. Some Palestinians threw stones at the police who responded with extraordinary brutality. In fact, the Israeli authorities were waiting for such a repercussion so that they could use

this as a pretext to launch ruthless attacks. Hundreds of Palestinians were wounded. It takes truly unusual degrees of cruelty and provocation to send policemen throwing stun grenades and tear gas at worshippers inside the mosque during Ramadan. Moreover, since the very beginning of the conflict in the early 20th century, Palestinian Muslims have seen the Zionist actions as being aimed, first and foremost, at destroying the Haram al Sharif so the Jews could rebuild their temple there. For many Palestinians, the Israeli police have now, not for the first time, substantiated this notion.

So it is clear that contrary to

majority of media reports, it was the Israeli authorities who prompted enough provocations, even armed assaults to set the region aflame. Hence, it demands unequivocal condemnation from all with demand for immediate and unconditional stoppage of Israeli attack.

Other disturbing developments

Moreover, there are some other proofs of Israeli regime flagrantly violating Human Rights. A 213-page report, 'A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution', released on 9 May 2021 by Human Rights Watch, examined Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the land of Israel itself and in the occupied territories. It presented the present-day reality of a single authority, the Israeli government, ruling primarily over the area between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea, populated by two groups of roughly equal size, and methodologically privileging Jewish Israelis while repressing Palestinians, most severely in the occupied territory. It maintained that severe deprivation of fundamental rights of a particular community like the Palestinians with discriminatory intent, makes it a crime against humanity of persecution and apartheid by the internationally agreed statute and customary international law.

As a part of their heinous policy, Israeli authorities sought and seek to

maximize the land available for Jewish communities by confiscating land and building settlements even on occupied territories which is illegal under international laws, to restrict movements of Palestinians under a rigorous permit regime and force them to live huddled together in dense population centres under such harsh conditions as to compel thousands of Palestinians to move out of their homes, while Jewish Israelis live in a segregated manner in the same territory enjoying their full rights under Israel's rights-respecting civil law. Building permits are categorically denied to Palestinians and thousands of homes are demolished on the pretext of lacking permits. Residency rights to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and their relatives are denied. Population registry is effectively frozen in the occupied territories so much so that family reunification is blocked and Gaza residents are barred from living in the West Bank. Palestinian citizens of Israel also are discriminated against by laws that allow hundreds of small Jewish towns to effectively exclude Palestinians and budgets that allocate only a fraction of resources to Palestinian schools as compared to those that serve Jewish Israeli children. In Jerusalem itself, the government with the help of the municipality, plan to maintain "a solid Jewish majority in the city". This is despite the fact that the eastern part of the city occupied by Israel in 1967 remains largely Palestinian and the 1993 Oslo accords left the city's status to be settled in a permanent peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians. This is the background in which the Palestinians in Israel and occupied territories face discrimination to the extent of persecution and apartheid, which are internationally and legally recognized as crimes against humanity. The present crisis developed on this background with Jerusalem at its heart.

Features that stand out in the present case

Other striking features in the present case are given below point by point.

First, for the first time international opinion clearly categorizes Israeli policy in Israel and occupied territories as crimes against humanity marked by persecution and apartheid.

Secondly, despite the Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the coastal territory of Gaza, Hamas leadership could manage to get hold of a fair amount of arsenal. Also the rockets demonstrated a longer range and were more powerful than those fired in previous conflicts, reaching

Contd. on page 6

Einstein's letter to the New York Times about Zionist Fascism

[Albert Einstein, the legendary scientist and humanist, was born in a Jewish family in Germany. Einstein was a severe critique of Hitler's Nazism and fled the country when Hitler was about to assume power. Being a staunch anti-fascist, Einstein was peeved when Zionism raised its ugly head on the pretext of settling evicted Jewish people. So, he sent this letter to the New York Times.]

To

The editors of the New Work Times:

Among the most disturbing political phenomena of our times is the emergence in the newly created state of Israel of the "Freedom Party" (Tnuat HaHerut), a political party closely akin in its organization, methods, political philosophy and social appeal to the Nazi and Fascist parties. It was formed out of the membership and following of the former Irgun Zvai Leumi, a terrorist, right-wing, chauvinist organization in Palestine.

The current visit of Menachem Begin, leader of this party, to the United States is obviously calculated to give the impression of American support for his party in the coming Israeli elections, and to cement political ties with conservative Zionist elements in the United States. Several Americans of national repute have lent their names to welcome his visit. It is inconceivable that those who oppose fascism throughout the world, if correctly informed as to Mr. Begin's political record and perspectives, could add their names and support to the movement he represents.

Before irreparable damage is done by way of financial contributions, public manifestations in Begin's behalf, and the creation in Palestine of the impression that a large segment of America supports Fascist elements in Israel, the American public must be informed as to the record and objectives of Mr. Begin and his movement. The public avowals of Begin's party are no guide whatever to its actual character. Today they speak of freedom, democracy and anti-imperialism, whereas until recently they openly preached the doctrine of the Fascist state. It is in its actions that the terrorist party betrays its real character; from its past actions we can judge what it may be expected to do in the future.

Attack on Arab Village

A shocking example was their behaviour in the Arab village of Deir Yassin. This village, off the main roads and surrounded by Jewish lands, had taken no part in the war, and had even fought off Arab bands who wanted to use the village as their base. On April 9 (THE NEW YORK TIMES), terrorist bands attacked this peaceful village, which was not a military objective in the fighting, killed most of its inhabitants? 240men, women, and children - and kept a few of them alive to parade as captives through the streets of Jerusalem. Most of the Jewish community was horrified at the deed, and the Jewish Agency sent a telegram of apology to King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan. But the terrorists, far from being ashamed of their act, were proud of this massacre, publicized it widely, and invited all the foreign correspondents present in the country to view the heaped corpses and the general havoc at Deir Yassin. The Deir Yassin incident exemplifies the character and actions of the Freedom Party.

Within the Jewish community they have preached an admixture of ultranationalism, religious mysticism, and racial superiority. Like other Fascist parties they have been used to break strikes, and have themselves pressed for the destruction of free trade unions. In their stead they have proposed corporate unions on the Italian Fascist model. During the last years of sporadic anti-British violence, the IZL and Stern groups inaugurated a reign of terror in the Palestine Jewish community. Teachers were beaten up for speaking against them, adults were shot for not letting their children join them. By gangster methods, beatings, window-smashing, and widespread robberies, the terrorists intimidated the population and exacted a heavy tribute.

The people of the Freedom Party have had no part in the constructive achievements in Palestine. They have reclaimed no land, built no settlements, and only detracted from the Jewish defence activity. Their much-publicized immigration endeavours were minute, and devoted mainly to bringing in Fascist compatriots.

Sd/-

Albert Einstein

IMA wants action against Ramdev for objectionable statement

Again, the Hindutva protagonists are trying to dodge science for the sake of self-subservience and mislead people. The Union health ministry should take action against yoga guru Ramdev, a saffron-clad apologist of arch communal Hindutva, and owner of the multi-million rupees worth Patanjali brand, as he has misled people by making "untutored" statements against allopathy and defamed scientific medicine, the Indian Medical Association said on 22 May 2021.

Ramdev should be prosecuted under the Epidemic Diseases Act as "untutored" statements are "a threat to the literate society of the country as well as to the poor people falling prey to him", the apex doctors' body said in a statement.

Citing a video circulating on social media, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) said Ramdev is seen saying that "allopathy ek aisi stupid aur diwalilya science hai" (allopathy is such a stupid and bankrupt science)". Referring to his words "lakhs of people have died after taking allopathic medicines", the association said that Ramdev claimed Remdesivir, Faviflu, and all other drugs, which were approved by the Drugs Controller General of India, have failed in treatment of COVID-19 patients. He is doing this "so that he can sell his illegal and unapproved so-called medicines and make money at the cost of the public at large", the association said.

"The Union health minister (Harsh Vardhan) who himself is a practicing modern medicine allopathic postgraduate and head of this (health) ministry should either accept the challenge and accusation of this gentleman and dissolve the modern medical facility or boldly

face and prosecute the person for his words of arson on the sovereignty of the country and book him under the Epidemic Act to save millions of people from such unscientific utterances," the IMA said.

Incidentally, the Union Health minister himself inaugurated launch of Coronil, the so called Ayurvedic drug from Ramdev's Patanjali. An alleged piece of news that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has approved Patanjali's Coronil as a treatment for coronavirus made headlines on 19 February. However, it was found that the Patanjali's Coronil is neither Certified nor approved by WHO.

However, in view of the outrage and a legal notice from the Indian Medical Association (IMA), demanding a written apology for the statement that, it said, damaged the reputation of practitioners of allopathy and modern medicine when they are striving to save lives during the pandemic, and later being rebuked by the Health Minister for overdoing things, Ramdev on 23 May said he was "withdrawing" his remarks.

But when Indian Medical Association (IMA)-Uttarakhand has sent a strongly-worded letter to Ramdev saying if he doesn't post a video on social media withdrawing his controversial remarks on allopathy medicines and tender a written apology within the next 15 days, he would be served a Rs 1,000 crore defamation notice, Ramdev has been heard saying "even their father can't arrest Swami Ramdev)".

(Hindustan Times 24-02-21, 26-05-21, The Wire 21-02-21 and Indian Express-22-05-21, NDTV 23-05-21, Times of India 27-05-21)

WHO says Covid infection and death figures understated

Official death tolls from the Covid-19 pandemic are likely to be a "significant undercount", the World Health Organization (WHO) said on 21 May, estimating that the true figure of direct and indirect deaths could be two to three times higher. Presenting its annual World Health Statistics report, the WHO estimated that total deaths from the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 were at least 3 million or 1.2 million more than 1.8 million figure officially reported.

By 20 May 2021, WHO statistics showed around 3.4 million people had died globally as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, although the real figure could be much higher, the WHO said.

The death toll "would truly be two to three times higher," said Samira Asma, WHO's Assistant Director-General in its data and analytics division. (Reuters and Hindustan Times-21-05-21)

Israel-Palestine Conflict

Human Rights Watch accuses Israel for severely repressing Palestinians

Contd. from page 4

as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Hamas also adopted a new tactic of firing more than 100 missiles simultaneously to thwart the U.S.-financed Iron Dome missile-defence system, which might have caused more casualties in Israel this time. This time Hamas in Gaza surprised the Israeli army and the intelligence services, not to mention the government, by its ability to take command of a volatile situation, to hit deep into Israel with precision rocketry, and to impose its agenda on an overwhelmingly more powerful enemy.

Thirdly, the attack on Gaza was paralleled by a violent ferment on the sidewalks and streets of several mixed-ethnicity Israeli cities, such as Lod, Ramleh, Jaffa, Acre and east Jerusalem where ultra-right Jewish vigilantes mostly coming from elsewhere pounced upon the Arab locals, only to face a stiff resistance. The conflict was on a scale not seen since the start of the second Palestinian uprising, or intifada, 21 years ago. It created conditions close to civil war underlining failure of Netanyahu-led Zionist government to restore some semblance of normalcy.

Fourthly, the argument of exercising "the right to defend itself" as advanced by the Israeli authorities, US president Joe Biden and their cohorts is losing its sting, may be imperceptibly, but surely. The warning of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu that he was prepared to use an "iron fist if necessary" to calm the violence is also worth recounting. To democratic-minded people, it is becoming clear that the military machine Israel employs against an occupied population, for example in Gaza, is highly sophisticated, demonically lethal, well-lubricated by unbridled funds, aids and assistances from the US imperialists and their associates. The occupied population, in their turn, does hardly have any mechanized units, and has no air force, navy, missiles, heavy artillery and command-and-control. Whatever Hamas might have achieved as reinforcement of its attacking power, there cannot be any match between that and the devilish Israeli might. It is ridiculous to argue that such a mighty power is forced to attack Gaza in self-defence. Hence questions are being raised to call out what Israel is doing is carrying out mass murder particularly in occupied territories. It is a war crime.

Fifthly, Netanyahu's political future and personal ambition are also factors which cannot be glossed over. He failed to form a government coalition after inconclusive parliamentary elections in March, and now his political rivals have three weeks to try to form one. So, he thought a war cry might come to his rescue. Hence he declared on 16 May that the offensive

against Hamas would continue for some time as Israel sought to exact a "heavy price" on the group for rocket attacks on Israeli civilians. Israel will inevitably "win" this round of fighting once it has "mowed the grass." This message was evidently aimed to woo the Israeli citizens in his favour and convince them that continuation of this conflict, launching permanent war against Palestine and occupation of the Palestinian territories would safeguard their interests. The longer the fighting would drag on, the more it could hamper the attempts of Netanyahu's opposition at forming a coalition against him. It could also boost Netanyahu's prospects of an absolute victory if another election is held, since security is his strong suit with the public. This is typical of any fascist autocratic ruler. A prolonged war or armed clashes in sporadic bouts not only deflect the attention of the people from the real

Palestinians in line with international law, and backed the constructive role of the UN, the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in this regard. China also held that the two sides should resume peace talks based on a "two-state solution" as soon as possible, to establish an independent State of Palestine that would enjoy full sovereignty with East Jerusalem as its capital and based on the 1967 border, and would fundamentally realise the peaceful coexistence of Palestine and Israel as well as harmonious coexistence of the Arab and Jewish nations.

As regards India, between its intervention in the UN Security Council on 16 May and its statement in the UN General Assembly on 20 May perceptibly indicated a shift towards Israel. The line that "India strongly supports the just Palestinian cause and is unwaveringly committed to the two-State solution" which was part of the Indian statement in the UN Security Council (UNSC) on 16 May was found absent from its UN General Assembly (UNGA) statement on 20 May. Moreover, in 20 May statement, India condemned "the indiscriminate rocket firings from Gaza into Israel, which have caused deaths of a number of civilians." In the UNSC statement,

India had said "We urge both sides to show extreme restraint, desist from actions that exacerbate tensions, and refrain from attempts to unilaterally change the existing status quo, including in East Jerusalem and its neighbourhood." This was seen to draw an equivalence between Israel and Hamas, particularly with India stating then that it was Israel's action in East

AIDSO condemns Israeli cruelty

Comrade Sourav Ghosh, General Secretary, AIDSO, in a statement issued on 18 May 2021 held that though historically Jerusalem is always a part of Palestine, the Zionist Israeli rulers backed by US imperialists, have forcibly occupied Jerusalem. In May 2021, the Israeli government has renewed inhuman violence on Palestinian civilians including children, this time particularly in Gaza, in order to carry out ethnic cleansing of Palestine. Palestinians who have genealogical inheritance over their own land resisted and protested this eviction and killing. The Zionist Israeli authorities, on the pretext of repelling the resistance, have been indiscriminately killing thousands of Palestine civilian citizens and razing Palestinian cities to the ground by missile attacks.

AIDSO, he said, expresses total solidarity with the fighting Palestinian people and strongly condemns such shameless acts of cruelty and flagrant violation of human rights by Zionist Israeli armed forces on Palestinians and called upon all right-thinking Indians to raise voice of protest against such brutal and inhuman attack.

issues but also help release stockpiles of arms and give a boost to further production of such armaments which are manufactured as a part of sustained militarization of economy to stave off the crisis that decadent moribund capitalism is sunk in. At the same time, perpetuating a war psychosis helps in creating a national jingoist mindset as well as pseudo-patriotic feelings among the people.

Stand of US, UK, China and India

As regards international reaction, the UNO chief condemned the "indiscriminate launching of rockets" from civilian areas in Gaza toward Israeli population centres, he also urged Israel to show "maximum restraint". On the other hand, US President Biden and the Secretary of State called Netanyahu to extend their support to Israel. A third United Nations Security Council emergency meeting in a week - amid the deadly Israeli offensive in Gaza - has again ended with no concrete outcome after the United States blocked a joint statement calling for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. While urging both sides to "step back from the brink", UK, however, sided with US to "unequivocally condemn acts of terrorism from Hamas". China, on the contrary, encouraged the United Nations Security Council to immediately help broker a ceasefire, opposed American efforts to sabotage this, supported a just two-state solution for the

Jerusalem and the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood started the problem. In the UNGA statement, India removed all such ambiguity, being much more supportive of Israel. It is reported that India's UNSC statement evoked a lot of criticism of the government from the ruling BJP's own supporters, who felt India was not supporting Israel enough during this time, and that being even-handed meant an acceptance of Hamas actions. Israel also felt the same way. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tweeted his thanks to a number of countries that supported Israel, but India was not among them. So, the BJP-led Indian government went for a course correction which clearly militates against the views of the anti-imperialist peace-loving Indians.

Build up and strengthen anti-imperialist militant peace movement round the globe

It is a historical truth that the population of Palestine consisted of Muslims, Christians and Jews and lived without any enmity in peace and harmony for many centuries before the Jewish settlement which began in the beginning of 20th century. Amidst all this war-like situation, what has not been reported by the world bourgeois media is that many common people forgetting their ethnic divide have jointly protested against Israeli government in Israel itself. Thousands of people belonging to Jewish community in US took

Contd. on page 7

Israel-Palestine Conflict

Ultra-right Jewish vigilantes let loose against Arab residents in Israeli cities

Contd. from page 6

out a rally supporting Palestine and condemning Israel. They have demanded an end to war and to put an end to rightist forces who are behind all this worsening situation both in Palestine and Israel. It is unfortunate that the left forces which were once a formidable force in Israel and stood for peace and friendship have reportedly lost ground. It should be realized by the common masses that wars only serve the interest of the war monger imperialists and the capitalist class of their respective countries and it goes directly against the interest of the toiling masses who suffer the most. As taught by great Lenin, "imperialism generates war". So long as imperialism would exist, there would be no respite from war- whether localized, partial or large scale-bringing in its wake devastation and death of the common people. It should also be understood that in today's world, war anywhere will affect the world everywhere! The sad dismantling of the USSR and the socialist camp following counter-revolution aided and abetted by the imperialist camp as well as revisionist intrigues, the bulwark against war-mongering of the imperialist camp also collapsed. In the unipolar world, if imperialist sharks and their lackeys find there is no effective deterrent to their pursuit of precipitating war, they would run amuck just like Zionist Israel have found fresh vigour to launch and continue their offensives to a greater extent. Therefore the need of the hour is to organize united sustained powerful and integrated anti-imperialist militant peace movement all over the world by the peace loving people which alone can be a deterrent to imperialist war machination. At the same time, we call upon all to stand by the fighting Palestine people with active support and demand immediate stoppage of lethal attack by the Zionist Israeli authorities as well as vacation of all the occupied territories in Gaza, West Bank and Golan heights. We also demand of the US imperialists to withdraw from interfering in the affairs of West Asia and look forward to establishment of independent sovereign Palestine state. We also demand of the US imperialists to withdraw from interfering in the affairs of West Asia and call for overwhelming worldwide active support for establishment of independent sovereign Palestine state.

[Source: hrw.org 27-04-21, Al Jazeera 12-05-21, 13-05-21, 17-05-21, Chicago Tribune 12-05-21, The Economist 12-05-21, Workers' World 13-05-21, The New York Times 13-05-21, The Wire 13-05-21, BBC 13-05-21, Common Dreams 14-05-21, nbcoston.com 14/5/2021, Reuters 14-05-21, The Hindu 11-05-21, 15-05-21, 17-05-21, 21-05-21, 24-05-21, johnmenadue.com 16-05-21, Business Standard- 16-05-21, Hindustan Times 17-05-21, Economic Times 17-05-21, jagranjosh.com 21-05-21, Times Of India 22-05-21, 25-05-21]

'Shouldn't have gone to Kumbh', mela returnee 'Covid- victims' now say in Vidisha, MP

BJP MP Ravi Kishan asked the opposition parties on 19 May 2021 to stop blaming the Kumbh Mela for the spread of coronavirus in the country. In a video message, the Member of Parliament from Gorakhpur said the pandemic has engulfed the entire world and blaming Kumbh or Hinduism for its spread was wrong.

But the sufferers speak otherwise. Kanhaiya Lal, a 49-year-old teacher in Gyaraspur, Madhya Pradesh a small town in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district, attended the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar between 11 and 15 April and on return tested Covid positive, went into isolation and recovered in a few weeks. But a month on, he is still battling guilt and regret for visiting the religious congregation that some have now started calling a Covid 'super spreader'. "I shouldn't have gone, not when there was a Covid surge. Cases in Vidisha began rising rapidly after we

(Kumbh attendees) returned. That's when I realised that it had been a mistake," said Lal. Lal was not alone in repenting the visit to the mela. Many others in the district - from where highest number of people had gone to Kumbh - shared his feeling. But mixed with this regret was a sense that there had been a lapse on the part of the government.

"The government shouldn't have allowed it, either. It's only because the government allowed it that we felt it was safe to go. There's no way such a congregation should have been allowed in those times," said Lal. According to data shared by Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Vidisha, Vrindavan Singh, Lal was one of the 60 returnees who tested positive in Gyaraspur - among the 83 traced in the entire district....

(New Indian Express and The Print, both dated 20-05-21)

Damage control using unfair means

After being berated by the international media for being responsible for ongoing Covid disaster in India where second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to hundreds of deaths due to shortage of oxygen and availability of hospital beds.

The BJP Prime Minister, has now undertaken a damage control exercise by adopting unfair means. The Indian embassy in the US has called Indian students who would volunteer to look beyond this 'biased' portrayal and help 'course correct' the narrative. It asked them to contribute their "time and ideas" in three core areas. About the New Education Policy 2020 and its "grassroots" applications. Secondly, potential

contributors to assess whether they "are concerned about how India is portrayed in the media". Then it goes on to ask whether they would "bring to light such portrayals and course correct the current biased and negative narrative against India in the global scenarios".

The obvious question is, how far ethical it is to ask students, who have gone overseas for higher studies and are thus under the close surveillance of the Indian Embassy, to come to the rescue of the BJP government and its Prime Minister who themselves have visibly committed a host of wrongs in saving the countrymen from the deadly bite of the second wave of Covid 19? (source: The Wire 19-05-21)

Saab ka Saath, Saab ka Vikas

According to the minister, data for May compiled by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows an unemployment rate of 14.5%. Unemployment shot up in May, leaving 5.6 crore workers jobless. Among salaried class, 1.2 crore are jobless. The unemployment rate in urban India stood at 24.9% last April-May while in rural India it was 22.8%. But net profit of big business (listed) was highest in 4 years - 2.6% of GDP! (Times of India 25-05-21)

Scheme Workers affiliated to AIUTUC observe All India Strike on 24 May in support of their legitimate demands



Karnataka

West Bengal

Observance of 'Black Day' on 26 May by SUCI(C), AIKKMS, AIUTUC, AIDSO, AIDYO and AIMSS in support of ongoing Peasants' Movement



Uttar Pradesh



Bihar



Andhra Pradesh



Odisha



Chhattisgarh



West Bengal



Kerala



Assam



Tamil Nadu



Haryana



Punjab



Karnataka



Tripura

SUCI (Communist) strongly condemns India's blatant pro-Israeli stand at the UN Human Rights Council

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 3 June 2021:

"We strongly condemn the ill-motivated abstention of the BJP-led Indian government during a vote at the UN Human Rights Council on setting up of an inquiry into reported human rights violations by Israel when it attacked Gaza territory killing and injuring hundreds people including children, destroying houses, hospitals and schools in pursuit of its ulterior design to evict Palestinians from their own territory. This move is glaringly aimed at satisfying Zionist Israeli regime backed by the US imperialists and is blatantly violative of the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people. We call upon all anti-imperialist peace-loving people of India to unequivocally despise the Indian government for such a wanton anti-humanitarian move and stand in firm solidarity with the fighting Palestinian people."

SUCI (Communist) demands immediate withdrawal of proposed anti-people bills in Lakshadweep

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(Communist), issued the following statement on 29 May 2021:

"We vehemently denounce the highly anti-people anti-democratic Bills proposed by Praful Khoda Patel, a former BJP MLA, Ex-Gujarat home minister of state and now administrator of Lakshadweep that have made the local people of this archipelago consisting of 36 islands and a Union Territory (UT) of pristine natural beauty, panicky about their future. The draft Lakshadweep Animal Preservation Regulation, 2021, proposes to ban beef in the archipelago. The proposed Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Regulation, 2021, drafted in the line of UAPA and other black laws, allows the administrator to unilaterally detain people for up to a year though crime rate in the UT is the lowest in India. The draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021, modelled on the laws framed to forcibly grab land for establishing Dholera smart City and installing the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, concentrates entire power of planning in the hands of the administrator and empowers him to take any piece of land on the island, irrespective of its ownership, on the pretext of being used for "development" purposes.

Since he became the administrator of the UT on 2nd December 2020, this BJP administrator has issued a series of extraordinary orders like anyone with more than two children would be ineligible for panchayat positions, omitting non-vegetarian items from school menus, laying off hundreds of casual workers, demolishing fishermen's sheds, indiscriminately arresting anti-NRC anti-CAA protesters and withdrawing mandatory quarantine of the visitors that hitherto kept the UT safe from Covid-19. He took to similar atrocious steps in Diu where he served earlier as administrator. All these actions besides being autocratic in nature also smack of a communal overtone since majority of the inhabitants are Muslims. Obviously, protests have broken out in the UT against these anti-people moves which evidently are aimed at serving the commercial interest of the corporates intending to venture in tourism business there at the cost of destroying the social fabric and ecological balance. We demand:

- i. Central Government should recall Praful Khoda Patel, the administrator of the Lakshadweep, immediately.
- ii. Immediate withdrawal of the pro-corporate reforms, honouring the wishes of the local residents and allowing them to continue with fishing and other activities to earn their livelihood."

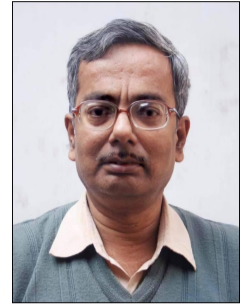
Columbian government brutally kills over 25 people protesting against anti-people fiscal policy

Hundreds of thousands of protestors occupied the streets of the South American country Colombia since 28 April. The upheaval reached 247 cities and towns, according to Colombian Interior Minister Daniel Palacios. People were opposing the fiscal reform introduced by the President Ivan Duque to increase revenues through taxes in the pretext of maintaining vital social programs like cash support for the unemployed and credit lines to businesses struggling with the pandemic. But the protestors argued the tax hikes, like a proposed value added tax (VAT), increase on everyday goods - would disproportionately impact middle and working classes and escalate inequality in the country's pandemic-hit economy. Unemployment in Colombia is currently at 16%. It was 9% before the pandemic began, according to Colombia's National Statistics Department. But the government tried to suppress the protest by excessive use of force. The Anti-riot policemen used tear-gas and batons which killed more than 25 people, which in its turn, triggered militant agitation throughout the country. The human-rights organisations feared that the real death toll could be much higher. Socio-political organizations, foreign ambassadors and even Colombian pop singer Shakira expressed deep concern over such brutality and massacre. The potential movement compelled Bogotá Mayor Claudia López Hernandez to say that the government needs to acknowledge and address Colombia's deep economic inequality, and that 'now' was "not the moment" to tax the poor and middle class. At last, the Colombian Government had to withdraw their so-called economic reform; but far from curbing the protests, police brutality has become a focal point for the demonstrators, who are now calling for an independent, international inquiry into the deaths. (BBC 04-05-21, Washington Post 05-05-21, Al Jazeera 19-05-21)

ADIEU

Comrade Salil Sen

Comrade Salil Sen, Kolkata district secretariat member of the SUCI (C) died of a sudden heart attack on the 20 May morning. He was 69.



Comrade Salil Sen came in contact with the Party in the early 1970s. He lived then in a house very close to New Alipore College in Kolkata where during a mighty students' organized by AIDSO he developed a close association with AIDSO activists. Thereafter, he became more close to the Party after coming in contact with Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, departed Central Committee member. Finally, he decided to spend his life as a full-time worker of the Party.

Within a few days, under the direction of the Party, he started working in the Party's printing press (Ganadabi Printers). Comrade Salil Sen with utmost dedication and perseverance and on his own speedily learned various works of the printing press including make-up of Party organs, other Party literature and soon achieved proficiency in this regard.

When computer-based printing was introduced, he proved his mettle in quickly having a grip over the new methods without any formal education.

Ganadabi press was his heart and soul. From the time he started working for the Party within the four walls of the press for long, year after year and later even when he was forced to be confined to the Party centre because of severe COPD and other related ailments, he silently discharged his duties, braving his physical incapacities and illness even that needed working from early morning to late evening. Though immensely skillful in his work, Comrade Salil Sen never suffered from any self-conceit. His helping hand was always available to the comrades and other staff of the press. Despite long illness, he became an indispensable pillar of the Party's publications department.

Comrade Salil Sen had attained, through struggle, a high ethical and moral standard by trying to assimilate the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He had a tender heart and was endeared to all comrades and press staff.

On 20 May morning at around six o'clock when other comrades staying with him did not get any response despite repeated attempts to wake him up, they hurriedly shifted him to Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital in an ambulance. But the doctors declared him dead.

At around 11.30 am when his dead body was brought to the Party's central office where central, state and district leaders, paid their tribute by laying floral wreaths on his body. Floral tribute was paid on behalf of Proletarian Era, the organ he was associated with as a crucial member of the publication group. He was cremated at Keoratala crematorium where assembled comrades bid him farewell with tears and slogans.

Red Salute Comrade Salil Sen

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH