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Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

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From Teachings of Frederick Engels

[On the occasion of 106th death anniversary of Frederick Engels, the great leader of the proletariat, we are giving some excerpts from his invaluable teachings. These teachings not only show the scientific path underlying the development of human society but also throws light on the tasks ahead of the proletariat. We are giving the gleanings of his teachings as we consider that if we can correctly grasp the scientific methodology from these teachings of this great leader, we will be well equipped in analysing the present complex situation and develop class and mass struggles in the correct direction leading to the path of emancipation of the society. —Ed. Proletarian Era.]

... The increase of production in all branches — cattle breeding, agriculture, domestic handicrafts — enabled human labour power to produce more than was necessary for its maintenance. At the same time, it increased the amount of work that daily fell to the lot of every member of the gens¹ or household community or single family. The addition of more labour power became desirable. This was furnished by war; captives were made slaves. Under the given general historical conditions, the first great social division of labour², by increasing the productivity of labour, that is, wealth, and enlarging the field of production, necessarily carried slavery in its



5TH DECEMBER, 1820

5TH AUGUST, 1895

wake. Out of the first great social division of labour arose the first great division of society, into two classes: masters and slaves, exploiters and exploited. ...

...At the stage of development we are discussing, the young merchant class had no inkling as yet of the big things that were in store for it. But it took shape and made itself indispensable, and that was sufficient. With it, however, metal money, minted coins, came into

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's concern over the highly explosive situation in Manipur

Expressing grave concern over the highly explosive situation in Manipur resulting out of central government's unilateral decision to extend ceasefire in parts of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI has issued the following statement on 9 July, 2001 :

“The extension of ceasefire in parts of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in an arbitrary decision of the BJP-led central government keeping in dark the respective state governments and the people of these three states has caused genuine apprehension among the people of the region. It is, no doubt, an ill motivated move of the central government which is intended to fuel further the nationality tensions, discords and conflicts amongst the people of the strife torn region.

“We strongly condemn this anti-people mischievous move of the central government. We demand immediate withdrawal of this decision of extension of ceasefire and urge the central government to stop all repressive acts in Manipur.

“We also call upon all sections of the people to maintain their democratic unity and solidarity and defeat all conspiracies being engineered by the BJP-led central government.”

Make The 22-23 July Strike By Defence Employees A Success

In the hit list of privatisation of government departments and public sector undertakings the latest editions is the state owned defence production sector under the Ministry of Defence. It is by now known to all that the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre has declared its decision to privatise 39 Ordnance factories under the department of Defence and to allow 26 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI), therein. From this declaration it is very much clear that India wants to emerge in collaboration with foreign capital as arms dealer in international arena. It is also evident that by handing over state owned Ordnance factories built up through decades by blood and sweat of labour and public exchequer to Indian industrialists, and FDI the government is all set to provide them full opportunities to trade in arms in both the markets — national and

international. Thus fully backed by the government the capitalists of our country on the one hand seek to tighten their grip over profitable arms trade in domestic sphere and on the other to penetrate in international market through partnership with the foreign capitalists and multinationals. In this connection it is necessary to keep in mind that the present initiative on the part of the government of India to privatise defence production system of our country is not a sudden development; rather it is a culmination of a systematic process initiated in early nineties in this direction, and as such it may be called the second phase of plan of action to implement privatisation in defence production sector in line with NDA government's second generation of reforms. What we hold here would be corroborated from the following facts and points:

1. It may be recalled that in early 90's three joint or by-partite committees comprising representatives from three wings of the military, the army, the navy and the airforce and from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the largest organisation of private sector engineering enterprises led by the Tatas, were constituted. The assigned tasks of the committees are to assess and determine the quantum of arms and spare parts required in the three respective areas and advise the Government on the quantum of production and supply to arms to be made by the private sector. It is of concern that for quite sometime past the government has been giving order of supply to the private Ordnance factories depriving to a large extent the state owned Ordnance factories. Taking full advantage of this policy, presently more or less 100 private factories are manufacturing arms and ammunitions for the government. But this was not the position prior to the nineties, there were only 26 private enterprises which used to supply only the uniforms and office stores. The outcome

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use, and with this a new means by which the non-producer could rule the producer and his products. The commodity of commodities, which conceals within itself all other commodities, was discovered; the charm that can transform itself at will into anything desirable and desired. Whoever possessed it ruled the world of production; and who had it above all others? The merchant. ... After the sale of commodities for money came the lending of money, entailing interest and usury. ...

... Besides wealth in commodities and slaves, besides money wealth, wealth in the form of land came into being. The titles of individuals to parcels of land originally assigned to them by the gens or tribe were now so well established that these parcels became their hereditary property. The thing they had been striving for most just before that time was liberation from the claim of the gentile community³ to their parcels of land, a claim which had become a fetter for them. They were freed from this fetter — but soon after also from their new landed property. The full, free ownership of land implied not only possibility of unrestricted and uncurtailed possession, but also possibility of alienating it. As long as the land belonged to the gens there was no such possibility. But when the new landowner shook off the chains of the paramount title of the gens and tribe, he also tore the bond that had so long tied him inseparably to the soil. What that meant was made plain to him by the money invented simultaneously with the advent of private property in land. Land could now become a commodity which could be sold and pledged. Hardly had the private ownership of land been introduced when mortgage was discovered... from now on mortgage clung to the ownership of land...

... Commercial expansion, money, usury, landed property and mortgage were thus accompanied by the rapid concentration and centralisation of wealth in the hands of a small class, on the one hand, and by the increasing impoverishment of the masses and a growing mass of paupers, on the other. The new aristocracy of wealth, in so far as it did not from the outset coincide with the old tribal nobility, forced the latter permanently into the background (in Athens, in Rome, among the Germans). And this division of freemen into classes according to their wealth was accompanied, especially in Greece, by an enormous increase in the number of slaves, whose forced labour formed the basis on which the superstructure of all society was reared.

Let us now see what became of the gentile constitution⁴ as a result of this social revolution... It was dependent on the condition that the members of a gens, or, say, of a tribe, should live together in the same territory, be its sole inhabitants. This had long ceased to be the case. Gentes and tribes were everywhere commingled; everywhere slaves, dependents and foreigners lived among the citizens. The sedentary state ... was time and again interrupted by the mobility and changes of abode upon which commerce, changes of occupation and the transfer of land were conditioned... Beside the wants and interests which the gentile organs were appointed

From Teachings of Frederick Engels

and fitted to take care of, new wants and interests had arisen from the revolution in the conditions of earning one's living and the resulting change in social structure. These new wants and interests were not only alien to the old gentile order, but thwarted it in every way. The interests of the groups of craftsmen created by division of labour, and the special needs of the town as opposed to the country, required new organs; but each of these groups was composed of people from different gentes, phratries⁵ and tribes; they even included aliens. Hence, the new organs necessarily had to take form outside the gentile constitution, parallel with it, and that meant against it. And again, in every gentile organisation the conflict of interests made itself felt and reached its apex by combining rich and poor, usurers and debtors, in the same gens and tribe. Then there was the mass of new inhabitants, strangers to the gentile associations, which, as in Rome, could become a power in the land, and was too numerous to be gradually absorbed by the consanguine gentes and tribes. The gentile associations confronted these masses as exclusive, privileged bodies; what had originally been a naturally-grown democracy was transformed into a hateful aristocracy. Lastly, the gentile constitution had grown out of a society that knew no internal antagonisms, and was adapted only for such a society. It had no coercive power except public opinion. But now a society had come into being that by the force of all its economic conditions of existence had to split up into freemen and slaves, into exploiting rich and exploited poor; a society that was not only incapable of reconciling these antagonisms, but had to drive them more and more to a head. Such a society could only exist either in a state of continuous, open struggle of these classes against one another or under the rule of a third power which, while ostensibly standing above the classes struggling with each other, suppressed their open conflict and permitted a class struggle at most in the economic field, in a so-called legal form. The gentile constitution had outlived its usefulness. It was burst asunder by the division of labour and by its result, the division of society into classes. Its place was taken by the *state*...

... The state is, therefore, by no means a power forced on society from without; just as little is it "the reality of the ethical idea," "the image and reality of reason," as Hegel maintains. Rather, it is a product of society at a certain stage of development; it is the admission that this society has become entangled in an insoluble contradiction with itself, that it is cleft into irreconcilable antagonisms which it is powerless to dispel. But in order that these antagonisms, classes with conflicting economic interests, might not consume themselves and society in sterile struggle a power seemingly standing above society became necessary for the purpose of moderating the conflict, of keeping it within the bounds of "order" and this power, arisen out of society, but

placing itself above it, and increasingly alienating itself from it, is the state.

In contradistinction to the old gentile organization, the state, first, divides its subjects *according to territory*. As we have seen, the old gentile associations, built upon and

held together by ties of blood, became inadequate, largely because they presupposed that the members were bound to a given territory, a bond which had long ceased to exist. The territory remained, but the people had become mobile. Hence, division according to territory was taken as the point of departure, and citizens were allowed to exercise their public rights and duties wherever they settled, irrespective of gens and tribe. This organization of citizens according to locality is a feature common to all states. That is why it seems natural to us; but we have seen what long and arduous struggles were needed before it could replace, in Athens and Rome, the old organization according to gentes.

The second is the establishment of a *public power* which no longer directly coincided with the population organising itself as an armed force. This special public power is necessary, because a self-acting armed organisation of the population has become impossible since the cleavage into classes. The slaves also belonged to the population; ... The people's army of the Athenian democracy was an aristocratic public power against the slaves, whom it kept in check; however, a gendarmerie also became necessary to keep the citizens in check, ... This public power exists in every state; it consists not merely of armed people but also of material adjuncts, prisons and institutions of coercion of all kinds, of which gentile society knew nothing...

... In order to maintain this public power, contributions from the citizens become necessary — *taxes*. These were absolutely unknown in gentile society; but we know enough about them today. As civilization advances, these taxes become inadequate; the state makes drafts on the future, contracts loans, *public debts*. ...

In possession of the public power and of the right to levy taxes, the officials, as organs of society, now stand *above* society. The free, voluntary respect that was accorded to the organs of the gentile constitution does not satisfy them, even if they could gain it; being the vehicles of a power that is becoming alien to society, respect for them must be enforced by means of exceptional laws by virtue of which they enjoy special sanctity and inviolability. The shabbiest police servant in the civilized state has more "authority" than all the organs of the gentile society put together; ...

... As the state arose from the need to hold class antagonisms in check, but as it arose, at the same time, in the midst of the conflict of these classes, it is, as a rule, the state of the most powerful, economically dominant class, which, through the medium of the state, becomes also the politically dominant class, and thus acquires new means of holding down and exploiting the oppressed class. Thus, the state of antiquity was above all the state of the slave owners for the purpose of holding down the slaves, as the feudal

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state was the organ of the nobility for holding down the peasant serfs and bondsmen, and the modern representative state is an instrument of exploitation of wage labour by capital....

... In most of the historical states, the rights of citizens are, besides, apportioned according to their wealth, thus directly expressing the fact that the state is an organisation of the possessing class for its protection against the non-possessing class. It was so already in the Athenian and Roman classification according to property. It was so in the medieval feudal state, in which the alignment of political power was in conformity with the amount of land owned. ...The highest form of the state, the democratic republic, which under our modern conditions of society is more and more becoming an inevitable necessity, and is the form of state in which alone the last decisive struggle between proletariat and bourgeoisie can be fought out — the democratic republic officially knows nothing any more of property distinctions. In it wealth exercises its power indirectly, but all the more surely. On the one hand, in the form of the direct corruption of officials, of which America provides the classical example; on the other hand, in the form of an alliance between government and Stock Exchange, which becomes the easier to achieve the more the public debt increases and the more joint-stock companies concentrate in their hands not only transport but also production itself, using the Stock Exchange as their centre....

...And lastly, the possessing class rules directly through the medium of universal suffrage. As long as the oppressed class, in our case, therefore, the proletariat, is not yet ripe to emancipate itself, it will in its majority regard the existing order of society as the only one possible and, politically, will form the tail of the capitalist class, its extreme Left wing. To the extent, however, that this class matures for its self-emancipation, it constitutes itself as its own party and elects its own representatives, and not those of the capitalists. Thus, universal suffrage is the gauge of the maturity of the working class. It cannot and never will be anything more in the present-day state; but that is sufficient. On the day the thermometer of universal suffrage registers boiling point among the workers, both they and the capitalists will know what to do.

The state, then, has not existed from all eternity. There have been societies that did without it, that had no conception of the state and state power. At a certain stage of economic development, which was necessarily bound up with the cleavage of society into classes, the state became a necessity owing to this cleavage. We are now rapidly approaching a stage in the development of production at which the existence of these classes not only will have ceased to be a necessity, but will become a positive hindrance to production. They will fall as inevitably as they arose at an earlier stage. Along with them the state will inevitably fall. The society that will organize production on the basis of a free and equal association of the producers will put the whole machinery of state where it will then belong: into the Museum of Antiquities, by the side of the spinning wheel and the bronze axe....

From Teachings of Frederick Engels

Modern socialism is, in its essence, the direct product of the recognition, on the one hand, of the class antagonisms existing in the society of today between proprietors and non-proprietors, between capitalists and wage-workers; on the other hand, of the anarchy existing in production....

Facts more and more strenuously gave the lie to the teachings of bourgeois economy as to the identity of the interests of capital and labour, as to the universal harmony and universal prosperity that would be the consequence of unbridled competition. ...

The materialist conception of history starts from the proposition that the production of the means to support human life and, next to production, the exchange of things produced, is the basis of all social structure; that in every society that has appeared in history, the manner in which wealth is distributed and society divided into classes or orders is dependent upon what is produced, how it is produced, and how the products are exchanged. From this point of view the final causes of all social changes and political revolutions are to be sought, not in men's brains, not in men's better insight into eternal truth and justice, but in changes in the modes of production and exchange. ...

Since steam, machinery, and the making of machines by machinery transformed the older manufacture into modern industry, the productive forces evolved under the guidance of the bourgeoisie developed with a rapidity and in a degree unheard of before. But just as the older manufacture, in its time, and handicraft, become more developed under its influence, had come into collision with the feudal trammels of the guilds, so now modern industry, in its more complete development, comes into collision with the bounds within which the capitalistic mode of production holds it confined. The new productive forces have already outgrown the capitalistic mode of using them. And this conflict between productive forces and modes of production is not a conflict engendered in the mind of man, like that between original sin and divine justice. It exists, in fact, objectivity, outside us, independently of the will and actions even of the men that have brought it on. Modern socialism is nothing but the reflex, in thought, of this conflict in fact; its ideal reflection in the minds, first, of the class directly suffering under it, the working class....

It is the compelling force of anarchy in the production of society at large that more and more completely turns the great majority of men into proletarians; and it is the masses of the proletariat again who will finally put an end to anarchy in production that turns the limitless perfectibility of machinery under modern industry into a compulsory law by which every individual industrial capitalist must perfect his machinery more and more, under penalty of ruin.

But the perfecting of machinery is making human labour superfluous. If the introduction and increase of machinery means the displacement of

millions of manual by a few machine-workers, improvement in machinery means the displacement of more and more of the machine-workers themselves. It means, in the last instance, the production of a number of available wage-workers in excess of the average needs of capital, the

formation of a complete industrial reserve army, as I called it in 1845, (*The condition of the Working Class in England*) available at the times when industry is working at high pressure, to be cast out upon the street when the inevitable crash comes, a constant dead weight upon the limbs of the working class in its struggle for existence with capital, a regulator for the keeping of wages down to the low level that suits the interests of capital. Thus it comes about, to quote Marx, that machinery becomes the most powerful weapon in the war of capital against the working class; that the instruments of labour constantly tear the means of subsistence out of the hands of the labourer; that the very product of the worker is turned into an instrument for his subjugation. Thus it comes about that the economising of the instruments of labour becomes at the same time, from the outset, the most reckless waste of labour power, and robbery based upon the normal conditions under which labour functions; that machinery, the most powerful instrument for shortening labour time, becomes the most unflinching means for placing every moment of the labourer's time and that of his family at the disposal of the capitalist for the purpose of expanding the value of his capital. ...

As a matter of fact, since 1825, when the first general crisis broke out, the whole industrial and commercial world, production and exchange among all civilised peoples and their more or less barbaric hangers-on, are thrown out of joint about once every ten years. Commerce is at a standstill, the markets are glutted, products accumulate, as multitudinous as they are unsalable, hard cash disappears, credit vanishes, factories are closed, the mass of the workers are in want of the means of subsistence, because they have produced too much of the means of subsistence; bankruptcy follows upon bankruptcy, execution upon execution. The stagnation lasts for years; productive forces and products are wasted and destroyed wholesale, until the accumulated mass of commodities finally filters off, more or less depreciated in value, until production and exchange gradually begin to move again. Little by little the pace quickens. It becomes a trot. The industrial trot breaks into a canter, the canter in turn grows into the headlong gallop of a perfect steeplechase of industry, commercial credit, and speculation which finally, after breakneck leaps, ends where it began -- in the ditch of a crisis. And so over and over again. ...

Whilst the capitalist mode of production more and more completely transforms the great majority of the population into proletarians, it creates the power which, under penalty of its own destruction, is forced to accomplish this revolution. Whilst it forces on more and more the transformation of the vast means of production, already socialised, into state property, it shows itself the way to accomplishing this revolution. The proletariat seizes political power

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United Trade Union Convention in West Bengal

At the call of all central trade unions including CITU, AITUC, INTUC, BMS, UTUC, UTUC-LS, TUCC, HMS, AICCTU, NFITU and Federations of Workers & Employees' Unions and Associations of Central and State Governments, Mercantile Firms, Railways, Defence, Bank, Insurance, Telecommunication the West Bengal State Convention of Trade Unions was held on July 6 last at the Netaji Indoor Stadium, Calcutta.

Speakers of different trade unions and other Federations strongly condemned the new economic policy pursued by the central government. A resolution was adopted unanimously at the Convention condemning the privatisation of the PSUs, permission to unhindered penetration of foreign finance capital, opening up of the industries like coal, steel, petrol, electricity, etc., to domestic and foreign capital, privatisation in railway, bank, insurance, port, telecommunication and even in defence sector, dereservation in small scale sector, unhindered import of foreign goods and lowering of import duty.

The resolution also condemned the measures like VRS, stoppage of filling the vacancies, 10 per cent reduction in the staff strength of the central government departments and such other measures which would further aggravate the unemployment situation in the country. The resolution also condemned the reduction in interest rates in PF and small savings.

The resolution further condemned the moves of the government to curtail the rights of the working class, acquired through long struggle.

The resolution pointed out that the public sector units in West Bengal are facing closures owing to the anti-people policies of the central government.

While extending full support to the countrywide strike call for a day for realisation of 5-point demand, the convention urged the people to further extend and strengthen the joint movement developed on the basis of the five-point demand.

The Convention urged to adopt programme to organise joint trade union conventions at the subdivision, district and industrial levels and also organise joint rallies on 24th July in different

places including Calcutta to synchronize with the programme of protest demonstration before the Lok Sabha on the same date.

The Convention extended full support to the strike call of the employees of the defence sector on 23-24 July against infiltration of private capital and all India strike on July 25 by the Central and State Government employees against reduction in staff strength and curtailment of acquired rights. The resolution was moved by Comrade Chittabrata Majumdar, the CITU leader.

Comrades Shanti Gahtak, Shankar Saha, Nanda Srimani, Milan Choudhury and other leaders were in the presidium to conduct the convention.

Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, the All India President of the UTUC-LS, addressed the convention supporting the main resolution. In the very beginning two minute silence was observed in memory of Comrades Niren Ghosh and Ramanujam, the two distinguished trade union leaders.

Speech of Comrade Ashutosh Banerji

Respected members of the Presidium and the toiling people present here,

At the outset I seek your apology for not being able to stand at the time of observing silence for condolence for my physical inability.

I begin my speech by paying respect to Comrade Niren Ghosh and Ramanujamji.

Today, we have assembled here to announce the programme of movement. You all can realise from the resolution the result of the new economic policy pursued during the last ten years in India. It is not possible to explain everything about the situation in India within a short spell of time and I do not see much necessity of that, too. Because all of you are very conscious. If the interest of a handful of oligarchs is not the interest of the nation, nation's interest is the interest of the common people, people of the country, then the interest of the country or nation is not only linked up with that of the millions of toiling masses, but their interest is the real interest of the nation or the country. So the economic system which is not in favour of the toiling people's interest can never be good for the interest of either the nation or the

country and it is our bounden duty to wage movement against it. But we must acquire mental stamina. And the government and the owning class are trying continuously to destroy it. A despair and lack of faith, panic are being spread among the toiling masses of the country that 'nothing is being done, nothing can be done either; no way out from VRS — who will fight, who will lead? Take whatever you get and leave'; such type of notion and mentality is being arduously created among the workers, middle class employees of banks, government offices and other places. An atmosphere like 'accept whatever you get before the opportunity slips away — nothing will be done, no one will do anything for us' is being created. You can easily understand that no movement can be lively and strong amidst such an atmosphere. So, a conscious movement must be built up against all those things. If we cannot resolutely stand against the attempts of foisting VRS on us, forcible retirement on us, it will not be possible to make the movement strong. I would appeal to you to ponder over it. Today this problem does not confront the workers in fields and factories alone. The fate of the vast masses of nearly 30 million middle class employees is also at stake, their future too is bleak. Even among the middle class those who have entered into government service with great expectations and become bureaucrats are not being spared. Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director — none are spared and none will be spared. Everybody are being sacrificed at the altar of profit of capital. In such a situation we are surprised to see representations from two central trade unions are also joining a delegation of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to foreign countries. What will these labour leaders say to the foreign investors or the capitalists? Would they invite the foreign capitalists to our country assuring them that our workers will not fight and will accept contractorisation and casualisation and anti-labour amendments of trade union Acts; come to our country without hesitation. Why such participation of the labour leaders in CII delegation? Why did the CII plan it? They did it only to demoralise the workers, to bring cleavage in the organised and sustained movement of the workers and employees which is the only answer to the present problems. They are doing it to create confusion and distrust within the movement for which NPMs with 56 mass organisations have been formed. The working class must remain alert against such divisive ploy Comrade Banerji observed. He at the same time asked whether simply with announcing some programme of movement, the task before the workers would be completed. No, he asserted, the leadership and the workers-employees must go down to the people with these programmes to organise the movements in stages and to build them up on a firm foundation. The movement must be protracted and organised free from any confusion among the common workers and employees. On this question all of you must cooperate with us. And not only that, we too want to work together amidst you. With this firm resolve we must depart today.

Leaders of INTUC, CITU, AITUC, UTUC, TUCC also spoke in support of the main resolution of the convention.



Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, All India President of UTUC-LS, addressing the Convention of the United Trade Unions at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Calcutta on 6th July last.

AISEC Calls for Massive Movement to Resist Introduction of Vedic Astrology, Purohitya and Vastushastra in Universities

The All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) expressed grave concern over the recent University Grants Commission move, ostensibly at the bidding of the BJP-led Union Government and the behind-the-curtain Sangh Parivar, to introduce courses like *Vedic Astrology*, *Vastushastra* and *Purohitya* in Indian universities from the coming academic year. Unambiguously, the Committee condemns this attempt to bring into the highest stages of general education of the country, such courses that include nothing but unscientific, superstitious and obscurantist ideas, demanding blind faith above reasoning and questioning and bearing the danger of corroding, even destroying secularism in the country, to whatever least extent it may be present till now ; stating :

We are in an age when stupendous growth in science and technology helps man step into and unravel newer and newer vistas of knowledge of the world, thus making it imperative that the education system of the country patterns the mindset of the students to enable them to take part in the progress of science and technology. However, we also live in a society swamped with blind faith, prejudice and superstition so much so that even those formally educated often fail to keep themselves free from these vices. In this context, it was imperative to fight these trends and promote scientific approach and philosophy, but the UGC is actually lending its hand to increase the spate of blind faith, superstitions and the like. The AISEC raises the caution that if this trend is not thwarted in time, the cult of knowledge-based education in the country is sure to be the first victim.

The AISEC also condemns the manner in

which the University Grants Commission has tried to push the issue through, so much so that the UGC evaded a nationwide debate among the educationists in particular and people in general and even ignored the strong indignation and protest against this move generated from a wide section of the people, including vice-chancellors of different universities. On the contrary, the interested circles behind the move have unleashed a campaign full of false, confusing claims.

The AISEC thus feels it imperative to raise certain salient issues for consideration of the media and the public. Any course offered in universities is meant to cover a comprehensive knowledge on the subject concerned. The three courses proposed are mere professional training schedules and speak of no comprehensive knowledge, nor even of any significant or socially beneficial technological aspects. On the other hand, they will drag the nation back to abysmal superstitions. It is merely foolish to think of country's job potentiality by creating some *purohitis*, *astrologers* or *vastushastrakaras*, particularly with economy tottering in crisis.

In its cunning campaign, the UGC as well as the Union Government led by the BJP harps on upholding our tradition, allegedly through these courses. This is deliberately misleading. Undoubtedly astronomy, but not astrology, was highly developed in ancient India. Astrology which came much later caused definite downfall of astronomy in India. Eventually it paved the way for a superstitious and obscurantist mindset, now fitting well with the Hindutvawadi

programmes of the BJP-Sangh Parivar combine.

History is replete with instances in which astrology thrives in a society which breeds crisis, anarchy and uncertainty in life, particularly when these are associated with religious fanaticism. The question is what has made the present rulers to introduce astrology, etc., and that too surreptitiously. Obviously, this cannot be without a reason. It is our considered opinion that the crisis in society has become so all-pervasive that people are getting restive every day. Resentment mount to the extent that may burst out into a rebellion. The rulers find no answer ; they know it well that they cannot provide employment to even a minimum fraction of the job seekers. they cannot solve any of the acute problems that the common people face day in and day out. So they have come out with this trick of confining people, particularly students and youth, into a quagmire of superstition, blind faith in destiny and the like. They expect this will give their rule a new lease of life, students and youth having been robbed of the moral strength and courage to question and rebel.

The AISEC calls upon those who may feel concerned with the fate and future of education in our country, to comprehend the danger imminent in this move of the UGC. The Committee is confident that the secular and democratic minded, education loving sections of the society will rise to the demand of the day and come forward to forge unity and thwart this heinous move of destroying the country's cultural, educational and ethical base. The initiative is ours and we appeal to help us build up massive movement to this end.

Villagers Attain Significant Victory in Karnataka

On 25-6-2001 a road blockade movement was jointly organised by AIDYO, RKS (Raitha Krishi-Karmika Sanghatane) on Poona-Bangalore National Highway near Venkatapur village in Dharwar district of Karnataka.

The people of five villages, viz. Venkatapur, Bogur, Mugali, Madanabavi and Hosetti of Dharwar district did not have proper bus facilities and lacked proper roads. Repeated appeal by the villagers to the concerned authorities for nearly six months didn't yield any result. So the people finally decided to go for a road blockade.

Sensing the spirit and anger of the people against the authorities the police tried every means of threats and even tried to arrest our leading Comrade H.G. Desai on the previous day of the movement.

This further enraged the people and they firmly decided to go on with the strike at any cost. So on 25th morning people from five villages travelled by tractors and nearly 2000 men, women, students, youths gathered on the highway and brought the traffic to a standstill for nearly two hours in face of repeated threats by the police.

The movement was led by Comrade A. Ramanjinappa, AIDYO State Secretary and State Committee member of RKS. He addressed the gathering, appealed to the people to continue the

struggle till the demands are met. He condemned the government for failing to provide the basic amenities to the people.

The concerned authorities of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and PWD came to the spot and assured the people in writing that they would immediately provide the bus facilities

to the villages and would complete the road repair works by November.

This movement has created great enthusiasm among people of the entire region. People from other areas too are approaching our organisers for building movements on longstanding demands.



On 25.9.2001 the AIDYO and RKS held road blockade on Poona-Bangalore National Highway near Venkatapur Village in Dharwar that led to victory

Anti Globalisation Protests in Europe

Highhandedness and contempt for international agreements and treaties have long been the hallmark of the US foreign dealings, not to speak of the US imperialist aggression, international intervention and brigandage, which do not change with change of government. Rather, in the new policies adopted by the Bush administration in the international and military field since his coming to power, this is even more glaringly demonstrated, which has caused a reaction throughout the world. It is evident that the US President George W. Bush is trying to carry on or even surpass the legacy of his father under whose rule the so-called 'new world order' of globalisation was first put into practice with the war of aggression against Iraq. Little wonder then, that Bush's 5-nation European tour last month, from June 12-16 — wherever he went, from Spain to Belgium, Poland, Slovenia and to the EU-US summit in Sweden — was dogged by militant anti-Bush, anti-US and anti-imperialist and anti-globalisation protests. The policies of Bush administration that particularly drew the ire of the anti-globalisation, anti-imperialist activists and environmentalists in Europe, include, among others, spate of racist death sentences, the national missile defense scheme, and the utter contempt shown by Bush for international treaties like the ABM treaty and Kyoto Protocol of 1997 that seeks to tackle global warming by limiting the emission of greenhouse gases. Not to speak of anti-imperialist protestors, even the European imperialist powers themselves have severe misgivings on that score, which was clearly expressed by the diplomatic snub given by Chancellor of Germany and President and Prime Minister of France to Bush on his arrival by pointedly omitting to offer Bush an official greeting, while a Franco-German alliance meeting at the same time voiced concern in an official statement about NMD that just stopped short of outright condemnation. Sweden which currently holds the EU Presidency said it would take a strong position on Bush's casual abandonment of the Kyoto Protocol, and the French foreign minister said Europe would be holding the US to account for rejecting Kyoto because "a country that produces 25 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases cannot cut itself off from world efforts to curb pollution". Mass protestors in Madrid and Brussels, the first two countries to be visited by Bush, carried placards, saying: "Go home", "The earth is our mother, not your supermarket." The thousands of demonstrators in the different countries also voiced their opposition to other policies of Bush including the arms race, globalisation and the failure to abolish Third World debt, Cuba embargo etc.

As for the EU-US one day summit in Gothenburg, Sweden, on June 14, the ABM and Kyoto treaty were not the only issues. Another irritant centred around US Cuba embargo and especially US protectionism on steel, with the EU threatening to take action in Geneva if the USA was unable to show that protection against imports are WTO compatible. In the end the only thing on which agreement was reached was that a

WTO meeting be called soon. As the well known columnist, Jonathan Power commented: "The question that Mr Bush is coming face to face with this week is how much of an antagonist does he want to make of Europe?" (*The Statesman*, 14.6.01) All this is a clear indication that globalisation may have brought hyper profits to some corporations, but has failed to resolve the rivalries between imperialist countries and trade wars, rather these are getting sharper and hotter as time goes on, confirming the reading of our party on globalisation.

But US imperialism and Bush were not the only targets of the anti-capitalist-imperialist, anti-globalisation forces in each country he visited. In Sweden where a EU summit followed the US-EU meet, to discuss the expansion of the European Union, the EU, which is instrumental in Europe to implement the agenda of globalisation, came under fire too in the biggest demonstration in 30 years in that country, for bringing on mass unemployment, social destruction, privatisation and insecurity for toiling people.

The recent anti-Bush, anti-EU protests in Europe are not an isolated phenomenon, but are part of the growing international struggle of the working class against capitalism-imperialism and globalisation that have grown across the globe and are targeting in particular the meets and summits

such as IMF, World Bank, WTO, EU, G-7 or -8 etc. Indeed such has been the militant, well organized character of these protest movements that the respective rulers in different host countries of such meets have all been going out of their way to make most elaborate and unusual security arrangements, even at times fencing in entire city areas to shut out protest from venues of meetings — the latest example being Genoa, Italy where the entire city is being walled in for the coming G-8 meet this month, where even the airport, highways and railroads have long been sealed — such is the apprehension against the growing solidarity of the people against capitalist-imperialist exploitation. On the other hand, in a clear sign of the significance of these movements, of the growing power of the people, a World Bank meeting in Barcelona, Spain, scheduled for 25-27 June, was cancelled recently in view of the announced protest, and decided to be held via internet video camera instead.

Moreover, plans have been announced to hold these meets and summits in future in NATO Headquarters in Belgium — where protection against people is easier to come by. The working people everywhere need to build up and strengthen international solidarity against the globalised onslaught of capitalism-imperialism and globalisation, which is the only way.

Arms Training of Volunteers of RSS Controlled Organisations Portends Fascist Design

Fifty thousand volunteers in UP and thirty thousand volunteers in West Bengal of Bajrang Dal and Durga Bahini, both belonging to the RSS, are undergoing firearms training at the present moment. A spokesman of the Sangh Parivar said that the number of volunteers undergoing firearms training will be raised 50 lakh throughout India within a few years. One cannot but feel serious concern at this arms training of these volunteers. The volunteers of the Sangh Parivar acted as Kar Sevaks in demolishing the Babari Masjid. Those who witnessed the act of demolition on TV or in the photos in the newspapers and magazines must have seen the menacing and ferocious look of all these Kar Sevaks. These Kar Sevaks perpetrated a dastardly act of the demolition of an ancient historical monument and they felt no prick of conscience as they totally lacked it. They are barbarous criminals and they are fit for any marauding act. These criminals who are the volunteers of the RSS controlled organisations resort to murder, rape, looting, burning, desecration and destruction of religious places of the minority communities. They are burning churches, murdering Christian priests and even minors and inciting communal violence causing loss of life and property belonging to the minority communities. One can easily imagine the state of affairs in the country when such a marauding army of volunteers numbering 50 lakh will be fully equipped with firearms training. It is obvious that they are getting firearms training with the full

blessings and patronage of the BJP-led government. And herein lies the gravity of the situation. It is being dished out by the Sangh Parivar that this firearms training is for confronting the ISI. But this nothing but a hoax. Why then thousands of crores of rupees are being spent each year from the public exchequer for maintaining a large police force, a large standing army and a huge paramilitary force. In a country when nearly 50% of the people are without food, shelter and other essentials of life, the government is spending a huge amount in the name of the security of the country. Confronting the ISI is the bounden duty of the government, and the Sangh Parivar has no right to transgress on the functioning of the government.

The firearms training of the volunteers is indeed ominous. It reminds us of the storm troopers of Hitler. These storm-troopers will appear as a threat not only to the minority communities but to the legitimate democratic movement of the country. The ruling capitalist class will use the storm-troopers to crush all the legitimate democratic movements of the country and a fascist rule will be established.

In this situation all well-meaning and democratic minded people of the country who cherish democratic norms and values in their heart must raise their voice of protest against this arms training of the Hindu zealots having heinous motive of foisting fascism in the country.

On Illegal Extradition of Milosevic

At the instance of the US international brigandage the former President of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, was virtually kidnapped and handed over to the unconstitutional International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia — not to be confounded with the UN World Court — in The Hague — on June 27, which has set a new international precedent that is fraught with grave consequences worldwide. The extradition of Milosevic took place despite overwhelming public opposition in Yugoslavia, despite opposition by the majority in Parliament and despite the ruling of the Constitutional Court against it. The US imperialists threatened to withhold aid for reconstruction of war (and sanction) ravaged Yugoslavia for failing to extradite Milosevic to be tried for war crimes in Yugoslavia. Yet anybody with even a modicum of knowledge or awareness about the kind of exploitation perpetrated by the imperialists through their tools like IMF, WB, etc. knows for certain that their promise of 'aid for reconstruction' is a complete hoax. And with this promise the DOS leaders in Yugoslavia — the henchmen of US imperialism - have in vain tried to gain public support for their move. There were huge protest rallies on 26 and 27 in Belgrade involving more than one lakh demonstrators who decried the DOS leaders as traitors, according to the International Committee to Defend Slobodan Milosevic (ICDSM). It may be recalled in this context that the current DOS government came to power not through popular support but in a coup in which the imperialists, especially the USA and Germany played a prominent and dirty role. But it has been seen despite being in government with imperialist backing the DOS leaders recently suffered a humiliating defeat in seven out of seven special County elections at the hands of SPS, Milosevic's party. There have been reports that the extradition of Milosevic would be followed by the arrest and handing over of leaders of SPS and others. Clearly the arm of US imperialists has been able to reach far, wide and deep with the help of its lackeys in the DOS government. Will this now set a new precedent of how the USA plans to deal with political forces not to its liking in other sovereign countries? If Milosevic as head of federal Yugoslavia or what remains of it has been guilty of any crimes in dealing with ethnic problems, with terrorist and secessionist moves and wars, this is an internal affair of Yugoslavia and for that country to judge. The USA has no right to poke its nose in it and fish in troubled waters, to say the least. It is by now well established that the USA and Germany — both in collusion and contention — armed and propped up the terrorist KLA in Kosovo and fascist secessionist forces in Bosnia: was it concern for human rights and life of civilians that prompted them to do so? If US imperialists really had any concern for human rights and civilians as they profess to do, how could they resort to the illegal and barbaric bombing attack on Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, bombing civilian targets like schools, hospitals, trains and even refugee convoys, killing over a thousand civilians and maiming countless with cluster bombs prohibited by international law? How could they take recourse to wide scale use of depleted uranium and probably also plutonium an even more deadly radioactive substance? **Where natural justice demands that the US**

imperialists and US-led NATO should be treated as war criminals and put in the dock internationally to be tried for their war crimes against Yugoslavia, they, on the contrary set up the Criminal Tribunal illegally under US pressure through the Security Council in violation of UN Charter.

Thus, no less a personality than Ramsay Clark, former US Attorney General, in a recent news conference said that the The Hague Tribunal was 'unlawful' and that "it is not entitled to judge anybody and even to bring any charges against anybody." He asserted that the US crimes against the Federal Yugoslavia "exceed by far any crime which Yugoslavia may be charged with." Taking upon himself the responsibility to defend Milosevic legally if necessary, he added that Milosevic "tried to protect his people as he could." It may be mentioned that Ramsay Clark is also one of the founders of the International Tribunal on US-NATO war crimes in Yugoslavia.

It is very clear what drives the USA has nothing to do with securing human rights or justice for Kosovar Albanians. Their design is to bring about the break-up and complete

disintegration of former Yugoslavia in their struggle for control of the strategically important Balkan region and economy to gain decisive advantage in the struggle for complete world domination, no matter how many wars, and what untold miseries that entails for the people caught up in this situation. Just a glance at ground reality in Kosovo will amply bear this out: not only was the KLA not disarmed in violation of the 'peace agreement', but under the patronage of the NATO the KLA has been allowed to indulge in any crime — no matter how atrocious — not only against Serbs and Romas but also against progressive and democratic minded Albanian Kosovars who do not subscribe to the mafiose KLA's fascist slogan of an ethnically clean, greater Albania. Thus the KLA has also been enabled to spread its heinous terrorist activities to neighbouring Macedonia.

The Tribunal set up by the USA is nothing but a political tool to confuse world opinion and smash any support for Serbian people as well as to smash their opposition to the US designs and the US 'national' interests. Will the democratic minded and freedom loving people throughout the world let it go unchallenged?

From Teachings of Frederick Engels

(Contd. from page 3)

and turns the means of production into state property.

...It is the essence of bourgeois socialism to want to maintain the basis of all the evils of present-day society and at the same time to want to abolish the evils themselves. ...Whoever declares that the capitalist mode of production, the "iron laws" of present-day bourgeois society, are inviolable, and yet at the same time would like to abolish their unpleasant but necessary consequences, has no other recourse but to deliver moral sermons to the capitalists, moral sermons whose emotional effects immediately evaporate under the influence of private interest and, if necessary, of competition. ...The gospel of harmony between capital and labour has been preached for almost fifty years now, and bourgeois philanthropy has expended large sums of money to prove this harmony by building model institutions; yet, ... we are today exactly where we were fifty years ago. ...

... Since the historical appearance of the capitalist mode of production, the appropriation by society of all the means of production has often been dreamed of, more or less vaguely, by individuals, as well as by sects, as the ideal of the future. But it could become possible, could become a historical necessity, only when the actual conditions for its realization were there. ...This point is now reached. Their political and intellectual bankruptcy is scarcely any longer a secret to the bourgeoisie themselves. Their economic bankruptcy recurs regularly every ten years. In every crisis, society is suffocated beneath the weight of its own productive forces and products, which it cannot use, and stands helpless, face to face with the absurd contradiction that the producers have nothing to consume, because consumers are wanting. The expansive

force of the means of production bursts the bonds that the capitalist mode of production had imposed upon them. Their deliverance from these bonds is the one pre-condition for an unbroken, constantly-accelerated development of the productive forces, and therewith for a practically unlimited increase of production itself. ... The possibility of securing for every member of society, by means of socialized production, an existence not only fully sufficient materially, and becoming day by day more full, but an existence guaranteeing to all the free development and exercise of their physical and mental faculties — this possibility is now for the first time here, but it is here.

Notes :

1. A rigidly limited circle of blood relatives in the female line within a tribe, all having a common ancestress, who are not allowed to marry one another.
2. This arose when a number of the most advanced tribes — Aryans, Semites, perhaps also the Turanians — made the domestication, and later the raising and tending of cattle, their principal occupation. These pastoral tribes separated themselves from the general mass of the barbarians: *first great social division of labour*.
3. Community formed on the basis of gens.
4. Constitution of gen-based society.
5. Three, four or more gentes united in a special group. With the prohibition of marriage within the gens, each tribe had necessarily to consist of at least two gentes in order to be capable of independent existence. As the tribe increased, each gens again, subdivided into two or more gentes, each of which now appears as a separate gens, while the original gens, which embraces all the daughter gentes, lives on as the phratry.

Reference :

1. The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State
2. Socialism : Utopian and Scientific
3. The Housing Question

Demonstration in Bangalore

The Bangalore District Committee of the AIDS0 organised a massive demonstration on 6th July last near Mysore Bank Circle, as part of statewide movement against government's decision to raise the rate of student bus passes. About 500 students from around 15 institutions participated protesting the move and raised slogans against the decision.

Addressing the gathering the state president of the AIDS0 Comrade Sriram said, "The Government argues that the hike is due to increase in expenditure of the transport corporation. But far from being profit making, KSRTC is primarily formed to provide basic travelling facilities to students and people." The State Secretary Comrade Shekar while speaking said: The KSRTC has become the hot bed of corruption. Instead of eradicating it and providing free bus passes, it is shifting the burden on to the students and parents." Comrade Mahadeva Prasad, District President, AIDS0 explained how the government's repeated move to withdraw students' bus passes could be defeated only by united students movement. Student representatives

from different colleges also spoke. The memorandum, submitted to the Chief Traffic Manager of KSRTC was read out by Comrade Kum. T. C. Rama, District Committee member,

AIDS0.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Kum. Jaheeda Shreen, member, district committee, AIDS0.



*Demonstration
by AIDS0 at
Mysore
Circle,
Bangalore*

Movement Against Abnormal Fee hike in Educational Institutions in West Bengal

The CPI(M)-led Left Front Government of West Bengal has announced steep hike in tuition fees at all levels. Already it has enhanced a hike in tuition fees by five times to thirty times at college and university levels including medical and engineering colleges, and has allowed the concerned authorities to impose additional charges at will on other heads. Before the recent formal announcement of the exorbitant hike of tuition fees, informal fee hikes have been going on for quite sometime, against which AIDS0 has been launching movements, besides movement on admission problem, etc.

In the recent past, movements developed almost in all the districts of West Bengal and as a result fee hike was resisted in many cases, for instance in the Jadavpur University, the authorities were compelled to keep in abeyance the decision to hike tuition fees at the pressure of students' movement.

On 9th July last AIDS0 staged a road blockade against fee hike at College Street, Calcutta. Police brutally lathi-charged the students, including girl students injuring many. Many were arrested.

All over West Bengal Students Action Committees are being formed to develop sustained movement.

AIDS0 will observe Protest Day on 17-18 July throughout the State. On these days, demonstrations will be held in the premises of all the universities.

On July 20, all Bengal Students Strike will be observed.

AIDS0 has appealed the students, teachers and guardians to develop the movement to a still higher phase till the demands are achieved.

Nationwide Strike By Defence Employees

(Contd. from page 1)

of the bipartite exercise is clear — increasing entry of the private capital in defence sector.

2. Besides the government has also come to another agreement with CII prior to the present development. There is an organisation named DRDO under the Ministry of Defence to conduct research activities. There are 10 laboratories under DRDO which are engaged in research, experimentation and standardisation activities to update sophisticated technology and build up highly modernised weaponry. It has been further decided that both sets of experts from the government and private enterprises would work together in these laboratories. What does it imply? It means private sector is allowed to utilise state owned arms research laboratories for the purpose of production of arms and selling such products to the government to reap maximum profit. This is a unique service indeed to the capitalist class extended by the Govt of India.

Incontinuity with the above mentioned ongoing process comes the latest decision of the government to hand over its 39 Ordnance factories to the private sector. The pertinent question that haunts the public mind centring round this decision is: is this government a government for the entire people or for the capitalist industrialists? The decision to open defence sector to domestic and foreign monopolists raises serious question as to the credibility of the BJP government's clamour and of repeated concern for national security. The people are also experiencing that very much unreliable are the government's declaration and commitments. It is not as yet a distant past when the government pledged that the defence industries would neither be privatised nor be exposed to foreign capital and multinationals. And then why now is this privatisation in gross violation of the earlier commitment? The next question thus follows how far reliable the government is?

Job Security of the Workers at Stake:

The decision to privatise Ordnance factories has placed thousands of employees in a precarious situation. Their job security is seriously at stake. Firstly in pursuance of the government policy many of the state owned factories have virtually been forced only to tailor uniforms for soldiers

instead of manufacturing arms and ammunitions, result being these skilled workers who are the idle workers in making, are haunted by the spectre of loss of employment at any moment.

Secondly, downsizing the workforce everywhere has been made the order of the day. To get the work of perennial nature done through the contractors is the declared policy of the government. Already, there is a move to legalise the same. Closure of government departments and contractorisation of the departmental work throwing out the departmental employees is an undisputed reality. In this given backdrop various forms of attack on employment of defence employees consequent to privatisation of defence factories is but an inevitability. Naturally once again comes the question — whose interest the present government is serving — is it serving the interest of the working people or the capitalists? Is not the BJP government's much trumpeted cry of patriotism a sheer deception as it is synonymous with the love for the capitalists and the love of country as one and the same?

Movement is the Only Way-Out :

In this critical situation the only way left open to the workers and the people is movement, a sustained united movement. It is heartening to note that the defence workers have decided to go on a nationwide strike on 23rd and 24th July, 2001 to record their united protest against the Central Government's nefarious decision to privatise 39 Ordnance factories and signal greater movement in future.

We, on behalf of the UTUC-LS, stand in firm solidarity with struggling defence workers and assure to remain with them in their future struggle too. We appeal to them to consolidate their unity from the grassroots level through formation of the struggle committees, play conscious and effective role to elevate two-day strike action to higher level of resistance, protect their struggle from various forms of attacks from within and outside and lead the struggle to decisive victory.

Lastly, we appeal fervently to all sections of toiling people of our country to come forward unitedly in support of the legitimate cause of defence workers and their nationwide two-day strike action against privatisation and job security.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE