

# Proletarian Era

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## LONG LIVE HISTORIC 24 APRIL

### Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought Illumines The Path



**“It is the fascists who cultivate blindness. The fascists want it. More the blindness, more the fanaticism — it is to this theory that the fascists subscribe. So they want the entire nation to become like blind fanatics. Their objective is to bring in blindness, create a bogey, raise slogans, bring in deceptive, misleading points to hide the main issues and incite the people. And what is the result? The people are incited by the ceaseless propaganda and they madly rush on. And in their rush they pay no heed to where they are going, whether they will fall in a ditch or not....To inflame, to incite without any ground, to confuse, to subvert one’s reasoning capacity during discussion, to be impatient, to abuse instead of answering questions — these are the methods which the reactionaries use. Only those whose ideological base is weak take recourse to exciting, to raising empty slogans; they try to smother ideology with slogans. But those whose base is not weak, they answer questions, they do not suppress questions.”**  
**(Danger from Left Opportunism in Running a Danger from Left Opportunism in Running a United Front Government, SW Vol IV)**

### While fighting the dreaded virus, observe with due solemnity the historic 24 April

A legion is growing in every corner of the country, the revolutionary legion. Realizing the need of Indian revolution marked by the absence of a genuine communist party, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, took upon himself the historic task of founding such a party that would, as vanguard detachment of the Indian proletariat, would lead that anti-capitalist revolution. So, he started the journey and, after a long painstaking all-out struggle, SUCI (Communist) was founded under his leadership on 24 April 1948. After 72 years, through blood and toil of sustained mass and class struggles led by the Party against ruthless capitalist exploitation and conspiracy, toiling millions are coming to know who is the people’s friend and who are their foes.

This year the historic 24 April is not very far. Every year on this day, the legions take pledge anew to dedicate thousand times more to the cause of revolution. An ideological armour is ceaselessly imbuing revolutionaries to defeat decadent capitalist culture, to fight against capitalist exploitation, to cultivate higher ethics-culture-morality of communism and this is what is attracting the suffering masses towards the revolutionary Party. This ideological guidance based upon a scientific thinking process is the contribution of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher and guide who concretized Marxism-Leninism on the soil of India and in course of that, enriched and developed this scientific ideology and brought its understanding to a new height as to be a beacon to world

revolution. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought is the most advanced understanding of Marxism-Leninism in the contemporary world. The obsolete reactionary capitalist thoughts, menacing rise of individualism and social alienation, absence of values and perversion deeply entrenched in social life, even in family life, which have been causing fast erosion of all that is human and humane, find the strongest concrete blockade in the revolutionary movement spearheaded and conducted by the SUCI(C) based on the ennobling ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought.

The 72nd foundation day of the SUCI (Communist) cannot be observed centrally or regionally and even locally on a mass scale

*Contd. on page 4*

### SUCI (C) workers distributing medical and relief material among the poor during Lockdown



KARIMGANJ, ASSAM



BANGALORE, KARNATAKA



REWARI, HARYANA



GUNA, MP

## BJP Utilises Even the Corona Virus Disaster to fulfil its Narrow Game Plan

The BJP government's failure and lack of sincerity to provide relief materials to billions of helpless people who have lost their jobs due to the lockdown has been cunningly justified by Amit Malavya, the chief of BJP's IT cell. What reason did he cite for this worthless shortcoming? He stated that had there been the NRC list, it would have been easier to identify the such victimised Indian citizens and then everyone could be provided with the relief goods. The proverb goes that "Evil does not lack deception" aptly fits to the fact that even during the corona virus pandemic, the BJP satraps do not feel any shame in, covering up grossly inadequate supply of relief material to the affected, mostly the poor, shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), essential to insulate the doctors, nurses, paramedics and other healthcare staff from corona infection and absence of sufficient test centres for corona testing. Instead they are feeling no qualm whatsoever to irrelevantly and motivatedly link the corona pandemic with the evil ploy of NRC.

But it is not unknown to the ruling party BJP and its spokesmen why the common people of the country are legitimately opposed to the NRC-NPA-CAA conspiracy. While the NRC has been a ploy to declare *bona fide* Indian citizens as "illegal foreigners" through a slew of manipulations, conspiratorial measures and highly controversial steps, NPR has been a backdoor route to implement NRC. Similarly, most uncalled for CAA on the pretext of acceding to the long pending demand of the refugees for citizenship has been a cunning, deceptive and diversionary move to dilute the surging anti-NRC movement. All these are aimed at precipitating divide among the common toiling masses and thereby disrupt their struggling unity against escalating capitalist oppression and repression. But, the ploy did not work out. Till very recently entire nation comprising innumerable students, youth, women and all sections of people of all ages irrespective of caste, creed, sex, sects and religion took to the streets and built up tides of movements across India. The mighty movements were intensified on such a scale that the ruling party leaders were visibly shaken.

Whether they admit it in public or not, they themselves did realise it well. Hence, they have been on a lookout for an opportunity to broach the issue once again and seek to roll back people's mind in favour of NRC-NPA-CAA. So, has been the attempt, no doubt a blunt one, to invoke the question of NRC taking the advantages of panic gripping people's mind due to emerging of corona virus pandemic. The RSS-BJP are known for such mischievous games.

NPR was scheduled to be enforced across the country from 1st April. Union Home Minister had once stated that Government has the resources and infrastructure to go from door to door for effecting NPR. However when it comes to the question of delivering essential relief goods from door to door they excuse lack of necessary infrastructure. In fact, it is not lack of infrastructure, but lack of willingness on the part of the ruling dispensation to come to the rescue of the hapless have-nots as well as marked absence of suitable government policy. The BJP leaders are afraid to admit this simple truth. When the ruling RSS-BJP are asking people to take a break from politics at this grave hour, it is to be understood that they are in fact trying to keep any opposition or criticism at bay. Needless to say, no anti-people ruling party wants resilient and protesting politics. They want unabated, unprotested, silent acceptance of their anti-people policies by the common masses.

In this crucial situation of the country, while the petro-products prices are increasing, interests on bank deposits and national savings are being drastically slashed and prices of essential goods are registering galloping rise, the government with a view to keeping people engaged in religious superstitions and bigotry is prescribing anti-dotes in the form of sounding plates of bell-metal, blowing conchs and lighting candles and lamps. Incredible indeed! With the same intention of misleading, the BJP leaders have alluded to NRC when the need is to save people from the threat of corona based on scientific methods and approaches. Hopefully, the democratic conscience of the country would stay alive to protest such misdeeds.

### Delhi State SUCI(C) writes to chief minister about Police atrocities in Mustafabad

In a letter dated 4 April 2020 addressed to the Hon'ble chief minister of Delhi, Comrade Pran Sharma, Delhi State Secretary, SUCI(C), drew attention to a video surfacing in the social media wherein women claiming to be residents of Mustafabad, North East Delhi, have made allegations against the Delhi police for arresting and harassing their children and hence need more caring, sympathetic attention and treatment from the administration. This becomes all the more necessary in view of the current Corona Lock-down which needs to be observed scrupulously by all, including the police.

### Delhi State SUCI(C) on atrocities on migrant workers

In another press release issued on 13 April 2020, Delhi State SUCI(C) severely condemned the callous and careless attitude of the functionaries of the AAP-led Delhi state government which led to the violence at the three shelter homes near Kashmere Gate, caused death of one migrant labourer because of being drowned in river Yamuna and set many homes there on fire. The incident, the statement mentioned, also exposed the hollowness of the tall claims made by the BJP-led central government and the AAP-led Delhi state government about providing free food and shelter to these hapless poor people. More disquieting was the fact that the civil defence volunteers and the police ruthlessly put down the complaints and protests of the desperate labourers, men and women, in these homes. The SUCI(C), Delhi demanded that the role of the police, management and the civil defence volunteers in these incidents be thoroughly probed through a judicial enquiry and the guilty be punished.

### Tripura State SUCI(C) writes to state chief minister

In a letter to the Tripura state chief minister, Comrade Arun Bhowmik, Tripura State Secretary, SUCI(C), drew attention to the growing plight and misery of daily wage earners, MNGREGA workers, Rickshaw Pullers, domestic workers, Tea Garden workers, Brick field workers, construction workers, hawkers, private sector employees and workers, street vendors and other poverty-stricken people of rural and tribal areas following loss of jobs after imposition of corona lockdown. He placed a 11-point demand like giving cash subsidy of Rs 5000 to the BPL and APL category people, ration cards to migrant labourers, ensuring availability of all essential commodities, providing masks and PPEs free of cost and convene an all party meeting to chalk out the strategy of unitedly fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Bank Employees' Unity Forum writes to Labour Ministry to provide contract labourers in banking sector with insurance, transport and other facilities

In a letter dated 2 April 2020 to the Union Labour Secretary, Bank Employees' Unity Forum drew attention to the fact that during the Lockdown period almost the entire public transport (Bus, Train, Auto rickshaw, etc.) arrangement has been withdrawn / suspended throughout the country. Banking sector has been excluded from this Lock Down. Banks/ATMs are open to provide essential service. Bank Employees including contract and casual workers are facing serious trouble to attend their duties. Most of them are unable to attend their service points due to non-availability of transport. Moreover, like regular workers, contract/casual workers are also doing the duties with high risk of their lives.

So, the Forum demanded of the government to

- 1) Provide Insurance coverage of contract/casual workers at par with the regular/permanent Bank employees.
- 2) Provide transport arrangement for all categories of Bank employees for their up and down journey from residence to the service point.
- 3) Treat any bank employee including contract/casual worker who fails to attend their office due to non-availability of transport as present during this Lockdown period.

# Covid-19 Exposes how oppressive, greedy, corrupt, inhuman capitalist rulers are playing with nature and people's life

Is it that the gripping hold of corona pandemic is entirely unanticipated? Perhaps not. Already back in 2008, in an article published in *Nature*, a prestigious scientific journal, it was pointed out that it was pointed out that 60% of the 355 new diseases that have surfaced between 1966 and 2005 have their origin in various wild animals. Moreover, 75% of the 175 odd contagious microbes which appeared in the last two decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century with potential of being immensely harmful as the days would roll by were transmitted from wild creatures. HIV came from a section of monkeys, Ebola from monkeys and bats, NIPA from pigs, Marburg again from bats, MERS from camels, SERS once again from bats, JIKA from monkeys, LASA fever like PLAGUE from rats and so forth. According to 'Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' of UNO, unprecedented destruction of forests and wetland as well as killing and trading of wild animals for commercial purposes had taken place during these two decades. Almost 10 lakh species, both plants and animals, are on the verge of extinction. In surveys conducted between 2011 and 2019, it has come up that over 12,000 square kilometre of forest land has been destroyed. This destruction of moderately dense forest land, increase in open forests and extinction of species is narrowing down the distance between human beings and wild animals. If forest lands are destroyed and land erosion takes place unabatedly, the normal habitat of wild animals are wrecked. In that event, the microbes (bacteria, germs) and viruses which hitherto residing with plants and animals in forest environment seek to find a new abode in human bodies and tend to undergo fast genetic changes which augment their infectious power several times. So zoonotic diseases caused by harmful germs like viruses, bacterial, parasites, and fungi which jump from non-human animals (usually vertebrates) to humans are rising menacingly. A virus or bacteria which stay harmlessly in one animal body often assumes a highly dangerous character when switching to another animal body. Technically, this is called cross-over of diseases or cross-species virus transmission. More would there be thoughtless and uncontrolled deforestation, sea

reclamation, mangrove cutting, demotion of hills and artificial change of the path of the rivers, more would the apparently innocuous viruses and bacteria in animals and plants switch home to human bodies and pose serious threat to human civilization. Also, the animals which are being poached or smuggled on a large scale for various commercial propositions like meat selling, extraction of organs, peeling of skins etc. are often severely stressed and immuno-suppressed and excrete whatever pathogens they have in them. People in large numbers in the marketplace frequently come in intimate contact with body fluids of these animals facilitating emergence and transmission of various diseases including lethal ones.

Our health to a great extent depends on the climate and the other organisms we share the planet with. But what is alarming is that just to fulfil the greed of the corporate rulers, reckless anthropogenic activities, particularly large-scale deforestation in the name of urbanization and development are going on unbridled. Industries are being set up with no protection against either toxic emissions or proper disposal of waste material just for the sake of keeping cost of production down and enhancing profit margin. Harmful effects of risky careless mining, like degradation of land from quarrying and waste dumping and contamination of ground water by mine effluents including radioactive rocks and minerals have been posing special hazards to the impoverished and mining labourers and the communities living nearby. Moreover, the big imperialist powers are engaged in developing nuclear and biological weapons on a mass scale as a part of their increased militarization of economy and orchestration of local and partial wars as well as wars of occupation.

As a result of all these aberrant, if not criminal, activities, there is apart from laboratory generation of various microbes and harmful chemicals menacing disruption of ecological balance, huge greenhouse gas emissions, occurrence of massive forest fires, side by side with melting of glaciers and the polar ice-caps, growing water scarcity, contamination of river water and a spurt in repeated bouts of natural calamities and catastrophes like frequent earthquakes, prolonged droughts, recurrent hurricanes, vast

floods, tsunami causing immense casualties both of life and property. And not to speak of other adverse effects of climate change like growing pest attacks, drought and floods due to increased range of changes in rainfall patterns, increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, among a host of others, which are also seriously impacting quality of the food chain, output of agricultural produce, not to speak of its catastrophic effect on life and livelihood of poor and marginal peasants.

As we are placing too much pressure on nature, nature in turn has long been sending us a retaliatory message with ongoing climate crisis and periodic eruptions of pandemics and epidemics like SARS, MERS, HIV and others. Outbreak of disease like the coronavirus are fundamentally connected to underlying factors that render particular areas and individuals vulnerable and then the infection are spreading rapidly between cities through infrastructures of globalisation such as global air travel networks. Now Covid-19 has joined a long list of infectious diseases, like the Spanish flu of 1918 in New York and Mexico City or the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa in 2014, and is likely to leave enduring marks on urban spaces.

Any student of Political Economy and Science knows that in nature, nothing takes place in isolation. Everything affects and is affected by every other thing. Nature exists dialectically and acts dialectically. So man like all animals by his existence and activities affects natural environment and is dialectically affected by it. But while the animals affect the environment unintentionally, man can and does it with "premeditated, planned action directed towards definite preconceived goal." Yet man cannot do it at his sweet will. Man cannot rule over nature like an emperor or conqueror, as pointed out by great Engels. Man cannot create natural laws. He can only with the help of science discover the natural laws. He can only restrain the harmful effects of one natural law by using and acting in the process of another natural process and thereby use it to his benefit. Likewise, we are with the passage of time coming to know about various laws operative behind shaping and patterning the environment. Every day, we are

acquiring better understanding of these laws which is enabling us to perceive both the immediate as well as long term consequences of various production activities we have been undertaking as well as how they are interfering with the course of the nature. So, great Marx had observed, "History itself is a real part of natural history—of nature developing into man" (Economic and Philosophic manuscripts of 1844).

Great Engels, close revolutionary comrade-in-arms of great Marx and co-founder of the scientific philosophy of Dialectical Materialism, had sounded a caution 137 year back.: "Let us not, however, flatter ourselves overmuch on account of our human conquest over nature. For each such conquest takes its revenge on us. Each of them, it is true, has in the first place the consequences on which we counted, but in the second and third places it has quite different, unforeseen effects which only too often cancel out the first. The people who, in Mesopotamia, Greece, Asia Minor, and elsewhere, destroyed the forests to obtain cultivable land, never dreamed that they were laying the basis for the present devastated condition of these countries, by removing along with the forests the collecting centres and reservoirs of moisture. When, on the southern slopes of the mountains, the Italians of the Alps used up the pine forests so carefully cherished on the northern slopes, they had no inkling that by doing so they were cutting at the roots of the dairy industry in their region; they had still less inkling that they were thereby depriving their mountain springs of water for the greater part of the year, with the effect that these would be able to pour still more furious flood torrents on the plains during the rainy seasons... Thus at every step we are reminded that we by no means rule over nature like a conqueror over a foreign people, like someone standing outside nature - but that we, with flesh, blood, and brain, belong to nature, and exist in its midst, and that all our mastery of it consists in the fact that we have the advantage over all other beings of being able to know and correctly apply its laws...The individual capitalists, who dominate production and exchange, are able to concern themselves only with the most immediate useful effect of their actions. Indeed, even this useful

*Contd. on page 8*

## US-Taliban Peace Agreement 2020

# How far does it bear any prospect?

After continuing more than 18 years of devastating war on Afghanistan, the USA ceremoniously signed a peace agreement with the *Talibans* on 29 February, 2020 in Doha, Qatar, in presence of observers and dignitaries from various pro-US NATO countries and US imperialist partners including India. Conspicuously omitted was the Afghan government itself, which is to implement the agreement. Also noteworthy was that on behalf of the *Talibans*, the deal was signed by its political Chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, “who was arrested in Karachi 10 years ago by Pakistan’s security services in a joint operation with the CIA” (Aljazeera15-03-20).

### Afghan war of US

The US military aggression in Afghanistan, then under the rule of the *Talibans*, quite widely known to the world as a brute fundamentalist force, had started in 2001. Notably, it was on 7 October 2001, i.e. nearly a month after the 9/11 attack, that a U.S.-led coalition began military aggression on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan with an intense bombing and toppled the *Talibani* government. As many as 1,00,000 US troops and about 50,000 soldiers from US allies were deployed in Afghanistan to carry out the invasion and overthrow the Taliban from power. The war launched by the war-monger US imperialists included both air and ground attacks to brazenly invade Afghan land ravaging Afghanistan’s abjectly

impoverished people. Civilian casualties meanwhile rose amid a worsening security situation over the years as the Taliban regrouped, expanded and strengthened their military campaign in different parts of the country. In October 2018, US officials and Taliban representatives held their first meeting in Doha bypassing the Afghan government. Even as the talks were under way, violence spiked with 1,174 deaths and 3,139 injuries between July and September 30, representing a 42 percent increase over the same period compared with the year before. According to the data provided by the US Central Command Combined Air Operations Center, US air force dropped a record 7,423 bombs on Afghanistan - more than at any time in the last 10 years. More than 100,000 Afghans have been killed or wounded since 2009 when the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan began documenting casualties. Now, after renewed efforts in December last, the so called peace initiative is stated to be over by 2021. That means, the US-sponsored bloodshed and Talibani tyranny which had nothing to do with the interest of the Afghan people continued for 20 long years. Now, while the *Talibans* are reportedly jubilant, the common Afghan people and the saner democratic-minded people of the world are sceptical about the outcome and honouring of the agreement.

The peace agreement signed is aimed at ending nearly 20 years of war, reducing US forces stationed

there from 14,000 to 8,600 within 135 days, total withdrawal of US and NATO military from that land, commencement of Taliban—Afghan government peace talks from 10 March 2020 to determine what role the *Talibans* would play thereafter in Afghanistan and to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners in exchange of 1,000 Afghan security forces in captivity of the Talibanis. The entire process would be completed by April 2021.

### Brief history of US taking up the task of creating-nurturing-fanning fundamentalist forces

It is pertinent to recall that the Afghan society was long bogged down in medieval fundamentalist overbearing regime. The process of democratization had been initiated there only after Second World War with the help of the USSR under great Stalin. But with the revisionist Khrushchevite leadership which assumed power in the USSR after Stalin’s demise adopting hegemonic attitude in Afghanistan, not only that process of democratization was halted but also paved the way for US imperialism to sneak into the land. And then the US imperialist rulers used their notorious espionage network to unleash a virulent anti-Soviet anti-socialist campaign and throw Afghanistan into tatters economically, politically and socially, step-by-step. At the same time, the Pentagon rulers in keeping with their imperialist machination, backed and nurtured

the fundamentalist forces to grow into dangerous shapes. First in the 1970s, there was the *Mujahedeen*, an alliance of Islamic fundamentalist groups. Then *Al Qaeda*, another trans-national conglomerate of rabid Islamic fundamentalists led by Osama bin Laden, a non-Afghan mujahedeen, was created in 1988. With such menacing rise of arch fundamentalist forces coupled with outbreak of violent clashes among various blood-thirsty tribal warlords and a failed adventurist step of the revisionist Soviet leadership to regain control of Kabul by force landed Afghanistan into a state of total chaos, persistent violence, infighting and political instability.

### US - Taliban coupling: formed and ruptured

In this pathetic turbulent situation, there emerged the *Taliban* militia in 1994. Again, it was the US imperialists, along with the Pakistani rulers, that patronized, armed, trained and supported the *Talibans* to grow. The *Talibans* recruited thousands of young Afghan men, refugees and orphans from the war, rootless, jobless, economically deprived sections of people and brainwashed them with fundamentalist preaching. In absence of any left-democratic forces and with leftism having been considerably maligned in that land because of flawed action of the Soviet revisionist leadership, these hard-core fundamentalist Talibanis

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## While fighting the dreaded virus, observe with due solemnity the historic 24 April

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because of the countrywide lockdown clamped to fight the dreaded corona virus. But the lockdown has exponentially multiplied the sufferings of the millions of peasants, workers and all other strata of poor people which stems from the exploitative capitalist system. This palpable fact is not to be forgotten. From behind all clamours the BJP led central government and the state governments are only taking, miniscule responsibility of this teeming poor section who is not getting food, shelter, medical care. In a vast country like ours all the governments are making a mockery of help. History will not forgive this criminal callousness on the part of the bourgeois rulers to save the mankind from this unprecedented

calamity. Our Party along with many other organisations are trying utmost to help the helpless. Governments, particularly the BJP-led central government must take concrete measures to save every human being of the country from being perished.

Alongside sustained efforts to reach out whatever relief is possible to the helpless and hapless countrymen and firmly stand by them in this hour of grave need, our comrades from all corners of India, north to south, west to east, altogether in 22 states, will observe the day with due solemnity recalling the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and renew their pledge to steadfastly carry forward the struggle he initiated to bring about the cherished emancipation of the oppressed Indians.

Historic 24 April, the Party Foundation Day, keeps us constantly aware of the basic fact that millions of toiling people are gasping under the rule of capitalist exploitation. Joblessness, retrenchment, price rise, crises of the workers and the peasantry, desperation of the young people as well as every section of the countless poor marginalised people, brute atrocities upon children and women are ever deepening. Pushed to the extreme, hundreds of thousands are taking resort to suicide. But the ruling Indian national bourgeoisie and their lackeys are continuing their exploitation remorselessly through the central and state governments, which are installed to power with the blessing of the ruling class. The parties, subservient to the ruling monopolists and enjoying power and

self with their blessings, vie with each other to show greater ability to serve the stinking capitalist system while at the same time befool the people with false hopes and fratricidal poison. The winner of the rat race are prized with governmental power. The BJP presently stands as the most trusted and most prized by the capitalist class. As it enjoys power, it should perform its responsibility for people too at this critical hour when a great danger is awaiting millions of the country.

This situation demands of all of us to strengthen mass and class struggle against capitalism with the revolutionary change of the society in view. Unity of the exploited people and united movement against capitalism should be what people need to strive for. Once more, the historic 24 April, reiterates this call.

# CORONA PANDEMIC

## —Two countries on a different spectacle

### CUBA

Despite the severe constraints it faces as a result of the United States-imposed economic blockade, Cuba has not shied away from extending solidarity with the world in the unprecedented challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It continues to illustrate international health care solidarity in its response to the COVID-19 crisis. **By end March, Cuba had dispatched medical teams to over 59 affected countries. A team of 53 Cuban specialists trained in epidemiology reached the Lombardy region, the epicentre of the epidemic in Italy, at the height of the pandemic to provide invaluable support to Italy's beleaguered medical infrastructure. A team of 39 Cuban medical professionals were also dispatched to the tiny principality of Andorra, wedged between France and Spain, whose doctors were all down with suspected COVID-19.** (Frontline 24-04-20) **The island nation has sent brigades of doctors and supplies to Italy, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Suriname and Grenada. Cuba has 28,268 members of medical brigades working in 61 countries around the world, according to Dr. Jorge Hidalgo Bustillo, director of the Central Unit for Medical Collaboration. All of them are COVID-19 negative and are being monitored daily. Despite the ravages caused to the economy by the sixty-year-old U.S. blockade, the Cuban health care system is in finer fettle than many other affluent countries including the U. S. Health care is universal and free in Cuba, unlike in the U.S., the world's richest country.**

Cuba's socialist regime has been able to sustain a medical system that guarantees free and comprehensive health care. There are at least eight doctors for every 1,000 citizens—the highest ratio in the world. No country, including the U.S., can boast of such numbers. India has one doctor for every 10,000 citizens. The WHO recommends that a country should have at least one doctor for every 1,000. Notably, the United States has been criminally negligent in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and in testing and treating its own people.

Through a joint venture with China, Cuba is producing large quantities of an antiviral medicine called Interferon Alpha 2b. This vital drug is "recognized as one of the most effective medicines in treating this virus. It is credited with saving 1,500 people from [dying of] the virus in China alone ... and Cuba's producer of medicines, Bio CubaFarma, is producing 21 other compatible medicines for the treatment of complications that may arise in patients with COVID-19."

**The Cubans gave permission for the British cruise ship — the MS Braemar with five confirmed cases of COVID-19 and dozens of symptomatic travellers on board — to dock in the harbour at Mariel, west of Havana, on March 18. Cuba then treated those affected by the virus and arranged passage home for the rest of the passengers. Delivering his final speech in British parliament as the leader of the opposition, the Labour party leader, Jeremy Corbyn, described the internationalism of the Cuban doctors who travelled to Italy to help in the fight against the raging COVID-19 pandemic as "inspirational". "It is at these times of crisis that we know the truly great, and it is in these hours that the Cuban people become a giant before the world", Lula said, adding that it was also a "proud and sovereign response" to those who have imposed an economic blockade on the country, said, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, former Brazilian president.**

In 1965, Cuba established the National Center for Scientific Research with the aim of using scientific methods to solve biomedical problems and develop sophisticated products.

Cuba also established the Latin American School of Medicine in March of 1999. Since then the country has trained thousands of medical students from over 124 countries, free of cost, who pledge to return home to provide health care to the indigent.

Cuba's health care advances have seen the disappearance of malaria, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and measles.

Cuba has been on the frontlines of many global struggles, providing aid to those who need it. **Cuban doctors were the first to arrive after calamitous earthquakes in Pakistan in 2005 and Haiti in 2010 to fight a major cholera outbreak. Cuba's revolutionary doctors cared for 20,000 cancer victims after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine from 1989 to 2011, all free of charge. Cuban doctors also helped treat those affected by Ebola in Western Africa in 2014.**

## Comrade Provash Ghosh writes to Prime Minister for allowing Autonomous Research Institutes to undertake Corona Virus tests

To  
The Hon'ble Prime Minister,  
Government of India

6 April 2020

Sir,

It is reported in the Press that a group of scientists under the name Joint Action Committee of Autonomous Research Institutes (JACARI) has claimed that several of the Scientific Research Centres and Universities of our country have the instruments and the necessary expertise to test for the Corona virus in collected samples. They have demanded that immediate approval be given to these Institutes and Universities for Corona virus testing so that the testing capability of this country is significantly augmented and identification of positive cases can be done rapidly on a mass scale as per the WHO guideline and the affected can be isolated and treated. This would also relieve the economic burden for testing a huge population.

We welcome this proposal and request the Prime Minister for its immediate implementation after verification of the credentials of the institutes. This would serve the interest of the people in fighting the Corona disaster.

Sincerely Yours

Sd/-

(Provash Ghosh)

General Secretary

Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)

**"Let's reinforce health care, solidarity and international cooperation," said Bruno Rodriguez, Cuba's Foreign Minister.**

(Source-Workers' World 24-03-20, telesurenglish.net, Frontline 24-04-20, dissidentvoice.org)

## VIETNAM

### Viet Nam shows how you can contain COVID-19 with limited resources

"...Viet Nam has ... stood out as a beacon of how to do more with less.

**So far, the country has 194 confirmed COVID-19 coronavirus cases, and no fatalities.** Viet Nam isn't in a position to conduct mass testing programmes. South Korea, for example, has tested 338,000 people. In Viet Nam, that number stands at just 15,637 people (figures for 20 March 2020). But by focusing on measures that are within its control, the country has won praise from the international community.

On 1 February, Viet Nam kicked off a series of initiatives to tackle the spread of COVID-19. It suspended all flights to and from China. It also decided to keep schools closed after the lunar New Year break. Two weeks later, a 21-day quarantine was imposed in Vinh Phuc province, north of Hanoi... decision ... sparked by concerns over the health status of migrant workers returning from Wuhan, China... the country has experienced a large improvement in quality of life. **Between 2002 and 2018, an economic transformation helped to lift more than 45 million Vietnamese out of poverty....** The health of the nation has improved, too – life expectancy rose from 71 years in 1990 to 76 years in 2015.... There are around eight doctors to every 10,000 people in Viet Nam. Italy and Spain both have 41 doctors per 10,000 people, the US has 26, and China 18.

Its anti-coronavirus measures have gone on to include mandatory 14-day quarantines for anyone arriving in Vietnam and the cancellation of all foreign flights. It has also isolated infected people and then set about tracking down anyone they might have come into contact with.... There is also a strong culture of surveillance, with people expected to inform on their neighbours if they suspect any wrong-doing. Anyone found sharing fake news and misinformation about the coronavirus risks a visit from the police.... with limited clinical resources at its disposal, Viet Nam has seemingly managed to get the outbreak under control.... nearby Thailand has so far recorded four COVID-19 deaths, but is experiencing a significant rise in infections. On 24 March, Thailand's Public Health Ministry announced 107 new cases, bringing the total to 934. The fault, according to Dr Taweasin Visanuyothin of the ministry, lies with "partygoers (who) transmitted the disease to about 100 other people ... at-risk people must obey social distancing, both at their workplaces and at home." ( Source : WEF report as on 20 March 2020)

## Afghanistan Peace agreement

# US imperialists invaded Afghanistan to reap both economic and political benefits

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gained strength rapidly and rode to governmental power in 1996 with the backing of the Pakistani army and ruled upto 2001. Even this brief rule of the *Talibans* was marked by abject violation of human rights, imposition of mindless restrictions upon people, particularly the womenfolk. Bullying people into blind submission, denial of any kind of freedom of expression and right to democratic associations and activities became the hallmark of the *Taliban* rule. It thus stood as the stumbling block to all sorts of development and progress of Afghanistan. It was by way of *Talibani* despotism that the US imperialists worked their stratagem of establishing political domination as well as military intervention in Afghanistan whose geographical location was very strategic for the US imperialists to extend their sphere of influence in the entire oil and natural gas-rich Middle East.

Not surprisingly, within no time, aspirant power-monger forces ideologically anchored in rabid fundamentalism and autocracy, such as *Al Qaeda* and the *Talibans* had turned even against the US imperialists, their chief mentor and patron. Since throughout the later decades of the twentieth century, the US imperialists with the help of CIA and Zionist Israeli regime had been weaving one conspiracy after another in the entire Middle East to firm up their control, a strong anti-US imperialist sentiment began to grow in this part of the world including Afghanistan. The *Al Qaeda* tried to exploit this unfolding anti-US sentiment by trying to rally people behind it by using terror as a weapon. The *Talibans* gave them protection in Afghanistan. Finding their own creations turning Frankenstein and out to foil their gameplan, the US imperialists, extremely cunning as they are, branded both *Al Qaeda* and *Talibani* as 'terrorist outfits' and pretended to be at loggerheads with them. In fact, the blunt acts of both these outfits and the brutalities they displayed helped the Pentagon rulers to considerably diffuse the growing anti-US sentiment and arrogate to themselves a kind of sanction to invade and stay in Afghanistan in the name of "bringing democracy and containing terrorism".

Shortly after the 9/11 terror strike in the USA in 2001, the US-

imperialists which accused the Islamic fundamentalist organizations of orchestrating the attack, along with their NATO allies, launched 'pre-emptive' air strikes on Afghanistan in the name of "Operation Enduring Freedom" from the terrorists. Following that, the US imperialists succeeded in established in 2004 a pliant regime in Afghanistan which still continues to be in power. The Afghan people had to bear the brunt of a long, gruelling strife. While the commentators in the bourgeois media highlight loss of 1,400 American soldiers in Afghan war of occupation, they suppress the fact this US-sponsored war has killed several hundreds of thousands innocent civilians and a good number of Afghan soldiers. Property losses remain unaccounted. But the *Talibans* continue to persist surviving upon people's resentment against US belligerence and making hundreds of millions of dollars a year from the drug trade, illegal mining and forced extortions. One only wonders if they could have survived without silent backing of none other than the US occupiers.

### **The hurdles to peace: Crisis in Kabul, the capital**

Now that two such warring sides are posing to have come to truce, peace-loving people of the world, particularly of Afghanistan might be dreaming of a brighter future. But truly speaking, the agreement has little to expect there is little to expect from the agreement. As mentioned above, the Afghan government was not a party to the agreement. This exclusion itself questions the sincerity of the purpose of the agreement. The Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has raised objections, for obvious reasons, over several clauses of the peace agreement thrust on it. He has asserted that the American government has no authority to dictate on releasing Taliban prisoners as it is an exclusive preserve of the Afghan government and hence could never be a part of the peace agreement with the *Talibans*. On the contrary, the *Talibans* have launched 33 attacks in 16 provinces leading to 20 dead within a span of two days. The Afghan government, in its turn has refused to release all the prisoners.

Besides, Dr Abdullah Abdullah, the runner-up in the last presidential election as also Gulbadin Hikmatyar, another powerful leader, have

challenged the victory of the incumbent President Ashraf Ghani. Hence political crisis is very likely to continue to plague Afghanistan. There are also other confusions which might worsen the situation and lead to another civil war.

### **The hurdles: Withdrawal of US troops**

The agreement calls for withdrawal of US troops. But people are apprehensive. The US imperialists have announced similar pull-outs in the past, but never honoured them. This time too, US imperialism has started saying that adhering to US troop withdrawal timeline would primarily depend on to what extent the *Talibans* fulfill their commitment towards establishing peace. The US has also imposed conditions seeking guarantee that Afghanistan would not to be used as a base of insurgent operations by *Al-Qaeda* and *ISIS*. But fact is that it was the US military which was earlier alleged to be allowing members of the *ISIS*, which have suffered serious defeats in Syria and neighbouring Iraq, to infiltrate Afghanistan. US President Trump is even thinking for appointing a mediator to resolve Afghan inner-conflicts which is indicative enough of continued US dominance in Afghanistan.

### **The *Talibans*, apparent gainers**

On the other side, the *Talibans*, who call the Afghan government a puppet of the USA, are themselves conflict-ridden. The Afghan government which itself is considerably weak, both politically and militarily, cannot on its own overcome the severe economic-political crisis the country is enmeshed in, nor can it take any firm independent stand against the terrorists within the country as also the Islamic states backing them. The *Talibans* are waiting eagerly to grab the opportunity. True, talks between the *Talibans* and the Afghan government have resumed, but its frailty is evident. In fact, at any opportune moment the *Talibans* may resume civil war in Afghanistan again with the objective of regaining governmental power.

### **Peace remains elusive as stakeholders look for a ground to exploit and rule unhindered**

The US imperialists with their engagement in peace talks with the

Taliban leaders pretended as if they were keen to exit the country. But camouflaged behind this apparent peace manoeuvre is to find a way to sustain the interest of America's 'Industrial-Military-Bureaucratic-Complex' and the MNCs in Afghanistan. It is the common US citizens who are footing the bill of this prolonged war on a foreign land. It is the American mothers who cry on the body bags of their children who went to fulfil imperialist mission in Afghanistan.

Donald Trump, as the chieftain of the US imperialist brigand, might try to project himself as the peace-maker in the war-ravaged Afghanistan and the peace-loving world. But with all these questions remaining, not only that the agreement faces a bleak future, it also stands out as a ploy of the US President to present himself as a peace-broker before the American people as part of his ensuing presidential election campaign in November 2020. The US imperialists cannot leave Afghanistan in peace. Like the *Talibans*, the US imperialists require this strife-torn, war-devastated country to remain in constant turbulence so that they can keep their brigandish control on it through tricks and treacheries and using the fundamentalist-terrorist forces with 'carrot and stick' policy.

There are other players and stakeholders in the Afghan peace process too. Pakistan has all through promoted and protected the religious fundamentalist-terrorist outfits like *Al-Qaeda* and the *Talibans* in Afghanistan. Pakistani rulers have been continuing that stand. The ruling Indian monopolists, who are now becoming a trusted strategic partner of US imperialism to emerge as a super power in Asia, also have imperialist interest in Afghanistan. Indian monopolists have been investing a lot in Afghanistan in the name of assisting and reconstructing that country. While peace is a prerogative for investment, turmoil too creates the ground for capital deployment under the cloak of aiding reconstruction. So, despite occasional conflicts, both Indian and Pakistani rulers are working in tandem with the US imperialists with a view to weakening the growing anti-imperialist nationalist sentiment of the suffering Afghan people. Both US President and

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## Afghanistan Peace agreement

# Prolonged US-Talibani war had no connection with Afghan people's interest

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Indian Prime Minister have feigned concern for Afghanistan. During their recent bilateral talk also, Afghanistan had featured. Indian interest in Afghanistan is both economic and political. Besides deployment of capital to exploit abundant natural resources comprising barite, chromite, coal, copper, gold, iron ore, lead, natural gas, petroleum, precious and semi-precious stones, sulfur, zinc etc. besides vast forestry, strategic geographic location of the country are also of importance to the ruling Indian monopolists. Curbing the influence of Pakistan is also another political goal. That is why, though the Indian rulers talked of supporting "an Afghan-led and Afghan-Afghan-owned but not Afghan-controlled peace and reconciliation process that results in a sustainable peace, cessation of violence, elimination of terrorist safe havens, and preservation of the gains of the last 18 years," they have notably refrained from making any statement about the peace process and nature of rule to be decided by

the Afghan people which is the normal internationally accepted democratic principle. But, both the US imperialists and their Indian counterpart skipped this aspect as if it is incumbent on other superpowers to decide the fate of an independent sovereign country like Afghanistan.

### Summing up: Afghan people are to get at the truth

So the matters stand at: the *Talibans* are tending to a civil war to rise again to power; the US and Pakistan are backing them; India hand-in-glove with the US imperialists welcome the 'gains' of peace agreement to reap further benefits from the devastation impending before the Afghan people. This so called 'peace' would soon be overshadowed by the clouds of war-exploitation-uncertainty and imperialist brigandage.

The crying need for the common peace-seeking people of this poorest of poor country is to consciously look through the events and judge these vital questions,

developments and strategies in proper light. Unless the US and NATO forces to the last single individual are driven out; with simultaneous and uncompromising fight against all divisive religious fundamentalist forces both in their own country as well as in Pakistan and other countries and unless Afghan people acquire necessary political consciousness to understand what is right and what is wrong, assert their own political power to fight for their own rights and decide what should be the pattern of governance in their motherland to build an economically sound, democratic and secular Afghanistan, they would continue to be assailed

by enemy forces and vested interest from both inside and outside. In one voice, anti-imperialist forces across the world too should raise the slogan: "War-monger and death merchant US and NATO must withdraw all troops and leave Afghanistan", "No place for divisive religious fundamentalism in Afghanistan", "Afghanistan must be developed a secular, democratic and sovereign country, free from foreign interference to ensure fulfilment of aspiration of the toiling Afghan people for their unstinted growth and development".

Prolonged US-Talibani war had no connection with Afghan people's interest



World Health Day was observed in Delhi on 7 April under the banner of NPHA, an alliance of medical professionals namely, doctors, nurses, paramedics, scientists and others working under state and union governments, formed at the initiative of JPA carrying the message of grief for the victims of the NCOVID-19 attack, service in public health and safety of the medical professionals.



Comrade Satyawan, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) offering tribute to the martyrs of Jallianwalabagh massacre that took place in Amritsar in 1919. On his right is Comrade Anup Singh, Staff Member of the Party.

### AIDSO demands immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Kafeel Khan

In a Press Note issued on 29 March 2020, AIDSO Haryana State President Harish Kumar demanded immediate and unconditional release of Dr Kafeel Khan with a view to strengthening fight against the dangerous Coronavirus. In a letter to the PM, Dr. Khan has already given an outline of how the fight against Coronavirus may be stepped up. The AIDSO thus feels that Dr Kafeel Khan be released and his service be utilized in the fight against the Coronavirus.

### AIUTUC protests increasing working hour from 8 to 12 hours a day

The All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) in a statement issued on 11 April 2020 expressed deep concern and anguish at the reported move of the BJP-led central government to extend the working hours from 8 to 12 hours per day by amending the section 51 of Factories Act 1948 on the plea of 'exceptional circumstances' due to outbreak of coronavirus pandemic. This highly despicable move, obviously at the behest of the corporate giants, has been made when the working people being under lockdown are not in a position to launch any mighty resistance movement openly.

While strongly condemning and protesting this anti-working class step, the AIUTUC demanded of the government to refrain from undertaking such sinister backdoor move and called upon the working people to unitedly resist the same.

## Call to Switch off light and light a lamp — a cruel joke and diversionary tactics —SUCI(C)

*Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (communist), issued the following statement on 04 April 2020 :*

Corona- Virus infected and death numbers are alarmingly increasing daily. It has been revealed that kits for its examination, examination centers, ventilators and other medical materials in hospitals and PPE for doctors, nurses and health workers are miserably in short supply.

On the other hand crores of jobless workers, migrant labours, daily wage earners, street vendors, rickshaw pullers, small traders, domestic workers are languishing in starvation after sudden lockdown in a country where many people die daily out of hunger. Now this starvation deaths will be painfully multiplied further.

Common people expected that the Prime Minister would make some important announcement to meet the situation on 3 April last. But what he announced is not only disappointing but, in fact, a cruel joke. He asked the people to “switch off lights at home and light a lamp for 9 minutes at 9 PM on 5 April 2020.

Which science or medical science provided this prescription?

It is a clever design to divert the people’s mind from real responsibility of the government towards religious mysticisms and blind obedience to the government and ruling party as was done a few days back by asking the people to sound gong.

We appeal to the people to remain alert, raise their voice and compel the government to adopt necessary steps to meet the present grave situation.

## SUCI(C) calls Government of India’s decision to relax ban on export of Hydroxychloroquine as an act of capitulating before US threat to retaliate

*Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 8 April 2020:*

The utterly shameless way in which the BJP-led Indian government has virtually capitulated before the open threat of retaliatory action by US President Trump and overturned the notification of complete ban imposed just two days back on export of Hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial drug being given to the Covid-19 patients, has again brought to the fore that this government has least concern for the suffering countrymen and is more keen to keep the US imperialist rulers in good humour for serving the narrow sectarian class interest of the ruling monopolists aspiring to firm up the position of imperialist India as a formidable super-power, not only in Asia but in the world with the backing of US imperialism. Though the Indian government claims that there is enough stock of this medicine which is also the key drug to treat rheumatic arthritis patients, fact is that the patients who are approaching the pharma stores with valid prescriptions are returning empty-handed indicating severe scarcity of the medicine. Even a Kolkata-based pharmaceutical company of national fame in the government sector which is a major producer of the drug and is, of late, desperately seeking financial assistance from the government to stave off sickness, is also reported to be starved of raw material to boost production at this critical juncture. The union government which could spend Rs 3000 crore to install a statue or allot Rs 20,000 crores for central vista beautification near the Parliament House and Rashtrapati Bhavan, however, has not yet come out with any rescue package for this renowned company even at this time of extreme need.

This incident once again exposes the brazenly cruel and inhuman face of the imperialist rulers who, even at a time the mankind is faced with a such a catastrophe, are only driven by their profit motive, commercial interest, money making and penchant for establishing political supremacy and domination.

## Covid-19 exposes

*Contd. from page 1*

effect... retreats far into the background, and the sole incentive becomes the profit to be made on selling...In relation to nature, as to society, the present mode of production is predominantly concerned only about the immediate, the most tangible result; and then surprise is expressed that the more remote effects of actions... are mostly quite the opposite in character.” (The Part Played by Labour in Transition from the Ape to Man) How his postulates are proving to be prophetically true today.

So it is the savage appetite of greed stripped naked in shameless barbarity that has allowed the deadly virus to beat its war-drum

roaringly with volleys of its horns and make the human civilization trembling. Covid-19 pandemic has once more proved this to be right and exposed how ruthlessly oppressive, reactionary, utterly corrupt and highly inhuman capitalism and its policies aimed at pocketing maximum profit by way of ruthless exploitation not only of the toiling masses but even the nature is wholly and solely responsible for periodic outbreaks of life-threatening and other health hazards.

(Fact Sources:—euro.who.int dated 12-11-18, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>, India. Mongabay.co dated 03-01-20, <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>, The Statesman 03-04-20, ABP- 12-04-20)

## The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the inherent cruelty and dysfunction of the racist, for-profit U.S. healthcare system

### Workers World Party, USA, organizes Webinar through Zoom Video Conference on 16 April

Tens of thousands are dying, overwhelmingly Black, Brown, Asian and Indigenous people as the disorganized capitalist system fails to provide care. Capitalism has failed : we need revolutionary socialism to build a healthcare system that provides free care for all. In this Thursday's webinar, Workers World members and allies will discuss the racist, dysfunctional nature of the U.S. healthcare system, and why revolutionary socialism is needed.

## SUCI (C) workers distributing medical and relief material among the poor during Lockdown



GULBAGRA, KARNATAKA



SILIGURI, WEST BENGAL



THENI, TAMILNADU



JHUNJHUN, RAJASTHAT

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