

## Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought Provides the Beacon



5 AUGUST, 1923 - 5 AUGUST, 1976

“...who transformed society through the ages, who accomplished revolution, learnt thoroughly by heart the first elementary lesson of the science of revolution. This first lesson is that if one falls into difficulties, or faces danger — whether the same are due to counter-revolutionary forces, natural calamities, an enemy unknown, or factors unforeseen, or, say, one’s own weaknesses — one is to transform it at once, or, as we put it in English, to turn difficulties into advantage — endeavouring to unitedly achieve this is the true revolutionary education...If you suddenly come face to face with difficulties that never cropped up earlier, or you are in danger which you never faced before, or you fall in trouble you never before had to handle — if you face all this, and go ahead with your task, enduring it and bringing it under control unitedly in a disciplined manner then how much you will learn and how manifold your powers will increase ! How much power you would acquire to exercise control over your mind, your character and conduct! You need to master all this....Else, revolution will not come about just through talking about it.”

(*Mass Movement in India and Tasks of the Youth-SW Vol III, p 536*)

### SUCI (Communist) strongly condemns the New Education Policy announced by the Central Government

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 30 July 2020:

In its bid to go for all out privatization, commercialization, saffronization and fascization BJP led central government has announced a destructive New Education Policy (NEP) in total disregard for the protests of large number of educationists, teachers, scientists, intellectuals, guardians and students cunningly taking advantage of the helpless condition of the people caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

The objectives of NEP are as follows :—

1. To abolish all remnants of democratic functioning of the educational bodies and establish complete bureaucratic governmental control over education.
2. To destroy scientific, democratic, secular thinking and foster religious, obscurantist and medieval mentality among students against the teachings of Raja Rammohan, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Joyotirao Phule and all other great pioneers of Indian Renaissance.
3. To allow national and foreign corporates to turn education into a business sector with a view to earning profit by exploiting the students which would increase the cost of education to such a height that would become unbearable for the common students and thus maximum number of common students will be deprived of the scope of education.
4. To hand over education sector to corporates and pave the ground for the government to shrug off its financial responsibility.
5. To turn the ‘educated community’, in the words of Einstein, into ‘literate machine’ devoid of human values and culture.

This New Education Policy is anti-people, anti-education and a fascist design to serve the ruling capitalist class and the ruling BJP party.

We call upon all section of the teachers, educationists, intellectuals, guardians, students and people to resist this heinous move and compel the government to abandon this destructive policy.

### Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on various aspects of ‘Fascism’

[In the early 20th century, fascism was nakedly manifested in one or two countries. But now fascism has become a general feature of all imperialist-capitalist countries, whether developed or developing. Particularly after sad dismantling of Soviet socialism due to practice of modern revisionism leading to capitalist counter-revolution propelled by defeated bourgeoisie from within and aided and abetted by imperialist conspiracy from outside, and consequent collapse of the mighty socialist bloc hitherto working as bulwark against all imperialist-capitalist machinations, notwithstanding all its shortcomings and flawed approaches, fascism is baring its tooth and claw with more ferocity with every passing day. So, if we fail to comprehend the reason for and specific socio-political context of advent of fascism, understand its various facades and most importantly its ideological-cultural mooring through proper scientific analysis, we shall not be able to build up necessary struggle, both ideological and organizational, against fascism, the most dangerous enemy of mankind today. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C), one of the foremost Marxist thinkers and worthy continuer of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong, had, based on the Marxist-Leninist methodology of analysis, provided detailed analysis of fascism from various angles thereby enriched the treasure-house of Marxism-Leninism. Repudiating the false notion that fascism vanquished for good after the crushing defeat of the fascist axis of Germany-Italy-Japan at the hands of the Soviet Red Army under the leadership of great Stalin, Comrade Ghosh had shown way back in 1948-51 that such was not the case. Since then, he had cautioned the working class movement about the historical reality that fascism has become a general feature of imperialism-capitalism. On the occasion of observance of 45<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, we give below select excerpts from his various works and speeches which would give an insight into socio-political-cultural aspects of fascism in the light of his illuminating thoughts.]

“Fascism is a historically conditioned form of counter-revolution in which capitalism seeks to stave off revolution by an anticipatory move. It is designed to save the crisis-ridden, chaos-discredited capitalist order from collapse in the face of mounting dissatisfaction of the people against the existing system.” (*Call of the Hour, SW Vol. II*)

Contd on page 2

## Fascism

# Fascism is a historically conditioned form of counter-revolution in which capitalism seeks to stave off revolution by an anticipatory move

*Contd. from page 1*

“(Fascism is) a peculiar fusion of spiritualism, obscurantism and irrational bent of mind with the technological aspects of science” (*Socialist Unity*, Vol. 1, No 9, 1 September 1951)

“...if you look into the history of rise of fascism, that is, if you judge the economic, political and cultural aspects of its emergence, it will be clear that the humanist mental make-up, from fear complex of revolution, has laid the ideological-cultural foundation of fascism by making a peculiar fusion of science and spiritualism in order to organize counter-revolutionary national uprisings against the working class revolution.” (The Cultural Movement of India and our Tasks, SW Vol. II)

“On the one hand, it (Fascism) destroys the process of rational thinking in people, makes them self-centered, makes knowledge, learning and education technology-oriented, that is, it engenders a group of technocrats in the country who have completely abandoned all sorts of human values, who have no sense of responsibility towards people and society, to whom employment and wage slavery are simply everything, and who are ready to do anything and everything in exchange of money – and in this direction they channelize the cultivation of science and learning. On the other hand, fascism fosters all sorts of spiritualism, age-old superstitions, irrational mindset and blindness.” (*Fascism and Moral Fascism and Moral Ethical Crisis in Left, Democratic Movement* SW, Vol. IV)

“the aim (of fascism) is to turn the mental process of the people from the scientific path of causality to the mystic alley of blind faith, preconception and obscurantism, ultimately developing contempt of social action...[Socialist Unity Vol. 1 (new series)1 July, 1062] “...when the reasoning faculty dies in the country, then that paves the way for infiltration of reactionary ideas in society. To make man fanatic with the poison of national chauvinism, on the one hand, and, on the other, to foster outdated traditionalism while raising vague slogans of socialism, revolution and progress — if all these three can be combined, then the ground for ascent of fascism is ready in a country. It should be borne in mind that the ruling bourgeois class after having misled the intelligentsia succeeds in masterfully combining these three things then only, when the mindset for carrying on mutual discussions on the basis of reason and logic really ceases to exist in society. This provides the golden opportunity for fascism to rise...if fascism takes root, very few will remain in the country worthy to be called man. Because, fascism creates hindrance in the man-making process.” (*Fascism and Moral Fascism and Moral Ethical Crisis in Left, Democratic Movement* Ibid.)

“In its crusade against communism, fascism advocates its own fascist culture, a queer admixture of social democratism, national jingoism and mysticism...” (*Call of the Hour*, SW Vol. II)

“As they are fully aware of the dictum that *‘the more the blindness, the more the*

*fanaticism’*, the bourgeoisie are trying their utmost through the cultural movements to build up the sense of blind submission and discipline in the name of restraint, peace and order.” (*Crisis in Culture, and Fascism*, SW Vol. IV)

“In a definite conjuncture of circumstances, when the normal form of its economic organization, political institution and administrative apparatus fails to cope with the mounting capitalist crisis, when it becomes next to impossible to maintain any amount of stability of market and earn maximum profit, when the masses of the people, hard-hit by insecurity in life owing to crisis, feel the necessity for change in the existing conditions, the bourgeoisie, in order to maintain the most effective operation of the basic law of maximum profit of the capitalist economy under the circumstances, throws aside all veils from class dictatorship which parliamentary democracy puts on. These historical conditions impart to fascism some common characteristics which are its distinguishing features. They are mainly economic centralization, maximum concentration of political power in the state, rigid firmness in administration—all this leading to more and more identification of the interest of the monopolists with that of the state—and cultural regimentation.” (*Call of the Hour*, SW Vol. II)

“Even to the bourgeoisie, Parliament is fast losing its utility. Fascism is manifesting itself in diverse forms more markedly than before in the state structure and administrative set-up of all capitalist countries, developed or backward.” (*On War, Peace and Peaceful co-existence*, SW Vol. I)

“The appearance of fascism in a ‘democratic’ form through the two-party parliamentary system of government is certainly a post-war social phenomenon, having no historical precedent. Because of its seemingly democratic appearance it is, at the same time, the most deceptive. And in fact, it has been able to deceive many so-called intellectuals, who try to recognise fascism by its form and not by its content or its distinguishing features...” (*Call of the Hour*, SW Vol. II)

“Fascism always and everywhere adopts a dual policy of suppression and persuasion or deception. Its aim is not so much to ruthlessly suppress the mass force as to win it over to its side as volunteers who will be willing to carry out the fascist plans and programmes for ‘national reconstruction’. Without a cooperating mass force at its back, fascism can hardly hold its sway. Fascism, therefore, adopts social democratic plans, grants minor economic concessions to the people, tries to control anarchy in the capitalist economy and the insecurity in life flowing therefrom like unemployment, etc. In its drive to save the aggregate interests of the capitalist class it even imposes restrictions on individual capitalists and their freedom of anarchical production. In short, a fascist state takes the position of a so-called bourgeois welfare state...” (*ibid*)

“National jingoism has always been a powerful instrument in the hands of the bourgeoisie to poison the mass mind against the ideology of class struggle and proletarian

internationalism. The fascists make the best use of it to further their ends. ...The idea of class harmony, union of all classes or of supra-class national interest as advocated by the fascists requires a concrete expression for presentation to people. Fascism sometimes, therefore, propagates the idea of the superman, the superman being the embodiment of national will and interests. No wonder that decaying capitalism is falling back, more and more, on absolutism and mysticism, overt and covert, against which capitalism had to wage a struggle in the beginning to gain its foothold....Furthermore, while reactionary bourgeois nationalism is an expression of the bourgeois world outlook and a weapon in the hands of the exploiters to exploit the patriotic sentiment of the people in the interest of the bourgeoisie, patriotism guided by the ideology of proletarian internationalism is a powerful instrument in the hands of the exploited people to liberate themselves from the exploiting system of capitalism-imperialism. Whereas reactionary bourgeois nationalism derives from the selfish bourgeois interest of perpetuating the obsolescent capitalist order which stands in the way of social progress, patriotism fortified by the ideology of proletarian internationalism flows from the fount of true love for people and aims at battering all barriers of social progress. So, fascism can ill-afford to tolerate the real patriotic feelings of people.” (*ibid*)

“...attempts for combining religion with politics,... are helping the dissemination of spiritual beliefs and various supernatural ideas opposed to rationalism. Today the initiators of most of the religious festivals are no longer the priests and the clergy but the so-called political leaders of our country....It has become the main characteristic feature of the neo-fascist culture in our country to go on spreading all bourgeois and petit-bourgeois evil ideas, like the theory of absolutism about the nature of the state, the principle of class-collaboration and cooperation between mutually conflicting classes instead of class struggle, virtual denial of the proletarian internationalism in the name of universal humanism, propagation of national chauvinism and above all cult of revivalism on the plea of national tradition...Without these, the development of all-out fascism is impossible in any country...because blind obedience, sense of mechanical discipline and prejudices of all sorts are the foundation of fascism.” (*Crisis in Culture, and Fascism*, SW Vol. IV)

Cultivation of thinking, of logical reasoning – all these are disappearing from the country. As a consequence, this very mindset marked with complete absence of logic and reasoning coupled with the growing trend of blind obedience is paving the ground for eventual emergence of disastrous fascism.” (*Danger from Left Opportunism in Running a Danger from Left Opportunism in Running a United Front Government*, SW Vol IV)

“Since 1949, we have been repeatedly pointing out an important aspect of our Party’s analysis on fascism. There are some people who regard the severe repressive nature of

*Contd. on page 6*

# US economy and plight of American working class

The US used to be projected by the ruling capitalist class and its servitors all over the world as a model country to showcase how much prosperity capitalism can bring to its people if the prescription of neo-liberal capitalism is followed in this globalized world. Many people round the world think that US is a dreamland and all US citizens live a luxurious and comfortable life without having any worry about anything in life. But those who had an insight into the actual state of affairs in US knew that things were not that rosy as depicted to the external world by the ruling quarters of US and their cohorts. Covid 19 has further punctured the balloon of the hollow claims and the world is witnessing how one pandemic within a few weeks could push such a seemingly most powerful imperialist economy to a state of virtual collapse. Not only the fragility and instability of the capitalist-imperialist system is exposed, the growing plight, penury, deprivation and discrimination against the toiling masses, particularly the working class, have also been laid bare even more glaringly. A cursory glance at the bare facts will be revealing.

## Pre-Covid 19 situation of economic inequality

What is the yardstick of determining the economic-social prosperity of a country? Surely, it is not the amount of wealth created, but how the wealth is distributed. How the basic needs of the people like food, clothing, shelter, means of earning, capacity to buy required quantity of essential items, availability of proper healthcare and education etc., are being fulfilled, and whether the standard of life of common people, irrespective of race, religion, sex and ethnicity, is going up. Now, based on this fundamental yardstick, how does the US, the chieftain of world imperialism-capitalism, feature? Let us first see how equitably the created wealth is distributed. Mainstream media of US confirm that the top 20% of Americans owned 86% of the country's wealth and the bottom 80% of the population owned 14%. Income gap between rich and poor in U.S. is largest in 50 years.<sup>12</sup> Whatever may be the stage of the development of capitalism, like two sides of the same coin, the concentration of the wealth on the one side cannot be separated from the poverty and miseries of the masses on the other side. The

statistics provided by the US government, itself would throw light on the truth behind their lucid stories of success.

Growth of the imperialist economy has increased the share of the ruling monopolists in the national wealth at the expense of the working-class who remain poor and deprived. This process has markedly accelerated from 1980 and is continuing. Milton Friedman (1912-2006) the Noble Prize winner argues that "there is one and only one social responsibility of business<sup>3</sup>to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits." Anything else, he argues, is "unadulterated socialism".<sup>6</sup> Economy has become so vulgarly anti-people and pro-rich that even the economists and theorists of the capitalist world who generally cover the profit maximization motive of capitalism with the sweet coating of the social responsibility of corporations, are now coming out with such frank admission of the reality. Also, since late 1980, a new term of 'Shareholder Capitalism' has been coined in the parlance of bourgeois economics. The concept is that the duty of the corporation is to maximize the shareholders' value. This particular concept which has come into the picture has taken complete hold of the 21st-century capitalist theories, culture, and practice. Wall Street, the centre of a financial oligarchy of the US, has taken complete control of the corporations. "Our current, highly financialized, form of shareholder capitalism is not just failing to provide new capital for investment, it is actively undermining the ability of listed companies to reinvest their own profits. The stock market has become a vehicle for extracting value from companies, not for injecting it...Shareholder capitalism is driving inequality...For one person to win, another must lose – and increasingly, the only real winners appear to be the army of financial intermediaries who control and perpetuate this merry-go-round"<sup>7</sup> This was how a survey unfolded the methods used by financiers of Wall Street to make quick profits from the stock market. 'Shareholder capitalism', is a practice of modern-day parasitism of decadent moribund capitalist system where the financial oligarchy controls the shares of corporations and lives on their income from that without taking any part in any aspect of production and distribution of goods

and services. Through the control of shares, they force the managements to align their interests to increase the value of their shareholdings by ruthless exploitation of workers.

## Pre-Covid 19 unemployment and labour-market scenario

Unemployment rate provides a simple snapshot of the condition of the economy. But in US, officially declared unemployment rate is not a straightforward measure of people who are out of work. The reality is more complicated. There is huge hidden unemployment in the US which the official statistics hide. The Bureau of Labour Statistics of the US has multiple definitions of unemployment available. The "official" one, the U-3 is the number of people who are jobless but actively seeking employment whereas U-6 accounts for anyone who has been seeking employment for at least 12 months but left discouraged without being able to secure a job. It also includes anyone who has gone back to school, become disabled, and people who are underemployed or working part-time hours. Pertinent is to understand the difference between the two measures. In August 2018, while U-3 figure was 6.2 million, U-6 number was 7.4 million.<sup>15</sup> Researchers claim that "underemployment replaces unemployment as the main influence on wages in the years since the Great Recession of 1930s."<sup>15</sup> Around 6 million were officially declared unemployed in June 2019.<sup>14</sup> While based on that, U-3 rate was 3.7%, U-6 rate was almost double at 7.2%.<sup>16</sup> Racial disparities have also been glaring. In the first half of 2019, the unemployment rate (U 3) was 6.6 percent for blacks, 4.4 percent for Hispanics, and 3.3 percent for whites.<sup>17</sup>

Another important parameter that shows the level of hidden unemployment is the 'labour force participation rate'. It is the percentage of the total adult working-age population 16 years and older that is working or actively looking for work. These statistics are regularly published by governments all over the world and by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The labour force participation rate in the US which was 67.3% in 2000 declined to 64.6% in 2009 after financial crises and is continuously falling since then. In March 2020 it has come down to 62.7%.<sup>2</sup> A declining

labour rate participation rate shows the disguised unemployment which does not get reported in the official unemployment figures. If the economy moves to full employment, more and more workers ought to have entered the job market as it would not be difficult for them to get a reasonably well paying job. This should have resulted in a higher labour participation rate. But this has not been the case with US economy. The rising official employment rate has failed to increase labour participation. Rather it is declining. The answer lies in the fact that most jobs provided to a person with the average skills are part-time contractual low paid ones. There is no security of a job and no healthcare for these workers. These underemployed who are/form/make a substantial population of the US do not find a place in the official statistics of unemployment and hence it remains hidden as disguised unemployment. Also, many others looking for a job are discouraged as the job on offer to them are of very low wages for the skills they have, resulting in a declining labour force participation rate.

Interestingly, the ruling circle of US claims that 3.5% - 3.7% unemployment is akin to full employment. When a capitalist-imperialist state declares that it has reached full employment, wages should rise and the condition of the working class should improve. Again the reality is otherwise. The contradiction can be seen in the 'Labour share' figure furnished by the government. 'Labour share' of national income represents the amount of GDP paid out in wages, salaries, and benefits. The other part of the national income goes as a share of capital or profit share. Labour share in the US gross domestic income having been the highest 51.6% in the year 1953, went down to 49% in 1965, again went up to 51.6% in 1971 and thereafter has been consistently declining, reaching 41.9% in 2014 and slightly went up to 43.2 in 2018.<sup>3</sup> Falling 'Labour share' shows that the workers are being deprived of the benefits of the growth of the capitalist economy. From various studies on the growth of hourly wages of workers in the US economy, it is observed that inflation-adjusted wages of the majority of workers have almost remained stagnant. Median hourly wage (meaning the boundary between highest-paid 50 percent of

*Contd. on page 4*

## US economy

# Top 20% of Americans owned 86% of the country's wealth

*Contd. from page 3*

jobs and the lowest-paid 50 percent of jobs) from 1979 to 2019 increased from \$20.76 to \$22.0 – an increase of 6.1% in 39 years. Hourly increase for the bottom 10 % was an even more meagre 1.6 %. Again, ethnic-racial disparities surface most nakedly. The real wages for the Black and Hispanic population that constitutes 31.7 % of the US population has decreased in 39 years.<sup>4</sup> Wages for the majority of the workers have remained almost stagnant in 39 years.

But, the US imperialist rulers are unfazed. There is now no bar on the part of the capitalist owners in laying-off the workers, cutting their wages and benefits, shutting down plants, spinning off divisions, taking on debt and moving production overseas to keep the cost of production low by exploiting cheap raw material and labour in the destination countries. But if the workers demand legitimate benefits and rights or protest against injustice, discrimination or deprivation, those are viewed as treason, disruption of law and order, jolt to production and hence liable for ruthless suppression. This is true for global imperialism-capitalism and obviously for US imperialism as well. Great Lenin in his celebrated work “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism” had called these capitalist-imperialist sharks as “a stratum of rentiers, i.e., people who live by “clipping coupons”, who take no part in any enterprise whatever, whose profession is idleness.”

### Poverty scenario

Naturally, due to low wage and rising unemployment there is spike in poverty. In February last, 40 million people were reported to be in poverty, twice as many as it was fifty years ago.<sup>13</sup> Much before the pandemic “according to 2019 Federal Reserve study, 40% of Americans could not come up with \$400 to cover up in an emergency situation”<sup>11</sup> There are 7,50,000 Americans who are homeless on any given night.<sup>14</sup> Votaries of ruling capitalism often seek to argue that the workers themselves are responsible for their poverty. But is this argument tenable even on the parameters prescribed by bourgeois economists? Let us take a look into the figures for the growth of productivity and wages over a period of time in US. From 1948 to

1979, the productivity in the US on the whole increased by 108.1 %. Compared to that, hourly wage increased by 93.2 %— almost one to one by percentage. But from 1979 to 2018, while the productivity increased by 69.6 %, hourly wagewent up by 11.6 % only, i.e. just one-sixth of the growth in productivity. If the growing income inequality within the upper crust of wage earners and the rest is taken into account, the wages of the majority of workers are almost stagnant whereas productivity has increased by 70 %.<sup>5</sup> Is it then that the workers are responsible for their growing impoverishment? Or the fact is that the benefits of increased productivity have been usurped by a very small minority of super-rich capitalist owners constituting not more than 1% of the US population?

### Spurt in credit-driven economy

The attestation of falling income of common US citizens is also evident from the rising debt figure in the country. We know that since escalating market crisis created by falling buying power of the people at large because of plummeting income is endemic in the capitalist system, the ruling bourgeoisie, among other steps to rescue a sagging economy, has been stressing on pushing credit i.e. availability of loans from banks and financial institutions at relatively easy terms. The objective is that if people take loan and buy goods, the market would be stimulated a bit. But what catastrophe this credit-driven economy can cause was seen during outbreak of subprime crisis in 2008. Yet, US imperialist rulers are encouraging the same route.

Total household debt that includes home mortgages, credit card debts, education, and car loans has increased from around \$11.5 trillion in 2014 to \$ 14 trillion in 2019. As the cost of a college education has been increasing on average at a 7 % rate every year since 1980, student's loan in the USA has gone up from around \$260 billion in 2004 to around \$1.5 trillion in 2019 — a seven-fold increase in 16 years. Around 44 million US citizens are under student's debt. An average college graduate with a bachelor's degree takes over 21 years to pay off the loan.<sup>8</sup> An American citizen completing his graduation at the age of 21 years carries the debt burden of education loan even in his

forties. If he or she loses a job in between for a few months, would not the creditors be knocking at his or her door making life miserable? Also, would not even education loan default also soar beyond control?

Similarly, more than 189 million Americans have credit-cards. And total outstanding debt against use of credit card in 2019 stood at \$1.08 trillion. Each household with a credit card carries \$8,398 as credit card debt. Whereas banks in the US give hardly 1% interest on the savings, credit card companies charge 17 % interest on an average. “With credit card debt at more than \$1 trillion and interest rates ticking upward, consumers paid nearly \$104 billion in those charges during the 12 months that ended March 31, according to data from Magnify Money (Brien 2018).<sup>9</sup> These are modern-day loan sharks who cut their pound of flesh by charging exorbitant interest. This is the reason why banks promote day in and day out their credit cards with very attractive schemes so that people even at student age fall into their trap, develop the habit of living on debt and pay all through their lives a large portion of their hard-earned income, large or small, as an interest to these modern-day bloodsuckers.

Despite the global economic pandemic triggered by frenzied speculation over securitized housing loan instruments in 2008, “Debt on account of housing mortgages in the US stands at \$10.3 trillion at the end of 2018. ...”<sup>10</sup> 36 % of the US population lives in rented accommodation.. The percentage goes as high as 70 % in some cities. In 1981, the average age of American home buyers was 31. In 2019, it is 47. <sup>11</sup> Since housing is as essential for humans as are food and clothing, house mortgages and rents which eat way a large chunk of income of the US working class, are a great source of profits for the landowners, banks, and the financial oligarchs.

If we recalculate and sum up the rent or mortgages, instalment of credit card loans, student loans, health insurance instalments, property and income tax, social security payments, etc, that 40 % of US population is left with no more than \$ 400 to meet any emergency (like buying food for only two weeks for a small family of four)<sup>1</sup> would not be an overstatement. While a section of the bourgeois quarters often

propagate that there is no substitute for capitalism which has been providing ‘inclusive growth’ and a working class revolution is a pipe dream, the objective reality is just the reverse throughout the imperialist-capitalist world where pauperization and deprivation of the working people are rising steeply. Majority of the US population have become property-less and are proletariat, i.e. those who live only by selling their labour power to the capitalist. Except for personal belongings they have nothing to give in inheritance to their children.

Great Karl Marx wrote in the Communist Manifesto: “You are horrified at our intending to do away with private property. But in your existing society, private property is already done away with for nine-tenths of the population; its existence for the few is solely due to its non-existence in the hands of those nine-tenths. You reproach us, therefore, with intending to do away with a form of property, the necessary condition for whose existence is the non-existence of any property for the immense majority of society.” (Chapter 11, Page 23)

The above statistics make only half of the picture of the exploitative nature of the US imperialist rulers. Further insight into the oppressive role of the financial oligarchy, loan sharks, and monopoly houses in imperialist US as well as the socio-economic conditions of US working class and other sections of the toiling masses people, would be more revealing.

### Post-Covid 19 scenario

What has been described above was the pre-corona situation. Covid-19 and induced lockdown has exacerbated the plight and penury of the common US citizens including working class to an unprecedented limit. US was already in recession as all sources except government lobby had confirmed. Way back in August 2019, 3 out of 4 economists also corroborated that. <sup>18</sup> Now, the National Bureau of Economic Research confirmed in June last that the US is officially experiencing an economic recession. <sup>19</sup> Surprisingly, just before the pandemic, the US state and its pliant media had been consistently projecting that this was the best time for the working class as 2019 recorded the lowest

*Contd. on page 5*

## US economy

# Half of the US working population is expected to lose jobs soon following Covid 19 pandemic

Contd from page 4

unemployment rate of 3.5 % in the history of the US which, as we mentioned above, is claimed to be akin to full employment. Whereas, Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize-winning economist and professor at Columbia University, observes that what is particularly unusual about the current recession is the speed at which it hit, particularly when it comes to unemployment. Just weeks into the current crisis, unemployment surpassed the 10% peak recorded during the Great Recession. That raises the question of how easy it will be to get the economy fully going again, asked Stiglitz.<sup>19</sup> Even bourgeois media is full of stories on the hell-like conditions this pandemic has created for the workers and the middle class in US. Miles long queues are shown where people are waiting for hours and hours for their turn to get free food. 1.3 million more Americans have applied for unemployment insurance under regular state programmes in the week ended 11 July 2020, about double the worst week in the 2007-2009 recession. This figure does not include more than 9,00,000 applications filed for securing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.<sup>21</sup> Though the official quarters are claiming that 30 million people have lost jobs, the real number is closer to 50 million if all the workers who do not qualify for unemployment benefits like many migrant workers, gig or non-traditional workers (Workers not in permanent employment like the contract and casual workers, workers employed on day-to-day basis etc.) and the large number of laid-off workers who could not access their state unemployment websites because they were either too busy or had crashed, are added. That means that almost one-third of the U.S. workforce has just become jobless.<sup>20</sup> Half of the working population is expected to lose jobs soon. No wonder the shock of Covid-19 has forced a very large section of the working population within two weeks to stand like beggars in the food coupon lines. Even amidst pandemic, workers at jobs where they do not have the benefit of belonging to a labour union, like Amazon, Instacart (an online grocery delivery service company),

Target and elsewhere, organized walkouts and strikes on May Day to demand safe working conditions and paid sick leave. From the healthcare workers, the migrant farm-workers, grocery store workers and other so called low end economy workers are fighting for the very right to stay alive. Needless to say that when the critical phase of the pandemic would be over, most of the jobs that have been lost will not come back. Worst sufferers will be the African-Americans, Hispanics and other backward strata of working people who struggle hard to survive under normal conditions and constitute the bulk of the Covid 19 casualties. Already, it is learnt that though the government has been forced, at least for the at least for the present and that too under pressure, to put aside the austerity paybook which has governed its decisions for several decades and pumped trillions of dollars into the economy pretending the same to be emergency relief funds, most of those funds have gone to the big corporations. Most of the people who need the little relief money that is supposed to go to workers have either not received it yet or are not eligible for it.<sup>20</sup> Globalization has created miserable conditions of the working class in advanced country like US as they are now forced to compete with the poor workers of backward countries where capitalists are shifting their production in search for super profits.

### Conscious revolutionary struggle of people can alone overthrow oppressive capitalism

It is evident from the foregoing paragraphs that the complete instability of its capitalist economy and the extraction of monopolistic super profit by way of exacerbated ruthless exploitation of the toiling people have made the condition of the working class of the US miserable. Even in their so-called best days of full employment, they are forced to work on temporary, low paying contractual jobs with complete uncertainties in their lives. Global imperialism-capitalism hitherto led by US imperialism is found to be tumbling into a depression which is several times more severe than the great

depression of the 1930s. Depression-level unemployment would rise sky-high since the workers will not be able to buy the things that capitalist overproduction would be dumping on the market for selling, entailing further closure of industries and huge job loss. As staggering as the COVID-19 pandemic is on its own, in truth it has catalyzed a colossal world capitalist crisis that has been in the making for a long time. After a temporary boost 75 years ago with World War II and rise of USA to head the imperialist camp, US capitalism has for the last half century been sliding into its end stage. Globalization and the development of generations of technology, combined with a relentless assault on the living standards of the working class, have failed to stop the system's decline.

Yet, as a last ditch attempt to trade in the hunger and death of millions of the countrymen, the difficulties arising out of Covid 19 pandemic for the establishment are being over-projected to enable the handful of super-rich to amass enormous wealth, by either cornering money released from the exchequer for relief through various illegal conduits or pushing up prices of drugs and healthcare cost as well as jacking up prices of essential commodities and services through a slew of manipulations. Extreme concentration of the wealth in a few hundred hands and the rising poverty and uncertainty gripping the lives of the multitudes of toiling masses are the two sides of the same globalized crisis-ridden exploitative capitalism of 21st-century capitalist system whose ugly face could no more be hidden. The impending collapse of imperialism-capitalism due to Covid-19 pandemic has once again created the conditions when the teachings of Karl Marx, the great leader of the proletariat, will become the slogan of working-class everywhere— "The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win." (Communist Manifesto). Already there have been sporadic burst of people's wrath and resentment which went to a peak during the 'Occupy Wall Street' movement, and the latest "Black Lives Matter" sustained movement is still going

strong that has shaken the Pentagon rulers. The day is not far off when the working class of the US would stand united with the working class of the other countries and fight for the overthrow of the capitalist system once for all by fulfilling both the subjective and objective conditions of revolution that presupposes, among others, a correct revolutionary line and leadership of a correct revolutionary party formed on Leninist model.

### References:

- <https://time.com/5800930/how-coronavirus-will-hurt-the-poor/>
- <https://www.bls.gov/charts/employment-situation/civilian-labor-force-participation-rate.htm>
- US Bureau of Economic Analysis 2019. (<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/W270RE1A156NBEA>)
- Congressional Research Service 2019 (<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45090.pdf>).
- <https://www.epi.org/productivity-pay-gap/>
- <https://prospect.org/economy/shareholder-capitalism-came-town/>
- [https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/NEF\\_SHAREHOLDER-CAPITALISM\\_E\\_latest.pdf](https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/NEF_SHAREHOLDER-CAPITALISM_E_latest.pdf)
- <https://www.thebalance.com/how-long-does-it-take-to-pay-off-student-loans-4588027>
- (<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/07/19/consumers-paying-104-billion-in-credit-card-interest-and-fees.html>)
- <https://www.thebalance.com/average-monthly-mortgage-payment-4154282>.
- <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/this-chart-shows-just-how-much-is-stacked-against-young-people-who-want-to-buy-a-home-2019-12-05>.
- Washington Times 27-09-19
- New York Times 16-04-20
- economic daily 12-06-19
- Forbes 25-09-18
- US Bureau of Labour Statistics-10-07-19
- Brookings 01-08-19
- Washington Post 09-08-19
- CNBC 09-06-20
- Workers' World 08-05-20
- Bloomberg 20-07-20]

## Fascism

# Fascism is a peculiar fusion of spiritualism, obscurantism and irrational bent of mind with the technological aspects of science”

*Contd. from page 2*

administration, any dictatorship as fascism. It should be remembered that dictatorship may be military dictatorship; it may be foisted through a coup as well. Besides, there is torture and repression in every anti-people administrative system, and the imperialists perpetrate torture and repression in the colonial countries. But fascism is more devastating than that. Mere repression cannot do so much harm to a country.” (*Fascism and Moral Fascism and Moral Ethical Crisis in Left, Democratic Movement*, SW Vol. IV)

“Being enamoured of an imaginary hypothesis that ‘fascism cannot at all develop in an underdeveloped country like ours,’ on the plea of prevalence of the parliamentary democratic system and relative backwardness of Indian capitalism, they not only overlook these phenomena, but also actually assist, without noticing it, in spreading the influence of the fascist outlook by trumpeting the slogans of national unity, national tradition, mechanical discipline and pacifism. Most of them lack the historical and scientific understanding of the real character of fascism which to them only means a barefaced dictatorship. They are unable to conceive that fascism can be established fully even under the cloak of parliamentary democracy. Otherwise they could easily comprehend that though the fascist states were defeated in the Second World War fascism is far from being dead and gone even today. As the inevitable result of the creation of a socialist market parallel to the world capitalist market, fascism has now-a-days

become a characteristic feature of every capitalist state.” (*Crisis in Culture and Fascism*, SW Vol. IV)

“And so, in basing their interpretations of fascism on the simplified definitions that ‘fascism is a naked dictatorship of the capitalist classes’, they utterly failed to realize that fascism is much more dangerous than that of any kind of dictatorship, even from military dictatorship, in so far as it strives to achieve national unity in favour of the bourgeoisie against the revolutionary proletariat under the cover of pseudo-radical slogans that fascism in most of the cases appears in a most deceptive way. The different Communist Parties took no cognizance of its ideological root present within the socio-political life, and specific philosophical outlook which helped the fascists organize themselves and thrive; in other words, they lost sight of the historical continuity fascism maintained in its ideological plane. As a result, however intensive struggle the communists might have waged in economic and political fronts, their refusal to acknowledge their indispensable practical necessity of ideological war against fascism reduced all their efforts and sacrifices to a partial and one-sided attack on the national-jingoists.” (*Socialist Unity* Vol. 1, No 9, 1 September 1951)

“...the toiling millions of our country have, finally, to decide what course they will adopt, whether they will allow themselves to be drifted along the path of parliamentarism and caught, helplessly, in the rising tide of fascism or prepare for a victorious socialist revolution in India. They

are to choose either the one or the other course since there is no *via media*. Only the people and their organized struggles, developed on the basis of true patriotism, quite distinct from reactionary bourgeois nationalism, and the ideology of proletarian internationalism can stem the tide of the approaching catastrophe, the rapid growth and development of Indian fascism. Only a revolutionary working class party, equipped with revolutionary theory and organized on the Leninist principle of party organization, can lead such struggles to their logical goal—the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and capture of power by the proletariat....The present period, in which we are living, is a period of “open class collisions, of revolutionary action by the proletariat, of proletarian revolution, a period when forces are being directly mustered for the overthrow of imperialism and the seizure of power by the proletariat. In this period the proletariat is confronted with new tasks, the tasks of reorganizing all party work on new, revolutionary lines; of educating the workers in the spirit of revolutionary struggles for power; of preparing and moving up the reserves; of establishing an alliance with the proletarians of neighbouring countries; of establishing firm ties with the liberation movement in the colonies and dependent countries etc., etc. The Socialist Unity Centre of India is that party. It fulfils all the characteristics of the new type of party, though it is small. Help it develop as an effective party. That is the call of the hour.” (*Call of the Hour*, SW Vol. II)

## Observance of 130th Death Anniversary of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar

This year, bicentenary of Vidyasagar, an outstanding renaissance personality, bold exponent of uncompromising secular humanism on the soil, ardent proponent of secular, scientific, democratic education, pioneer in introducing education of women and originator of widow remarriage, is being observed with due solemnity by right-thinking people of the country through various programmes including wide cultivation of his illustrious life and teachings. As Rabindranath Tagore had described, “Not kindness, not erudition, the real greatness of Vidyasagar’s character was his indomitable manhood, undying humanity”. His invincible manliness and imperishable humanity have been revealed in the conflict with the repressive traditional customs. Thus, till his death, he advanced tirelessly on this thorny path. There is no comparison of Vidyasagar’s gigantic contribution in building the future of the country

and the foundation of a new modern society, education and the culture. For all-out progress and welfare of this country on the edifice of truth based on logic and science, he sacrificed everything. At this juncture of history when humanity is facing a crisis in the field of ethics-morality-culture-finer human values-tender feelings, significance of the cultivation of the teachings of great Vidyasagar, such as embracing rational scientific views in all spheres of life, the courage to fight unwaveringly for ushering in social progress and possess genuine love for helpless misery-stricken people. On the day of his 130th death anniversary 29 July last, a firm pledge to build an all-encompassing movement of nurturing and practising that culture within ourselves, in family life and in the social sphere was taken round the country.

Below is the photo of Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary,

SUCI(C), garlanding portrait of Shibpur Party Centre, West Bengal, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar at the on 29 July 2020.



## Eye-opening for an Israeli youth

# Army officer to defend Jewish people came to believe treatment of Palestinians is morally wrong

Joel Carmel, the son of a rabbi was raised in London's Jewish community. He was passionately committed to defending Israel from its critics. "My synagogue, my youth movement, my school were all Zionist organizations. Zionism meant not just Israel has the right to exist but actively defending Israel," he said. The critics, he believed were biased. "What Israel did was always a security issue and Israel had to do whatever it had to defend itself."

He went to Israel as soon as he could, joined the army, and rose to the rank of second lieutenant. He served in the West Bank territories, which Israel occupied after the Six-Day War in 1967. The West Bank is home to 2.8 million Palestinians, as well as more than 500,000 Jews, who are described as settlers, building often controversial settlements.

When he witnessed the occupation for some time as a soldier, he said, he came to realize that Israel's policies were as much a force for violence as the terrorism it was supposed to prevent.

One morning at a Bethlehem, West Bank, crossing point, where Palestinian workers gathered to gain entry into Israel, Carmel said he witnessed an upsetting scene. "You've just got to be there to feel it," he said. "Thousands of young Palestinian men crushed into tunnel cages on the way to the security check. People forced to climb on top of one another — that was when I started to think, 'There's something wrong here.'" The permit-application process for entering Israel to visit family or hospitals required Palestinians to provide exhaustive biographical information, he said. "It was part of Israel's effort to control — we had to know everything," he added.

He said another critical moment for him was a visit for the young officers to the mosque at the Caves of the Patriarchs, in Hebron, a city south of Jerusalem. It is believed to house the graves of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and both Muslims and Jews treasure the shrine. There is also a synagogue on the site.

When Carmel and his fellow trainee officers arrived, he said, he was shocked when they did not remove their shoes to pay even minimal respect to Muslim beliefs. "I was tramping around in my

military boots in their mosque," he said.

After two years, Carmel said his doubts were magnified. The occupation as a defense against Palestinian terrorists was one dimension of what he witnessed, he said, adding that humiliating and instilling fear into Palestinians was another.

"They all want to kill us"; that's something you hear in Israel. But as an officer in the Jenin district, I met loads of Palestinians daily. I realized that just isn't true. They are people."

The night of the "mapping operation" was to be his epiphany. He said he rode along to a Palestinian village in a jeep and watched the driver strike the trash cans outside each home, leaving a trail of stinking rubbish and rotting vegetables in the street. They banged on the door of a Palestinian family, he said, and had the bleary-eyed parents and children come to the door and answer a list of questions. Carmel said he tried to smile at a small Palestinian boy, but he just glared back. As the soldiers exited the village, Palestinians on rooftops threw paint bombs at their jeeps, he said, adding that an Israeli soldier stuck his gun out the window and fired rubber-tipped bullets wildly.

"That was the moment I realized I wanted to get out of the army. I didn't want to be doing something that I viewed as immoral," he said.

"We are punishing people who haven't done anything," he added. "Yes, there is terror, and some people are very threatening to us. But the occupation is a system of constant violence."

Carmel's next move risked a prison sentence. He wrote a letter to his commanding officer.

"I genuinely felt at the time that by being at such odds, ideologically, with the establishment and the unit I was in, it affected me emotionally and severely limited my ability to do my job to the best of my ability," he said. "That being the case, I was worried about the impact that would have on the tens of thousands of Palestinians whose freedom of movement I controlled, and who ultimately would be the ones to suffer most."

After a series of meetings with the top brass and a lot of yelling, he was shunted to a nonjob to finish his service, he said.

But he did achieve one unexpected change. After his service finished, he became a case study for trainee officers. He said a lecture was "dedicated to that 'crazy soldier.'"

"They brought up on the screen the letter I wrote to my commander. The purpose was to weed out people who might have a moral objection. I had been a huge waste of resources for the army. The army learned lessons from me," he said.

Carmel eventually went to university in Jerusalem, married, and now works for 'Breaking the Silence'. According to its mission statement, it is "an organization of veterans who have served in the Israeli military who have taken it upon themselves to expose the Israeli public to the reality of everyday life in the Occupied Territories." "Israelis love their soldiers, and it's difficult stuff to hear from us: 'We experienced those things because we were sent

by you, the people, to oppress other people in your name,'" he said. He and his colleagues are often called liars and traitors, he said.

Now 28, Carmel is the father of a baby girl. The occupation is in its 54th year, and the thought she could be called upon to defend it in the 75th fills him with dread. "... many good people are fighting for this cause and people are listening to us," he said. "I'd rather be that father than the father who tries to ignore it and find my daughter in the army one day."

He said he would have some advice for his younger self. "I would say do some more reading. That would have helped me understand that every criticism of Israel is not an attack on its right to exist," he said. "You can be a patriotic Israeli and criticize the occupation. It would have changed things in my life if I had known that then." [Source: Julian Kossoff of Reuters in Business Insider dated 26-07-20]

## AIDSO Vehemently Criticizes the National Education Policy - 2020

All India Democratic Students' Organization (AIDSO) in a statement issued on 30 July 2020 vehemently criticized the National Education Policy (NEP) calling it an evil design meant for implementing all-out Privatization, Commercialization, Centralization, Vocationalization and Communalization of education ignoring the role and say of the state governments.

Since publication of its draft, AIDSO has been persistently telling that the NEP would have a disastrous impact on public education system in the country and open the sector to domestic and foreign monopolists for ruthless exploitation.

The proposed 5+3+3+4 year school education pattern, handing over the 'crucial stage' of 3 to 6 years children to the Anganwadi workers, inexplicable silence on reintroduction of Pass-Fail system from class I, extending undergraduate course by one more year with multiple entry and exit system and the so-called 'holistic multidisciplinary education' would be detrimental to the inculcation of comprehensive knowledge. Under the garb of 'Indianisation of education', promotion of obsolete ideas and customs, as well as fostering of communalization and national jingoism would be rampant. The proposed 'Higher Education Council of India (HECI)' as sole regulatory body would establish total bureaucratic control over higher education system keeping the educationists, academicians and erudite out of the purview of policy making and governance of education.

Unfortunately, such a disastrous NEP-2020 has been declared on 29 July, death anniversary of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, the great renaissance personality and staunch advocate scientific, secular, modern education in India.

AIDSO called upon the people in general and students in particular to reject the NEP-2020 lock, stock, and barrel and build up mighty mass movement to introduce a scientific-secular-democratic education system and universal education.

## Significance of movement organized by ABECA against escalated power tariff and other electricity-related people's demands

As part of speedy implementation of the disastrous precepts of Globalization, the process of privatizing power sector, a crucial public utility service, was rolled out three decades back in the country by the bourgeois rulers and their pliant governments. Just the other day, the BJP-led central government further brought a Draconian Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020 to further the process much to the detriment of the electricity consumers. It is pertinent to mention in this connection that all the governments subservient to bourgeois class interest, no matter which flag they wave, have been party to this process with a view to serving the profit maximization motive of the corporate giants dominating the power sector. A classic example is the privatization of CESC Ltd (originally Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation) which is the sole agency supplying power to Kolkata city and its agglomerates. Right from pre-independence days, this was a flagship government-controlled organization. But when the CPI (M) was in power in West Bengal, this company was virtually handed over to the monopolist Goenka group in 1989 on a silver platter and the name was changed from The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (India) Limited to CESC Limited. From then onwards, it has been a saga of reckless loot and plunder by the Goenka group with periodic escalation of tariff under various pretexts. After the erstwhile BJP government led by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee passed the infamous the Electricity Act 2003, the scope for squeezing the consumers was further widened. Right now, the CESC tariff is highest in India. While power tariff in West Bengal is as high as Rs 7 per unit it is only Rs 1.50 in Tamil Nadu, Rs 1.75 in Jharkhand, Rs 3.15 in Kerala, Rs 3.23 in Gujarat, Rs 4.00 in Arunachal Pradesh, Rs 4.25 in Maharashtra, Rs 4.90 in UP, Rs 5.45 in Assam. Electricity consumers in Kolkata and a part of its surrounding districts extremely

suffer due to CESC's high handedness backed by the successive West Bengal governments including the present TMC government.

To slay the slain further, the CESC authorities seized the opportunity unfolded by the four month long lockdown. Arguing that meter reading was not possible in the first three months when billing was based on average of what the consumers paid in last year, they have suddenly sent a bill for June 2020 which is highly inflated and deliberately manipulated. Naturally, there is protest from everyone including some of the celebrities. It is pertinent to mention here that with a view to giving organized shape to the growing wrath and resentment of the electricity consumers of CESC, a people's struggle committee named All Bengal Electricity Consumers' Association (ABECA) was founded in 1992 by some aggrieved consumers. ABECA since then launched many movements from time to time involving common consumers and also realized a few demands. In course of movement, a powerful leadership emerged to guide ABECA along right track so much so that even CESC management had to take that into cognizance and sit with ABECA representatives on several occasions for negotiation. Besides CESC, ABECA also unleashed powerful movements against the anti-consumer policies of West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB). Now, ABECA is a household name among the electricity consumers and reckoned as their true representative.

The moment the CESC sent the artificially inflated bills for June 2020 in July, ABECA took up the issue in right earnest and organized protests strictly adhering to lockdown protocols. A call was given to observe 20 July as a Protest Day which received tremendous response. ABECA leadership and activists also organized a notable demonstration in front of the CESC

headquarters in Kolkata scrupulously maintaining Covid 19 safety measures. A delegate team also met the CESC authorities. Under pressure of movement, the CESC management was compelled to say that that bills for April and May clubbed with June bill need not be paid. Revised bills correcting the anomalies would be sent. The spontaneous response to ABECA movement also forced the West Bengal power minister to ask consumers in Kolkata and Howrah not to pay the exorbitant electricity bills until the private power utility

issues revised bills with a reduced amount for June. ABECA has also written to Electricity Regulatory Commission seeking its intervention in the matter.

Emergence and growth of ABECA and its increasing support base attest to the fact that if people's legitimate movements are conducted along correct line and under correct leadership, growing hardship of people can be mitigated and the suffering masses would come out more and more in number to strengthen struggles against the capitalist rulers and their lackeys.



*Demonstration in front of the CESC headquarters in Kolkata on 20 July by ABECA*

## Gujarat AIUTUC memorandum to state government expressing concern over rising industrial accidents

### Oppose Draconian Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020

In a memorandum to the Gujarat State Labour Minister on 24 July 2020, Gujarat state AIUTUC, expressed serious concern at the rising number of industrial accidents in Surat, Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Vadodara, Nadiad, Ahmedabad and other areas during the lockdown period causing death of many workers. . Despite asking for providing proper Safety Gears to the workers, the owners and management of the industries paid no heed to that as they were in a hurry to restart production.

In such a situation, AIUTUC urged upon the minister to ensure earliest remedial measures,

ensure safety of the life of workers and take strict action against those who government flouted guidelines before re-opening the industries.

## Bank Employees protest privatization of Banks

In a statement issued on 27 July 2020, Bank Employees' Unity Forum, a mass organization fighting for the cause of bank employees, opposed the reported move of the BJP-led central government to privatize three public sector banks, viz., Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra & Punjab and Sind Bank keeping the customers in darkness and taking advantage of the Covid 19-induced lockdown when scope for launching protest movement is absent. This, the statement said, is part of the anti-people anti-working class policies the central government is avidly pursuing. The Forum appealed to everybody to rise up against this evil design and resist it.



*Protest demonstration at Krishnanagar, Nadia, WB on 3 July last against hike in all petroleum products*



## SUCI(C) calls upon people to rise in protest against Man-made price rise

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), issued the following statement on 16 July 2020:

When life and livelihood of the toiling millions of the country, already back-broken by ruthless and escalating capitalist oppression, are further threatened by rapid spread of Covid-19 pandemic and prolonged lockdown clamped abruptly and without any preparatory measures, prices of essential commodities including basic food items are spiraling alarmingly with the governments, both at the centre and in the states, remaining passive onlookers. This is engendering further devastation in people's life. Of late, even pharmaceutical companies are reported to have approached the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority seeking price increases for various essential medicines including some drugs being used for Covid-19 treatment, citing shortages and rising costs of raw materials. Price rise is an endemic feature of capitalist system. But, with continuous price hike of petrol & diesel and hoarding black-marketing, price manipulation and widespread speculation over prices of food grain in the capital market being rampant due to savage fiscal and monetary policies as well as a slew of anti-people pro-capitalist measures like increased privatization and liberal commercialization of the government, this upswing in prices particularly during any calamity is unbridled.

Suffering people need to understand the truth that harrowing price rise is entirely man-made and hence the urgency to raise united voice of protest.

## SUCI(C) endorsed the Call for US National Day of Action on 24 July with the following addendum to their call

We hail the historic struggle of the American people against racialism which is fostered by US imperialism. It is a landmark movement not just by the black people, but all sections of American people irrespective of colour and creed are out on the streets with vibrant militancy demanding an end to the heinous policies of the Government. Only a genuine revolutionary working class party can lead this people's struggle to its logical culmination.



Protest against privatization of Railways in Guna, Madhya Pradesh



AIDYO observes all India demand day on 15 July, 2020

## Comrade Provash Ghosh deeply condoles sad demise of Comrade Nina Andreeva

To The Secretariat,  
Central Committee,  
All Union Communist Party  
of Bolsheviks



Dear Comrade,

On behalf of our Party Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) and on my own behalf, I deeply condole the sad demise of Comrade Nina Andreeva, General Secretary of All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks. Comrade Nina Andreeva all along upheld the revolutionary kernel of Marxism-Leninism and was a staunch fighter against opportunism and revisionism. She waged an uncompromising battle against the revisionist-counter-revolutionary leadership of the Communist Party of Soviet Union and exposed their heinous conspiracy to overthrow socialism in Soviet Russia. She founded the All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks to uphold the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist line of great Stalin and continue the fight against the counter-revolution.

She was a true friend of our Party, SUCI(Communist), and had appreciation of the writings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder General Secretary of our Party, on the role of great Stalin, the sway of revisionism thereafter and the various problems of International Communist Movement. She visited India several times to attend the International Anti-imperialist Conferences. Her speeches at the Conferences were marked by insightful analysis of the international communist movement and inspired the assembled delegates. In her passing away, the Russian communist movement lost an outstanding leader, and our Party lost a great friend and well-wisher.

With revolutionary greetings

**Provash Ghosh**  
General Secretary  
SUCI (Communist)

27 July 2020

## Medical Bulletin on Comrade Tapan Roy Chowdhury

Issued on 28 July 2020

Comrade Tapan Roy Chowdhury, 78, Central Committee member of SUCI (Communist), is suffering from multiple serious ailments which include

- \* Ischemic Heart Disease with poor pump function
- \* Post-encephalitis cognitive impairment
- \* Hypertension
- \* Diabetes
- \* Chronic Kidney disease
- \* Hypothyroidism

He was recently diagnosed with Neuroendocrine Carcinoma of Lung.

Comrade Roy Chowdhury has started having fever and cough for the last few days for which he was admitted at Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital on 25/07/2020.

After evaluation, he was tested for COVID-19, which came to be positive on 27/07/2020.

Presently he has been shifted to COVID isolation unit of Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital. He is requiring high flow oxygen support, Anti-viral, antibiotics therapy and other supportive measures.

Comrade Tapan Roy Chowdhury is being treated by a team of experts in communication with Comrade Dr. Subhas Dasgupta.

Condition of Comrade Tapan Roy Chowdhury remains critical.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH