

# Proletarian Era

## Fascist autocratic design embodied in three new laws related to criminal justice system

On 11 August 2023, in the penultimate hours of Monsoon session of the parliament, Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, placed three bills in replacement of, what he called, old colonial rules. He asserted that the three bills would overhaul India's criminal justice system and protect the rights of the Indian citizens. By the time, this issue of Proletarian Era reaches the hands of the readers, the bills now enacted as law would be implemented from 1 July 2024. The bills are:

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 (to replace Indian Penal Code. 1866)

- The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 (to replace The Code Of Criminal Procedure, 1973)

- The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 (to replace The Indian Evidence Act, 1872)

The names have been christened with Sanskrit words to pose as if these are Indianized versions, to be exact, 'Hinduanized' editions of law. The bills are stated to be drafted "imbibing the Indian soul, which will bring a big change in our criminal justice system", said Amit Shah, Union Home Minister. Is it so or are the proposed laws are much more

stringent in most of the cases, not in the perspective of delivering justice but of coercing the citizens and bullying them to bend before the 'almighty' capitalist state, repressing and oppressing people ruthlessly in every sphere of life? Reality speaks in the affirmative.

Though the government claims that the proposed bills are aimed at modernizing and simplifying the outdated criminal laws and transform them in tune with the Indian spirit and ethos, and in keeping with the changing nature of crime, society, and technology, no sooner were the bills tabled than they courted controversies.

Notably, while drafting the bills no representatives from the judiciary, the bar associations, civil society, or the marginalized communities were involved. There was no prior consultation with the public to seek their feedback either. The bills were unilaterally prepared by the BJP government which has already made its mark by taking arbitrary and autocratic decisions detrimental to the interest of the common people. Finally, Rajya Sabha had sent the three Bills to the standing committee on home affairs for examination. Implementation might have been delayed in the process,

but the danger does loom large.

### Is Sedition abolished?

The BJP government has been clamouring that the word 'sedition' of colonial period has been dropped in the new Nyaya Sanhita bill. But section 150 of the new bill which replaces section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, is in fact greatly enhanced as a tool of oppression. The new section virtually curbs all the fundamental rights by stating that the Government can take action even against a person who is "dissatisfied or showing dissatisfaction towards the government established by law in India". Further the new bill

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In Andhra Pradesh Urgent Judicial Enquiry into the NEET & NET Scam demanded

## NEET and NET Scam Exposes Deep-Rooted Corruption in BJP Government

The National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), (NEET-UG) examination was held on 5 May last and the results were declared on 4 June. NEET-UG is the gateway to studying medicine in the country, as its score is necessary for getting admission to a medical college. It is now being conducted by the

National Testing Agency (NTA), a government organization. Since the results were declared on 4 June, the exam has come under scrutiny for reasons ranging from errors in the question paper and grace marks (compensatory marks) being given in a faulty manner to allegations of paper leaks and fraud. Students and parents have

demanded a re-test and dozens of petitions have been filed in courts to this end. But then it was revealed that there had been paper-leakage on a massive scale in exchange for hefty sum running into several crores of rupees. Though NTA officials initially denied allegations of paper leaks, Union Education Minister

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## SUCI(C) demands All-Out State Trading to Halt Skyrocketing of Prices

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), issued the following statement on 15-06-24:

"Grisly unbridled price rise of all essential commodities including basic food items is tearing people apart. Not just the poor and marginalized, even a little better-off middle class is finding it beyond affordability to have two square meals a day. Official data shows that let alone retail price, even wholesale price is on the ascent.

Fact is that this price manipulation is the handiwork of an evil nexus of hoarders-blackmarketers-speculators in derivative trading on food-grains on share market-corrupt police-administration-quarters of vested interest-unscrupulous middlemen basking under the shelter of the ruling party. Excessively high fuel tariff is also contributing by way of

increased transport cost.

To arrest price rise and ensure due distribution of food articles at affordable price, not only wholesale, but even retail trade has to be completely free from the shackles of private control. It is the government who should procure all food articles from the peasants at remunerative prices and sell the same through fair price shops at affordable prices. This is what is known as all-out state trading that our Party has been demanding since 1950.

We call upon all suffering people to close their ranks and develop an organized powerful movement against this harrowing price spiral and strongly raise demand of all-out state trading."

## Black Acts

## Under garb of Indianization, laws made more stringent and more undemocratic

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prescribes punishment for "Acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India". Naturally the jurisdiction of the proposed law is much wider and since there is no definition of what is exactly meant by the words, "endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity", this is vague and left to any interpretation by the state and government.

Further, the explanation of the section states: "*Comments expressing disapprobation of the measures, or administrative or other action of the Government with a view to obtaining their alteration by lawful means without exciting or attempting to excite the activities referred to in this section.*" In comparison, the Sedition law (Under 124A IPC) had stated: "*Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in 3[India], shall be punished with 5[imprisonment for life], to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be*

*added, or with fine.*" In its explanation, the new law defines the expression "disaffection" as including disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. The new law, thus, brings into its purview the potential to criminalize protest against any law or any action that incurs displeasure of the government by using the words 'subversive activity' which is a very vague term and can include anything, even a protest. So, the new law is more draconian. Also worth noting is section 111(6)(a) of the new bill which says that a "terrorist" refers to any person who "*develops, manufactures, possesses, acquires, transports, supplies or uses weapons, explosives, or releases nuclear, radiological or other dangerous substance, or cause fire, floods or explosions.*" What does it mean? If there is an outbreak of fire or flood or even accidental explosions (like bursting of gas cylinders, short circuit etc.), anyone can be pronounced guilty and branded as a terrorist? Just the other day, in order to shield the responsibility of the Railway Department for the serious accident of Coromandel Express in Odisha, the Union Railway Minister did the same thing by alluding to "some external interference" for the disaster.

It is therefore, virtually a declaration of war against the citizens instead of protecting whatever little of their hard-earned civil and democratic rights are still in existence. Way back in 1993, it is pertinent to recall, the UNO had pointed out that the more vague the laws are, the more are they prone to be autocratic in their application. Moreover, the police-military are endowed with unbridled power under these vaguely worded laws to book anyone for acting in detriment to the interest of the state. For example, PM Modi is often found to use the words 'tukre tukre gang' (small groups) or 'urban Naxals' to denote those who dare to oppose any act or measure of the government and the state. Thus, the so called 'tukre tukre gang' is subject to any interpretation. Paradoxically, when, in 2020, it was asked in Parliament under RTI Act who are members of this gang and where are they found, the Union Home Minister for state had stated in a written reply that no fact is available about such gangs. Hence, it is just a coinage of PM Modi to persecute anyone who voices dissent against his government or party. Thus it can be seen that sedition is not abolished but camouflaged with words and coinages having wider ramifications.

### Some other propositions of the Nyaya Sanhita bill

As against 511 sections in Indian Penal Code (IPC), the new

Nyaya Sanhita Bill has 356 clauses. However, closer scrutiny would reveal that almost 80% of the sections of the previous acts have been retained in the new 'Indianized' versions rebutting the claim of the BJP government about doing away with old colonial rules. The new bill has provisions for punishment for offences similar to those under the sedition law. For example, section 500 of IPC prescribes penalties for defamation, outlining that: "*Whoever defames another shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.*" Section 354(1 and 2) of the new bill retains the same language and only adds "*or with community service*" after "*with both.*"

Secondly, it is an accepted judicial principle throughout the world that—

- (i) the accused must get due justice within minimum possible time of conduction of judicial procedure.
- (ii) the accused must get all opportunities to prove himself or herself as innocent since, as per jurisprudence, the accused is to be considered innocent until he or she is found guilty through due operation of juridical process.

This is ingrained in clause 11 of the charter of International Human Rights to which India is a signatory.

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## NEET and NET scam — just a trailer of unfathomable corruption of BJP government

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Dharmendra Pradhan who also took a similar stand earlier finally admitted under pressure of public opinion that "some irregularities" had come to light in certain examination centres. Promptly acting on a petition filed by a social activist, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the NTA, saying that even if there was "0.001% negligence on the part of anyone it should be thoroughly dealt with".

AIDSO, right from day one, burst into protest throughout the country demanding an impartial judicial enquiry and that the counseling of the NEET qualified students should be withheld till the investigations of all the allegations are complete. In the meanwhile, while the NEET-UG scam is still unfolding with its epicentres having been located in Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, the BJP government has cancelled the UGC-NET or University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test, conducted by Asia Pacific Institute

of Information Technology (APIIT), on 18 June, just after a day. UGC-NET determines the eligibility of Indian nationals for roles as assistant professors or for junior research fellowships and assistant professors in universities and colleges across India.

AIDSO has been of the view that first NEET and then NET exposed the hideous underbelly of education system. Massive irregularities and widespread corruption marred two of the most important examinations, for which millions of students and aspirants spend months, even years of their youth. This mode of operation raises more questions. What would be the compensation for the undue harassment of the examinees, many of whom had to travel for hundreds of miles to reach the examination centre, footed hefty application fees and bore expenses towards travel and stay? Above all, the utter irresponsible attitude, incompetence, and lack of transparency of the NTA puts in jeopardy, the hopes and future

of a million of research and teaching aspirants, which, in turn, throws the entire education and research systems are on the verge of utter ruination because rampant privatization and commercialization have made education a commodity for profit maximization by big corporates with their pliant government in tow. And obviously corruption, a gluttonous feature of dying capitalism, has held its sway. In the circumstances, a centralized entrance system curated by the NTA has further helped corruption to be all-embracing. Not only NEET and NET, even the conduction of CUET UG, PG examination by NTA have been highly unsystematic and many common students have suffered due to mismanagement and irregularities. Incredibly, a known RSS man in whose tenure as head of academic affairs in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh mega-scams had broken out, is now not only head of NTA but chairman of the enquiry committee for NEET scandal. If the impending catastrophe is to be

prevented, the policy of abject centralized control must be done away with by dismantling NTA and assign the responsibility of conduction of different examinations to the respective academic bodies themselves with no government interference. Further, an impartial and foolproof inquiry in the NEET and NET scams on war-footing manner and taking down the full machinery responsible for the corruptions are indispensable. Moreover, revamping the public education with adequate teachers and infrastructure, supplemented by regulating the powerful coaching industries and their possible nexus with the corridors of power, is the only way to curb the issue in the longer run.

This NEET and NET scam is just the trailer of knee-deep corruption the BJP and its government, as servitor of ruling capitalism, is mired in. Future would unfold much more. So is the need to intensify Save Education Movement round the country.

Having been denied absolute majority in the election by the aggrieved Indian people, PM Modi and the BJP has no choice but to hold hands of two marked turncoats in order to stay in power. Both Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar have already become famous for shifting camps even at small intervals in order to satiate their greed for power. There is no principle, no scruple, even no shade of minimum honesty seen earlier in bourgeois parliamentary politics. Only crass opportunism, somersault, eating one's own words—such are the hallmarks of these power-monger leaders and parties. No, it is not TDP of Naidu or JD(U) of Nitish. Even the BJP has also conveniently joined that bandwagon of nasty political opportunism euphemized as pragmatism. Thus, turning one-time foes into friends has been the show of the day.

### **Brief recount of Nitish Kumar's turncoat politics**

Nitish Kumar's proclivity to switch sides, after he split from Lalu Yadav's RJD, once again came to light was in 2013 when he decided to end JDU's 17-year-long political alliance with the BJP— as he was unsettled by the BJP's choice of prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi. Nitish Kumar broke away with the Janata Dal to form Samata Party and tied up for a brief period with CPI(ML), before beginning a long partnership with the BJP which ended in 2013. In 2014, when the BJP won the elections with a thumping majority, Nitish stepped down from the Bihar chief minister's position but managed to save his government with the help of RJD and the Congress. That paved the way for formation of the JDU, Congress, RJD alliance the Mahagathbandhan. Dissatisfied with RJD's prominence in the alliance, again made headlines in 2016 when he leaned towards BJP's demonetisation and GST-related policies and rejoined alliance with the BJP. A year later, Nitish raised objections over the BJP's

## **BJP's opportunistic alliance with Nitish and Naidu**

NRC policies and expressed his dissatisfaction over the appointment of two Deputy CMs in Bihar. Finally, he parted ways with the BJP in August 2022 and was welcomed by the RJD back in the alliance. But in January 2024, he once more returned to the BJP fold.

Let us now rewind to 4 February 2019. Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, declared that the door of NDA to Naidu was closed forever.

Again, on 25 February 2023, Amit Shah repeated the same and called him Aaya Ram Gaya Ram (turncoat) and accused him of becoming opportunist for the dream to become Prime Minister. On 30 June 2023 Amit Shah alleged that Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar had shunned all political principles and called Nitish Kumar 'paltu babu', accusing him of 'backstabbing' the party and blaming his prime ministerial ambition for his decision. Even prior to that "Amit Shah attacked, accusing him of backstabbing the NDA by snapping ties and said it was in line with his habit of "deceit" to grab power. He also charged Nitish Kumar for frequently changing coalition partners and held that Nitish had "changed sides as many as five times to remain as the chief minister". Nitish returned to the NDA in 2017 only to exit five years later. On 9 August 2022, Nitish Kumar quit as Bihar CM, snapped ties with the BJP and formed a government with RJD saying that BJP had always insulted JD(U) leaders and tried to weaken the party. If BJP was weakening and insulting his party then, why did he break alliance with RJD on 28 January 2024 just before the parliamentary election and once again joined NDA to form the government with BJP and became CM 9th time in 24 years.

### **Chronology of Naidu's somersault politics**

History of opportunism of Chandrababu Naidu is no different from Nitish Kumar.

Naidu joined the Indian Youth Congress in 1974. Impressed with then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's son Sanjay Gandhi during the Emergency, he began canvassing for the party in Andhra Pradesh. Soon, in 1978, he was given a Congress ticket for the Chandragiri Assembly and won the election. After his poll victory, he was a part of the upcoming clan of Congress leaders called the 'Young Turks' and was inducted in the T Anjaiah ministry. His political fortunes took a turn when he met superstar Nandamuri Taraka Ramo Rao (NTR) and a marriage was arranged between the actor's second daughter Bhuvaneshwari and Naidu in 1981. Since then, he became a front ranking leader of the TDP. With NTR reportedly grooming his second wife as his successor, Naidu revolted against the TDP founder in 1995. Enjoying the support of NTR's sons and a majority of TDP MLAs, Naidu successfully ousted NTR from the CM post within a week, bringing the actor's thirteen-year political career to an end. After NTR's demise the following year, Naidu was elected as the party president in 1995. 1996 Lok Sabha elections produced a fractured mandate with the BJP winning 161 seats, Congress 140 seats, and the TDP 16 seats. After Atal Bihari Vajpayee failed to prove his majority, ending his 13-day Prime Ministership, Naidu attempted to form a non-Congress, non-BJP government at the Centre— The United Front, holding talks with Asom Gana Parishad, DMK and Akali Dal. In 1998, the Lok Sabha elections resulted in a hung verdict. Switching alliances to the NDA from the United Front, Naidu was instrumental in providing outside support to the NDA, allowing Mr. Vajpayee to form a coalition government with a slim majority. The BJP-TDP alliance was thoroughly routed in Andhra Pradesh (then united) in the

2004 election and Mr. Naidu sat in the Opposition as Congress rose led by Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and its alliance partner—the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

In 2013-14, ahead of the Lok Sabha and state polls, the demand for creating a separate Telangana state gained momentum. After bifurcation, when the BJP reversed its stance on the issue of granting a special economic package to Andhra Pradesh, Naidu cut ties with the NDA in 2018. Naidu's fortunes turned in 2022 when the Andhra Pradesh High Court scrapped the Jagan government's three-capital plan. TDP again aligned with the BJP in January 2024.

As stated, TDP was part of NDA, until it pulled out of the NDA government at the Centre in March 2018. Thereafter, in December 2018, Chandrababu Naidu called the prime minister a "hollow man" who had "done nothing" for India, and also dubbed Modi a "blackmailer" who "threatens" everybody to make them fall in line. Naidu had announced 10 February 2019 would be "black day" for Andhra Pradesh because Narendra Modi would be visiting the state (India Today-10-02-19). TDP workers had shown black balloons in the sky to PM Modi during his Guntur rally. In response to that PM Modi, on 10 February 2019, while addressing a public gathering in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur, said: "Chandrababu Naidu is a betrayer who backstabbed his father-in-law NTR and he is only interested in the securing the future of his son". In the month of January 2019, PM Modi accused the TDP's state leaders of corruption, close to Rs 20,000 crore. He also said that Rs 1,000 crore was released for backward districts but the state government was not able to provide a timely utilization certificate. On 9th September 2023, Chandrababu Naidu, was arrested in a Rs.370-crore

"skill development scam" by the YSR Congress Party government. A fraud in the project was first detected by the GST intelligence wing in 2017 and then by the Enforcement Directorate. The CID took up the case in 2021 and, after a two-year investigation, declared Naidu the "prime accused." It is alleged that BJP's central government had a hidden hand in Naidu's arrest. Once Naidu called the Prime Minister a terrorist and asked minorities not to vote in his favour. He also said he was the first person to demand the resignation of CM Modi after 2002 riots in Gujarat. After becoming the Prime Minister, he is once again trying to attack minorities. In response PM Modi compared Naidu with "Baahubali" film villain Bhallala Deva.

After all this war of words happened, finally PM Modi was successful in pulling TDP into NDA just before the Parliamentary election and now forming the government at the Centre with help of Chandrababu Naidu. It is no surprise that it was Chandrababu Naidu who proposed Modi's name for PM; calls him "the right leader at the right time" and also extended his party's support to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Now, all the corruption cases against Naidu would be buried automatically as TDP has come to power in AP. The way PM Modi awkwardly dragged an otherwise reluctant Naidu to sit by his side (prominently telecast on electronic media) showed these power-greedy bourgeois leaders are ready to do anything to secure the seat of power.

This is how opportunism is wedded together. The BJP has surpassed all records in cajoling the leaders and parties whom it itself once derided and bitterly criticized, simply to stay put in power. For that, its leaders including PM Modi have no hesitation to change colour overnight and eat their own words.

(Source: Economic Times - 15-09-15, The Wire--04-01-19, NDTV- 11-02-19, India Today- 03-04-19, Times of India -11-10-22, Hindustan Times- 30-06-23, The Week-24-09-23, Deccan Herald-26-01-24, The Hindu- 25-02-23,12-06-24,)

## Black Acts

## A sheer mockery of the much touted criminal justice system

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But the Nyaya Sanhita bill has been so framed as to give 'inquisitional' process (which is directed at not protecting but convicting the accused) more applicability. That means, someone will be arrested under this or that charge of opposing the government and the state, due process of juridical process will be tampered with, and the accused will be given punishment as deemed fit. Again, in the IPC, 1860, Section 302 outlines punishment for culpable homicide. But in the Nyaya Sanhita, section 302 covers theft or snatching also, meaning provision for stringent punishment for such offences as well. So long, Section 420 of IPC dealt with the cases of cheating. Under Section 420, maximum and minimum sentences for offence of cheating could be for seven years and one year respectively. But this section has been removed in Nyaya Sanhita. Instead, a new section 316 has been added. In the new section, the maximum jail term of seven years for cheating has been retained while the minimum jail term has been reduced to six months. If read in between the lines, this is indicative of prescribing milder punishment for cheating.

In Clause 69 of Nyaya Sanhita titled "Offences against Women and Children" are encapsulated in the following words: "Whoever, by deceitful means or making by promise to marry a woman without any intention of fulfilling the same, and has sexual intercourse with her, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine". The bill defines "deceitful means" as "the false promise of employment or promotion, inducement or marrying [sic] after suppressing identity". If one carefully marks the wordings, it would be revealed that this new clause has been included with a definite motive and has wider ramifications. It facilitates criminalizing interfaith relationships by interpreting it as "deceitful means" or "suppressing identity" especially when a Muslim man and a Hindu woman are involved. It is further feared that it might firm up endogamy (the custom of marrying only within the limits of a local community, clan, or tribe) and thus infringe upon freedom of love or curtail right to choice. Moreover, the vagueness and discretionary nature

of the new law might be more victimizing for women in the patriarchal society. We have, of late, seen how the criminals guilty of committing brutal gang-rape on Bilkis Banoo during 2002 Gujarat pogrom, were shown amnesty and released prematurely and how a powerful BJP MP has been virtually acquitted despite having been sexually assaulting female wrestlers in his capacity as president of Wrestling Federation of India. Moreover, how the women can get justice by simple rewording of legal provisions while reports of NCRB shows that almost 93 women are raped every day, 49 offences against women per hour is reported and an estimated 5,00,000 girls are lost to female foeticide over the last few years.

### Suraksha Sanhita

Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 has 533 sections in place of 478 sections in erstwhile Criminal Procedure Act i.e., an increase of 55 clauses. 175 sections have been changed, 8 new sections added and 22 repealed. But in what way does it improve the criminal procedure? Let us have a cursory glance at some noteworthy clauses.

Section 256 (3) of Suraksha Sanhita says: "If the accused applies for the issue of any process for compelling the attendance of any witness or the production of any document or thing, the Judge shall issue such process unless he considers, for reasons to be recorded, that such application should be refused on the ground that it is made for the purpose of vexation or delay or for defeating the ends of justice". It means the accused might not be granted the right to cross-examine anyone if the judge feels the appeal is 'for the purpose of defeating the ends of justice'—another vague term conferring arbitrary power on the judge in subversion of the hitherto recognized right of the accused to defend himself or herself. Is it extension or wanton curtailment of the democratic rights which do not preclude any criminal or civil trial in the court?

Section 187 of Suraksha Sanhita Bill further states: "Whenever any person is arrested and detained in custody, and it appears that the investigation cannot be completed within the period of twenty-four hours fixed by section 58, and there are grounds for believing that the accusation or information is well-founded.... The Judicial Magistrate to whom an accused person is forwarded under this

section may, irrespective of whether he has or has no jurisdiction to try the case, after taking into consideration the status of the accused person as to whether he is not released on bail or his bail has not been cancelled, authorize, from time to time, the detention of the accused in such custody as such Magistrate thinks fit, for a term not exceeding fifteen days in the whole, or in parts, at any time during the initial forty days or sixty days out of detention period of sixty days or ninety days, as the case may be". The Supreme Court in a judgement in 1992 categorically said that retention in police custody should not exceed 15 days (1992, 3 SCC 141). Retention in police custody for 90 days will facilitate more torture to bully someone into confession by third degree and even custodial deaths, which are already on the rise.

Section 43(3) of the same bill further stipulates: "The police officer may, keeping in view the nature and gravity of the offence, use handcuff while effecting the arrest of a person who is a habitual, repeat offender who escaped from custody, who has committed offence of organized crime, offence of terrorist act, drug related crime, or offence of illegal possession of arms and ammunition, murder, rape, acid attack, counterfeiting of coins and currency notes, human trafficking, sexual offences against children, offences against the State, including acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India or economic offences". This very prescription of "use of handcuffs" overrules a Supreme Court judgement to the contrary. Supreme Court way back in 1978 held: "...it must be realized that these barbaric relics of a bygone era offend against the letter and spirit of the constitution".

Section 173 of the Suraksha Sanhita is by far one of the most shocking sections whereby the police is empowered to arrest a person in any cognizable case and detain such person without making any preliminary enquiry. Further investigation as stated in the Section 193 permits an investigating officer to conduct further investigation without taking prior permission from the court.

Under the black MCOCA (Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act) and the UAPA [Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act], there is a provision that before

filing of FIR there has to be an approval by a senior police officer. Secondly, the investigation can only be carried out by an officer of a particular rank pending which the trial cannot proceed, but even such stipulations are missing in the proposed law. The new law only also proscribes mentioning of the name of the interrogating officer, the place where the accused person is arrested or detained and the right of the accused to be medically examined in 48 hour. Astoundingly, there is also no mention of legal aid to be given to the accused person in case he is unable to hire a lawyer to defend himself.

Section 33 of the Suraksha Sanhita is a troubling section where the police can harass or even detain innocent person on the ground that they may have information regarding any offence.

### Sakshya Sanhita

Similarly, Sakshya Bill comprises 170 sections in place of 167 in the Evidence Act. 23 sections have been changed, one new section has been added and five have been repealed.

Section 115 of the Sakshya Sanhita reads as follows:

"Where a person is accused of having committed any offence specified in sub-section (2), in— (a) any area declared to be a disturbed area under any enactment for the time being in force, making provision for the suppression of disorder and restoration and maintenance of public order; or (b) any area in which there has been, over a period of more than one-month, extensive disturbance of the public peace, and it is shown that such person had been at a place in such area at a time when firearms or explosives were used at or from that place to attack or resist the members of any armed forces or the forces charged with the maintenance of public order acting in the discharge of their duties, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that such person had committed such offence. (2) The offences referred to in sub-section (1) are the following, namely:— (a) an offence under section 145, section 146, section 147 or section 148 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023; (b) criminal conspiracy or attempt to commit, or abetment of, an offence under section 147 or section 148 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023". It means that the accused himself or herself will have to prove that charges framed against himself or herself is false. But the jurisprudence stipulates that anyone who brings an allegation against another person is

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## Indian Migrants Face Precarious Conditions in Gulf Countries

On 12 June last, 45 Indians, including 23 from Kerala and seven from Tamil Nadu, were killed in a fire in a building housing migrant workers in Mangaf, Kuwait. The victims include engineers, drivers, supervisors and other professionals. Most of them were employees of the NBTC group. The rapid spread of the blaze and the high number of casualties indicate that the six-storey building did not have adequate safety provisions, such as fire exits and fire-fighting equipment. This incident has once again brought to the fore how the Indian unemployed forced to opt for going to Gulf countries for earning their livelihoods in absence of any domestic job opportunity, reconcile with living in harsh conditions—cramped rooms in semi-constructed buildings or in labour camps like the one gutted in Kuwait. Lack of adequate sanitation, basic health facilities and drinking water make these labour camps a place with subhuman conditions. Not just living, even working conditions are equally perilous. The 2022 FIFA World Cup has also thrown a spotlight on abuses by host country Qatar, where migrant workers labored in temperatures above 100°F (38°C) to construct roads, hotels, and stadiums for the tournament. The conditions reportedly contributed to the deaths of thousands of migrant workers over the past decade. A chorus of criticism led Doha to implement additional heat protections for workers, such as mandatory hydration breaks. In almost all the Gulf countries, workers employed in oil fields are made to bear scorching heat (almost 50 degree centigrade).

### Saga of migration to Gulf countries

Migration to the Gulf is a veritable industry today, with legal and illegal recruiting agents and brokers interacting with millions of people in Kerala and Tamil Nadu—the largest sending states—desperate to find employment abroad. Lakhs

of rupees (Rs 3-10 lakh) are exchanged by way of "transaction fees" and complex arrangements are entered into but rarely with contracts or documentation. Job contracts, employer verification, and salary and rights guarantees are given little importance. There is a system known as Kafala or sponsorship. The system gives private citizens and companies in most Arab Gulf countries almost total control over migrant workers' employment and immigration status. The system arose from growing demand in Gulf economies for cheap labour, and the desperation of many migrants particularly from Indian sub-continent in search of work and the opportunity to send money home to their families. Rather than hiring an individual directly, sponsors sometimes use private recruitment agencies [PDF] in the countries of origin to find workers and facilitate their entry to the host country. Such PDFs are not short in number in India. Despite the potential for exploitation, workers accept jobs in kafala host countries often because they offer higher pay than jobs in their home countries. Many workers then send remittances back home. Indian government acquiesces in such inhuman exploitation of migrants because the amount of remittance by them from the Gulf is as high as Rs 30,000 crores. There are more than 5 million low-paid migrant workers in the Gulf countries, an estimated 1.2 million in Saudi Arabia, in construction, hotels, cleaning, and largely women in domestic work. Number of Indian expatriates in Kuwait is nearly 10 lakhs who constitute 21 per cent of Kuwait's total population and 30 per cent of its total workforce. Indians form the single largest migrant workforce in Gulf countries.

In most situations, migrant workers need their sponsor's permission to transfer jobs, end employment, and enter or exit the host country.

Leaving the workplace without permission is an offense that results in the termination of the worker's legal status and potentially imprisonment or deportation, even if the worker is fleeing abuse. Workers have little recourse in the face of exploitation. They also find themselves in various situations of vulnerability throughout the migration cycle. The numerous risks involved thus lead to worst form of labour exploitation and even modern slavery, including forced labour and human trafficking. No host country has ratified the ILO's Domestic Workers Convention, which commits signatories to setting a minimum wage, eliminating forced labour, and ensuring decent working conditions, among other protections. Even where laws do protect workers, they are often poorly enforced. What can it be called other than modern slavery.

### Gulf countries India pact

India has signed MoUs with West Asian countries, including Kuwait, to streamline procedures for recruiting workers and providing them with legal protection. However, the course of legal redress is prolonged, court processes are expensive and an already vulnerable community has to contend with the absence of legal assistance and shortage of interpreters in an alien country. The problem also is that India deals with migration through a 40-year-old Emigration Act, which leaves the migrant worker at risk. In the Budget session of Parliament last year, the External Affairs Ministry acknowledged the need for an updated law to deal with migration issues. That piece of legislation is still in the works. The toll taken by the Kuwait fire is a reminder that the new government has to do much more to safeguard the lives of Indians who go abroad to work.

In fact, many organizations, from time to time, have called for regular checks and inspections in labour camps by Indian



*Observance of Martyr Birsha Munda Day on 9 June 2024 in Rourkela, Odisha*

embassies and missions. There have also been demands for visits of the joint parliamentary committees to the countries to study the living conditions of Indian migrant workers. But, nothing has happened on the ground till date.

### Two telling tales

When torrential rains were lashing Chennai last year, there was a frantic call for an ambulance from 55 year old Kasthuri Munirathinam to take her to hospital for check-up. Kasthuri had had knee and spine surgery and her amputated right arm throbbed. "This missing arm is a lifetime's reminder of the three months I spent in Riyadh," she said. When she worked as a domestic help for a 70 year old-woman, she was fed one roti a day, worked more than 15 hours, never allowed to speak to her family on the phone, and paid a month's wages only for it to be taken right back. When she complained to the employer, she was faced with a throat-slitting action and locked all the doors. Somehow, she threw a sari out of a second floor window and tried to climb out. "I heard a chak! noise, my arm was cut and I fell and lost consciousness," she said. When she somehow managed to come to a hospital, she found her right arm was amputated, and her knee and back broken. Her sister and son in India drew the Indian Embassy's attention to Kasthuri's condition. But authorities in Saudi Arabia have denied allegations about the arm cutting, saying Kasthuri lost her arm in the fall. But no less significant is the exploitative work environment which led her to

try to escape.

Grace Vanitha, 37, from Velankanni, Tamil Nadu, went to Riyadh to be a home nurse for an ailing elder. But she was forced to cook and do domestic work for a joint family of 21. The employer held her passport, and she was not paid promised Rs 22,000 monthly salary for six months. "Working 20 hours a day, I started to get exhausted", she said. When she finally asked about her wages, the family then said she was ungrateful and did not let her leave the house or speak to my family. It was when Grace wanted to quit that she heard of the exit permit requirement for the first time. An NGO in Riyadh helped retrieve Grace's passport, paid the employer family for her exit permit and brought her back home. Such instances are not in short supply. It is a matter of serious concern that despite being the largest migrant sending country, India has yet to have a tangible and comprehensive migration policy that upholds worker rights.

The government, both at the Centre and in the states, are all mute spectators to such unlawful practices of shady recruitment agencies who trade using human beings as commodities. After the current Kuwait tragedy, the Indian government has done nothing other than transporting the victims back to India. In fact, as we had stated earlier, the Indian government is now taking lead in supplying Indian labourers to Israel, Russia, Taiwan and other countries without any concern for the fate of such transported Indians. This exposes one of the cruel facades of dying capitalism today.

## Black Acts

## New laws bear testimony to nefarious bourgeois design to degrade legislature

*Contd. from page 4*

liable to prove the charges to be true. So, the new Sanhita virtually approves this provision in violation of long held principles of jurisprudence, to be incorporated in various black acts. Trial and proceedings to be held in electronic mode. With such flat sanction of admissibility of electronic mode, there could be possibility of tampering with digital data and breach of privacy. Moreover, despite all tall talks of 'digital India', a huge part of Indian population still remains technically challenged. Old advocates or judges might not have clear understanding of digital evidence or digital record. There may be errors on their part.

### Concluding remarks

There are many other points which we are omitting for brevity's sake. If one delves into the details, the fascist autocratic design behind framing the new bills would be evident. Palpably in the lines or subtly between the lines, there has been a cunning move to concentrate more and more autocratic power to the Executive thereby diluting the authority of the Judiciary in justice delivery system. The government argues that elected legislators should have last say in the matter of law. But that is pronouncement of the yesteryears when legislatures did enjoy sovereignty contingent upon sovereignty of the people.

Election process was relatively free and fair and persons having some obligation to the people used to be elected. Gone are those days. Now election has turned into a farce being 'monitored and conducted' by money-muscle-media-administrative powers. What other kind of people's representatives do such monitored elections produce? Mostly moneyed people of the country, monopolists-industrialists, profit-hungry sharks, heartless apologists of capitals and capitalists of the country and abroad, high-browed former bureaucrats, mafia 'dons', infamous serial murderers, rapists, arch communalists, people submerged head to foot in utter corruption, shameless flatterers and such other 'elites' of the society subservient to the ruling bourgeoisie now turned utter corrupt and reactionary. The list also includes distinguished individuals with records of sexual debauchery and all kinds of perverse acts often performed using their privilege of being members of parliament. 251 of sitting MPs have declared criminal cases against them. 170 have serious criminal cases including rape, murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and crimes against

women, according to the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) report. (Business Standard 06-06-24) Crossing of floors after being elected, poaching of opposition MLAs with lure of lucre and ministry, wanton curtailment of the role of opposition, absence of any minimum debate on policy matters, use of ordinance route to promulgate new laws—all are rampant. They have no scruples, nor principles, nor even a semblance of democratic conduct. Parliament, which once, as an institution, was the concrete expression of the bourgeois parliamentary democracy is now virtually a stooge of the ruling class, and hence stripped of its essence once envisaged in bourgeois democracy. In this dangerous nefarious game being played by the ruling class to degrade the legislature, not only all major bourgeois parties, national or regional, play the same tune in the symphony, even the social democrats, still passing for 'Marxists-leftists' do not fall back. So, what can one expect from such a legislature other than deception, coercion and perpetrators of repressive regressive legislations?

A Marxist-Leninist approach clearly and easily shows that this change is coeval with and runs parallel to the growth and development of capitalist society. As capitalism grew from its *laissez faire* or stage of free competition to moribund stage, as *laissez faire* or free competitive economy developed into monopoly stage, it was marked by consolidation and concentration. Economy and economic power emanating from it were gradually concentrated and consolidated in the hands of a few, the ruling monopolists, with the ruled-over majority losing out more and more, getting impoverished and powerless. And parallel to it was more and more concentration and consolidation of power in the hands of the Executive (legislators and bureaucracy) which is also making every effort to undermine the relative autonomy of the Judiciary as well, and many eminent jurists are miffed because of that. Floating of the three black bills are also aimed at arrogating brute power to the Executive to muffle voice of protest, give the vestiges of democratic codes, norms and practices still existing a decent burial and firm up grip of fascism in the country with a facade of dysfunctional parliamentary system. It is in fact a mockery of the much touted criminal justice system.

It is pertinent to recall that late Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer once

## SUCI(C) Demands Immediate Relief and Permanent Solutions for Rain-Hit Sikkim

**Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 18-06-24:** "This year the continuous pre-monsoon rain has caused devastating landslides in different parts of Sikkim and Darjeeling Hills. Dangerous landslides not only blocked NH 10, which is virtually the lifeline of Sikkim, essential for food and medicine supply, but also other state highways. In side roads and even in villages landslides caused loss of lives, heavy damage of property and stranding of thousands of travellers from outside the state. Many localities are remaining without water supply and electricity for days together. Virtually the roadway link of Sikkim with rest of India and links within the state have become paralyzed. Taking advantage of this situation, prices of essential commodities are being jacked up by lobbies of vested interest, Transportation of critical patients to hospitals has become extremely difficult. Some parts of North Sikkim have become completely cut off.

In such a situation, we urge upon both the West Bengal and Sikkim Government, to act in consonance and on war footing to manage the situation, provide food and medical relief to the affected people, take strict measures to stop black-marketing of essential commodities and services and

restore normalcy, as soon as possible.

It is noteworthy that when a large number of dams have been constructed in a comparatively small area of upper part of Teesta river basin comprising Rangeet and other rivers, spread over Sikkim and adjacent parts of Darjeeling Hills, many environmental experts and well-meaning citizens opposed the plan, pointing to the possibility of augmentation of land slides, flash flood and such other natural calamities in these areas. But the governments, in the interest of monopolist investors, paid no heed to these pleadings. Now in view of the climate change as a result of 'global warming', which itself is a result of unplanned exploitation of nature by profit greedy capitalist-imperialist powers, such natural calamities will recur with increasing frequency. But the governments, instead of seeking permanent solution to these disasters, are allowing the people to be perennially pushed to such miserable plight and shrugging off their responsibility by providing compensation and relief for the namesake. We demand to form a joint committee of Sikkim and West Bengal, comprising environmental and geological experts, environmental social activists and representatives of different political parties in these two states to chalk out a viable plan to prevent the perennial damage caused by these natural calamities in these regions."

remarked that the "*cult of occult is not a rule of law*". While delivering judgment in a case of passing laws in Parliament by sheer brute majority, a 5-Judge Supreme Court division bench which included Justice Iyer also held in 1978 that "*the thought that a decision taken at a secret recess of a chamber to which the public knows nothing, can nevertheless affect their lives, their liberty and property by mere passing a resolution without anything is abhorrent to civilized men. It shocks conscience*". That observation is now finding concrete expression in the BJP regime serving the decadent moribund rotting capitalist system with unflinching loyalty.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary, SUCI(C) and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era, had also pointed out long back that there has been a persistent attempt to create a committed judiciary which would endorse the stand of the fascist autocratic government. This is a feature of fascist autocracy which is glaringly manifested today when

judges ruling against the government or any of its functionaries are meted out punitive actions like punishment transfer, even overnight, while some judges who capitulate to the omnipotent Executive are rewarded with plum post-retirement appointments. Now, conflicts between Judiciary and Executive are also manifested on various issues like the Collegium system of appointment of judges. Long back, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh observed that "*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)

And then, fascism comprises "*...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) The three Black criminal laws are part of that design.

## Peeling the beans off Adani Coal Scam

Yet another controversy involving the monopolist Gautam Adani Group has been brought to light by the Financial Times, a renowned newspaper group of UK. The investigation reveals a pattern of importing coal at inflated prices through offshore intermediaries, causing Indian consumers to pay exorbitant rates for electricity. This adds to a growing list of allegations against Adani particularly the irrefutable charges by the Hindenburg group of stock manipulation, further entrenching the group's reputation for financial manipulation and extracting undue favour from the BJP government and PM Modi.

### Allegations in Detail

Customs records reviewed by the Financial Times suggest that over the past two years, Adani imported \$5 billion worth of coal at prices significantly higher than market value. Offshore intermediaries based in Taiwan, Dubai, and Singapore were used to facilitate these transactions. One such intermediary is controlled by a Taiwanese businessman, identified as a significant hidden shareholder in Adani companies. The data indicates that the prices declared to Indian customs were at times more than double the market price, resulting in an unexplained \$70 million increase in the value of shipments during transit from Indonesia to India.

### India's Coal Dependency

India's power generation is predominantly coal-based, relying heavily on domestic coal deposits. In the fiscal year 2022-23, coal production in India reached a remarkable 893 million metric tons, up from 565 million metric tons in 2013-14. A comprehensive plan aims to further increase production to 1 billion tons by 2023-24, with Coal India Limited (CIL) alone expected to contribute 1 billion tons by 2024-25.

### Importing at High Prices

Despite substantial domestic coal production, the Indian government has been purchasing coal mined abroad by Adani at inflated prices. This coal is then supplied to power-generating companies at these elevated costs, effectively transferring the financial burden to Indian consumers. This practice not only undermines domestic coal production but also raises serious questions about the government's decision-making process and its apparent favoritism towards Adani.

### Extraordinary Favours and Regulatory Evasions

Documents reveal that the Indian government granted

extraordinary favours to giant monopolist Gautam Adani, enhancing his coal business. Despite initial concerns from PMO about appropriateness and transparency of handing over coal blocks to the private sector, an exception was made for Adani Enterprises Limited. This allowed the company to mine from a block containing over 450 million tonnes of coal in one of India's densest forest areas showing that PMO's concern was indeed a camouflage to benefit Adani.

The government's rationale for this exception remains unexplained, as shown in documents accessed by The Reporters' Collective and Al Jazeera. This favour was granted under a regulation introduced by the Modi government following a 2014 Supreme Court ruling that cancelled the allocations of 204 coal blocks due to their illegal and non-transparent allocation.

### The Power Tariff Hike

Power companies, citing increased production costs, have been hiking electricity tariffs, much to the detriment of common consumers. This artificial inflation is further exacerbated by the government's directive for both state-owned and private power producers to import coal, knowing full well the inflated prices. This move has led to a spiral in electricity bills, prompting widespread public outcry.

### Questionable Government Decisions

The government's decision to allow private operators like Adani to import coal at higher prices raises several questions. India has ample domestic coal reserves that could meet the country's needs at a much lower cost. Yet, the government continues to import coal, benefitting monopolistic tycoons at the expense of the average consumer. This practice is compounded by the inadequate provision of railway wagons for transporting domestic coal, creating a facade of scarcity.

### Creation of an Artificial Coal Crisis

In October 2021, India faced a power crisis with several states on the brink of blackouts due to coal shortages. This situation appears to be artificially created to justify the import of high-priced coal. Despite record-breaking domestic coal production by CIL, a purported lack of railway wagons has been cited as the reason for coal not reaching thermal power stations. This orchestrated shortage has led to load shedding and increased tariffs, further burdening consumers.

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## Another horrific train accident shakes the country

Yet another major Railway accident, 23rd in the 10 year rule of PM Modi-led BJP government (in which 371 precious lives have been lost), occurred near New Jalpaiguri West Bengal, on 17 June last when a speeding Goods train rammed into stationary Kanchenjunga Express, killing 10 and grievously injuring many more. This clearly shows that the central government, which has been hiking passenger fare regularly through different means, has least concern about passenger safety, let alone their comfort. Question has been raised that despite promise of implementing the 'Kavach' system for preventing collision between two trains after 2023 Balasore train accident, why the authorities have not honoured that so far?

Instead of building up proper infrastructure the Rail department is earning massive amount of profit through reducing number of employees. Why so many vacancies in Railway maintenance department particularly in track inspection, monitoring signal system etc. are not being filled up? Why such crucial jobs are left to private contractors? Post-accident, the government and rail authorities have dusted off their responsibilities merely by giving statements expressing regrets and announcing some money as compensation. Now there is an attempt

to find a scapegoat and the Union Railway Minister has accused the dead driver of the goods train responsible for the mishap though his version has no taker even among the senior Railway officials. Even rescue machinery is far from bare requirement. Kudos to local residents who abandoned their observance of Eid-ul-Joha festival and rushed to save the accident victims. Because of their timely action, many lives could be saved. Our Party workers and healthcare professionals of Medical Service Centre also spared no time in being by the side of the victims.

PM Modi who has been arrogating to himself the credit of having introduced 49 high speed exorbitantly expensive Vande Bharat Express and missed no opportunity to flag them off in media glare has no guts to own the responsibility of one after another fatal accidents because of persistent systemic faults and utter negligence on the part of the authorities. He is only interested in organized self-projection, but skirts taking any blame or criticism for people's predicaments.

We demand that there ought to be a thorough judicial probe into the accident, adequate compensation to the victims and their families and immediate completion of non-collision devices to prevent such accidents in future.

## Shortage of TB drugs a menacing concern

The recently concluded 7-phase Lok Sabha elections for more than one month and a half had overshadowed the plight of lakhs of Tuberculosis (TB) patients and their families who are immensely suffering because of irregular supply of TB drugs across the country. This issue has now reached a critical point, with TB drugs being available only in limited quantities in the country. Consistent and timely intake of tuberculosis medication is crucial, as irregularity can lead to the development of drug-resistant bacteria. That, in turn, renders the medication ineffective, leaving patients in a dire situation akin to what was the condition in pre-antibiotic era, when treatment options were severely limited and the outcome uncertain.

Further aggravating the problem is the shortage of drugs for multi-drug resistant TB. It is found that such drugs are now out of stock in many areas. Despite prolonged protests and appeals from various organizations including Medical Service Centre, a national level voluntary organization associated with rendering necessary medical assistance to needy people particularly those victims of natural calamities and working for securing people's health, doctors, other healthcare professionals and gravely concerned citizens across the country, no effective step has so far been taken to

address this pressing issue in right earnest.

Shamefully, the official festivity on World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, 24 March 2024, premised on the theme "Yes! We can end TB" was a nasty joke on the haplessness of the TB patients and their families. Bureaucratic neglect of such a treatable disease converting it to a public health hazard is a criminal offence. The act of allotting paltry sums to the state and district TB authorities to procure some medicines which are not available in the market (and a mechanism which has long been disbanded) indicates the lackadaisical approach of the central and state administrations, their complete lack of concern about the magnitude of the problem and efforts to wash their hands off. Such a criminal negligence on the part of the governments towards TB patients whose number in India is highest in the world, must be vehemently protested. All conscientious healthcare professionals and all well-meaning people from every walk of life need to organize a nationwide health movement in support of the rights of TB patients across the country and force the governments to yield to the just demands of ensuring an adequate supply of TB medications immediately.

## Stop Genocide in GAZA



AIMSS, Delhi, organized protest demonstration on 14 June last against Israeli barbarism in Gaza

## SUCI(C) opposes drastic syllabus changes, calls to intensify Save Education Movement

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 17-6-24:

"We vehemently oppose the most disastrous changes made in the school syllabus in its fourth round of revision and updating of NCERT textbooks since 2014. In science curriculum of Class X, Darwinian theory of evolution and Mendeleev's Periodic table, two pivotal theories of modern science, have been dropped. Poetries by two eminent Muslim poets like Iqbal and Faiaz Ahmed Faiaz have been omitted. The history of Mughal and Sultani period have been trimmed to the minimum. A two-page table detailing the achievements of Mughal emperors such as Humayun, Shah Jahan, Akbar, Jahangir and Aurangzeb have also been removed. Period of cold war and Non Aligned Movement have also been jettisoned. Details of the horrific anti-minority Gujarat pogrom has been deleted from the sociology course of Class XI. The portion on Ayodhya (Ram Mandir Babri Masjid) has been pruned from four to

two pages and instead focuses on the Supreme Court judgement that paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the site where the disputed structure once stood before it was torn down by Hindu activists in December 1992. Babri Masjid is described as "a three-dome structure (that) was built at the site of Shri Ram's birthplace in 1528, but the structure had visible displays of Hindu symbols and relics in its interior as well as its exterior portions". All newspaper clippings on Babri demolition have been eliminated. From the assertion that recent studies of ancient DNA obtained from archaeological sources at an Indus Valley site in Haryana, rule out Aryan immigration to a call for more research into whether the Harappans and the Vedic people were the same, several crucial topics have been tweaked in the textbooks.

This is nothing but deforming the learning

process and further push school education to the precipice of ruination. Though the authorities claim that there is no intention to saffronize education and such updating is routine, fact is that the entire modification is aimed at stripping education of its essence, systematically banishing whatever remnants of secular-scientific-rational-fact based education are still in existence, aiming to make the students bereft of scientific argumentative mindset and be led to the mystic alley of blind faith, with a view to strengthening fascist culture.

Our fervent appeal to the education-loving people, academicians, intellectuals, teachers, students and all other conscientious sections of the masses to intensify countrywide powerful save education movement, unmask the hidden agenda behind the so called National Education Policy 2020 and prevent the impending disaster."

## SUCI(C) Condemns Killing of Two Indian Workers in Russia-Ukraine War

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), issued the following statement on 13-06-24:

Once again, two more Indian labourers who were sent to Russia for work but inducted in the Russian Army, have been killed in

the war with Ukraine. Dozens of Indian unemployed workers have been duped by recruitment agents to fight for Russian forces with the lure of money and issuing Russian passports.

We strongly deplore

the most atrocious and inhuman role of both the BJP-led Indian government and imperialist Russian government in exploiting the haplessness of the Indian jobless youths and exposing them to war fronts to pay with their lives.

To resist pro-monopoly agricultural policies of BJP led central government

**September 23**

**MARCH to Delhi**  
Talkotra Stadium

**Kisan Mahapadav**

**Our demands:**

- Introduce all out state trading and legalise MSP
- Scrap electricity Bill -2023
- Work and adequate wage throughout the year
- debt relief and pension for the peasants and agricultural workers
- supply of inputs like fertilizer etc at cheaper rate.
- Provide land and necessary facilities to erect Martyr's Column in Singhu Border.

**AIKMS**

## Adani Coal Scam

Contd. from page 1

### Role of Imported Coal

The Union Power Ministry has favoured passing the cost of generating electricity using expensive imported coal to consumers. This decision has been justified on the grounds of ensuring power supply but has led to significant increases in electricity bills. Private producers like Adani Power have curtailed production to capitalize on the inflated costs of imported coal, further driving up tariffs.

### Ethical and Regulatory Concerns

The Adani Group's actions and the government's decisions does raise serious ethical and regulatory concerns. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has indicated over-invoicing of imported coal costs, adding to the evidence of financial manipulation. Additionally, the government's use of CIL's surplus reserves to meet fiscal deficits, rather than improving coal production and transportation, points to a mis-allocation of resources.

### Public Outcry and Demands

The All India Electricity Consumers' Association (AIECA), a public committee devoted to uphold the rights and interest of the electric consumers, both domestic and small business, has raised several demands in response to these practices: 1. Do not treat electricity as a profit-making commodity. 2. Stop raising electricity tariffs on the false premise of a coal crisis. 3. Enhance domestic coal production and reduce dependency on imports. 4. Provide adequate wagons for transporting coal to thermal power stations. 5. Ensure thermal power stations near coal pits to operate at full capacity. 6. Withdraw the directive for state and private power producers to import coal.

### Concluding remarks

The Adani coal import scandal underscores the need for rigorous oversight, accountability, and transparency in India's energy sector as well as the BJP government who cunningly suppresses large scale corruption on its behalf.

The BJP government's preferential treatment of Adani, coupled with artificial crises and inflated tariffs, highlights systemic issues that need addressing. By prioritizing the interests of monopolistic tycoons over common consumers, the current practices undermine both economic equity and public trust. It is imperative for regulatory bodies and the media to continue scrutinizing such practices to ensure a fair and just energy market in India. So, only a powerful organized movement as initiated by AIECA needs to be intensified in right earnest.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH