

Proletarian Era

LONG LIVE GREAT ENGELS



28 November 1820 - 5 August 1895

"The working-man knows too well, as learned from too oft repeated experience, that the law is a rod which the bourgeois has prepared for him; ... Since, however, the bourgeoisie cannot dispense with government but must have it to hold the equally indispensable proletariat in check, it turns the power of government against the proletariat and keeps out of its way as far as possible." ...

(Condition of the Working Class in England)

Whole-hearted support to the countrywide General Strike on 9 July : SUCI(C)

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 02-07-25:

Our Party, SUCI (C), lends whole-hearted support to the countrywide General Strike on 9 July 2025 called by the Joint

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MASS MEETING
ON 50th Memorial Day of COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH
5 August 2025
Main speaker
Comrade Provash Ghosh
General Secretary, SUCI(C)
President
Comrade Ashok Samanta
Central Committee member, SUCI(C)
Rani Rashmoni Road, Kolkata. 2pm.
SUCI (Communist)

Glimpses of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought on imperialist war machination and militarization of economy

"...the American economy is a capitalist economy, and its problem is the problem of excess capital, that is, the problem of excess finance capital. ... in the capitalist system, common people's income cannot go up in proportion. No doubt, their income in terms of money may increase a little, but even then the real income does not increase; rather it falls. And if inflation assumes serious proportions, then the prices of commodities soar tremendously, and life becomes unbearable for people. Accumulation of surplus money means that the channel of investment in industry has got blocked. When that becomes the case, production would necessarily slump. This would inevitably aggravate the problem of unemployment. Besides, the increase of population remains an additional problem. If we assume for

argument's sake that population remains constant, even then, with the existing population level,



unemployment problem would go on intensifying. ... Therefore, from the urge to stave off such a catastrophe, they need create a boom in the market by such artificial means. The tendency

of militarization appears in such a specific situation.

...This is because production cannot remain fixed for long at a definite level. If production does not increase, it is bound to decrease, because, in capitalist system, demand for 'market' either increases or decreases. Again, in the capitalist system, this demand is not determined by the yardstick of man's actual needs and requirements; rather a man's 'needs' are decided solely by his purchasing power. His 'needs' are determined by taking into account his purchasing power according to his income and the market prices. Besides, when production falls, the market prices of commodities soar and the purchasing power of the low-income group of people and the unemployed naturally falls further. Therefore, the market shrinks more and more. That is why, in accordance

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AIUTUC congratulates working people for making 9 July General Strike a success

Congratulating the working people for the total success of the All India General Strike at the call of ten central trade unions including AIUTUC, Comrade Shankar Dasgupta General Secretary, AIUTUC issued the following on 9-7-25:

AIUTUC extends revolutionary greetings to the working people of the entire country for making today the All India General Strike at the call of 10 central trade unions including AIUTUC and supported by

Sanjukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) against the anti-worker, anti-people and pro-monopoly policies and measures of the BJP ruled central government a total success. We also congratulate different sections of the common masses, the peasants, agricultural labourers, students, youths, women, intellectuals and others who actively took the streets to make the General Strike successful. Factories, Mills, Mines, Banks, Transport and all establishments were closed. AIUTUC condemns the heinous concerted attacks of the

central and state governments, their police and administration, more particularly in the BJP ruled states and also in some places of TMC-ruled West Bengal, to foil the Strike.

Hundreds were arrested and detained by police. In some places, police even resorted to unprovoked offensive. We call upon the working people to prepare for further united, mighty and sustained countrywide movements to resist the mounting fascist onslaughts of the present government at the behest of the ruling capitalist class.



Delhi



Kolkata



Mumbai

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with the law of capitalist economy, there must be a channel to invest capital in other countries. Secondly, whatever industries, whatever employment opportunities are there in a capitalist country, these cannot provide jobs to all. But neither can they accept the situation of the whole country teeming with unemployed, because, that too would create even deeper crisis.

Therefore, when they cannot increase production in the normal course by way of adequate industrialization, an urge for production of armaments, a tendency of militarization of the industries appears in the economies of all capitalist countries. The advantage is that it is possible to create an artificial boom in the market by this measure, even if temporarily. And without a boom in the market, industries cannot run; production does not pick up and there is no urge for investment of capital and consequently the number of shifts are reduced in the factories, the factories close down and the number of the unemployed increases further. ...then the whole production system may collapse one day under the impact of mounting unemployment. and it may become impossible to keep the production and the industries running. ...

...Hard-pressed on all sides and rent with mounting crises, imperialism is turning more and more to militarized economy. And the more militarized the economy is becoming, the more rabid imperialism is prone to indulge in its adventurist acts...

...What is meant by this militarization of industries? It means that the government places orders and the government itself buys up the products. It is not necessary to depend upon the market, that is, the purchasing power of the common

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought

people for selling the products. Only, the government's military budget keeps on increasing. Therefore, even if temporarily, the industries escape what we call recession—a situation when there is no market, no work, no orders. The position becomes like this: the government places orders for manufacture of, say, bombers, fighters and other such military equipment and hardware and the government itself purchases those. And since it does not have to depend on the market or purchasing power of the people, the economy can be protected to an extent from the mounting pressure of recession for the time being.

But there is within it an inherent contradiction. It is like this : as more and more military hardware and armaments are produced, if these are not released, then owing to continuous stockpiling of the war materials so produced, a tendency of stagnation is sure to appear in the economy consequent upon which the war industries would have to close down, one after another. But the government, too, cannot buy up these materials to stock them endlessly and without purpose. the whole US economy stands on quicksand...

...The situation is such that it may tumble down any moment. Its whole economic system rests on war economy. The type of war depending on which it has been maintaining its economic stability at present, is a local, partial, temporary affair—it cannot last long. ...Therefore, to release the war materials, they need local and partial wars. This basic economic feature is giving rise to one crisis after another, which is at the root of the present war policy.

...In the matter of armament race and all-out preparations for war,

the imperialists have broken all their past records. The military bases which the imperialists have built around the socialist camp are full of lethal weapons of mass destruction kept ready for action at a moment's notice ...does war mean only world war? When someone is against war, does it mean he is against only world war? Are these local or partial wars engendered here and there by the imperialists not also wars? The way the USA is encroaching on other nations and pushing them to war against one another, or is supplying information to one about another to drag them into conflicts and warfare, are these not war machinations? Suppose Ram and Shyam are two persons.

The USA is going to Ram and telling him that Shyam has done such and such against him. Again, it is providing Shyam with secret information about Ram and telling him: Ram is hatching up such and such plots against you. In this way the USA is providing both parties with information against each other with the sole object of inciting one against the other. They are carrying out such designs through their worldwide network of secret agencies.

...The Gestapo activities and the activities of the Fifth Columnists are known as grievous conspiracies against civilization. ... There is no heinous crime that the USA does not perpetrate. The Nazis were condemned as war criminals. ... What the USA is doing today ...in many ...countries of the world puts even the Nazis to shame. What are the CIA and FBI doing today all around? Is there any kind of heinous action in which they do not indulge? They are engaged in all sorts of nefarious activities—committing

political murders, engineering *coups d'etat*, etc., all over the world. The one and the only aim of all these activities is to maintain a war psychosis here and there all over the world, engineer local and partial wars, embroil one in conflict and battle with another so that the conventional weapons which are getting stockpiled and becoming obsolete can be released by inducing different countries to buy these. So, the more the wars, the more the war psychosis in the world, the more is the gain for them.

...The imperialist ruling cliques are devils to the bone. And it should always be kept in mind that in any imperialist country, a ruler, even if he is not personally a scoundrel, has no option but to prepare for war driven by the exigencies of the imperialist economy and politics. The question whether a particular person in power in such a country is good or bad is absolutely irrelevant here.

...The antagonism based on competition between the powerful capitalist countries for establishing economic and political supremacy over weak and backward capitalist countries is intensifying day by day. All these facts show beyond doubt that Lenin's thesis about the inevitability of wars in the era of imperialism is still valid as before.

...It would be possible to banish war for good from human society only when socialist revolution would become victorious throughout the world or when the present capitalist encirclement will be replaced by the encirclement of a few remaining capitalist countries by the world socialist system."

(Source—'On War, Peace and Peaceful Coexistence', 'Lessons of November Revolution', SW Vol I, 'Call of the Hour' SW Vol II)

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Platform of ten Central Trade Unions and supported by 'Sanjukta Kishan Morcha' (SKM) against a slew of anti-people policies of the BJP government like legislating four anti-worker, pro-monopoly labour codes, privatization spree of public sector units and government enterprises, liberal resorting to contractorization, casualization of perennial nature of job & introduction of Fixed Term Employment as a draconian measure for facilitating implementation of 'Hire & Fire' policy, anti-consumer Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2023 and installation of smart meters, increasing working hours, random downsizing of working force, utter neglect of social security benefits to unorganized sector workers

Support to the General Strike: SUCI(C)

including gig and scheme workers, systematic snatching of hard-earned democratic and trade union rights, scrapping New Pension Scheme, spiralling price line, 'Draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing', non-implementation of statutory MSP based on the formula of 'C2 + 50%', ruinous National Educational Policy-2020, mounting atrocities and crime on women with

impunity, unbridled propagation of obscenity, encouragement to liquor, drug and sex-addiction slated to break moral backbone of students and youths and planned shattering of moral fabric of the country etc.

We fervently appeal to the working people and the toiling millions to stand united rising above all precipitated divides centering on religion, caste, language, regions,

ethnicity etc., to make 9 July General Strike a runaway success thereby pave the way for further broad, united, sustained and mighty movements to achieve just demands of life and livelihood.



Chennai



Bhubaneswar



Mysore

On 6 June 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to cut its key interest rate, the repo rate (the rate at which RBI lends money to the commercial banks for a short period), by 0.50%. So repo rate is now down to 5.50%. This cut has been announced after a long time as RBI was finding inflation (putting it simply, the amount of money supply in the market or general rise in price line) to be high. Now, the experts who are tasked by the government and RBI to calculate inflation rate by using various formulas mostly unknown and often weird to the common people, have given a verdict that inflation has come down considerably. So time is ripe for bringing down repo rate, which in turn would make loans from banks and non-banking financial institutions cheaper. Hence, those who have already taken loans for house building or car purchasing or buying consumer product would find their equated monthly interest (EMI) payment amount going down. The economists and experts who are either at the pay-roll of the ruling financial oligarchs or habituated to think based on text book of bourgeois economics only, expect that the industrial houses and other commercial enterprises would be encouraged to take fresh loans for productive investment. Naturally, they are euphoric as they feel this is a bold and strategic move aimed at reviving growth, supporting credit flow, boosting consumption across sectors thereby help the Indian economy to grow faster. But what does it mean to the common pauperizing millions? Does so called growth of economy in a capitalist system *ipso facto* mean prosperity of the toiling masses? Questions like these are bound to arise and so is the need for the thinking populace to have a basic insight into the reality avoiding to maximum extent jargons used in academic discourses.

Impact of lowering interest rate

When the repo rate is low, it becomes cheaper for banks to borrow funds from the RBI. So, apart from inflow of deposit money from common people, they can also take funds on loan from RBI. They can then in turn offer loans to the intending creditors at lower interest rates. This, as per prescripts of bourgeois economics, encourages people and business houses to borrow and spend more concomitantly boosting demand as well as productive investment. Cheaper credit means more people can afford to buy a home, a car or start a business, which improves their quality of life. Thus, the economy will get a fillip. This is the

Interest cut in whose interest

basic proposition of the ruling quarters.

But do such assumptions conform to the reality in a capitalist economy stricken with severe unsolvable crisis endemic of the system? No. A probe would prove it. Is it that lowering interest would prompt people at large to borrow money from banks and financial institutions and spend to buy utility items? First of all, how many out of the 145 crore Indians can afford to buy a home, a car or consumer durables by availing of bank loans? Even if they take loans, with regular squeezing of their income on account of unemployment, will they be able to repay on time? Who does not know what happened during the global sovereign debt crisis of 2008 which arose because of default of house building loans by the primary borrowers? Moreover, the vast majority of toiling Indians are finding their earning dipping because most of them are either unemployed or under-employed or retrenched workers or contractual labourers working in the unorganized sector (which constitutes 93% of the country's workforce) at a paltry wage, or peasants who are bled white to buy agricultural inputs at exorbitant price, often by taking loans mostly from money-lenders at high interest (because non-accessibility to institutional loans), and are deprived of remunerative price of their produce because of a flawed corrupt procurement system. Are they by any stretch of imagination candidates for bank loans however low may be the interest rate?

Secondly, those, particularly the senior and retired citizens, who park their hard-earned savings in banks to maintain livelihood from the interest they receive on their deposits will find their income depleting. With lesser inflow of funds, how would they eke out their livelihood? The bourgeois financial investors would immediately jump to say that they need to diversify investment of their savings in multiple instruments particularly those based on capital market (which includes share market and bond market) investments. But what about the risk of parking savings in fluctuating speculative capital market? Again, the experts will say, no risk, no gain. Gain, ok but what happens if there is a loss? Will not the very capital of the small savers then be wiped off? But to such embarrassing questions, the financial advisers would be tight-lipped and expectedly so.

Thirdly, who were pressing hard for bringing down interest rate? Was it the common people bearing the brunt of phenomenal price rise and dwindling income? No. It was the corporates and the business tycoons who were creating pressure on the government and RBI to do so. Are they starved of capital for productive investment? Authentic data would show that such is not the case. Productive investment is dipping because there is no market for the producers. No market denotes rapid fall in the purchasing power of the buyers. Why are the buyers moving away from the market? Is it because they intend to save more instead of spending for buying goods? This is an absurd thought. Factors causing depletion of their purchasing power have been discussed above. As per media report, even after slashing interest rate, there is no increase of demand for fresh bank loans or in housing or car market sector. Now the apologists of reduction in interest rate are arguing that over time, as the economy stabilizes and confidence improves, the impact of the rate cut on loan offtake is likely to be more pronounced. Whatever explanations are dished out by the agencies set up by the capitalist-imperialist rulers in support of their moves, or a slew of statistics and measurement indicators they publish periodically to abet the 'growth story' of Indian capitalist economy, they soon find their own tools and techniques, refined and revised often to camouflage the reality, incapable of suppressing the truth.

Has inflation really plummeted ?

The expert lobby wedded to the task of serving the class interest of the ruling monopolists and their servitor government has announced that retail inflation in India has decreased. According to government data, the year-on-year inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for April 2025 is 3.16%, which is the lowest since July 2019. This marks a decline of 18 basis points from the previous month. Food inflation, specifically, has also seen a significant drop, reaching 1.78% in April, the lowest since October 2021. Reference to some further data released by government quarters is necessary to show the embedded deception and forgery.

Claim is that India's consumer price inflation eased to 2.82% in May 2025, down from 3.16% in April and below market expectations of 3%. This marked the lowest reading since February 2019,

bringing inflation close to the RBI's lower tolerance threshold of 2% under its inflation-targeting framework. Food inflation—which accounts for nearly half of the CPI basket—fell sharply to 0.99%, the lowest level since October 2021, driven by easing price pressures in pulses and products, vegetables, fruits, cereals, sugar and confectionery, and eggs. Meanwhile, fuel inflation also moderated (2.78% vs. 2.92% in April). In contrast, inflation remained steady or edged higher in categories such as housing (3.16% vs. 3.06%), education (4.12% vs. 4.13%), health (4.34% vs. 4.25%), and transport and communication (3.85% vs. 3.67%). [Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)]

Now the common people who go the market for procuring food articles like vegetables, pulses, spices, edible oil, meat or fish, find that the prices are soaring almost daily. So, they buy less even if they need more. Demand for daily groceries, household and personal products are reported to have worsened to a 2-year low during the March 2025 quarter, indicating delayed turnaround for the fast-moving consumer goods sector. Urban areas, traditionally a strong driver of consumption, are experiencing a slowdown, with consumers reducing spending on items beyond basic necessities. Consumers are cutting back on discretionary items and premium products, opting for smaller packs and more affordable options. Real wages, adjusted for inflation, have stagnated, further impacting purchasing power.

But then the economists-experts lobby has a readymade answer. While it may seem counterintuitive, inflation can indeed come down even when the retail market is up. This is because inflation is influenced by various factors, not just consumer spending in retail. A strong retail market could be driven by increased consumer confidence or pent-up demand, but if other factors like supply chain improvements, decreased energy prices, or effective monetary policy are also at play, inflation can still decrease. So, no question can be asked since cooked up theories are not in short supply. Now, let us have a look at the composition calculation of consumer price index. In India, the most important category in the consumer price index is Food and beverages (45.86 percent of total weight), of which Cereals and products (9.67 percent), Milk and products (6.61 percent), Vegetables

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At least 12 people, including three of a family, were killed and nine injured after several vehicles fell into the Mahisagar River and a tanker hung precariously on the edge, when a one-kilometer bridge connecting Mujpur of Vadodara district with Gambhira in Anand district, Gujarat, collapsed around 7.30 am on 9 July last. It is alleged that authorities ignored repeated warnings about the “dangerous condition” of the four-decade-old structure. It is learnt that even the government officials who were alerted in 2022 admitted the structure “may not survive long”. Yet no urgent repairs or closure followed. A Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department officer said that a survey by a private consultant had flagged concerns, admitting the

bridge might not last much longer. *“Even we believe that the bridge may not survive for long... But how can we just shut the bridge? We’ve informed our superiors. A proposal to either rebuild or strengthen the structure has been sent. Our design team will inspect it,”* the official added. However, Executive Engineer of the R&B Department’s Vadodara division said the department found no major structural faults during its inspection. *“There was no demand to shut the bridge. Our reports did not indicate serious damage. There was an issue with the bearing coat, but it was repaired last year,”* he said. Amidst such claims and counter-claims, the BJP chief minister of Gujarat, who

Act of God !

also handles the roads and buildings department, has, as a face-saving, suspended the four engineers. But question remains how could the chief minister and his government absolve their responsibilities in this regard.

Not that this is the first incident of bridge collapse. Three years back, in 2022, a 754ft long and 4.5ft wide hanging pedestrian bridge described by the state’s tourism website as a “technological marvel” and a major tourist attraction snapped and plunged into Machchu river in Morbi town of Gujarat claiming 140 lives one third of whom were children. Notably, the bridge was shut since early March 2022 and Oreva group owned by industrialist Jaysukhbhai Patel, the

firm contracted to maintain and operate the bridge since 2008, had been renovating it. It was thrown open to the public on 26 October 2022, to coincide with the Gujarati new year. A day earlier, Jaysukhbhai Patel had told a press conference that the renovation work had cost 20 million rupees. Praising the quality of the repair work, the machinery and the contractor the firm had hired, he said that “nothing will happen to the bridge for the next 8-10 years” and “if used responsibly, no repairs will be needed for 15 years”. Since the accident, police have arrested nine people associated with Oreva—including two managers and two ticket clerks on its payroll, as well as two contractors and three security guards it had hired. They are being

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(6.04 percent), Prepared meals, snacks, sweets, etc. (5.55 percent), Meat and fish (3.61 percent), and Oils and fats (3.56 percent). Miscellaneous accounts for 28.32 percent, of which Transport and communication constitute (8.59 percent), health (5.89 percent), and education (4.46 percent). Housing accounts for 10.07 percent; Fuel and light for 6.84 percent; Clothing and footwear for 6.53 percent; and Pan, tobacco and intoxicants for 2.38 percent. So, even if vegetables, oils, fish and meat prices rise, there is little impact on the price index. Come to miscellaneous items. Transport and communication costs are rising periodically, healthcare expenditure including medicine prices are raised regularly, education cost is beyond affordability of many following virtual demise of government education system and more and more ingress of private players into the education sector. Fuel including LPG prices are being raised at definite intervals. Yet, we are to believe that inflation is dwindling? What would one call it? Sleight of statistics?

Compulsion of claiming lowering of inflation

But then the government is not for catering to the interest of the toiling Indians but of the handful of monopolist sharks and giant multinationals saddled in state power. So, neither it nor its pliant quarters can afford to do anything which their masters do not mandate. What does the ruling class want today? It wants that banks should lend at lower cost to the industrial houses and entrepreneurs. Will that money be invested in productive investment? No. Why? Because, as explained above, there is no demand in the market for consumable goods. So, a bulk of the money that the corporates would take from the banks is destined to be injected in

Hoax of falling inflation to facilitate flow of cheap money to corporates

either arms production or speculative stock market or in realty, sports and entertainment business. India’s defence budget in 24-25 increased to Rs 6,21,940.85 crore (approximately \$75 billion).

The total value of defence production had reached Rs 1,27,265 crore in 24-25—a massive 174% increase compared to Rs 46,429 crore in 2014-15. Arms exports reached a record high of Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, a 32.5% increase over the previous year, the sector outperformed all others with a 34.82% return. Many top monopoly houses are now in defence production manufacturing, from combat aircrafts and naval vessels to land war armaments and components. They include, among others, Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), Mahindra Defence Systems, Bharat Forge, and Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNAVAL) including Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), Mahindra Defence Systems, Bharat Forge, and Reliance Naval and Engineering (RNAVAL).

On the other hand, the Indian capital market has experienced substantial growth. Market capitalization (price of total shares multiplied by market price of each share in the secondary stock market) reached Rs 415 lakh crore (USD 5 trillion) in May 2024, placing India fifth globally. With Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) pumping in substantial funds in Indian capital market, the scope for speculation has been widened (because of more players taking part in the speculation and average share prices spiralling because more money is chasing fixed number of tradable shares) and chances of booking profit through sale and purchase of equity shares, bonds

(debt instruments), derivative trading and so forth have become more pronounced.

Heated debt market opens new avenue for speculation

While the equity market has seen significant growth, the debt market is also looking up. What is debt market? As shares are traded (exchange hands) between buyers and sellers in the secondary stock market, debt or loan instruments are also traded in bond market. A bond is an interest-bearing or discounted government security that obligate the issuer to pay to the bond holder a specified sum of money at specific intervals, and to repay the principal amount of the loan at maturity just like fixed deposit in a bank. Difference is that bank deposits cannot be traded but bonds can exchange hands in capital market at market-determined price (meaning based on highest bid). Tradable bonds are issued by a variety of entities, including governments, corporations, and municipalities to raise funds from public. In this connection, a typical phenomenon is worth reckoning in the context of interest rate cut. Suppose a 5-year bond has been issued in January 2025 by a company X at an interest (or coupon) rate of 10% annually. If one has brought such a bond at Rs 100, one is to get Rs 50 as interest in 5 years (excluding time value of money and other related factors) and then Rs100 back on maturity in January 2030. Let us assume that bank interest dips from 10% to 7%. So, Rs 100 deposited in bank would fetch Rs 35 in 5 years. So, if a buyer buys that bond in June 2025 at Rs 110, he would shell out Rs 10 more but receive Rs 50 as return in 5 years. So, his net gain would be 50 minus Rs 10 i.e. Rs 40. On the other hand, the holder of the bond might think that selling at a premium of Rs

10 would be profitable for him based on his own prediction about future interest rate movement.

Hence, bond market heats up or becomes attractive when bank interest goes down. This heated bond market opens up avenue for booking more profits for those who participate in capital market transactions, particularly the corporates, rich individuals and punters. This group of players in the capital market would be prompted to borrow from banks at low interest and then deploy that fund in speculative capital market to make more money. And the big corporates and industrialists are not that concerned about repayment also, as the government merrily waves their defaulted loans. In last 10 years, BJP government has waived around Rs 16.35 lakh crore of defaulted loans. And then the government recompensates the banks by infusing fresh capital from public exchequer in the name of recapitalization.

People are at receiving end

So, people are at the receiving end on both counts—their return from bank deposits falls while tax paid by them is, so to say, plundered by the government to give subvention to the corporates who default bank loans with impunity and then again considered as candidates for obtaining fresh loans. Alongside, encouragement to capital market speculation, realty business and boosting most unproductive defence industry or sports carnivals and entertainment business are aimed at by squeezing bank fund to swell coffers of the financial oligarchs perching atop the towers of the capitalist state. And so, while the retail price of essential items, particularly food articles, continue to spiral, the pedagogues of ruling quarter declare that inflation is down by presenting data which are cunningly manufactured to fit into the scheme of the ruling bourgeoisie. The story of interest rate drop is part of that grandiose design.

Erasing Mughal period from history textbook—a heinous plot of Hindutva Brigade

The recent directives concerning the history curriculum in Uttar Pradesh, following recommendations from the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), have ignited a fierce debate about the very nature of historical understanding and the motives behind its selective presentation.

The removal of the chapter on the Mughal court from the Class XII history textbook, “Themes of Indian History: Part II,” is not an isolated incident but rather a significant marker in a broader trend of revising or rewriting history whimsically with an ulterior motive. Earlier, we have seen dropping crucial scientific inventions like Darwin’s theory of evolution or Mendeleev table, a fundamental theory of Chemistry. Because, if National Education Policy 2020 which is nothing but a death sentence to desired secular, scientific, democratic education, is to be implemented, then axing truth and destroying scientific bent of mind are imperative. Under the guise of holistic understanding of India’s heritage, what is being prescribed is distorted versions of history, highlighting myth as history and thereby injecting flawed stuff in the minds of the students so that proper knowledge remains elusive to them.

History is not a matter of likes or dislikes of the rulers

The fundamental question remains: can history be changed in this manner? Is history merely a matter of individual or political preference? History, as the study of the past, is based on evidence, analysis, and proper interpretation. While interpretations can evolve with new discoveries and perspectives, the deliberate omission or alteration of established historical facts to fit a particular ideology is a dangerous form of historical negationism. History, in its truest sense, is an unyielding truth established through the unfolding of social development. The attempt to erase over three hundred years of Mughal history (1526-1857) from textbooks is a move to jettison an important phase of the past. If the intention is indeed to conceal Mughal history, the removal of the preceding Sultanate period (1200-1526) becomes even more perplexing. Even if a particular era is perceived to have negative aspects, its history cannot simply be wiped out.

Mughal history has been deliberately excluded from syllabus

The question then arises: why have the Mughal period and the preceding Sultanate period been

specifically targeted for removal? Is it solely because the rulers were Muslim? If so, how will the five-year reign of Sher Shah, an Afghan ruler, be accommodated? How will students learn about the historical Grand Trunk Road he built and the innovative postal system he introduced? To present their narratives in isolation, without acknowledging the power they were resisting, would be to create a fragmented and incomplete understanding of the past. Focusing solely on one side of the conflict transforms history into a one-sided tale, devoid of the necessary context and complexity.

Despite these efforts, can history really be erased? The architectural wonders that dot the landscape of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and the entire North and West India stand as clear evidence of the Mughal era and will remain so. How can they be ignored? Will the name of the Red Fort be changed? Where is the national flag hoisted every year on Independence Day? What will happen to the Taj Mahal, the Ibadat Khana and the Jama Masjid? We should not forget that these structures are deeply intertwined with India’s pluralistic culture and historical identity.

No Hindu-Muslim question was involved during Mughal periods

Secondly, there was no Hindu-Muslim question involved in that period. There is no evidence of the Muslim emperors having imposed their religion over the Hindus or Buddhists. Yes, the Mughal emperors in keeping with the then aspiration of all monarchs to increase their fiefdom had fought against many kings who were Hindus. But those wars were for occupying each other’s territories. Even the Mughals fought against many Muslim kings like Sher Shah, the Afghan ruler. The First Battle of Panipat was fought in 1526, between Mughal emperor Babur’s forces and Ibrahim Lodi’s dynasty army, led by Ibrahim Lodi. Likewise, there were battles between two Hindu kings also over domination over territories viz. Rashtrakutas vs. Cholas, Kachchwaha invasion of Dhundhar (1071) and so forth. The Nanda dynasty overthrew the previous Shishunaga dynasty. The Nanda dynasty was in turn overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya, who established the Maurya Empire. Battles were thus not based on religious divisions; political and economic factors played a significant role. Alliances and rivalries among Hindu kings were fluid, changing

based on strategic needs and power dynamics.

Muslim kings and Hindu army commanders and vice versa

It is impossible to forget that in 1576, during Akbar’s battle at Haldighat, the Mughal forces were led by Raja Man Singh, a Hindu Rajput General. Conversely, Rana Pratap’s army was commanded by Hakim Khan Sur, an Afghan Muslim. Similarly, when Shivaji and Aurangzeb were in conflict, Jai Singh, a Rajput, was Aurangzeb’s chief general, while Shivaji’s commander was Maulvi Haider Khan, a Muslim. In South India, the Marathas attacked Tipu Sultan’s kingdom and destroyed Hindu temples, which Tipu Sultan himself helped to repair. This fact-based, objective history is being deliberately ignored in an attempt to spread anti-Muslim sentiment among students.

British imperialist rulers introduced division of history into various periods based on religion

It bears recall how imperialist British historians once explained Indian history by focusing on communal divisions. In 1818, James Mill initiated this communal historiography by dividing Indian history into ‘Hindu Civilization’, ‘Muslim Civilization’, and ‘British Period’. Notably, British administrators who came to India during the colonial era were trained on Mill’s historical interpretations at Haileybury College.

The project of writing Indian history in the nineteenth century was indeed spearheaded by English historians who strategically fomented Hindu religious sentiments against Muslims. This was driven by a deep-seated imperialist agenda that ultimately formed the bedrock of their rule. To provide a theoretical underpinning for this perspective, several English historians, archaeologists, and researchers began to sensationalize accounts of relentless persecution and temple destruction by Muslim rulers in their writings. The underlying motive behind such interpretations was to legitimize British rule in the eyes of the Indian populace. Having overthrown Muslim rulers, the British imperialists naturally sought to cultivate anti-Muslim sentiment through various means.

Furthermore, in the early twentieth century, the British imperial regime implemented the ‘divide and rule’ policy. With the direct support and financial backing of Lord Curzon, the ‘Muslim League’ was established in Dhaka in 1906. Tragically, even

leaders of progressive Muslim social reform movements, like Syed Ahmed Khan, fell prey to this trap. National leaders were also misled by this imperialist strategy.

Medieval culture is not a culture of Hindu-Muslim conflict but a culture of harmony

Even if the narratives of regional conflicts and political history are set aside, the Mughal era remains a luminous chapter in India’s cultural development. Painting witnessed unprecedented flourishing under Mughal patronage. AbulFazl’s ‘Akbarnama’ and ‘Ain-i-Akbari’, Babur’s ‘Tuzuk-i-Baburi’, Gulbadan Begum’s ‘Humayunnama’, and the works of Surdas, Tukaram, and Tulsidas all attest to this fact. Among the twenty-two artists mentioned in ‘Waqiat-i-Baburi’, only three were Muslims. In his own writings, AbulFazl named seventeen prominent painters, of whom only four were Muslim. In the realm of music, the sitar is a well-known synthesis of Hindu and Muslim musical traditions. Instruments like the esraj, surbahar, and sarangi are products of the artistic endeavours of both communities.

The Indian raga Hindol and the Persian raga Muqama were combined to create the raga Yaman. From Amir Khusrau to Tansen, Muslim music teachers gained immense popularity for the sheer quality of their artistry. To deny the contributions of Muslims to Dhrupad, Khayal, Tappa, and Thumri— all integral forms of Indian classical music— would be a deliberate distortion of history. The Urdu language itself emerged and evolved through the interaction of Hindu and Muslim linguistic traditions during this very era. Indian civilization, which had been largely isolated from the global stage for nearly a century, re-established its connections with the wider world during the Mughal period. This period also witnessed the consolidation of various regional powers, laying the foundation for a sense of national unity. Kshitimohon Sen, grandfather of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, had written a book named “Joint endeavours of Hindus and Muslims” where he elaborately presented all such examples with evidence.

This tendency to interpret history will give rise to false nationalist jingoism

When the ministers and officials propagate falsehoods in the name of history and attempt to find scientific validation within religious texts, the depth of their agenda becomes alarmingly clear. The organization of

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Electoral roll revision in Bihar—controversies galore

There is a row over the declaration of the Election Commission of India (ECI) about revision of electoral roll on the brink of Bihar assembly election due in November this year. All of a sudden the Election Commission has scrapped voter list in Bihar of about 8 crore voters on 24 June and on that day has given notice for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral roll for which the time it has allowed is between 25 June and 25 July 2005. Is it possible to complete it in 30 days? In 2003 such an exercise was made which took two years. Citing reasons for such a last minute exercise that is bound to remain incomplete given the time shortage, the ECI has stated that rapid urbanization, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants have necessitated the conduct of an intensive revision so as to ensure integrity and preparation of error-free electoral rolls. The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) shall be conducting house-to-house survey for verification during the process of this intensive revision. ECI says that the voter list as on 2003 will be taken as correct. But the existing electors, if enrolled after 2003, must furnish documentary proof to establish their date and/ or place of birth, which is then used to determine citizenship. And to everyone's surprise, the documents exclude Aadhaar card (a biometric proof of *bona fide* resident), PAN card, ration card, driving licence and even Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) i.e. voter card issued by the Commission itself. The mandate is: the EC has also demanded proofs of date and place of birth of those who were born before 1 July 1987. And those who were born between 1 July 1987 and 2 December 2004 are to provide birth certificates for him or her and for either of the parents besides one document among eleven. Those who were born after 2 December 2004 need to provide proof of birth and place of both their parents. This inexplicable fiat has pushed millions of voters in a shaky situation.

It is almost an impossible task for the poor strata of people, including migrant workers who are millions in number and spread almost all over India. Can they get leave for so many days and bear the cost of *to and fro* journey from their working place to place of domicile? Will the contractors who provide them jobs as casual workers in unorganized sector be so broad-

minded as to release them and then take them back on their return? These are all preposterous assumptions. ECI would immediately jump to say that it has provided an alternative for the migrants—digital process of fulfilling the conditions. What else is it other than mockery?

According to one view this move is tantamount to what was declared at the time of preparing NRC in Assam which proved to be a calculated move to identify *bona fide* Indian citizens particularly those belonging to the minority community as foreigners and illegal migrants. Also, the downtrodden masses are often displaced because of flood and forced eviction. At that time, they lose or misplace many of their important documents as was noticed during mindless NRC process in Assam. So, is it an initiative to purify the electoral roll or a camouflaged endeavour to disenfranchise electorates who might vote against the ruling party?

The ECI has announced that in the nationwide intensive electoral roll revision, names of those who are not 'ordinarily resident' of a state but have their names in the electoral roll of that state will be deleted. This means that a person from Bihar who has migrated to Rajasthan and stays and works there will be ineligible to remain a voter in Bihar. His name, said the ECI, will be struck off the electoral rolls of Bihar and will be included in that of Rajasthan. The next question is if the electoral roll after 2003 is invalidated, how can the elections held after 2003 be considered as valid? Does ECI have an answer to that?

Strong apprehension is there among the knowledgeable people that 75 per cent to 80 per cent people will be disfranchised in the process arbitrarily and whimsically. Election Commission is supposed to help people for smoothly casting their votes. But what the ECI is doing is just the opposite, harassing the electorates and increasing pointless administrative work by spending hundreds of crores from public exchequer. Moreover, there is also possibility that the ruling party touts would lure the electorates categorized for submission of stipulated documents for retention or inclusion of names in the voter list against money and eliciting confirmation of casting vote in favour of the party in power.

The matter was referred to a division bench of the Supreme Court (SC). The bench, in the three-hour-long hearing, acknowledged that the

ECI, as a constitutional body, has powers well beyond the Representation of People's Act, 1951 (RPA) and that the Court will not stop the ECI from carrying out the proposed revision of voter list. However, the SC also made it clear that the process would be subject to judicial intervention. On the citizenship issue, the bench observed that it is the remit of the Ministry of Home Affairs to determine whether an individual is a citizen. EC's lawyers cited Article 326 of the Constitution, which states "The precondition for adult suffrage is citizenship."

The SC bench then observed that if the ECI wanted to ensure that only citizens are on the electoral rolls, then it "*should have started the process much earlier.*"... "*Your decision, to disenfranchise the person who is already there on the electoral roll in 2025, would compel this individual to appeal against (the) decision and go through this entire rigmarole and thereby be denied of his right to vote in the ensuing election. There is nothing wrong in you purging electoral rolls through an intensive exercise to see that non-citizens do not remain on the rolls. But if you decide only a couple of months before a proposed election....*" one of the hon'ble judges of the bench said. The other hon'ble judge added: "*If you ask for these documents immediately, even I will not be able to produce it now, look at the practicality, look at the timeline.*"

The judges also asked the ECI about the process it would follow, in case of disenfranchisement of a voter. "*If a 'summary revision' under the Representation of People's Act (RPA) calls for a verbal hearing before deletion of a voter from the electoral roll, can it be said that the 'intensive' revision cannot have that process?*" the bench asked. According to the rules in the RPA, in all cases of proposed voter deletions, except for confirmed deaths, a notice is to be served to the voter, providing them with a reasonable opportunity for a hearing.

The SC also, in its order, also asked the ECI to explain why Aadhaar, Electoral Photo Identity Card (voter card issued by the EC) and ration card cannot be accepted as valid documents in the SIR process. The Supreme Court said the list of 11 documents mentioned by the ECI for the verification drive was not "exhaustive". "*Thus, in our*

opinion, it would be in the interest of justice if Aadhaar card, EPIC card and ration card be included. It is for the ECI to still decide whether it wants to take the documents or not and if it does not take, then give reasons for the same," the Court said. Even one of the hon'ble judges held that he himself would not be able to produce the documents the ECI has asked for. Why did the ECI, who evidently has been unable to prevent massive rigging and manipulation during the suffrage suddenly decided to take such a recourse? Is it by any stretch of imagination a move to filtrate the electoral process into purity? Or is there a hidden agenda? This question is bound to arise since all other institutions hitherto enjoying to some extent a relative autonomy are gradually turned into an appendage to the ruling dispensation. Clearly the ECI is no exception. After assuming power, the BJP government revised method of nomination of the executives to such institutions so as to infuse persons pliant to it. Earlier the selection panel consisted of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Chief Justice India.

Now, by way of legislation of an act in 2023, the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners are appointed based on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition in the House of the People and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Thus shrewdly the CJI has been dropped so that the nominees are wholly and solely decided by the Prime Minister. Shri Gyanesh Kumar took charge as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India on 19 February 2025. During his stint in the Union Home Ministry, Mr. Kumar played a key role in implementing decisions following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir and hence became endearing to the ruling BJP high-ups. Similarly, Vivek Joshi, who was Haryana Chief Secretary in the BJP regime has been appointed as one of the other two Election Commissioners. Another commissioner Shri Sukhbinder Singh Sandhu was appointed as the Chief Secretary when Pushkar Singh Dhami of the BJP became the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand in July 2021 and served there till 31 January 2024. So, with such a composition, one cannot but

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How India's poverty alchemy effaces 35 crore lives

The delight of the BJP-led central government knew no bound when World Bank said in April last that there was a drop in extreme poverty to 5.3% with over 170 million people moved above the poverty line between 2011-12 and 2022-23. On 25 April, the BJP Government of India came out with a press release titled "India's Triumph in Combating Poverty", where it used the World Bank's "Poverty and Equity Brief" of April 2025 to state that "171 million lifted from extreme poverty in 10 years". Union Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal spared no time in claiming that under the leadership of PM Modi, 25 crore people have been lifted from the vicious cycle of poverty in the past 11 years. But the embedded question was that the calculation is based on a poverty line of an income of \$3 (around Rs 250) per day. In other words, for a household of 4.5 members, if income is around Rs 8,100 per month, it would imply that the family is not classified as poor. Is that a real threshold given today's context where prices are rising astronomically. Is Rs 8,100 enough to eke out a bare living? However, the BJP government has quietly shielded this fact. The government's reliance on the obsolete \$3/day benchmark (PPP) is not an innocent oversight—it's calculated obscurantism. Celebrating the plunge from 27% to 5% on this metric is akin to a surgeon declaring success after lowering the definition of a "healthy" blood pressure to mask a patient's critical condition.

But the euphoria of the BJP leaders has been short-lived. The World Bank clarified in June last that the \$3/day threshold is no longer appropriate for India. "*The relevant international poverty line for India today is the lower-middle-income (LMI) threshold of \$4.20 per person per day.*", the World Bank spokesperson said. If that threshold is considered, it would be accurate to say that 25% of the Indian population (around 35 crores) lives below the poverty line. This shift isn't academic nitpicking; it's the difference between biological survival (\$3/day) and basic human dignity (\$4.20/day), encompassing nutrition beyond starvation rations, habitable shelter, accessible healthcare, and fundamental education. By this accurate measure, the "shining India" narrative crumbles: 350 million souls are rendered invisible by statistical fiat. Even the figure in questionable as the government is

giving free ration to 80 crore people i.e. 80 crore Indians have to rely on that grant.

This manipulation extends beyond global benchmarks. The refusal to update India's national poverty line since 2011-12 is a tacit admission that current realities would shatter official claims. The disappearance of the politically toxic Rs 33/day urban line wasn't progress; it was censorship. Methodologies like the Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP), while technically refining consumption surveys, functionally artificially depress poverty estimates by capturing sporadic spending bursts while ignoring chronic vulnerability. Even the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), touted for its 11.3% headline figure, becomes a smokescreen. While MPI's decline reflects real gains in sanitation and electricity access—lifting 200 million from multidimensional deprivation—it deliberately obscures the income precarity trapping those same people. Having a toilet does not prevent a medical bill from destroying a family living on \$3.50/day. The government weaponizes these shifting metrics to manufacture consent for a failing model.

The solution is not merely "redefining the minimum standard of living." It requires dismantling of the machinery of erasure and exploitation: The World Bank's data is not a "piercing" of the narrative; it's an X-ray revealing the metastatic inequality consuming capitalist India. The 35 crore below the poverty line are not an unfortunate byproduct of growth; they are its necessary condition under the current extractive model.

To claim India is at a "crossroads" absolves the avid servitors of ruling capitalism actively driving the nation down this ruinous path. The statistical sedition—from pulling down the poverty line to boast camouflaged "success" of manufacturing sector—is not incompetence; it is part of the well-knit bourgeois propaganda machine engaged in catering doctored factsheet of fake 'economic progress' to obfuscate the reality. It is tasked to serve the ruling monopolists by lauding their plunder as progress, growing inequality as inclusive growth. Until this 'lie-producing machinery' of the power that be is dismantled, India's "growth story" would remain an enigma. The time for reimagining is over; the time for reckoning has begun.

AIUTUC demands immediate withdrawal of anti-worker Ordinance by the Gujarat government

The 'Factories (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 2025' promulgated on 1 July 2025 by the 'Labour, Skill Development and Employment Department' of the BJP-ruled Gujarat State Government followed by a Gazette Notification to amend some vital provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 is wantonly anti-worker, anti-employee and pro-employer.

The Ordinance has amended Section 54 of the principal legislation to increase maximum working hours from existing 9 hours to 12 hours a day, subject to a maximum of 48 hours in any week. The Ordinance has enabled the state government to extend the total number of hours of work from 5 to 6 hours a day at a stretch without any recess and capped total overtime work hours from 75 hours to 125 hours in a quarter. It also permits the employers to engage women workers in night shift from 7 pm to 6 am in place of existing 10 pm to 5 am subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

The above amendments will

further increase substantially the workload on the workers, tell upon their physical and mental health conditions and increase insecurity and vulnerability of the women workers to sexual abuse when rape, gangrape and outraging modesty of the women even in broad daylight are alarmingly increasing in the country. The Ordinance will enable the employers to rapidly downsize the workforce.

This Black Ordinance promulgated by the BJP ruled Gujarat Government, if not resisted with all might, will be followed in quick succession in other states too.

Denouncing the Ordinance, Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, General Secretary, AIUTUC, in a statement issued on 6 July last has called upon the working people across the country, particularly the workers of Gujarat state and all section of the common masses to build up mighty movements across the country to compel the Gujarat state government to withdraw forthwith the Black Ordinance.

A new form of administrative rigging

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give way to the apprehension of the ECI being also a caged parrot of the ruling BJP.

According to the Hindu dated 08-07-25, "the SIR in Bihar, while touted as a smooth process with significant form submissions, is riddled with contradictions and poses a serious threat to voter enfranchisement. Despite claims of progress, with a mere 11% of the estimated electorate submitting forms, conflicting statements from the ECI highlight deep-seated issues. Initially, the CEO, Bihar, through advertisements, suggested a lenient approach towards electors who did not have the stipulated 11 documents. They were told that they could submit enumeration forms to booth-level officers and provide documents later, or even get verified without mandatory documents, with verification through local investigations by Electoral Registration Officers. However, the CEC clarified that earlier orders mandating document submission by 25 July 2025, stand, with a claims and objections period from 1 August to 1 September 2025 for those who fail to comply. This shift in stance and reliance on local-level investigations for verification present inherent problems. Leaving verification to the discretion of local electoral officers increases the possibility of misuse and bias. Such an *ad hoc* approach risks wrongful inclusions or exclusions, undermining the integrity of the electoral roll. As per ECI, 35.5 lakh names have

already been deleted from the list.

Hence arises the question about the hidden agenda of the proposed move to overhaul electoral roll of Bihar. Rumors are round the corner that notwithstanding the raging controversy around the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar electoral rolls, the ECI is now preparing to launch and initiate a similar exercise in West Bengal and New Delhi sometime in August this year. So, the design is obvious. Jettison the names of the voters likely to vote against the ruling party and include names tilted towards it. Hitherto we had heard of rigging election by forced stamping of ballot papers among others booth capturing, preventing genuine voters from exercising their franchise, buying votes by giving money, using pliant media to highlight only the candidates allegiant to ruling capitalism and in most of the cases the party in power, and ensuring that the administrative machinery do not interfere in, rather abet all the malpractices to manipulate voting. But now, with this SIR, it appears that a new form of administrative rigging is being operationalized under the garb of cleansing electoral rolls and systematizing the process. This is not unexpected.

With the passage of time, election in fascist autocracy is becoming more and more a farcical exercise in blatant subversion of the elementary principles of bourgeois parliamentary democracy. The present revision of electoral rolls in Bihar is a glaring example of that.

Inauguration of Vishakhapatnam Party Office

The Inauguration of the Vishakhapatnam Party Office was held on 4 July 2025. Comrade K Sridhar, Central Committee member, inaugurated it. Comrade B S Amarnath, Central Committee member and Andhra Pradesh State Secretary, was also present on that occasion.



Act of God !

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investigated for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. But as on date, no one has been punished. On the contrary, Jaysukhbhai Patel, the main accused in the accident was felicitated at an event organized by the Patidar community in Morbi district in 2024. And the Gujarat government shed its responsibility by accusing the Oreva of hiring contractors who were “unqualified” for the job, and the repairs hving been “shoddy”. If that be so, why was the bridge opened for public knowing that on the very day there would be an excessive crowd? In any case, industrialist Jaysukh Patel was jailed in connection with the accident but had walked out of jail after a local court issued a release order, days after the Supreme Court granted him bail in March 2024.

The buck does not stop here. In poll-bound Bihar, where also the BJP shares power with its stooge JD (U), 12 bridges collapsed over two weeks, in July 2024. At least 80,000 people were affected due to the collapse of one bridge, also known as ‘Bichli Pul’. Another bridge was constructed under Mukhya Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (CM rural road scheme) in 2012. The bridge was crucial for people living in the riverine (diara) region of the area, who have no road communication for travelling to Khagaria. Navayug Engineering Company Limited which was constructing an all-weather high speed bridge over Ganga river and a span that had been installed a few months ago had also collapsed.

The incident took place near Nandani Lagunia railway station in Samastipur. The construction work was being supervised by State Road Development Corporation Limited (BSRDCL), a state government undertaking. It is alleged that the company officials were trying to bury the debris of the fallen span beneath the soil with an intention to destroy the evidence.

Thus Bihar has been plagued by a troubling pattern of bridge collapses, with a significant number occurring during the under-construction phase. This alarming trend raises serious concerns about the quality of construction practices, oversight and lack of accountability within the state’s infrastructure projects. Factors contributing to these premature collapses include substandard

materials, lack of skilled labor, desilting of rivers, corruption, and inadequate project management. The consequences of such failures are profound, leading to financial losses, delays in crucial connectivity projects, and, most importantly, potential loss of life.

The bridges are breaking down periodically, but the culprits are hardly identified and punished stringently. Only some scapegoats face some ire, but the government escapes unscathed. Who is appointing the firms and on what basis? Is there any periodic inspection of the works, not perfunctorily but genuinely, by the government officials? If after “declared” inspections and supervisions, the constructions collapse within short period, what would an onlooker apprehend other than a collusion between the contractors and the inspectors?

It bears recall that when a flyover under construction collapsed in Kolkata in 2016. PM Modi observed: “Look at the shamelessness; it was such a massive tragedy, but she (TMC chief minister of West Bengal) started a blame game,” because the contract awarded during the previous CPI (M) regime. He said that if this flyover would have been completed, the chief minister would have taken the credit.

But now that it has collapsed, she is blaming others. But does not the same logic apply to the cases of collapse of bridges in Gujarat or Bihar, or one after another major train accidents taking place at definite intervals, or the death of over 100 people in stampede in Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj? Who are to shoulder the blame for all these?

Fact is that no one wedded to the task of protecting and serving the rotten obsolete capitalist system for pelf and power can remain unscathed from corruption and allied malpractices from top to bottom. Therefore corruption is rampant in the entire administration irrespective of which bourgeois or petty-bourgeois party is in the states or at the centre, in capitalist India. No one is either free from corruption or a non-abettor of corruption and malpractices. In that respect, all the bourgeois parties and their power-monger leaders sail in the same boat. Hence, they all categorize each and every man-made disasters as “Act of God”.

AIDYO Organised School of Politics in Jaynagar

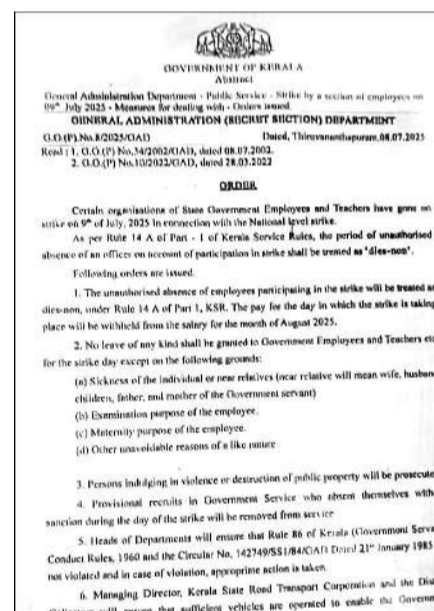


Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), addressing a school of politics organized by AIDYO, in Jaynagar, West Bengal. Comrade Chandidas Bhattacharya, Polit Bureau Member and the West Bengal State Secretary, conducted the other sessions. It was held on 28 & 29 June.



Double-stand of CPI(M) : LDF government opposed 9 July General Strike in Kerala

No, this order warning the government employees of punitive action if they had participated in the General Strike called on 9 July last by ten Central Trade Unions and supported by Sanyukta Kisan Morcha against anti-worker, anti-peasant, anti-employee policies of the central BJP government, is not of any double engine government of UP, MP, Assam, Haryana or Rajasthan. This is issued by the CPI (M)-led Kerala government which shows that there is no difference between a BJP government and a government run by pseudo-Marxists in so far as attitude towards democratic movement is concerned.



Motivated distortion of history

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seminars on the Bhagavad Gita at student induction programs in institutions like IEST Shibpur in Howrah, claim of PM Modi and his followers in the history and science congresses about ancient India having discovered aeroplane, stem cell therapy, plastic surgery and so forth, the framing of arguments based on religious obduracy and fanaticism, widespread promotion of superstitions, Hindu religious blindness, bigotry and tantric practices in films as well as on television point towards a systematic effort to blunt rational thought process, foment ignorance and blind faith are all aimed at reshaping the cultural and social landscape along Hindutva doctrine. The starkly

contrasting portrayals of Muslim rulers as cruel and licentious in films and television, juxtaposed with the glorification of Hindu kings’ heroism and greatness, further underscore this agenda. While the situation appears dire, there is a glimmer of hope in the fact that the country’s esteemed historians have already been voicing their dissent. The news of the protest by historians, including Irfan Habib, Romila Thapar and other eminent personalities along with education loving people at large against this distorted historical narrative has been reported in the press. It is now imperative for all democratic-minded citizens of the country to become aware and actively role in resisting this insidious manipulation of history.

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