

# Proletarian Era

## TRIBUTE TO GREAT MARX AND STALIN



Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), offering Red Salute to Great Marx and Great Stalin at Shibpur Party Centre, on the occasion of their death anniversaries on 14 March and 5 March respectively

## SUCI (Communist) will contest in the forthcoming Assembly elections in four states and one UT

SUCI (Communist) will contest in the ensuing Assembly elections to be held in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry. The elections will be held in April 2026.

The Party state units in these 4 states and 1 Union Territory held press conferences in their respective states to announce the names of the candidates. SUCI(C) will contest in these elections to uphold and strengthen left and democratic mass movement.

- West Bengal - 230 seats
- Assam - 42 seats
- Kerala - 34 seats
- Tamil Nadu - 4 seats
- Puducherry - 1 seat

## Large scale war of aggression on Iran by US-Israel pair poses serious threat to world peace

The air was surcharged with war tension for long. And now the war has broken out. It is not a war between two sides eager to buttress their respective narrow sectarian self-interests. It is a war of aggression, unprovoked, uncalled for. Zionist Israeli rulers in league with their big brother, US imperialism, suddenly launched a military attack on Iran. In fact, the US was engaged in indirect nuclear talks mediated by Oman in Geneva for six long hours on 26 February and there was a lot riding on those negotiations. According to

Oman's foreign minister, there was "significant progress" in high-stakes nuclear talks and the two sides planned to resume negotiations "soon" after consultations in their respective capitals, and technical-level discussions would take place in the following week in Vienna. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who led his country's delegation, also endorsed that view. As per Iranian state media, negotiators insisted that Iran had the right to peaceful nuclear energy and rejected US demands to completely stop the enrichment of uranium in Iranian territory and to transfer its stockpile of 400kg (880lb) of enriched uranium out of the

country. But Iranian officials are believed to have offered concessions, although the proposals were not made public.

### US-Israel triggered the war

But then suddenly, on 28 February 2026, Israel and US began a series of aerial strikes against Iran targeting the country's leadership, security forces and nuclear programme and missile sites. They said they aimed to induce regime change in Iran and to address concerns regarding its nuclear programme. Apart from the targeted killing of the top leadership including Ayatollah Ali Khomeini,

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## Lenin's epoch-making struggle against revisionism-reformism

### Comrade Provash Ghosh on Lenin Memorial Day

[On the occasion of 102<sup>nd</sup> death anniversary of Great Lenin, the architect of first proletarian revolution and socialist state, a meeting was organized by the West Bengal State Committee at Birendra Krishna Bhawan, Kolkata, on 21 January 2026. In that meeting, presided over by Comrade Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay, member of the State Committee, Comrade Provash Ghosh, our beloved General Secretary, was the main speaker. First instalment of that speech is reproduced below, Comrade Provash Ghosh has edited this before publication.

Responsibility of translation error or inadequate expression, if any, lies with the Editorial team of Proletarian Era.]

### Dear comrades and friends,

Today we have assembled here to pay homage to Great Lenin and recollect his invaluable revolutionary teachings.

As a student of leaders of world communist movement like Great Stalin, Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh, based on whatever I could learn from them, I will say a few words about great Lenin. If one wants to understand Lenin, one must understand the essence of a historic observation of his. I am telling that in my own words.

Throughout history, those who strove for the liberation of humanity have been subjected to oppression, repression, torture and persecution by the exploiting classes. Some of them were even killed. The exploiting classes spread canards against them and distorted their views. But after the demise of those great leaders, when people were highly inspired by their life and teachings these very exploiters cunningly praised them, glorified them with a view to deceiving, confusing and distracting the masses. Lenin said that the same thing happened with great Marx also. During his lifetime, the

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## Countrywide protest against monstrous attack of US and Israel on Iran



Delhi



Kolkata



Kozhikode (More photos on P 8)

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bourgeoisie expelled Marx driving him away from one country to another country, and carried out malicious propaganda against him. But after Marx's death, when the influence of Marxism began to spread increasingly among the working class, the bourgeois thinkers began to praise him. At the same time they distorted Marx's thoughts. Pseudo-Marxists also twisted Marx's teachings and tried to strip Marxism of its essence. Lenin said that the essence, the inner kernel of Marxism has to be revived and re-established. Lenin not only wholly dedicated himself to perform that task, he further developed Marxism to fit with the times by correct as well as concrete application of Marxian science in the concrete obtaining situation, thereby developed and enriched Marxism with several new contributions in the theoretical field.

That is why his worthy successor, and great leader Stalin rightly said: "*Leninism is Marxism in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. To be more exact, Leninism is the theory and tactics of the proletarian revolution in general, the theory and tactics of the dictatorship of the proletariat in particular.*" (Concerning questions of Leninism) Armed with the weapon of Marxism Leninism, the workers and oppressed people established exploitation free socialist societies in Russia, China and Eastern Europe, and a powerful communist movement surged forth round the globe.

### **Lenin saved Marxism from distortion**

I am not entering into the details of Lenin's life today. But I shall dwell on some of the theoretical developments that he contributed to the treasure house of Marxism. It was Marx who was first to bring to the fore what is the philosophical understanding of dialectical materialism by fighting Hegel's dialectical idealism, Kant's agnosticism and Feuerbach's humanism. He showed that the idea of 'utopian socialism' propounded by Saint-Simon and Charles Fourier was flawed, whereas the concept of scientific socialism based on dialectical materialism was the correct one. Pointing out the limitations of Adam Smith and David Ricardo's classical political economy, he proved that the capitalists earn profit only by depriving the worker of his legitimate due. The worker produces commodity by expending labour. But he is not paid wage equal to the value he so creates. The unpaid labour or the 'surplus value' i.e. the new value created by workers in excess of their own labour-cost is expropriated by the capitalist as profit. So, profit is 'expropriation of surplus value'.

## **Lenin developed Marxism to fit with the times**

The worker, by giving his labour to produce commodities, creates surplus value; a small part of it he receives as wages, and the rest the capitalist appropriates as profit. Thus, great Marx and his comrade-in-arms great Engels had unravelled the ruthless character of capitalist exploitation. Marx also said that because of this exploitation, capitalism would inevitably be stricken with severe insoluble crisis. He also predicted that the working class would overthrow capitalism and establish a society free from exploitation. They also discovered the law of social development. Based on that, Marxism appeared in the history of development of mankind as the weapon to conduct struggle for establishing exploitation-free classless society.

After the demise of Marx, the influence of the Second International formed under the leadership of Engels spread extensively round the world. But at one point of time, Lenin found that the Second International was distorting Marxism. Lenin's struggle all along was to spearhead intense ideological battle against such distortion and place before the world the correct understanding of Marxism. Had not Lenin conducted this struggle in right earnest, Soviet Revolution would not have achieved success. Soviet socialism would not have been established. We would not be able to have a glimpse of exploitation-free socialist society as an alternative to oppressive capitalism. And if Lenin had not done that, we would not have got great Stalin, Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh as his worthy successors. They all understood Marxism being imbued with the teachings of Lenin and accordingly conducted proletarian revolutionary movement.

### **Lenin's initiation to revolutionary movement**

As Kshudiram in our country had embraced martyrdom in course of his attempt to kill an oppressive British official, so was the aim of Sasha, Lenin's elder brother to assassinate repressive ruler Czar. They had a group known as Narodniks. It was like the various revolutionary organizations which grew during the days of our freedom movement. In accordance with the plan of the Narodnik group, Lenin's elder brother tried to kill the Russian emperor Second Czar. But he was unsuccessful, held in captivity by the Czar regime and hanged. Lenin then was in his teens. But this martyrdom of Sasha created a deep imprint on his mind. He could realize that this path of individual assassination would not beget the desired emancipation.

Then what is the correct way? That was to be searched out. In course of that searching, he got some books of Marx and Engels. When he was a student of Kazan university, he was just 17 year old. At that time, he was arrested for taking part in an anti-Czar demonstration. He was detained in a small village for quite some time. During detention, he meticulously studied the books of Marx and Engels which he could manage to collect. Then he came to a town called Samara. There he formed first a Marxist study group. At that time, such small study groups had been started in many parts of Russia. Lenin could realize that if such study groups remained isolated, the desired goal would not be achieved. Those are to be integrated. When he was 25, he united all these study groups and created "League of struggle for emancipation of the working class" in ST. Petersburg, the then capital of Russia. Later he said that this organization was an embryo of a proletarian revolutionary party. This was how he was initiated into revolutionary movement. In other words, this was how he took initiative in developing a revolutionary organization. Thereafter, he moved out of the country and published a paper titled Iskra to propagate Marxism amongst the various isolated groups engaged in cultivation of Marxism. Because such was not possible in the strict Czarist regime. His struggle then was to reach out to the masses and acquaint them with the ideology of Marxism. Such initiatives in his early life were the stepping stones towards his progress as a revolutionary leader in the later period.

### **Lenin showed the features of capitalism in agriculture**

Narodniks were of the opinion that since the workers were few in numbers in the then underdeveloped country like Russia, it would be the peasants who would organize anti-Czar revolution. Lenin refuted such a flawed understanding by conducting ideological struggle against them. There was another group known as 'the economists'. They argued that the workers would not join politics but should focus primarily on improving their immediate economic conditions—such as higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions—through strikes and union activities. It would be the middle class who would be in politics. Lenin had fight them also theoretically. When he was conducting revolutionary movement in St Petersburg, he guided the workers' strike ideologically and politically. At that time, he was once again arrested

and jailed for a long time. Then he was sent into exile to Siberia for three years. During his exile in the villages, he came across the miserable life condition of the peasants. He mixed with them intimately and involved them in political discussions. In the same way, he mixed with the workers in St Petersburg, tried to understand their problems and bent of mind, and propagated revolutionary thoughts among them. His fundamental contribution to the treasure house of Marxism was the book "Development of Capitalism in Russia" which he authored during his exile in Siberia. In this book, he showed how capitalism was penetrating not only in industry but also in Russian agriculture. In this book, he also showed the features which indicate penetration of capitalism in agriculture.

In feudalism, land was neither sold nor purchased. The very feature of land having assumed the character of a purchasable commodity denoted penetration of capitalism. He pointed out that earlier it was a self-sufficient rural economy meaning that the agricultural produce of a particular village was consumed there only. Similarly, agricultural produce has become a commodity of the national market. Also, a section of the people are working as labourers in agriculture. They are not serfs but agricultural workers who give their labour in exchange for wage.

The features of capitalism in agriculture are:

- i) Establishment of individual ownership on land and concentration of land more and more in the hands of a few super-rich
- ii) Transformation of poor peasants into landless labourers because of loss of arable land they hitherto possessed and
- iii) Agricultural produce as well as land are becoming commodities of the capitalist national market

No one could show this before Lenin. Later, he also showed that in developed capitalist economies like Germany, France and America, too, remnants of feudalism were still in existence.

His ideological struggle against the Narodniks, the Economists, the publication of Iskra for spreading Marxism in Russia, and the theory of development of capitalism in Russia—all these prove how deep was his understanding of Marxist philosophy at that age.

### **Criteria for becoming party member**

Plekhanov was first to translate works of Marx and Engels in Russia and propagate Marxism in Russia. Lenin during the early days considered him as his teacher. At the initiative of Plekhanov, the Russian

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# India's asymmetric Trade Pact with US will prove disastrous for toiling Indians

In August last year, the US imposed a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, followed by an additional 25 per cent levy linked to India's continued purchase of Russian crude oil. The Trump administration argued that its tariffs would promote domestic manufacturing, protect national security, and substitute for federal income taxes. US hitherto was having a trade deficit with India to the tune of \$45.6 billion in 2024. It means that while US imports from India was \$129 billion, its exports to India was \$83.4 billion. This was as on 2024. In other words, the US imported goods worth \$45.6 billion more from India than what India imported from it. As we know, US imperialist administration, besides flexing military muscle, also uses draconian economic sanctions to bully other states into submission. It had, of late, found that such trade deficit with India was inherently harmful for its economy. Moreover, consequent to US war machinations in the Middle-East, a big reservoir of oil, India switched to Russia for importing crude at a much cheaper price. And this transaction is either in rupees or rubles, not dollars. So, dollar is affected. That is what irked US administration. So, President Trump, whom the Indian BJP Prime Minister has hitherto viewed as a close friend, unilaterally raised tariff on Indian imports to 25%. And then, in early August US announced that if India did not desist from procuring oil from Russia, an additional tariff of 25% tariff would be imposed on it. In effect the total levies would be as high as to 50%.

## Subsequent developments

Visibly rattled, the BJP-led central government, under instructions from its masters, the ruling Indian monopolists, began hectic parleys with US authorities with a view to lowering such hefty tariff that was destined to virtually inhibit export of Indian goods to US. Though PM Modi stayed away from any bipartite negotiation, two of his key cabinet ministers were deputed to settle the issue with US. After several rounds of discussions, both US and India released a joint statement that they have reached a framework for an Interim Agreement regarding reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade. The framework, as stated, reaffirms the countries' commitment to the broader US-India Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) negotiations, launched by President Trump and

PM Modi on 13 February 2025. BTA will include additional market access commitments and support more resilient supply chains.

Nicely worded no doubt! But what is the reality? India has reportedly agreed to either eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US agricultural and food products. In reciprocation, US would bring down the import tariff to 18%. The statement does not quantify India's commitment except saying, "*India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US goods*". That leaves scope for assuming that there could be an assurance of zero tariff on some (as yet publicly unspecified) US products from day one.

## Effect on tariff structure

The average tariff rate imposed by India on US imports was 17 per cent, and for agricultural products it was 39 per cent. This high tariff on US goods would come down substantially, if not to zero in some cases if the current negotiation! framework is implemented. This will virtually open the floodgates for US products in India's market. On the other hand, average tariff imposed on Indian products exported to the US market was as low as 3.3% and trade-weighted average tariff turned out to be 2.2%. In other words, hitherto applicable rate of tariff around 2-3 %, is now increased to 18%.

Further, India has expressed its intention (read committed) to purchase around USD 500 billion worth of US goods over the next five years. One wonders how can a country give an omnibus commitment to buy goods at the rate of USD 100 billion each year, unless there is some compulsion, economic or political? The BJP government is celebrating an 18% US tariff rate on the Indian export. But it is comparing the latest tariff with the pre-deal 50% tariff rate as a reference point instead of the near-zero tariff regime which prevailed before Trump became president for the second time. What is noteworthy is that the US is India's biggest trading partner accounting 17% of India's merchandise trade while India's share in US merchandise imports is 2.8 to 3%. Hence the dependence of India's exports on the US market is relatively greater than dependence of US exports on Indian market. Now, with the new deal, India's import bill from US will end up increasing substantially in a bid to appease the US. Also, benefit of saving in export bill because of lowered tariff, if any, does not

accrue to the common people but swells the coffer of the monopoly houses.

## Russian oil issue

An important and direct conditionality has been tying India down to being "monitored" over its purchase of Russian oil. One does not know how Russia will view this move by India. Fact is that in 2019 itself, India had agreed not to buy Iranian and Venezuelan oil, due to US sanctions. At its peak, India was importing around 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude. Since December, that has been slashed to around 1 million bpd in December and January last. That is still around 30 % of India's total purchases. It is to be seen if India will be forced to stop its huge purchases of Russian crude oil, or will it find a way to keep the tap partially open? This aspect is not featuring in the joint statement. Nor has India said that it would not buy oil from Russia. Even Russia has not given any indication that its oil export to India would dip. It is only presumed that India has given some commitment to stop direct or indirect imports of Russian oil and procure Venezuelan oil through US at a higher price.

Pertinent to mention that while commenting on the deal, US President Trump has said: "*If the Secretary of Commerce finds that India has started directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil... (it) shall recommend whether and to what extent I should take additional action as to India, including whether I should reimpose the additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25 per cent on import of articles of India.*" There is indeed a suppressed threat, but nothing is on paper. However, in view of its war on Iran which entailed closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key conduit for India and purportedly responsible for 40% of its crude supply, US has authorized the sale of Russian oil to India for a period of 30 days from 6 March 2026. However, US Treasury Secretary hastened to add that the US expects India to hike US oil purchase. In fine, the framework deal is no doubt heavily tilted in favour of the US and the asymmetry is obvious.

## Changes in bilateral trade

The pact also has other ramifications. As already stated, India enjoys a trade surplus of about USD 45 billion. With operationalization of the new agreement, India's trade surplus with US would effectively be wiped

out and replace it with a growing trade deficit. This deal does not even have reciprocity because US will charge an 18% import tariff on India's exports, and India will give low single-digit tariffs to the US. The truth is India may have got 1 or 2 % lower import tariff in the US and nothing more. The fact is, no East Asian country has offered to dilute its trade surplus with the US like what India has done.

## Opening agricultural market to US is disastrous for Indian peasants

US agriculture is heavily subsidized and controlled by giant agro-multinationals. For long, US had been trying to make forays into Indian agricultural market in a big way and India was resisting that in the global forums like WTO. India had consistently argued on international platforms that agriculture in developing countries cannot be treated like any other tradable commodity. But now that resistance has gone. Hitherto, India was primarily importing tree nuts (almonds, pistachios, walnuts), cotton, and soybean oil from the US. Now a wide range of agricultural produce from US will flood Indian market.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who was associated in negotiation with US, in his press brief assured that India's agriculture sector is fully protected. He assured that the new India-US trade deal will not hurt Indian farmers, dairy producers or rural jobs. But all such words fly in the face of the confident assertion by the US that it will wipe out its agri-trade deficit with India. Fact is that India has agreed to "*eliminate or reduce tariffs on a wide range of US food and agricultural products, including red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products*". That is the reason Brooke Rollins, the US Agriculture Secretary, confidently stated that India's offer to open up its agri-sector will help America wipe out its trade deficit of USD 1.3 billion with India in the agriculture sector. And huge money would flow in US agricultural sector. Yes, money would fly from Indian Public exchequer. Will that go to US farmers? No. It would flow to the giant US agro-multinationals. So, money from India's public exchequer would enter into the pockets of US agro-giants.

If relatively cheaper

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agricultural products from US are available in India, Indian produce would face steep competition which would compel the Indian peasants to resort to more and more distress sale of their crops. Who will gain? The Indian monopolists like Adani-owned AWL Agri and Ambani-owned Reliance Jio Mart.

### **Reiteration of anti-peasant pro-corporate agro-policy of Indian government**

In fact, the BJP government brought four Black Farm Acts in 2020 which was purported to hand over the agricultural sector to the monopolist giants and multi-nationals on a silver platter. At that time also, the Indian government had tuned up its propaganda machine to hype the so called “benefits and happiness” its new farm laws would ensure for the farmers. But the peasants refused to be deceived by such sweet-coated words. Finally, under pressure of the heroic struggle and self-sacrifice of the peasants, and supported by all sections of the toiling people across the country, for over one long year which saw over 750 lives lost, the BJP Government had been forced to announce repeal of the three anti-peasant pro-corporate Laws.

Now, the same logic is being reiterated in justification of widely opening up Indian market to US agro-giants. Indian authorities claim that reduced tariff would benefit Indians. Which Indians? The common peasants and ordinary suffering people? No, not at all. The powerful agro-syndicates of India would buy that stuff at lower price, add its profit margin to it and then sell the same in the retail market at higher cost.

For example, for a long time, oil prices in international market was hovering around US \$65-70 per barrel. The Indian government was also procuring Russian oil at a steeply discounted rates, dropping as low as \$35 per barrel when international Brent crude price was \$65 per barrel. But has that benefit been passed on to the people? No. Instead, the government usurped the benefit by way of levying very high tax. On the other hand, Reliance Industries owned by Ambani

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the Supreme Iranian leader, the strikes caused both military and civilian casualties in Iran. In response, Iran had launched a series of counter-strikes against Israel and US military bases in the region, and military and civilian locations in Arab states that house US forces. And thus, a full-fledged war ensued setting all of the Middle East on fire. It bears recall that under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, the threat or use

## **India concedes to US terms to remain aligned with it**

significantly increased purchases of discounted Russian oil, buying approximately \$33 billion worth since February 2022. What did it do with that oil? Was it sold in the domestic market? Practically no. Instead, it exported most of the refined oil and had seen significant revenue inflow of over \$85 billion from February 2023 to mid-2025. Just the other day, India allowed British apples to be imported in India. Immediately, the apple-growers of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Himachal Pradesh complained that they are being ousted from the market. But has the price of apples in retail market come down? No. This is the hard truth.

### **Indian agriculture differs from US agriculture**

In US, agriculture is primarily a source of income and profit for large corporations and business houses that enjoy heavy clout within the governance system. But in India, in contrast, agriculture rests to a large extent on small landholdings, unpaid family labour, seasonal uncertainty and cultural continuity. For farmers, their fields are as precious as the birth of a son. Oxen, cows and buffaloes are not merely sources of sustenance; they form part of an emotionally-connected and fragile ecosystem and social bonds. If agricultural market in India is liberalized, Price signals (change in the price of goods or services that communicates information to consumers and producers, indicating that supply or demand should be adjusted) as held by many experts, are bound to collapse. For a small farmer, even a modest price dip can determine whether a daughter or son goes to school, or whether a loan is rolled over once again. Such realities regrettably never find space in trade negotiations amidst capitalist-imperialist countries who see everything through the lens of profit maximization of the giant corporates and multi-nationals. It goes without saying that following the trade pact, the condition of Indian peasants will deteriorate

further, if not brought to precipice of ruination. This is bare and simple economic coercion masquerading as trade policy.

### **Impact on other sectors**

Indian authorities are optimistic that the tariff cut is expected to significantly benefit labour-intensive Indian industries such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, plastics, rubber goods, organic chemicals, home décor, handicrafts and select machinery. But is that the case? Just take one example. The US hitherto accounted for roughly 30% of India's textile exports, worth \$10–11 billion annually. A new US–Bangladesh trade arrangement reportedly grants zero tariffs on garments made using US cotton. This gives Bangladeshi exporters a decisive advantage over Indian exporters, who still face an 18% tariff. India exports \$4–4.5 billion of cotton and yarn to Bangladesh. If Bangladesh shifts to US cotton to qualify for duty-free access, Indian cotton exports could collapse. Major textile hubs such as Ludhiana and Tiruppur, which employ hundreds of thousands of workers, could face severe order losses, layoffs, and factory closures. Cotton farmers, small mills, and textile workers will bear the brunt. This is not a level playing field. It is structural displacement.

### **Question of sovereignty**

A section of the observers are saying that by agreeing to such asymmetric trade pact, India has compromised with its sovereignty. Such conclusion is not correct. It is a business deal between two imperialist countries, one being more powerful than the other. India, for example, entered into a trade agreement with European Union. India is also member of BRICS alliance which comprises both Russia and China. China, incidentally, remains a top trading partner of India, with 2025 bilateral trade hitting a record \$155.6 billion. So, in the context of acute insoluble global market crisis coupled with imperialist-imperialist contradiction

over grab of market, this is an independent trade pact of Indian imperialist state marked by a retreat in the context of a given particular economic-political situation to protect its class interest. Hence, the question of surrendering sovereignty does not arise at all.

It bears recall that when a controversy arose as to whether economic dependence of a country on another means the former's political subjugation to the latter, great Lenin ridiculed that view as a puerile attempt to be clever without having the slightest bearing on the subject. He then added: “*Not only small states, but even Russia, for example, is entirely dependent, economically, on the power of the imperialist finance capital of the “rich” bourgeois countries. Not only the miniature Balkan states, but even nineteenth-century America was, economically, a colony of Europe... that has nothing whatever to do with the question of ...the national state*”. Hope this is enough to rebut such a flawed view.

### **Why Indian government yielded to US dictates**

Pertinent question is why did India yield to such tall orders of US? Surely, uninterrupted trade with US is one compulsion. But more is the political compulsion. As we have said times without number, ruling Indian monopolists want to emerge as a formidable superpower not just in Asia but the world. Its main competitor is China, now a powerful imperialist force after counter-revolution. For that, it needs backing of US. Hence PM Modi as apostle of ruling Indian capitalism has been trying utmost to curry favour with US even if that warrants stooping to sickening sycophancy. On the other hand, neither Russia nor European powers are considered to be dependable ally in so far as fulfilment of the aspiration of the Indian monopolists to attain the status of a global superpower is concerned. The oft-repeated objective of becoming a US\$ 4 trillion economy is aligned with that aspiration. So, to appease US by agreeing to some of its terms has become imperative. This is the crux of the whole issue.

## **Iran is targeted for not bending before US dictates**

of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state is prohibited. The only recognized exceptions are (1) Security Council authorization under Chapter VII, and (2) self-defence under Article 51 in response to an armed attack. But this time, the Security Council did not invoke Article 51 to give a free pass to US

for resorting to force without UN authorization. Secretary-General António Guterres, who generally prefers to minimize friction with the Council's veto-wielding powers, noted that opportunities for diplomacy with Iran over its nuclear programme had been “squandered”. While addressing the Security Council meeting, Guterres

called out what he said was a “blatant act of aggression” by the US and Israel against Iran. He said it was an “illegal violation” of the UN charter. But at the same time, he also condemned the retaliatory actions by Iran, as if Iran has no right to defend its security and sovereignty. It once again shows that UN has virtually become a rubber of stamp of war-monger US. As on date, the war is escalating

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## Joint Statement of the Communist Parties of Iran, Israel and United States of America

After the attack of Israel and USA on Iran, the Communist Parties of Iran, Israel, and USA, TUDEH, CPI, and CPUSA, respectively, in a joint statement on March 6, inter alia said:

The war of aggression launched by the Netanyahu criminal government and the United States Imperialism in the early hours of Saturday morning against Iran has ignited a full-scale war and dragged the region and its peoples towards more disasters and civilian casualties – all in the service of imperialist interests, against the interests of peoples, their independence and their right to self-determination in an effort to dominate and control the region and the world.

The Trump Administration's declaration of its intention to "regime change" in a sovereign country in the region and elsewhere in the Latin American continent is a

gross trampling on the sovereignty and dignity of peoples and a dismantling of the meaning of the existence of international law and all previously established norms, even if they are not often for the benefit of the peoples, and it is a danger that grows with every war and aggression of the United States and Israel.

The experiences of the peoples in Palestine, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan, Lebanon and in every country in the southern half of the globe facing colonialism and imperialism cannot be overlooked – true liberation and salvation from reactionary and authoritarian regimes and their change can only come with the action of the people and patriotic leadership – not from Washington or Tel Aviv.

We reiterate that this attack on Iran and the Iranian people is the prelude to total domination over the rest of the countries of the region, a

plan that the Israeli government and the US administration do not hesitate to disclose, and we also affirm that this US-Israeli imperialist military aggression, not only does not herald Iran's liberation from the yoke of tyranny and the current dictatorship, but is also an attempt to destroy Iran as a capable regional state, and to replace the current government with a subordinate and authoritarian regime that has previously announced its program to bloodily suppress its opponents.

As internationalist communist parties, we call upon all forces seeking true liberation from the regimes of exploitation and oppression in each of our countries, as well as the peace-loving and progress-loving forces in the world, to unite their efforts with all their force in these critical and decisive moments in order to struggle against the governments of war and aggression.

## AIECA urges Central government to withdraw proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025

The All-India Electricity Consumers Association (AIECA), representing a broad spectrum of electricity consumers across the nation, has in a letter to the Union Power Minister on 8 March 2026 expressed deep concern for and strong opposition to the Government's reported move to introduce the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 during the current Budget Session of Parliament. The AIECA pointed out that the provisions of this Bill are out and out anti-consumer. Under the guise of ensuring "financial viability," the Bill effectively seeks to dismantle the public utility character of the power sector,

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## Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thought created a huge impact at the National Convention of the Frontline Socialist Party of Sri Lanka

A two-member delegation of SUCI (C) participated in the 4th National Convention of the Frontline Socialist Party (FLSP), a Marxist party in Sri Lanka, with the call to 'Strengthen the Class Party to Strengthen the Class'.

On 1 March, Comrade Kumar Gunaratna, General Secretary of the Front Line Socialist Party, spoke at the Opening Session of the convention held at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo, following a well-organized 'anti-war march' attended by left-wing student youth activists from Sri Lanka and the international delegates.

In his speech, Comrade Gunaratna congratulated the invited leftist representatives from home and abroad and called for the formation of the mass-committee - 'People's Council' to give birth to the political power of the people as an essential part of building the revolutionary mass movement. He reminded the need for 'professional revolutionaries' in a revolutionary party and the indispensable struggle of the leaders, rank and file to achieve proletarian culture.

Comrade Subhas Dasgupta, Member of the Central Committee of SUCI (C) and leader of the delegation, on behalf of the struggling people of India and SUCI (C), congratulated the working class people of Sri Lanka and their



frontline force, the Frontline Socialist Party. He said that at present, world imperialism-capitalism is plunged in an unprecedented crisis. Like you, our Party is also building up class and mass struggles against ruling Indian capitalism. Drawing upon the teachings of eminent Marxist thinker Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Dasgupta said that in the present international scenario, the real responsibility has fallen on the Left and Communist parties. To be able to fulfill this responsibility, it is the need of the hour to increase the organizational strength of the revolutionary party on the basis of communist character, communist culture and communist way of life through intense ideological struggle. Leaders and workers of a genuine revolutionary party cannot avoid the struggle covering all aspects of life for acquiring a higher proletarian character.

Addressing a huge gathering of 5 thousand people, Comrade

Dasgupta highlighted the invaluable teachings of the great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, " 'We want revolution', that alone cannot be revolutionary consciousness, true revolutionary consciousness is the true proletarian consciousness. And the true proletarian consciousness is the true proletarian party consciousness.'

When Comrade Subhas Dasgupta was saying this, there was a pindrop silence in the stadium. The entire audience listened to Comrade Subhas Dasgupta in rapt attention and were deeply moved as well as inspired by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. They seem to find their desired expression in the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. At the end of the speech, the party handed over the great red flag and a memento with the photo and quotation of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to the Frontline Socialist Party General Secretary and prominent leftist leader of Sri

Lanka, Comrade Kumar Gunaratna, as a symbol of revolutionary fraternity.

When Comrade Gunaratna held high the memento in one hand and the red flag along with Comrade Subhas Dasgupta in other hand, the entire audience applauded them with deep emotion.

Presentation by the SUCI (C) delegates highly inspired the delegates.

Various left-wing parties and organizations from India, Bangladesh, Nepal from the Indian subcontinent as well as Europe and Latin America attended the Convention and gave their speeches. Germany's MLPD, Turkey's MLKP, Bangladesh's BASAD (Marxist), Argentina's Revolutionary Communist Party, Italy's Lotta Comunista and Sri Lanka's New Democratic Marxist-Leninist Party participated in the Convention. Comrade Jaydeep Bhattacharya, leader of the Central Committee of BASAD (Marxist), touched the hearts of the audience, especially when he said that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teachings had played a vital role in the formation of their party.

The convention which was very important in strengthening struggling leftist movement in South Asia concluded with rendition of the *Internationale* in Sinhalese, Tamil and English.

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Social-democratic Labour Party (RSDLP) was formed, and its First Congress was held. Lenin could not attend the same as he was in exile in Siberia. The Second Congress of RSDLP was organized in London in 1903. There was a difference of opinion at this Congress between Lenin and others over the question of who should become party members. Based on this difference, the RSDLP was divided into two groups, the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks. Lenin held only those who would abide by the principles of the Party, pay membership fee, abide by its discipline and undertake daily party activities by joining any organization of the Party. The Mensheviks agreed with the first two conditions but not the others. They said these conditions were not necessary. Lenin argued that no genuine disciplined revolutionary party of the proletariat can develop without those conditions. On this question, RSDLP was divided. Bolshevik meant majority and the Menshevik, minority. At that time Lenin outlined the condition of becoming a party member and continued his struggle for acceptance of that by others. RSDLP was like a platform in which both the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks were present. Those who were followers of Lenin were called Bolsheviks whom he reared and steered as Marxist revolutionaries. On the other hand, the Mensheviks were compromising petty-bourgeois forces.

### **Lenin identified the imperialist character of capitalism**

When the First World War had broken out, a serious difference of opinion arose between Lenin and other leaders of the Second International on what should be the role played by a working class party. On the eve of that World War, Lenin was first to present before the world, based on Marxist methodology of analysis, what was imperialism and at what stage of capitalism did it evolve. He pointed out that capitalism has two stages. The first stage was, the days of advent of capitalism by overthrowing feudalism and monarchy. At that stage, capitalism was progressive and conducive to social progress. At that stage, we find the widespread prevalence of small capital. There was free competition among them. Based on that, multi-party democracy had been established. But at a particular phase of development of capitalism, a few capitalists beat the others in competition and turned into monopoly capitalists. Monopoly capitalism is the second stage of capitalism. For example, the Tata group which acquired monopoly character in India owned steel plants, industrial production units, coal mines and many such other industries. This is

## **Lenin showed present era is era of imperialism and proletarian revolution**

monopoly. Small capital being unable to cope with the competition has now turned marginal. Somehow it is holding on to its existence. Some of the small capitals are perishing. Some are trying to raise their heads in different forms. Thus, small capital is devastated by the attack of monopoly capital.

There is another feature observed at the monopoly stage. Earlier banks used to collect deposits from the people, gave that money to the capitalists on loan and paid interest to the depositors out of earning from those loans. The banking capital and industrial capital were separate. But at the stage of monopoly, there was coalescence of banking capital and monopoly capital to give rise to a financial oligarchy. Concentration of capital had taken place. Alongside was created finance capital. This is the second feature of monopoly. The third stage was export of capital, as against export of commodities, to foreign lands for exploitation of raw material and cheap labour in the destination countries. Fourth stage was of controlling the world market among the monopolists of different countries by way of creating international trusts and cartels. Fifth characteristic was of dividing the global market by the imperialist countries among them.

### **What will be the role of working class during imperialist war**

While pointing out these characteristics of imperialism, Lenin showed that war today is nothing but a war of capturing market by the imperialist powers, a battle for seizing increased market share for loot and plunder. It was decided in the Congress of the Second International held in Basel city of Switzerland that if the imperialist countries are locked in war, the working class of the respective warring countries would fight against the rulers of the respective countries. The working class of one country would not take up guns against their brethren of another country. Workers of both the countries are wage slaves to respective imperialist rulers. They would not kill each other. This was known as Basel Manifesto. Decision of the Copenhagen (Denmark) summit of the Second International was also the same. While the imperialists were busy in waging war against each other for division and redivision of their domains of loot and plunder, the working class of each country would seize the opportunity to develop revolutionary movement against the imperialists-capitalists of their own respective countries, launch civil wars and accomplish revolution. Such was the decision.

But when the First World War had commenced, most of the leaders of the Second International opined that no, the workers of each country would stand by the bourgeois rulers of their respective countries and protect their own countries. In other words, they would take position in support of the ruling imperialists of their respective countries. Lenin strongly opposed this and said that they were violating the decisions of the previous conferences. This could not be allowed. But the supporters of Lenin were reduced to minority. So, Lenin called the leaders of the Second International traitors. He held that the leaders of the Second International had deviated from Marxism and had been treacherous towards the cause of the proletariats and proletarian internationalism. From the very outbreak of the war, Lenin began to muster forces for the creation of a new International, the Third International. In 1915 the first conference of internationalists was held in Zimmerwald in Switzerland. Even though many of Lenin's demands were not accepted, Lenin called this conference the "first step" in the development of an international movement against the war.

What was the cause behind such a degeneration of the leaders of the Second International? The imperialists were then plundering the colonies and semi-colonies to the hilt. Out of that plundered wealth, they were giving away a portion to the working class of their respective countries as increased wage, and so purchasing the vulnerable working class and also their leaders by bribing them and thereby dampening their resentment and protest. Lenin said that the leaders of the Second International were representatives of such working class leaders who had been purchased with bribes against revolution. This was how Lenin had to fight to uphold the revolutionary line both in and outside the country.

### **Formation of the Soviets**

Prior to all these, in 1905, a popular uprising against the Czarist government began under the leadership of the proletariat with the aim of achieving a democratic republic. That uprising was propelled by a protest movement by the working class. Gapon, a Christian priest, played a treacherous role. He misdirected the workers with the assurance that the Czar was noble and if the workers appealed to him, he would accede to all their demands. Gapon said he would take the workers to him. The workers fell into this trap and proceeded towards the Czar's palace in a rally. But the soldiers of the Czar opened

indiscriminate fire, raining bullets on them. Several thousand people fell to the Czar's bullet. That particular day, 9 January 1905, is known in history as 'Bloody Sunday'. It created a wave of protests in Russia. There was an upsurge of strikes, with strikes after strikes organized in countless places. The workers constituted struggle committees in various factories. These committees were known as Soviets. Such Soviets spread across the entire country. Some Soviets were formed even among the armed forces. But the Bolsheviks then did not have enough organizational strength to provide leadership to these soviets. This revolution continued throughout 1905-06. It spread to many provinces. The Czar ruthlessly suppressed the uprising with the help of military. Lenin said that necessary lessons were to be drawn from this failed revolution, which he called a dress rehearsal of ensuing proletarian revolution. In course of this upheaval, the Russian workers and people received training for accomplishing revolution in the coming days. On the other hand, the oppression and repression of the Czarist regime assumed a most ruthless character. Being terrified and out of frustration, many within the RSDLP disassociated themselves from the mass struggles. Regarding this, there is famous observation of Lenin. He said that when there is a tide of revolution, many come forward and join the struggle for earning name, fame and building political career. But the real test arises when the revolutionary movement faces a serious crisis, at that time it becomes clear who is a genuine revolutionary and who is a fake. Thus, he left a valuable teachings for all of us. When the party is progressing and enjoying a position of prestige and influence, many flock around it. But when the party falls into a crisis situation, and is faced with danger, those who hold the fort are the genuine revolutionaries. That is the test of the revolutionaries.

### **In reply to some philosophical muddles**

When Russia was passing through a state of despondency, a new attack against Marxism ensued. Bazarov, Bogdanov, Mach, Avenarius and some others began to propagate empirio-criticism and positivism. They held that what human beings experience through the sense organs is alone real or reality, effectively questioning or denying the existence of an objective reality independent of human perception. Refuting them, Lenin showed that the "material world

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exists independent of human consciousness". Sensation is not the origin of knowledge but the medium between the human consciousness and the external world, produced by the action of matter in motion upon our sense organs. Origin of knowledge is the material world. As an example, he said that Alizarin was inherently embedded in coal tar before we discovered it through our sense organs. In his celebrated work, *Materialism and Empirio-Criticism*, he rebutted many other wrong philosophical propositions and established the correctness of Marxism. In the sphere of science, he fought another erroneous thought following the scientific discoveries concerning the mass and velocity of the electron. The mass of the

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inflicting extensive casualties both in military and civilian sectors. However, Iran has tendered apology to its neighbouring middle-east countries for suffering some casualties for its retaliatory missile and drone attack in the US bases situated there and promised no further military action on any of those territories unless there is any attack from any of them.

#### **Second attack by US on Iran in six months**

For the second time in eight months, Israel and the US bombed Iran even as diplomatic negotiations were going on. US had earlier attacked Iranian nuclear and military sites in June 2025 in a war which lasted for 12 days. This time, Iran in the ongoing negotiations had made great concessions and was reportedly on the verge of even promising that it would abstain for good from building nuclear weapons : and just at such a juncture US started a so called pre-emptive war. So, taking part in a bipartite talk was camouflage. The real intention was to make Iran completely surrender to US whims and hence has been the attack.

#### **Why is Iran targeted?**

It can be noticed that immediately after launching a war of aggression against Iraq on a fraudulent pretext, US imperialists had branded Iran as a 'rogue state' and a constituent of, what they called, the 'axis of evils' the other two being socialist Cuba and North Korea. Right from then, they have been weaving one after another ploy to bend the Iranian regime to their diktats. By managing to elicit approval of pliant UNO, the US imperialist rulers had imposed stringent economic sanctions on it and strengthening their military cordon around it. From then onwards, they have been accusing Iran of developing nuclear capabilities on a

## **Lenin fought to uphold the revolutionary line both in and outside the country**

electron was stated to be electrical rather than mechanical. So, some philosophical idealists spread the idea that at a certain stage "mass or "matter" disappeared. Lenin showed that "matter is disappearing means that the limit within which we have hitherto known matter is vanishing and that our knowledge is penetrating deeper; properties of matter are likewise disappearing which formerly seemed absolute, immutable and primary (impenetrability, inertia, mass, etc.) and which are now revealed to be

*relative and characteristic only of certain states of matter'. For the sole 'property of matter with whose recognition philosophical materialism is bound up is property of being an objective reality, of existing outside our mind'.*" (*Materialism and Empirio-criticism*)

#### **Later, scientific discoveries confirmed Lenin's understanding.**

Earlier Lenin had considered Plekhanov as his leader. He used to say that 'Plekhanov is the father of Marxism in Russia. For, Plekhanov

had introduced the works and teachings of Marxism in Russia. In the international sphere, Lenin also considered Kautsky as his teacher. Yet in the interest of safeguarding the inner-kernel of Marxism and proletarian revolutionary movement, he had the courage and revolutionary audacity to firmly conduct ideological struggle against those even whom he had looked upon as teachers. And in the process, he presented humanity with the correct understanding of Marxism. What a great revolutionary this achievement proved him to be ! At that time only, Lenin said that in the name of reforming Marxism, they were distorting it. From then onwards, the word revisionism featured in the lexicon.

**(To be continued)**

## **Imperialism cannot survive without war**

higher scale so much so as to be close to producing atomic bombs which, according to them, pose threat to peace and security in West Asia. This time also US President Trump had said to an US media house that "The heavy and pinpoint bombing, however, will continue, uninterrupted throughout the week or, as long as necessary to achieve our objective of peace throughout the Middle-east and, indeed, the World." He further added that all he wants "is freedom for the people" of Iran. Incredible paradox! US aggresses foreign countries, orchestrates regime change in foreign lands through subversive activities, abducts elected presidents of other countries wielding military might, precipitates civil war in another land by planting agents—but it is no threat to world peace. Only a country which refuses to grovel at its feet poses danger to peace.

#### **Every country has right to self-defence**

In such a backdrop, what alternative the countries like Iran who are under constant threat of being overrun by the US-led imperialists, have other than resorting to development of weapons for self-defence ? From Iraq in 2003 to Libya in 2011, the US imperialists have repeatedly assumed that decapitation and infrastructural destruction would trigger political collapse favourable to their interests. So they assassinated Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini riding on the inputs of their espionage network. The killing of Iran's supreme leader by the US-Israel duo crossed a threshold that compelled Iran to response. How can such a move on the part of these countries be called illegitimate or "threat to world peace", which US is saying to justify its own war crimes

while trampling underfoot all international and even national laws, as every country has inherent right to defend its sovereignty and freedom by whatever means that are necessary? No country is safe today. The prowling paw of the US imperialists and their associates can be extended to any country, any time. "Submit supinely or perish"—such is fiat of the US imperialists.

#### **Militarization of economy**

Apart from grabbing the vast oil resources, there are other reasons also for the US rulers to unleash a war against Iran and other West Asian countries. In order to somehow stave off the acute insoluble market crisis endemic of capitalist economy, the US imperialists and for that matter all imperialist powers, big or small, are compelled to resort to frantic rearmament and militarization of industry so that increased military consumption to some extent artificially stimulates the sagging economy. More militarized is the economy, more rabidly world imperialism led by US imperialists is precipitating war on others. Another vital economic aspect is that US dollar, as we know, is required by every oil-importing country. This is the reason why the central banks of most of these countries keep their foreign exchange reserves in US dollars. Thus, more dollars are circulated outside the US or invested by foreign owners in US assets. Consequently, the rest of the world has to provide the US with more goods and services in exchange for these dollars. The US can pay its debt to other countries just by printing its own money. This very special status of the dollar is threatened with some of the key oil producing countries switching over from dollar to Euro and other currencies for trade in oil and gas.

Iraq wanted to do the same just before it was invaded. But Iran dared to move out of its dependency on the US dollar for its energy revenue when it faced sanctions in 2006 and thus considerably undermined the demand for US dollar in the world market. The US imperialists fear that if other oil exporting countries follow suit, consequences will be disastrous for them.

Pertinent to mention here that as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C) and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era pointed out six decades back, that the imperialists-capitalists are trying "...to stave off the crisis and maintain the boom of the capitalist market, at least temporarily, by artificial stimulation of increased military consumption. But far from easing the situation, militarism is aggravating the capitalist contradictions and crisis further still. And the more acute the crisis, the more militarized is becoming the economy." (SW Vol II). Militarization leads to the stockpile of arms, arms race and hence war.

Modern warfare triggered by world imperialism led by US imperialists has three objectives—

1. Clearance of the stockpile of arms, 2. Exhibition of possession of sophisticated arms and 3. To bully a foreign land into subjugation by wielding military power. So, more often than not, the imperialists are generating wars, local or partial or large-scale, on a sustained basis. Right now, Ukraine, Palestine and Yemen are facing that after Syria. The present monstrous attack of US and Israel on Iran is also a vivid example of that.

#### **US is the biggest terrorist and war-monger state**

To those closely observing world events and possessing a broad

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## Worldwide well-coordinated united anti-imperialist movement is only deterrent

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democratic outlook, it is not very difficult to understand the motive of the US imperialists. The powerful socialist camp which, notwithstanding the many limitations and shortcomings it suffered from when revisionist leadership had usurped power first in Soviet Union after Stalin's demise and then in China after Mao Zedong's demise, continued to be a bulwark of peace against war and war-mongering. But in its absence the US imperialists have arrogated to themselves the role of an international gendarme authorized to dominate the entire world like an emperor.

Equipped with most advanced nuclear armoury and modern sophisticated weaponry of mass destruction, US today is the biggest terrorist state in the world. This nuclear supremacy is providing the US imperialists the audacity to thump around, intimidate others and carry out bedlam and butchery at will. It is the US imperialist state which poses greatest threat to world peace, civilization and mankind today.

### Indian PM's bonhomie with Zionist Isreal

What is most glaring is how Indian PM, an apostle of ruling Indian monopolists, visiting Israel few days before war was imposed on Iran, not only signed many arms deals with Zionist Israeli regime but even called Israel a fatherland ! And that after Israel has slaughtered nearly 1 lakh people in Gaza. It did not hesitate to open fire on starving women and children even who thronged at the relief centres to gather a morsel. Such arch criminals and butchers are hailed by the Indian PM as "fathers". Significantly, neither PM Modi nor the Indian government has so far made any comment on this war imposed on Iran. It implies that Indian imperialists are bent upon siding with the US lobby too.

### Thwart this unbridled gangsterism of US imperialists and their allies

Should every country succumb to this threat? Should the toiling people of the world remain silent if their respective rulers meekly surrender to such felonious aggression? Surely not. This murderous run must be stopped.

Even when the US-led imperialist powers are armed with modern lethal arms, people of the world are not altogether powerless. People have in their hands at least one weapon to protect themselves, to safeguard their sovereignty i.e. their invincible ideological power based on which it is needed to develop round the world broad-based powerful well-knit anti-imperialist movements involving all sections of toiling and democratic-minded patriotic people with genuine communists as the core. This will invariably give birth to people's own political power. Hence, the anti-imperialist movements in the different countries need to be properly coordinated so that a mighty militant global people's movement can develop worldwide against imperialism, particularly US imperialism and the tremendous power of this movement ought to be transformed into decisive political power of the people. If such movement grows, based on correct revolutionary ideology, that will constitute the invincible weapon in the hands of the suffering people to beat back the US imperialist war mongers and frustrate all their sinister machinations to overpower others. Alongside building up organized sustained legitimate democratic movements under correct revolutionary leadership in various countries against the respective oppressive bourgeois rules through formation of people's struggle committees and volunteer corps right from the grass root level, it is imperative that toiling people come forward to develop this history-ordained anti-imperialist movement. It needs to be realized that freeing the world from the curse of war and nuclear weapons lies in strengthening worldwide powerful people's movement and force the US-led imperialists under pressure of that movement to agree to total disarmament including destruction of nuclear armoury. Let us not forget that this is not merely another Middle Eastern war. It is an episode in the ongoing attempt to provide a lease of life to gasping imperialist-capitalist system bestriding the world like a dead weight needing to be uprooted in right earnest.

## First Sikkim State Conference of AIDS



The First Sikkim State Conference of AIDS was held at Gangtok on 8 March with great

enthusiasm. Comrade Manishankar Pattanayak, Secretary of International Affairs of AIDS, and Comrade Kallol Bagchi, Central Working Committee Member spoke on the occasion. The Conference elected a 12-member State Committee with Comrade Rekha Sharma and Comrade Dipendra Sharma as Joint Convenor.

## Countrywide protest against attack of US and Israel on Iran



Ahmedabad



Agartala



Bhubaneswar



Bhopal



Patna



Gulbarga, Karnataka

## AIECA

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AIECA added.

AIECA highlighted the following concerns:

- Violation of the 2003 Act by prioritizing commercial profit over the mandate of universal affordability and consumer protection.

- Commercialization of an Essential Service like electricity favouring high-value corporate interests at the expense of ordinary consumers.

- Privatization Risks: The legislation would accelerate the unregulated privatization of the distribution system, leading to cherry-picking by private players and creating deep financial distress for the common consumer.

### AIECA demanded-

1. Withdraw and Repeal the



### Demonstration in Kolkata

Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

2. Initiate transparent, wide-ranging consultations with all primary stakeholders, including State Governments, power sector employees, independent technical experts, and, most importantly, electricity consumer forums.

Pressing for acceding to the above demands, AIECA had organized countrywide protest demonstrations on 10 March 2026.

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