

Proletarian Era

Historic 24 April Observed



Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), offering Red Salute to the Great Marxist Leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh



Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, veteran Polit Bureau Member, SUCI(C) and an eminent mass leader, addressing in Guwahati



Historic May Day

Occasion to renew pledge for intensifying militant class conscious working class movement

On 1 May 1886, armed goons employed by the industry owners brutally attacked the striking workers assembled at the Hay Market, Chicago, USA. The workers were demanding an eight hour working day. The savagery of the incident sparked off waves of indignant protest by workers all over the world. The government was ultimately compelled to concede this legitimate

demand of the workers.

At that time, great Engels was at the helm of affairs of the Second International. In 1889, the International called upon the workers to observe May Day on 1st May every year as the world working class solidarity day. Engels declared that the May Day resolve of the working class must not be confined to the economic demands and trade union rights only, but the working class must also pledge on this day "to win political power in order to expropriate capital and convert the means of production into public property." Since then, over the very

many years that have passed, May Day has symbolized working class struggle, an occasion when the revolutionary working class renews its pledge every year to not only fight the capitalist onslaughts on their life and living but also to steadfastly work towards putting an end to the capitalist order itself.

Great Lenin hailed May Day in the following words: "May Day is ...the day when the workers of all lands celebrate their awakening to a class-conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of

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Honourable Home Minister refuting data of his own Home department!

The very word 'ghuspetiya' or illegal infiltrators is the latest narrative the BJP leaders and ministers are found to be so fond of reiterating again and again. Because this is a clever ploy to distract people's attention from the real cause of their growing penury and misery, the ruthless capitalist exploitation. Particularly, Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, has made it a

buzzword. Of late, he has asserted that that he has ordered to "detect, delete and deport" the ghuspetiyas while conducting so called Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters' list in the poll-bound states. Particularly in West Bengal which is having border with Bangladesh and where he is stationed till election is over, this ghuspetiya catchphrase is at its peak. As if, these unidentified, if not imaginary, ghuspetiyas are the root of all evils and once they are driven out, all problems of the state would be resolved. And whom do he and his followers mark as ghuspetiyas? The

Muslim people who, they allege, have intruded in this state by crossing the border, obviously by throwing dust in the "watchful" eyes of 30-40 battalions of the 'Border Security Force (BSF)' under the central Home Ministry only. In 2019, Shri Amit Shah explicitly pronounced that over 2 crore ghuspetiyas, all Bangladeshi Muslims, are in the state. It must be admitted that they are indeed master maneuverers to bypass the cordon of BSF and unlawfully enter into the state. And so, the Union Home Minister is now

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Observance of 79th Party Foundation Day around the country



Comrade Chandidas Bhattacharjee, Polit Bureau member, hoisting red flag at Central Party Office, Kolkata; Comrade Saumen Basu, Polit Bureau member, addressing at Ghatshila Centre in Jharkhand; Comrade Swapan Ghosh, Polit Bureau member, addressing in Bhopal, MP; Comrade Radhakrishna, Polit Bureau member, speaking at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. (From left to right)

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 man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty, and humiliation. Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle: the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom. On one side stand the handful of rich blood-suckers. They have seized the factories and mills, the tools and machinery, have turned millions of acres of land and mountains of money into their private property. They have made the government and the army their servants, faithful watchdogs of the wealth they have amassed. On the other side stand the millions of the disinherited. They are forced to beg the moneybags for permission to work for them. By their labour they create all wealth; yet all their lives long they have to struggle for a crust of bread, beg for work as for charity, sap their strength and health by back-breaking toil, and starve in hovels in the villages or in the cellars and garrets of the big cities... But now these disinherited toilers have declared war on the moneybags and exploiters. The workers of all lands are fighting to free labour from wage slavery, from poverty and want. They are fighting for a system of society where the wealth created by the common labour will go to benefit, not a handful of rich men, but all those who work. ... Let the celebration of May Day win thousands of new fighters to our cause and swell our forces in the great struggle for the freedom of all the people, for the liberation of all who toil from the yoke of capital!" (May Day leaflet written by Lenin in 1904)

Great Stalin held that "Since ...the battle-cry of workers' socialism has rung out louder and louder at meetings and demonstrations on the First of May. The ocean of the labour movement is expanding more and more, spreading to new countries and states, ...In the course of only a few decades the formerly weak international workers' association has grown into a mighty international brotherhood, which holds regular congresses and unites millions of workers in all parts of the world. The sea of proletarian wrath is rising in towering waves and is more and more menacingly advancing against the tottering citadels of capitalism." (CW Vol II)

But after sad dismantling of the socialist camp due counter-revolution orchestrated by imperialist-capitalist intrigue aided and abetted by the revisionists-reformists and implementation of capitalist globalization has brought down ruthless exploitation and onslaughts on the working class. The total burden of growing insolvable capitalist crisis endemic of the system

The message of Historic May Day

is being squarely passed on the working class and other sections of the toiling masses. Onslaught in the form of lay-off and retrenchment, closure of mills and factories and wage cut has become the common characteristic feature in all imperialist-capitalist countries. As against permanent employment, what are being promoted today are outsourcing of jobs, contractual employment, fixed-term employment at paltry wage with no security of job, deteriorating working condition, extension of working hours beyond 12 and even 14 hours a day and introduction of gig workers. Also, the hard-earned political and democratic rights are being snatched away in a planned manner. Introduction of new technology is wiping out jobs rapidly.

Competition among imperialist countries over control of markets has accentuated, leading to not only intense trade war among them but also military warfare triggered by US imperialism, chieftain of global imperialism, and its proxies over grab of market and securing absolute domination over key natural resources like oil, natural gas, minerals and precious metals in different countries. Moreover, as pointed out by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder of SUCI(C) and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era, way back in 1962, that in their desperate attempt to stave off the economic crisis, the imperialists are taking "recourse to frantic rearmament and militarization of industry...and maintain the boom of the capitalist market, at least temporarily, by artificial stimulation of increased military consumption. But ...militarism is aggravating the capitalist contradictions and crisis further still." (SW Vol II) And in order to release the stockpiled arms, imperialists have been generating wars after wars.

Examples are galore. After invading and laying waste Afghanistan to install a puppet government there, the US illegally occupied Iraq, assassinated Libyan President, formalized the heinous conspiracy to totally dismember and fragment Serbian Republic, abducted elected presidents of Haiti and Venezuela, incited civil war in Syria and Sudan, conducted unprecedented massacre in Gaza and other lands of Palestine and of late, it along with Zionist Israel, its Middle-east front office, has launched a full-fledged war against Iran in the name of pre-emptive strike. This has put the global economy in turmoil and making life of workers and other toiling people increasingly disastrous. Overlordism and brigandage of US imperialism are at the peak in the unipolar world. Likewise, imperialist Russia has been

continuing its military assault on Ukraine for over two years.

In India, the ruling BJP government as trusted political manager of the ruling Indian monopolists are not only ruthlessly suppressing legitimate working class movements but in a planned way is snatching the hard earned democratic and trade union rights of the workers. The very word permanent gainful employment has vanished from the lexicon. Instead, most of the works including in government offices are either outsourced or performed by contractual and casual workers at paltry wages. There is no security of job, no safety in working place. Working hours are being stretched to 10, 12 or even 16 hours. Of late, the government has enacted four black labour laws codes which have removed whatever little vestiges of hard-earned rights including trade union rights were hitherto in existence. These notified Labour Codes, it must be understood, are a part of anti-people capitalist globalization and liberalization policies which have cast dark shadows on all the category of the workers, whether organized, or unorganized, whether contract workers or construction workers or GIG workers.

At this critical juncture, May Day assumes an even greater significance. Historically, the working class is poised to lead the anti-capitalist socialist revolution to abolish for good exploitation of man by man. The working class must respond to this history has adjured it by cementing and consolidating worldwide working class unity through concerted action against imperialist-capitalist onslaughts on their life and living, against imperialist wars and war-machinations and steadfastly upholding proletarian internationalism. The main danger within the working class movement which is hindering fulfilment of this need of the hour, is modern revisionism-reformism ensconced in the social-democratic forces who work as a compromise between labour and capital. The social-democrats wearing a cloak of a Marxism-Leftism are fostering economism, legalism and opportunism within the working class movement and keeping it confined to securing just some economic demands. These are designed to safeguard and keep entrenched oppressive bourgeois class rule.

So, the working class has to fight out and defeat revisionism in all its manifestations, ideologically and organizationally, so that the labour movement is not emasculated from within and directed not only against the evil effects of capitalism like

wage-cut, lay-off, retrenchment and unemployment but also against the root cause of all such evils, the capitalist class rule itself. Great Stalin's profound observation that one cannot put an end to capitalism without first putting an end to social-democratism, that is revisionism — continues to provide the guideline before the international working class movement.

The crisis engulfing the imperialist-capitalist world is not only economic but all pervasive, covering the political, social, moral, ethical and cultural spheres as well. Under pressure of this all-out crisis, the working class is stricken with decadent and vile bourgeois culture, suffering from crass bourgeois individualism and utter selfishness which tend to make them devoid of any sense of social responsibility. One would recall that Great Marx had said that in order to change the world, workers must change themselves.

In order to keep inevitable anti-capitalist socialist revolution at bay, the imperialist-capitalist rulers, the imperialist-capitalist rulers are taking recourse to fascism. In fact, fascism has now become a general feature in all imperialist-capitalist countries, whether developed and developing. Explaining Fascism Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said: "Fascism is a historically conditioned form of counter-revolution in which capitalism seeks to stave off revolution by an anticipatory move. It is designed to save the crisis-ridden, chaos-discredited capitalist order from collapse in the face of mounting dissatisfaction of the people against the existing system...the distinguishing feature (of fascism are) economic centralization, maximum concentration of political power in the state, rigid firmness in administration—all this leading to more and more identification of the interest of the monopolists with that of the state—and cultural regimentation...through a peculiar fusion of technological aspects of science with spiritualism" Thus, fascism not only inflames prejudices that are deeply ingrained in the masses, the putrefaction of capitalism penetrates to the innermost core of its ideology and culture, making the masses susceptible to this putrefaction.

Drawing lessons from Vietnam war, the imperialists-capitalists are now conspiring to destroy the moral backbone of the working class and pushing them to unethical means of livelihood, taking advantage of their helplessness. Pointing out this complexity of the situation, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, repeatedly stressed that it is not enough for the anti-capitalist movement of the working class to be militant; to be effective, it

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An insight into the oil crisis triggered by US-Israel war on Iran

Unprovoked war launched by US imperialism-Zionist Israel duo on Iran has caused the biggest oil disruption in history, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). The crisis in fuel and energy that the world is battling to contain shows that much of the globe continues to run—and, on occasions such as this, slip—on oil. Oil's continuing geostrategic magnetism makes it a double-edged sword. Its prized status prompts US, chieftain of global imperialism-capitalism, to fuel periodic flare-ups round the world. The US's criminal commando operation in Venezuela was underpinned by President Trump's rapacity for high grade Venezuelan oil. Also, the military muscle-flexing by US to occupy Iraq, assassinate Libyan President to orchestrate a regime change there, illegal intervention in Sudan and engineering a sustained civil war there, are all aimed at capturing the vast oil resources of those countries. And now, US with its agent Israel, have been on a mission to acquire the oilfield of Iran which, as of early 2026, was exporting approximately 1.5 to 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil, with total oil exports (including refined products) sometimes exceeding 2 million bpd. President Trump did not mince matter to announce that his government needs Iranian oil. US is self-sufficient in oil resources. Then why this attack on Iran soon after its covert operation in Venezuela? The answer is simple. US multi-nationals want to establish their total control over global oil trade—from extraction to distribution.

Missile attack on oil infrastructure

With that objective, the US-Israeli military have been targeting some key oil and gas installations of Iran and holding out threat of their all-out destruction. In retaliation, besieged Iran is also undertaking missile attacks on oil infrastructures of the Middle East countries which the US has been harnessing to fuel its war machinery. The war shifted significant gears when Israel struck Iran's South Pars gas field. Following that, Iran attacked Qatar's Ras Laffan plant – the world's largest liquified natural gas plant from where one-fifth of the global natural gas is exported. The US then bombed Iran-controlled Kharg Island from which Iran exports around 90–95% of its daily oil. Nearly 80–90% of Iran's oil reserves are associated with Kharg Island, which also holds vast deposits of gold and other mineral resources.

Closure of Strait of Hormuz

Visibly aggrieved, Iran is compelled to block the transit through the narrow Strait of Hormuz,

which is the passage of about 25% of global maritime oil trade and roughly 20% of global daily oil consumption. It had earlier allowed only a handful of ships to go through and halting the transport of more than 20 million barrels of oil per day – roughly one-fifth of global petroleum consumption. The Strait of Hormuz is a bottleneck for more than just fuel. It carries: 40% of the global fertilizer trade (essential for industrial agriculture), 85% of West Asian polyethylene, 25% of global helium supplies (critical for high-tech and semiconductor production) and 30% of oil and gas supplies to the million people (Source: *U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). 2026. World Oil Transit Chokepoints Report. Washington, D.C.: EIA*). Thus, the centre-stage of conflict has moved from the oil field to the maritime chokepoint. In fact, Iran's act of closing the Strait of Hormuz and consequently causing a sharp upswing in world oil prices, is also presumably meant precisely to arouse opposition to the war among the countries of the Global South and persuade them to recognize that the war against Iran is also a war against them. Iran cautioned that they would face great hardships if shipping through Hormuz is hindered and hence cannot just remain indifferent to it.

To some relief, Iranian authorities had developed a system for managing shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. They had, depending on the level of their relations with Iran, categorized the countries into three —“hostile,”“neutral,” and “friendly.” Countries in the first group would be prohibited from using the Strait of Hormuz, ships from “neutral” states would be subject to payment of tolls, and “friendly” states will be granted the right of free passage through the strait.

Incidentally, US has been claiming that Strait of Hormuz is an international waterway. But that is not the truth. It is a maritime owned by Iran and Oman. The Omani side of the Strait of Hormuz is navigable and forms part of the established international shipping lanes, but it is not commonly used for large commercial traffic because the deeper, designated traffic separation scheme (TSS) runs primarily through the middle and closer to the Iranian side. Unable to overcome Iran's control over the Strait, the US has parked its naval fleet to block five Iranian ports—a clear aggression through water route. Now, with Iran once again, stopping passage

through Hormuz following creation of blockade of Iranian ports by US, oil crisis has aggravated much more.

Devastating impact of oil shortage

With oil being an intermediary in the production of a range of commodities and driving the cost of transportation, oil price increases are pushing up prices of almost all commodities. The war has also impacted shipping, disrupting supply chains, undermining production, and raising costs. Increases in oil costs translate directly into higher prices for transport, food, and essential goods, disproportionately affecting working populations. Inflation, by eroding real incomes of households, reduces discretionary spending of households, affecting first the retail sector and then those supplying the goods in the consumption basket. So, the market of the capitalists-imperialists shrink causing stagnation. A rise in fertilizer prices because of the oil price spiral will raise the cost of production of foodgrains, and hence foodgrain prices (assuming that the profit-margin of foodgrain market manipulators would not shrink). And all this is quite apart from the rise in transport costs of all commodities which will give a comprehensive additional push to inflation. The prospect of sustained price escalation coupled with stagnation raises the likelihood of a stagflationary environment, where inflation coexists with economic stagnation.

Shrinking fuel stocks and soaring prices are already leading countries around the world to burn coal, ration fuel distribution and shorten work weeks. Many eateries are either downing shutters or selling limited items at higher price. Hence, the war's impact on inflation is far greater than the immediate increase in petroleum and oil product prices.

Reference to oil crisis of 1973

Rebutting the attempts from some quarters to compare the present crisis with that of 1973-74, some analysts argued that this historical parallel obscures important structural differences.

On 6 October 1973, Egypt and Syria launched an attack on Israel to reclaim territory Arab nations had lost six years earlier. King Faisal of Saudi Arabia warned the then US President Richard Nixon that supporting Israel would jeopardize oil supplies. Despite that, Nixon authorized a large military airlift. So, on 17 October 1973, Arab oil-exporting nations belonging to the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) retaliated by raising the price of oil by

70 percent, cutting production by 5 percent per month and banning oil shipments to the US. The Netherlands, Portugal and South Africa were also targeted for their roles in providing diplomatic and military support to Israel. At the time, the Middle East accounted for 36 percent of world oil production, and the embargo left the world short of 4.5 million barrels of oil per day.

The oil embargo was lifted in March 1974, but its consequent economic shock took the better part of a decade to be somehow absorbed. The recession that followed the 1973 oil shock was among the deepest of the post-World War II era, affecting those countries most dependent on oil, namely in the Western Hemisphere. No, not just other countries, even US itself felt the pinch. US inflation hit 12.3 percent in 1974, up from 3.4 percent in 1972. Unemployment in US climbed from 4.6 percent in October 1973 to 9 percent by May 1975 while GDP contracted by 0.5 percent the following year.

Rightly contended by some analysts, in 1973, the shock was delivered by a unified, multinational bloc targeting specific Western countries. The current disruption stems from a single actor controlling a single transit point with no coordinated production cut among Gulf producers and some countries are more vulnerable than others. In 1973, the shock was concentrated on Western economies, which were the primary targets. In 2026, the most vulnerable economies are the developing Asian markets that have grown fastest over the past 30 years and about 80 percent of whose oil imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz. It was reported that in the last week of March, Vietnam held fewer than 20 days of oil reserves while Pakistan and Indonesia held about 20 days each. Oil and gas prices have been erratic in the US: gas prices have begun to bite Europe.

Grabbing oil fields is not the only motto of US imperialists

We also need to take into account another pertinent fact. As indicated above, US does not depend on East Asian oil. Yet it is out to grab the oil fields there at gunpoint. Why so? Because it is not merely a conflict over nuclear proliferation or regional dominance. It is, at its core, a war with deep economic underpinnings—rooted in Pentagon regime's determination to protect the petrodollar system that has sustained American financial supremacy for

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half a century. Petrodollars are oil export revenues denominated in US dollars. Though Petrodollars are not a distinct currency and simply denote the US dollars accepted as payment by an oil exporter, its significance lies elsewhere. Global acceptance of US dollar as a strong currency made its acceptance for settling oil sales and facilitating oil exporters to invest the sale proceeds, as US dollar has been a preeminent global investment currency. The petrodollar system originated from a 1974 agreement between the US and the Gulf states which established dollar-based oil sales, and US Treasury reinvestment for security provisions from Washington. Since then, they reshaped trade balances for oil-rich nations, highlighting the dollar's dominance in global trade. This mechanism has been providing the US with low-cost funding for its deficits which has gone over \$ 1.84 trillion. Apart from this, it helps US government in payment of interest on the rising national debt which is reported to be an astronomical high \$38 trillion. The annual cost to service the US national debt (meaning payment of interest) is approximately \$520 billion, representing about 17% of total federal spending.

But, in the changing global scenario marked by emergence of both Russia and China as strong imperialist powers after counter-revolution, many countries particularly the BRICS member nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) are actively using local currencies in their mutual trades, including oil and energy, to reduce dependence on the US dollar. This initiative involves using the yuan, ruble, rupee, and dirham for settlements, significantly impacting global trade, particularly via China. The shift aims to bypass the petrodollar system and mitigate the impact of Western sanctions, with Russian officials claiming that about 90% of trade with partners was settled in national currencies by late 2024. China and Russia have shifted most bilateral trade to yuan and rubles. India is pushing for broader local currency acceptance, including rupee-based oil payments. This development is evidently detrimental to the interest of US imperialism. Leaders who have attempted to move oil trade away from the dollar have faced severe consequences. Saddam Hussein switched Iraq's oil sales to euros in 2000; the US invaded the country in 2003. Muammar Gaddafi proposed a gold-backed African currency for oil transactions; NATO intervened in Libya in 2011. Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro pursued non-dollar oil trade with China and Russia; Washington

Global Oil crisis

imposed crippling sanctions, backed an opposition movement there, and later abducted President Maduro. Iran, in the middle of an active war, has gone further than any of them. Iran has been trading oil with China in Chinese yuan (RMB) to bypass US sanctions and reduce reliance on the US dollar. As of early 2026, China is buying over 80% of Iran's seaborne oil exports, often paying through informal, non-dollar, and Yuan-denominated banking channels. This shift is part of a broader "petroyuan" strategy.

US strategy might backfire as well

Hence is the attempt on the part of US imperialists to overrun Iran. Let it not be misconstrued that it is a conventional energy shock occasionally triggered by certain developments like oil production reduced by OPEC countries to stem falling price etc. . The dollar's exchange rate will rise as LNG and crude oil prices rise, without intervention by the US Treasury or the Federal Reserve. The strengthening dollar will impose greater strain on the economies of countries that must import oil and gas. The result will be an uneven, fragmented crisis in which destruction could arrive faster and more forcefully than expected, spilling beyond energy into the broader global economy. Unlike past disruptions, there is little sign of coordinated leadership to manage the fallout. If these dynamics persist, the current crisis risks tipping from a supply shock into a deeper, dollar-driven economic downturn with global recessionary consequences.

Already the conflict has created a strategic setback for US in the Gulf region. Iran has gained complete control over the Strait of Hormuz which enables Iran to decide which ships will navigate through the waterway. The US established its global supremacy through its long-standing practice of controlling vital maritime routes. US failure to ensure security in the Gulf could unwind the premise on which the petrodollar is built. The current conflict has the potential to undermine the US security protection over Gulf infrastructure and maritime operations that safeguard international oil transportation. In that event, Gulf states might reduce their dollar-denominated foreign asset investments because economic losses from the Gulf will impact their merchandise value. This is another possible outcome of the US' war initiative.

Indian situation

India may be geographically distant from the embers emanating

from the conflict taking place in West Asia. But that does not mean that it is immune to the conflict's wide-ranging impacts. India imports almost 90% of its crude oil needs. About half of this reaches India through the Strait of Hormuz, currently in the eye of a storm triggered by the US-Israel attack on Iran. Half of India's LNG imports come from Qatar alone. Most of this is used by the fertilizer industry, followed by city distribution of pipeline gas for cooking and compressed natural gas. The first to hit Indian homes amidst this crisis was the liquified petroleum gas shortage, which had citizens queuing up for cylinders. From kitchens to wallets, the deepening energy crisis in fuel and gas is leaving an imprint on India's shores. Around 60% hotels and restaurants have been closed in India due to shortages of gas supply while countless households have reverted to firewood, kerosene, cow dung cakes, crop residue and coal as fuel to meet cooking demands. This reversion to ancestral method of cooking would create further harm to climate.

The BJP-led Indian government claims that it has invoked emergency measures so as to ensure unimpeded supply of these critical resources across sectors. But the reality invalidates the claim. It also added that India remains in a "very comfortable position" regarding crude oil, petroleum products and LPG availability. If that be the case, how is it that cylinders are available in the market at twice the stipulated price? That means, some unscrupulous quarters presumably in connivance with the oil companies are seizing the opportunity to make fortunes by hoarding stocks and releasing them at highly inflated price with the government machinery remaining a passive onlooker.

Steep hike in LPG price and rampant black marketing of gas cylinders

Moreover, within a week of the war, the government hiked domestic LPG cylinder prices by Rs 60 and commercial cylinders by Rs 115. This has been the second increase after the last one of Rs 50 in April 2025 when West Asian export was not halted because of war. But when the crude price came down to \$55-60 a barrel and Russia was supplying 35-40% of the requirement at \$35 per barrel, the benefits were not passed on to the citizens by lowering petrol-diesel-LPG prices. Rather the government usurped the benefit by imposing higher taxes. Just the other day, the government slashed the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) by Rs10 per litre for both petrol and diesel. No, it is not for the

sake of common people but as a relief for state-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) like IOC, BPCL, and HPCL. The government says these companies are making loss which is again a white lie. Net profit of Indian Oil in 2024-25 was Rs12,962 crores. That of BPCL and HPCL were Rs 13,275.26 crores and Rs 7365 crores respectively. Where is the loss? In fact, as we have been saying for long, what is called "loss" for the oil companies is actually under-recovery, a notional term, which represents the difference between the high cost of importing/producing fuel and the lower, regulated selling price set by the government. In other words, by selling oil in Indian market instead of exporting at higher cost, they are notionally earning less. The government is so concerned about the PSU giants or even private oil companies like the Reliance. But when it comes to the question of common toiling masses, hardship is meted out with alacrity.

In the present scenario it would be most surprising if the Indian government says it was not aware of such an eventuality. Already it has tamely capitulated to US fiat of reducing oil import from Russia and sourcing more from US at higher price. It was also aware that US and Iran were locked in a conciliatory summit mediated by Oman, and the US officials were expressing dissatisfaction with, and skepticism toward the talks viewing them as inefficient and insufficient to address key concerns. So, there was enough indication of an ensuing military scuffle paralyzing global oil trade to a great extent. Why did the government not take remedial measures in anticipation? Or is it a ploy to the US scheme of rescuing the fragile economy by embargoing oil supply, consequent spike in oil and gas prices and stability of US dollar?

Why the global people are in such a predicament?

Why eight decades after the cataclysm of the Second World War—a systemic upheaval that claimed tens of millions of lives—does the contemporary world once again stand on the edge of a fresh imperialism generated war? Because, the global imperialist-capitalist system is desperately trying to come out of the growing economic crisis, fallout of the system itself, by resorting to war, increased militarization of economy and now using heft of oil as a tool. Behind this shell lies the true engine of destruction: *monopoly capital* and the *military-industrial complex*. The dictatorship of the dollar, backed by oil, demands perpetual war to sustain its terminal accumulation. And the brunt will be

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New IT Regime and curtailment of Press Freedom

Of late, in the imperialist-capitalist countries which have been relentlessly abandoning democratic codes and norms, freedom of expression is increasingly under threat and in many cases on the way to be virtually abolished. In tandem, the axe is falling on the news media as well, which in the days of advent of capitalism and bourgeois democracy as its political superstructure, was considered to be 'fourth estate'. Because the press was viewed as an independent watchdog over the three traditional wings of the state—legislative, executive, and judiciary—thus serving as a crucial pillar for a functioning democracy. It used to keep power accountable, influenced and vented public opinion, ensured transparency and criticized any government policy perceived to be in detriment of people's interest. Now, in the 21st century, fourth estate came to be referred to all branches of the news media—press, electronic and social media.

Erosion of freedom of expression

But with passage of time, as capitalism as a system started its journey towards obsolescence, erosion of bourgeois democracy also commenced simultaneously. Once capitalism reached its highest stage, i.e. imperialism, it turned utterly reactionary and lost whatever democratic content it hitherto possessed. From then onwards, erosion and corrosion of bourgeois democracy began to manifest with all viciousness and gradually being transformed into fascist autocracy. As a result, freedom of expression is axed. The mainstream media, which are owned by the giant monopoly houses and multi-nationals have become more opinionated, partisan, politically engaged towards the servitors of the ruling class and tightly regulated.

New form of censorship

Hence, censorship has stopped arriving in jackboots but acts through legal notifications, compliance frameworks, and bureaucratic fiats. In India, which has become an imperialist power of reckoning, the days of 'independent or neutral journalism' have gone. Speak anything against the ruling dispensation or even mildly criticize any government move, you will be charged of sedition and sent to jail. According to the 2025 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), India ranks 151st out of 180 countries. The report classified the situation in India as "very serious," highlighting risks from political pressure, media ownership concentration, and dangers to the journalists.

Now, the press freedom or for that matter freedom of expression is curtailed in other forms as well. The latest amendments to the country's Information Technology regime, alongside the expanding reach of the Digital Personal Data Protection framework, is a shrewd move to muffle any voice of criticism, let alone dissent. The government claims that the new IT amendments have been necessary to prevent deepfakes, misinformation, AI-generated fraud, and online harms. Such dangers are no doubt real. Synthetic media can deceive people with doctored material, influence voters, spread rumours, foment as well as exacerbate casteist-communal-chauvinist tensions and bloodbath. But to put a rein on such barrage of misinformation and motivated propaganda, what is needed is a strict administrative control and a punitive machinery free from external influence including governmental interventions. The new rules reportedly compress takedown timelines dramatically—requiring platforms to remove certain content within hours of receiving official notice. They also expand the obligation of intermediaries to comply with written advisories, clarifications, and operating procedures issued by the executive branch. This is the central danger: when executive agencies become complainant, investigator, prosecutor, and censor all at once, constitutional liberty becomes an administrative inconvenience.

Protest by Editors' Guild

So, the Editors' Guild of India, the leading journalists' association of the country, has vehemently protested the enactment and held that the proposed changes grant "sweeping powers" to ministries to regulate, block, or suppress content without adequate judicial safeguards. The logic is simple. If platforms face liability or loss of legal protection for non-compliance, they will not defend speech—they will over-remove it. Satire, investigative reporting, whistleblower leaks, political parody, and inconvenient facts become collateral damage. The Guild's warning is blunt: these measures threaten freedom of the press, enlarge executive power, and create a pervasive chilling effect on dissent. It needs to be understood that this is not a dispute over technical regulation. It is a struggle over who controls truth in the digital age: citizens and a free press, or the state and its administrative machinery.

Once such a legislation is in vogue, journalists need not be jailed if they can be intimidated. Publishers need not be banned if they can be burdened. Platforms need not be taken over if they can be coerced into

obedience. A reporter investigating corporate fraud involving politically connected actors may hesitate to publish leaked documents. A satirist mocking state propaganda may see their content disappear. A local newsroom with limited legal resources may avoid stories altogether rather than risk regulatory retaliation.

That is why the Editors Guild repeatedly invokes the phrase "chilling effect." It describes a system in which writers self-censor before publication, editors dilute stories before printing, and digital platforms remove lawful speech before any court can examine it. This is how freedom dies in modern states—not only through prohibition, but through fear.

Data protection without journalism protection

The controversy extends beyond the IT Rules. The notified rules under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act have raised further alarm because they reportedly fail to provide explicit exemptions for *bona fide* journalistic work. The Guild notes that investigative reporting often depends on processing personal data in the public interest—whether examining shell companies, land records, procurement deals, or abuse of power. Without clear safeguards, routine journalism can be reinterpreted as unauthorized "data processing." That means consent requirements, compliance burdens, uncertainty over retention, and potential penalties. News gathering itself becomes legally precarious. This is a profound inversion of democratic logic. Data privacy is essential, but privacy law must protect citizens from exploitation—not shield power from scrutiny.

Build up movement to preserve freedom of expression

A society where journalists need permission to investigate the powerful is not a free society but a strangulating one. The issue is not whether regulation should exist. The issue is whether regulation guarantees freedom of expression or subordinates it to authoritarian control. A democratic government, true to its essence, does regulate harms through transparent procedures, independent review, narrowly tailored restrictions, and judicial oversight or through vague legislations, opaque directives, hurried takedowns, and ministries empowered to decide what citizens may see.

The demands of the Editors Guild are reasonable and democratic.

First, coercive takedown powers should require independent judicial authorization except in narrowly defined emergencies.

Second, any content restriction

must be transparent, appealable, and publicly disclosed. Secret censorship has no place in a republic.

Third, journalism must receive explicit exemptions under data protection law for reporting in the public interest.

Fourth, platform liability rules must not incentivize blanket censorship through fear of punishment.

Finally, all digital regulation should emerge from genuine consultation with journalists, civil society, technologists, and constitutional experts—not executive fiat.

We also endorse these legitimate demands and call upon the journalist fraternity to overcome all fears and build up a united powerful sustained movement to thwart such muffling of voice.

Historic May Day

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must be based on the edifice of higher proletarian ethics and culture so that the working class, freed from the pernicious effect of vile bourgeois culture, can remould itself to become the medium of radical transformation of the society. Only in this way can the trade unions be developed as Schools of Communism in the true sense.

Also notable is the fact that the working class is often bursting out into high-pitched movements around the world. But in absence of proper Marxist-Leninist leadership, which alone can lead such outbursts to their logical culmination, these movements are fizzling out entailing frustration. But how can one acquire that revolutionary consciousness? Comrade Shibdas Ghosh pointed out that "*The correct revolutionary consciousness is the correct proletarian class consciousness, and the correct proletarian class consciousness is the correct proletarian party consciousness— which means, whether you have been able to recognize the genuine revolutionary party or not.*" (SW Vol. III)

On the historic May Day, the revolutionary working class must take the pledge to build up world-wide militant working class movement, intensify class struggle, take leading role in developing powerful anti-imperialist peace movement conducive to anti-communist socialist revolutionary movement, wage all-out struggle to defeat revisionism of all shades, accentuate anti-capitalist struggle on correct base political line and on the edifice of higher proletarian ethics and culture. In the process, the working class can develop the trade unions as true 'School of Communism' towards achieving the goal of establishing a classless society free from all exploitations.

False propoganda about ghuspetiyas

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up to remove the names of these ghuspetiyas from the voter list.

By using the SIR mechanism, the Election Commission of India (ECI), now virtually turned into an appendix to the ruling BJP government, got the names of around 91 lakh voters deleted from the list. And notably, most of these deleted names are of the religious minorities. But are all of them ghuspetiyas? Neither the ECI nor the Home Minister is able to say that. Astonishingly, two MPs wanted to know through a question in the Lok Sabha on 15 December 2025, what was the number of illegal infiltration through Indo- Bangladesh border and how many of them have been arrested till then. In reply, the home department of Amit Shah had informed that the figures of infiltration through the Bangladesh border and the number of arrests from November 2021 to 2025 available with it were as follows:

Year Incidents of infiltration Arrest

2021	703	1208
2022	857	2076
2023	746	2617
2024	977	2525
2025	1104	2556

Astonishingly, the figures mentioned were no match with the boastful claim of the Home Minister and his party colleagues. Only Shri

Shah can say what is the source of his wild claim. But then who cares! While in power in the country, anyone, even the prominent ministers are, so to say, licensed to speak anything they want—no question of proving authenticity, no sign of accountability to the people. That is the hallmark of fascist autocracy.

It is worth mentioning that when SIR was being conducted in Bihar, just within two months before the assembly election there, Shri Amit Shah raised hue and cry on the 'ghuspetiya' issue. But of the 65 lakh names deleted there, no one was identified as either Bangladeshi or Rohingya (an immensely tortured and persecuted community of Myanmar who profess Islam). Similarly, none in West Bengal could be identified as Bangladeshi or Rohingya intruder.

In 2019 Bangladesh was under Awami League rule. That Bangladesh government was very close to the BJP government of India. It was bamboozled when the Indian government talked about 2 crore illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators. On 15th December 2019, AK Abdul Momin the then foreign minister of Bangladesh stated that 'they had asked for the list of the illegal Bangladeshi citizens residing in India so that they could repatriated. But the Indian government said that it had no such list.

Amazingly, Suwendu Adhikary, the BJP MLA, Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal assembly and a TMC turncoat, recently said that 70 lakh Rohingyas have ingressed into India through West Bengal border. By Jove! Total number of the Rohingyas are 21 lakhs. Of them, 7 lakhs are still in Myanmar , 11 lakhs are somehow surviving in the refugee camp of Coxbazar, Bangladesh. Rest are scattered in various countries.

Nobody wants any province should be the habitat of illegal infiltrators. If there are such intruders, they are to be deported to their respective countries following accepted international law of repatriation. Instead, the foot-soldiers of the RSS-BJP with the help of the BJP government and police raided various places of the country like Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, where Bengali-speaking Muslims have been staying as either migrant workers or as hawkers or for running small business. They were dragged out, beaten mercilessly and then forced to leave. Their houses were ransacked and properties vandalized. Some of them including a pregnant woman were pushed into neighbouring Bangladesh. In some cases, in utter display of cruelty and hatred, they were left in the jungles

of the border area of West Bengal and Assam to die of hunger or by attack of ferocious animals.

Fact is that this ghuspetiya issue is raised to target the minority Muslims, particularly Bengali-speaking Muslims, brand them as Bangladeshi infiltrators, may be to be sent to detention centres (as in Assam), poison the minds of Hindu people against their Muslim brethren and thereby exacerbate communal tension and polarization to reap benefits in the elections. That is why, there has been a move on the part of the RSS-BJP-Sangha Parivar to harass, assault and even evict Bengali-speaking Muslims from their place of dwelling.

That is why, being unable to raise any other issue that might pay them electoral dividend, the RSS-BJP have ramped up the issue on the eve of West Bengal assembly election so vociferously in the style of Goebbels with the hope that if a lie is continuously repeated, people might start believing that as truth. And it is on the basis of this fictional ghuspetiya theory, the BJP has pressed its pliant ECI into action to calculatedly delete the names of Muslim minorities in the name of SIR. We are sure thinking people will not be carried by this ulterior propaganda and stem any move to precipitate communal disharmony and bad blood.

Global oil crisis

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borne by the oppressed millions as the imperialist-capitalists would offset rising energy costs by squeezing labour—lowering real wages and intensifying exploitation. Not only the populations of Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria continue to endure immense human suffering as warfare reorganizes entire societies through destruction, displacement, and dispossession, the price is being paid by all other countries, with variance in degree.

This is not merely a regional crisis, it signals total bankruptcy of the obsolete global capitalist system. Had there been a resurgence of global communist movement in right direction and under correct revolutionary leadership, world revolution could surge forth seizing maturity of the objective condition of revolution.

As Rosa Luxemburg, a well-known Marxist leader had argued, the capitalist machine's thirst for external resources makes it inherently violent; when those resources are constricted, the system turns its teeth inward on the working class. The current military onslaught of US-Israel on Iran bears eloquent testimony to that.

Resounding Cry from Bangalore Freedom Park to Save Public Education

The scorching sun over Bangalore's Freedom Park on April 10th was no match for the burning resolve in the hearts of a few thousands of students, women, youth, agricultural labourers and labourers who gathered with a struggling spirit under the aegis of Karnataka State Committee AIDS0 to oppose the wanton anti-education policy of the Congress-led Karnataka Government to shut down more than 40,000 schools under KPS Magnet Policy. For many, this day meant losing a day's meager earnings—money that would have bought day's meal. Yet they came to support a just movement.

Inaugurating this massive convention, senior writer K. Marulasiddappa, said that the shift toward the KPS Magnet Scheme—which threatens the existence of small, local schools—was outright an anti-education move. Others who were present to condemn the move were developmental educationist Dr. Niranjana Radhya and well-known personality in the field of art and culture Prof. S.G.



Siddaramaiah. Prof. A. Murigeppa, former VC, held that closing schools on the pretext of low enrollment was akin to "cutting off one's nose to cure a cold," Ugra Narasimhe Gowda, Social Activist, warned of systemic attacks on the working class, while Badagalapura Nagendra, Leader of peasant organization KRRS, emphasized that organized people's movement can only thwart the move. Prof. Sabiha Bhumigowda, another former VC, pointed out the doublespeak of the Congress government who opposes NEP20 in public but quietly implements it in testate. Prof. Allamaprabhu Bettadur, senior writer president of AISEC, Karnataka, demanded that every school should have enough teachers.

Shri Guruprasad Keragodu, State Convenor of Dalita Sangharsha Samiti, said that seeing students in the street for saving education is a national tragedy. Comrade Siddharth Rath, Joint Secretary of the AIDS0 Central Council and the main speaker, framed these school closures as part of a nationwide capitalist conspiracy to banish universal education .

The guardians belonging to the poorer section of the masses, are the silent backbone of our society, came, participated and left the evening with a firm determination for a powerful resistance movement against a step which would deprive their children of basic education,

To lead the movement against closure of schools, a state-level Save Public Education Committee was formed under the presidency of Prof. A. Murigeppa with leaders from AISEC, AIUTUC, AIKKMS, AIMSS, AIDYO and several peasant and dalit organizations of the state. The committee also includes guardians from over 200 villages of Karnataka.

Observance of 79th Party Foundation Day around the country



Comrade Satyawan, Polit Bureau member, addressing in Chandigarh



Comrade K Radhakrishna, Polit Bureau member, speaking in Bangalore



Comrade Arun Singh, Central Committee member, addressing at Rohtak, Haryana



Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, Central Committee member, addressing in Cuttack, Odisha



Comrade A Rengasamy (inset), Central Committee member, speaking in Puducherry



Comrade Manab Bera, Central Committee member, addressing in Agartala, Tripura



Comrade K Sridhar, Central Committee member, addressing in Hyderabad, Telangana



Comrade K Uma, Central Committee member, addressing at Hindupur, Andhra Pradesh



Comrade Arun Singh, Central Committee member, addressing in Delhi.



Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, Central Committee member, addressing in Patna, Bihar



Comrade Rajinder Singh, Haryana State Secretary, addressing at Srinagar, Uttarakhand



Comrade Dwarika Rath, Central Committee member, addressing in Raipur, Chhattisgarh



Pratapgarh UP. Comrade Arun Singh, CC member was the main speaker.



24 April Meeting at Ghatsila, Jharkhand



Public Meeting at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Comrade Meenakshi Joshi, State Secretary of Gujarat, SUCI(C), speaking in Mumbai



Comrade Jaison Joseph, Central Committee member, addressing in Chennai

Communal killing and vandalism in Garo Hills area of Meghalaya

The election of the Autonomous District Council of the West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya was scheduled to be held on 10 April 2026. The council is constituted of 30 seats out of which 27 seats are reserved for the Schedule Tribes, one is to be filled by nomination and rest two constituencies are open to all, i.e. in these two constituencies (Shyamnagar and Rajabala) 80 to 90% of population in these two constituencies are Muslim.

On March 9, 2026 one ex-MLA along with his supporters went to Tura, the district head quarter, to file the nomination in the aforesaid election. But the candidate and his supporters were mercilessly beaten up by some Garo-speaking miscreants and he was not allowed to submit the nomination. After the incident, a public meeting was held at the Cibinang market in protest against the incident. At that time a rumour was floated that some Muslim people vandalized the local Church. Swayed by the false news, some Garo speaking armed goons along with some other Garo youths raided the Cibinang market, set shops and houses on fire with police remaining the silent spectators. This violence created severe reaction among the local people who took to the street to register their protest. But then the police opened fire on the unarmed peaceful protesters, killing two and grievously injuring many. People were stunned to find that while police made no attempt to intervene when the Garo-speaking miscreants were savagely resorting to looting arson, the same police was overactive in suppressing the protesting masses and did not even hesitate to open fire on them. Following the incident, the authorities issued a notification to keep the election in abeyance. It is pertinent to note that two seats Shyamnagar and Balarvita of the Garo Hills District are open for general candidates. However, this time a notice was issued stating that the candidates belonging to the Garo Community only would be eligible for contesting these two constituencies. But 70 to 80% people living in these two aforesaid constituencies belong to Non-Garo Muslim communities.

This ghastly incident was not a sporadic one. The northern part of the Meghalaya State, covering a distance of around 150 KMs are inhabited overwhelmingly by Muslims and they have been residing

in this region since the British rule. In 1972, when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam, there was a demand of retaining the region with Assam. But at that time, the first Chief Minister of Meghalaya Captain Williamson Sangma, allured them to join Meghalaya by promising a slew of benefits like protection of their democratic rights, right to land and right to contest 10 assembly constituencies of 60 seated Meghalaya Assembly. But subsequently at the instigation of the chauvinist forces of Garo Hills, the number of seats were further reduced from 10 to 5. Even after this, a congenial atmosphere was there and the Muslims and Garo people were living in peace and were actively taking part in trade and commerce.

But at the advent of the infamous Assam Movement situation took a different shape. There was an unfounded propaganda that lacs and lacs of Bangladeshi people are entering Assam jeopardizing the very social fabric of the Assamese society and endangering the future of Assamese language and culture. From then on, other northeastern states are plagued with this unfounded, ill motivated propaganda that the identities of the people of these regions are at stake. Like Assam, a false propaganda that all these Muslim people of this region are infiltrators and that they have come from Bangladesh. The hate campaign took a very serious shape and they even openly uttered "this land is ours. These people are infiltrators. These people are to be driven out". After BJP's coming to power the chauvinist forces become more ferocious and Muslim businessmen were being regularly harassed, kidnapped and even killed with the tacit support of the government. BJP took no time to seize the opportunity of this situation and declared that all Muslim people living in Garo Hills district are Bangladeshi. This time it is evident that the violence was orchestrated in a planned way. Local people firmly believe that the RSS-BJP had pulled the strings from behind. Because, before burning and ransacking shops and residential building, saffron flags were planted at the properties belonging to the Hindus whereas properties of the Garo people were marked as 'Achik' so that those remained untouched. Not only that. The president of the BJP of Meghalaya state submitted a memorandum to the state governor

demanding that a meeting of the Garo Hills Autonomous District be convened at the earliest and a resolution debarring non-Garo candidates from contesting election should be adopted. The deputy speaker of the BJP -led government of Assam, who belongs to the Garo community, has also claimed that the Muslim people residing in the plain-belt of Garo Hills district are all illegal intruders from Bangladesh, so that their right to land as well as right to contest elections be snatched.

It may be recalled that before independence, northern part of the plain-belt of Garo Hills was under the zamindar of Gouripur while that of the southern section was owned by the zamindar of Karaibari. Since that time on, these areas were inhabited by non-tribal populace predominantly Muslims. Now non-tribals have no scope for contesting and winning any seat other than Phulbari and Rajabala Assembly seats. Arch communal BJP has become desperate to snatch the democratic and civil rights of the Muslim population residing in that area for over decades, by inciting chauvinist-communal frenzy among a section of the Garo youths. As a result, the Chibinang, Rajabala and Bhaitbari areas are now highly tense.

Expressing serious concern over these developments, Comrade Chandralekha Das, Assam State Secretary, SUCI(C), in a statement said that the Party firmly believes the interests of all oppressed people irrespective of whether they belong to the Garo, Rava, Bodo or Muslim

community, are one and the same. The oppressed masses of all communities should be united to protect the rights of all impoverished people, so that the ruling oppressive capitalist class and its servitor parties cannot drive a wedge into their unity by following the 'divide and rule' policy. It ought to be remembered that the antidote to communalism is not fomenting counter-communalism. Only creating a democratic milieu based on democratic thoughts and values can keep the poison of communalism at bay.

We urge upon the people and the government to ponder over this question. There are many ways to maintain peace and secure the properties of the people. Abandoning those paths, indiscriminate firing on the common people creates a hindrance before firming up peace and amity among toiling people. We vehemently protest against opening fire on the protesting people at Chibinang market and demand adequate compensation to the families of the dead and injured, free proper treatment of the wounded, proper rehabilitation of those evicted from home and hearth and stringent measure to maintain peace.

We also demand that those found guilty of committing such a horrendous crime like killing of innocent people should be given exemplary punishments. At the same time, we call upon all sections of the people residing in this troubled area to make utmost effort to preserve peace and harmony.

SUCI(C) vehemently opposes steep hike of LPG prices

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), issued the following statement on 01-05-26:

"As soon as the assembly election in 4 states and one UT is over, the BJP-led Central Government has steeply raised the price of commercial gas. As a result, commercial cylinders would now cost a record high of Rs 3,071.50 up from Rs 2,078.50 a month earlier. The enormous hike is sure to hit restaurants, eateries, and other businesses hard, and the burden is likely to be passed on to the consumers, making outside dining and food delivery much more expensive. Apprehension is round the corner that retail price of petrol-diesel would also rise

steeply, in which case the general price line would jump further making life yet more unbearable for the common people.

It bears recall that tamely surrendering before the dictates of US imperialists, the BJP-led central government has stopped importing cheap oil from Russia and Iran and are now forced to buy American oil at much higher price. We vehemently oppose this sharp increase in LPG prices and call upon the suffering people to raise united voice of protest against the policy of passing on the brunt of capitalist crisis on the oppressed masses, with a view to compelling the government to withdraw the price hike forthwith."

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH