

# Proletarian Era

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## SUCI(C) demands withdrawal of WB govt's notification on cow slaughter

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 17-05-26:

The regulations regarding cow slaughter stipulated by the West Bengal State Government in a notification on 13 May 2026 can only be described as an interference in the religious practices of the minority community. As a result of this notification, the religious customs they have been following for generations will effectively have to be discontinued. Just as this notification has hurt and created commotion among the minority community, common people irrespective of their religious affiliation can in no way support it. We believe that this notification by the state government might disturb social harmony and peace.

We strongly oppose this notification and demand its immediate withdrawal.

## SUCI(C) sounds caution about an imminent invasion of Cuba by US imperialism

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 23-05-26:

"After abducting Venezuelan President Maduro in a most reprehensive manner violating all

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## Leak of question papers of NEET indicates how deep crime and corruption have penetrated in education system

On 3 May 2026, the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), India's unified, nationwide entrance examination for undergraduate medical programmes, was conducted. In the following days, social media was flooded with reels by students celebrating the end of months, years, of relentless preparation. The examination had been taken by over 900,000 candidates across more than 300 cities.

Barely two weeks later, that sense of relief had curdled into despair. On 12 May, the National Testing Agency (NTA), India's nodal body for conducting higher education entrance examinations, announced the cancellation of

NEET 2026 following widespread allegations of the circulation of a "guess paper" and multiple accusations of irregularities in the original examination. Since then, at least four students have died by suicide, driven by despair.

The cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 following allegations of question paper leakage in Rajasthan and the ordering of a CBI probe have once again exposed the deep crisis surrounding centrally conducted high-stakes examinations in the country. For the past several years, serious allegations regarding leaks, irregularities, manipulation, and malpractice in various central examinations have surfaced repeatedly. In fact, over the last five

years, data indicates that at least 41 major government recruitment exam papers were leaked across 15 Indian states. When factoring in national competitive entrance and state-level exams, analysts estimate that between 70 and 89 paper leaks have occurred across India in recent years.

Things are also severe in state examinations. Question papers for various local government recruitment exams are frequently leaked amid fierce competition for jobs in an economy where most positions are largely informal, insecure, and low-paying. Recruitment examinations for policemen, foresters, engineers,

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## Instead of becoming 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy, India slips to 6<sup>th</sup> position

The BJP-led Central Government has been projecting a dream that the Indian economy will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in the world overtaking Germany and Japan by 2028-30. In 2019, PM Modi famously envisioned that India would become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. Since then, several Union ministers and others in the government have spoken along similar or grander lines. In April 2022, the Union finance ministry said in a statement that India is "on its way to become a \$

5 trillion economy" without specifying by when. In December last year, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar said that India will not only become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 but also a significant manufacturing hub. The Centre for Economics and Business Research in its published report has predicted that it will become a \$10 trillion economy by 2035 given the growth trajectory of its GDP. Earlier this year, Bibek Debroy, chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister said that India's GDP will be

close to \$20 trillion by 2047.

A report of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in May 2025 indicated that India was poised to overtake Japan as the fourth largest economy in 2025-26. At that time, India's GDP was estimated to be at about \$3.9 trillion, while that of Japan was around \$4 trillion. Days later, speaking at a gathering in Gandhinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed, "Today, India has become the world's fourth-largest economy. It is a

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## SUCI (C) conducting mass struggles on people's issues



AIUTUC, West Bengal, demonstrated against the ongoing eviction of hawkers by the BJP-led state government on 19 May.



AIDSO, AIDYO and AIMSS protesting on 18 May last in Jaipur, Rajasthan, against the gruelling incident of gangrape and death of two sisters in Jodhpur.



Protest demonstration in Ranchi on May 25 by Jharkhand State SUCI(C) against burning problems of life.

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veterinarians and income-tax inspectors have been affected by leaks in the past. Things have been so bad that paper leaks became a hot-button issue in states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan a during recent elections. The governments of all these states are run by the BJP.

One would recall that in 2015, the most audacious exam cheating scandal rocked Vyapam, (Vyavsayik Pareeksha Mandal) or the MP Professional Examination Board, a government office in Madhya Pradesh overseeing more than 50 exams for government jobs and local medical colleges. From 2009 onwards it came to light that these competitive examinations and appointments in various government services and professions including medical profession were and are being rigged in exchange of huge amount of money to favour candidates recommended by or close to ministers including BJP chief minister of the state, ruling party leaders of the state or elsewhere, RSS- BJP big-wigs, bureaucrats across the board, as well as the office of the Governor.

Question papers were leaked, answer sheets rigged, impersonators - themselves bright, young students - were hired to sit for candidates and seats were sold to the highest bidder. Complicit teachers filled incomplete sheets, boosting grades. Though originally it was told that the amount believed to have been exchanged as bribes in this scandal was around Rs 2000

crore, later it was revealed that the figure was as high as Rs 36,000 crore. During these few years of investigation, there had been at least 48 unnatural deaths of accused persons, witnesses, government approvers, probing officials-professors- deans or investigating journalists, media persons and whistleblowers. All these deaths took place in suspicious circumstances. It showed that the network of the offenders was not only strong but even connected with powers who can orchestrate such assassinations with ease and proficiency. In fact, with unfolding of Vyapam scam, the Vyapam and other scams BJP's claim of corruption free country tumbled with a hard splash. From then onwards, paper leak has been a normal affair.

It bears recall that only in February 2024, the government passed a law titled Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. to stop the leakage of question papers and cheating in recruitment and entrance tests. Despite such a law, question papers continue to be out before examinations. For the last two months, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has at least thrice denied that there was any evidence of a paper leak in the controversial NEET-UG exam, going on to suggest that no paper was in fact leaked in the last seven years. This was stated despite the Supreme Court's observation that there were leaks in Hazaribagh and

Patna. The education ministry initially put out a cryptic statement saying the "integrity of the examination may have been compromised". A day later, the education minister admitted the question paper had been leaked on social media platform Telegram and on the "dark net". It shows a sense of denial to crimes and malpractices seems to drape the BJP government's response to the issue despite disquiet in the streets and in parliament.

It goes without saying that those capable of breaching "secure" examination system are not ordinary individuals. Such organized crime cannot happen without involvement of influential people, corrupt administration and highly placed networks. If every time the real culprits are protected or investigations remain inconclusive, how can students and guardians continue to trust the sanctity of NEET and other central examinations? Truth is that an education system has been created in the country which encourages, if not promotes, such frauds and malpractices with crores of rupees changing hands.

Many students and parents are demanding a re-test, with numerous petitions filed in courts for the purpose - and the Supreme Court is examining this. The Union education minister, after much dilly dally, has ordered an investigation and admitted "some errors limited to specific regions" had happened.

He said the fate of millions of aspirants would not be held hostage for "some isolated incidents". Incredible indeed! Recurrence of a crime that is playing sixes and sevens with the future of the students is brushed aside as some localized errors.

AIDSO in a statement dated 12-05-26 said that the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 following allegations of question paper leakage in Rajasthan and the ordering of a CBI probe have once again exposed the deep crisis surrounding centrally conducted high-stakes examinations in the country. AIDSO strongly condemned the repeated failures of NTA, the nodal agency which conducts the examinations, to ensure a fair, transparent, and secure examination process and demanded its scrapping forthwith. AIDSO also held that these repeated failure of a deeply flawed and highly centralized examination system increasingly serves the interests of the mushrooming coaching industry generating enormous psychological, financial, and academic stress upon students and their families. This extreme corruption is a result of growing privatization of medical education and ingress of large scale corruption in the academic sphere. AIDSO called upon students, guardians, teachers, and all democratic minded people to raise a united voice against the continuous irregularities and insecurity surrounding central examinations and to build up a countrywide united students' movement demanding a fair, democratic, and reliable education and examination system.

## AIMSS vehemently condemns utter misogynic remark by Bihar Education Minister

Comrades Keya De, and Chhabi Mohanty, President and General Secretary respectively of AIMSS, in a statement issued on 16-05-26 have severely condemned the recent remarks of Shri Mithilesh Tiwari, the Education Minister of Bihar, that women do not need to be educated.

He made this remark when unemployed youth and teacher candidates were peacefully demonstrating in Patna on 8 May over the demand for the release of the Teachers Recruitment Examination (TRE-4) notification by the Bihar Public Service Commission. Let alone acknowledging their righteous demand the demonstrators including women were brutally lathi-charged by the police. When questioned by the media as to why women protestors were subjected to such police

atrocities, the Education Minister remarked, "Why are women coming out of their homes, and what is the need for them to get educated when Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already taken measures to empower them?"

AIMSS strongly condemns both the brutal lathi-charge on women protestors and the highly misogynic attitude displayed by the Minister and his comments are an insult to the dignity, rights, and aspirations of women across the nation.

AIMSS demands an immediate and unconditional public apology from the Education Minister to all women and adoption of concrete measures by the state government to ensure equal opportunity to the women to education.

## SUCI(C) on US threat on Cuba

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international laws and norms through a covert military operation, launching an unprovoked barbaric armed attack on Iran with its proxy Zionist Israel in tow, the US imperialists are now turning their gun on socialist Cuba whom they, with draconian sanctions and oil blockade, have strangled with a severe energy as well as socio-economic crisis. War monger US imperialist President Donald Trump is leaving nothing to chance to spread US domination in every part of the world. By bringing down Cuban government, Trump is seeking to establish unhindered hegemony in entire Latin America.

After Cuban revolution in 1959 which overthrew US backed despotic Batista regime, Cuba posed a threat for US imperialists since it became a source of inspiration for Latin American people in their fight against US imperialism. US conspired again and again to overthrow Cuban

government by orchestrating counter revolution, but in vein.

Now by imposing complete economic blockade and creating severe crisis for the people of Cuba, US is now raising a false allegation against Raul Castro, former Cuban President as a pretext of attacking Cuba. But courageous Cuban people are refusing to bow down and have boldly declared 'Homeland or Death - we will prevail'. We along with all anti-imperialist freedom loving people hail them.

We strongly condemn this international gangsterism and overlordism of the US imperialists, unbridled in absence of the mighty socialist camp, and call upon all anti-imperialist peace-loving people of the world to come out to foil the heinous conspiracies of the monstrous US imperialists and their cohorts to overturn Cuba and establish their hegemony on that land."

## Hate speech and debased campaign—endowments of decayed capitalist system

Of late, the centerstage of India's power politics is marked by one feature—hate speech. A hate speech represents an expression or phrase of offensive language. The intention behind the usage of hate speech is to abuse, dehumanize, disparage, or harass a person or a group of persons based on their race, color, gender, religion, caste, ethnicity, disability, language, belief, nationality, or other factors. Hate speech is also used to express violence, harm, or hatred against the targeted people. Nowadays, the amount of hate speech is overgrowing in social media, online newspapers etc. Any communication — spoken, written, or visual—that attacks, demeans, or uses discriminatory language toward a person or group based on inherent identity factors, such as race, religion, ethnicity, gender or aiming to incite hatred, fear, or violence, comes under the category of hate speech. Hate speech has far-reaching and dangerous consequences for human rights as well. The growing weaponization of social media to spread hateful and divisive narratives has intensified the stigma vulnerable communities face and exposed the fragility and degenerated bourgeois political superstructure mounted on capitalism, now on a growing slide following inexorable laws of history.

### Why hate speech?

Hate speech and debased campaigns comprise personal attack, character assassination, slanders, personal vilification, exchanging barbs or hurling invectives against the opponent. All these can be broadly classified as hate speeches. As alongside bourgeois democratic system, bourgeois politics and political culture have also become utterly rotten, those who are serving this system or are aligned with the system are bound to be tinged with that rot, in one way or another. Hence, in their speeches, observations, remarks or rebuttals to the opposition's viewpoint, we find the political discourse has become more and more debased in our country, and replete with hate speeches while the targets of hate speech become increasingly excluded from society, forced out of the public debate and silenced.

### Hate speech almost institutionalized by Saffron brigade to spew venom against minorities

The Saffron brigade whose

main aim is to spread hatred against the Muslims and Christians as if that ipso facto proves superiority of its Hindutva doctrine.

For example, during the nationwide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 that for the first time explicitly denied undocumented Muslims the same rights to access citizenship as people of other faiths, a senior BJP leader and union minister Anurag Thakur shouted the slogan "Desh ki gaddaron ko..." (Traitors to the nation), and the crowd responded "Goli maron saalon ko" (Shoot the rascals) in February 2020. He was accompanied by BJP leaders like Kapil Mishra, Parvesh Verma and Abhay Verma and others. Following such a provocative slogan, there was an orchestrated attack on the Muslim minorities in the Bhajanpur, Seelampur area of North-East Delhi in which 57 precious lives were lost and many houses and properties belonging to the religious minorities were vandalized.

Also, when the frenzied foot-soldiers of the Sangh Parivar were on a mission to lynch or burning alive innocent Muslim persons in the name of cow vigilantism or so called 'love jihad' abusing the victims in filthiest of language, which were shown 'live' on the small screen of TV, PM Modi and his colleagues did not utter a single word. Perhaps the hatred towards religious minorities enconced in the doctrine of Hindutva "sanctify" such grubbiest utterances.

Assam chief minister Himanta Viswa Sarma said that his government would continue to "disturb" the 'Miyas' — a term used to refer to Bengali-speaking Muslims— to "tame them down". "If we don't do this, then they will dance over our heads," as per media report. PM Modi is also on record to have commented that time that relief camps could become "baby-producing centres", and how for "some people", that could mean a family of as many as 25 children. The insinuation towards the Muslim minorities was not covert but overt.

Such a spate of hateful speeches by the Sangh Parivar cumulatively have created a vast, alternative common impression that depicts the Muslim as disloyal, violent and lustful and the Christian as people who have been bribed by charitable social services to abandon their birth religion.

### Hate speeches galore during election or political campaign

In electoral battles, it is expected that the contending parties should debate over people's issues and highlight their respective viewpoints over those maintaining due decency. Instead, of late, electoral campaigns have become synonymous with hate speeches which comprise hurling invectives against each other using abusive languages, character assassination, slanders and so forth. Terms such as 'parasites', 'termites', 'wolves', 'elephants' have entered electoral arena to shrink the moral standing of the opponent. Election laws do not allow hate campaign or using slurs against any party or community. But there is no punitive action against those in power who indulge in hate campaigns or verbal abuses.

The 2024 general election campaign saw PM Modi himself describing bona fide Muslim citizens of India Muslims as "illegal infiltrators". Tracing a root from the same, Union Home Minister has coined an adjective "ghuspetiya" to denote Bengali speaking Muslims. The latest assembly elections in four states and one Union Territory, particularly in West Bengal and Assam, have been marked by intense political rhetoric, with multiple complaints of hate speech and fomenting of steep communal polarization. The BJP leaders had no qualms in delivering abominable hate speech to fuel communal division and polarize vote along religious line. The opposition leaders, including the Congress President TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, were also found to be parading in hate speeches as rejoinders to the BJP leaders' offensive utterances. Yogi Adityanath, the saffron-clad chief minister of UP, while addressing an election meeting in West Bengal reiterated his communal coinage: "Batenge to katenge!" (If anybody espouses divides among people, their throats will be slit. But who does not know that the divisive politics and spreading hatred against religious minorities is the fulcrum of the arch communal RSS-BJP?

Targeting Mamata Banerjee with the rhyming taunt "Didi O Didi" by the BJP leaders including hon'ble PM during election rallies had been nothing short of a demeaning and sexist attack. Sukanta Majumdar, BJP MP and former President of West Bengal of the party said, "Mamata Banerjee claims that she does not take CM's salary and her pension as MP. Then where does money for her iPhone and her

designer saris come from? And nowadays, if someone gives something for free, he will not without his dhanda (own interest)." What a unique (!) way of fighting the political opponent! It reminds us of the way Anil Basu, the CPI (M) MP, now departed, had openly asked Mamata Banerjee in a public meeting which "client" of hers is providing her finance? There is no reference to people's issues. Only canards against each other have been dominating electoral campaigns.

The Congress President, Mallikarjun Kharge, said in a meeting in a minority-dominated area of Assam, "It is written in the Quran, if you see a venomous snake, you have to kill it even if you need to leave your namaz halfway. The RSS-BJP are like venomous snakes, if you don't kill them, leaving your namaz, you will not be safe

Mamata Banerjee also on a number of occasions called Union Home Minister as pot-bellied and the PM Modi a damn liar, and even a thief. Her confidants had used even more slurs against the BJP. The BJP also reciprocated with equally obnoxious remarks against her. Just before the second phase poll, a very nasty and ugly meme and post against Mamata Banerjee was circulated on social media. This meme is strongly misogynic and hateful towards a religious community. It was stated to have been created by a fanatic Hindutva group of Uttar Pradesh. The ugly post has been strongly condemned from all quarters.

### Judicial stipulations

Many citizens who are appalled by the consistent failure of the criminal justice system to act against hate speech call for a dedicated hate speech law. But, Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita prescribes penalization of "promotion of enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony".

Besides these, Section 299 of the BNS also stipulates penalization of "deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs" while Section 302 of the BNS penalizes "uttering, words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person". Section 505(1) and (2) IPC

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(Section 195 of BNS) penalize publication or circulation of any statement, rumour or report causing public mischief and enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.

### **Inexplicable impunity to the hate campaigners**

Thus, it can be seen that there is no dearth of legal provisions for indicting those guilty of hate speeches or debased campaigns. Problem lies in invoking the appropriate clause to punish the offenders. The local police stations in almost every case refuse to file complaints, more so if the accused is found to be connected with any of the ruling parties. Even appeals to higher levels in the police also hit a blank wall. Trial courts are rarely responsive. And recourse to the higher courts results sometimes in platitudes condemning hate speech or campaign but rarely any decisive action.

It is also to be acknowledged that hate speech against minorities, direct or indirect, is no ordinary crime. It thrusts vulnerable minorities into a zone of abiding dread and lays the ground for justifying hate violence. So, the court is expected to prevail upon the concerned executive to take appropriate and timely action that heals the social fissures created by hate speech, reassures the targeted minorities of their security and equal citizenship, and cements amity and fraternity among various communities in the society. Also relevant is a fact that the battle against hateful speech that fosters fear, loathing and violence against vulnerable people cannot be left to a potentially partisan government.

So, all right-thinking people expect the judiciary to discharge its duty in right earnest. But on a number of occasions, the judicial machinery regrettably is found to be either inactive or, we are sorry to say with due respect, to somehow avoid punitive action against the offender. For example, Chief Justice's Bench of Supreme Court declined to entertain a petition seeking to restrain Assam Chief Minister Hemant Vishwa Sarma and pushed the matter to the Gauhati High Court, which has only issued a notice. Meanwhile, Vishwa Sarma continues giving hate speeches with alacrity. On 29 April last, Supreme Court, though having verbally condemned hate speech, dismissed cases against the BJP leaders for alleged hate speech, endorsing the Delhi High Court's view that no offense was committed.

Even the Supreme Court in April 2026 said after carefully pursuing the record, it concluded that Anurag Thakur and others had committed no crime, because no community was mentioned and there was no explicit incitement to violence. If "shooting the traitors" is not an incitement to

## **Electoral campaign reduced to peddling in hate and vilification**

violence, then what is? But even more than this, is the crowd that Anurag Thakur addressed and the context in which it was said, so that any impartial observer would have no doubt that the speech targeted Indian Muslims. This is because of the discourse of the RSS and BJP going back decades which alleges that Indian Muslims are treacherous to the nation.

In a pattern that has become worryingly commonplace, the police around the country have with few exceptions refused to comply with this order. Far from suo moto action, they have declined even to file our complaints for dangerous hate speech or indecent remarks.

Critics argue this lenient approach legitimizes coded incitement and dogwhistling, particularly in the current political climate marked by a significant rise in incidents of hate speech and debased campaign and a perceived retreat in the judiciary's commitment to punish such offences. They also hold the judiciary's capacity to set norms, through suo motu cognizance, continuing mandamus, even sharply worded verbal observations might create some pressures on those who indulge in hate speech, debased campaigns and arch communal rhetorics.

Once upon a time, hate would surreptitiously crawl out of hiding, wearing a mask, to waylay people oblivious of its existence. It lacked the confidence to flaunt its menacing face. In today's capitalist India where cultural-ethical-moral standard is on a steady decline, hate realized it had been needlessly diffident after it saw the popularity of ministers and leaders soar because they publicly spoke its language. This debased campaigns are also making people to believe that politics is profession of slang-mongers.

### **When logic ceases to weigh**

Such hate speeches, vilification campaigns, use of abusive languages and demonization of a particular group or community or political opponent show that those indulging in such things are hollowed out in arguments. They have no alternative other than riding the boat of hate speeches, defamations, libels, mudslinging, personal attacks and character assassinations to score over the political opponents or disgrace the target groups by spreading canards and falsehood.

But these undesirable and repugnant utterances and practices are not clutched out of the thin air. There is an objective base. The root of this phenomenon lies in the dying capitalist system which, in order to provide an extra lease of life, is, among other things, working overtime to intensify

cultural degeneration thereby breaking ethical-moral-cultural backbone of the people. And the protagonists of decadent moribund capitalism, opportunists and careerists benefitting from this worn-out system as well as

self-serving power-seekers in the corridor of bourgeois politics are so ideologically bankrupt and culturally degraded that they have no other course but to resort to hate speeches and campaigns, manifest a debased mindset and seek solace in lingual depravity. The crux of the issue lies here.

## **Force Central Government to Back Down Smart Meters: Massive Protests**

Under pressure of the countrywide movement spearheaded by all India Electricity Consumers' Association and its state outfits over the years involving all sections of the masses, the Union Power Minister was compelled to say on 2 April 2026, that 'smart meter installation is not mandatory. No electricity consumer will be forced to install that meter.' This is not a small victory. It is not an ordinary matter to elicit such an announcement from a central government led by a party like the BJP.

The central government had issued orders to install smart prepaid meters in various states across the country through the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) from August 2021. The work of installing smart prepaid meters started with the help of various agents of the ruling monopolists and multi-nationals. The just dethroned TMC government in West Bengal had purchased 37 lakh smart meters in the first lot and arranged for their installation. At first the common people of the country could not understand the disastrous consequences of this smart meter. Even many educated people were confused, thinking it is an advanced technology.

The All India Electricity Consumers' Association (AIECA) has been continuously organizing a nationwide campaign highlighting the dangerous aspects of these smart meters through pamphlets, booklets, seminars, conventions, conferences and protest deputations to various electricity offices. Through such a wide campaign, the general consumers could understand that the hideous underbelly of the proposition-first pay money in advance first and then enjoy supply of electricity till the time the cost of the power consumed is covered by the deposited money. Once the pre-paid sum is exhausted, power will be disconnected until fresh amount is deposited. The consumers will be robbed of their own money by keeping them in the dark through a slew of deceptive devices camouflaged as conditionalities like Time of Day (TOD) system, dynamic pricing system, real-time monitoring system.

Protest letters have been sent to the Union Power Minister by the AIECA, All Bengal Electricity

Consumers' Association (ABECA) and various state-level electricity consumers' associations. Renowned retired electrical engineers and former electricity department officials of the country participated in the All India Electricity Consumers' Convention in Delhi. This apart, many more programmes were also organized in demand for withdrawing such smart metres.

When the common people of different states understood the contention of the electricity consumers' organizations as correct in their real life experiences, they participated in the resistance movement in 17 states including West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Puducherry.

On 10 March last, the day the anti-people Electricity Bill 2025 was to be introduced in the Lok Sabha, copies of the bill were burnt and widely displayed in districts of various states across the country.

On 12 June 2025, the then West Bengal Power Minister was forced to stand up in the assembly and announce that 'smart meters are suspended.' In Assam, Tata Power was forced to announce scrapping of mandatory prepaid smart electricity meters on 2 May last. Though after WB assembly election, the new BJP government again announced to install smart meters from July 2026.

So, victory is still to be achieved. The AIECA has called for taking steps to remove the installed smart meters and resisting where the governments are trying to install. They have demanded that the consumer movement should be intensified until the demand for cancellation of the RDSS scheme, cancellation of smart meters and withdrawal of the 'Electricity Act 2003 Amendment Bill 2025' is met. A united powerful organized sustained movement is the only way to achieve legitimate demands of the people.

However, there is one rider. The government has said that installation of pre-paid metres is not mandatory. But it has not talked of newly-designed post-paid metres which might also be manipulated to extract more money from the consumers. So, a vigilance needs to be there on this aspect.

## After Iran, US imperialists' next target is Cuba

Cuba, an island country in the Caribbeans, **where in the main a socialist structure is in existence**, has been a sore in the eyes of the US imperialists since the time its adoption of socialism in 1959 after revolutionary overthrow of the autocratic Batista regime aided and abetted by the Pentagon rulers. During the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, the architect of the revolution, announced in April 1959 that the revolutionary government would be "Cubanizing Cuba". This might seem "paradoxical", he explained, but Cubans "undervalued" everything Cuban. They had become "imbued with a type of complex of self-doubt" in the face of the overwhelming US influence on the island's culture, politics and economy. As one US broadcaster Walter Cronkite recalled: "*The rise of Fidel Castro in Cuba ... brought communism practically to our shores. Cuba was a resort land for Americans ... we considered it part of the United States*". The hostility of the US towards Cuba persisted for over seven decades. The Pentagon rulers made repeated attempts to seize Cuba through invasion attempts, covert sabotage, diplomatic isolation, planting terrorism, and draconian economic sanctions. But all have proved abortive so far. Cuba's endurance and resistance remain one of the defining anti-imperialist struggles of the era. So, Rightly observed Fidel Castro that Cuba would not be forgiven for carrying out "*a socialist revolution right under the nose of the United States!*"

### President Trump's threat to invade the island country

But now there is a renewed effort to crush socialist structure of Cuba with US President Trump's escalated fixation on Cuba by intensifying economic warfare pushing the island into a severe humanitarian crisis, obviously under the mandate of his masters, the ruling US monopolists and multinationals. Trump no longer speaks the cautious language traditionally used by former American presidents when discussing Cuba. He boasts openly that he could "*take Cuba in some form*" and insists, "*I can do anything I want with it.*" "*On the way back from Iran, we'll have one of our big - maybe the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier - the biggest in the world, we'll have that come in, stop about 100 yards offshore, and they'll say, 'Thank you very much. We give up.'*" Such rumblings are not rhetorical excesses alone. They reveal the hegemonic political objective the US rulers are seeking to achieve with the belief that Cuba's sovereignty is conditional upon US approval.

### Draconian economic blockade

The historical continuity is

impossible to ignore. In 1960, US diplomat Lester Mallory argued openly that American policy toward Cuba should induce "*hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.*" More than six decades later, the strategy remains fundamentally unchanged. The tools have evolved technologically, but the political objective persists, adopting inhuman route to regime change.

On 29 January last, Trump signed an executive order claiming that Cuba constitutes "*an unusual and extraordinary threat*" to US national security and foreign policy and authorizing tariffs on goods from countries selling or providing oil to Cuba. This followed the December 2025 seizure of tankers carrying Venezuelan oil and, the abduction of Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro and his wife through a swift military operation on 3 January. In the process, Trump administration has effectively engineered an oil blockade around the island paralyzing its fuel supply. It has also issued threats against countries trading with Havana, threatened imposition of high tariffs on countries or corporates supplying oil to Cuba, intercepted Venezuelan shipments, and pressurized Mexico and other regional actors to halt fuel deliveries. Trump openly celebrates the suffering produced by the embargo, boasting that "*there's no oil, there's no money, there's no anything.*"

### Catastrophic consequence of economic blockade

In 2025, Cuba's annual report to the United Nations put the cumulative cost of the US blockade at over US\$170 billion. Costs are rising year after year, reaching \$7.6 billion from March 2024 to February 2025 alone. Despite blockade conditions lasting over six decades, invasion attempts, covert sabotage, diplomatic isolation, by the chieftain of world imperialism-capitalism, its endurance remains one of the defining anti-imperialist stories of the modern era. Overcoming all such adversities, Cuba achieved universal literacy, extensive public healthcare, advanced biotechnology research, and social indicators comparable to wealthier nations.

But now, consequent to deployment of most devastating weapon deployed of energy deprivation, the island country is in severe distress. The fuel shortage is no longer just an energy crisis but a food systems one. Genocidal energy blockade and resulting shortages of oil and diesel are disrupting every stage of Cuba's food supply chain. Without reliable fuel, getting food from the field to the table becomes increasingly difficult, resulting in shortages, inflation, and food insecurity across the country. A lack of diesel has left tractors, harvesters, irrigation

systems, and transportation vehicles unusable. Farmers are increasingly forced to rely on manual labor, dramatically slowing production and reducing yields. Farmers like Obiols Sobredo in the Cuban town of Las Minas produces crops like tomatoes, sorghum, and cassava. Farm work that used to take him 15 minutes with fuel now takes him three days by hand, significantly impacting his ability to feed his community. Milk from Sobredo's goats was once delivered to nearby schools, but fuel shortages now make transportation unreliable and refrigeration difficult, increasing the risk of spoilage before the milk can reach children. The crisis highlights a broader global reality: food security depends on stable energy infrastructure. When fuel systems fail, the effects ripple across agriculture and supply of food items.

The whole island country is plunged into darkness as its power supply depends on imported fuel. Cuba has completely run out of diesel and fuel oil reserves, leaving the national electrical grid in a "critical" state. The country has installed 1,300 megawatts of solar power over the past two years, but much of that capacity is lost to grid instability amid the fuel shortages, reducing efficiency and output. While panels may have been installed, Cuba is short of the batteries that allow it to keep supplying homes through the night. People in Havana have been walking past a large rubbish bin burned at night in protest against prolonged blackouts. Cooking gas is critically scarce, forcing residents to cook with charcoal. Public transportation, tractors, and agricultural machinery are frequently immobilized by the lack of fuel. Sanitation infrastructure and water access are increasingly unstable.

### World famous healthcare system is in peril

As the global people are aware of, Cuba had developed a high quality medical service even despite all constraints and constant threats. It also developed one of the world's largest international medical solidarity programmes. High quality medical service is free in that country. Cuba also produced Latin America's only domestically developed COVID-19 vaccines and pioneered important medical innovations in cancer treatment and meningitis prevention. In Cuba, there are at least eight doctors for every 1,000 citizens—the highest ratio in the world. No country, including the US, can boast of such numbers.

Now that celebrated healthcare system is in peril. Ambulances are immobilized by fuel shortages. The lack of reliable power is impacting vital healthcare services, causing

worries about the ability to perform delicate surgeries and the spoiling of refrigerated vaccines. Food transport systems have partially collapsed. Refrigeration failures have intensified shortages largely gone amid tropical heat. Schools and universities have suspended classes during prolonged blackouts. Water distribution systems have been disrupted because pumping stations depend on electricity. Entire neighbourhoods in Havana and eastern Cuba endure outages lasting more than twenty hours daily.

Thus, within two weeks of issuance of Trump's executive order, the United Nations Human Rights Office warned that essential services were at risk in Cuba.

### Cuba's humanitarian face

Whom the US imperialists are now out to crush? A devil as claimed by them or an angel the suffering people of the world are in effusive praise of? Guatemalan researcher Henry Morales calculated that between 1999 and 2015, Cuba's overseas development aid equalled 6.6 percent of its GDP, compared to the European average of 0.39 percent and 0.17 percent from the United States. Since 1960, over 600,000 Cuban medical professionals have served in 180 countries, saving and improving millions of lives, especially in underserved populations in the poorest countries. Since 1960, more than 600,000 Cuban medical professionals have served in 180 countries. During Covid pandemic, Cuba had dispatched medical teams to over 59 affected countries. A team of 53 Cuban specialists trained in epidemiology reached the Lombardy region, the epicenter of the epidemic to provide invaluable support to Italy's beleaguered medical infrastructure. A team of 39 Cuban medical professionals were also dispatched to the tiny principality of Andorra, wedged between France and Spain, whose doctors were all down with suspected COVID-19. The island nation has sent brigades of doctors and supplies to Italy, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Suriname and Grenada. Cuba has 28,268 members of medical brigades working in 61 countries around the world. This was the small country that sent 400,000 soldiers to Angola to defend it from the invading forces of apartheid South Africa.

But all these humanitarian acts have invited not just wrath but brutal opposition from the US imperialists and their allies. Cuba has survived relentless aggression from the world's most dominant imperialist power, whether through overt and covert military actions; sabotage and terrorism, economic warfare as well

*Contd. on page 6*

## Cubans pledge- “Homeland or death, we will prevail”

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as international isolation. US imperialists and their allies have systematically undermined Cuba by promoting dangerous emigration while obstructing remittances, family visits, and visas. These were also topped off by lucrative funding for regime-change programmes.

### Flimsy pretext of attacking Cuba

As has been seen by all, US imperialists give an excuse before attacking or invading any country. In the case of Iraq, they said that President Saddam Hussein was possessing weapons of mass destruction. After occupying Iraq, a thorough search could not find any existence of such armory. Then the US government acknowledged that it was guided by a false information. Venezuelan president was accused of drug trading and then abducted by a secret midnight military operation. The sudden attack on Iran has been sought to be justified on the pretext that Iran possessed vast uranium material and enriching (an industrial process of increasing the proportion of the fissile isotope uranium-235 in natural uranium) the stockpile for preparing nuclear bomb which would pose danger to the world.

Likewise, the Pentagon rulers allege that way back in February 1996, the then Cuban President Raul Castro, now 94, is now charged of directing Cuban MiG-29 jet to shoot down two small aircraft belonging to Brothers to the Rescue, a Miami-based organization, looking for rafters trying to reach the United States. Four people died in that incident. Fact is that the two aircraft, which were stated to have been searching for rafters fleeing across the Florida straits, had flown over Havana to drop leaflets when they were intercepted by a Cuban jet. Now that old 390 year old incident is dug out from the debris of history to orchestrate a regime change by inciting Cuban people reeling under survival crisis to revolt against the regime and sending troops, both naval and ground by the present Trump administration which has been showing shown utter contempt for international law and has been conducting extrajudicial killings in the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean, hijacking oil fields and tankers, kidnapping crews and seizing the oil.

### Cubans pledge to defend socialist structure with all their might

But the Cuban people who repose full confidence in its existing socialist system, are ready to resist US invasion with all their might. Several Cuban officials have told media persons amid the rumours of a

Castro indictment in recent weeks that such a development would end ongoing negotiations, virtually a call on Cuba to “make a deal” with Trump amounting to veiled threats against its sovereignty and set the stage for a military intervention to which they would sacrifice their lives if needed. “*If half of us die, half of us die,*” one woman told during a protest over the power cuts in Havana this week where demonstrators beat pots and pans for so long that the steel was caved in with dents. “*But at least the other half get to live in peace,*” she said.

The Cuban authorities have revived civil defense preparations rooted in the revolutionary doctrine of “the war of the entire population.” Cuban civilians and military officials are not literally creating physical “human walls,” but are engaging in a nationwide defence strategy called the “**War of All the People**” to deter potential US military intervention. This doctrine involves mobilizing the entire population—including civilians, neighborhood militias, and armed volunteers—to transform every city and coastline into a battlefield, aiming to make any occupation too costly and chaotic for the US imperialist felons. Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel warned on 19 May last that any US military action would lead to a “bloodbath” with “incalculable consequences” for the region. “*Everyone in Cuba is trained militarily and ... incorporated into this system of national defence,*” Yaffe, a professor of Latin American political economy at the University of Glasgow, and host of the podcast titled Cuba Analysis, told international media. Revolutionary honour in Cuba is attached to martyrdom. The country’s official motto is “*Patria o muerte, venceremos*” which translates to “Homeland or death, we will prevail”.

The issue, it must be recognized, is not merely Cuba itself. It is a threat to the entire anti-imperialist peace-loving people of entire Latin America. Through 67 years of active solidarity with the working class of the world, the Cuban Revolution has earned a return of solidarity. So, it is incumbent not only the Latin American people but anti-imperialist people of the world to rise in vehement protest against possible US military attack on Cuba and demand of their respective governments to undertake all possible diplomatic measures to compel US imperialists to withdraw the seize on Cuba and abandon heinous design of occupying the island country militarily.

### US imperialists Hands off Cuba!

## Gaza Flotilla Activists Allege Abuse in Israeli Detention

Pro-Palestinian activists deported after Israel intercepted a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters have accused Israeli forces of abuse and mistreatment during detention.

More than 50 vessels belonging to the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) had sailed from Turkey last week with the aim of breaking Israel’s maritime blockade on Gaza and delivering humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies. Israeli commandos intercepted the flotilla west of Cyprus earlier this week and detained hundreds of activists on board.

According to Israeli authorities, the operation was necessary because the flotilla was allegedly serving the interests of Hamas and was described by officials as a “public relations stunt.” The detained activists were transferred to Israeli vessels and later taken to detention facilities after arriving at the port of Ashdod. On 21 May, Israel deported 422 activists from 41 countries. Following their return home, several participants accused Israeli security personnel of violence, humiliation, and sexual abuse while in custody. Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand stated that Canada had received reports detailing the “appalling abuse” of Canadian citizens detained in Israel. She strongly condemned the alleged mistreatment and called for accountability.

Germany and Spain also confirmed that some of their citizens had returned with injuries. Spain’s Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said that four Spanish activists required medical treatment after their release.

The organizers of the Global Sumud Flotilla alleged that detainees suffered severe mistreatment, including physical assaults and sexual violence. They claimed there were at least 15 cases of sexual assault, while others reportedly sustained broken bones and injuries caused by rubber bullets.

Israel’s prison service rejected the allegations, calling them “false and entirely without factual basis.” Officials insisted that all detainees were treated according to Israeli law

and received proper medical care.

The Israel Defense Forces also denied wrongdoing, stating that military procedures require respectful treatment of flotilla participants and that no known violations had occurred. The military added that any formal complaints would be investigated thoroughly.

Several activists gave emotional testimonies after returning to their countries.

French activist Meriem Hadjal alleged that she experienced sexual violence and physical assault during detention. Speaking to reporters in Paris, she claimed she was slapped, grabbed, and subjected to degrading treatment that left her traumatized.

Italian journalist Alessandro Mantovani described a detention facility made from shipping containers as “a place of terror,” alleging that he was beaten by Israeli personnel. British activist Richard Johan Anderson accused Israeli forces of torture and systematic dehumanization, comparing their treatment to the suffering endured daily by Palestinians in Gaza.

Israeli human rights organization Adalah, which represented many detainees, said its lawyers documented numerous allegations of violence and severe injuries. According to the group, at least three activists required hospital treatment. The incident has intensified international criticism of Israel’s handling of the flotilla. Earlier this week, more than 20 countries, including the United Kingdom, condemned a video circulated by far-right Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. The footage showed handcuffed activists kneeling on the floor while being mocked and roughly handled by security personnel.

Even Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticized Ben-Gvir’s actions, saying the behaviour shown in the video did not reflect Israel’s values. The controversy has further increased international attention on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the growing tensions surrounding attempts to challenge Israel’s blockade of the territory.

(Source-David Gritten,  
BBC News)



Kishan Mahapanchayat organized by AIKKMS on May 24 at Kanpur dehat, UP

## The Question Hon'ble PM Modi Wouldn't Answer

India calls itself the world's largest democracy. But when a foreign journalist asked Indian Prime Minister about press freedom, the answer was silence. The episode reveals how media capture, digital intimidation, and fascist autocracy are reshaping India's public sphere—and why the crisis is inseparable from the insoluble global crisis of imperialism-capitalism itself.

There are moments when the crisis of imperialism-capitalism and its political superstructure reveal themselves not through wars, coups, riots, or declarations of emergency, but through silence.

That silence hung heavily in the room when Norwegian journalist Helle Lyng asked PM Modi whether he would ever begin taking critical questions from the Indian press. PM Modi did not answer. Rather he left the venue in hurry. His officials did not answer. Indian diplomats later responded with a familiar litany about yoga, vaccines, and India's global stature—but not the question itself. Yet the silence was more revealing than any official statement could have been.

Lyng's question was devastating precisely because it was ordinary. In functioning bourgeois democracies, journalists are expected to ask political leaders difficult questions every day. Accountability is not treated as an act of hostility but as the minimum expectation of public life. But in contemporary India, the simple act of questioning power has become akin to sedition or anti-national act. For nearly thirteen years of his tenure as PM, hon'ble Modi has avoided holding an open press conference. No unscripted exchanges. No sustained questioning from independent reporters. No routine public accountability before the media. That fact alone should alarm anyone concerned with democracy. But in capitalist India, it has gradually become normalized.

The incident involving Lyng therefore was not a sideshow. It was a glimpse into the deeper transformation of capitalist India's political culture—a transformation where democracy increasingly survives as a mere spectacle while its institutions of scrutiny steadily weaken. The symbolism was impossible to ignore. India currently ranks 157 out of 180 countries on the global Press Freedom Index, while Norway ranks first. The contrast is more than statistical. It reflects two radically different understandings of democratic life.

During the advent of bourgeois

democracy, press was recognized as the fourth state and journalism as a public necessity. But now in dying capitalism, what is entertained is a committed press and pliable journalism.

India's media landscape has changed dramatically over the past decades, more so in last decade. Large sections of television journalism have evolved into hyper-nationalist performance arenas where anchors function less as investigators than as ideological enforcers. Debate shows often resemble political tribunals rather than forums for democratic discussion. Independent journalists face lawsuits, raids, surveillance, online harassment, economic pressure and even incarceration. Media ownership has become concentrated among powerful corporate conglomerates deeply intertwined with the power that be. The result is not classical censorship in the old authoritarian sense. It is something more sophisticated: a culture of managed conformity.

Governments no longer need to silence every critic directly when economic pressure, digital intimidation, and manufactured outrage produce self-censorship automatically. The public sphere becomes saturated with noise but emptied of inquiry. Citizens are overwhelmed by spectacle while deprived of accountability.

This is where the Lyng episode becomes globally significant. Her question punctured the carefully constructed international image of PM Modi as the charismatic leader of a rising imperialist superpower. More importantly, it exposed the contradiction at the heart of contemporary India: a state that celebrates electoral legitimacy while systematically insulating executive power from scrutiny.

Bourgeois democracy, however, is not simply the act of orchestrating elections at specific intervals or keeping a façade of parliament. It depends upon continuous public questioning and scrutiny of the pattern of governance. Without that, elections alone become hollow rituals.

The crisis unfolding in India is part of a broader global pattern tied to the deeper instability of twenty-first-century imperialism-capitalism itself. Across the world, bourgeois democratic institutions are weakening under the pressures of inequality, oligarchic concentration, social fragmentation, and permanent economic insecurity. In moments of systemic crisis, ruling classes increasingly rely not only on

economic control, engagement of coercive machinery but also cultural regimentation.

Instead of addressing unemployment, inequality, agrarian distress, or social precarity, the decadent bourgeois political system redirects public wrath and grievances toward casteist-communal-ethnic-lingual identities, narrow sectarian views and fanned up communal-parochial-chauvinist polarization. The supreme leader is mythologized as the embodiment of ordained national destiny. Criticism is framed as anti-national. Honest journalism is recast as an act of treason or disloyalty.

This is why, fascism, as shown by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder of the SUCI(C) and an outstanding Marxist thinker, 64 years back that fascism has become a general feature of all capitalist-imperialist countries in the post-second world war period seeking to redirect thinking process into the blind alley of mysticism, blindness and irrationality.

So, Fascism in the twenty-first century does not always arrive through marching uniforms or formal dictatorships. It emerges through media ecosystems, digital propaganda, personality cults, and the normalization of threat culture. It thrives when public anger generated by economic crisis is redirected away from structures of wealth and power toward manufactured enemies—minorities, dissenters, interrogative intellectuals and questioning journalists.

The online abuse directed at Helle Lyng after her questioning reflected precisely this culture. Women journalists, particularly those asking uncomfortable political

questions, are routinely subjected to coordinated intimidation campaigns. The goal is not merely to insult them but to send a wider warning: questioning power carries consequences. In such environments, silence becomes contagious.

And yet the irony is profound. India's democratic tradition was historically built upon argument, dissent, and public contestation. The doyens of Indian freedom movement understood democracy not as obedience, but as a system where legislators would be accountable to the people and policies would be framed through due debates and discussions. And journalists would function as apostles of public opinion. But that cherished argumentative culture is increasingly under siege.

The refusal to answer Helle Lyng's question was therefore not simply a personal choice by one leader. It reflects a larger political condition: the shrinking space for democratic accountability in contemporary India. A confident democracy does not fear journalists. A secure leader does not avoid unscripted questions. A genuinely free press does not require permission to scrutinize power. What happened in Norway mattered because it briefly broke the choreography. For a moment, the polished spectacle of power collided with a basic democratic demand: answer the question.

The refusal spoke volumes. A simple question from a journalist unveils the entire gamut of eroding democratic values—fear of being caught napping, arrogance bred by power and ostracized accountability.

### Protest against petro-price hike in MP and Tripura



*Demonstration against continuous rise in the prices of essential articles and petrol-diesel in Gwalior, MP, on 18 May*

*Demonstration in Agartala, Tripura, on May 15 against hike in petrol-diesel prices*



## GDP growth- no indicator of real economic progress

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*matter of pride for all of us that we have now surpassed Japan. Now, the pressure of becoming the third (largest economy) is more than the happiness of becoming the fourth (largest economy). The country is not ready to wait. If someone asks to wait, a slogan comes from behind 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai.'* Crediting PM Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and "strategic initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes" the government in a statement said, "India's economic growth under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not just about building momentum, it is about reshaping the nation's economic destiny." But the small but important caveat that the IMF data were mere projections and not finalized data was conveniently ignored in a haste to trumpet the emergence of India as the fastest-growing major economy and its being on track to become the world's third-largest economy.

### Bubble has burst in no time

But it has not taken much time for the bubble to burst. Latest data from the same IMF shows that instead of rising up in the charts, India has fallen from its ranking at number five, below the UK, which it succeeded in 2021. Economic growth, in a capitalist economy, is determined based on growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is defined as the total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within a country's borders during a specific period. Real GDP accounts for inflation, while Nominal GDP does not. As per the April global economic outlook of the IMF, India is likely to end 2026-27 with a GDP size of \$4.15 trillion, below the UK's \$4.26 trillion.

### Why is this slide?

**First reason** cited for this is the drop in rupee value vis a dollar from 84.57 in 2024 to 88.48 in 2025 and 95.26 on May 01, 2026. The rupee depreciation and the nominal GDP revision has pushed back India's dream of becoming the third largest economy by the end of this decade. Rupee decline has caused a rise in import bills, particularly the crude oil import.

**Second reason** is the massive exit of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) from the Indian stock market between 2021 and 2026. Record outflows occurred with FIIs withdrawing nearly Rs.1.58 lakh crore by late December 2025 and again withdrawing over Rs.1.92 lakh crore (\$20+ billion) in the first four months and particularly a Rs. 1.1 lakh crore pullout in March 2026, as stock markets like those of Taiwan/South

Korea and Singapore as well as AI investments in US were viewed as more profitable.

**Third reason** is India's trade deficit (Imports exceeding exports) always remains around \$ 100 billion. Trade deficits have been \$ 119.30 billion in FY 25-26, \$94.66 billion in FY 24-25 and \$119.53 billion in FY 22-23. In fact, India is able to manage its trade deficit because of personal remittances received from the Indian diaspora which was about US\$125 billion in 2023 or nearly 3.5% of GDP as of 2024-26. It received remittances about US\$111 billion in 2022 and over. It is pertinent to mention that this remittance is not because of any robust growth of the Indian economy. On the contrary, it shows that many Indians moved to different countries for gainful engagement.

**Fourth reason** is the fall in FDIs. Based on data up to early 2026, India experienced a significant 96% crash in net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the 2024-25 financial year, dropping to a record low of USD 353 million, down from USD 10.1 billion in 2023-24. FDI in manufacturing reached its lowest in five years during FY24. It means that no overseas corporates are coming forward to invest in India.

Moreover, India's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$4.82 billion to \$698.49 billion in the week ended 24 April last as per data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Foreign currency assets (FCAs) declined by \$2.84 billion to \$554.62 billion during the week. Gold reserves dropped by \$1.90 billion to \$120.24 billion.

Accumulated effects of all these factors have contributed to the slide of the Indian economy into 6<sup>th</sup> position. We have omitted other technical details for brevity's sake.

### Flawed calculation of GDP

It warrants mentioning that the IMF itself has raised serious concerns regarding the methodology India uses to calculate its GDP. IMF has flagged the following aspects:

o **Outdated Base Year:** Use of 2011-12 based year misrepresents the modern economic structure.

o **Flawed Deflation Method:** Reliance on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and single deflation instead of Producer Price Index (PPI) and

double deflation introduces bias.

o **Data Gaps:** Unexplained discrepancies between production and expenditure -side GDP calculations.

o **Lack of Granularity:** Absence of timely, sector-wise investment data and seasonally adjusted figures. So, the GDP stands overestimated because of methodological flaws.

Secondly, as we have stated on a number of occasions in the Proletarian Era, GDP is not a correct indicator of economic growth as it does not reflect the distribution pattern of the wealth generated. Of late, IMF has openly acknowledged that GDP is not a true indicator of economic progress as it ignores well-being of common people and inequality, cost of environmental damages to production etc. On both the parameters, India's economic progress is negated. Concentration of wealth among India's ultra-rich is higher than in the US, Brazil & South Africa. Not only that the bottom 50% of Indian earners receive only 15% of the country's total income, while the wealthiest 10% of Indians hold nearly two-thirds of all the country's wealth, says the *World Inequality Report*. Wealth inequality is worse than income inequality—the wealthiest 10% of Indians hold nearly two-thirds of the country's wealth; the richest 1% hold 40% of it. Between 2014 and 2024, the income gap between the top 10% and the bottom 50% remained unchanged. Can we call wealth concentration in the hands of a few industrial giants and growing pauperization of the toiling millions a growth story? Is not the economic development of India contingent upon the rising standard of life of all Indians? So why this euphoria over GDP growth? Even if India becomes the third largest economy as trumpeted by the ruling dispensation, what is there for the suffering Indian citizens to be elated about? More is the demonstrated euphoria over economic growth; more is the distress and destitution of the oppressed people. This is inevitable in crisis-ridden capitalism now in its death throes. Let not people at large be swayed by the false propaganda of economic growth by the ruling monopolists and their servitors.

## Protest against rapes in Delhi



*AIDSO, AIDYO and AIMSS activists of Delhi organized a protest demonstration at Kondli on May 17 against the gruesome incidents of rape in Saraswati Bihar and Janakpuri*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH

## SUCI(C) on the ghastly incident of gangrape and suicide in Rajasthan

**Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), issued the following statement on 18.05.2026 :**

The shocking and horrifying incident of gang rape of two sisters and their subsequent suicide in Jodhpur, Rajasthan has sent shockwaves throughout the country.

The elder sister was lured by a boy, fell in love with him and then the boy entered into physical relationship with her. He video-photographed their intimate moments and then started blackmailing her with the threat of making the video public. The boy with his accomplices went on gang-raping her continuously for nearly four years. The girl finding no other way to escape took her own life in the month of March last. The younger sister lodged complain to the police giving names of the rapists. But, the police did nothing. Then came the turn of the younger sister. She was threatened by the rapists that the video of her elder sister would be made public if she refused to be similarly gangraped by them. And the culprits started gangraping her as well. She again went to the police and pleaded that if the culprits are not apprehended, she would commit suicide. Yet, the police did nothing, and the gang of criminals went on raping her brutally. Being helpless, she followed the path of the elder sister and committed suicide by taking poison on 15 May last.

During this time, Delhi also witnessed a repeat of the horrible Nirbhaya rape and murder incident. Other states are also no exception. All such sexual assaults went on with impunity when the BJP in both the central and the state governments and the Prime Minister regularly clamouring for 'beti bachao'.

The ruling party leaders claim themselves as the torchbearers of sacred Sanatan Hindu Dharma. Is this the much glorified Sanatana dharma where girls are subjected to regular sexual assaults by criminals? No words are strong enough to condemn this ghastly incidents and the eerie silence of the police administration.

We call upon the people of the country to raise their voice against such dastardly sexual assaults and demand immediate stoppage of such crimes and exemplary punishments to the guilty.