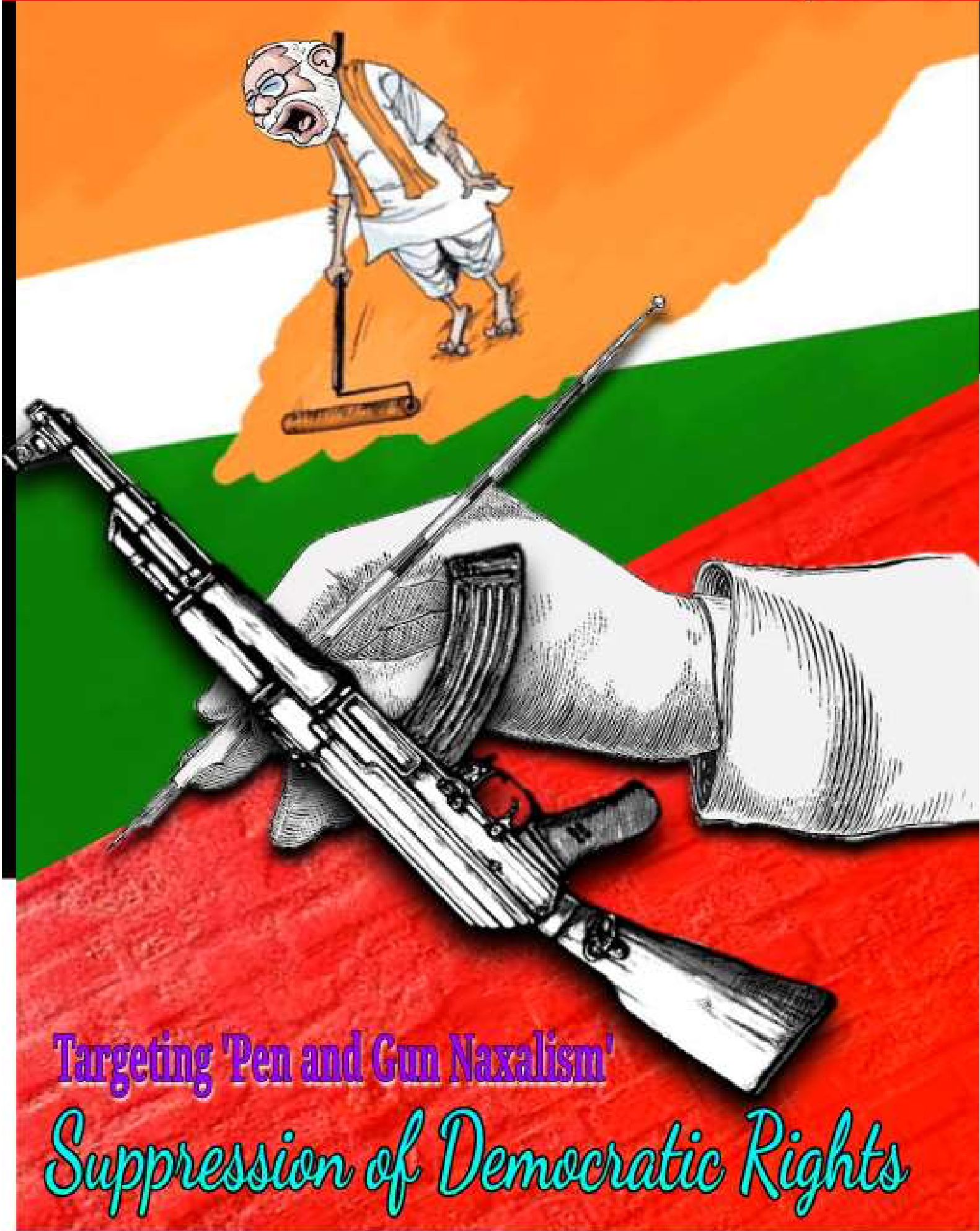


# PEOPLE'S MARCH

*Vol-18 No-1 January-2023*



**Targeting 'Pen and Gun Naxalism'**

**Suppression of Democratic Rights**

# CONTENTS



**Comrade Jose Mario Sison is among the greatest of Filipinos of the past century for masterfully and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism-Maoism... - 4**

**As capitalism is undergoing its worst crisis in history, there has risen in the working class agitations and Trade union activities as the working class purchasing power is getting eroded in the face of rising inflation. Strikes and demonstrations by the working class is going to become militant in the coming days -7**

**Far right is rising in Europe indicating a serious turn in European politics  
The people of Europe need to understand the right path out of their crises and come under the umbrella of working class struggles in the path of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism -13**

**Indian Judiciary becomes 'sinister'  
Its attitude towards revolutionaries, democrats, activists, journalists and religious minorities is getting more and more fascist -24**



## Strengthens People's Uprising

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi came out with a new but old (in essence) statement on forms of Naxalism. He called for its elimination whether it be 'gun-wielding or pen-wielding'. He explained that the pen is being used 'to raise international support' and 'to mislead the youth'. He was addressing the 'Chintan Sivr' (Brain storming session) of the Home-Ministers and Director Generals of Police of the states arranged by the Union Home Ministry in Surajkund of the state of Haryana on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. The 'Chintan Sivr' was to prepare an action plan for the implementation of 'Panch Prann' (five pledges) that the Prime Minister announced in his speech on the Independence Day.

The PM virtually addressed the gathering on the second day of the session. His comment made one raise eyebrows. The meaning of putting together pen and gun is obvious. Those who write on or lend support to people's rights are equivalent to those who work for it armed. He means that both these just and democratic struggles are a crime. They shall be brought to 'police justice' with iron fist. The PM also said that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act gave an impetus to combat terrorism. This is the understanding of the Brahmanic Hindutva Fascist government sitting in the centre and that is the reason so many activists and intellectuals foisted with UAPA are not being given bail.

The Constitution of the 'largest democracy' of the world mentions freedom of expression. There are ample examples to say that democratic space is shrinking and shrinking in the country. The government wants to validate its deeds through introducing more and more such new laws that suppress the oppressed classes and sections of the country. It wants to besmirch any word or deed against the state. It brands all the demands for people's rights for land, water and all the natural resources into one entity, Naxalism/Maoism.

There is a recent clear example. Virtually addressing the environment ministers of states in a National Conference in Narmada district of Gujarat the PM also said that 'urban Naxals and anti-development elements with political backing' stood in the way of development projects in Gujarat. He also said that some groups took crores of rupees from global organisations and created hurdles to the development of the country. While the PM spoke indirectly, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Chief Minister of Gujarat came out openly on Narmada Bachao Andolan that put up a long-drawn struggle against the increase of height of the Narmada dam. It is clear that the BJP government is branding any kind of anti-Modi voice as urban Naxal.

The 'Chintan Sivr' discussed about coordination and a common strategy to curb crimes including cyber and narcotics. Speaking on the occasion the Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the government amended the Foreign Contributions (Regulations) Act in 2020 since it was 'being misused by some NGOs. We see that journalists and organisers of NGOs are being arrested and foisted cases of money laundering. He also said that the government received a big number of proposals to amend the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and looking into the same. The government is planning to make bills in this regard in the Parliament. Important changes were made in NIA that provided more powers to the agency. It had also been given extra-territorial jurisdiction and can also 'seize the properties of a terrorist'. Changes were made in UAPA too and made stringent.

Whatever the name given to these occasional meetings, those especially discuss about what they call 'Left Wing Extremism' (LWE), i.e., the ongoing Maoist movement. While increasing funds on one hand to unleash repression on the revolutionary movement, the Central government on the other hand says that the movement is in decline. Amit Shah said that the 'Maoist threat is on the wane' in August 2022 in the meeting of Central Zonal Council in Bhopal of Madhya Pradesh. The council constitutes Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Later on another occasion he claims that there is a decrease of 74 percent of 'terror attacks' in the country and 90 percent in terror-related killings since 2014. What he states to be a good job of the BJP government is nothing but extension of fascism and contraction of democracy and more and more corporatisation and militarisation.

This state of affairs demands more pen-wielding, word-wielding, fist-wielding forms of dissent.

**Red Salutes to Comrade Jose Mario Sison  
The Founding Chairman of  
Communist Party of Philippines,  
Leader of World Socialist Revolution and  
A Great Hero of the Oppressed Masses of Philippines!**



**F**ounding Chairman of the Communist Party of Philippines, a leader of the World Socialist Revolution and a great hero of the oppressed people of Philippines Comrade Jose Mario Sison breathed his last at 8.40 pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 in a hospital in Utrecht in Netherlands. Comrade Sison made historical contributions to the world proletariat movement. His martyrdom brought a great void in the International Communist Movement.

As the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Philippines said in its statement about his passing away, Comrade Sison,

‘is among the greatest of Filipinos of the past century for masterfully and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to the Philippines and the Philippine revolution, giving the Filipino people the strength to carve the country’s future and attain their aspirations for national freedom and democracy.....

‘...The Central Committee and the entire Party will forever be guided and inspired by Ka Joma’s immortal revolutionary spirit. Let us forever keep red his memory and legacy and strengthen our determination to continue and bring forward the revolution that he ignited together with other great leaders of the Central Committee and its Political Bureau and Executive Committee.

‘We affirm as well the important role that Ka Joma played as a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist torch bearer who helped inspire the proletariat across the world, and keep the embers of the international communist movement as it enters a new phase of resurgence.

‘...Today we declare Ka Joma as the greatest hero of the Filipino people in their past century of resistance against imperialism. His immense contributions to shaping the patriotic and revolutionary consciousness of the Filipino people and breaking open the path towards national and social liberation, will never be erased’.

Comrade Jose Mario Sison handed over ‘a treasure trove of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist work in which his immortal revolutionary spirit will forever live to guide the next generation of Party cadres to greater heights’. That is the reason ‘...the Second Congress of the Communist Party of the Philippines issued a comprehensive statement giving Ka Joma the Party’s highest tribute and tracing his contributions to the growth of the Philippine revolution’.

Comrade Sison was born in a landlord family on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1939. After his studies he worked as a lecturer in English and later in Political Science. He read a lot on Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and developed a people’s perspective towards the ongoing developments in Philippines. At that time the people of the country were suffering from the exploitation of US imperialism. The people of Philippines had been under colonial exploitation since the time of the Spanish colonialists. The US took its place and tightened its fangs on Philippines. Philippines is a group of islands and is of strategic importance for the US imperialists. The US established at least five military bases in Philippines. People were finding ways for freedom.

Comrade Sison saw the people, he saw the exploitation. He read the experiences of the revolutions in Russia and China. He saw what was happening in various parts of the world. He thought he must do something for his people. His thoughts led him towards Partido Komunista Ing Philipinas in 1962. In 1964 a youth organisation was formed. He became a leader of the Nationalist youth. Later he also led

the Movement for the Advancement of Nationalism. In his leadership there were struggles against the dictatorship of Marcos and against the US war on Vietnam.

As he was working in this Party, Comrade Sison understood that the Party was going in a revisionist way. He decided to leave the party and divorced from it. By the time he came into touch with various Communist forces. He organised them and then founded the Communist Party of Philippines on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1968. He was its founding chairman at an age of 27 years. He knew the experiences of China where under the leadership of Comrade Mao Tse-tung people had an army of their own. With the understanding that people cannot attain liberation without a people's army he founded the New People's Army on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1969.

Comrade Sison understood that theory is the guiding force for practice. Comrade Sison was one of the Maoist leaders who took up Marxism-Leninism-Maoism as the theory for revolution of any country. He applied MLM to Philippines. He studied the Philippine society in the light of the theory of MLM. He wrote several analytical articles and books in the pen name 'Amado Gerero'. With his book 'Struggle for National democracy' in 1967 he became popular as a Marxist intellectual.

Comrade Sison proved that Maoist People's War is the only way for the liberation of the people from imperialism. He clearly explained the character of Philippines as semi-colonial and semi-feudal. He developed the Party organisation. He developed the New People's

Army (NPA) into a formidable force fighting on behalf of the people. NPA has been making strides in military actions since its formation. His understanding of United Front can be understood through the success of the National Democratic Front of Philippines (NDFP) formed on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1973. In a period of time the NDFP united various oppressed classes, sections and people of backward areas. A National Council was formed and it also has an International Representative.

In 1977 Comrade Sison and his life partner Comrade Juliet were arrested. Dictator Marcos personally interrogated Comrade Sison. Comrade Sison was tortured. Maoist forces across the world protested against the arrest and illegal detention that led the government to produce Comrade Sison in court. Comrade Sison spent nine years in a jail in the military prison on the outskirts of the capital city of Philippines tied to a cot 20 hours a day in a dark room.

People rebelled against the dictatorship that led to the collapse of Marcos government in 1986 March. By this time CPP developed into a strong force in the country. The newly formed government held talks with the CPP. During this period Comrade Sison toured in various countries to develop solidarity for the Philippines revolutionary movement. When he was in Netherlands in 1988 September, the Philippines government dissolved his passport. He was foisted with sedition. He was not allowed into the country. Since then Comrade Sison was in political exile in Netherlands and guided the movement.

By 1988 left sectarian trend came forth in the Philippines

movement that was advancing in steps. After a few more years there was a right deviation. These trends considerably affected the movement. Comrade Sison made a theoretical political struggle against these trends through the rectification movement and sustained the party. The rectification movement contributed to strengthen the Party, NPA, Mass Organisations and NDF. The success of the movement advanced the party.

Apart from guiding the revolutionary movement in all these spheres, he continued theoretical efforts. In 1993 he wrote the book, 'Philippine society-Revolution'. In this book he analysed the history and society of Philippines in the present condition. The Philippines government was afraid of the rising influence of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism in the country. In a bid to foil it in the bud it banned the book.

In 2002 August the US government declared Comrade Sison as 'a supporter of extremism'. Then the Netherlands government started to harass him. In 2009 EU also added him in the list of terrorists. Comrade Sison fought a case in the European court of justice and got his name removed.

Comrade Sison made a remarkable contribution in the International Communist Movement. He established relations with the Maoist parties of various countries and worked for their coordination and unity. He was an active defender of MLM all through and wrote against the revisionist trends. He was highly critical of Prachanda and Bob Avakian's modern revisionism. He had a major role in the formation of the

## Red Salutes to Comrade Salim!

'People's March' expresses its deep-felt condolences to the CC and the cadres of the Communist (Maoist) Party of Afghanistan on the martyrdom of Comrade Salim, the main member of its Central Committee. It shares the grief with his comrades and friends.

The martyrdom of Comrade Salim is yet another loss to the World Communist Movement. He was one of the founders of the 'Fighting Organisation for the Rescue of Afghanistan'. He worked to form C(M)PA. In spite of severe illhealth, he strived to strengthen the Communist (Maoist) movement in Afghanistan and to uphold Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

He worked for the coordination of the Communist parties over the world.

Revolutionaries of the world shall pledge to continue his ideals in the direction of strengthening international solidarity.

## Red Salutes to Comrade Andreas!

'People's March' pays humble revolutionary homage to Comrade Andreas Vogiatzoglou, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of CPG(m-l). It conveys deep-felt condolences to the CC and the cadres of the party, to his companion of life Comrade Rena and daughter Dimitra.

Comrade Andreas' martyrdom in this time of a spate in world proletarian movement is a severe loss to the International Communist Movement. Comrade Andreas had good knowledge of MLM. He was in practice.

He had a vital role in the efforts to build International organisation of Communist parties.

Revolutionary cadres of the world revolutionary movement shall take forth his ideals. His militancy, courage and understanding shall continue to illumine the path of revolution and inspire the cadres all over.

International League for People's Struggles (ILPS). Through the ILPS he made relentless efforts to bring together the anti-imperialist and nationality liberation struggles.

Comrade Sison also wrote analytical articles on the world-wide economic and political conditions. He very clearly understood the conditions unfavorable for the exploitive classes and those favorable for revolution. CPP published the writings of Comrade Sison in 11 volumes this year on varied subjects such as philosophy, economics, art and literature, people's democratic revolution and such other aspects. These writings are very much useful for the Maoist forces all over the world. Comrade Sison worked to preserve the contributions of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao. He thus stands as a leader of the world proletariat.

Ka Joma suffered from ill health for 15 days and breathed his last in a hospital in Utrecht on the night of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the age of 83.

As per his last wish the party arranged to get his remains or ashes.

This is what Comrade Sison said in his last message to his party cadres –

'It is the toiling masses and the rest of the people who fight for national liberation, democracy and socialism against imperialism and all reaction who let us hope for a bright future of world peace and common prosperity. They are now waging anti-imperialist and democratic mass struggle against the current global crisis that has been brought about by revisionist betrayal of socialism, neoliberalism and fascism. These are the prelude to the

resurgence of the world proletarian-socialist revolution'.

Red Salutes to Comrade Jose Mario Sison!

The CC of the CPP declared ten day mourning and dedicated the Party's upcoming 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the memory of Ka Joma. It ordered all the units of New People's Army to observe the protocol at the break of dawn of December 26<sup>th</sup> and perform a 21-gun salute in silence to bid farewell to its beloved leader. Comrade Ka Joma was cremated at 10.30 am of 27<sup>th</sup> December at the Crematorium Daelwijk in Utrecht, according to a statement of the International Office of the NDFP. The CPI (Maoist) announced mourning on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

# G20 and the Global economic crisis

**As capitalism is undergoing its worst crisis in history, there is a rise in the working class agitations and Trade union activities as the working class purchasing power is getting eroded in the face of rising inflation. Strikes and demonstrations by the working class is going to become militant in the coming days.**

The G20 meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia amidst the worst economic crisis the world economy is going through since the financial crisis 2008 or the mortgage crisis as it was famously known as and it was that financial crisis of 2008 that led to the gathering of government bodies in G20. The G20 constitutes 80 percent of global GDP, 75 percent of international trade and 60 percent of the world population. The present crisis is essentially different from the financial crisis of 2008 from the fact that 2008 financial crisis created demand problem whereas the present crisis is basically suffering from the disruption of supply chain. The global inflation is 40 percent highest ever in the last 40 years and all the major economies including US are breathing in the air of recession. According to IMF report, the global growth is to slow from 6 percent in 2021 to 3.2 percent in 2022 and 2.7 percent in 2023. In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, China introduced massive stimulus measures and even acted as an economic “shock absorber” for many parts of the world, particularly poorer countries, as well as major commodity-exporting countries such as Australia and Canada. Repetition

of history is not going to happen this time. China’s growth for the first time after 1990s is going to be lower than the average growth of East Asian regions. This year the China’s growth is projected to be around 3 percent and in the next year to be about 4.5 percent which is going to be lower than the expected 5 percent. China’s zero-COVID policy contracted the retail and manufacturing sectors which has aggravated the global demand and supply problems. The trade war measures initiated by the US are also intensifying the crisis. Ban on the export of the semiconductor chips and other technologies to China is going to further impact the growth rate in 2023. Semiconductor at present remains the world fourth most traded commodity after crude oil, refined oil and cars. The G20 meeting of 2022 happened at a time when the world is facing inflation, energy crisis and Food crisis.

**Hike in Interest Rates and inflation:** The hike in interest rates and the rise in the payments on dollar-denominated debt have already pushed countries such as Sri Lanka into bankruptcy, with the potential for major international consequences. All Central Banks are on verge of increasing the interest rates in order to control inflation. The Federal Reserve board member Chris Waller makes it clear **“I am not considering slowing or stopping rate increases due to financial stability concerns”**. Similarly, Bundesbank chief Nagel is resolute, despite the Eurozone and Germany in particular already slipping into recession: **“Interest rates must continue to rise – and significantly so”**. All these sounds good in words but

## Political Commentator

have no practical implications in order to control inflation. By raising interest rates as means to curb inflation will only lead to major slump in the economy. Because the 40 year high inflation rates is not caused by the “excessive demand” but by the “insufficient supply”. The European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of England (BOE) too have increased their interest rates. There is not only decline in the food and energy production but also in major manufacturing and technical products. Supply growth has been largely effected by low production growth in the major imperialist economies, by the blockages of the supply chain in production and distribution that aroused during and after the COVID slump which further got accelerated by the inter-imperialist Ukraine war and the trade war and economic sanctions imposed by Western powers. Real wages are crushing all over the world. The Bank of England forecast that real household income is to fall by 3.7 percent across 2022 and 2023. Even before the war the inflation was rising and war has just boosted the spike in inflation rate. Inflation- which is officially 8.3 percent in US, 9.1 percent in European Union and 9.9 percent in UK seems to be no longer momentary, in fact inflation is becoming more entrenched in every branches of production and commodity. Increased energy prices and high interest rates are effecting small businesses and industries profusely and they are almost on the verge of bankruptcy. The consumer demand is also getting effected because of high inflation. In the mainstream economy the cause of inflation

is been seen in the wage-price spiral as the proponents of this theory argues that workers demand for higher wages will lead to increase in prices of commodities which will further accelerate inflation. Such understanding of inflation is fallacious because the rise of prices of commodities depends on various factors like **“the amount of production, the productive powers of labour, the value of money, fluctuations of market prices, different phases of the industrial cycle”** (Karl Marx, *Value, Price and Profit*). In fact wage rise is an answer to already existing question of price rise. To bring down the wages is what the Central Banks are entitled to. As the capitalist pays wages to workers from variable capital in form of money wage, the former always tries to control the growth of wages through inflation, unemployment and interest hikes. But the point is that the wages are not increasing as with the increase in the share of output, but on the contrary it is the share of profit which is increasing since the outbreak of pandemic. Between 2020 and 2022 according to the report published by UNCTAD “an estimated 54 percent of the average price increase in the United States non-financial sector was attributable to higher profit margins, compared to only 11 percent in the previous 40 years.” What remains the reason for the inflation has been the rise in the prices of raw materials and rise in the profit not the wages, but the Central Banks has no answer for the Profit-price spiral. In the past two years there has been increase in the profit of the capitalist class all over the world, which shows that corporate price control (monopoly price control) of commodities is playing a crucial factor in the rise of the prices of essential commodities.

With the rise in wages there is a decline in the “general rate of profit” but the prices of the commodities does not get affected. This fall in the rate of profitability concerns the Central Banks. This increase of interest rate has strengthened the dollar relatively with other currencies and because of that import is going to be more expensive for the oppressed countries. There will be drastic reduction in investment and it will be limited in scope. With the purchasing power of the working class declining since the pandemic and now when major production units are limiting the workforce there is a rise in the unemployment rate all over the world. With the demand for labour power getting contracted there is a rise relatively in the supply of the labour power and this is because of the fact that capitalist production is based on the logic of production for the sake of accumulation. As Marx clearly states, **“Surplus worker population is an inevitable outcome of accumulation or the development of wealth on the capitalist basis”** (*Capital Vol-1*). The bourgeoisie governments will enforce severe austerity measures which will further aggravate the problems of the devalued labouring class.

Apart from inflation the world economy is also facing the outflow of finance from ‘peripheries’ to the United States. In the month of November itself a total amount of \$200 billion has flown out of India. When the American interest rate is low then there is flow of cheap liquidity all over the world which looks for profitable investment. But when America increases its interest rate then there is tightening of liquidity and there is the reverse flow of capital back to America. Global capitalism is bound to

enter new phase where there is a sign of outflow of finance from all over the world especially from the low economy to America. Oppressed countries will not only suffer from recessionary effects of higher interest rates both domestically and international. The effects on its “debt restructuring” will be apparent as it will become more expensive. To overcome from the crisis the developing economy will be forced to take the path of severe austerity under the guidance of IMF. The balance of payments crisis is looming over the head of developing countries and most of them are going into the conditions into which Sri Lanka is already undergoing.

It is not simply because of transport and production blockages caused by war is driving the supply shock led inflation but more of the fact that there has been decline in the profitability in major economies. Inflation in the present context is one form of devaluation of commodities

**Energy crisis and G20:** Capitalism as a system knows no natural limit to its growth as Marx states in ‘Grundrisse’ that **“the tendency to create the world market is directly given in the concept of capital itself. Every limit appears as a barrier to be overcome.”** However this “world market” is driven by the internal logic of accumulation of profit which carries no sense of well-being for the human ‘species’. The Russia-Ukraine war has caused the energy crisis on a global scale shifting the tectonics of geopolitics. Even if there is diplomatic inertia to war, the energy crisis is still going to exist. However, the war and the energy crisis have exposed the vulnerability of the European industry and its economic model. It is the developing and



the poor countries that are facing the wrath of the increased price rise of energy and food. The low economic countries are losing their currency value at a great speed and that is causing the import of food and energy even costly. The energy crisis is further aggravated by the appreciation of dollar against the currencies of low income countries which are the net importers of oil. Before the war Russia supplied around 40 percent of natural gas to the European nations. The average European gas and electricity costs are 144 percent and 78 percent higher. The Germany gas supply in last year from Russia was around 55 percent with the sanctions, Germany economy has almost become paralyzed. With such huge cost of energy and electricity it is clear that houses of working class and poor people are not going to be warm enough to resist the winter cold. However, the crisis is not going to end with the change of season, it is going to stay longer than expected. Goldman Sachs has recently projected that the spike in the prices of gas will continue to be at the higher rate in the next year than what the prices are at today. According to the report of US Energy Information Administration US households are expected to pay 28 percent more in their gas bills, while 40 percent of US Households utilizes electricity to heat up their homes are expected to pay 10 percent more in their electricity bills. Utilizing this energy crisis Imperialist companies like Chepierre (American Gas Company) has become the biggest exporter of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as it has injected 17 billion dollars in building facilities and further 38 billion dollars in its expansion project. In recent times America has surpassed Qatar and

Australia from being the largest exporter of LNG in the global market. With the increase in the value of dollar and depreciation in the value of other currencies, American companies are accumulating "super-profit". According to the statistics provided by Energy Information Administration (EIA) there have been 12 percent increase in the volume in the first half of 2022 in LNG exports by America. However there is a contradiction within the imperialist blocks as the American LNG expansion is facing serious hurdles from European nations. So far only four European companies have signed long term agreements regarding gas deals with the American exporters. In order to subdue the European companies, America is applying the traditional policy of protectionism. Through Inflation Reduction Act America has agreed to provide 430 billion dollars as a generous tax breaks. European Union fears that such tax breaks will lead to the flight of capital ranging from car manufacturers to green technologies. There is resemblance of such approach of America to the industrial policies pursued by China decades ago. To such measures European Union has no reply. Already major European giants like Northvolt (a Swedish battery start up) has expressed its interest to expand its production in America. German chemical giant BASF has recently decided to halt its operations in Europe permanently. All this reflects problem in accumulation of profit in the era of imperialism. Recently there has been further sanctions on Russia by the west with keeping the cap on Russian oil to 60 percent in order to squeeze the revenue of Russia. However, the OPEC and Russia in response to such sanctions have

decided to reduce the production of oil in future. This will further escalate the crisis unprecedented in world economic history.

**Food Crisis:** The global Food Crisis predates the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war to the financial crisis of 2008. The control of Multi-National Companies of the supply of food chains from the farm to Market played a crucial role in the outbreak of food crisis all over the world. With the onset of pandemic there was disruption in the supply chain and with the ongoing war the prices of the fertilizers have increased leading to the shortage of fertilizers in the market. With the decline in the purchasing power of the working class the per capita food grain availability for the working class have declined in the past two years. The Global Hunger Index report released in the month of October puts states that low income countries are facing acute hunger related crisis. In the report, India is ranked at 107th out of total 121 countries. Many economies are facing severe debt problems in this conditions of rise in the prices of fertilizers and food products. The UN Food and Agricultural organization stated in its report that there has been 10 percent rise in the global food import bill as it is around 1.94 trillion dollars and one of the fundamental reason behind such increase in the import bill is the hegemony of dollar in the world market. Through platforms like G20, Multi-National Companies like Monsanto and other GM manufacturing seed companies want to dominate the agricultural sectors of oppressed countries.

In such times, movements must arise for the cancellation of debts of the low income countries. What IMF, World Bank

and super powers have offered is a debt service suspension—the debts remain as it is but the repayments can be delayed. In over two years the G20 governments have just suspended 10.3 billion dollars, whereas low income countries have accumulated a debt burden amounting to 860 billion dollars in just one year of pandemic. In order to overcome from the crisis, IMF introduced the increase in the size of special drawing rights (SDR). It injected a total of 650 billion dollars as a form aid, but it was the developed countries that were successful to draw a huge amounts from such aids, for example Africa received less SDRs compared to German Bundesbank.

**India's economic conditions:** Indian economy is already in the grip of recession. The production potentiality of the nation has been razed to ground. According to the report published by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation on October 12, India's industrial growth decreased to an 18-month low of -0.8 percent in August from 2.2 percent in July. From April to August of current fiscal year, production growth in eight infrastructure sectors—including coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizer, steel, cement, and electricity—was 9.8% as opposed to 19.4% during the same period last year. With the decline in the retail inflation to 6.7 percent in October from 7.4 percent in September 2022 has not brought any relief to the common masses. In India food inflation includes only uncooked foods and omits other input costs in calculating food inflation. Though there is decline in retail inflation but the core inflation that include clothing, housing and services

remains to be in volatile condition. There has been a rise in the trade-deficit with expensive import bills putting hard times on the head of the working class and the common masses. In the month of October (2022) there was fall of 16.6 percent (amounting to 29.78 billion dollar) whereas import increased to 5.7 percent in the same period. With onset of pandemic and draconian Goods and Service Tax (GST) the small scale and micro-sectors have suffered the worst of the economic pain generated by the crisis. In India it is this sector that provides most of the employment and with the decline in the small scale sectors the rate of unemployment has increased further. The organized sector in India is itself in dismal condition with the production contracting to 4 percent compared to 3.2 percent in September 2021. The recently released data of the government for GDP growth in Q2 is 6.9 percent by which the government is stating that Indian economy is fairly doing well. First of all, the reason behind this growth in GDP is the increase of indirect tax collection and decline in the subsidies meant for the poor classes. In terms of GVA (Gross Value Added) India is around 5.3 percent. This states that the total produced goods in India has declined in the past one decade. As a result, India's import has gone up by 89 percent and export has diminished tremendously. Secondly, government is also stating that the consumption level has gone up by 9.6 percent. But if we go deep into the data, we find that it is the consumption of upper echelons of the society whose consumption has gone up and those are import-oriented. Whereas the consumption of the working class and the poor

peasantry has come down as because unemployment has gone up and there is no domestic manufactured goods. Further government's consumption which relates to government's social welfare policies are witnessing decline which is affecting domestic demand and reducing income inequality gap. In Agricultural sector the condition is much worse with the rising input costs due to inflation. Farmer's income is getting depleted and agriculture is becoming a distress driven job. The present government under fascist BJP rule has denied the Minimum support Price based on formula of cost+50 percent and even the government is not procuring the farmer's products at the expected rate. In the interest of corporate farming the Modi government wants to sell the agricultural land to MNC family groups for their super profit. All these measures are making India a food deficient country with attack on its food sovereignty.

#### **Conclusion**

The new imperialist political economy rests on two foundations, firstly the development of new productive forces and globalized production chains in electronics, logistics, transport and communication. Secondly, the introduction of neoliberalism and the removal of barriers for the free flow of capital and goods, the privatization of public spheres and the establishment of new global institutions and management bodies like WTO (World Trade Centre) and G-meetings. In order to overcome the crisis, G20 nations has failed to provide any concrete guidelines. In terms of IMF the possible way to come out from the crisis is to cut public spending and tightening of monetary policies. There is a

# 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CPC affirms Xi's leadership And heads towards becoming a Global leader

*The 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party of China began and ended with much ado, but just three days later the government had to face the ire of the people in protest to the 'Zero COVID policy. Although China posed the Congress and Xi to be a great success, the following protests show the actual scenario of the new Social-imperialist country.*

The Congress gained importance due to more than one reason. The outcome of the

Congress was that Xi Jinping became the supreme leader of the Party, the government and the People's Liberation Army. While he is being propagated to be the most powerful person in China after Mao Tse-tung, we need to know the process of how Xi came to be so.

Xi is the inheritor of the revisionist Deng Tsiao Ping who started to revamp capitalist mode of production in the Socialist China in the ending of 1970s. Deng was closely supported by Hua Kuo Feng. The capitalist policies laid by these first generation revisionist leaders provided ample ground

for Xi Jinping to strengthen capitalism in the country. China gradually reached the stage of imperialism with its FDI flowing to and coming from all parts of the globe.

Xi was a later leader who with his far fetched view became highly authoritative. He is very cool and pragmatic and of course, planned. He made an amendment in the Constitution of CPC in its 19<sup>th</sup> Congress held in October 2017 extending the time limit of Chairmanship, Presidentship and the Supreme leader of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The CPC officially decided to say 'Xi

considerable crack out rightly on the surface of the world trade and because of that global economy is heading towards protectionist measures to overcome the crisis. America under the president ship of Biden is focusing on restructuring the rules of WTO to give more value to protectionist measures. However, such protectionist measures will increase the cost of production. Even, there are mounting pressures from the WTO on India to eliminate all trade related incentives and subsidies that exist in India's trade policy. With the presidency handed over to India for the next G20 summit, the Indian government under the fascist BJP rule is utilizing the matter for its electoral gains. The presidency of G20 is based on rotation exercise. However, it last year when India was supposed to hold the presidency Modi government requested to postpone for one year just before the parliamentary election of 2024. G20 summit ended by imposing more

sanctions on Russia as guided by NATO and US. Once again, G20 was utilized by America to implement its foreign policies with the help of NATO. The western powers have interest in Ukraine to introduce free market economy and privatize the land and agricultural sectors of Ukraine. Even the tension between US led alliance and China has not come down which indicates that in the coming decades NATO influence over Indian and Pacific Oceans can be the hot spot for the conflict between America and China. G20 has failed utterly to bring out any decisive measures to overcome the global economic crisis. In fact it has to dance to the tune played by Imperialism for its accumulation of surplus value. As capitalism is undergoing its worst crisis in history, there is a rise in the working class agitations and Trade union activities as the working class purchasing power is getting eroded in the face of rising inflation. Strikes and demonstrations by the working

class is going to become militant in the coming days. In United Kingdom itself the number of working days in the month of July 2022 was lost amounted to 87,600 according to Office for National Statistics. In US, with the rising cost of living, working class protests are rising with each passing of days. In Minnesota, around 15,000 nurses participated in one of the largest private health care system in the history of US. More than 1 lakh railroad workers struck work and movements for unionizing. Amazon, Starbucks and Apple have given new form of Unionism. Working class movements have taken truly transnational character as the movements against the crisis is not limited to one continent. This has created a formidable conditions for communist revolutionary forces to organize the working class and oppressed classes for militant working class movements and counter the rising neo-fascist regimes with the aim of establishing a humane world.

Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era'. He gradually got rid of his opponents in the party and the government. He either got them arrested or murdered. It is estimated that thousands of Party members of various ranks were removed. The Congress session witnessed Hu Zin-tao, one of the senior-most leaders of the party being taken out of the Congress hall who seemed to have tried to have a word with Xi.

In order to establish himself, Xi started printing his works. The fourth volume of 'Xi Jinping: The Governance of China' was published by the Foreign Languages Press in Chinese and English in July 2022. This volume includes 109 spoken and written works of Xi as the General Secretary of the CC of the CPC from 2020 February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2022 May 10<sup>th</sup> and 45 of his photographs since 2020 January. The book is divided into 21 sections. These books stand only second to the Selected Works of Mao.

Xi is highly ambitious and suits the Social-imperialist interests of China. He seems to be in low profile but makes secret and manipulative operations. He prepared China as per

the changes in the world. Agriculture and industry were compact in Socialist China with good leadership. This helped the revisionist leaders to make changes in it and transform the sectors capitalist. China could utilise the economic crises that different economies of the world experienced in different periods. It invited Finance Capital to flow into the country when many economies were unable to do so. It provided security to the inward Finance Capital with its already developed 'state capitalism'. Xi is the present time 'red capitalist' as the members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China became notorious. When since 2008 the world capitalist system fell in crisis and later transformed into general financial and economic crisis all over the world, China got enough opportunities to widen its market and strengthen its economy.

All through, the leaders of China had been prudent to cash on the world economic situation, but Xi proved the best.

China then came out with a master plan of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013. This is being now guided by Xi Jinping who believes that the project would bring China totally on to the centre stage and can claim global leadership. He could bring in scores of countries into the project that started apprehensions among the other capitalist-imperialist countries, mainly the US. Asian, African and Latin American countries continue to join the project for which China held seminars with the respective countries. The latest country with which China strengthened trade ties is Cuba of Latin America. China's huge computer industry needs the import of semi-conductor chips from Taiwan. The gradual extension of Chinese

investments all over the world with occasional military interventions made the US concerned. Now the US feels China as the major threat.

Although China until date never came out openly against the US, it is a clear fact that it has the political and economic strength to lead an alliance that can contend with the US. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation together with its main ally Russia is involving more and more countries. Countries like Pakistan and Sri Lanka are approaching China than the US sponsored IMF for financial aid. The recent SCO meeting held in Samarkhand of Uzbekistan is being said to help shape a new world order. This means nothing but lessening of the domination of the US. China is already estimated to have gone beyond the US in economy.

China always speaks about China and the US as two great powers and that they are to share the



## EUROPE –

# ECONOMICALLY IN ENERGY CRISIS POLITICALLY IN RIGHT-WING

Bharati

*Far right is rising in Europe indicating a serious turn in European politics.*

US instigated Russia for the present war of aggression on Ukraine. The inter-imperialist rivalry is affecting the economic and political scenario of various countries all over the world. In Europe we see this in the form of surging right-wing. On the

other hand, working class struggles are rising with workers of major firms taking up strikes for hike in wages and against retrenchment. The ruling classes of the European countries are making a severe effort to sustain their power. This article deals with the implications of Ukraine war to Europe.

After the Ukraine war began, first the US imposed

sanctions on purchase of energy from Russia in a bid to isolate it. Later the EU imposed sanctions on gold imports and the tightening of export controls on high-technology goods. EU is on the opposite side of Russia and is bent to curtail Russia's capacity to continue the war. Due to these sanctions Europe is facing financial crisis, refugee crisis and the issue of social welfare. In

responsibility of the world. While Taiwan issue caused severe tensions between the two countries, after the Congress Xi said that China was 'willing to work with the US to give mutual respect, coexist peacefully and find ways to get along in the new era. Doing so will not only be good for both countries but also benefit the world'. In the same month of the Congress, the US government stated that 'China is the only competitor to the US with both the intent to reshape the international order and increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military and technological power to advance the objective'.

In the leadership of Xi, China pronounces itself as a powerful country with ambition and confidence to change the world. Xi called upon his party cadres to 'be united to prepare for 'great struggles and face major risks'' much before the Congress. He termed the world situation in 'great disorder' and told the party members 'must demonstrate tenacity and persistence to complete the journey'. The main statement was 'We will not walk back to the old path of isolation and

dogmatism, nor shall we ever take the evil path of changing flags'.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Congress made changes in the Constitution of the Party. It mentioned that now it is 'an obligation for all party members to follow the leadership core'. The core refers to Xi since he was referred as the 'core' leader in an amendment in the previous Congress. The present amendment emphasised the Central Committee's 'centralised, unified leadership and enhance cohesion and forge the party's soul with Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era'. There was one more amendment that needs mention. It was 'carrying for ability' referring to China's more assertive diplomacy under Xi. Further, the Congress resolved that all the party members must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of this major achievement, more conscientiously uphold Xi's core position on the CC of the party, in the party as a whole and uphold the CC's authority.

While the CPC seemed to have consolidated its political

decisions at its Congress, the turbulence inside the country came out into the open with people's protest to the 'Zero COVID policy'. It is interesting to see that students and youth, the important force of the historic May 4<sup>th</sup> movement before Revolution, now walked through the streets holding Mao's photos. Analysts wrote the present demonstrations remind those of the Tiananmen Square movement of ending 1980s. With the protests on the rise the government announced optimizing of the policy and provided relaxation. But the protests are a clear evidence of the latent dissent of the people towards Xi Jing-ping's policies.

However, the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party of China reveals that China is surging forward to become the real Global leader and the inter-imperialist contention for re-division of the world shall further intensify. The recent meeting of the Defence Ministers of the US and China was said to have not been successful but both the countries continue to collude for needs and clash in their interest.



such a situation political parties are coming forth with promises of reforms and solution to people's problems. Liberals turn centrist and 'left' takes up 'right' policies like in Denmark. Whether the ruling party is 'right' or 'left' these politics in essence are nothing but capitalist exploitive policies. The present situation reminds that 'Imperialism is the death-bed of capitalism'. Let us see the developments in a few major economies.

### ITALY

While General elections were to be held in 2023 May, Georgia Meloni of Brothers of Italy party came to power in Italy by one vote in the early elections. Brothers of Italy party formed in 2012 by Meloni who left Berlusconi's party. Brothers of Italy has neo-fascist roots and is supported by the League party, Forza Italia and supporters of Mussolini. Prime Minister Mario Draghi had to resign amidst the attempts of the various parties of the country to come to power. Draghi led a coalition government with the support of center-right Forza Italia of Silvio Berlusconi, anti-immigrant League for which Matteo Salvini was the leader and the populist Five Star Movement. These three parties opted to withdraw their support to the coalition,

triggered by the Five Star. Then Draghi resigned paving way for a fresh election. His resignation was resented by a section in his party and the country.

Italy is the third-largest economy of the

continent. The early election affected the economy. The difference between the ten year Italian and German treasury bonds rose up to 215 points. The country is already facing intense inflation. However the present Brothers of Italy party in power needs the support of Forza Italia and the League to form the government. Italy is one important economy of the European Union and the political changes would affect it too.

**FRANCE** – France is one of the important allies of the US in NATO since a long time. It is in a position to influence the EU's sanctions on Russia. Marine Le Pen won more than 40 percent of the votes in the final round of the presidential election. However the far-right National Rally party elected Jordan Bardella as the successor of Le Pen.

**GERMANY** – The Alternative for Germany (AfD) is another party with neo-Nazi links. It is working on important issues like immigration. It has been winning 10 percent of the votes in every general election since 2017. On 7<sup>th</sup> December, the police raided 130 places in a total of 11 states and arrested 2 persons said to be members of a far-right group. The ruling coalition government alleged they were plotting to overthrow the German government. Most

of the members were members of a far-right movement namely 'Reichsbuerger' (meaning Citizens of the Reich). One of the arrested was an ex-MP from the AfD. This is said to be the biggest ever 'counter-terrorist operations' in the country.

**SWEDEN** – In Sweden, Sweden Democrats the party that has its origins in the neo-Nazi movement came to power. It defeated Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and her centre-left party. Like any other European country Sweden is also facing energy crisis. Sweden Democrats party is known for its anti-people stand. It is planning to make immigration rules very restrictive. It is expected that the rules will be the strictest in European Union. It pledged to 'make Sweden great again'.

**DENMARK** – Social Democrat Mette Frederiksen won by one seat through a centre-left coalition. She resigned to form a new government of a broad centrist coalition including the left and the right. Against the trend in Europe Ms. Mette led the Social Democrats to power. Although the Social Democratic party states it would spend on healthcare, education, pensions and unemployment benefits, it is against immigration. This makes it equivalent to any right party. In fact Ms Mette urged Social Democratic parties of Europe to take up the anti-immigrant sentiment of the people. She believes that the party should be right on immigration issues and left on economic issues and that this can regain the ground lost to right wing and left wing populists.

**HUNGARY** – Hungary is slightly different among the European countries. It expressed its anger to a vote in the

European Parliament that stated that the country was no longer a 'full democracy' and that the EU needs to act. As Hungary rejected the deal EU did not agree to corporate tax reform. The Prime Minister of the country is Viktor Orban who is close to Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Hungarian government did not vote in the EU on corporate tax and on a common EU position on Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire. Meanwhile the government declared 'energy emergency' anticipating severe fuel shortage.

**POLAND** also is unwelcoming to migrants and Islam-bashing is popular.

**FINLAND** – In Finland ultra-right is surging. The nationalist True Finns party won 20 percent of the votes in the last general elections. It has an agenda of anti-immigration.

**CZECH REPUBLIC** – In the Czech Republic a right-wing party similar to the ruling party in Hungary is gaining strength. People demanded the resignation of the current coalition government of conservative Prime Minister Petr Fiala who heads a centre-right government formed of coalition of five parties. They criticise the PM for following pro-Western policies and paying more attention to war-torn Ukraine than to the people of the country. The country is facing inflation and high cost of living. Many people are below the poverty line. People held demonstrators with placards against the EU and NATO, the PM, rising energy prices and calls for neutrality and dialogue with Russia. Communist Party of the Czech Republic and Eurosceptic Tricolor Citizens' Movement participated in the demonstrations.

**SPAIN** – In Spain another right-wing party, the Vox party is the third biggest one. It is expected to come to power soon.

Most of the European countries are dependent on Russia for energy needs. Although they are allies to the US and follow its sanctions, the economies shall not sustain if they have a total cut with Russia. Sweden and Norway joined NATO at the cost of great discontent of Russia. Turkey supported the two countries. There is a general view that the Ukraine crisis should end but that does not appear to happen. Although the US brought forth Taiwan into the foreground that made one think that the war is going to be transferred there, China became highly alert and the issue gradually subsided. However, perhaps since then, China is seen to activate its alliance with Russia. Both the countries held the SCO meeting that was attended by few anti-West countries. This has an impact on China's relations with other countries and is extending into Europe. The rise of the far right in Europe suggests that the ruling classes are having a tough time to manage their economies and deal with the discontent among the people. The ruling classes of the European countries are caught between maintaining alliance with the US and to deal with people's daily life problems. Germany is trying for closer trade ties with China but on pressure from the US is stepping back. It sold above 7 and a half lakh Mercedes Benz cars to China in the past one year. The German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited China in November. His visit was the first of any leader of Europe since 2019. The present political crisis in the

continent might bring about a change in the geo-political alignments in the backdrop of the US strongly trying to engage its European allies on to its side.

Meanwhile there was one important development in the continent. The Vice-President of the European Parliament Eva Kaili, a Greek Socialist was arrested on charges of corruption involving Qatar. The President of the Parliament made a statement with highly chosen words of the allegations on Kaili, that was supported by the majority members.

### **People against imperialism**

The people around the world are against imperialism. As a reflection of this aspiration, thousands of people demonstrated against the G7 summit in Schloss Elmau of Germany. Revolutionary, Communist, anti-capitalist organisations, NGOs participated in the protest. Maoist forces are coming together and are working in coordination. They are studying the experiences of people's war of various countries and are in the direction of formation of a Unified International Conference. The people of Europe need to understand the right path out of their crises and come under the umbrella of working class struggles in the path of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

# Which way is Britain going?

Does politics influence economy or economy influence politics? The developments in Britain, the country of initial industrial revolution and a great empire that held colonies extending from the Northern to the Southern hemisphere, suggests it can be both.

Natasha

Political situation in the country became very uncertain. Economy is facing inflation of a record of 40 years. People are suffering. Being an important ally to the US alliance and an important economy in Europe, the political and economic developments in Britain influence both these continents. Recently the Prime Minister of the country visited Ukraine and declared support 'until the end' meaning strengthening alliance with the US.

The whole issue started with Britain's decision of Brexit. It took a considerably long time for Britain to finally leave EU in the end of January 2020. Brexit is now no where in the discussion. What is to be discussed is the consequences of it that led to the present condition. Britain had been facing economic turmoil since the time of its deliberations of Brexit. This led to frequent change in Prime Ministers of the country. Theresa May was holding the charge when Brexit came. She in fact survived David Cameron after his resignation. When she announced a general election after a month, there was a hung parliament and she sought the support of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Northern Ireland. She had to resign in 2019 July since the House felt that she was not dealing well with Brexit.

She was succeeded by Boris Johnson. He too could not complete the full term. While the Parliament elections were to be held in 2025 January 28<sup>th</sup>, they were rescheduled to 2024. But

the Prime Ministers keep on changing. Boris Johnson was not at all willing to leave his chair but he accumulated enough opposition with his way of dealing economic affairs as well as those inside his party. His party held elections for the next leader and Mary Elizabeth Truss came forth with a tough competition with Rishi Sunak. The main issue during the election between her and Sunak was the tax cuts. She promised heavy tax cuts which Sunak said will not be possible in the present economic condition of the country. She also promised to get rid of European Union laws, reverse the national insurance increase, put a moratorium on the green energy levy. As per the green energy levy, the consumers must pay part of their energy bill towards environmental projects.

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwarteng announced the fiscal policy on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in which there were a series of unfunded tax cuts without actually putting forth independent economic ways out the response was absolutely strong. The cost of borrowing and mortgaging rose and there was confusion all over. There was an estimate that the country is going to fall in severe debt. Investors sold British government bonds in a big way. The Bank of England intervened and tried to save pension funds. In this heavy situation Truss fired him to save herself. She appointed Jeremy Hunt who promised to recoup

the economic situation. He said every pound of the government tax will be accounted. He also stated that no government can control the markets and it should not try to do so. He announced a reversal of all the earlier tax measures.

Within 48 hours of this reversal there was a debate in the Parliament where members questioned her policies. The opposition labour party yelled 'gone gone!', 'why is she still here?' and so on. Truss responded rather defiantly saying 'I am a fighter and not a quitter'. However, within no time she had to resign giving way to a fresh election of the next leader. Perhaps not surprisingly, Sunak was announced the next leader and the Prime Minister in a very short time.

It is interesting to remember that it was due to Sunak's resignation that Boris Johnson's government fell in crisis and the next leader had to be elected for the conservative





party. This election took a considerably long time in which Liz Truss gained after a tough fight. Ultimately Truss resigned on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunak became the first Indian-origin Prime Minister of Britain on 25<sup>th</sup> October. It is highly doubtful that Sunak would be in power until the scheduled elections.

Now let us see the economic scenario of Britain interlinked with the present political crisis. Inflation rose to 10 percent in 2022 July that was 10 percent higher than in the same time last year. This inflation rate is the highest in the last 40 years. Apart from the high energy prices, inflation was caused also out of high food prices. For example the cost of milk rose by 40 percent in a period of one year. Low interest rates and quantitative easing also led to higher asset values and higher spending by households since the financial crisis began in 2008. This will push the Bank of England to raise interest rates further. If the interest rates are high, loans become expensive and employment will go down. Bank of England was very much aware of the coming inflation and increasing interest rates. The situation is making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

The cost of living crisis is acute. According to a consumer group, lakhs of people are skipping meals due to the cost of living crisis. It is alarming to know that nearly half of the families are cutting expenditure on food. Some are not able to have nutritious food. Now there is a fear that in this situation crime would rise. The coming winter is expected to witness civil unrest out of the rise in cost of living and energy crisis. It is likely to lead to many unwanted

things like thefts in shops, vehicles, cybercrimes, blackmail. Drug gangs might be formed. Sexual atrocities on women will increase.

One might not believe the fact that government offices are getting carbon papers ready apprehensive of winter cuts in electricity. People were suggested not to cook until after 8 in the night and not to use washing machines or dishwashers between 2 and 8 in the afternoon to save energy. Authorities are planning to close pubs at 9 pm and schools to run three days a week.

In this economic situation workers and employees in the United Kingdom are taking up struggles to solve their problems. Nurses are at strike under the banner of Royal College of Nursing (RCN). Three lakh nurses are involved in this and it is the first in the history of the College. There is a cut of wages by 20 percent for experienced nurses since the conservative party came to power in 2010. They are requesting a rise of 5 percent above inflation. Rail workers are at strike for the last few months. They are demanding hike in wages and job security. School workers also announced that they would go on strike. Teaching and administrative university staff also announced strike for higher pay and lesser workload. Shipyard workers are on strike. These apart, National Health Service, postal and telecom departments also have been warning to go on strike for pay hike.

The situation in Britain is changing the shape of foreign relations of the country. While Britain is trying to be on the side of the West, it is in fact dependent on imports from

China. According to the statistics provided by the UK Office for National Statistics, the United Kingdom imports 13.3 percent of goods from China. It leased Ports to it. There are nearly one and a half lakh Chinese students in Britain by 2022. This number rose in the past five years. This makes it clear that the economy of Britain is closely linked with China. When serving as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the present PM of Britain, Sunak stated that they need to have a 'mature and balanced' relationship with China and to improve trade relations. He also wanted to revive the China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue. We have to see how Sunak will develop relationship with China in diplomatic, military and security apart from economic cooperation.

Since the time of Brexit, there is a rising resentment to the political decisions of England in Wales, Scotland and up to North Ireland. Ireland being an important factor in Britain's economy, we have to see how North Ireland would react to the ongoing developments in Britain. Now Britain has to deal with a deficit of 40 billion pounds in the budget. Its economy went down by 0.2 percent in the third quarter. The Central Bank estimated that Britain shall continue to be on the verge of inflation for another two years.

The uncertain political and economic situation in Britain is a part of the crisis in Europe. Many of the European countries are making frantic attempts to pose that they are working for the welfare of the people. With the Labour Party losing weight, Right-wing is gaining strength in Britain.

# Congress Party - Bharat Jodo

Prem

As a political party, Congress has undergone ideological and organizational transformation right from its formation in the year 1885. There has always been an assimilation of ideologies ranging from left, right and center in the congress party itself. However, as a whole the party has always lacked uniformity and concreteness in its approach to social problems. The congress party in post-independence era continued its ideological uncertainty to a far greater extent with far greater implications on socio-economic conditions of India. At the time of Land Reforms congress party faced opposition from the landlords and Nehru who was the popular leader, having mass base and organizational skills perfectly failed to mobilize the masses in favor of land reforms. This was also partly because of the fear of communist capturing power. For congress always believed that Right communal wing forces was not as detrimental to it as the communist forces. Such understanding clearly comes to shore with the policies of the congress during the Nehru period towards the communist and the RSS. History speaks of its own! With its dismayed approach towards land reforms congress party maintained semi-feudal relations in the country side. This element was pivotal for congress in attracting the electorate magnates in rural areas. Nehru was not a theorist of independent capitalist development as India's economy was highly dependent right from his time on foreign capital and importation of foreign

machineries. The Indian comprador bourgeoisie class was not an independent class and to industrialize the nation was always put aside. What was possible by this class was to establish the structure of dependency on foreign capital. Through this structure of dependency the masses were not uplifted from the conditions of colonial poverty. As for the first time the official definition of poverty was defined in the year 1960-61. It was derived on the method of consumption of calories which has its own limitations. Even from the government statistics the number of poor people in that period was around 19 crore 70 lacs out of 44 crore. But the Congress policy of manufacturing was totally aligned with the interest of comprador bourgeois class. The planning commission was built around the Keynesian model of generating demand through state intervention in construction of infrastructures (capital goods) which in the end will create market for domestic capitalists. However, such distorted development led to the rise of poverty and unemployment in India. With no radical land reforms, and no base of strong manufacturing sectors people's problems started to get aggravated. These aggrieved socio-economic conditions proved to be detrimental for the congress party as it lost state elections in several states in 1967 and for the first time in congress political history split occurred within the congress in the year

1969. From this split congress transformed organizational set up very different from that of Nehru's era.

Congress during Nehru's era ruled as a "one-party system" and the opposition against the congress at this particular time was of two-fold: one as interior opposition within the congress party and the other as exterior opposition outside the congress fold. It was the interior opposition that was brewing up within the congress fold from the days of Nehru that played decisive role in the split. But the primary factor was the changed socio-economic conditions. With the introduction of Green Revolution the rich peasantry became both socially and economically formidable element in the rural areas. And with this, their aspirations for political power started to build among them. These new kulaks from the lower castes in 1970s formed non-congress parties on a broad-scale apart from communist parties. With the rise of Indira Gandhi, Congress party witnessed unprecedented "institutional changes" in its organization. The response to such regional parties from the congress side was far more centralization of power at the center during Indira Gandhi's period. This approach of centralization of power

**As the regime of Brahmanic Hindutva Fascism is unleashing anti-people policies which is generating discontent among the progressive sections, workers and farmers. That remains the decisive factor behind the support that Bharat Jodo Yatra is able to exert**

ultimately led to the armed intervention by the Indian state to question of Kashmir and Punjab and in North- Eastern States and the Naxalites movements. From the party of consensus in-itself congress party became individualistic centric party. With the growing socio-economic crisis, populism became the norm for congress in order to mobilize the masses for electoral gains. In the period of 1980s rise of Hindutva forces and communal politics made congress to mobilize the masses on communal grounds. It negated the politics of Mandal and was vehemently opposed to the implementation of Mandal Commission. The anti-Sikh riots of 1984 and the role of congress in that genocide labelled the congress party of being a communal party in the veil of secularism. Even congress began to practice the politics of soft-Hindutva from 1980s onwards. The role of congress party in the development of Ramjanmabhoomi movement was indispensable. With its negative approach to Mandal Commission, congress lost enormous support of OBCs (other backward castes) in the northern states of India. The neo-liberal policies initiated in India around 1991 under Congress government transformed the socio-economic structure of India with its deep impact on politics. Such economic transformation created a high GDP growth with immense economic inequality and concentration of wealth at the hands of comprador bourgeois and feudal classes. By this time oppressed castes had become a considerable force in Indian politics not because of the fact that they underwent social and economic progress. In fact the neo-liberal policies has

defective impact on the lower castes, as we see the rise of violence on Dalits in the era of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG). This reprisal on the oppressed castes formed a consciousness of power assertion as a means to counter such deliberate violence. Regional parties and Dalit's parties began propagating themselves as the platform for the realization of political power for the marginalized communities. With this socio-economic development, Indian electoral politics witnessed multi-party system or coalition politics. Even in the era of coalition politics, communalism did not wither away. Hindutva forces began accommodating these new political forces (OBC and Dalits) into its fold and changed its stance from negative to positive towards OBC reservation. Even Congress party has to follow the same steps of RSS towards OBC reservation. For the RSS such changed stance was imperative for its Hindutva agenda of unified Hindu nation and for congress the support from the marginalized communities was essential to form government both at the center and at the state level.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its coalition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) formed government at the center in 1999 and Atal Vihari Vajpayee became the prime minister. Within the period of three years the genocide of Muslims in Godhara in the state of Gujarat happened in the year 2002. The involvement of state machineries along with the then chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi was brought into light by several findings. Within the period of two months of the genocide in Godhra, state election were called and BJP

under Narendra Modi with the help of Hindu sentiments and communal Hindutva politics came to power in the state with astounding victory. For RSS Gujarat was a laboratory for experimenting Hindutva agenda. However, BJP lost the power at the center and congress and its alliance United Progressive Alliance (UPA) came to power. However, congress was able to get just seven more seats than BJP in 2004 General election. With the help of left forces the first UPA government was able to bring some social welfare measures for the weaker sections. Even those welfare policies were not fully endorsed by the top leadership of the congress party. In matter relating to Food security the contradiction between the party president Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was out rightly clear. National Advisory Council (NAC) a body of academicians and social activist advocated for the universal coverage of 25 kg of rice, wheat and cereal per household was rejected by the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and the Parliamentary Committee recommended that 67 percent of the population will be provided 5 kg of rice at a subsidized price. Several other progressive acts like Right to Information Act (RTI) were also brought under the regime of UPA-1. But all these welfare policies were not spontaneous act. Because of long struggles by the oppressed sections and labor and democratic organizations congress party was forced to edict such policies.

In 2009 General election UPA government was again formed at the center and this time congress was able to get 206 seats in Lok Sabha. But everything was not harmonious

in the UPA-II. Policies like Operation Green Hunt against the Maoist party, Special Economic Zone Act, Women Reservation Bill etc., brought opposition towards the congress party within the UPA-II rather than from the fundamental opposition party BJP. Legislation like Special Economic Zone was a boom to foreign capital which was going through difficult period after the financial crisis of 2008. Along with this, the Indo-American nuclear deal also made the comprador bourgeoisie class to support congress in the 2009 General election. With Neo-liberal agenda the UPA government opened the sectors like retail, warehousing, mining and several other sectors to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). FDI cap in telecom sector was raised to over 70 percent. All these policies by the congress party made it to retain power at the center for the second term. With the economic slowdown which started to occur in 2008-09 period problems started to occur for the congress party. Corruptions in coal gate and 2G scam in telecom sector was not basically a congress creation but they remains an integral part of neo-liberal policies as implemented by the congress government. By the end of 2013 the disparities in income inequality was highest in the world. From 6.2 percent in 1982-83 it raised to 21.7 percent in 2013-14. As French economists Thomas Pikety and Lucas Chancel rightfully argues that "This rising inequality contrasts with the 30 years following Independence when income inequality was widely reduced and the incomes of the bottom 50 per cent grew at a faster rate than the national average." India was shining for its top one per cent (and for another top 10 per cent) and this

'one per cent are not sharing anything with anyone.'" One side there was rising unemployment and inequality and on the other side there was flight of capital from India. In these conditions BJP was the perfect choice of the comprador bourgeoisie and Imperialism to come out from the crisis. The entire media structure was utilized for advertising Gujarat model of development under Narendra Modi. It was made a "common sense" understanding among the masses that Modi and his Gujarat development model was the only means for India. This myth of development was unable to be countered by the opposition parties from the very beginning. BJP fought the 2014 election on the myth of Gujarat development and mixture of Hindutva communal agenda.

After that almost all political parties began in the race of proving itself an authentic Hindu than BJP and in this race congress was at the forefront. Such approach hardly hampered the electoral success of BJP and in 2019 it again came to power with the propaganda of national security. What BJP has succeeded to do is to make votes of Muslim minorities in elections devalue with the method of centralization of Hindu votes. And with this approach, the Muslim minorities have been further vilified as their electoral representation has almost become negligible. At present the fascist Hindutva forces are dominant and the opposition parties especially congress have completely failed to counter BJP whether it is price rise, violence on Muslims, demonetization, GST and many others.

After its debacle performance in two general elections, congress is undergoing

a crisis of existence. With the formation of faction in the name of G-23 (group 23) there has aroused a strong differences between the old guards and the young congress members on issues like tactics and strategies to fight Hindutva and on the stand of congress on economic policies. It is also struggling with the issue of defection as in the past 8 years several key leaders have defected either to BJP or other political parties. To overcome the criticism of congress being a one dynasty rule party, it has successfully conducted an election within the party after 22 years and Mallikarjuna Kharge was democratically elected as the president of the congress party. Both the candidates for the post of president of the congress party were from South. However, the election of Mallikarjuna Kharge as the president of congress has to be seen in the political and sociological perspective. As Karnataka is heading towards election in the next year and Kharge been elected as the president is to strengthen the congress before the state election. As Congress having a Dalit president, it is also viewing to mobilize the 17 percent Dalit population in Karnataka along with other backward castes. But still Mallikarjuna Kharge as a president is going to have a Himalayan task of strengthening congress grass roots structure. In its organizational set up, congress has become marginalized. Ideologically, congress is facing the crisis of self-recognition. And after all there is a leadership crisis.

In order to overcome this group of crisis and the contradiction between comprador bourgeoisie classes, congress party initiated the yatra

as the political articulation of the contradictions among the ruling classes. In politics the need of beginning is strongly felt almost alike in all other spheres of human space, and such beginnings are bound to have long term implication on the life of human being. In no way in the political history, movements and protests against the established power-structure of the ruling classes are products of its own qualities devoid of social determinism. All political movements are product of its own social, economic and political environments and engages itself either in overall transformation of those given environments or assimilating and remolding those environments. Initiation in politics is always necessary but that initiation value is finally judged in its effective transformative role in the social system. In the present Indian Political space, Bharat Jodo Yatra under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Congress Party is one of the initiation of the congress party as a solution to its degrading social integration with the masses and also a means to counter BJP and construct a frame of people's leader in image of Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra which started from Kanyakumari (India's southernmost point of the mainland) on September 7 and which will end in Kashmir is necessary initiation from the congress perspective. Bharat Jodo Yatra will cover more than 3,570 km is designed to counter the atmosphere of communalism and the pathetic condition of Indian economy. Strategically the Bharat Jodo Yatra has spent more number of days in the southern states than in the northern states of India.

And for this reason political parties like CPI (M) and TRS have shared their displeasure and criticism on Bharat Jodo Yatra. The reason behind such disparities in time spending in the geographical political space is because congress is still strong in organization set up in the southern states, compared to the northern states. In Kerala, under the banner of United Democratic Front (UDF) congress remains to be a principal opposition to the present left democratic front (LDF). The five traditional southern states played a pivotal role in the formation of UPA government in 2004 and 2009. Even the former congress president, Rahul Gandhi was elected as the member of Lok Sabha in 2019 from Wayanad constituency in Kerala and he lost the traditional congress bastion in Amethi to BJP. Together, these five southern states consist more than 130 seats in Lok Sabha. The message is clear that south India has immense role in the 2024 election. Even BJP has understood that formidable challenge is bound to arise from these southern states in 2024 election. With its strong cadres and efficient organization skills still prevailing in the southern states, congress has utilized this decisive factors in politics for the propagation and mass mobilization. With the mainstream media being totally biased and have decided to be ignorant at its best towards Bharat Jodo Yatra, it was only because of strong communication and organization structure of the congress party such mass mobilization and propagation of yatra seem to be possible. There is clear visibility of people from all sections of life, workers, farmers, middle class, civil society as well as

people from all ages of life in Bharat Jodo Yatra. Traditionally they are all not congress supporters but still preferred to be part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. It says that people are willing to resist the divisiveness, hate and fascist politics of BJP in every possible way. Bharat Jodo is creating a platform for the congress to give challenge to BJP in the coming years. Through this Padya yatra (foot March) Rahul Gandhi is trying to project himself as inclusive and a leader who is easily accessible to the people. In his speeches, the message is clear that his mission is against the divisiveness that has engulfed the nation. The target on RSS is sharp and encouraging.

With all its positive impact that Bharat Jodo Yatra is implicating still there are serious shortcomings. Even Rahul has spoken against the concentration of capital in few hands and the growing unemployment and price rise in his padya yatra. But the congress government in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan are imitating the several Hindutva policies of the center. Even Rahul's padya yatra has failed to bring the issues of privatization, displacement and sell of resources to imperialist capital by present BJP government. Rahul Gandhi's anti-corporate rhetoric has not enough buying within the congress fold. And Bharat Jodo Yatra hardly is becoming a role model for the congress ruled states. So far Rahul Padya Yatra has focused on religious tolerance and secularism but has failed to bring any alternative economic development model. But even the kind of secularism that congress pertains to uphold is nothing but soft Hindutva and had always played the role of oil in the fire. The open sympathy

# Munogode and BJP in Telangana

Subhash

Telangana remains a gateway for the Hindutva forces and BJP to penetrate into the Southern states prior to 2024 General election. The central executive meeting of BJP held in the month of June and its Sabha sankalp rally on 2 and 3 July reflects the central plan of extending the Modi wave to Telangana and other southern states. For BJP, Telangana resembles gateway to the southern states after Karnataka where it has formed its government. The reasons for casting an eagle eye over Telangana by the BJP has to be understood from three interlinked reasons: Political, Economic and Social. Backing itself with strong regional consciousness KCR is maintaining its hold over Telangana. The Telangana sentiment still continues to be a formidable political force. With the mainstream left parties focusing on BJP as its principal contradiction, the fascist BJP is utilizing the opposition void formed in Telangana. There is also an element of anti-incumbency against the TRS on which BJP is building its political fortune in Telangana. BJP is displaying its support to Sharmila to counter TRS. Sharmila and BJP are marching shoulder to

shoulder to weaken the TRS regime. After the Vikash Sankalp Sabha, BJP deputed several union ministers and central leaders to 119 constituencies even before the national executive meeting. The task of those deputed ministers is to broaden the base of BJP by banking itself on social and economic issues the state is undergoing through. Further, BJP formed a body for strengthening itself in 17 Lok Sabha constituencies known as Parliament Pravas Yojana. For mass mobilization the strategy of BJP is rural to urban mobilization. This clearly states that BJP is trying to convert the rural distress into its electorate gain.

The by-election in one of the backward constituencies of Nalgonda district of Telangana carried a national significance for the Indian politics. BJP brought forth the Munugodu poll to challenge KCR and focus as a strong force in 2023 elections. For the ruling party (TRS) and its chief KCR the Munogode by-poll election formed an authentic platform for transforming a regional and local ambition towards national ambition. With the continuous weakening of the congress party both at the central and regional levels as the formal opposition to BJP, KCR is building

the hope of transforming itself to the alternative opposition to the growing BJP power. For the parliamentary left parties like CPI and CPI (Marxist) Munogode by-poll election is constructed on the left tactics to counter fascist forces by forming alliances with the regional parties. This by-poll election was the most expensive by poll election in the Indian electoral politics with huge inflow of money to purchase electorates and MLAs. While Rs 6.80 crore of cash and 4,560 liters of liquor had been seized by authorities as part of implementation of Model Code of Conduct, media reports indicate distribution of money and other inducements on a massive scale. This continuous commodification of politics has increased its scale of operation and Munogode by-poll election set itself as one of the perfect illustration of it. With the resignation of Rajagopal Reddy as MLA (of Munogode constituency) from Congress party became the reason for conducting by-poll election and immediately after resigning from Congress, Rajagopal Reddy shifted his loyalty to BJP party. But that is what the BJP strategy is about to organize leaders from non-BJP parties. The purchase of politicians by the ruling classes

garnered by the yatra from the progressive sections and few sections of the middle class and people illustrate the socio-economic conditions that is prevailing in the country. As the regime of Brahmanic Hindutva Fascism is unleashing anti-people policies which is generating discontent among the progressive sections, workers and farmers. That remains the decisive factor behind the

support that Bharat Jodo Yatra is able to exert. Till now Bharat Jodo Yatra has considerably failed to provide any means to fight institutional inequalities that has grown in the BJP government rule. When Rahul Gandhi talks about destruction of human rights in India under BJP rule, he totally forgets to speak about the calamitous conditions of human and democratic rights in Chhattisgarh under Congress

government. What congress is hoping from this movement is its revival but that too is impossible for congress without any alternative model of development and building mass movements against Hindutva policies. If it fails to do that then Congress party will not be able to become a formidable force against Hindutva fascism.



political parties have been the norm of the Indian Political system, but in recent times such corrupt practices has reached its zenith. For achieving such feat, BJP had formed a committee under the leadership of Etala Rajender who joined BJP from TRS party. The union Home Minister Amit Shah has taken a keen interest in strengthening the BJP in Telangana. He stated that BJP vote share has increased from 7 percent to 22 percent and the vote share among the upper caste has increased from 13 percent to 41 percent. Coming to Munogode by-poll election, TRS and parliamentary communist parties formed an alliance against the BJP. This clearly states that BJP has increased its vitality in Telangana in last few years. The narrative of the Munogode by-poll election was constructed by TRS and left parties on the imminent threat to the identity of Telangana by the fascist BJP forces. In all of its speeches and rallies by the left and TRS alliance leaders were centered on the anti-farmer policies initiated by the BJP central government and the spree of privatization of electricity and setting up meters on farmer's lands by the BJP. In contrast to it, BJP leadership focused on the corruption regime under the TRS government and also on communal agenda. Fumed by the rise of BJP in the state with the victory of it in the Huzurabad by-poll election in November last year which was preceded by Dubbak by-poll election and Greater Hyderabad Municipal election, TRS took Munogode by-poll election seriously to defeat BJP and preparing the grounds for next state and General elections. Despite deploying entire cabinet ministers in

Munogode, TRS and its left alliance was able to secure a narrow victory of over 10,000 votes. Without forming alliance with the left parties, TRS could not have registered victory in the Munogode by-poll election. In some way it is not the victory of TRS but of the left ideology. In 2014 election in Munogode BJP was able to fetch 24,000 votes and in 2018 it was decimated to mere 12,000 votes. However, in the present by-poll election BJP vote share touched above 80,000 that means BJP seems to have increased its strength from earlier days. Still BJP is having deficit of leaders and leadership that can counter KCR and his party and BJP is clearly aware of it. BJP can only succeed in Telangana by creating schisms within the ruling TRS party. The principal of horse trading is been implemented in Telangana by the BJP and it is continuing despite been exposed. Such experiment has already brought results in favor of BJP in states like West Bengal, Assam and recently in Maharashtra.. Telangana remains to be hotbed for Maoist or communist politics and that is the principal enemy for BJP. For the establishment of Hindu Rashtra, Hindutva forces especially BJP are in urgency to eradicate Maoist or communist movements from Telangana. With the help of institutionalized terror BJP is criminalising mass organizations that questions the anti-people agenda of BJP. After Munogode by-poll election, BJP is putting serious effort in increasing its activities and this has been established after Modi's recent visit to Telangana. The hidden agenda of BJP in Telangana is to hand over the Singareni coal blocks and other natural resources to Adani and Ambani

groups. In field of agriculture, in Telangana it will intensify the corporatism of agriculture and its allied sectors. The hand of finance capital is rightly placed upon the shoulder of BJP behind its rise in Telangana. As the unified fascist power system is the need of the hour for the finance capital for its speculative gain and that can be only possible with BJP having its rule on the southern part of India.

### **Communalization of History**

The recent attempt to communalize history by the Hindutva forces is about the Telangana Armed Struggle. In order to saffronise the common sense of the masses and utilize that as force for political gains is the strategy of the BJP in Telangana. Coming to the history of the Telangana Armed Movement which BJP is labelling as an anti-Muslim struggle, historically falsifies history and creates anti-Muslim narrative. Essentially it was a movement against feudalism and autocratic rule.

Historical evidences itself speaks that the logic of Nizam regime was not driven by any religious fanaticism. However, in the Nizam's administration Hindu desh mukhs were the firm pillars of it and equally with the Razzakars oppressed the peasantry classes. Even the famous temple of Sri Rama in Bhadrachalam was patronized by Nizam and in the Anglo-Mysore war, Nizam of Hyderabad was in alliance with the British colonialism against Tipu Sultan. If Nizam regime was based on religious fanaticism then destruction of Hindu temples and conversion of Hindus to Muslims would have been rampant. But history never says this, RSS and Hindutva forces proclaim that to be a history

# Indian Judiciary becomes 'sinister'

Of late the Supreme Court of India has come out with a number of judgments that unveiled its true oppressive character and the direct control of the RSS backed BJP's Central government. Its stay on the order of the Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench) acquitting GN Saibaba and five others, given unusually on a holiday reveals the manipulative affairs of the state. It demands intense intervention and fight of the civil rights movement into judicial matters. The sequence of events raised a lot of hue and cry from many quarters of the society in the country and abroad.

Professor GN Saibaba, a 90 percent physically handicapped as everyone concerned is aware of and five others namely

Mahesh Tirki, Hem Keshavdatt Mishra, Prashant Rahi, Vijay Nan Tirki and Pandu Pora Naroti were given life sentence and one was given imprisonment for 10 years



in a conspiracy case under UAPA. They were charged with having links with the Maoist party and working against the state. Pandu

Naroti died of swine flu in August this year due to the deliberate callousness of the jail authorities despite the lawyer's attempts to save him. All of them were arrested in 2014 and sentenced by the Gadchiroli Sessions Court in 2017 March. Since then they have repeatedly appealed to the Bombay High Court for bail, and also on medical grounds for Saibaba in vain. A Defence Committee formed for the release of Saibaba took up a campaign and another such campaign were taken up in other countries by civil and human rights organisations.

Now on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court acquitted all the five activists and directed that they

which in fact is a communal myth. Telangana under the Nizam's rule was a feudal society, where feudal forms of exploitation both economic and non-economic were very prevalent. The most brutal tax called Vetti collected by the Deshmukhs (who were all Hindus) broke the ribs of the peasantry class. The rural population of Telangana composed of 89 percent and majority of them were malas, madigas and tribal population of Kondareddy, Koya, Banjara and Gond. The average life expectancy was mere 25.5 years and had sparsely increased from 1891 to 1941 i.e. over a span of forty years. Advent of commercial agricultural system further increased the rate of exploitation of the peasant class. The purchasing power of the peasantry was at dismal rate and living conditions were pathetic. Accommodation of the

Telangana Peasant Armed Struggle by BJP as Liberation day is nothing but outright polarization of society. The Indian government under Nehru-Sardar deployed Indian Army through special operation named Operation Polo not against Nizam but against the peasants and communists who were revolting for a humanized society. Even Nizam was made as the first Governor of Hyderabad by the Indian state. Hence, in no way 17 September symbolizes liberation but was a day of genocide on peasantry by the Nehru-Patel government. The Sunderlal Committee formed to investigate the cruelty by the Nizam forces outlined that neither the Arya samaj nor the Hindu Mahasabha or RSS played any role in the anti-Nizam struggle. The committee further states that these communal forces spread hat redness against Muslims in the Hyderabad state.

Already such divisive communal tactics had payed dividends in Karnataka and today Karnataka is brewing Hindu-Muslim hatred narrative on a large scale. The Muslims constitute 12 percent of state electorate and are spread over 45-50 constituencies out of 119 and BJP tactics in Telangana will be to bifurcate the Muslim votes and centralize the Hindu votes.

The rise of BJP in Telangana demands seriousness among the mass organizations and democratic organizations to counter it. Preventing RSS and BJP to continue strengthening itself is need of the hour. There has been a necessary development of unity of left and democratic and anti-BJP forces in Telangana to counter BJP. However, these developments are encouraging and clearly state the rise of anti- BJP movement in Telangana in the coming days. ◆



### Reports from the Areas of the Revolutionary Movement

The past three months of the Revolutionary movement witnessed many more police camps and assaults on tribal people. The Central Home Minister stated in a meeting of the Home Ministers, DGPs, Chief Secretaries of various states in October that the government

would put an iron heel on the Maoist movement. He also stated that they are going to set up 15 more police camps across the country in the areas of the revolutionary movement.

#### People continue to resist new police camps in Dandakaranya

As per the decision, half a dozen camps were set up in Bastar area of Chhattisgarh. The

state repression on the people's struggle against the police camps took an ugly turn this time. This is a report about the incidents around two camps in which the police acted also against the customs of the people.

In spite of the resistance of the people, police set up a camp near Oorem in Bijapur district. The youth of the village were in the lead to mobilise the people against it. As they were going

must be immediately released unless they have another case pending on them. The 101 page judgment mentioned, '...The Siren Song that the end justifies the means, and the procedural safeguards are subservient to the overwhelming need to ensure that the accused is prosecuted and punished, must be muzzled by the voice of Rule of Law. Any aberration shall only be counter-productive, since empirical evidence suggests that departure from the due process of law fosters an ecosystem in which terrorism burgeons and provides fodder to vested interests whose singular agenda is to propagate false narrative...'. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Maharashtra State government approached the Supreme Court for stay that it denied on technical reasons stating that the concerned parties were not present and that immediate enquiry requires registration in the court registry. However it took up the petition in a special way on the next day that was a Saturday and a holiday. It agreed with the Solicitor General that the High Court did not acquit

them stating they were not guilty but considered only the flaws in the judicial process adopted for enquiry into the case. The process was that the sanction for their prosecution under UAPA was given on the day when it was presented and that there was no summary of the analysis of the evidence made by an

**The judiciary is evidently turning more and more fascist under the Brahmanic Hindutva Fascist BJP government.**

independent reviewer to assist the grant of sanction.

Its attitude towards revolutionaries, democrats, activists, journalists and religious minorities is alike. It was subsequently known after the release of convicts in the infamous Bilkis Bano case they have been being released in the past 14 years on parole. Some of them were charged with the same cases of sexual assault on women during their parole despite which the Supreme Court still does not consider directing the Gujarat state

government to put them behind bars once again. Moreover it rejected the review petition filed by Bilkis Bano on remission.

The Bhima Koregaon conspiracy case continues to be one live example of the increasing viciousness of the Indian state. The detainees of the case are denied bail or parole. The family and lawyers of Vernon Gonsalves repeatedly approached the court for temporary bail on medical grounds which is now pending with the special NIA court. He was admitted in JJ hospital for treatment of dengue, pneumonia and other ailments. He is 65. Seventy year old Gowtam Navlakha of the same case had to approach the Supreme Court for treatment in Jaslok hospital. NIA court initiated framing of charges in the case four years after its registration now.

The present state of affairs demands a larger fight for the implementation of the Indian Constitution and against the unconstitutional amendments in the Criminal codes and various Acts.

from one place to another, the police shot at them in which a youth Madkam Ranju lost his life. The police took away the dead body. When his parents, kith and kin joined by the villagers went and demanded they handed over the dead body. In a very brutal manner against the people's sentiments the police accompanied the dead body and burnt it.

Fearing the wrath of the people and the people's activists, the police came in a large scale with a contingent of vehicles carrying material for a new camp in Poombad near Gangalur of Bijapur district. They brought a score of vehicles to level the road since the people dug holes all through the way in their attempt to stop the police. The police reached the place in the midnight and started beating the activists of Moolvasi Bachao Manch (People's March carried a detailed report of the MBM in 2022 June issue) who were in their place of demonstration. Many of them faced severe injuries in the lathi-charge. They later tried to make the people helter-skelter.

When they again gathered in the morning the police encircled the place of demonstration and beat them once again. The police and the people had a big clash. However, the police managed to set up the camp. Later, they started to lay a road from the place of the new camp. There was a 'paen' (local mother goddess) on the way. The police wanted the people to remove it. But they did not agree as it was their religious sentiment. In both the places the people continue to struggle against the police camps.

**PLGA gives a blow to the security forces in Jharkhand**

The security forces of Jharkhand faced a bitter fight with PLGA forces in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. There was a fierce battle between the people's forces and the enemy forces in Tonto forest of the district two times in the morning of December 1<sup>st</sup> in which 5 personnel of COBRA Battalion of the CRPF suffered injuries. The police stated to have taken up severe combing operations in the area and seized military equipment and those of daily use.

While the police killed and arrested few cadres of the Party, they are also posing white militia such as the Trutiya Prastuti Manch (TPC) cadres of being Maoists. The TPC is an armed force sponsored by the police.

**Tribal people attack a Forest Officer in Telangana**

The tribal people of Telangana have been fighting against the state government who in the name of 'Haritaharam' scheme is occupying their 'Podu' lands. The past few months witnessed clashes between the people and the forest personnel. In an incident in November the people beat a Forest Range Officer (FRO) out of anger when he tried to stop them from cultivating their lands. Now the government conspired to chase away the tribal people. It is instigating the other tribal people against these 'Guttikoya' tribal people as they are addressed by the government. The Guttikoya tribal people are those who migrated from Chhattisgarh for livelihood. It stated that if the Guttikoya tribal people are chased away from the area, the other tribal people shall obtain facilities. It is also directing them to make

resolutions in their panchayats in this regard. It is also imposing sanctions on their documents of rights. In a shameless way it is making propaganda through its forest officers that if the people help to chase away the Guttikoya tribal people, they shall obtain rights for Podu lands.

**Losses in MMC**

Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh (MMC) Special Guerrilla Zone of the CPI (Maoist) faced losses in the past months. Two of its cadres were killed in an encounter with the police in Bhoramdev-Kanha National Park in Balaghat division of the zone. The special Hawk force of Madhya Pradesh took up the operation. The area borders the state of Chhattisgarh.

**Odisha**

The protest of Kuvvi tribal people of Niyamgiri in Odisha against the Vedanta Company is well known. Along with this struggle, the people of nearby Mali and Devamali hills also are fighting against their displacement by such companies. After a little gap, the struggle once again gained momentum with the companies trying to start their mining activity. The immediate response was from the police who only tried to suppress them. According to reports, the people are planning further activity.

This apart, the people of Dhinkia near Jagatsinghpur district of Chhattisgarh are also fighting against the Jindal company's mining activities. The Forum Against Corporatization And Militarization came out with a statement supporting the people's struggle and opposing the highhandedness of the police who demolished 20 houses.

# Celebrate the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of PLGA! Intensify Class struggle-Guerrilla war Defeat 'SAMADHAN' offensive and Advance People's War!

## *Abridged Message of the Central Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Maoist)*

On the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of PLGA on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, the Central Military Commission of the Central Committee Communist Party of India (Maoist) calls upon the entire ranks of the Party, PLGA units, Revolutionary People's Committees, Mass Organisations and Revolutionary people to grandly celebrate in rural and urban areas all over the country with revolutionary enthusiasm. It calls upon to defeat the counter revolutionary 'SAMADHAN' offensive, widen-intensify class struggle-guerrilla war, enhance the mass base and advance the People's War.

On the occasion the CMC conveys revolutionary greetings to the entire Party committees, Commands, PLGA Commanders-fighters, Party members, Revolutionary People's Committees, leaders-activists of Mass Organisations, members of People's Militia and revolutionary people and to all the comrades of political, military, organisational, technical and cultural spheres. The CMC pays humble revolutionary homage to the heroic guerrillas who laid down their lives in the past one year. One hundred and thirty-two comrades became martyrs all over the country in a period of 11 months. It hopes that the comrades injured in the guerrilla actions will recover soon.

The central and the state governments initiated the counter-revolutionary 'SAMADHAN' strategic offensive in 2017 May with a time limit of 5 years to eliminate the Indian Revolutionary Movement. With the objective to defeat the offensive PLGA took up People's War-Guerrilla War in the leadership of our Party all through this period. The central government reviewed the offensive last September and another action plan was adopted for one year.

We cannot separate the participation of people and people's militia in this war. With the objective to defeat the counter-revolutionary 'SAMADHAN' offensive the heroic PLGA took up People's War-Guerrilla War in the leadership of our

Party all through this period in Dandakaranya, Bihar-Jharkhand, East Bihar-North East Jharkhand, Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB), Telangana, Odisha, Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh (MMC) and Western Ghats.

The main, secondary and base forces (militia) of PLGA held above 1300 small, medium and big kind of guerrilla actions basing on the active participation of the people. Out of these, 65 are big actions and 105 medium type. In these incidents, 429 policemen of various kinds of police, Para-Military and Commando forces of the central and the state governments were wiped out and 966 were injured. 85 modern arms and thousands of rounds of ammunition was seized. The PLGA eliminated 40 diehard enemies of the people, political leaders of parties of exploitive class, 409 enemy informers, 51 murderers of people of Salwa Judum, Sendra and other such counter revolutionary organisations and campaigns and 46 anti-people forces/people's enemies.

The main, secondary and base forces of PLGA together with people burnt and destroyed the properties of the imperialist Multi-National Companies, Comprador Corporate Companies and the central and state governments in 300 places. The people and militia arranged hundreds of booby traps and thousands of spike holes with bamboo sticks and iron rods. Hundreds of police were injured and few were eliminated in these. They seized supplies such as ammunition and other such military equipment, electronic equipment and food material of the police, Para-military and Commando forces. 26 comrades became martyrs in various tactical counter offensive actions of the PLGA in the past 5 years to defeat 'SAMADHAN' offensive.

Coming to the past one year, PLGA held nearly 200 guerrilla war operations in the various guerrilla zones, red resistance areas all over the country. Through these actions 31 police, Para-military and Commando forces were eliminated and 154 were injured. 7 modern arms and hundreds of rounds of

ammunition and other war material were seized. 69 police informers, 7 political leaders of exploitive parties, 6 people's enemies, 6 traitors were eliminated. Properties of the government and comprador bureaucratic capitalists were destroyed.

On the whole, our PLGA forces made deliberate and opportunity ambushes, sniper actions, booby trap, remote actions, sabotage actions on the armed forces of the enemy, seized their supplies, eliminated informers, counter revolutionaries, people's enemies, shelled the police camps with improvised artillery and dug spike holes.

When compared with the TCOC and resistance actions of the past years we achieved less results in the elimination of enemy forces and seizure of arms. Since last June few CCMs were arrested or were martyred. Few members of various levels of party committees and party members and various levels of PLGA Commanders and fighters were martyred that caused severe losses to the Party and PLGA. However, our resistance could contain the enemy's objective to an extent. This helped to protect the leadership of our Party, PLGA forces, revolutionary people's organs and people from the attacks of the enemy in a few places. Guerrilla war actions stood as a support for mass work and people's struggles.

There are large scale people's struggles in Dandakaranya and Bihar-Jharkhand for the past two years against police camps, mines, roads-bridges, dams, police massacres and on the whole, against the imperialist companies, comprador bureaucratic capitalist companies, against the central and the state governments, against their local compradors and against corporatisation-militarisation. Thousands of people are mobilising in these struggles.

People are struggling against the imperialist Multi-National Companies, the domestic comprador capitalist corporate companies, the several kinds of basic infrastructure that the central and the state governments propose to build such as roads, dams, mines, power plants in many areas of the country apart from the areas of movement. There are agitations for the release of political prisoners imprisoned in conspiracy cases such as Bhima Koregaon and to withdraw fascist Acts such as UAPA.

Solidarity movement is growing in around 30 countries against the fascist offensive of the comprador ruling classes on our party and

revolutionary movement and in support of the People's War in India in the leadership of ICSPWI.

The central and the state governments deployed more than six and a half-lakh police, Para-military and Commando forces in the areas of the movement. Since the beginning of 2020 to March 2021, CRPF established 23 Forward Operational Bases (FOB) in the country and 35 from 2021 March to 2022 March. The state had been using various kinds of drones for surveillance. It is organising lumpen youth into informers in the name of employment schemes.

In this period our Party, PLGA, Revolutionary people's organs/United Front organs and revolutionary people faced severe loss. These losses are a result of shortcomings in implementation of secret method of functioning, rules of guerrilla war, in our style of study, style of work, style of struggle and life style. Since we did not adopt political and military tactics according to the changing social conditions in the respective areas and to the changes in enemy offensive and since we did not properly implement those we adopted the revolutionary movement faced losses. Therefore we have to stand firmly on our fundamental line and policies, apply them to the concrete conditions of the respective areas and mobilise the people widely and actively in class struggle-guerrilla war. We have to rectify the shortcomings in the style of study, work, fight and life. Then we can not only defeat the counter revolutionary 'SAMADHAN' offensive but can also overcome the temporary setback in the Indian revolutionary movement and advance it to a higher stage.

During these five years, starting from the members of the Central Committee to revolutionary people 753 people sacrificed their lives facing the counter-revolutionary war. In the process our Party, PLGA and United Front organs achieved several valuable and new experiences in mass work and military work. On the whole, class struggle relatively expanded and intensified. In the process, various kinds of United forums are being formed leading to increasing participation in revolutionary movement and support from friendly forces. This is the base and basis for the advancement of revolutionary movement. With the negative experiences of class struggle-guerrilla war in the past five years, our Party and PLGA forces are confident that they can fight back and defeat the coming enemy offensive.

In the international plane, although there are slight flexibilities in the economic crisis,

imperialist financial and economic crisis in intensifying. World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated that the world economy is going into the mire of depression. COVID and Russian war on Ukraine are seen to be the immediate reasons for depression but in fact the main reason is the anti-people imperialist globalisation policies of the respective countries for the past three decades.

With the implementation of imperialist globalisation policies, the contradiction between imperialism and oppressed nationalities and people is intensifying daily. As a part of implementing these policies the comprador rulers of the backward countries issued permissions to the imperialist Multi-National Enterprises to mint profits and shift them. As a result exploitation and oppression of the imperialists and their comprador bureaucratic capitalists rose in the backward countries.

Outdated semi-feudal exploitation is still continuing in all these countries. This caused financial, commercial and foreign exchange deficit in Panama, Tunisia, Ecuador, Kenya, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Argentina, Afghanistan, Peru, Ghana, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Philippines, India and other such countries. All these countries are caught in high prices, inflation, poverty, unemployment and burden of loans. Thus the lives of the people of these countries are turning to be terrible. Since Russia and Ukraine exporting 30 percent wheat and 20 percent Maize and cooking oil are in the mire of war, there is heavy food and oil shortage all over the world leading to decline in world markets. As a result there is heavy blow on Latin America, Africa and South Asian countries.

With the implementation of imperialist globalisation policies, the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and proletariat in capitalist-imperialist countries is intensifying day by day. COVID pandemic and the influence of Russia-Ukraine added to this. This led to rise in essential commodities, prices of food material, petrol, diesel, electricity and other charges in various degrees in all those countries. Workers and middle classes are facing the burden of cost of living with the breach between monthly salaries and income. In this situation workers started strikes in Britain since 2022 June. Railway, Telecommunications, postal, judicial, health sectors witnessed strikes of workers and employees. Worker and employee organisations started a movement 'enough is

enough'. The ongoing Ukraine war is a reflection of the intensifying inter-imperialist contradiction.

In India, in the past 8 years BJP under the leadership of Narendra Modi is making severe attempts to transform India into a 'Hindu state' by 2047. As a part of it, all the oppressed classes are under deep attack.

The existing labour laws were amended and 4 codes were formulated in favour of the exploitation of imperialists and domestic corporate enterprises on the workers. It sold 26 public sector enterprises to the comprador capitalists at dead cheap rates in the past 8 years and listed 61 more. It is going to partial or total privatisation of defence sector institutions, Life Insurance Corporation, Railways, Ports, banks, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Nagarnar Steel Plant, coal mines, electricity companies and other such things in the coming times. It has the target that there should not be any public sector enterprise by 2047.

The Indian peasantry who achieved the withdrawal of the three anti-farmer, pro-corporate Agriculture Acts with their historic agitation for one year had to once again start struggle. The Prime Minister Modi gave a written assurance last December none of it have been implemented for 9 months. But there is no Act legalising Minimum Support Price for agricultural products. The government did not withdraw the wrong cases foisted on the farmers.

There are intensified attacks on religious minorities such as Muslims and Christians. Attacks intensified on the Dalit people. It made the new Forest Conservation Regulations totally depriving the tribal people's right to forests. It made Acts banning Cow slaughter, the Love jihad Act, Transformation of religion (Prevention) Act and other such acts and tried to Hindutvise the judiciary.

In the name of one nation it is trampling the federal nature of Constitution and curbing the powers of states. It annulled Article 370 in Kashmir. It is building Ram temple in Ayodhya. It saffronised the education sector of the country and is corporatizing it through the domestic and foreign corporate educational institutions. It formulated a New Education Policy that slaves the corporate companies with Hindutva religious ideology. Through all these, it tried to restore social relations of reactionary traditions and culture, superstitions and values and to stabilise the exploitation of imperialism, comprador bureaucratic capitalists

# REPORT OF ICSPWI

As per the call of ICSPWI the campaign for the release of political prisoners was held together with the anti-war movement in various countries from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. The ICSPWI released a Video of the programs.

Various programs were taken up in Italy, Galicia, Spain, Germany, Austria, France, Holland, Great Britain, Ireland, Finland, Vienna and Denmark in Europe. In Africa, activities were centered in Tunisia. Comrades in Turkey took up the program in Kurdistan and other places. Brazil, Columbia, Uruguay of Latin America witnessed the program. In Asia, the program was taken up in Philippines, Afghanistan, India and Iran. During the meeting, there was a debate among the MLM parties and organisations about extending solidarity to the People's War in India and other countries.

There was a scuffle during the program in Italy. In the name of elections the government did not allow the demonstration planned near the Rome Police headquarters and Roman Square by the ICSPWI and other Mass Organisations. It ordered to be held near the Embassy. However the demonstration started near the Square denying the police. The demonstrators held a banner with slogans 'Stop Drone attacks on people', 'Stop massacres and repression', 'Release all political prisoners'. An organisation 'Bella Siyavo' voiced its statement in the demonstration.

At this point all the demonstrators found their way as a crowd towards the Embassy without flags or banners. The police took a while to understand what was happening. They then pressurised the demonstrators to finish soon. By the time the demonstrators managed to make a good propaganda among the people around. They then went to the place they were permitted. The police once again told them that they were acting against the given permission and that they should not be seen widely by the people. Women comrades who were in large number among the demonstrators strongly resisted the police. Here the demonstration continued for a long time. The ICSPWI statement was distributed widely. Program was also held in a factory in Rome.

Revolutionary Working Class Movement, International Red Rescue, Metropolitan Block , Intellectuals, migrant labourers and other anti-imperialist war organisations participated in the demonstration.

and landlords in the cover of modernity. However, its objective failed with the resistance of the vast masses.

Revolutionary-democratic forces, oppressed classes, oppressed social communities and oppressed nationalities must take up united, organised resistance movement and people's war. This is the foremost, utmost important, main and immediate task of the Indian people. Tribal people, farmers, students and youth, women, unemployed, social activists must intensify and expand militant democratic movements and must also become armed and build a strong People's War so as to stop corporatisation of forests, water and lands.

Conditions are turning favourable to revolution as a result of the sharpening main and prominent contradictions in the international and domestic planes. This would lead to a spate of people's struggles in the world and the country in the coming days and there shall be a third line of revolutions all over the world. We must consolidate and strengthen the Party, PLGA and United Front in order to utilise these conditions. However much the revolutionary condition is favourable and there is a spate of people and revolutions, if the vanguard Communist Party does not politically enlighten the broad masses with initiative and courage through conscious and planned effort and dare to

develop into an invincible force by widening and intensifying class struggles and guerrilla war, it cannot achieve state power. We shall only thus defeat the counter-revolutionary 'SAMADHAN' offensive of the enemy and advance the revolutionary movement. We shall achieve the final victory.

On the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of PLGA, hail the victories of the PLGA in the leadership of our party in the past one year. Hail the invincibility of the revolutionary movement that sustained resisting the counter revolutionary 'SAMADHAN' offensive. Recruit youth into PLGA in a big way.

### ***contd. from last page***

Unemployed youth and workers have been making struggles for the past few months in the backdrop of rising inflation, unemployment and decreasing living standards. The struggles were random. The incident of death of Mahsa Amini brought these struggles into a single track. Mahsa Amini, a 23 year old woman of Kurdistan was arrested by the 'morality police' known as 'Gasht-e-Ashab' of the Islamic Republic for wearing hijab headscarf in an 'improper' way. Few hours after the arrest she suddenly collapsed. She was taken to the hospital in coma, three days after which the authorities declared her dead out of heart failure.

After Islamic Revolution in 1979 the government of Khamenei made an Act reducing the age limit of women for marriage from 18 years to 9. Women were made mandatory to wear hijab and a loose-fitting dress covering the hands and the legs of women in public. In 1983 another Act was made making burkha mandatory. Morality police was established 15 years ago meant to warn people violating the dress code. 'Counselling' is done for women not wearing hijab, about rules of clothing in a 'guidance centre' for a few days and released later. The morality police was given more powers when Raisi came to power in 2021.

Initially protest started in Saqqez during the cremation of Amini. An activist Majid Tavakoli and a journalist were arrested for bringing the incident of Amini's death to light. Gradually women, mainly youth started joining the protest and it spread to all the 31 provinces of the country. The slogans were

'women, liberty and freedom'. The demands were to punish those responsible for her death; remove hijab rules; dissolve morality police; and that the government must step down.

In spite of earlier punishments for protest against the dress code and even imprisonment, women now started burning their hijabs and cutting their hair publicly. The present struggle has its roots in the 1957 revolution and records the biggest after 1979. School girls all over the country became a powerful force in the struggle. Videos of protests started to be circulated among the students which showed them taking off their head scarves and swinging them in the air, chanting slogans such as 'women, life, freedom' and 'death to the dictator'. In a school in Bandar Abbas girl students took off their veils and ran onto the streets chanting slogans. The riot police ran after them. School girls took away a speaker from the Basij paramilitary organisation that was invited to address their school. They sloganeered 'Basij get lost', swinging their headscarves. Parents entered into a scuffle with security forces when they tried to arrest their children. In Kurdistan the movement is most radical and advanced.

The movement is unique in that it brought forth all classes of people of the country, the main one being the working class. Oil workers were the first to join the protest. Student organisations of most of the 100 universities in the country took up the call for a nationwide student's strike with the slogan, 'Workers, students, Unite!', that widened and deepened the movement. The government employees stepped into the

struggle. Traders of Tehran and Kurdish towns shut down their shops for several weeks. Shop owner's association supported the strike. In Naziabad, a group of riot police removed their helmets and marched together with the protesters. One of them was seen patting a protester in solidarity. 'Death to the dictator', 'Dictators must die' and other such slogans gained momentum. The protesters sloganeered that this is the last year for the 'Supreme leader' (as he is called) Ayatollah Ali Khomeini. Prominent football player Ali Karami and actor Pantea Bahram spoke in support of the protests. The Union of Islamic Iran People's Party, a reformist party formed by supporters of the former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami called for the scrapping of the hijab law. The government faced great difficulty to control the protesters that at one point the judicial chief admitted that their forces were tired.

The protest invited solidarity from other countries. There were protests in the US where women are in struggle against ban on abortion and in Canada. The protests condemned the violation of human rights in Iran. In London people rallied in front of the Iranian embassy in which 5 officers were injured. In Istanbul there was a protest in front of the Iranian embassy where women cut their hair in protest to Amini's death. There were demonstrations in front of the Iran embassies in Paris, London, Athens and Oslo in solidarity with the protesters in Iran.

### **Blood is flowing in the streets of Iran**

On 21<sup>st</sup> September, the highest military body of Iran, National Headquarters of Armed

Forces ordered all the commanders in all the provinces to be severe and merciless towards the protesters. Since then there is a rise in repression on the movement. Following the order, scores of men, women and children were killed on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Most of the deaths are in Baluchistan where there are oppressed Baloch minorities and in Kurdistan populated by mainly oppressed Kurdish minorities. More than 110 people of these two areas were killed in two weeks. 97 of them were killed on 30 September during a protest against the rape of a 15 year old girl by a local police chief. This event is being described as 'Black Friday'. A single mother of a killed teenager said, 'They killed him so unfairly and cowardly at the end of the street. They shot him in the head'. In a very few occasions, the protesters threw molotov cocktails on the police barricades.

Those who died in the initial stage were from Amol and Babolin the northern Mazandaran province, Tabriz of Kurdistan to which Mahsa Amini belongs to. Kurdish rights group Hengaw stated that there were 15 deaths in Kurdistan province and other Kurdish areas of northern Iran. The province of Gilan witnessed the arrest of 730 protesters including 60 women. Women were sexually assaulted in prisons. Women and young boys committed suicide after their release from prison.

This apart, the government of Iran sought death penalty for 21 that the Amnesty International objects to. It stated that the Iranian government is conducting sham trials and that it must immediately quash all the death sentences, should not seek imposition of death penalty and drop all charges against the

arrested protesters. Despite the rising number of deaths in the protest demonstrations and the rigorous punishments pronounced by the judiciary, people all over the country are increasingly stepping into the struggle.

#### **Iran's ruling class enmeshed**

The Islamic fundamentalist ruling class of the country is in a conflict of sustaining its fundamentalist interest and imperialist benefit. It is in total failure to understand the people's mind. The judicial department of the government ordered the judges to give harsh sentences to the main elements of the 'riots'. It later stated that it is ready to talk to anyone who has any problem! Iran's education minister stated that the government is detaining the students and taking them into 'psychological institutions' and that they can return to classes once they are 'reformed'. People want freedom of thought and the ruling classes continue to condition them to their interests in the name of rule of the religion. This apart, Khamenei commented that the protesters were 'agents of the enemy'. It is not surprising that the activists stated the Iran government's statement of withdrawal of the morality police fake.

On the other hand the struggle is influencing Iran's relations with imperialist countries. Iran wants to revive its 2015 nuclear deal with the US. President Ebrahim Raisi stated that the US must lift its sanctions on Iran so as to revive it. US sanctioned affiliates of Iran's IRGC for cyber acts alleging to have been malicious. Iran is supplying drones to Russia that were used in its Ukraine war. It also signed a memorandum to join SCO. Raisi attended its

recent meeting during which he said that the removal of sanctions should be accompanied with the resolution of safeguards. But the fact that Iran is becoming close to the China-Russia led alliance is distancing it with the US.

The US is using the hijab protest to maintain things in its interest. It is interesting to know that the US placed Iran's morality police on its sanctions blacklist after the death of Amini. The US treasury said that 'the morality police are 'responsible' for Amini's death that has sparked an outpouring of popular anger'. It announced sanctions 'for abuse and violence against Iranian women and the violation of the rights of peaceful Iranian protestors'. It provided unrestricted access to Internet through Starlink internet company operated by Space X. Britain came out with a statement criticising the Iran government for its dealing with the struggle. European Union called for an independent investigation into the way the Iranian government dealt with the protests.

#### **The struggle shall continue**

In the political-social background in Iran the ongoing struggle shall continue in one or the other form. Oil is the main source of income for the country. It is a well-known fact that the US is hell bent on total control of Iran's oil and had been making war on it for the past decades. Due to the sanctions imposed by the US, Iran's income on oil decreased. The economy of the country is affected. In this situation, unemployment rose. Inflation went high up by 50 percent. Poor are becoming poorer. Prices are rising. Corruption is rampant in the government offices.



## COP-27 as usual ends with Non-performance Amidst alarming information

The meeting of 'Conference of the Parties' (COP) held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh of Egypt was as usual ineffective. It started and ended with protests by environmental activists like in the earlier meetings. This time there were also protests against the Egypt government for its violation of human rights. Environmental activists even wanted to stop COP since it is nothing but a pose by the capitalist countries sponsored by Multi-National Corporations.

Despite the fact that human beings will face extreme health conditions if the temperature is not reduced at least by 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030, the capitalist-imperialist countries continue with their devastating policies. These policies can bring the human life to an end. So the situation needs an urgent radical response from all sectors of the society.

COP had been meeting once in a year since 1992 to look

into the changes in climate all over the world. In 2015 it was held in Paris where it was agreed to bring down the temperature of the earth by 2 degrees Celsius. Since then every meeting

makes resolutions in vain. In 1992 global emissions of the gas were 22 billion metric tons that reached 36 billion tons by 2021.

It would be unbelievable to know that fossil fuels caused 10 million deaths out of air pollution. IPCC that boasts to do a lot in this regard actually plans 1 trillion new fossil fuel projects to be started by 2030. For example a Bloomberg report reveals that China promised to stop coal power plants in other countries but completed 14 and is going to complete another 27.

In fact the capitalist countries agreed to provide 200 billion dollars per year to the underdeveloped countries by 2020. Nothing had been given so



far. The highest emitter is China followed by the US. India is in the third place of emissions.

Nearly 50 thousand participants in the COP-27 included representatives of 195 member countries, business persons, scientists and activists from indigenous and local communities. Heads of government of US, UK and other capitalist-imperialist countries attended the meeting.

The present environmental crisis in the world is entwined with imperialist exploitation. So, the struggle for clean environment is nothing but the struggle against imperialism and domestic capitalist, feudal classes.

Transparency International stated that Iran is in the 30<sup>th</sup> place among 180 countries in the index of corruption. Repression is unleashed on people asking for justice. Youth are vexed. Political and social freedom is lacking.

People of Iran have the great heredity of making an armed struggle in the 1970s and sacrifices for the sake of liberation of their country.



Imbibing this spirit, in the present situation, the people of Iran have to fight against both the domestic ruling classes and the imperialists in the leadership of the working class. It is high time the proletariat of Iran rises to the occasion and stands as the 'Avant Garde'. This struggle is a part of the anti-imperialist movement all over the world and must strive to attain the character of becoming a part of the World Socialist Revolution.





# Anti-Hijab struggle in Iran – Anti- government and Anti- fundamentalist

*458 people died, 50 women and 63 children lost their lives, 2 including a 23 year old were hanged and 18,240 were detained in the unending anti-hijab protests in Iran. The anti-hijab activists are fighting against the death of and for a free and equal 'life', the meaning of 'Zina', the Kurdish name of Mahsa*

The ongoing struggle in Iran against 'morality policing' is in essence anti-government and anti-fundamentalist. The struggle is not simply against the rule of hijab and for gender equality, but against the ruling class and is a continuation to what was going on for the past decades and particularly for the past 6 months. It reveals the people's aspiration for a change in the existing economic, political and cultural conditions. The ruling classes of the oil rich Iran neither want to lose their stake in the oil resources nor their fundamentalist character. The government announced withdrawal of the morality police in the first week of December but on the other hand, it executed two of the five for whom the Supreme Court pronounced death sentence. The US had been utilising the anti-hijab struggle in its interest and is trying to bring its puppet regime.

*contd. in page 31*

