

Proletarian Era

SUCI (C) expresses grave concern at mismatch of figures of votes polled

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued this statement on 24-05-24:

"It is a matter of grave concern that utterly violating the election rules which are in vogue since the 1952 general election, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has not provided detailed voting data of the past phases of elections, even after demand to declare the same has come from many parties and other circles; instead it is giving unconvincing reasons for its failure to do so. When the booth level voting numbers issued by the respective presiding officers in Form 17C is at the disposal of the ECI, what prevents it from declaring the same in public? This has to be squarely answered by the commission.

Further, questions are also being raised about the revised final voting figures declared by ECI in percentage, since there is an abnormal increase of 6% and above over the preliminary data. Analyzing the turnout numbers put out by EC late night (in every election the polling process continues till late night, it's not new) of the day of polling in each phase the latest updated numbers reported by some of the media houses, it is found that the difference could be nearly 1.07 crore votes over the first four phases of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. This means an average of over 28,000 votes per constituency for the 379 seats where polling is over. This is not only unprecedented but creates suspicion and apprehension about the conduction of elections! If this turns out to be true, it would be nothing but a mockery of free and fair elections and democracy!

So, the delay in release of final voter turnout data, the high revised figures and the absence of constituency and polling booth level final voting data in numbers is raising several questions in the people's mind. To ensure free and fair conduction of elections and counting of people's votes, we urge upon the ECI, to immediately upload Form 17C and declare constituency and booth wise voting numbers accordingly and also ensure tallying of the same with counted votes."

In solidarity with the freedom movement of Palestinian people, ICOR and SUCI (C) organized a protest demonstrations in various South Indian states on 15 May 2024



Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala • More photos on page 8.

SUCI(C) vehemently condemns India's secret arms supply to Zionist Israel

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 22-05-24:

"As reported in the Press on 17 May 2024, the Spanish foreign minister has denied docking permission to a Denmark-flagged cargo ship stated to be carrying 26.8 tonnes of explosives from India, and destined for Israel. The ship was carrying a cargo of 20 tonnes of rocket engines (UN code class 1.3C 186), 12.5 tons of rockets with explosive charges (code 181), 1,500 kg of explosive substances (477), 740 kg of charges and propellants for

cannons (242). An Indian company based in Pune, is cited as the sailing origin of the shipping.

Earlier also, a private company, Premier Explosives Ltd (PEL), had been permitted to export explosives and allied accessories twice—on 20 November 2023, and 01 January 2024—to Israel since the latter's war on Gaza began last year. This shows that the Indian government in explicit understanding with the US imperialists, is fuelling the ruinous war on Gaza by supplying war materials and ammunitions to Israel. This pro-Israel stand of Indian government was also

revealed last month, when India, in the UN human rights council, abstained from a vote which called for an arms embargo on Israel and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. This role of Indian government is highly condemnable. It once again confirms that India is deliberately acquiescing in genocide perpetrated by Zionist Israel in Gaza flouting all norms of humanity and civilization.

We, the people of India, firmly stand by the just cause of suffering Gaza people. We call upon the Indian government to immediately stop all supplies of ammunitions to Israel so as to prevent further escalation of carnage of the people in Gaza."

Supreme Court verdict calling arrest of a well-known journalist illegal is an eye-opener

After the welcome judgments on Bilkis Bano case and Electoral Bond, yet once again, a Bench of two conscientious judges of the Supreme Court has come to the rescue of a victim of high-handedness and autocratic move of the BJP-led central government, Prabir Purkayastha, the founder and editor-in-chief of NewsClick, a well-known web portal, and

Amit Chakraborty, the head of the human resources department of that organization who were arrested under the draconian anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) by the Delhi Police Special Cell on 3 October 2023 on the basis of a First Information Report (FIR) registered on 17 August 2023. The Delhi High Court had, however, noted in its 13 October

2023 judgment that the case against Purkayastha does merit invocation of the UAPA as the news published by him and his portal directly impacted the stability, integrity, and sovereignty of the country and bore significant national security implications. He was detained in jail for the last 6 months. However, Amit Chakraborty turned a government witness in January 2024 and was

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pardoned and released. Now the Supreme Court Bench, in its verdict, on 15 May last, mentioned clearly that it felt "no hesitation" to declare the arrest and remand of the 74-year-old journalist under UAPA by the Delhi Police as "invalid in the eyes of law" and ordered his release from custody. The state argued that Purkayastha was accused of serious offences such as "terrorist acts" and "raising funds for terrorist acts" and hence he should not be released on a "technicality". The Bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta said that every accused "has a fundamental and a statutory right to be informed about the grounds of arrest in writing and a copy of such written grounds of arrest have to be furnished to the arrested person as a matter of course and without exception at the earliest". It warrants mention that the copy of the FIR against Shri Purakayastha was not uploaded in the public domain and his request to provide him a copy was ignored by the police.

Details of arrest and charge-sheet

Shri Purkayastha was booked under several sections of the UAPA—Sections 13 (punishment for unlawful activities), 16 (punishment for terrorist act), 17 (punishment for raising funds for terrorist act), 18 (punishment for conspiracy etc) and 22C (punishment for offences by companies, societies or trusts)—along with Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence) and 120B (punishment of criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. He was also accused of using Chinese funding to promote "anti-national propaganda" through digital media. The police also alleged in the charge-sheet that Purkayastha and the website were involved in funding Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists and inciting violence in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh during the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests. The charge-sheet also alleged that *NewsClick*, in its coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic, showed "a clear bias in favour of China" and that it "disput[ed] and discredit[ed] Indian efforts at containing and defeating" the pandemic. Notably, no evidence was produced in support of any of the allegations. The police also went on to accuse the All India Peoples Science Network, of which Purkayastha is a member, of "undermining the Indian government's efforts to combat Covid-19 to develop a vaccine". Here too, no evidence was mentioned to buttress this claim. Purkayastha was also accused of

Supreme Court verdict

A blatant attempt to circumvent due process of law

being associated with a coalition of individuals called the 'People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism' that was alleged to have been "actively involved at swaying public opinion and manipulating the democratic process in a manner that was detrimental to the integrity/sanctity of the elections" in 2019. Again, no proof was furnished to substantiate that the Alliance was "derailing [the] election process". The charge-sheet further alleged

countries included was India, with a fleeting reference to *NewsClick*, which, the report said, "sprinkled its coverage with Chinese government talking points". The report did not suggest that the organization had committed any crime—let alone sedition or terrorism against the Indian state. Yet, making this report a pretext, the Delhi police swooped down on the homes of 46 people connected to *NewsClick*—journalists, staffers, contributors, including academics,

State-Level Conference Denounces MP Misconduct



The All India Mahila Samskruthika Sanghatane held a state-level conference in Bangalore on May 14, 2024, to denounce a JD(S) MP for alleged misconduct against hundreds of girls. High Court lawyer Shri C. H. Hanumantharaya led the discourse, with contributions from AIMSS leaders

that *NewsClick's* coverage of the farmers' protest, government development projects, the Bhima Koregaon riots, riots in northeastern states, Delhi and Kashmir and Adivasi issues "unearthed a pattern of false narratives being propagated with the aim of discrediting legitimate State actions" and "stoking disharmony and hatred among different social-economic religious groups" and "spread[ing] false narratives and sow[ing] seeds of division and creat[ing] fear psychosis in the minds of a segment of citizens inciting them to resort to violent resistance against the State regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act [sic]". Once again, specific content that was misleading or false and divisive was not delved into by the police. Nor was any actual incident of disharmony allegedly fanned by *NewsClick* referred to in the charge-sheet.

The government is stated to have framed the charges against *NewsClick* editor based on a New York Times report titled "A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul" published on 23 August 2023. The report was on whether Chinese funding was being funnelled to media organizations across the world to defend the interest of China. One of the

historians, satirists—seizing their phones and laptops, subjecting them to hours of questioning, and then taking Purkayastha and Chakraborty into custody. The BJP government justified the raids claiming that foreign funding of the media groups must be assessed by the investigating agencies. "If anyone has committed anything wrong, search agencies are free to carry out investigations," Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur had told reporters. But did the government act as per laid down legal procedure and abiding by constitutional provisions?

Significant observation of Supreme Court

Article 22(1) of the Indian Constitution states that "No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice." Referring to that, the Supreme Court Bench in its judgment mentioned that "The right to be informed about the grounds of arrest flows from Article 22(1) (an arrested person shall be informed of the grounds of arrest and allowed to consult a lawyer of his

or her choice) of the Constitution and any infringement of this fundamental right would vitiate the process of arrest and remand." Justice Mehta, who authored the verdict, said that just like in case of arrests, the grounds of detention should also be communicated in writing to a detainee. Any lapse would be a violation of Article 22(5) of the Constitution, which mandates that a person under detention should be communicated the grounds of the detention order and allowed to make a representation against the detention at the earliest opportunity. This is "sacrosanct and cannot be breached under any situation", the Court observed. It further added that "Non-compliance of this constitutional requirement and statutory mandate would lead to the custody or the detention being rendered illegal." Pertinent to mention that advocate Arshdeep Khurana, the legal advisor of Shri Purakayastha, was informed about the grounds of arrest on 5 October, that is, 24 hours after his client was remanded to police custody. Visibly disquieted at such flagrant violation of elementary juridical practice, Justice Mehta said there was no "rhyme or reason" for not sending the remand application to Mr. Khurana ahead of the early morning Court hearing on 4 October.

The police claimed that many witnesses confirmed the allegations and Amit Chakraborty, the turncoat government approver, endorsed all those. But that did not satisfy the Court. "There is no hesitation in the mind of this court that the copy of the remand application, in the purported exercise of communicating the grounds of arrest in writing, was not provided to the accused-appellant (Purakayastha) or his counsel before the passing of the order of remand dated October 4, 2023. This vitiates his arrest and subsequent remand,...This entire exercise was done in a clandestine manner and was nothing but a blatant attempt to circumvent the due process of law; to confine the accused to police custody without informing him the grounds on which he has been arrested; deprive the accused of the opportunity to avail the services of the legal practitioner of his choice so as to oppose the prayer for police custody remand, seek bail and also to mislead the court," Justice Mehta concluded in the scathing judgment. Very strong words indeed!

Codes of jurisprudence and natural justice brazenly flouted

It is evident that the black laws like the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), Narcotic

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BJP government covertly exporting labourers to Israel and other countries

The issue of 'government-sponsored' labour export has once again come to the forefront, with the BJP government reportedly negotiating agreements with, besides Israel, Taiwan and Italy to send unemployed semi-skilled and skilled Indian workers to these countries. This alarming development raises significant ethical and human right concerns, eerily reminiscent of the colonial period when the British rulers shipped Indian labourers to their various other colonies and thereby subjecting them to inhuman treatment. The BJP government appears to have resurrected this exploitative practice, prioritizing short-term economic gains over the dignity and safety of its citizens.

Bilateral agreements for export of unemployed workforce

India's decision to enter into bilateral agreements with various countries for the supply of labour, brokered by the 'Skill Development Corporation', a public-private partnership entity, does mark a disturbing trend. Under these agreements, 42,000 Indian workers, both skilled and unskilled, are contracted for export to Israel. This occurs against the backdrop of Israel's perpetration of a large-scale carnage in Palestine and the recent revocation of work permits for around 90,000 Palestinian workers there. Indian workers, predominantly young and unemployed, are set to replace them in construction and other sectors, including nursing and military assistance. The desperation driving this labour export cannot be overstated. In December 2023, India entered into an agreement with Italy to send 20,000 workers, with talks ongoing with Taiwan to send an additional 100,000. The implications are dire. The BJP government's actions are tantamount to commodifying human labour, exporting it to conflict zones where the conditions are perilous. But since the amount of remuneration is higher there, unemployed youths from states like Haryana, UP and others, desperate for any kind of means of earning, are making a bee-line for accepting such risky jobs. Reuters report from Rohtak, Haryana, quoted a worker willing to risk his life in Gaza, stating, "If it's in our destiny to die, then we can die either here or there."

This sentiment underscores the economic despair gripping India's

jobless youths. The government's claims of economic growth ring hollow when juxtaposed with the reality of surplus human capital and high unemployment rates.

The human cost of this labour export policy is devastating. Indian workers are subjected to longer hours and paltry wages, with reports of deaths among those sent to Israel and Russia. The government's failure to protect its citizens abroad starkly contrasts with its obligations under these bilateral agreements. This policy fails to protect the dignity and safety of Indian workers, subjecting them to harsh conditions and endangerment in foreign lands.

Hence it is a deeply flawed and inhumane strategy. It commodifies human labour, exporting unemployment and economic despair rather than addressing these issues domestically through creation of remunerative jobs, if necessary, by setting up labour-intensive industries under the aegis of the government, as was done after independence.

In the contemporary landscape of Indian politics and economics, the term "surplus human capital" is frequently brandished to mask a deeply unsettling reality. Despite the government's lofty claims of decreasing unemployment, the situation on the ground tells a different story. Unemployment remains alarmingly high, and the touted employment generation through infrastructure projects is far from the panacea it is made out to be. It is, therefore, a dirty game on the part of the Indian government to clandestinely, so to say, outsourcing of unemployment problem.

Plight and life risk of exported Indian labourers

The plight of these exported workers is compounded by the harsh realities they face abroad. Reports indicate that Indian workers sent to Russia were coerced into fighting on the front lines against Ukraine, a grotesque misuse of their labour and lives. In Israel, Indian workers are replacing Palestinian workers during ongoing conflict, further entangling them in a volatile and dangerous situation. An Indian labourer in Israel was killed and several other migrant workers injured on 4 March 2024, in a missile attack. Earlier, the bodies of two Indians who were killed on the Russia-Ukraine border after they were forced to fight alongside the Russian Army were brought to Delhi on March 16 and flown to

their homes in Surat and Hyderabad. The desperation driving illegal migration from India into developed economies, as evidenced by the recent incident of a plane en route Nicaragua filled with Indians hoping to reach the United States, further illustrates the gravity of the situation.

The story of Vivek Sharma, a 28-year-old mason from Haryana, highlights the grim realities faced by many. Aware of the ongoing conflict in Israel, Sharma was still eager to earn the \$12,000 he hoped to make in a year, a sum that would take him five years to earn in India. Until recently, Indian workers in many Gulf countries endured conditions no better than those of colonial-era indentured labourers. Cheated by middlemen and forced to live in squalid conditions, they lacked rights and voices, much like their counterparts in other countries. The plight of these workers underscores the systemic failure of the Indian government to protect its citizens abroad. Indian politicians, diplomats, and officials are fully aware of the inhuman working conditions that persist today in many countries where Indian diplomats function as de facto labour representatives. One former Indian ambassador in a Gulf kingdom remarked that his role was less a diplomatic assignment and more akin to that of a labour relations officer, tasked with securing better conditions for Indian workers.

It is pertinent to point out that the US imperialists export arms and money, perpetuating cycles of violence and dependency while India, in a starkly different form of imperialistic practice, exports not only finance capital but also its human capital, subjecting its hapless jobless citizens to exploitation and endangerment abroad.

The mirage of employment

This cruel practice has also exposed the hollow claim of the BJP government about its sincerity in addressing mounting unemployment problem. PM Modi, in a recent election speech, proudly proclaimed that the construction of roadways, bridges, and flyovers is creating vast employment opportunities. However, this assertion is as farcical as it is misleading. Real employment entails permanent, gainful engagement at appropriate remuneration. Instead, the jobs generated by these construction activities are typically temporary, low-wage, and fraught with unsafe working conditions and

extended hours. This workforce is part of the unorganized sector, which constitutes a staggering 93% of the Indian labour market. These temporary construction jobs fail to offer stability or security, forcing workers to live hand-to-mouth, struggling to eke out a bare living.

Dying capitalism generating unemployment

The global imperialist-capitalist system, particularly in its present decadent moribund stage, is incapable of generating sufficient genuine employment. Of late, the imperialist-capitalist governments India included, are on a spree of privatization. In India, the Public Sector Units (PSUs) which were set up with public money, are being handed over to private operators on a silver platter at virtually throwaway price. Moreover, education, healthcare, agriculture, communication, railways and other public welfare activities supposed to be in the hands of the government, are recklessly privatized so that those could be sold as profit-making commodities by the large industrial houses and big business. These private operators seek to keep their cost of production at minimum possible limit by shedding manpower and replacing them by latest technology. Hence, the handful of industries they are establishing are all capital-intensive. So are also the essential services they are gifted by the government.

Secondly, imperialism-capitalism are in the grip of severe unsolvable market crisis endemic of the system. The relentless pursuit of maximum profit by industrialists squeezes the masses, depriving them of the purchasing power necessary to sustain market demand and exacerbating their economic instability. In absence of purchasing power of the pauperized masses, goods remain unsold leading to a vicious cycle of economic stagnation and social distress. Hence, the private operators close down factories throwing thousands out of labourers and employees. Over the past 15 years, more than 7,50,000 industries have shut down in India, further swelling the ranks of the unemployed. Hardly any new industries are being established, particularly in the core sectors because there is no market. No amount of economic theorizing of capitalist ideology can address these

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Axe falling on honest journalism to hide truth*Contd. from page 2*

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) flagrantly violate two fundamental principles of jurisprudence—"bail not jail" and "innocent until proven guilty". These black laws grant extraordinary powers to the investigating agencies and the prosecution of arrest and detention. In essence, these autocratic laws shift the burden of proof on the accused. Stringent provisions also place a high threshold for the grant of bail. By invalidating the arrest of Prabir Purkayastha, the Supreme Court while upholding in principle the constitutional protection offered to citizens under Article 22(1) has brought to light how brazenly the arbitrary powers of the prosecution violate even the most basic rights and constitutional safeguards.

"In a democracy, a government cannot unleash central agencies against the free press, especially in the absence of due process," said Digipub, the digital media body. "Laws must not be weaponized against journalists, putting their life, liberty and livelihood at risk," it added. Thus the Supreme Court verdict can surely be said to have strengthened the cause of the journalist organizations that unitedly protested against Purakayastha's illegal arrest and raised concern over slapping UAPA against the journalists to create fear among them. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there was a 23% rise in UAPA cases in 2022 compared to previous years, while the PMLA cases grew by 450% in the first three years of the BJP government's second term (2019-2022), compared to the same period in its first term. Clearly, these figures speak volumes for themselves. This episode once again probes that being power-mad, the BJP is not abiding by the rudimentary codes of law. But democratic-minded people of our country would not tolerate such autocratic conduct.

Why are journalists targeted?

But, obvious question is why are the journalists targeted? For this, we need to recall certain historical facts and socio-political developments. As we have mentioned earlier also, in a parliamentary debate in 1787, on the opening up of press reporting of the House of Commons of Great Britain, Edmund Burke, a member of that House, attributed the term 'Fourth Estate' to the press (news media). The three wings of any capitalist state with a parliamentary

democracy in place are the legislature, executive and judiciary with their respective delineated jurisdictions. The term 'Fourth Estate' was used to view the status of news media or press as a fourth branch of parliamentary democracy. The concept stemmed from a belief that the media's responsibility to keep common people informed of the ongoing happenings and developments in the various fields was essential for healthy functioning of democracy.

But, with passage of time, following the inexorable law of social development, the degeneration of capitalism—being premised on exploitation of man by man and hence on inherent inequality in it—became more and more pronounced. Obviously, systemic erosion of democratic values and subversion of the proclaimed codes of parliamentary democracy also began to take place in tandem. When capitalism reached the stage of imperialism, the highest stage of its development in the beginning of the twentieth century, it lost all its progressive role, turned utterly reactionary and corrupt and posed a stumbling block before social progress. Decadent moribund capitalism also started being haunted by the fear-complex of anti-capitalist proletarian revolution ordained by history. From then onwards, the barest precepts of parliamentary democracy are being trampled underfoot. Now, the very term democracy in dying capitalism has become a mockery—with merely the facade of democracy, stripped of all its essence, remaining.

So, sweeping amendments to laws are brought about to muffle the voice of dissent. Naturally the axe has fallen on honest journalism lest all the evil acts of the fascist autocratic government should come to light. Hence, growing resort to black laws, strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) suits etc.—as well as many other extra-judicial means are reported to be used as a way of penalizing individuals and media who refuse to fall in line with the power that be and instead try to uphold the principle of truthful journalism. Alongside, the ruling monopoly houses and multinationals are buying out the mainstream media and making them pliant to their sinister class interest. With most of the media houses now being owned by the monopoly houses, they have become an instrument of the ideological apparatus of the ruthlessly oppressive ruling capitalism. These media houses have now earned the name 'Godi media', meaning news-

organizations belonging to the seat of power. Hence, an unwritten censorship on news reporting is getting in-built in the system. With dominance of corporate barons over media houses, journalism, considered to be an ethical communicative practice in a healthy democracy, as well as the freedom of press, so eulogized once as the "Fourth Estate", is now in thrall of money power.

As a result, many news agencies known for authentic circulation of updates of happenings in the real world are either being dwarfed or banned. TV channels as well as news magazines like NDTV (before takeover by Adani group), the Quint, Citizen and Caravan have been cuffed with frivolous cases reportedly filed just to embroil the targeted media in endless litigation that they could ill afford, or to enable the law enforcement officials to turn up in pursuit of obscure cases with a view to harassing and intimidating the targeted media houses. "We are facing a dozen defamation cases from some of India's most powerful businessmen in which they are seeking Rs 11,450 crore, or \$1.5 billion worth of damages! Read the list, it's a who's who of the government's backers: Industrial barons like Gautam Adani, Anil Ambani and Subhash Chandra, BJP MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hindu spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravishankar and BJP president Amit Shah's son, Jay Amit Shah", said Siddharth Varadarajan of web-portal 'The Wire' in his Reuters Memorial Lecture in February 2019. Later he had tweeted: "On the day the Tablighi Jamaat event was held, Yogi Adityanath insisted that a large fair planned for Ayodhya on the occasion of Ram Navami from March 25 to April 2 would proceed as usual while Acharya Paramhans said that Lord Ram would protect devotees from the coronavirus'. One day after Modi announced the "curfew-like" national lockdown on March 24, Yogi Adityanath violated the official guidelines to take part in a religious ceremony in Ayodhya along with dozens of people." Immediately, he featured on the radar of the ruling quarters and a chargesheet was filed against him. The BJP-led UP government told the Allahabad High Court that "Varadarajan is having an American passport and therefore, there is a chance of him fleeing away from India. It had further contended that since the charge-sheet has been filed by the police after completion of investigation

and the cognizance has been taken on the said charge-sheet by the concerned Court, therefore, there is no reasonable apprehension of arrest of the applicant in the instant case by the police." However, the Court did not find any merit in these contentions of the UP government and granted anticipatory bail to Siddharth Varadarajan. Sidhique Kappan, a contributor for a popular Kerala-based website, and three others who had gone to Hathras, UP, to cover the horrific rape and murder incident of a 19 year poor dalit girl was arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura over alleged links with an organization which the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government of UP wanted to be banned. The Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) had filed a Habeas Corpus petition [a civil action against the state to bring a prisoner or other detainee (e.g. institutionalized mental patient) before the court to determine if the person's imprisonment or detention is lawful in the Supreme Court against the arrest of Kappan. On 9 September 2022, the Supreme Court granted him bail in the (UAPA) case, saying that "every citizen has the right to free expression". However, he remained in jail in Lucknow in a case under the PMLA slapped against him by the Enforcement Directorate in 2021. Finally, the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on 23 December 2022, also granted bail to him, that is after a full two years of arrest. Paranjay Guha Thakurta, the then editor of 'Economic and Political Weekly' (EPW), had co-penned with other journalists two articles headlined "Did the Adani Group Evade Rs 1,000 Crore" and "Modi Government's Rs 500-Crore Bonanza to the Adani Group" in January and June 2017 respectively. The Adani Group sent a legal notice to the publications, asking them to take down the articles, claiming they were defamatory. The EPW took them down, which led Guha Thakurta to resign as editor. Later, a Mundra Court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Guha Thakurta. But the Gujarat High Court in February 2021 suspended the warrant. From 2010 till 2023, 16 journalists were charged charged under UAPA. Gauri Lankesh, a courageous editor in Karnataka who was a staunch critic of the doctrine of Hindutva and communal politics, was gunned down two years ago allegedly by a Hindu fanatic group. "I was told in May 2017 I had to kill someone to save my religion. I agreed", confessed the accused who pumped in four bullets into Gauri. Shujaat Bukhari, editor-in-chief of *Rising Kashmir*, who wrote in 2018 that PM Modi's "emphasis

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Agniveer

Saga of marginalized and deprived youth

Ajoy Singh (23) an 'Agniveer' was killed on 17 January last, in a landmine blast near the 'LOC' in Rajori district of Jammu and Kashmir, while he was on duty. Ajoy Singh belonged to an extremely underprivileged family from Ramgarh Sardaran village in Punjab's Ludhiana district. His father is a daily wager and mother a domestic help. Another Agniveer Amritpal Singh died from self inflicted injury on 23 October 2023 in Jammu and Kashmir. Some of his friends and relatives have opined is that he killed himself out of deep frustration about the job. According to Army officials, since it was a death caused by self-inflicted injury, no guard of honour or military funeral was ordered. Even his dead body was brought to his native village in a private ambulance.

Agnipath Scheme

Who are these so called 'Agniveers'? They are in temporary employment for four years in the three branches of defence services (i.e, Army, Naval and Air force) under a scheme named 'Agnipath' announced by the BJP government in 2020. Only youths of 17-20 years were to be eligible for recruitment under the scheme. The salary of the Agniveers has been fixed at Rs 30,000 for the 1st year and Rs 40, 000 in the 4th year—much lower than the regular defence cadres. As per the terms of the scheme, 30% of the salary is to be kept in a contributory fund where Government will deposit the equal amount and after the termination on completion of 4 years, each Agniveer is to receive a completion certificate along with Rs 11 lakhs in cash. If any Agniveer dies or is killed during service, his family will get Rs 1crore as compensation (including insurance coverage of Rs 42 lakhs). After the completion of 4 years, only 25% of the Agniveers will be absorbed in the regular defence service and the rest will be set free to roam around. What a novel way of exploiting unemployed budding youths!

Sporadic outburst against the scheme

Every year, nearly 55 to 60 thousands military personnel retire from service. Due to the Corona pandemic, no new recruitment was made during 2020 and 2021. Therefore, lakhs of unemployed youths particularly from poorer stratum of the people mainly from the rural areas, were eagerly waiting for joining regular defence jobs. But when, instead, the 'Agnipath Scheme' was announced by the end of May 2022, sporadic violent outburst of the aspirant youths against the contractual recruitment system in the military services took place in the major parts of the country starting from J and K, Punjab, Haryana to southern states. For years together, they had to struggle hard to make themselves fit for

military service. But, instead, Agnipath was designed to deny them permanent employment. After the four years of contractual service what will be their future? They will be jobless again! So, the protest was fully justified. But the autocratic BJP government felt no hesitation in suppressing the protest with police brutality.

Unemployment scenario

When unemployment problem is soaring sky-high (highest in the last 45-50 years) and 83% youths are stated to be jobless, when 20-30% of the engineers from IITs are roaming in the street (TOI, May 23, 2024), what will be the fate of the terminated Agniveers after four years of contractual military job? We know that one of the prescripts of capitalist globalization is to do away with the concept of permanent job and replace them by short term contractual employment at a meagre salary. These contractual employees would perform the same job as permanent employees but at an abysmal wage with no job security. Another prescript has been outsourcing which is also a different form of similar labour exploitation. Not only the private sector even the Union and state governments have stopped recruitment of permanent employees barring a few high officials. So the Agniveers, after termination from the defence job, can at best get a contractual job of a security personnel with a salary ranging between Rs 10,000 and Rs 15000 per month or any other similar type of job in a private concern. This grim situation is agitating the young minds on the one hand and increasing frustration and depression on the other. 'Agniveers' are no exception.

Private mercenaries?

In this stage of decadent moribund capitalism and era of imperialism—shadow war, proxy war, prolonged local war, war of aggression, insurgency, terrorism—all are on the rise. These wars are engineered by the imperialist powers to boost militarization of economy and release of stockpile of arms besides reaping political gains like expanding spheres of influence and bullying "rouge" countries to submission. In conducting such wars, the aggressive countries also face quite a good number of casualties. Therefore, there is a demand for private mercenaries are increasing so that main defence force of those countries remain intact. Agnipath is nothing but a variant of such private armies. These Agniveers are sent to the war zones as front-liners and hence exposed to greater risk. So the cost of war is pegged down and the government bears no responsibility towards these contractual responsibilities. This is the most uncouth, inhuman and unethical face of imperialism-capitalism today.

Billionaires in Politics: Can They Truly Represent People

As the candidates of all phases of have filed their nominations, their assets (including their spouses) are now in reported in the media. It reveals the startling fact that many of them are billionaires. According to the report of Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), as many as 450 candidates (28% of total candidates) in the fray for phase one are crorepatis (ith assets exceeding 1 crore). Congress candidate Nakul Nath with a net worth of over 716 crore is at the top.

In the second phase, there were 390 crorepatis among 1210 Candidates. Venkataramane Gowda (Congress), D K Suresh (Congress) and Hema Malini (BJP) have topped the list with Rs. 622 Crore, Rs. 593 Crore and Rs. 278 Crore worth of assets respectively. Whereas, Comrade VP Kochumon, fielded by our Party, the SUCI (C) from Kottayam, Kerala is fifth lowest on the list of asser holdings with only Rs 2,230. 29% candidates of the third phase are crorepatis.

According to the analysis of the self-sworn affidavits of 1,710 of the 1,717 candidates who contested in the fourth phase, 476 candidates are 'crorepatis'. Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani (TDP), contesting from the Guntur of Andhra Pradesh has the highest assets exceeding Rs. 5075 crore! The second-highest is Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, representing the BJP in the Chevella constituency of Telangana, with assets surpassing Rs 4,568 crore! According to ADR, in the fifth phase, 227 of the contesting 695 candidates (33%) are crorepatis. Anurag Sharma of the BJP is the richest with Rs. 212 worth of assets. Comrades Ramkumar Jadav contesting from Pratapgarh, UP and Pradyut Chowdhury contesting for the Sreerampur seat in West Bengal, are in 2nd and the 7th respectively in the list from the bottom. In the Phase-6, the richest candidate is the BJP leader Naveen Jindal with Rs 1241 crore+ assets who has contested from Kurukshetra of Haryana. While, Comrade Ram Kumar Yadav from SUCI(C) is the second lowest in this phase with only Rs. 1686 (Pratapgarh, UP). In the Seventh or final Phase, 33% candidates are crorepatis.

The ADR has also reported, there are serious criminal cases against 1187 candidates (14.23%) who have contested in the 18th General Election in the country. The charges include with rape, murder, hooliganism, money fraudulence and similar allegations of criminal acts.

In the outgoing Lok Sabha, 475 among the 543 MPs were crorepatis. This means 87.5% MPs from the lower house of the Parliament with assets more than Rs. 1 crore belong to the richest layer of the country. The worth of their average wealth is Rs. 21 crore. There's a gulf difference between the wealth of our MPs and common people of the country. The average monthly salary of the service-holders (approximately 10% of the population) is Rs. 32,000. While the daily wages of a worker in Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is only Rs. 250. If they get jobs for maximum 100 days, they will get Rs. 25,000 only; while the average wealth of the MPs are Rs. 21 crores.

Whose representatives are then the MPs? Do they ever feel any concern for the toiling millions suffering from hunger, poverty, homelessness, joblessness and utter deprivation in every respect? Do they care for the hardships the peasants denied remunerative piece for their produce while back-broken in acquiring agricultural inputs at exorbitant cost?

Rightly observed 'Dainik Jagaran', a leading Hindi daily, in their 17 May 2024 issue that while the crorepatis are apathetic to people's hardship, the SUCI(C) is holding aloft the banner of the toiling millions in the political arena.

CPDRS and Science Front meet Parakala Prabhakar

On behalf of our Party, SUCI (C), its Science Front and Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights and Secularism (CPDRS) met Dr. Parakala Prabhakar on 3 May evening and had a fruitful discussion with him in Kolkata.

He gave his views on the civil society's movement, secularism and ongoing parliament election. Though he expressed his concern about the democratic future

of the country, he, at the same time was optimistic about the result of the ongoing parliament election in which he believed that the ruling BJP would be defeated. He praised the valiant role of our Party in Indore constituency due to which BJP didn't get a walkover there. He has assured to be present in the citizens' programmes on civil liberties and human rights in future under the auspices of CPDRS.



Dr. Parakala Prabhakar (centre) felicitated; Comrade Debasis Roy, CC member (right), Comrade Saumya Sen, CPDRS (left)

People meeting household expenses through borrowing

Growing unemployment and spiralling inflation has created a precarious situation for common people. Net financial assets of households have sunk to just 5.1% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in 2022-23, according to latest data available from the RBI.

For most of the country's citizens, financial assets (bank and non-bank deposits, cash, investments in equity, insurance and pension funds, etc.) are the main form of savings and thus a decline reflects mainly the dependence on savings in the face of low incomes, high inflation and the raging problem of unemployment. Families appear to be using savings for survival, or, as is more likely in the case of vast majority of people, not saving at all. In the same period, liabilities of households—mainly loans—have increased and thus, the net financial assets become less. In the first year of the pandemic, 2020-21, financial assets increased steeply to reach nearly Rs.31 lakh crore because the economy was mostly under lockdown and there were hardly any transactions taking place.

In the next year, there was a big dip as the economy stuttered back to life. Then, in 2022-23, assets further

increased though remaining just short of the peak in 2020-21. In 2022-23, liabilities zoom up to a jaw dropping level of Rs.15.8 lakh crore, more than half the level of assets/savings. People are increasingly becoming indebted. This causes their net financial assets to sharply decline to Rs.13.8 lakh crore.

It must be mentioned that all the above figures are from official records and legal transactions. There are vast amounts of funds and physical assets that are held through legal loopholes or even illegally, constituting the black economy.

However, this kind of saving and assets can only be accruing and getting held by the well heeled or elite sections of population. As we know, just 1% of the population own about 40% of the country's wealth while the bottom 50% own just 6.4% of the country's wealth, according to latest estimates for 2022-23. In other words, the declining net savings (as represented by financial assets) is a characteristic of the economic distress of the majority of common people. It is a direct result of the pro-rich policies of the present government and only the reversal of such policies can bring relief to people. (Source: News Click 05-05-24)

Export of labour

BJP government's actions are tantamount to commodifying human labour

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fundamental flaws. The economists who seek to do so merely peddle in meaningless pedagogy and demagoguery. Because crisis emanating from the very capitalist system cannot be mitigated keeping the system unscathed. The Indian government's labour export policy is a symptom of this systemic failure. It, in fact, is a fervid sore on the body of capitalism. It highlights the festering issues that are becoming increasingly glaring and cannot be concealed by superficial remedies.

The desperate plight of Indian laborers, both skilled and unskilled, is a direct consequence of a socio-economic structure that prioritizes profit maximization over people's interest. Pertinent to mention that in Soviet Union, unemployment problem was solved within a span of few years. In 1932, great Stalin announced that everyone should work according to their capabilities and the responsibility of providing them with

suitable jobs lay with the socialist state. No one could stay without working. Even working hours were brought down. Soviet workers generally were on a 6-day, 41-hour work—week, consisting of five 7-hour days and a 6-hour Saturday. Move was afoot to bring down working hours to 6. This is the difference between capitalism and socialism.

Concluding remarks

The thinking people need to imbibe this truth. Any government wedded to the task of serving dying capitalism-imperialism cannot resolve the rising unemployment problem. Hence it needs either camouflage or foul means to somehow keep the crisis shielded. For that matter, PM Modi and other BJP leaders are carefully avoiding any mention of soaring unemployment during their electioneering. Instead, they are veering around non-issues or cooked up issues to befool the masses. It is time to ensure that veneer comes out of the faces of these deceiving and defrauding forces.

Truth-Focused Journalists : Democracy's Watchdogs

Contd. from page 6

on development alone goes against the past and present reality of Jammu and Kashmir, and does not hold any promise unless the political nature of the conflict is accepted", was assassinated in busy Lal Chowk area of Srinagar in 2018. Income Tax authorities raided the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai in February 2023, shortly after the British broadcaster released a documentary that was critical of PM Modi and his government. Dozens of Indian journalists who protested or disagreed with the actions and measures of the BJP government had complained of increased harassment, including on social media—where the governing BJP has a powerful presence. IT officials also raided the offices of Oxfam India, the Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation, and the Center for Policy Research. Instances are endless. Because of such punitive actions against media-houses and journalists, India ranks 161 out of 180 countries in the World Freedom Index 2023, dropping from 150 in the previous year.

The BJP government as trusted representative of the ruling monopolists has also been trying for long to bully the Judiciary into submission to the Executive—a move totally against the very foundation of parliamentary democracy where the functions as well as jurisdiction of both the wings (Judiciary and Executive) are clearly delineated. The bourgeoisie at the time of its rise as a social power and emergence of bourgeois democracy upheld that as far as the last word of justice was concerned, people's opinion was of supreme importance and the responsibility vested with the Judiciary was

to ensure and protect due operation and application of the laws enacted by the Legislature and executed by the government and bureaucracy in a way compatible with the expressed provisions of the Constitution. So, whoever believed in democracy must also believe in the ultimate triumph of public opinion, if it were strong, united and fearless. For, the will of the people could only be manifested through public opinion. That is why, a conscious continuous vigil on the part of the people was viewed to be the best safeguard of democracy. And in this regard, the role of a free press is of utmost importance.

This is the socio-historic cause behind systematic curtailment of the autonomy of the media, more and more control of moneybags over not only mainstream media, both print and electronic, but newly emerged social media networks as well. Alongside, driven by its sinister class necessity to conceal the murky nature of dying capitalist system so that the surfeit of aberrations, deprivations, deceptions, injustice, and repression, do not surface, the ruling monopolists have been trying in every possible way to gag the voice of truthful journalism which seeks to unravel truth, promote transparency, expose reckless abuse of power by the members of the ruling dispensation while trampling fundamental civil and democratic rights of the common toiling people. This is the reason that in capitalist India, attack on free media, which once was viewed as a pillar of democracy, is so glaringly manifest.

Final Words

It is relevant to quote here a very useful observation of Comrade Shibdas

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Government and pliant economists fudging employment data

Government economists, especially in the last five years, have taken to leading the analysis of data, not letting the data lead the analysis. The latest effort is to claim that on an average basis, an "unprecedented number" of jobs are being created under the Narendra Modi government, with the number touching 10 million (each year) over the last seven to eight years. The cited government economist considers every type of 'employment', whether in agriculture or in the non-farm sector, as a job. No development economist who knows his stuff would make such an elementary error.

So in the last three years alone, the absolute number of workers in agriculture increased from 200 million to 260 million, mainly though not only because of reverse migration over 2020 to 2022, that is not productive employment; let us note that 200 million workers were generating 15% of India's GDP (from agriculture), and 260 million are still doing the same. Hence, an increase in 'employment' in agriculture is not jobs, rather it is 'jobless growth'. Worse still, a return to agriculture is reversing the structural change in employment in the economy.

Economic development is defined as consisting of not just a rise in per capita income, but also by a structural change away from agriculture to industry and services in terms of both output and employment, which raises productivity and hence incomes in the economy as a whole. It is notable that after 2004, for the first time in India's history, the absolute number of workers in agriculture began to fall—which raised overall factor productivity. For over half a century till then, the share of agriculture in India's employment had fallen, but never the absolute number of workers.

So when India's GDP growth rate was shown to have risen to 7.7% per annum over 2004-14, which was unprecedented in India's post-independence history, it is not surprising that non-farm jobs grew at the rate of 7.5 million new jobs per annum between 2004-5 to 2012. That rate fell sharply in 2019 to 2.9 million non farm jobs per year. The government economists are blissfully ignorant of this phenomenon (or perhaps their predisposition leads the data). The youth unemployment rate tripled from 6% to 17.8% between 2012 and 2018 (PLFS). More egregiously and callously, he goes on to state that much of youth unemployment is frictional, i.e., temporary, lasting mainly over the age group 15-29 years, and after 30 years the unemployment rate drops off to 1%, which he says is "not much of an unemployment rate at all". This observation is problematic from two major viewpoints.

First, over ten years lost in a young educated person's working life being unemployed, or severely underemployed, is a gross under-utilization of human capital and destructive of dignity; quite apart from being destructive of potential GDP. Second, even if employment is obtained after age 30, it is usually of the informal variety, and still underemployment.

For the older and younger women, unpaid family work in agriculture (which had been falling sharply) increased from 28.3 million in 2017-18 to 58.2 million (rise of 30 million) in 2022-23; just as own-account work in agriculture shot up from 9.2 million to 29.2 million (rise of 20 million) over the same period. This rise of 50 million in employment is distress-driven, not a matter of celebration.

There was indeed an increase in employment, as millions of poor people join the labour force, and must find any 'job' to survive, regardless of its wages or quality. That is the reason why the economists of the ruling quarter always peg down the unemployment rates at a low level.

Manufacturing employment actually fell in absolute terms from 60 million in 2011-12 to 55 million by 2017-18, the year India saw its highest open unemployment rate in 45 years of the history of labour market surveys in India.

One estimate shows that agricultural, construction, manufacturing and services real wages/earnings stagnated for all types of workers (casual and regular wage, self employed). Even one government economist in his recent book (using a different deflator than ours) finds that earnings of 80% of India's workers, i.e., the regular and self-employed, have stagnated between 2017-18 and 2022-23, and only for casual workers with intermittent work (who are only 20% of workers) did they rise slightly.

Three groups are in desperate need for jobs in this fifth-largest economy of the world, claimed to be the globe's fastest growing large economy. First, the six million-odd young (including girls) who enter the labour force each year; second, the growing stock of unemployed (plus those in unpaid family work); and third, the 260 million in agriculture, or 45% of the workforce who contribute barely 15% to the GDP. The latest CSDS survey (in 2024) has told us that 62% of voters believe it is now harder to find a job than five years ago, and in urban areas 65% have said it is harder to find jobs.

The young voters this time are unlikely to be fooled by past promises of two crore new jobs per year—that never materialized!

(Courtesy—The Wire-08-05-24)

Poll campaign trail round the country



Comrade Satyawan, Polit Bureau member and Haryana State Secretary, SUCI(C), addressing a public meeting on 17 May last, in support of Comrade Ram Pyere, SUCI(C) candidate from Jaunpur constituency, UP

Solidarity with US students

"With great hope, we are witnessing the students movement unfolding in USA. The protest, going on from 17 April at Columbia University with demands to sever ties with Israel and the companies that fed on war and genocide in Palestine, has already spread across the length and breadth of USA. The students from multitudes of backgrounds, including hundreds of progressive Jewish students, are standing firm braving the immeasurable oppression by the institutions and the US government. With great satisfaction, we also see that hundreds of faculties are boldly coming out against the oppression and in favour of the movement.

We, on behalf of all the left and democratic students organizations of South Asian countries, convey our heartfelt greetings and solidarity to the historic students movement of USA. The protests that are going on in the USA streets for months and now engrossed the vibrant community of students in the campuses, remind us of the great upsurge of public conscience against the Vietnam War. Today, the voice and resistance not only tremble the imperialist-fascist war machine but radiate the wave of determination and hope to the peace-loving people across the world.

We resonate with the main agenda of the movement and demand amnesty to the students and faculties subjected to punitive actions. The police and military must back off from the democratic movement and the institutions must recourse to democratic norms in dealing with the situation. Let us all peace-loving students and people of the world raise our voice in solidarity and against directing material and intellectual resources for war and genocide."

Bangladesh

- Bangladesh Chattro Federation (BCF)
- Bangladesh Students' Union (BSU)
- Democratic Students' Council (DSC)
- Hill Students' Council
- Revolutionary Students' Unity (RSU)
- Revolutionary Student-Youth Movement
- Students' Federation of Bangladesh (SFB)
- Socialist Students' Front (SSF)

India

- All India Democratic Students' Organization (AIDSO)
- All India Students' Association (AISA)
- All India Students' Bloc (AISB)
- All India Students' Federation (AISF)
- Progressive Students' Union (PSU)

Nepal

- All Nepal National Independent Students' Union (Revolutionary)
- All Nepal Students' Union (Socialist)

Pakistan

- Democratic Students' Federation (DSF)
- National Students' Federation (NSF)
- Progressive Students' Collective (PSC)

Srilanka

- Inter University Bikku Federation (IUBF)
- Inter University Students' Federation (IUSF)
- Revolutionary Students' Union (RSU)

SUCI(C) attends ICOR meeting in Kathmandu



Comrade Amitava Chatterjee, Polit Bureau member and Deputy, International, addressing the Asian conference of 'International Co-ordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations' (ICOR) in Kathmandu, Nepal. The conference was held on 11-12 May. It was decided there that the conference of ICOR would be held in Germany in next September

Supreme Court verdict

Contd. from page 6

Ghosh, Founder General Secretary, SUCI(C) and an outstanding Marxist thinker of India way back in May 1967. "I wish to point out a thing to our journalists. They discuss 'big' problems of the country when they write articles, but all these problems of the masses do not catch their attention. Every now and then they raise a hue and cry over democracy, democratic movements and such matters. But what is the essence of democracy? Does it mean writing some articles in newspapers, or publishing speeches of the Members of Parliament? No. The real strength of democracy lies in people's consciousness stemming from democratic mass movements and democratically organized unity. So, if democratic movements cannot be safeguarded and if the strength of becoming democratically organized is not allowed to grow, if avenues cannot be opened up for people to imbibe democratic consciousness, democracy will die anyway. It will die despite the loud cry of the journalists. They will fail to save democracy, even in its bourgeois sense. So, the votaries of the rule of law, who equate democracy with that, should grasp that it is impossible to save even this rule of law by simply writing articles in the newspapers. They must

come out with fortitude and stand by all the legitimate democratic mass movements. They do not seem to realize that if powerful democratic movements are not built up then the military can step in one day and disband the elected bodies to seize power, using law and order as a pretext, especially if it receives support from parties like the Jana Sangh* and Swatantra**. Our journalist friends cannot save parliamentary rule then. It is the collective political consciousness and democratic revolutionary movement of millions of common people that can save the country from such an eventuality." (SW Vol. III p21-22)

It is heartening that not all the media-persons have sold their conscience, either because of intimidation or in pursuit of a lucrative career by flattering the ruling dispensation. It is to be remembered, if full-fledged fascism is clamped, no one will be spared.

So if the journalists want to highlight truth fearlessly to play the role of watchdog to whatever little of democracy is still in existence, it is of utmost importance that they help spread democratic consciousness by projecting the cause of the people, or the voice of the people from truly legitimate democratic movements to counteract the autocratic narrative and oppression.

* predecessor of the BJP

** A far right wing party in existence then

Oil Companies make fabulous profit

Whenever the demand for bringing down the soaring retail tariff of petrol-diesel is raised, the government plays the broken record—"Oil companies would incur heavy loss". But is that the fact? Not at all. As per latest report, the three major PSU oil companies—Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum together have reaped a mind-boggling profit of Rs 81,000 crores in 23-24.

Though the price of crude oil in the international market has come down quite significantly, the BJP government feels no obligation to lower the retail tariff and give some relief to the common people. Because by imposing high tax on petrol-diesel and receiving fabulous dividend from the oil companies, the government inflates its exchequer and then finances the huge deficit in revenue earning because of offering a slew of tax concessions, waivers and exemptions and providence of other means to facilitate "ease of doing business". Total oil revenue earned by the government from 2019-2023 is estimated to be around Rs 12 lakh crores. Next is what the government

seeks to denote as loss of the oil giants. As we have pointed out quite a number of times earlier that it is under-recovery which is being shown as loss.

Under recovery is the difference between the import parity price and the retail price of petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene, before deregulation. Under recovery is a notional loss based on assumption and not actual loss in real terms. To put it another way, let us suppose that cost of making a pair of shoes in Italy is Rs1000 and India imports the Italian leather and makes shoes at a much cheaper cost, say Rs 600.

So, to maintain "import price parity", the shoes have to be sold at Rs 1000 in India and not Rs 600. Otherwise, the shoe-making company will suffer an under recovery of Rs 400 rupees! So it is a notional calculation on the basis of the Italian cost not the Indian cost. Is it then a loss? But that is exactly what the government is saying. But it does not take much time for discerning people to unearth this trickery. Now the published figure of swelling profits of the oil companies confirm how people are fooled by the government.

'Free Palestine Day' Observed



Puducherry



Anantapur, AP



Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Call of ICOR Observe 15th May as 'FREE PALESTINE DAY'

- USA BACKED ISRAELI ATTACK ON PALESTINE MUST BE STOPPED
- FREE PALESTINE

International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations **ICOR - SUCI(C)** Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)
HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Hyderabad, Telangana

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