

## On Other Pages

- Red Flag Should Fly Higher on Digital Platforms ..... 03
- Benoy Roy: Builder of Party in Cultural World ..... 08-09

# Trump's Policies and Global Economy

## New Trade Initiatives

The whole world is today suffering from an anxiety, a consequence of U.S. President Trump's uncertain tariff policy and his fear of students thinking freely (and logically). The American economy is the largest economy of the world with annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 30.51 trillion dollars. It sells and purchases on a very large scale from almost all the economies of the world.

Many small economies, which by themselves cannot produce all the things they need, are heavily dependent on America. Trump's announcement to increase tariff on imports from about 80 countries by 10 per cent (increasing prices of their export goods) surely has disrupted the well settled economic calculation. He declared higher tariffs on European goods and the highest bracket (of 145 percent) of tariffs was reserved for China. He called that day as 'Liberation Day' for America. He made public his intention to 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA).

Looking at the highest government borrowing in the world (at about 125 per cent of GDP) Trump sought to reduce government expenditure by withdrawing from NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), Climate-change Organization, multilateral trade

system etc. citing various, not very convincing, reasons. Little did he realise that the erratic climatic conditions arise from pollution caused by the large, developed countries, heating of air and melting of snow at both the poles; raising water levels and threatening the survival of people living at seashores; threatening the farming the world-over, raining when not required and missing when badly needed; the terrible increase in diseases caused by pollution etc. People world-over need a better social health cover. In such a situation, people from poor countries need affordable health care system. At such a juncture, for USA, to walk away from the World Health Organisation and to avoiding the responsibility is unfortunate.

## WTO

After the World War II (1939-45), with the emergence of computers and Robots, production could increase, with automatic machines, with a small quantity of labour. Reduction of labour costs resulted in increased profitability. Then the need for products of developed countries to enter all global markets with nominal taxes and no hindrances was felt. This was described as multi-lateral free trade system. The assumption was that through a tariff-free trade system, developed capitalist countries would dominate the global

Shreenivas  
Khandewale

market. For this reason, the then (1994) U.S. President Clinton threatened the smaller countries that if they do not join the World Trade Organisation, America will impose trade barriers on them. Under WTO system, the U.S. could not take the advantage of the markets of poorer countries due to their low incomes, the small countries (including large China) inundated the American market. As against America, they earned a surplus and America suffered from continuous deficit, which has led to Trump's anger.

Reactions to the tariff war started by Trump have been as under: (1) Many small countries showed preparedness to negotiate with U.S. to get some relief. (2) India has remained silent on the issue which has resulted in a great amount of uncertainty. Recently, the Government of India has said that the Chinese goods be boycotted. It is easily said than done. Most of the power generating turbines are made in China. A motorcycle manufacturing company chairman said that the Chinese components are of good quality, technically sound, the business methods are quite efficient, so there is no reason to change the framework. It must be for such reasons that the Indian

industry is dependent on Chinese technology.

## American Economy and Capitalism

In a great way, American economy represents global capitalism. America has the largest landmass and the largest GDP of 30.51 trillion dollars whereas India has a GDP of 4.18 trillion dollars (that is America gets 7.3 times higher). Area of U.S. is 98.27 lakh sq. kms., while area of India is 3.2 lakh sq. kms. That is about three per cent of American landmass. The American population is 34.01 crore while Indian population is 143.81 crore, that is 29 times of USA.

The figures above show the vast resources and very limited population of the U.S. Still why has U.S. the largest public debt? The answer lies not in the figures quoted above. It lies in the concept of the self in the mind of US President Trump. He does not say that he will reduce the public borrowing to zero; he does not say that he will increase the tariff (import tax) gradually to help trade-partners to allow monetary, trade, agriculture, industry etc. to adjust with the new situation.

Initially, he rejoiced while declaring tariffs. But he soon found that these changes are difficult to implement, he extended the time period by one week. By that time the European Union declared that there

should be no dependence on America, and be independent. China for some time competed with the U.S. in the tariff rates and threats of war. Then suddenly Trump said that 145 percent tariff on Chinese goods is unsustainable and reduced tariff by 115 per cent to 30 per cent only!

## Democracy and Imperialism

The pronouncements of Donald Trump, so far, have been inimical to the global economic organizations institutions viz. WTO, NATO, climate change etc. are perhaps promoting arrangements which may become chaotic in due course. For example, there are 193 countries in the world. Suppose America insists only on the bilateral trade agreements,

America will have 192 bi-lateral agreements; India is to have its own 192 agreements and so on for all the countries. Each agreement may have some secret clauses not known to a third country. There may be included clauses introduced on the basis of superior economic plus technological strength of one of the parties. It is well known that while signing bilateral trade agreements with the Pan-Atlantic and Pan-Pacific countries the U.S. has allowed that partners may demand any help from U.S. but should not object to the American

On Page 12

New Age Weekly

## Crisis in Rural Employment Enters the Danger Zone

There is hardly any opening left for employment creation. Touching the bottom level, it shows massive decline in the job availability in rural areas in last two months, indicating fresh economic strain and worsening level of deprivation. As per a report published recently in "Mint", a surge in the demand for unskilled work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was witnessed in April and May this year.

According to the latest data from the Ministry of Rural Development, 20.12 million rural households sought employment under the scheme in April. The number of such households increased to 20.37 million in May. The ministry's figure for May is not for the entire month. It pertains to the number of households that sought employment under the MGNREGS up to May 18. The figure for the entire month of May is, therefore, likely to go up even further, showing worsening of the job situation in the rural India.

The total number of rural households that sought employment under the scheme in March was 18.64 million.

A Central government initiative, the MGNREGS provides at least 100 days of guaranteed employment in a year to rural households whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work and seeks employment under the scheme.

Past trends in the job market have shown that demand for work under the MGNREGS increases whenever farm or non-farm job opportunities decline in rural areas. An increase in the number of rural households seeking employment under the MGNREGS in the beginning of the new financial year points to deepening of strain in the economy and the vulnerability of livelihood in villages.

What has made the situation look grim is the fact that despite a surge in the demand for rural employment guar-

antee scheme among rural households, the Central government has made no increase in its budgetary allocations for the MGNREGS this year. So the Budget for fiscal 2025-26 has allocated Rs. 86,000 crore for the MGNREGS. This is the same amount that was promised for the scheme in the Union Budget of 2024-25.

Launched in 2005, the MGNREGS was one of the first major schemes brought by the Manmohan Singh government, which at that time had Left parties supporting it. Soon the MGNREGS became a lifeline for rural workers and proved to be a powerful vehicle for poverty alleviation in villages. It resulted in livelihood security for rural households by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year. The scheme was lauded for its impact on reducing distress migration from villages.

### Editorial

But the Narendra Modi government right since its inception took a critical position against the MGNREGS. Modi even called the MGNREGS as a "living monument" of the Congress's failure to tackle poverty in 60 years.

Despite Modi's antipathy, the MGNREGA proved to be a lifeline for many in 2020, when a lockdown was enforced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, triggering a massive reverse migration to villages. According to a 2022 study conducted by the Azim Premji University in a partnership with the National Consortium of Civil Society Organisations on MGNREGA and Collaborative Research and Dissemination (CORD), the scheme helped compensate between 20 per cent and 80 per cent of the income loss incurred because of the lockdown for the most-vulnerable households.

In fact, the MGNREGS played a major role even in the post-Covid crisis of jobs. Reports have noted that the UPA-

era scheme played a significant role in providing employment in rural areas in 2023-24. It was because of this reason that the Lok Sabha Standing Committee's February 2024 report on rural employment through the MGNREGA said that the reduction in budgetary allocation for the scheme in 2023-24 was "puzzling and needs to be looked into".

Another study, titled "The Missing Work: A National Review of MGNREGA Implementation (FY 2024-25)", which was undertaken by LibTech India, has revealed that in financial year 2024-25, the scheme saw increase in workers and job cards but actual job creation declined. As reported in "The Telegraph" recently, the study found that the MGNREGS saw a net addition of 1.16 crore job cards and 1.31 crore workers in 2024-25. The study also revealed that the scheme witnessed a net deletion of 5.9 crore MGNREGS workers and 2.1 crore families across the country in the previous two financial years. The report added that even though many deleted workers were later reinstated, it did not translate into improved work opportunities as there was a significant drop in all employment indicators.

According to "The Telegraph" report, the MGNREGS witnessed a drop in the person days of work generated from 289 crore in 2023-24 to 268 crore in 2024-25. The average days of employment per household also decreased from 52 to 50 in this period, said the report.

There have also been reports of the fraudulent implementation of the MGNREGS in some parts of the country. For instance, a "Deccan Herald" report published earlier this month talked of an alleged fraud under the scheme in a village in the Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh which had witnessed a case of generating job cards in the names of deceased villagers and withdrawing wages by falsely showing "work completed" on paper.



# Red Flag Should Fly Higher on Digital Platforms



*The Communist Party of India convened an extended meeting of its Social Media Department on 26th and 27th of May 26-7, of 2025 at Ajoy Bhawan, New Delhi. This significant meeting was convened by the National Centre in response to the pressing need to assess the current status of social media outreach across state units and mass organisations, and to formulate a strategic and coordinated action plan in preparation for the upcoming 25th Party Congress and beyond.*

The meeting was attended by 30 delegates representing 17 states and 6 mass organisations. The delegates included state social media coordinators, technical team members, and representatives of affiliated mass organizations. Continuous presence of CPI General Secretary D. Raja and six members of the national secretariat of the Party gave confidence and encouragement to the participants and also underscored the seriousness party is attaching to digital outreach.

The proceedings commenced with an inspiring inaugural address by CPI General Secretary D. Raja. In his speech, he highlighted the deteriorating digital discourse in the country, where fake narratives, misinformation, and character assassinations have become widespread particularly aimed at those who voice dissent against the current BJP-led central government. He pointed out that so-

cial media platforms, which should ideally serve as democratic forums for dialogue and public discourse, are increasingly being weaponized by right-wing forces to mislead



the public, especially the youth.

He said that the CPI must respond with determination by strengthening its social media machinery at every level, national, state, and local. He noted that while social media is not a substitute for ground-level activism, it is an essential component that must reflect the Party's ideological line, high-

## Amir Hyder Khan

light people's struggles, and build narrative power. He expressed his hope that this extended meeting would lead to a more structured and efficient flow of information from the Centre to the states, and from the states to the local branches ensuring consistency in messaging and ideological clarity.

Following the General Secretary's address, the

and in charge of the Social Media Department, took the floor to share his insights. He discussed the structural and logistical challenges being faced by state units in managing social media tasks. These included a lack of trained personnel, inadequate coordination, technical limitations, and inconsistent content planning.

Dr. Kango emphasised the urgent need for the department's expansion

Party objectives.

Syed Azeez Pasha, Ex-MP and National Secretary of CPI, shared specific suggestions for content creation. He urged teams to focus on key social and political issues particularly dalit rights, adivasi struggles, gender justice, ecology and economic inequality. He explained that targeted content on such issues could attract specific audience segments who are often marginalized in mainstream narratives. He also outlined the challenges of combating propaganda and misinformation propagated by right-wing digital ecosystems, encouraging comrades to engage critically and factually.

CPI secretariat member Annie Raja followed with a call for deeper integration between the Party and its affiliated mass organizations on digital platforms. She highlighted the untapped potential of these organizations in amplifying the Party's message and ensuring greater reach. Collaborative digital efforts between the Party and its mass fronts could ensure both a broader audience base and a more diverse range of voices. She also

official WhatsApp channel of the party was launched by D. Raja and members of the secretariat. The leadership urged the participants, state units and mass organisations to encourage cadres and sympathisers of the party to follow the channel for regular updates on party activities. Following this, Dr. Balachandra Kango, National Secretary of CPI

and professionalization. He called upon state units to treat social media work not as a side activity but as an integral part of political organizing. He also emphasized the ideological relevance of social media in CPI's political strategy, cautioning that without a firm ideological grounding, digital campaigns risk becoming populist or disconnected from

**On Page 14**

*New Age Weekly*



# Tariff War: A Self Goal for Donald Trump

*US President Donald Trump and our prime minister Narendra Modi have one thing common between them. They both speak without thinking and both speak loudly, to retreat later on!*

Dr. Yugal Rayalu

In his second term US President loudly announced that he would impose high tariffs against all the countries that export anything to USA. In braggadocio, he loudly announced that he would like to make Canada the 51<sup>st</sup> state of USA, to which people of Canada replied by electing a leader who is at odds with Trump. Narendra Modi in his bravado spoke of creating 20 million (2 crore) jobs every year during his election campaign without realizing that a proper planning is required for creating jobs on this scale.

An integrated world

For World War II, humanity paid a big price for madness of few leaders. Keeping all their differences aside the rational thinkers came together and formed United Nations Organisation to establish peace on the earth. This paved the way for efforts to reduce trade barriers and promote freer world trade that would benefit all. As a result GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) was established in the year 1947, which came into effect on January 1, 1948.

The primary aim of GATT was to lower tariffs and other trade barriers to promote free trade among member countries. GATT was later replaced by WTO (World Trade Organization) in the year 1995.

USA over the years pressured smaller nations to open up their markets for free trade.

The smaller nations often levied tariffs on goods being imported from big nations to protect the producers in their own countries. It is an open secret that all the big nations subsidized their agriculture heavily so that their agro-products could be sold world wide. As a retaliation smaller nations including countries like India had put tariffs on the imported goods. In spite of the tariffs the US Agricultural corporations could do business in several areas and earned profits.

The problem with capitalism is that, it is not satisfied with 'just profits'. It seeks increasing profits and wishes to march towards monopoly capitalism as is happening presently in India.

USA was jolted by People's Republic of China at the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century, when it became the manufacturing hub of the world having the unit of every big manufacturer of the world. Soon the economy of China grew in leaps and bounds and China became the second largest economy of the world.

Along with China some smaller countries also developed their economies by developing innovative manufacturing and business models. This was a big blow to the monopolistic character of the US multinational giants who were otherwise dominating the world trade so far. Soon America started sidelining the multilat-

eral free trade principles within WTO, opting instead for the bilateral trade agreements. Many times in the bilateral agreements, USA would impose her own conditions that would be tilted in her favour.

The growth of nations dented the supremacy of USA in world trade. Some leaders of USA accepted the new reality while others refused to acknowledge the change. Donald Trump is one such leader who still believes that USA must dominate the world.

False Assumptions

Trump seems to have made several false assumptions when he unilaterally (did not discuss with his own colleagues within the Republican Party) declared irrationally high tariffs. Surprisingly Trump had made the 'Tariff' as one of his election campaign. Unfortunately in spite of being the most developed nation in the world, the levels of education are not that high in USA. The white macho man fell for the bait thrown by the Trump campaign. Along with the failure of the Biden regime to contain inflation, MAGA (Make America Great Again) slogan tilted the victory for Donald Trump. Soon after assuming office in the second term, Trump did not wait for the saner advice from his own advisers before declaring the sharp tariffs.

Trump falsely thought that his country controls the world trade and hence can anytime

alter the rules of the trade. The truth is that the world is no more unipolar as was assumed after the disintegration of the USSR. New alignments took place. Many nations in cooperation with others, now produce what is consumed on global level.

Trump assumed USA being strong economically, doesn't need any partnership with any nation in manufacturing and in Geo-politics. This is again a mirage of the American macho men. Today no country can survive in isolation. From raw material to the human resources everything is now shared globally. New technology has made it very easy to share things globally. The age of information technology has in real sense removed the national boundaries.

The false pride of Trump made him think that all institutions within his own country would fall for his MAGA rhetoric. It is reported that immediately after his tariff announcement, huge demonstrations took place all over the US protesting his new economic plans. About 500 legal firms in USA have decided to challenge Trump decrees in different courts of USA. MAGA faded with the elections!

The big rebuff

In an article published in 'The Hindu', M. K. Narayanan, former National Security Advisor, wrote an article titled, 'From a rules based world to shambolic disorder'. He wrote, "Even prior to the Trump interlude in the United States, there were enough signs

that the world was witnessing uncertainty across many sectors. This was heralding of problematic conditions in many areas. Few parallels, perhaps exist for this state of affairs in the recent past." Criticizing Trump, the author writes, "Trump's new tariff war - which demonstrates a profoundly transactional approach - the impact of which has been to turn the world upside down."

President of China Xi Jinping undertook a three nation tour to pitch Beijing as a solid trade partner when Trump tried to terrify with his tariffs. China wants to create alternate markets when the tariff war begins. Trump has threatened a tariff of 59 percent against Cambodia, 46 percent against Vietnam and a tariff of 24 percent against Malaysia. Naturally all the three nations would like to find an alternative.

Xi has taken the initiative to become that alternative. China's efforts to become an indispensable economic alternative may complicate things for the US efforts to isolate China. The countries of east would always prefer an eastern alternative than to bow down to the western super power.

As a rebuff to the tariff diktat, South China Airline has refused to accept the delivery of 54 aeroplane manufactured in the USA after the new tariffs came into effect. American industry would soon feel the heat of the actions initiated by their own chief executive.

On Page 12



## Intensify Party Education: Central Party Education Department

**NEW DELHI:** An extended meeting of the Central Party Education Department was held on Sunday, May 25, here in Ajoy Bhavan. It was attended by participants from seven states plus members of the Department. It was presided over by K Prekash Babu, member of the department and of the NE CPI.

Those attending the meeting included Azeez Pasha, member National Secretariat of CPI and in-charge of Party Education, secretary of the department Anil Rajimwale, member of the department and Deputy Editor of New Age Krishna Jha, Dr R Dass (member, department from Haryana), Dr Subir Mukherjee (W Bengal), N Madhukar (Telangana), Dr Yugal Rayalu (member of department from Maharashtra), Ajay Kumar (Bihar), Amit Kumar Singh (Delhi).

Azeez Pasha welcomed every body to the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting.

CPI general secretary D Raja briefly addressed the meeting.

More comrades could not attend due to the extensive programs of party conferences before the forthcoming party congress.

### Report of activities

Secretary of the Education Department presented a comprehensive report of activities since the last party congress, reporting and analyzing a large number of party schools held for 7 to 10 days' duration for party cadres working

in various mass organizations. They were meant for student, youth and women cadres. One school for agricultural labourer cadres was also held, in Chandigarh in 2023.

It also included reports of the state level schools based on the reports received.

The central party schools were held in different places: student cadres' school in Tirupati in 2023 and 2024 in English medium; English medium youth cadre school in Gobichettipalayam (Tamilnad) in 2024; women party cadres' in English in Hyderabad in 2023 and in Hindi in Delhi. Several other schools were held that year.

### Positive impact of schooling

On the whole the schools have been a great success, introducing a new reality to the participants on the basis of Marxist analysis. They helped them to strengthen their ideological-political understanding. In all the schools, the participants narrated positive and inspiring experience, insisting on extending them, even when the attendance in some of them was below expectations for reasons of heavy floods, cyclones, traffic disruptions, etc. The other reason was insufficient attention by some of the state party and mass organisation units. The significance of party schooling is still being under-estimated. Besides, holding English medium schools now requires greater efforts. But closing the English

*Anil Rajimwale*

medium schools is no solution.

A number of Hindi medium central party schools were held in 2023 and 2024 in Delhi, Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh), Hyderabad etc. The Bilaspur school was a joint student and youth cadres, numbering 76 including 15 girls. It was greatly appreciated by the participants and they also enjoyed the two excursions to Shimla and the local Gangasagar Lake. Excursions are part of the schools now, as it was in Tirupati and Gobi.

The school held in Gobichettipalayan with generous help of Tamilnad state council of CPI was a great and pleasant experience.

### Schools in states

Report described in detail the large number of schools held in various states all over the country: AP, Telangana, Tamilnad, Bihar, UP, Odisha, Maharashtra, Assam, W Bengal, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala and elsewhere. In fact, a large number of schools have not been reported. The schools were held for party, student, youth, TU, kisan, agri-labourers, women, Insaaf, Adivasi etc fronts.

Among the notable events was the workshop on the 'Relevance of Marxism' organized by Punjab State Council of CPI to clarify certain questions related with Marxist philosophy and political economy. It was attended by Dr Kango and Anil Rajimwale.

Bihar organized unique series of two-day

party schools for branch secretaries and assistant secretaries in the course of party membership renewal in the severe cold of 2023 and 2024. They were very well attended, including large number of women. For this purpose Bihar was divided into several zones. Coms Ram Naresh Pande, NN Ojha, Vijendra Kesari, Krishna Jha, Anil Rajimwale and some others lectured.

### Teachers' training schools

A number of teachers' training schools were held during the period: in Assam, two in Bihar, Odisha, AP, etc. They were meant to train up teachers for party schools. Teachers' training can be fruitful only if the teachers are assigned lectures in schools at lower levels.

The central party school has a highly qualified faculty of about 15 to 20 teachers, who can teach in the central party schools and can be sent to any part of the country to teach. Members of the central and state leaderships also help actively in taking classes in the schools.

### Importance of schooling

The 24<sup>th</sup> party congress (Vijayawada, 2022) reported that overwhelming majority of the delegates had gone through some sort of party political schooling, strengthening the ideological base of the party. Party congress greatly appreciated the party education work and underlined the needs for its further spread.

### D Raja addresses the meeting

General secretary of CPI D Raja briefly addressed the meeting. He underlined the importance of party education. He said party cadres had to be trained ideologically and politically to enable them to face rightwing communal-fascist propaganda. He said Communism was a way of life, consisting of ethical and cultural aspects, and learning these was very important. Party education should help develop better human beings. New developments are taking place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, leading to changes in production relations. Young people should come forward to work. We should pay attention to the role of spiritual aspects also.

Party education should play its role in shaping Communists, who are the best human beings. He said the party education department should contribute to preparing documents for the forthcoming party congress. He appreciated the decisions of the department and promised party support.

Raja said, we should find out what responsibilities have been given to those having attended the party schools. We should also find ways to involve the youth in party political work.

He emphasized the importance of teachers' training, both in Hindi as well as in English. Party will consider establishing central party school and holding more schools favourably.

**On Page 12**







# Operation Sindoor

## Questions Linger as Govt's Claims Face Scrutiny

Over a month after the tragic terrorist attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, the perpetrators remain at large, raising serious questions about the efficacy of India's security apparatus under the BJP-RSS government. The bodies of the terrorists, expected to be neutralized by now, are nowhere to be found. Instead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at a rally in Bikaner, claimed that "hot sindoor" (vermilion) flows in his veins, a metaphor implying fierce resolve. Yet, this rhetorical flourish, referencing Operation Sindoor, has drawn criticism for sidestepping accountability.

Modi's absence from an all-party meeting post-Pahalgam and his silence on issues like a rumored ceasefire or former U.S. President Donald Trump's comments have fueled skepticism. The Prime Minister's invocation of the 2019 Pulwama attack, where he sought votes in the name of soldiers and the Balakot airstrike, mirrors his current attempt to claim credit for Operation Sindoor. However, the unanswered question remains: where are the terrorists responsible for the Pahalgam massacre? Are they still hiding in Jammu and Kashmir, or have they fled to Pakistan? If they remain on Indian soil, why have they not been apprehended or eliminated?

Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar, when pressed by an international journalist, admitted the government has only "identified" the terrorists. This admission, a month after the attack, underscores what critics, including the Congress party, call the Modi government's incompetence. Despite claims of destroying terrorist bases and eliminating 100 terrorists, the main culprits remain elusive. Congress has demanded answers, questioning why the gov-

ernment failed to protect citizens and why it has not delivered justice. The Indian media's reluctance to probe these issues has left foreign journalists to spotlight the government's shortcomings.

Modi's "hotsindoor" remark, implying strength, rings hollow when the kill-

### RSS Faces Global Scrutiny as Hindutva Extremism Sparks Outrage

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its affiliates are under intense international scrutiny following a series of inflammatory incidents in India, with global media outlets like

Haryana, Bajrang Dal members disrupted Christmas festivities, chanting slogans like "Jai Shri Ram" and emptying a hall of worshippers. In Ambala, a 175-year-old statue of Jesus Christ was vandalized, further fueling outrage. The most alarming incident occurred at a Dharma Sansad

in Haridwar, where speakers, including Hindu Mahasabha leader Pooja Shakun Pandey, called for the genocide of India's 200 million Muslims, urging Hindus to take up arms to transform India into a Hindu nation. Videos of these speeches, widely circulated on social media, have intensified global criticism.

Foreign media have been scathing. The New York Times headlined its report, "Hindu Extremists Called for Killing of Muslims," noting the silence of Modi and the BJP. It highlighted how influential religious leaders, some tied to the BJP, openly incited violence at the Haridwar event. Al

Jazeera's report, "India Outrage over Hindutva Conference Calling for Genocide of Muslims," detailed police arrests but underscored the Modi government's lack of response. Bloomberg reported on police investigations into hate speech, while Pakistan's The Express Tribune quoted a sadhu advocating for ethnic cleansing. These reports draw parallels between Hindutva groups and the Taliban, warning of a dangerous trajectory.

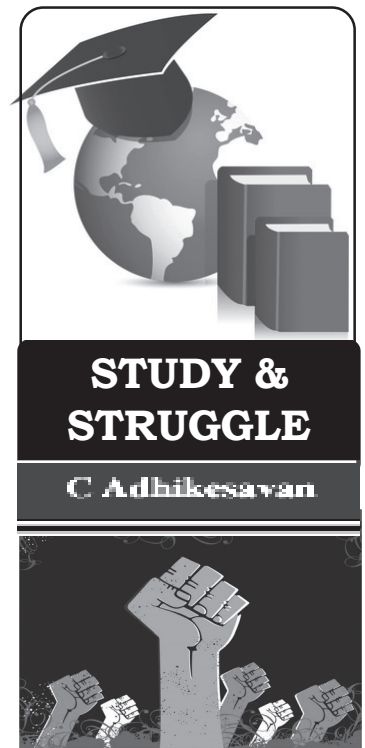
India's ancient tradition of religious coexistence is under threat, with liberal Hindus also at risk. The rise of Hindutva under Modi's rule, par-



ers of 26 innocent tourists remain free. Vermilion, laden with mercury, is unfit for consumption, much like the government's unfulfilled promises of security. The Pahalgam attack exposes a gap between rhetoric and action, with the BJP-RSS government facing accusations of failing to safeguard lives and deliver justice. As the nation awaits answers, the Modi administration must move beyond identification to decisive action, ensuring the terrorists face the ultimate punishment. Until then, Operation Sindoor remains a symbol of unfulfilled promises rather than triumph.

The New York Times, Al Jazeera, and Bloomberg exposing the rising tide of Hindutva extremism. Reports of provocative speeches and violent acts linked to RSS-backed groups have drawn condemnation from Washington to Qatar, tarnishing India's image as a secular nation. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, faces accusations of complicity through its silence, as extremist rhetoric escalates.

On December 25, 2024, celebrations worldwide were marred in India by actions attributed to Hindutva groups. In



**STUDY & STRUGGLE**

**C Adhikesavan**

ticularly since 2014, has emboldened right-wing nationalists. In Delhi, Hindu YuvaVahini, founded by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, echoed calls to arms against Muslims. The New York Times noted the government's failure to act against such rhetoric, contrasting its zeal in jailing activists on flimsy grounds. The opposition's silence further signals the grip of Hindutva forces.

Human Rights Watch's executive director, Kenneth Roth, condemned the growing anti-Muslim sentiment, while scholars like Hussain from Washington's Arab Gulf States Institute criticized Modi's tacit support for extremists. As elections loom in states like Uttar Pradesh, violence against Muslims, including attacks on vendors and activists, has surged, often amplified online.

The global outcry underscores a grim reality: India's secular fabric is fraying, and the BJP-RSS's inaction risks branding Hindutva groups as terrorist entities. This could irreparably damage India's global standing. The Modi government must act decisively to curb extremism, or risk further isolating India on the world stage.

*New Age Weekly*



# Benoy Roy: Builder of Party in Cultural World

Benoy Roy was a powerful IPTA artist and organizer, who roused the masses to the highest pitch, almost triggering them into action! He was a Communist Party activist, leader and builder of movements with all-round abilities, deeply influencing whole generations.

Benoy Krishna Roy was born on September 8, 1918 in Rangpur, now in Bangladesh. His paternal grandfather shifted from Pabna to Rangpur as a lawyer. His father Sh Atul Krishna Roy was also a lawyer. Besides, he was a well-known Congress leader and a public figure. Benoy lost his mother when 15 and father in 1965. They shifted to Calcutta, settling down there.

Benoy studied up to inter-science in Rangpur. He was a talented scholar, who won several awards for essay writing, acting, singing and recitation. He was a very good artist too, and became an expert in stage decoration and management early on.

His voice was full-throated and melodious, which endeared him to the audience.

## Revolutionary movement

Those days revolutionary underground movements like those of Jugantar and Anushilan were popular among the youth. The youth of Bengal were being shaped by them. Benoy and his elder brother Gopen worked for Jugantar from early age, from 8 or 9. Benoy worked as an expert courier and poster writer. He could improvise brushes and colours!

During those years many of the 'akhadas' enrolled youth for the

revolutionary underground. Benoy also was a member of one of the akhadas. They organized physical training, trained in the use of lathis, knives and daggers, rifles, pistols etc. His political baptism of these years helped him work in future in the trade union and Communist movements. His elder brother Gopen and younger sister Reba also joined the Communist Party later.



## As a mill worker

After passing his inter-science in 1936, Benoy had lot of time. One Nikhil Chakravarty was his friend, who worked in a textile mill in Ahmedabad, who described the life there. So influenced was Benoy that he decided to give up his studies and work there in the mill. He went to Ahmedabad at towards the end of 1936 and worked in Ahmedabad Spinning Mill, Shahpur. He also joined the RC Technical Institute to study textile technology. Soon he got acquainted with the Communists in Ahmedabad. He participated actively in the

general strike of the textile workers there in 1937.

But the atmosphere and the work did not suit him. Therefore, he returned to Rangpur in 1939. He borrowed some money from his father and tried his hand at business, which again was not his 'business'! It failed and he lost money heavily.

In the meantime he came in close contact with the Communists. He began to

live among the jute workers in Beliaghata area of Calcutta, shared their life and food and completely got identified with them.

He spent hours together with the workers' families, teaching them reading and writing. He tried his best to stop them from drinking.

But Benoy soon fell a victim to malnutrition and became ill. Buddhu, his childhood friend, now a doctor, came to see 'Tutu' (Benoy), who had grown very thin. Buddhu warned him that he would contract TB if he did not seriously take food and medicines. He gave Benoy free treatment.

Having recovered,

Benoy began to work among the peasants. He moved about in khaki shorts, short-sleeved shirt, Kabuli sandals, a shoulder bag, with a mug and a song book! He travelled from one village to another, singing anti-fascist songs, inspiring the common peasants. He had a thick song book, which fell into police hands later.

He soon joined the Friends of Soviet Union (FSU) and Anti-Fascist Writers and Artists (AFWAA) organizations.

Benoy Roy also helped organizing Mahila Atma Raksha Samitis (MARS) in the early 1940s through his songs and organizational capacities.

## 'Community songs'

Benoy was instrumental in spreading the tradition of community songs established in the early 1940s. It was perhaps started early by the Youth Cultural Institute (YCI), established by the Communists in Calcutta. Benoy took it to the streets, rooftops, rallies, corner meetings, trains, railway platforms, village fields etc. Once, he sang through a whole mosquito-infested night in front of a huge gathering of passengers waiting for trains at the platform. Benoy had to wait for a train till the morning!

Benoy was a great friend of the AISF and often helped them in various ways. During the provincial SF conference in Rajshahi, not even a hundred copies of AISF organ *The Student* could be sold. Benoy came to know this. He told Sunil Munshi that they would go into the pandal, he would sing and Sunil would sell *The Student*. Giving a brief speech, introducing the journal, he

began to sing. All the copies of *The Student* were sold out within half an hour! He addressed and sang at several AISF conferences and gatherings.

## Foundation of IPTA

He came to Calcutta after a period in Ahmedabad. At that time, the BPSF and People's Theatre started musical and cultural squads and thus started a cultural movement. YCI (Youth Cultural Institute) was also quite active. Benoy began cultural work during 1940-41 at workers' and party gatherings.

1941-42 was a period of People's War. Benoy Roy was actively sought for by the trade union and cultural fronts and organizations like FSU and AFWAA. Finally the party leadership intervened and he was assigned to the cultural front. Besides, people like the famous SD Burman, Gyanprakash Ghosh, Sajal Raychoudhury, Shambhu Mitra, Bijon Bhattacharya, Hemant Mukherjee and others.

Benoy Roy went to Rajshahi in 1942 and met Priti Banerjee. Priti became one of the famous voices of the mass music. When Priti was student at Rajshahi, she read a leaflet with one of Benoy's songs printed. Perhaps it among his first songs, its tune indicated as 'Prabhati', sung in the early morning processions. It became a widely accepted practice all over Bengal. It was an indication of the future people's theatre.

Benoy toured 95 villages on his own to build cultural group. A festival of creativity was organized at 46 Dharmtallah Street, Calcutta, the IPTA and YCI headquarters, leaving a



deep imprint on the cultural movement.

Benoy and Harin Chattopadhyaya toured Punjab during the Bengal famine of 1943 and collected some one lakh and twentyfive thousand rupees through cultural activities.

Benoy worked in Bengal up to 1943. He got established as a people's singer during the Great Bengal Famine. He toured the villages of Bengal extensively, spreading revolutionary consciousness through songs. It was a vast amount of work. He toured Maharashtra and Gujarat to collect funds for the famine-stricken people of Bengal.

Then he settled down in Andheri, Bombay. It also was a centre of Bombay's cinematography. Uday Shankar's troupe also shifted from Almora to Bombay. Thus a cultural ballet troupe came into being in Andheri.

CPI general secretary PC Joshi gathered together all the cultural groups to form a central group of artists and cultural performers. They performed not only in Bombay but all over the country. Benoy was made the secretary of the Cultural Troupe. It was named the Central Ballet Troupe of IPTA.

IPTA was founded in 1943 at the time of the first CPI congress in Bombay (May-June 1943). Benoy Roy was elected a joint secretary of the IPTA at its foundation conference.

Benoy picked talents unerringly. He spotted and trained Dashrath Lal, a Bihari tramway worker from Calcutta, for IPTA. He also spotted Prem Dhawan, a young man from Punjab during the tour in 1943; Salil Chowdhury; Priti Sarkar, Reba, his own sister, and others. They all went on to

become prominent personalities in the cultural world. Dashrath became a leading percussionist of Bombay film world.

Later, personalities like Prithviraj Kapoor, Shailendra, Kaifi Azmi and others also joined the movement.

### **'Hungry Bengal' movement**

'Hungry Bengal' tour was also another major movement, which helped to integrate with all India cultural movement. It was initiated by Benoy Roy. He met Uday Shankar in Delhi. Shankar was deeply charmed by the movement and asked Benoy to meet him in Bombay. Consequently, IPTA was established just before the first CPI congress.

The artists had to undergo political training including visits to the working class areas. At home they had to perform household work. Benoy greatly contributed to this new culture.

Uday Shankar, Hemant Mukherjee (famous cine singer Hemant Kumar), Pt Ravi Shankar, Balraj Sahani, Kaifi Azmi and many others joined the central squad. Benoy Roy told his son how he composed the unforgettable Kayyur Song in a bus after he heard of their death sentences.

### **Artistes' Association**

Benoy Roy assumed the leadership of Bengal Artistes' Association in Calcutta started by Sudhi Pradhan and others. Famous artists like Pankaj Mullick, Hemanta Mukherjee and other seven took to the streets to protest tyranny of the radio authorities. A troupe of 15 artists under Benoy's leadership toured Bengal and Assam in June 1947, spreading anti-imperialist message.

### **In Moscow, 1948**

Benoy Roy and Jaya were

married on June 21, 1948 at 46 Dharamtolla Street, the office of FSU (Friends of Soviet Union) and of IPTA. The hosts and guests were luminaries of IPTA and PWA. Jaya was already a party member and active figure of the revolutionary cultural movement.

The brief nine year period from 1942 to 1950 had left a deep impact on the cultural movement through IPTA and CPI. The staging of 'Nabanno' changed the cultural scene for ever. Never was the cultural movement so people-oriented: it was an unprecedented period.

Yet, all this was undone at the end of this period, when BTR leadership came to the fore in February-March 1948. The Central Cultural Troupe was wound up, the cultural groups were reduced to the groups of the Communists alone, non-affiliated prominent cultural figures left the movement one by one, and the IPTA, PWA and cultural and literary organizations and movements practically disappeared.

Benoy Roy received a party mandate to leave India for USSR. He was crestfallen and depressed, also because he was asked to leave alone. Jaya asked the reason, and then said: "If you have to go, then you must go", though she did not like the decision.

Ultimately, the question of going alone was dropped, and they both were sent to Moscow. Travelling in a roundabout way, they landed in Moscow on

## **Biographies of Communist Leaders-130**

**Anil Rajimwale**

April 9, 1950. They were the first couple to arrive in the Soviet Union to help set up the Indian section of Moscow Radio. He worked in the Bengali section, and also was an announcer in Urdu for three years. He had no previous knowledge of Russian, and therefore decided to learn the language thoroughly. He soon became an expert in Russian. He also got admission to the Faculty of Philosophy in Moscow University. There he did a full 6-year MA course as a student of evening classes.

His main specialization was in Marxist philosophy, and he kept on attending the Russian language courses throughout. He also made a special study of aesthetics. For his MA final year he wrote a thesis on the philosophy of Swami Vivekanand. It was first published in Russian in Soviet Union, later in English on his return to India.

He was an allrounder: he did translations in various languages, wrote children's books, sang Russian songs with such famous singers as Rashida Baibutova, Zara Dalukhanova, and others. He was highly acclaimed by Indian ambassador KPS Menon and counsellor Ratnam, even consulting him on various problems.

### **Return to India**

Benoy and Jaya stayed in Soviet Union for almost a decade. They returned to India in November 1959, and settled down in Karol Bagh, New Delhi. He took up teaching of Russian language, first in Delhi

University and then in JNU. School of International Studies at that time was an autonomous institution, where he taught.

In 1965, Institute of Russian Studies was established in Delhi, which Benoy joined. In early 1973 he became a professor in the Centre of Russian in JNU. He then became head of the Centre. He also wrote a thesis on the problem of alienation in the plays of Maxim Gorky.

He continued to sing as fervently as ever. His 'Sare jahan se Achha', Hoi, hoi, hoi', Vande Mataram', Jaago re mazdoor kisan' and others simply set fire to the audience. He was asked to sing them again and again!!

### **Tragic death**

Benoy Roy was not quite sixty years of age when he died all of a sudden. He had gone to Moscow to attend a seminar on the teaching of Russian language. It was the night of July 3, 1975, and he was crossing the road to his hostel in People's Friendship University, Moscow, where he was staying. He was suddenly knocked down by a passing bus. He died instantaneously. The news of his death came too suddenly, shocking everybody into silence.

Among his many favourite songs he sang with resounding 'pahadi' vibrations, rousing the people to a pitch, was: "Soorya asta ho gaya, gagan mast ho gaya!" (The Sun has set, with the skies splashing colours!").



## *Trump's Trade Onslaught*

# Reckless Pursuit of Finance Imperialism

*Raveendran*

In his relentless pursuit of what he calls economic nationalism, President Donald Trump's 'trade jihad' is targeting newer and more diverse sectors of the global economy. The latest front in this campaign is the high-tech industry, with a particular focus on smartphone manufacturing. This marks a significant escalation both in terms of scope and intensity, as it now extends beyond traditional industries like steel and automobiles to the digital economy, threatening to destabilize global supply chains that have taken decades to establish.

One of the most striking developments in this crusade is Trump's apparent failure to persuade Apple CEO Tim Cook to shift iPhone manufacturing from India back to the United States. This failure reveals a stark reality: that corporate strategy is not as malleable as Trump may hope, and that the economic logic underpinning global manufacturing is not easily overturned by political pressure, even when applied by the most powerful office in the world. Apple's decision to continue, and even expand, its manufacturing operations in India is driven by a multitude of reasons — cost efficiency, access to a burgeoning market, and geopolitical hedging against overreliance on China among them. It is not simply a case of defying Trump; it is about business logic prevailing over populist bravado.

Trump's reaction to

this resistance has been characteristically combative. Rather than recalibrating his approach, he has opted for what can be described as economic coercion through 'third degree' methods. These include threats of tariffs and other punitive measures aimed at forcing compliance. By targeting Apple with threats of higher import duties and extending similar threats to Samsung, Trump is attempting to bully global tech giants into aligning with his domestic manufacturing agenda. However, this strategy is fraught with contradictions and perils.

Smartphone manufacturing is a highly complex and capital-intensive process. It depends on a finely tuned global supply chain that includes components from multiple countries, highly skilled labour, and cutting-edge infrastructure. The United States, for all its technological prowess, currently lacks the large-scale facilities and cost structure to produce smartphones domestically at a competitive price. Any effort to force this shift would likely result in significantly higher consumer prices, supply chain disruptions, and potentially even product quality issues. It's a textbook case of policy clashing with market reality.

Moreover, Trump's campaign is undercut by the transactional nature of his foreign policy. His so-called friendship with India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which he has frequently touted in public speeches and at

rallies, seems to evaporate the moment American corporate interests do not align with his nationalist agenda. This duplicity does not go unnoticed by international partners, who increasingly view U.S. policy as erratic and self-serving. It also raises questions about the sincerity and durability of diplomatic relationships that are predicated on convenience rather than shared values or long-term strategic interests.

This inconsistency weakens the United States' credibility on the global stage. Allies are left uncertain about the continuity of agreements, and adversaries are emboldened by the apparent chaos. For countries like India, which have been navigating a delicate balance between Western alliances and domestic development priorities, Trump's unpredictable swings make strategic planning harder. For multinational corporations operating in this environment, the instability translates into risk — a risk that could deter future investment in the U.S. altogether.

At the heart of Trump's agenda is the belief that manufacturing jobs can be brought back to America by brute force. He envisions a revival of the industrial heartland through tariffs and trade barriers, despite decades of economic evolution that have moved the global economy toward services, automation, and digitization. This

nostalgic view of economic greatness harks back to a bygone era that cannot be resurrected simply by edict. Manufacturing today is leaner, more automated, and less reliant on manual labour. The jobs lost to offshoring are not the same ones that would return even under the most favourable circumstances.

In this light, the targeting of smartphone manufacturers seems less about rational economic policy and more about political posturing. Trump's base has long been animated by the promise of restored industrial might, and these high-profile attacks on global companies play well to that narrative. They offer the appearance of strength and determination, even as the practical outcomes remain elusive. In effect, the trade jihad is not just an economic campaign — it is a political performance, carefully calibrated for electoral gain.

Yet, this performance comes at a price. Tariffs on smartphones and other tech products would inevitably be passed on to consumers, many of whom belong to the very demographic Trump claims to protect. A 25 percent tariff on Samsung smartphones, for example, would make them significantly more expensive for American buyers, reducing consumer choice and potentially dampening demand. For Apple, the impact could be even more pronounced, as it already commands a premium price point and depends heavily on vol-

ume to maintain profit margins. Higher prices could hurt sales, weaken the company's market position, and even impact its stock value — consequences that would ripple through the broader economy.

Furthermore, the imposition of tariffs is unlikely to achieve the desired relocation of factories to U.S. soil. Companies may instead diversify into other emerging markets where labour and production costs are still favourable — Vietnam, Indonesia, and Mexico being prime examples. This would not only sidestep U.S. tariffs but also further dilute American influence in shaping the global tech economy. The very attempt to assert control could end up accelerating the decentralization of production, undermining the strategic goals it seeks to achieve.

For emerging economies like India, the stakes are particularly high. Being caught in the crossfire of a U.S. trade offensive jeopardises their developmental strategies, many of which rely on attracting foreign investment and integrating into global supply chains. If U.S. policy continues to punish companies for operating in these markets, the long-term result could be a decoupling that leaves both sides worse off. For India, the potential economic gains from hosting Apple's manufacturing operations could be threatened by punitive U.S. measures.



## Delhi Sultanate, Mughal Rule Omitted from History Books

# Historical Facts Face Elimination

*The new education policy 2020 is being implemented gradually. Apart from other things it has focused on Indian Knowledge systems and Indian traditions. The changes which pertain to History have deleted Delhi Sultanate and Mughal rule from the books. A good seven centuries of history stands relegated into absentia.*

This is a pretty long period by any standards. "While NCERT had previously trimmed sections on the Mughals and Delhi Sultanate - including detailed account of dynasties like Tughlaqs, Khaljis, Mamluks, and Lodis and a two-page table on Mughal emperors' achievements as part of its syllabus rationalization during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022-23, the new textbook has now removed all references to them."

All references to Delhi Sultanate and Mughal rulers have been deleted from 7th standard text book. In addition to the other books wherever the references to Muslim rule is there, that stands deleted. What also stands deleted is the reference to Post-Mumbai (92-93 violence), post-Gujarat violence (2002), the references to Nathuram Godse being a trained pracharak of RSS, the ban on RSS in the aftermath of Gandhi murder among others. While Kumbh Mela finds a place, the stampede causes death of many and the Delhi station stampede has no place.

All this began with the Covid period when the pretext offered was reducing the burden on the students and followed by 'rationalization' which

meant deletion of these portions which caused discomfort to the Hindu Nationalist ideology.

For demonization of Muslims and spreading hate against them, Mughals have been presented as the major villains of our history. Some earlier kings like Allauddin Khilji have also been on the hammer of Hindutva narrative. So far the demonization of Muslims was structured around temple destruction by Muslim knigs, which has been contested by rational historians. The spread of Islam by Muslim Kings using their sword was another pillar of this. This point is totally off the mark as conversions to Islam took place due to social interaction with Muslim Arab Traders to begin with. Later many low castes embraced Islam to escape the tyranny of the caste system.

The ideology of Hindutva has gone to the extent of presenting this period as a dark period when Holocaust against Hindus took place. No doubt the era of Kingdoms is full of war for political reasons. Kings always wanted to expand their regime and in the process many people were killed. To call it holocaust is totally off the mark. Their (Hindutva) narrative actually takes

Dr Ram Puniyani

off from the Communal Historiography introduced by the British to pursue the policy of 'divide and rule'. In this; all the motives of Kings are related to religion and kings are presented as the symbol of the whole religious community.

The Hindu communal historiography took it further by claiming that Muslims and Christians were 'foreigners' who have tormented Hindus. The Muslim communal historiography presented the other side of the coin where Muslims are regarded as rulers and Hindus as subjugated subjects. They presented that Muslims are the logical rulers of this land.

The later trajectory of this logic did assist the British to divide our composite land into India and Pakistan. Savarkar articulated that there are two nations in this country, and Jinnah went on to demand a separate country for Muslims, Pakistan. Pakistan fell into the trap of Muslim communalism right from the word go and as far its textbooks are concerned they presented the beginning of Pakistan with Mohammad bin Qasim in eighth century. Today their history books have totally deleted any reference to Hindu rulers. The hate which the Muslim communalism spread against the Hin-

dus peaked with their school texts removing all the references to Hindu Kings and culture.

In a way India; during the last three decades has been walking on the footprints of Pakistan. The mirror image of Pakistan's trajectory is being copied probably to the last comma. This point was highlighted by Pakistan's poetess Fahmida Riyaz. In the aftermath of Babri demolition, she wrote "Arre Tum bhi Ham Jaise Nikale, Ab Tak Kahan Chhupe the bhai" (Ohh! you have also turned out like us, where were you hiding so far).

Prior to Hindutva ideology coming to total control of Indian education, the RSS shakhas were spreading the communal version of society through multiple mechanisms like its Shakhbaudhics, Ekal Vidyalays, Shishu Mandirs. In due course mainstream media and social media also came to its service.

As such culture is a continuously evolving process. During the period of History under the hammer of Hindutva; lot of social changes took place. Apart from the architecture, the food habits, dress and literature, the synthesis in the field of religion, the noble traditions of Bhakti and Sufi tradition developed. It was during this period that Sikhism came and flourished.

Now this political ideology may have to change the track. With

Muslim rulers out of the way how will they demonize the Muslims now? Newer techniques may be on the way to substitute Aurangzeb or Babar; as of now, they stand defunct!

History is very central to the concept of Nationalism. Erich Fromm points out that 'History is to Nationalism what poppy is to the opium addict'. Since BJP came to power, the major thing they did was what is called "saffronization of education". Here history has been presented as the narrative of glorious and brave Hindu Kings versus evil and aggressive Muslim kings. The charge has been that so far History has been written by Left Historians, who focused on Delhi rulers and who were pro Muslim. The point is that text books did present the details of particular dynasties depending on the historical length of their rule.

The history books in the decades of 1980s had a good deal of presentation of Hindu as well as Muslim kings. The narration was not revolving just around religion but the holistic view of communities was presented: trade, culture, literature among others.

Still it is true that ruler or 'King centric history' is not what we need to build our future. We need to focus on diverse sections of society, on the masses, especially the oppressed sections of the masses, on dalits, women, adivasis and artisans who do not find much place in such narratives.



# Tariff War...

**From Page 04**

## The burden of reciprocal tariffs

Reciprocal tariff is an additional tax that a country places on the imports from another country in response to a similar tax imposed by the exporting country. The aim is to protect local business, industry and local jobs. Ultimately such a situation disturbs the trade balance impacting the economies of the two countries negatively.

Trump, without realising that today's world is an integrated, announced unilateral tariffs, and his tariffs have

started disturbing the business in his own backyard. Forgetting the slogan of MAGA the businessmen in America are today worried about saving their own incomes and livelihoods. There is a big fear of job loss all over the USA which was reflected in the huge demonstrations in the aftermath of the announcement of tariffs by the US President Trump.

## The outcome

The world is shaken by the unilateral declaration of tariffs by the USA. Several nations have condemned the USA for imposing senseless tar-

iffs completely disregarding the principles of international trade. Trump did not expect a backlash from his European partners. He erroneously took their support for granted because of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The European nations indicated firmly to Trump that in business they would concentrate only on business. Geo politics can wait.

Recently about 40 countries issued a statement supporting trade multilateralism and WTO rules in response to the US declared tariffs. This is a good development. There is no need to bow to the diktat of any self declared boss of the

world. Time has come to make the international affairs more democratic and people centered.

As time passes by, and the industrial sector of America feels the negative impact of the tariff war, Trump will have to soften his stand. By that time people of America would have forgotten that they had voted for Trump to make America great again. They will now think of their livelihood and survival. Fortunately for the people of world, there are number of trade and manufacturing centers today which rule out the possibility of dominance of any one country.

Inadvertently, Trump provoked the self respect

of many small nations. He disturbed the still waters of international trade to take advantage of the disturbance. The reverse happened. Countries rose up in unison against the imperialistic intentions of the economic giant that depends upon many smaller nations for the grandiose. New equations of political and trade alignments will soon emerge.

In a true sense the world today has become a multi polar world. Let us hope it soon becomes a democratic world where every nation and all people of the world will have a say in the matters that matter to them!

Earth Belongs to All!

# Trump's Policies...

**From Front Page**

farm subsidies. This small example shows how much complexity may be incorporated in the thousands of bilateral agreements. Simply calling it a new-normal may not benefit especially the smaller and poorer nations.

US president Trump has picked up aquarrel with the celebrated university of Harvard mainly because foreign students coming to that

university get considerable freedom of thought and expression. Although university has gone to the court and the latter has been given protection, one does not know when the political authority may impose its own thinking. Thus, one does not know as to when the democratic values and institutions may succumb to the political pressure.

For centuries, America has been known

as a democratic, anti-imperial, anti-authoritative society. But the zeal to Make America Great Again (MAGA) may make political authority to trample the cherished democratic values.

If Trump says that the whole nation of Canada should be a state within the US, when he asks for Greenland for strategic reasons and Gaza strip to be developed as a tourist centre, is he not making imperialist demands going imperialist?

# Intensify Party Education...

**From Page 05**

Azeez Pasha in his concluding remarks said that Marxism and Communism has been forgotten by many people. We need to assimilate the new. He suggested that organizing study circles should be taken up extensively.

## Future programs

The meeting decided to move towards establishment of a permanent party school. Serious efforts should be made through party schools, study circles and workshops to raise the ideological level.

The Department suggested holding longer duration schools, at least of 10-day duration, going up to 15 days. Only then the new subjects could be accommodated. A countrywide network of ideological schools has to be created to really train up cadres in Marxism.

The centre of party schooling should be the district level cadres. Simple and cheap Marxist literature should be brought out.

The latest developments in science and technology, IT, robotics and the AI should be taken up extensively, analyzing their implications for Marxism.

Environmental degradation and the climate change are among new subjects in the schools. 'Social media' is also a new and a regular subject in the central party schools. Besides, 'National Education Policy' has also been added.

More emphasis is being given to study of chief characteristics of Indian society, like: caste-class dynamics, Indian tradition, philosophy and religion, composite culture and civilization, etc. A separate lecture on 'Marx, Gandhi and Ambedkar' has been added.



**CPI protest against jhuggi demolition in Delhi**



# New Investigation Uncovers Evidence of Israeli War Crimes in Gaza



*Diary of  
International  
Events*

*C. Adhikesavan*

Israel has been accused of war crimes in Gaza, including deliberate attacks on civilians, healthcare facilities, and infrastructure, causing mass displacement and deaths. Reports cite indiscriminate bombings, torture, and starvation tactics as violations of international law, with the ICC seeking arrest warrants for Israeli leaders.

Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit (I-Unit) has released a groundbreaking film exposing potential war crimes committed by Israeli soldiers in Gaza, primarily through thousands of social media posts shared by the soldiers themselves. Following Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel and the subsequent Israeli ground invasion on October 27, soldiers documented their actions on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. These posts, described by international law expert Rodney Dixon as a "treasure trove" for prosecutors, form the backbone of the I-Unit's investigation into violations of international humanitarian law (IHL).

The I-Unit initially anticipated extensive geolocation and facial recognition efforts to identify soldiers and locations. However, soldiers often posted under their own names on public platforms, frequently including details about when and where incidents occurred. The team compiled a database of over 2,500 social media accounts, analyzing thousands of videos and photos. They consulted experts, including Dixon, retired British Army Major-General Charlie Herbert, and Bill Van Esveld of Human Rights Watch. On-the-ground teams in Gaza collected witness testimonies, and the investigation incorporated Israeli drone footage from Al Jazeera Arabic.

The investigation revealed behaviours potentially constituting war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, categorized into three main areas: wanton destruction,

mistreatment of detainees, and use of human shields.

Numerous videos depict soldiers destroying civilian property, including homes set ablaze and buildings detonated with explosives. Herbert noted that rigging buildings with explosives absent an active threat indicates no military necessity. Van Esveld emphasized that such destruction, when extensive and unjustified, violates IHL and constitutes a war crime under Article 8(2)(a)(iv) of the Rome Statute, which prohibits "extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly."



The 8219 Combat Engineering Battalion, known as Gadhan Commando, was prominently featured, notably destroying Khirbet Khuza'a, a town of 13,000 near the Gaza-Israel border. Captain Chai Roe Cohen admitted on Instagram that the destruction was "revenge" for the October 7 attack on Kibbutz Nir Oz. Van Esveld condemned this "revenge rhetoric," stating, "Atrocities don't justify atrocities."

Videos show detainees stripped, bound, blindfolded, and subjected to humiliating treatment, including being kicked, dragged, or mocked. One French-Israeli soldier filmed a detainee, commenting, "He was tortured." Dixon highlighted that such admissions are rare and valuable for prosecutors,

as torture is a serious international crime under Article 8(2)(a)(ii) and Article 8(2)(b)(xxi) of the Rome Statute, which prohibits torture and "outrages upon personal dignity."

Witnesses in Gaza corroborated these findings. Abu Amer recounted hearing his son's screams during torture, with soldiers stating, "No one will call us to account." Hadeel Dahdouh described being beaten and having her handcuffs tightened painfully. Fadi Bakr reported being forced to lie on a decomposing corpse and witnessing a dog used to assault a detainee at Sde Teiman detention centre.

Six interviewees reported being used as human shields. Abu Amer described soldiers placing civilians near balconies to fire at Palestinian fighters, then forcing them to inspect buildings for traps under threat of death. Drone footage showed detainees entering unsecured buildings while monitored. A November 2023 photo from Gaza City depicted two detainees walking ahead of a tank, later confirmed as coerced human shields. At Nasser Hospital, a young man was forced to relay evacuation orders and was subsequently killed by a sniper. Dixon noted that using civilians to shield military operations violates Article 8(2)(b)(xxiii) of the Rome Statute.

A notable case involved the

202 Paratroopers Battalion's sniper team, the Ghost Unit, with a video by soldier Shalom Gilbert showing three unarmed men killed by snipers. Dixon stressed that civilians cannot be targeted unless actively engaged in hostilities, making this incident a potential war crime.

The investigation raises questions about Western involvement, particularly from the U.S., Germany, and the UK, which have supplied arms or intelligence to Israel. Between 2019 and 2023, 69% of Israel's arms came from the U.S. and 30% from Germany. The UK has conducted surveillance flights over Gaza from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus since December 2023, officially to aid hostage rescue. However, Declassified UK's Matt Kennard questioned the scale of these operations, noting up to 1,000 hours of footage by March 2024 for only two British hostages. Van Esveld warned that providing targeting information amid known human rights violations could implicate these nations in complicity.

The UK government stated it is not a participant in the conflict and only shares intelligence compliant with IHL, focused on hostage rescue. However, with Israel under investigation for genocide at the International Court of Justice, continued support from allies may face scrutiny.

The I-Unit's findings, backed by soldiers' own footage, witness accounts, and expert analysis, present compelling evidence for international investigation. Dixon emphasized the importance of examining command structures, particularly figures like Lt Col Meir Duvdevani of the 8219 Battalion, for accountability. As Palestinian novelist Susan Abulhawa described this as "the first livestreamed genocide," the soldiers' social media posts may prove instrumental in pursuing justice for alleged war crimes in Gaza.



# Red Flag Should Fly...

From Page 03

emphasised the need to involve more women comrades.

National Secretariat member Pallab Sengupta briefly addressed operational concerns, highlighting specific states that have shown inactivity or inconsistency in maintaining their social media presence. He called for immediate steps to form dedicated social media teams in all state units. He stressed the importance of daily content updates, platform diversification, and engaging visual formats to stay relevant in the fast-paced digital land-

scape. He used the background graphic to underline the need for to take our pro-people message to the masses. The floor was then



real-time unity between all who carry the red flag opened for delegates to introduce themselves vealed a varied picture – some states had made

and present reports on the status of social media platforms operated by their respective state units. The reports re-

notable progress, with regular content production, audience interaction, and coordination with mass organizations. Others, however, acknowledged gaps in capacity and a lack of strategic planning. This open discussion provided valuable peer learning opportunities and helped identify practical areas for improvement.

The second day of the meeting commenced with a detailed presentation by Dinesh Reghunath, a member of the Kerala state social media team. He presented a case study of the information dissemination structure used by

On Page 15

### P. P. H. PUBLICATIONS

S.No.	Title	Author Name	Price
1	In Defence of Materialism in Ancient India	Debi Prasad Chattopadhyaya	150
2	Socio-Political Views of Vivekananda	Binoy K. Roy	80
3	What is the Theory of Relativity	L. Landau, Y. Rumer	50
4	Emergence of A Slave Caste Pulayas of Kerala	K. Saradamoni	450
5	Communist In Indian Women's Movement	Renu Chakravartty	300
6	Imperialism the Highest Stage of Capitalism	Lenin	100
7	Dialectics of Nature	Engels	350
8	Comrade Chandrappan (Memories)	Trans. By V.I., Thomas	150
9	Che Guevara A memoir by Fidel Castro	Ed. David Deutschmann	185
10	Frederick Engels A Short Biography	John Keracher	40
11	Gandhi Ambedkar and the Extirpation of Untouchability	Hirendra Nath Mukerjee	50
12	Marx's Legacy in 21st Century	Samit Kar	170
13	The Moplah Rebellion and its Genesis	Conrad Wood	250
14	The Moplah Rebellion and its Genesis	Conrad Wood	350
15	Physics for Entertainment	Ya Perelman	230
16	The Geography of the Puranas	S. Muzafer Ali	325
17	Tales of the Amber Sea	Irina Zheleznova	350
18	Ajoy Ghosh : Life and works	Anil Rajimwale	60
19	Understanding the French Revolution	Albert Soboul	400
20	Victims of the world Unite Against Exogenous Pandemics	K.S. Chalam	100
21	What is Living and what is dead in Indian Philosophy	Debi Prasad Chattopadhyaya	300
22	Lokayata	Debi Prasad Chattopadhyaya	350
23	The Talwars of Pathan land and Subhash Chandra's Great Escape	Bhagat Ram Talwar	200
24	The Students' Marx	Edward Aveling	200
26	The Rise and growth of Economic Nationalism in India	Bipan Chandra	600
27	Crisis of Corporate Capitalism	A.B. Bardhan	75
28	What is Marxism	Anil Rajimwale	75

Please send your order to:

■ People's Publishing House (P) Limited  
5-E, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi -110 055  
Phone: 011-23523349, 23529823  
Email: pph5e1947@gmail.com  
Website: <http://www.pphbooks.net>

■ CPI HQ Showroom: Ajoy Bhavan, 15 Com. Indrajit Gupta Road, New Delhi-110 002

■ PPH Showroom JNU Near Central Library JNU, New Delhi-110 067

■ PPH Showroom 22, Qaiser Bagh Lucknow (UP)

■ PPH Showroom, 18 Marina Arcade, G-Block, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110 001

Current Account Details:  
State Bank of India  
A/c. No. 320 746 74 284  
In favour of : People's Publishing House (P) Ltd



## Red Flag Should Fly...

From Page 14

CPI in Kerala through WhatsApp. His presentation included a well-structured flow-chart outlining the hierarchy and chain of communication used to distribute content efficiently across districts and local branches. He explained how the network was designed to minimize disruptions and prevent misinformation. His model was widely appreciated and proposed as a potential template for other state units.

Following this, Vivek Sharma, National Coordinator of the Social Media Department, took the stage for an in-depth session on multi-platform digital strategies.

He outlined best practices for managing Party content across Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), WhatsApp, Instagram, and YouTube. He stressed that each platform serves different audience segments and therefore requires tailored content strategies. For instance, Instagram and YouTube are ideal for visual storytelling, whereas X can be used for political commentary and quick updates.

He emphasized the importance of forming hybrid teams that combine young, technically proficient comrades with seasoned political workers to ensure content remains both engaging and ideologically sound. He also

offered suggestions on analytics tracking, trend monitoring, and campaign planning. After his session, he addressed several questions from participants, clearing doubts and offering additional guidance.

CPI General Secretary D. Raja once again addressed the gathering to commend the efforts and presentations. He expressed confidence that the discussions had laid the groundwork for a coherent and unified national approach to Party communications ahead of the 25th Party Congress.

In the final session, a brief technical workshop was conducted on using technological platforms to create attractive and

professional content. Participants were guided through creating basic posters for Party campaigns, including selecting appropriate templates, inserting slogans, and exporting designs. The objective was to empower state-level teams with the tools necessary to independently generate professional content.

Rama Krushna Panda, National Secretary of CPI summarized the key outcomes of the two-day meeting, addressed concerns raised by delegates, and reiterated the need for strict adherence to the strategies proposed by the Centre. He called on state units to immediately initiate follow-up meetings and internal training sessions to institutionalise the practices discussed.

Vivek Sharma thanked the participants and those who supported the initiative and also extended gratitude on behalf the department to the central party leadership for engaging with the process.

The extended meeting at Ajoy Bhawan proved to be a critical step forward in strengthening the CPI's digital infrastructure. The deliberations, presentations, and technical sessions provided clarity, direction, and enthusiasm to Party social media workers across the country. As the Party moves toward its 25th Congress, the digital front will play a pivotal role in countering misinformation, reaching new demographics, and mobilizing public opinion around issues that matter.

### On Record ...

Vinesh Phogat, who had been hauled off Delhi's streets along with other protesters two years ago by police, has once again given voice to the helplessness of those seeking justice as Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, former BJP parliamentarian and Wrestling Federation of India chief accused of sexual assault by multiple wrestlers, brought out "victory rallies" in Uttar Pradesh.

Brij led a hail of SUVs in Gonda and Ayodhya in a show of strength after a Delhi court dropped charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (Pocso) against him, the impunity of which forced Olympian wrestlers Vinesh and Bajrang Punia to break their silence. - *The Telegraph*, May 29.

\*\*\*

The Supreme Court asked the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to probe allegations of 80 alleged fake encounter deaths in the state between May and December 2021.

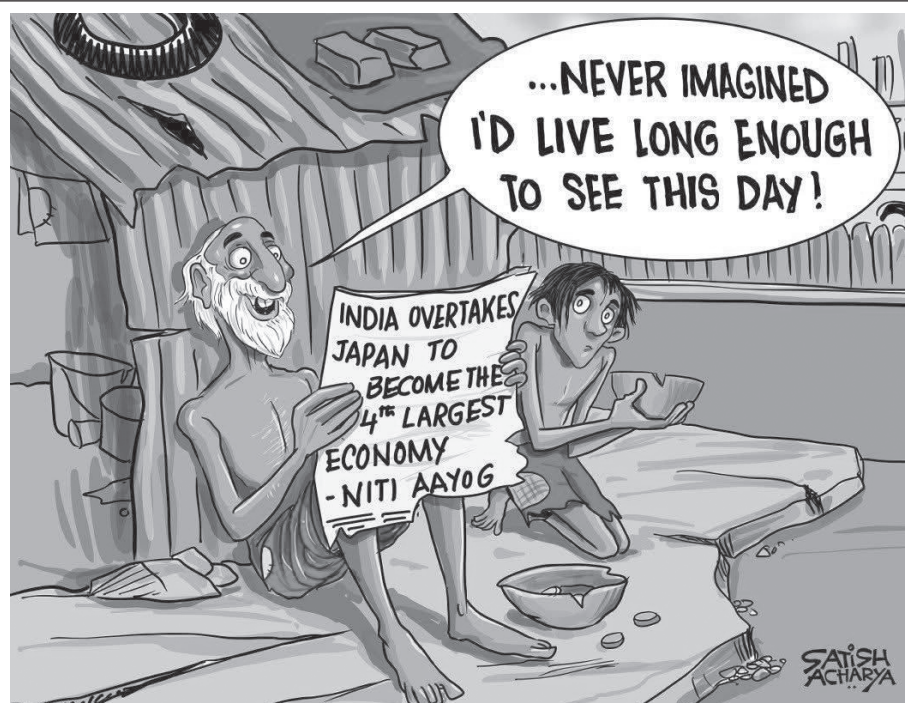
The court passed the directions while disposing of an appeal filed by advocate Arif Md. Yeasin Jwadder, challenging the refusal of Gauhati High Court to entertain his PIL petition in which he had alleged that 80 fake encounters took place in Assam between May and December 2021. According to him,

28 people were killed and 48 injured during the encounters. It was alleged that the police justified the actions on the ground that the escape attempts of the accused prompted them to open fire in purported self-defence, resulting in death and injuries. - *The Telegraph*, May 29.

\*\*\*

An employee's post about feeling burnt out within two weeks of joining his new job has sparked a discussion around toxic work culture in certain Indian companies. The employee claimed that his senior expects him to be available till 4 am to cater to US clients, despite his official working hours being 9:30 am to 6:30 am. "In my employment contract the office timings are mentioned as 9.30AM to 6.30PM, but really it's 24/7. Yesterday she told me to be up till 4AM if the US clients give that time. On top of that she has a management style of shouting. Every conversation she yells to communicate," the employee wrote as a part of his post on Reddit. - *The Hindustan Times*, May 29.

\*\*\*



In the heart of Naya Raipur, a gleaming skywalk built at a staggering cost of crores stands deserted. Below it, there are no commuters, no busy footfalls, only the echo of mismanagement and waste. This isn't an isolated story, but a recurring theme across Chhattisgarh. Over the past decade, the Chhattisgarh government has spent more than Rs 1,000 crore on skywalks, luxury malls, bus stands, auditoriums and ministerial bungalows. Yet, most of these grand projects have become empty monuments to poor planning and alleged corruption. - *India Today*, May 29.

- Compiled by C. Adhikesavan



## CPI Leads Struggle for Homeless in Karnataka

*CPI in Karnataka is continuously fighting for site and home for homeless and siteless in the state. Government of Karnataka claims that around 7 lakh families are siteless. But, the actual estimate of siteless can go up to 20 lakh families.*

Total 2,65,48,57 people, mostly women families are homeless according to the government. But in reality, more than 50 lakh families are either siteless or homeless. There were around 16 lakh applicants for houses under Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme, in the year 2023 alone.

CPI stated the movement in the name 'Sorrigagi Samara' (Fight For Roof) under the leadership of CPI state secretary Saathi Sundaresh, to give sites to the homeless people across Karnataka from the year 2020. A 927 km padayatra from Bellary to Bengaluru was started on February 2, 2020. It was paused due to Covid lockdown. Again it was resumed on February 23, 2023. On March 9, 2023 it culminated at Bengaluru.

As a second leg of this movement, CPI is now organizing village level, taluk level and district level protests. Village level committees of landless and homeless people are being organised. District level protest demonstrations are being held in front of respective district collector offices. On May 22, a huge protest demonstration was held in the Koppal district in which hundreds of homeless

people participated. CPI state secretary Saathi Sundaresh addressed the gathering. He said, "This movement is the movement of the masses. Till the last family in the remote areas of Karnataka gets housing, CPI will not rest. This movement is to be speeding up as a state level movement." Such demonstrations are already scheduled in the districts of Bellary, Chitradurga and other districts in the following weeks.

It has to be remembered under the leadership of Achuta Menon as the chief minister and under



state of Kerala. Now the current LDF government is renovating the houses given under the scheme. Housing is a major thrust area of the Kerala Budget this year with Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal announcing a new cooperative housing project across the State. The

**HB Harish Bala**

ration for the government of Karnataka.

Existing housing schemes look good only on paper. It doesn't solve the purpose. Beneficiaries of these schemes are debt-ridden due to the

housing. Land should be immediately distributed to the beneficiaries with clear legal titles. In Urban areas, if there is any insufficiency of lands, apartments has to built and each family should be allocated 2BHK flats.

In Karnataka, most homeless are from AHINDA (Kannada acronym for Minorities, Backward Classes and Dalits) and Tribals. It has to be noted that these sections were the major contributors for the victory of Congress in the last assembly elections. AHINDA section is a backbone of Siddaramaiah's political career. Previous BJP government neglected this issue. This negligence is also one of the reasons for BJP not getting votes.

CPI is unabated to fight for this cause. CPI is aiming to organise a statewide movement in near future till the last family gets housing.



the initiative of M.N. Govindan Nair as the housing minister in the CPI ministry, LAKSHAM VEEDU scheme was started in Kerala on May 14, 1972. Around 90,208 houses were built across the

project is aimed at constructing at least 1 lakh houses in residential complexes for middle income groups including government employees in towns and cities within the next two years. This has to become an inspi-

insufficient money being allocated.

First of all, a village level survey has to be conducted to identify the lands. Around 10 lakh acres of land has to be identified. These lands should be reserved for