

## PROUT

A Journal of Proutistic Views and Neo-Humanistic Analysis





## Everyone's Due is Measured

JIIRŃA VISHIIRŃA JIIVER KARIBO SEVÁ ÁRTE KŚUDHÁRTE BÁINCÁBE NATUVÁ KE BÁ

ÁDHITE BHOGE JÁRÁ VYÁDHI YÁ TANÁTE SÁRÁ SE MÁNAVA PASHU VIHAUNGA SABÁRI JANNYE MORÁ LATÁ GULMERA ÁCHE PRÁŃ TÁDERO TARE BHÁVÁ

DÚR KE KÁCHE ŤENE CHI SAUNGE SABE NIYECHI PRÁŃE O MANE MENECHI SAMPADA SABÁRI MÁPÁ I shall serve living beings Emaciated and impoverished Hungry and distressed Then who else will save them.

Those who suffer pain
Are sick and in torment.
Those men animals and birds
We are for all of them.
Vines shrub and plants have life
We shall feel for them always.

Taking everyone along
I've brought near
That that was far.
I've realised heart and soul
Everyone's due is measured.

## Contents

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 05 **MAY 2022** 



#### **Feature**

#### **08** PROUTNOMICS

**Economic Dynamics** 



#### 15 JUSTICE DELAYED

40 Years on : No Justice for Bijon Sethu Dadhicis



#### **20** DYNAMIC FIGHTING ENERGY

Ukraine War : Proutist's Duties



#### **22** HIDDEN AGENDA

Ukraine : It Was All Written in the Rand Corp Plan



#### **24** WAR MERCHANTS

Lockheed and Raytheon : Today's 'Masters of War'



#### **29** ONE WORLD

From Nationalist Wars to World Government-Part II



#### **32** POVERTY EXTREME

Manual Scavengers Turn to Selling Human Bones Simply to Survive



#### **REGULARS**

Editorial Inspirational 06 Letters 46 **Activities** 

#### 35 ECONOMIC PERIL

The Mother of All Stagflations Could Lie Ahead



#### **37** INFORMAL SECTOR

Social Security for All of India's Informal Workers is Possible



#### **39** BONDED LABOURERS

Bonded Labourers Beaten Up Raped Talk of Police Inaction



#### **43** COOPERATIVES

The Benefits of Worker Co-Operatives



#### **44** Environment

Drought and Deforestation: How Madagascar's Children are Paying the Price



## **Fundamental Principles of PROUT**

"War blackens everything; it darkens the future. Let us fight these divisive tendencies which want to make our life dark."

– Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar



No individual should be allowed to accumulate any physical wealth without the clear permission or approval of the collective body





There should be maximum utilization and rational distribution of all mundane, supra mundane and spiritual potentialities of the universe





There should be maximum utilization of the physical, metaphysical and spiritual potentialities of unit and collective body of the human society.





There should be a proper adjustment amongst these physical, metaphysical, mundane, supramundane and spiritual utilizations.





The method of utilization should vary in accordance with the changes in time, space and person and the utilization should be of progressive nature.



Editor

Ácárya Santosánanda Avadhúta

Editorial Board Ácárya Acyutananda Avadhuta / Ácárya Vedaprajinananda Avadhuta / Sohail Inayatullah / Steven Landau / Surender Reddy

Circulation Manager : Ramkesh Choudhary

Correspondents: Kanhu Charan Behura / Ravindra Singh

General Manager: Pranav Koul

Layout & Design : Suman Kumar

#### Rate (INDIA)

Newstand Price - ₹ 30/Annual Subscription - ₹ 324/Two Years Subscription - ₹ 612/Three Years Subscription - ₹ 864/Five Years Subscription - ₹ 1350/Ten Years Subscription - ₹ 2520/-

Overseas (BY AIRMAIL)

Annual - US\$ 45

Overseas (By Paypal)

US - US\$ 45 Others - US\$ 50 Payments in India may be made by cheque favouring **Neo-Humanist Education Foundation** mailed to **Acarya Santosananda Avadhuta**, Prout Bhawan, JC-48, Khirki Extension, Main Road, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi -17
For outstation remittance from non computerized banks/branches add Rs 30.00 for bank clearance charges.

Or amounts may be deposited directly to any branch of the State Bank of India as per details below:

Neo-Humanist Education Foundation, State Bank of India, Malviya Nagar Branch, C-30 Malviya Nagar, New Delhi 110017

A/C No. 30379188250 IFSC SBIN0001493

Overseas remittances may be made by Paypal using id prout.am@gmail.com or electronic bank transfer referring above details and Swift Code SBININBB382



Head Office : Prout Bhawan, JC-48, Khirki Extension Main Road, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017

Mobile No.: 09212199658, 9810625082 Email: prout.am@gmail.com



For enquiries, please contact : Mobile No(s) . : 9999626164, 9350860274 Email : proutcustomercare@gmail.com

Printed & Published by A'ca'rya Santosananda Avadhuta on behalf of Neo Humanist Education Foundation and printed at Royal Press B-82, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-1, New Delhi-110020 and published from PROUT Bhawan, JC-48, Khirki Extension, Main Road, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017

Editor: A'ca'rya Santosananda Avadhuta



### THE BIRBHUM SHAME

Political violence has been an integral part of Bengal's social and political landscape since the early 1960s, which marked the political ascendancy of the communists. Last year, soon after assembly election results were declared on May 19, violence broke out in parts of Bengal, a continuation of violence during the elections. But on the night of March 21, a mob of 70-80 people ransacked the houses in Bogtui village of Birbhum district, West Bengal, and then set them on fire, killing women and children trapped inside. The incident was another ghastly one in a long history of violence that ruined the state for six decades.

Bhadu Sheikh, the deputy pradhan of Barshal gram panchayat, whose murder triggered the brutal attack on a hamlet housing his political rivals after a couple of hours left eight people (mostly women and children) dead. A Trinamool functionary residing in Bogtui Paschimpara in the Rampurhat subdivision of Birbhum was killed by ten to twelve people who went to his house on bikes and hurled country-made bombs at him. It angered Sheikh's neighbours and loyalists, and they assumed that his political rivals sanctioned the killing of the Trinamool living in the neighbouring hamlet of Bogtui Purbapara. So the menfolk fled their homes, fearing retaliation. A couple of hours later, when the revenge-seeking mob reached Bogtui Purbapara, finding no men there, they locked the tiny mud dwellings from outside, poured kerosene and petrol on thatched roofs and set them on fire. By the time fire tenders arrived on the scene close to midnight, many huts had been reduced to ashes. Seven bodies were recovered from the embers, and of the three who were severely burnt but still alive, one died on the way to the hospital. The deceased were: Nurnehar Bibi 75, Tuli Khatun 7, Rupali Bibi, 44, Mina Bibi, 40, Jahanara Bibi, 38, Sheli Bibi 32, Lili Khatun 18 and Kazi Sajidur Rahman 22.

A shocked High Court withdrew the probe from state agencies and ordered the CBI to probe, noting that the government constituted the SIT on March 22, "but till now there is no effective contribution of the SIT in the investigation. It has been submitted that although the police station is very near to the incident, the police did not reach on time and persons remained trapped inside the burning houses. We are of the opinion that facts and circumstances of the case demand that in the interest of justice and to instill confidence in society and to have a fair investigation to dig out the truth, it is necessary to hand over the investigation to the CBI". Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's reaction was classically political reflecting her ongoing war with the Centre: "We will cooperate, but if the probe is biased we will protest".

Yet on deeper analysis, poverty and the state's flailing economy are responsible for the recurrent violence in Bengal. This overpopulated state offers minimal sources of meagre and subsistence-level incomes to a vast majority of its population, especially in the rural areas. And that fight has been very violent and gory ever since the communists made their presence in the state. They birthed the culture of political violence that the state has been in the grip of since the 1960s. At the same time, they established a vice-like grip on power through complete domination of all institutions like the gram panchayats and panchayat samitis. And also through the politicisation of the police, local administration and other institutions like schools and colleges, government healthcare facilities etc.

Unfortunately, Trinamool Congress, which has been in power in Bengal since 2011, has walked the same path as the communists. The impact of the financial ruin they brought upon the state was felt the most in Bengal's vast rural areas as landholdings became smaller and smaller with every passing generation, which reduced farming to a subsistence-level livelihood on which the entire rural populace depended. Moreover, a complete absence of employment opportunities, even in the urban or semi-urban areas, forced the deprived masses to stick to farming, which yielded progressively declining returns. This latest incident in the continuing dark drama of violence that Bengal has been helplessly witnessing for more than sixty years now cannot end until the state's economy improves. It means more jobs, agriculture turns profitable, and most importantly, the stranglehold of politicians on the lives and livelihoods of the masses is prised off.

As political power is not in the hands of moralists, it is unlikely to happen. Only if PROUT is followed at the political level, it can be. PROUT's God-centred philosophy must immediately fill the vacuum created by communism; otherwise, some other defective ideology will. As Prout's founder says: "If PROUT does not fill this ideological vacuum, a great catastrophe will take place in the future because other defective philosophies will come forward. Some dogma-centred, matter-centred or self-centred theories will occupy the space. We cannot allow this to happen". Therefore Proutists must unite in large numbers and step up political activities to attain power as soon as possible to implement PROUT's economic principles.



#### The Vipra Age

A thought-provoking article by Prout's founder about how the intellectuals of yesteryears exploited society using their intellect, not for humanity but their pelf and power. These include all the great warmongers and politicians who are very visible even today.

- Nori Shetty, Visakhapatnam

#### **New War in Europe**

A very interesting article tracing the ongoing war in Ukraine, which started on February 24, is now well into its second month, with no sign of an end and every sign of a stalemate. This war has crossed all limits of man's inhumanity to man. Russia having been defeated in its initial objective to occupy the whole country and instituting a regime change has miserably failed. As per estimates10000 Russian soldiers have been killed and so it has taken to heartlessly bombing civilian targets which have no military value in a bid to break the spirit of the Ukrainian people. Residential buildings have been destroyed and thousands killed. And the siege of Mariopol where thousands are trapped is a great human tragedy. Even this has not succeeded as the Ukrainians despite being militarily weaker as compared to the Russians, are fighting for their homeland facing lots of privations. A clear indication of the Russians not having their way is evident from the barbaric shooting in Bucha of over 400 civilians whose hands were tied and then buried in shallow graves. This genocide has shocked the world's conscience and the UN feels it is genocide. The latest heightening of tensions is the sinking of Russian guided missile cruiser Moskva, the flagship, on April 14 after being hit by two Ukrainian missiles. Russian media declared it to be the start of World War III. It is hoped better senses prevail on the Russian leadership and the war is brought to an immediate end.

- Maj S. Rehman Retd, Meerut

#### **War and Hunger**

The war in Ukraine has affected the whole world. As a result, there is food poverty in the Middle East, Latin America, and elsewhere, rising projected hunger levels. As the author has rightly suggested, it is time to change the system.

- Francesa Alvarez, Goa

#### **Disrupting the Cow**

An excellent article. It is high time people, especially in the West, wean themselves away from meat-eating and take to alternate vegetarian products. Cattle and livestock reared for eating take up too much land at the expense of agriculture, which is terrible for the planet. Meat-eating is not healthy and is not meant for humans has been scientifically proven.

- Caroline Smith, Canada

#### **World Government**

Too much human blood has been shed over thousands of years in the name of nationalism and groups. Nationalism is the enemy of universalism. All wars for this purpose must come to an end.

- Eanu Senguta, Howrah

#### **Crypto Currency**

Cryptocurrency is good for the economy because it challenges and undermines the US Dollar's unfair dominance and its misuse. It will also curtail the power of banks, which are driven by greed and profits only and not for any social purpose.

- Shiraz Talmud, Gorakhpur

#### **Sri Lanka Economic Crisis**

It is a deplorable economic condition that the Sri Lanka nation is facing. As the suffering people protested, the President declared an emergency to put them down with force and to save his position of power. But both did not happen, and today the government has been reduced to a minority. It has come about because the country has been put in a debt trap with massive loans from China. It will

take years to get out of that.

- Dishant Pereira, Colombo

#### **Poor Country-Affluent Elite**

It is sad that even after 75 years of independence, there is so much poverty in India. China which became independent two years after India has performed much better. Prout is the only answer to this problem, where there will be a wealth ceiling and its rational distribution.

- Kalicharan Varma, Bhopal

#### **Himalayan Shepherds**

An excellent article highlights the plight of nomadic people, who follow traditional ways of livelihood high in the remote Himalayan hills. It is no doubt happening due to changing times, but the government must step in to help such deprived people.

#### **Water is Life**

Yes, water is life. All over the world, barring a few regions, there is water scarcity. Yet so much rainwater is lost in the sea. It is a serious environmental issue and needs to be tackled globally. It is well known that nations will fight wars in the future, not for land but water.

- Rajiv Tugnait, Mumbai

#### **Prout's Market Economy**

Prout market economy is a good concept as it will not be for-profit but meet the needs of the people. Moreover, being decentralised and empowering workers, there is little scope for a concentration of wealth in the hands of a few people.

- Basudeva Raha, Mysuru

#### **Prout April 2022 Issue**

Thank you very much for this remarkable April issue of the Prout Journal, concentrating on (i) the Russian massacre of innocent civilians in Ukraine with the majority of the world (including India) not bothering about it, (ii) Poor India with affluent elites, (iii) Sad plight of shepherds in the Himalayas, (iv) Sri Lanka's economic crisis, (v) Honor killings of activists in Iran.

I wish that the Prout Journal had nationwide subscriptions from colleges to enable people to learn about Prout.

Acarya Dhanjoo Ghista, USA

## **CHANGING ATTITUDES**



nce upon a time, there was an unfortunate poor man. His home was also impoverished – a small and empty house where mice made their nests and spiders made their webs. People tried to avoid coming into his house – why should they stick their noses into those poor ruins? And the poor man thought that poverty was the reason for his misfortunes – his eternal destiny.

So once, the poor man met a wizard and complained to him about his poverty and miserable life. The wizard felt sorry for the poor man and gave him an exquisite vase. And said, "This is a magical vase, that will save you from poverty".

The man took the vase and wanted to sell it at first and then spend the money on alcohol, as usual. Besides, why would he need such a beautiful thing? But then he started admiring the vase and couldn't take it to the market. So he brought the vase home, put it on the table and started admiring it.

"It's not right for such a beautiful thing to be empty", he thought, so he picked some wildflowers and put them into the vase. It became even more beautiful."

"Not good", - the man thought again, "that such a beautiful thing stands next to a spider web".

So the poor man started cleaning his house from spider webs, sweeping out cockroaches and mice, cleaning the dust, washing the floor and the walls, whitening the ceiling. And it became clear that his house wasn't poor but rather warm and cosy. And the poor man wasn't a poor man anymore, but a hard-working person who had no time for thoughts about misfortune.

- Author Unknown



movement in this universe is systaltic. Nothing ever moves in a straight line. Due to this systaltic motion, internal clash and cohesion take place. The ups and downs of socioeconomic life in different phases of the social order are sure to take place due to this systaltic principle. When the period of pause is long, society goes through a phase of extended staticity, and it may lose all its dynamic movement or even cease to exist. If there is a lack of dynamic force in the pause phase, then the dynamicity stage may not come in the subsequent phase.

ach and every

#### **Economic Depressions –** The Result of Staticity

Depressions are inevitable in both capitalist and communist countries in the economic sphere due to this

very inherent, intensive and innate staticity. Economic depressions are actually the net result of suppression, repression and oppression - that is, exploitation. When exploitation reaches the culminating point, society's mobility and speed become virtually nil. In such a stage, that is, in this culminating point, a natural explosion takes place. In the case of the material world, the explosion is of a material nature, and in the psychic sphere, the explosion is of psychic order, and so on. Depressions may happen in any of the four eras – the Shúdra, Kśatriya, Vipra or Vaeshya Eras.

Depressions may also take place in the cultural life of society due to suppression, repression and oppression. As a result, every aspect of cultural life becomes perverted and degenerates. It is why we get

perverted literature, music, dance, art, architecture, etc.

In both social and economic life, this depression becomes unbearable for one and all. Such a depression took place between 1929 and 1931. During this depression in Bengal, five kilos of brinjal were sold for one paisa, and forty kilos were sold for eight paise in the Burdwan market, but there was no one to purchase these items. There were also big curtailments in salaries, and people had to accept salary cuts of ten per cent or more.

Today also, the stage has almost come for such a severe reaction. The explosion will come in two, three or five years. It will surely come within ten years. The difference between the previous depression and the future depression will be that in the previous one, there was little inflation, but the coming



A scene in Chicago from the great depression 1930s

depression will be associated with inflation. Hence, it will be more detrimental to the integrated development of human society. This depression will occur in the industrial subsection of the commercial economy. It will have widespread and devastating consequences for humanity.

We should endeavour to shorten the span of this economic depression. Before the final culminating point comes, it is possible to avert the disaster and accelerate the speed of social movement. We can do so by creating a socio-economic and cultural impact on the entire social structure through PROUT. As the world is passing through a most critical phase, we should be more active and create an impact. If the positive impact we create coincides with the explosion, the effect will be excellent.

It must be borne in mind that both inflation and depression result from the ailment of staticity. If the production in a country is abundant and the gold bullion reserves are in proportion to the country's economic position, there is no possibility of inflation. However, if the circulation of the capital decreases due to staticity and the quantum of production also goes down, then inflation is bound to occur.

If a country has a constant deficit in foreign trade, in that case also, there is the possibility of inflation. In addition, if foreign trade is not conducted according to the barter system and the country has to import foodstuffs and export raw materials, inflation will undoubtedly occur. But on the other hand, if there is sufficient production and adequate supply, but suddenly the quantum of demand falls, then the value of money suddenly increases for the buyer. It is called "negative inflation" or "deflation".

#### The Causes of Depressions

There are two main causes for economic depressions – first, the concentration of wealth, and secondly, blockages in the rolling of money. If capital is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals or the state, most people will be exploited

by a handful of exploiters. As a result of this process of severe exploitation, a serious explosion takes place. This explosion is known as a depression in the economic world. The concentration of wealth, and particularly the concentration of the value of wealth, is the fundamental cause of depression.

Secondly, depression may occur when money in possession of individuals or state capitalists stops rolling. Money remains inert or unutilized because those capitalists think that if the money is allowed to roll freely, their profits will decrease, even though it will bring relief to the common people. The very psychology of capitalists is to make a profit from the rolling of money. When they discover that the investment of money does not bring profit up to their expectations, they stop rolling money. It keeps money immobile or inert; consequently, there is no investment, no production, no income and hence no purchasing power. The situation

"In the economic sphere depressions are inevitable in both capitalist and communist countries due to inherent, intensive and innate staticity."

becomes so dangerous that there are few buyers to buy commodities.

If there is surplus labour and deficit production, the effect of depression is more acute. Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, especially the Telangana region, and Orissa are surplus labour areas, so during a depression, these areas could face indiscriminate closure of business houses and lay-offs. When wages fall, the people in surplus labour areas who used to go to deficit labour areas for employment will be subjected to more hardships. It will aggravate the unemployment problem in surplus labour areas. In such situations, restricting the



transfer of food among different socio-economic units could lead to an acute scarcity of food in the deficit production areas. Therefore a cordon system should not be introduced. Countries and regions with surplus production and deficit labour usually suffer fewer hardships during the depression.

## The Effect of Economic Depressions

An economic depression in capitalist countries will not spare communist or so-called socialist countries. India and the Middle East. India exports many raw materials to industrially developed countries and their satellites. India also purchases raw materials such as raw cotton from other countries, although it used to export such materials in the past. Therefore, it will be affected to the extent to which India is dependent on other countries for its exports or imports. India also has immense loans, which will put a strain on the Indian economy during the depression. The fire sparks of depression will not spare India. If the financial or monetary trade – or, say, the trade that affects bullion – is lessened and barter trade is increased, then the effect of depression on India will not be much. Therefore, India should try to expand its range of barter trade.

Bangladesh exports

manufactured goods, raw jute and hide, and imports foodstuffs and almost all other articles. If Bangladesh wants to avoid a depression, it will have no alternative but to increase its barter trade.

In time the Arab countries – those selling oil – will be the most affected. However, even the communist countries will not be spared from the onslaught of depression. These countries have not been able to solve their food problems. Although they have huge buffer stocks, they depend on Canada, the USA and Australia for

wheat. If these dollar-based countries suffer from depression, the communist countries will certainly be affected by depression, although not much.

Depression is not a natural phenomenon. Pause is a natural phenomenon. In a Proutistic structure, a pause may occur, but depression will not happen. To save society from depression, the approach of PROUT is to increase purchasing power by increasing production, reducing disparities in the value of wealth, and increasing the circulation of money; that is, by keeping money rolling. Empty slogans will not do. Attention will have to be given to increasing the level of production.

In capitalist and communist countries, the mode of production is defective. In capitalist countries, labour does not work in the management's interest, and management does not allow the rolling of money due to the concentration of wealth. In communist countries, labour does not feel one with the job, which is why there is sluggish production.

The cooperative model of PROUT is free from both sets of defects. PROUT is well-adjusted with human ideals and sentiments. Other socio-economic systems are ultra vires to human existence and all-round elevation.





## MANDATE FOR ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY Proutist Bloc, India Convention -2022

India has a surfeit of political parties with immoral leaders whose sole aim is to garner votes, capture power and forget about the masses who put them there.

#### Acarya Santosananda Avadhuta

The last 6000 years of political governance has not been able to solve the problems of the people at large. It has mostly been unfair and ineffective. And from the Greeks of 900 BC to the Romans of 500 BC till the start of the English Parliament in 1295 AD, the mother of modern day democracy that is being followed till this day. It has always been the rule of the rich and influential over the poor and suffering, gaining legitimacy with universal franchise. Barring few, most countries follow this form of governance in one way or the other, a system that grants political freedom no doubt but not economic freedom, which is more essential to the mass of people to meet their basic needs so that human dignity is maintained.

In India which is avowedly democratic, this has not yet happened even after 75 years of independence. Millions of people continue to suffer from poverty and gross economic inequality. India has a surfeit of political parties with immoral leaders whose sole aim is to garner votes, capture power and forget about the masses who put them there. In fact wily politicians, greedy businessman and arrogant bureaucrats have been making life miserable for the common man.













To correct this historical wrong the renowned philosopher, Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar founded the Proutist Bloc India (PBI) in 1968 to establish a new political consciousness within an ideological framework with a system of governance in place based on cardinal human values and principles of a new economic order that guarantees basic minimum needs and lifts people out of ignorance and plight, possible only by moral leadership.

PBI is a political party with a difference. Its battle cry, "PROUT for suffering Humanity" resounds from the leaders and workers of high morality whose sole aim is to bring solace to the exploited people based on the economic principles of PROUT also enunciated by Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar stands for a balanced and decentralized economy. Following these principles when PBI attains political power will help eradicate unemployment, poverty and injustice. Within the framework of a socio-economic ideology to establish an egalitarian society that guarantees basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, education, health care aided by adequate purchasing power by way of wages in consonance with human dignity derived from the principle that 'God is the sole creator of the universe and we living beings are all His children'.

The ideology-- PROUT --proposes, that individuals should not be allowed to accumulate unlimited wealth. Accumulation of wealth by a few individuals deprives large sections of the society of their basic needs and gives them the power to exploit honest members of the society. The main plank of PROUT on which PBI stands is that minimum human requirements viz. food, clothing, housing, education and medical care must be constitutionally guaranteed by the state in the form of right to honest work and fair wages. Once this is established all forms of economic exploitation by the rich over the poor would cease. They will then be free to pursue their interest in arts, music, spirituality etc and can spend time to serve the society. Another important aspect is that the leadership of society must devolve on moralists, who have a strong character, who are committed to selfless service and those who have the talent and capability to guide the society. This is thus one of the primary aims of PBI, to create a distinct polarization between moralists and immoralist forces and reach out to the masses and awaken them. This will help in implementing the lofty yet practical principles of PROUT.

The party was duly registered the same year but due to some technical reasons the registration lapsed. On September 7, 2010 it was registered again with the Election Commission of India. Since its inception, PBI has been quietly going about bringing those concepts to the masses and





#### BHOPAL RESOLUTION

After two days of deliberations on April 9/10, 2022 at Bhopal the Proutist Bloc (India) National Convention, it was resolved:

- 1. To undertake a full scale membership drive on a priority basis.
- 2. To constitute state level committees in states not covered so far.
- 3. To undertake vigorous fund drives to augment the Party's finances at the national level.
- 4. To explain and highlight Proutistic alternatives to the large scale unemployment crisis in the country.
- 5. To vociferously challenge the ongoing electoral malpractices by different political parties of bribing the voters with freebies like water and electricity, cycle and laptops etc.

educating them about Proutistic values. This is an on-going process and the PBI has been holding national, state and district level conventions to give further impetus to this socio-economic revolutionary movement and since 2010 annual conventions have been held regularly every year except for 2020 the year of Covid lockdown.

The most recent one in Bhopal this year on April 9 & 10 was attended by over 150 delegates all of whom were charged in an inspiring atmosphere of great enthusiasm. Everyone present showed clearly the determination to change and rallied around the powerful slogans rending the air. In his Presidential address Dr. A.K. Bhaskar exhorted the people to join PBI in large numbers so that politics is freed from corruption and selfishness. He expressed the firm belief that PBI would establish the rule of moralists and restore lost human and spiritual values.





















Among those present were the state presidents and representatives of the Party from Odisha, Maharashtra (Vidarabha ), Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. They all gave vivid descriptions of the work undertaken there. Five PBI cadres have been elected as Sarpanch in Gram Panchayats of Odisha without using any unfair means. They were honoured and felicitated for this remarkable achievement.

One of the highlights of the convention was the formation of Madhya Pradesh state committee (which hitherto had none) under Acharya P.L. Labana as its President. He has appointed Vinod Daharwal as the General Secretary and Yuvaraj Singh Bais as Organising Secretary in the state committee. Similarly Lakhan Lal Lilhare was made President of Balaghat district (MP). In addition some new PBI appointments were made at the national level also. Rakesh Ranjan (who also anchored the proceedings) was appointed Vice President, and Nishant Sharma, the Finance Secretary.

A power point presentation on PBI which is based on Universalism, Neo-humanism, and selfless service showed clearly how PBI is different from other political parties. Nishant Sharma spoke on Wealth Ceiling and made people realize that when the Earth's resources are limited how can there be unrestricted accumulation of individual wealth, which must have a ceiling for the common good. All active cadres of PBI were felicitated including Kanhu Charan Behura, Kedar Nath Sahu, R P Singh Chauhan, Diwakar Yadav, Virender Sah, Piyush Khandhuri, Mohan Pawar, Prasant Moharana and Tarakanta Acharya, Santosh Kumar Giri and others.

On the 10th, a kilometre long procession of PBI activists walked five kilometers through crowded Saket Nagar streets raising thundering slogans. This proved that the day is not far when PBI will become a formidable political force which will end the rule of immoralists.

There was a wonderful cultural programme which was like a fresh breeze for the delegates and PBI cadres, it relaxed and rejuvenated them. Ram Prasad Nirala thrilled the audience by singing spiritedly Proutistic songs. There was also a scintillating cultural programme. Artaja Chauhan (daughter of Smt. Archana Chauhan & Rakesh Kumar Chauhan) gave a soul stirring dance performance in adoration of Lord Shiva. Nine young artists from Madhya Pradesh's tribal belt presented wonderful folk dances. Pranav Koul-the overall controller of the programme, made sure that everything went smoothly. •



# April 30, 1982, witnessed the worst killings in Kolkata since the pre-partition riots. Years On Arun Prakash NOJUSTICE

## For Bijon Sethu Dadhicis



t's been forty long years since justice has eluded the 17 Dadhicis massacred on April 30, 1982, in Kolkata. To understand this, it is essential to trace a bit of the history of the ideological conflict between The Communist Party of

India - Marxist (CPM) and the Ananda Marga (AM).

The CPM's animosity towards AM stemmed mainly from envy and frustration. The state government should have carried out all the developmental works carried out by AM in Ananda Nagar, Purulia district, but the leftist government did nothing. Giving vent to their envy and fear of losing popularity with the masses, and as they could not fight on ideological grounds, they began attacking physically.

There were many attacks in and around Anandanagar from the 1960s till the '90s and elsewhere in West Bengal. But when the AM headquarters shifted to Kolkata, that was the last straw for the CPM. The CPM wanted AM to be ousted from the Capital.

In 1980 construction began on a large ashram complex at Tiljala, Kolkata, for its Global Headquarters. From the very beginning, CPM members opposed it in every way possible - blocking construction roads, and inciting the workers to strike. AM fought the matter in Court, which granted injunctions against the vandals. When construction workers were unavailable because of a CPMinstigated strike, the Ananda Marga monks took over the construction, working round-the-clock to raise the two huge buildings. When construction was nearing completion, the CPM resorted to violent means, hiring thugs who bombed the headquarters on January 1, 1982. A mob shouting slogans attacked the Tiljala ashram at 8 in the morning. The attack was timed well; most Ananda Marga workers were away for the New Year's DMC at

Ananda Nagar. The remaining few Ananda Marga workers could not match the mob. Several were assaulted and injured, and two were later hospitalised in serious condition, viz., Dada Purnananda and Hridaya Narain Pandit. One had to undergo major surgery. The assailants ransacked the offices, destroying or looting equipment and breaking windows, doors, building materials and vehicles. Though the Ananda Marga workers recognized some of the assailants and lodged a complaint with the police, no one was apprehended, questioned or arrested.

What a great way to herald the new year and show portents of more to come! A month later, CPM organised a People's Convention against AM in Kolkata on the sixth of February. A highly inflammatory leaflet signed by two MPs and one MLA were distributed to arouse passion among the public.

The leaflet was signed by the Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Tiliala area. About 155 names were included as signatories – all local CPI political leaders. The meeting was addressed by the MLA Sen and several other

Marxist leaders in fiery and violent language. It was highly inflammatory and against Section 153(A) of the Indian Penal Code. They should have been immediately arrested. But as the police were under CPM, nothing happened.

The modus operandi following the the sixth February meeting was simple:

1. To create an adverse impression about Ananda Marga organisation and Ananda Margis stories about kidnapping were skillfully spread by Party workers in Kasbah, Tiljala, Bijon Sethu and Bondel gate areas. For that vile conspiracy the responsibility was given to the then member of the Legislative Assembly from Ballygunge constituency the infamous Sachin Sen and company. For that reason it began with the help of police stations in that area. A few nuns and quite a few Ananda Margis were wrongly arrested on charges of kidnapping and this was given wide publicity before the people.

2. A letter was written by Purba Jadavpur Anta Sangha Sammilani's, the then ordinary office bearer, now the Sports Minister Kanti Ganguli, to the Chief Minister. The charge

#### **Against Ananda Marga's Efforts of Creating Terror Make People's Convention a Success**

6th February (Saturday) 5 P.M. **Venue Ananda Arati Institute Hall (Picnic Park)** 

#### Dear Sir and Madam,

Entire India especially in the North-East by acts of separatist forces a dangerous situation has been created. Aided by foreign powers, there are reactionary forces within the nation, whose main thrust is to create tension and dissension in the social and political life. Within this hub of such reactionaries Ananda Marga is one of them.

Recently this Ananda Marga cult consisting of people speaking many languages and religious sects having established a large impregnable centre at the junction of Tiljala and V.I.P. Road, under the guise of religion, reactionary forces are openly spreading fear and communalism among ordinary people and are attempting to create dissensions within them.

We feel that for the sake of ordinary people it is necessary to unite and protest against creation of this terror.

For this purpose 6th February at 5 P.M. at Ananda Arati Institute a convention has been convened for all the well meaning and intelligent people of the area.

For this people's convention we solicit your presence along with friends.

Humbly

Chairman Satyasadan Chakrovorty Member, Parliament Shri Somnath Chatterjee Member, Parliament

Shri Sachin Sen Member, Legislative Assembly



was that Mahatirtham, a branch of the Ananda Marga organisation, was planning to grab the land on which the proposed Kishore Bharati stadium was to be built. The Party and the crown jewel all knew right from the beginning that the Ananda Marga never had any plan to buy land in the Purba Jadavpur Santoshpur area. There is no branch named Mahatirtham in the Ananda Marga Organisation. Conspirators gave publicity this way solely to excite the party cadres. The clever Party and the crown jewel of the administration always liked to extract work by such deception. That is why the adored Kanti Ganguli was told to prepare a suitable petition without mentioning Ananda Marga and submit it to the office of the Chief Minister. Purba Jadavpur Anta Sammilani is entirely a Party committee.

3. The Party's action squad, i.e, party leaders Babloo Chakrovorty alias Michke Babloo, Gurupada Bagchi, Chinmaya Hazra and others, were brought on the field and, in a systematic way, attacked Ananda Marga's ashrams under construction at Tiljala many times.

4. In a planned manner in the Santoshpur area, a false rumour was spread, taking the police authorities into confidence to spill Kolkata's streets with the blood of Ananda Margis.

All this was the prelude to the planned massacre of monks and nuns by hired killers on April 30, the Black Friday, which witnessed the worst killings in Calcutta since the pre-partition riots. Heavily armed mobs beat up and burned Ananda Marga monks and a nun in broad daylight before hundreds of witnesses and then vanished into thin air. When the residents of Calcutta woke up that morning, they could have hardly imagined that it was going to be a day of shame for them. It all happened early in the morning between 6.45 and 8.00 along a one-kilometre stretch of Ballygunge in South Calcutta; 11 men and two women on three spots were battered to death and then set on fire. Ten more were injured, of whom four died later in the hospital, and six battled for life, making the day's toll of death to Seventeen. Yet, in all that darkness of the murderous mob and the government cover-up,

there was one silver lining, that of Sher Singh, Assistant District Magistrate (Land Revenue) - ADM (LR). He knew very well that it was an absolute Left engineered inhumanity.

The incident was so terrifying and dangerous that two police cases were lodged suo moto in Sealdah GRP Station. Also, three cases in Kasbah and Tiljala Police Station were lodged, and those attacked could file lawsuits. In each incident, people were wounded or killed with bricks, stones and iron rods, and monks and nuns were burnt to death with highly flammable materials. First-hand accounts of statements made to the police in FIRs by five survivors were:

Didi Supriya Bramhacarini said: "When I got near Suinaha Lane ... we were severely attacked with lathis (wooden staffs), stones and iron rods and inflammable liquid was poured upon the bodies of the male workers and set aflame, attacked and wounded three to four of our male workers They attacked with the intention of killing all of us and the male workers accompanying us were beaten and burnt to death".

(Tiljala Police Case No. 35/82)

Jagdish Sarkar: "When we few male and female workers came near Bondel gate, calling us kidnappers we were forcefully taken to the Ballygunge office of the CPI (M), I told the assembled gathering to take us to the Police Station then I and my co workers were subjected to unspeakable torture and were beaten with bricks, stones and iron rods, and a little distance away some of our co workers were being burnt to death. (Tiljala Police Case No. 36/82)

Dada Dayamaya Brahmacari: "When we reached Bijon Sethu, the taxi ahead was surrounded by a lynch mob of 100 – 125 people and they forcefully dragged us out and started hitting us with lathis and bricks. Our eight Acarvas were severely beaten and burnt to death. (Kasbah Police Case No. 37/82)

Abdul Madik Assistant Sub Inspector of Police (ASI) GRP attached to Ballygunge: "This morning around 7 AM, CO. 224 PP rushed in and brought news that in Ballygunge station a lot of fighting is going on the platform. I ran to the platform and saw that an excited mob of about 1200 to 1400 people with lathis in hand and some of them had bricks and stones. They were severely beating a person dressed in saffron robes. At approximately 8 AM HC-17 Viswanath Ghosh saw that one woman dressed in saffron robes the people rushed and beat her up. The said woman was brought to the Sealdah Police station in an unconscious state. I came to know that that gentleman and that lady were monk and nun of Ananda Marga. (Sealdah GRPS Case No. 34/82)

His own statement: "I suddenly saw smoke rising from the rail tracks in front of Ballygunge Goods Shed and about 2000 to 3500 people surrounded the place. There one Ananda Margi was being burnt to death. Then it was around 8.50 in the morning. I saw that one person's body dressed in saffron was in flames and he was struggling in pain. While arranging hospital evacuation that person died. It came to light that the deceased was a monk of Ananda Marga; his body was set on fire and he was burnt to death. (Sealdah GRPS Case No. 35/82)

Every single account of the event by eyewitnesses is more or less the same. A huge crowd of people had gathered at each place at 7 in the morning. At all these places, this gathering of many hundreds of people, multitudes were lying in wait for the saffron dressed monks and nuns of Ananda Marga; when would they reach all these places in taxis?

Whenever an incident occurs, in accordance with rules of governance, various government departments investigate it as a matter of course. But unfortunately, in this case, no such order was issued. Still, Sher Singh IAS, ADM, a fearless and honest government officer, investigated the incident and submitted a report. That brought frowns on the forehead of the great government of comrades and the party. In the normal circumstances, a government and police investigation both together would have got to the bottom of the truth; however, in the case of the murder of Ananda Margis, the charge sheet that the police filed the investigation report of Sher Singh was totally missing. That was cruel and a great cover-up.

Under Jyoti Basu's and the party's influence, ultimately, a police report was prepared for public consumption and based on the five FIRs, five charge sheets were filed at the appropriate time in the Court. The investigating police officers charge-sheeted the accused persons in the Sessions Court.

Just for public consumption, 'rickshawala', 'thelawala', persons waiting to board trains and many pedestrians were rounded up and brought to Police Stations for questioning. The actual culprits were kept behind screens, police framed innocent people, and they apparently, completed their duty. It was a farce in the name of justice.

The main demand of the Ananda Margis was to appoint a commission by the Central Govt. headed by a Supreme Court judge to

enquire into the incidents of April 30, 1982. Soon after that, a petition was submitted to the Prime Minister for an enquiry by a Supreme Court judge, but for reasons unknown, it was ignored. The state government set up the Tarapada Mukherjee commission of inquiry. It did not proceed beyond its notification and did not have a single hearing. As is mandatory for Judicial Commissions, no report of action was placed before the State Assembly.

In Orissa, after the brutal murders of missionary Graham Staines and his two minor children on January 23, 1999, the State Government appointed a commission of inquiry by a Supreme Court judge. The guilty were brought to book and punished. If West Bengal's CPI(M) government had done this for the Bijon Sethu incident, Jyoti Basu and his cohorts would have been unmasked.

The CPI (M), which had ruled West Bengal with an iron fist for thirty-four years, was defeated in the 2011 elections by the Trinamool Congress Party led by Mamata Baneriee. Then Sher Singh told the media that he had sent a report to the state government immediately after the 1982 murders, claiming that the massacre had been pre-planned. In his statement, Mr Singh named certain CPM workers who had taken direct part in the gruesome act. Mr Singh claimed in the report that his superior officers had destroyed his initial report. Later, after meeting Ananda Margis, Ms Mamata Banerjee announced that a factfinding judicial commission would be established.

The Justice Amitava Lala Judicial Commission, set up by Mamata Banerjee's Government to probe the 1982 Bijon Setu Massacre, began its proceedings in October 2013. The commission examined many witnesses. The most crucial deposition was by the then Additional District Magistrate of South 24-Pargana Sher Singh, who claimed he had come to know about the plan two months ahead

and alerted his boss, the District Magistrate Ranu Ghosh, on January 16. But he took no steps to stop the killings. Justice Lala submitted the report on September 23, 2019. Till now, apparently, no substantial action has been taken by the Government to bring the culprits to book, even though it is mandatory in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act 1952 to table in the State Assembly any report thereof, nor has any Memo of Action been supplied to the State Legislature.

Acarya Krishneswaranada Avadhuta filed an application under Sec 91 of the RTI Act on August 23, 2021, which was received by the State Public Information Officer (SPIO) Government of West Bengal on the 25th. There was no reply, nor was the application rejected. He then filed an appeal on November 11, which the government department received on the 17th. It was replied by the Special Secretary and Appellate Authority vide Order No. 348-\*(RTI)/1A dated 24.12. 2021. Following are the extracts:

"The said petition was received by this department on 17.11.2021. Thereafter the SPIO of this department had submitted a detailed report regarding the matter to the undersigned; vide Memo No. 347-8(RTI)/1A - 90/2021 dated 24.12.2021. After perusal it is seen that the RTI application dated 23.8.2021 of Acarya Krishneswaranada Avadhuta was received by this department on 25.8.2021. Subsequently the RTI matter was sent to the Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal (Home and Hill Affairs Department, Commission of Inquiry held by memo no. 222-H(RTI)/1A-90/2021 dated 01.09.2001 u/s 5(4). 5(5) of RTI Act 2005 for providing necessary information as the required information pertains to the Commission of Inquiry Cell of this department provided information to the SPIO of this department vide memo No. 234-COI/PL/0/44C-13/21 (Pt-1) dated 20.12.2021.

Decision with reason: It appears from the status report of the SPIO of this department that reply to the applicant had already been provided by this department, the status report of the SPIO to the undersigned is in order.

The appeal petition dated 11.11.2021 by Acarya Krishneswaranada Avadhuta is hereby disposed off.

Special Secretary and Appellate Authority Government of West Bengal"

It is a total lie; the one simple answer is that the report is not being made public for some unknown political reasons. What that could be, no one knows other than women a n d men in power. But unfortunately, Justice Amitabh Lala passed away on November 23 2020, and that door is also closed.

Still, we must take vigorous steps to keep this issue alive, and if need be, Courts moved to make the report public as mandated by law and take other measures as deemed reasonable and necessary. In the meantime, justice to our Dadhicis continues to be elusive. It should not continue indefinitely.

Those who have been exploiting directly on the politico-economic or the psycho-economic levels, and indirectly supporting other exploiters, are bound to ultimately lose their popular support, because when the people's eyes are opened, no tricks or stratagems can succeed. At that time, the exploiters cannot move even one step forward without the help of their bureaucracy, and, goaded by this bureaucracy, they continue their activities. They can no longer face the awakened masses; they cannot act independently. Thus in this process, the bureaucracy is gradually transformed into a kind of oligarchy, and this abominable oligarchy oppresses society like a heavy load. This is indeed a ruinous and unendurable position for society. To liberate society from this unbearable situation, consciousness will have to be aroused among the people; their eyes will have to be opened by knowledge.

#### Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar



n response to the war in Ukraine, many people have organised to pray for peace or to meditate for peace. How helpful is meditating or praying for peace? Is this a productive activity for those who want peace in the world? To answer this, we should first understand that there are two types of peace: dynamic peace and static peace.

Static peace occurs where there is a lack of activity and lack of dynamism. Tibet fell into static

peace before the Chinese invasion, and when China tested this way of peace, it failed. Static peace brought death, suffering, and near destruction of Tibetan culture and a breaking of the people's will. The Chinese then enforced "Peace" through decades of brutal repression. The "peace" imposed by the Chinese is neither static peace nor dynamic peace. It is enforced through constant police and military pressure, so it is not peace. It is simply compliance enforced through physical force.

Dynamic peace, by contrast, means that people fight for dharma, fight in a dharmic manner, to maintain peace. For example, a person can "pray for peace," imploring God to intervene and convince the Russians to leave Ukraine. But that is not the way to obtain peace against aggressors. To bring peace to Ukraine, one must fight for it, and that is what the Ukrainians are doing. They are transforming their prayers for peace



into dynamic action. For the Ukrainians, attaining peace requires them to fight for their freedom.

The Ukrainians are presently getting limited aid to help them conduct the war and fight back. In the meantime, the Russians are resorting to simply killing the population until they give up and accept an enforced peace dominated by Russia. The Ukraine people do not need our pacifist prayers; they need the energy and the equipment to fight as warriors. If Western governments were serious about preventing war, they would have put twice as many troops on the EU borders of Ukraine as Russia put on its borders with Ukraine. That would have been an effective deterrence. It would have prevented the mass killing that is going on now.

#### **Our Duty to Become Sadvipras**

On a personal level, Proutists should focus all our intention on becoming Sadvipras at the earliest. In one's spiritual practice, our mantra is "I am the Divine;" in one's worldly practice, our mantra should be, "I am a Sadvipra." Therefore, we should sharpen our focus and bend our will to fulfil that mantra. These actions will bring true peace, a dynamic peace—no more imploring God to bring peace. Instead, there should be passionate efforts to become agents of peace, which means becoming Sadvipras and agents of social transformation.

We have ample motivations—there is war in Ukraine, extinction crisis, climate crisis, rising oceans, loss of safe water for drinking and growing crops, etc. Millions of refugees are already on the move, looking for safe shelter, and the poles have yet to begin to shift. The world is changing whether we act or not.

We must motivate and train ourselves to be the agents of change and ease the new society's birth. Of course, wars will happen, climate crises will happen, and diseases will happen, but someone has to hold a realistic vision of the future — and not only to keep it but to bring it about. If we wait until tomorrow's

#### **Proper Action for Proutists**

What would be done about this situation if there were a Proutist society? In a Proutist world, any attempts at armed aggression would be met with the force provided by the world governing body. But we do not yet have a Proutist society, and we do not have Western leaders with the guts to take bold action. The politicians are too worried about being reelected in corrupt systems



that pander to the capitalists. And who most benefits from this war? It is the arms manufacturers and the so-called defence industries. It is also the energy companies that provide the fuel needed for these instruments of war.

So, if we wish to end this brutal war, we will have to apply what pressure we can on our governments to stop the aggressors. But unfortunately, that may require the Western nations to engage in limited armed conflict now and not wait on the will of the voters to support the actions that the suffering Ukrainians so need.

In an armed conflict, prayers for peace are as impotent as saying to the families of shooting victims, "Our thoughts and prayers are with you," and then going on about our business. If we wish to assist in the subtle realm, rather than praying, we should send warrior energy —the energy of the dancing Shiva, the ferocity of the deity of transformation. These people do not need prayers and songs of peace; they need the power generated by tandava.

So, what can Proutists do in this situation? First, if we wish to prevent such terrible conditions, we must take action to see that Prout is established without delay. It is the solution to this and all potential future wars. We must generate our dynamic fighting energy. And we must organise —not to do street demonstrations but to educate and conduct dynamic camps to create a cadre dedicated to actualizing Prout and the values of neo-humanism as soon as possible.

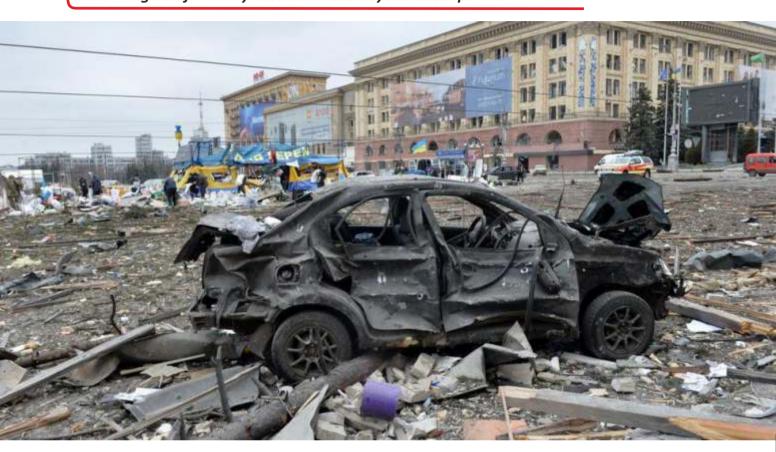
leaders come looking for us, it will be too late to diminish the suffering of change. But, on the other hand, if we make ourselves known now, then when the people become desperate for solutions to the crises they face, it will be easy to find us, for we will have been publicising ourselves all along.

We can do that without being ego centred. There is nothing wrong with saying, "I have the answer, I know the way," so long as we do it inside without ego. If our personality becomes known, what of it? If some put us on a pedestal, so what? Millions put His Holiness the Dalai Lama on a pedestal in their minds, but it does not affect him. He is a humble man who carries the burden of being the symbol of hope and spiritual inspiration for millions. The publicity and the adoration do not change him. Outward shows of humility are of no bearing. Inward

knowledge of one's proper place as a speck in the universe is a place of great power and inspiration to others.

Proutists do not meditate on peace. They meditate on becoming one with the Great, and as part of that path, they surrender to become willing agents of the Great. Shrii Shrii Anandamurti has said, "Do Service to the suffering humanity." He never told me to "pray for peace." He said, "Be Great by your love, your service and your sacrifice." And what do we sacrifice? Is it our material possessions? No, those are useless. We offer that which is the most precious to us; we surrender our ego at the feet of the guru. That is what we sacrifice so we can do maximum service to humanity and so that we can establish dynamic and lasting peace in the world.

As part of that strategy – the Rand Corporation's 2019 plan predicted – "providing lethal aid to Ukraine would exploit Russia's greatest point of external vulnerability". Today, the dangers of military escalation are beyond description.



## Ukraine Manlio Dinucci

## It Was All Written in the Rand Corp Plan

hat is now happening in Ukraine has serious geopolitical implications. It could lead us into a World War III scenario. We must initiate a peace process to prevent escalation. Global Research condemns Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A bilateral peace agreement is required.

The strategic plan of the United States against Russia was elaborated three years ago by the Rand

Corporation (the manifesto, Rand Corp: how to bring down Russia, May 21, 2019). The Rand Corporation, headquartered in Washington, DC, is "a global research organisation developing solutions to policy challenges": it has an army of 1,800 researchers and other specialists recruited from 50 countries, speaking 75 languages, spread across offices and other locations in North America, Europe,

Australia, and the Persian Gulf. Rand's U.S. personnel live and work in more than 25 countries.

The Rand Corporation, which describes itself as a "nonprofit, nonpartisan organisation," is officially funded by the Pentagon, the U.S. Army and Air Force, national security agencies (CIA and others), agencies in other countries, and powerful non-governmental organisations.

The Rand Corp prides itself on having helped devise the strategy that enabled the United States to emerge victorious from the Cold War, forcing the Soviet Union to consume its resources in a grueling military confrontation. This model has inspired the new plan elaborated in 2019: "Overextending and Unbalancing Russia", i.e. forcing the adversary to overextend itself to unbalance and knock it down.

These are the main lines of attack outlined in the Rand plan, on which the United States has moved in recent years.

First of all – the plan establishes – Russia must be attacked on the most vulnerable side, that of its economy strongly dependent on gas and oil exports: for this purpose, powers must use commercial and financial sanctions and, at the same time, Europe must be made to decrease the importation of Russian natural gas, replacing it with US liquefied natural gas.

In the ideological and informational field, it is necessary to encourage internal protests and, at the same time, undermine the image of Russia outside.

In the military field, it is necessary to operate so that European NATO countries increase their forces in an anti-Russian function. The US can have a high



probability of success and high benefits with moderate risks by investing more in strategic bombers and long-range attack missiles directed against Russia. Deploying new intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe aimed at Russia assures them a high probability of success but also carries high risks.

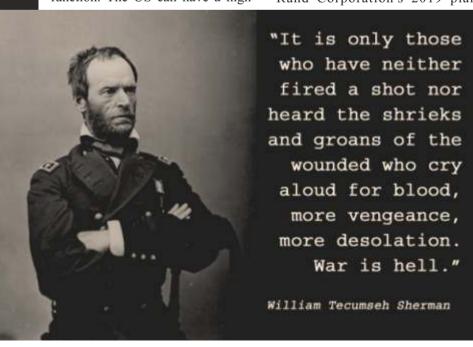
By calibrating each option to obtain the desired effect – Rand concludes – Russia will end up paying the highest price in the confrontation with the US, but the latter and their allies will have to invest large resources to divert them from other purposes.

As part of that strategy – the Rand Corporation's 2019 plan

predicted — "providing lethal aid to Ukraine would exploit Russia's greatest point of external vulnerability, but any increase in U.S.-provided weapons and military advice to Ukraine would have to be carefully calibrated to increase costs to Russia without provoking a much larger conflict in which Russia, because of proximity, would have significant advantages."

At what the Rand Corporation called "Russia's greatest external vulnerability point, it is precisely here," exploitable by arming Ukraine in a manner "calibrated to increase costs to Russia without provoking a much larger conflict" – that the rupture occurred. Caught in the political, economic and military stranglehold that the US and NATO increasingly tightened, ignoring Moscow's repeated warnings and proposals for negotiation, Russia reacted with a military operation that destroyed more than 2,000 military facilities in Ukraine that were built and controlled not by Kyiv's rulers but by US-NATO commands.

The article that reported the Rand Corporation's plan three years ago ended with these words: "The options in the plan are really only variants of the same war strategy, the price of which in terms of sacrifices and risks is paid by all of us". We European people are paying it now, and we will pay it more and more dearly if we continue to be expendable pawns in the US-NATO strategy.



"Come, you masters of war; You that build the big guns; You that build the death planes; You that build all the bombs; You that hide behind walls: You that hide behind desks; I just want you to know; I can see through your masks". Bob Dylan's iconic song, "Masters of War," released in 1963. It is all the more relevant today.

That the U.S./NATOinstigated war in Ukraine could result in a third world war is of major concern for all of humanity, especially workers and oppressed people who ultimately bear the brunt of any war. Yet, for some global billionaires — today's 'masters of war' — this conflict is seen as an opportunity to boost profits further.

Among those already reaping gains are companies involved in producing and selling weapons, planes, and other military hardware. It includes 14 of the world's 20 largest "defense" companies headquartered in the U.S. Topping this list are Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon Technologies, which had combined arms sales in 2019 nearing \$100 billion.

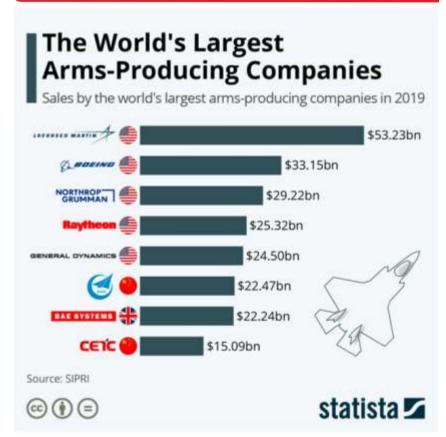
On Feb. 24, the day Russia invaded Ukraine, the stock value of these arms manufacturers soared. Raytheon and Lockheed officials openly told investors the Ukraine conflict was "good for business." In a company "earnings call," issued on Jan. 25, Raytheon CEO Greg Hayes described how they could benefit from the conflict. Similarly, Lockheed CEO James Taiclet told investors the "great power competition [between the U.S. and Russia] over Ukraine bodes more business for the company." (The Wire (India), Feb. 28)

#### Two Lobbyists For Every **Congress Member**

These fortuitous gains for arms manufacturing companies are no coincidence. Their buildup for this NATO/Russia conflict has been decades in the making. The industry currently employs two lobbyists for

## **Lockheed and Raytheon** Today's Betsey Piette

Since the end of the Cold War, weapon manufacturers have been the most aggressive lobbyists for NATO expansion.



every member of Congress.

Since the end of the Cold War, weapon manufacturers have been the most aggressive lobbyists for NATO expansion. Their potentially lucrative market included countries in Eastern Europe and former republics of the Soviet Union, which disbanded in 1991. This, despite a 1990 promise by then-Secretary of

State James Baker to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that if he allowed a reunited Germany to join NATO, the organisation would not move eastward.

In 1997, Lockheed Martin Vice President Bruce L. Jackson headed the U.S. Committee to Expand NATO advocacy organisation. Bell Helicopter, Lockheed Martin and other weapons manufacturers funded Romania's lobbying for its bid to join NATO.

The New York Times covered Jackson's lobbying of the Clinton administration to encourage NATO leaders to vote on expanding the alliance to Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic in July 1997. Clinton's Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright attended one of Jackson's lavish dinners to promote NATO expansion to the senators being wined and dined.In addition, Lockheed Martin gave \$2.3 million to congressional and presidential candidates in the 1996 election. Always on the lookout for more opportunities to advance weapons sales, Jackson later became chairperson of the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq, which promoted the 2003 U.S. invasion during the George W. Bush administration.

In 1999, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were admitted to NATO, despite the U.S. and European Union promises to Russia that this expansion would never happen. Over the next two decades, 14 Central and Eastern European countries joined NATO. In 2021, NATO extended membership to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Ukraine, all located on Russia's eastern border.

#### Arms Industry's Revolving Door

Perhaps reluctant to solely rely on lobbying to influence government officials, the arms industry encouraged former government officials to become industry representatives. Over the past 30 years, nearly 530 members of the Armed Services and the Foreign Relations and Defense Appropriations subcommittees from both congressional houses left the office for jobs as defense company lobbyists. By 2005, 80% of the highest-ranking Army generals retired to take jobs with arms makers.

The revolving door has worked both ways. Before joining the administration, Biden's Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin sat on Raytheon's board. In 2020, one-third



#### More NATO Members = More Industry Profits

According to the Centre for Responsive Politics report released in early 2021, five of the biggest U.S. defense contractors — Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon Technologies and General Dynamics — spent a combined \$60 million lobbying to influence policy in 2020. This sum is in addition to the \$2.5 billion the companies have spent on lobbying since 2000. Moreover, the Centre's website notes that in addition to the significant portion of the Pentagon's \$740 billion going to purchase weapons, U.S. arms manufacturers made \$175 billion in weapon sales to other countries in 2020.

As they joined NATO, new member countries were strongly encouraged to buy weapons from U.S. manufacturers. Unbeknownst to U.S. taxpayers, their money indirectly subsidised the arms industry through a series of Pentagon grants, discount loans and free leases.

As the arms industry predicted, incorporating former Soviet republics and formerly socialist countries in Eastern Europe into NATO drastically increased the potential for armed conflict between the U.S.-led NATO and Russia.

of Biden's Pentagon transition team came from agencies linked to the defense industry. Biden simply followed the practices of his predecessors. linked to the defense industry. Biden simply followed the practices of his predecessors.

Never mind Biden's declaration in a foreign policy speech while campaigning in July 2019 that "it's past time to end the 'forever wars,' which have cost us untold blood and treasure."

David Vine documents the history of endless U.S. conflicts in "The United States of War," published in 2021. He quotes General Mike Holmes' claim that the goal is "not losing. It's staying in the

game and getting a new plan and keeping your objectives." Biden is now talking about prospects for World War III!

The sheer number of casualties from the U.S.-instigated wars over past decades is staggering. In addition, untold millions have been displaced due to conflicts driven by the profitability of war, including 1.5 million Ukrainians forced to flee between 2014 and the start of the current conflict.

Pro-war propaganda is deafening, but it is imperative that a unified global antiwar movement take on this challenge and strongly advocate for humanity. Workers have nothing to lose but their chains.

# Water Scam Tamara Pearson in Poor Countries



ega corporations like Coca-Cola, Pepsi, and Danone make around 494 times what they spend by bottling water in Mexico and selling it back to locals who have no choice but to buy it.

In Mexico and other developing countries and regions, companies take water from aquifers, springs, rivers, and lakes and put it in plastic bottles or turn it into flavoured and sugary drinks, then dump their used and dirty water back into water sources. That, along with other industrial pollution, which is disproportionately disposed of in

rural, indigenous, and poorer communities, means locals cannot drink tap water and end up paying extortionate prices to the European and US corporations.

Mexicans give water bottling corporations US \$ 66 billion a year in exchange for taking Mexico's water. Coca Cola, Pepsi, Danone, Nestle, Bimbo, and other bottling and junk food companies extract over 133 billion litres of water and dump at least 119 billion litres of contaminated water back into water basins and aquifers.

#### Inequality in access to water

Mexico is a dry country, and water is limited. But corporations are

allowed to take as much water as they like, and there is little left over for small rural farmers and domestic consumption. I talked to Nahui, a United Peoples leader who is resisting Danone's water brand, Bonafont's ongoing robbery of their water in Puebla state. For her safety, she asked that just one name be used. We talked in the backyard of a local person's home. Chickens walked around us, and birds chirped loudly in the trees above, but behind us, the forty or so pear trees were totally empty of fruit. Bonafont's water extraction from the Indigenous Nahua region has caused local

wells and water supplies to dry up.

"There is a lot of interest in territories where original peoples live because they are areas where people have habits and customs of looking after life, the rivers, the forests," Nahui says. That, along with discrimination, she argued, makes such regions more attractive to companies. The United Peoples brought together over 20 Nahua communities in the area early last year. They closed down, then took over the local Bonafont bottling plant and converted it into a community centre. But Mexican national and local security forces stood by the corporation and kicked them out of the plant last month.

I also spoke to Adriana Flores, a Transdisciplinary University Center for Sustainability (CENTRUS) researcher in Mexico City. "Coca Cola, Nestle, and some pharmaceuticals have been awarded access to whole aquifers, to millions of cubic meters of water, and that means when there are droughts, they don't care. They'll take the water. There are very unequal terms when

accessing water. Those with the financial means are guaranteed water," she said. Other people, meanwhile, go without; 12 million people in Mexico don't have access to a piped water supply.

#### Stealing water and polluting waterways is very profitable

The global bottled water market is worth US \$ 230.4 billion in 2020, and the top beneficiaries are all US and European companies. Pepsico Aquafina brand tops the list and is followed by Coca-Cola's Dasani and Glaceau Smartwarter, Nestle's Perrier, Danone (headquartered in France), Ozarka, and others.

To gain access to locals' water, these companies use a range of devious methods. In the Nahua region, people in one town recently voted on whether the area would be governed by municipal or Indigenous law. All voting booth workers could be seen with Bonafont bottled water. To the south, in Chiapas, Coca Cola's aggressive marketing includes using Indigenous people's homes as distribution points. The company also fought a legal battle in Oaxaca, as the state had

prohibited the sale of single-use PET bottles, and in Toluca, it runs its biggest plant in the world. But the area faces extremely high water stress, and the 3 billion litres of water that Coca Cola takes only worsens that.

Meanwhile, corporations deliberately locate in poorer countries, so they get away with polluting more. In Guadalajara, where there is a lot of heavy industry, Flores says the water "smells very bad, it tastes like metal ... sometimes it makes my eyes burn." Her team analysed industries near two catchment areas and found that milk processing plants, pharmaceuticals and more were dumping their waste directly into water sources "without any monitoring, no transparency, environmental laws aren't enforced."

The Santiago River, also near an industrial zone, was covered in foam a metre and a half high. Activists and scientists blamed Swiss pharmaceutical Ciba Geigy, now Novartis. Mexico has no requirement for companies to declare what contaminants they are discharging into water supplies or soil, and European companies that are banned from using lethal substances such as benzene or bisphenol in their home countries don't face that obstacle in Mexico.

But countries like Mexico don't have lax environmental enforcement because they care less. Poorer nations have been pressured to accept polluting industries under the guise of "developing" their economies. For example, water exploitation licences increased in Mexico by 319% between 1995 and 2019 – a period that corresponds to the NAFTA agreement, which ultimately opened Mexico up to US and Canadian companies and manufacturing and barred Mexico from using environmental regulations against them.



"Free trade agreements allow companies to basically do whatever they want ... Mexico is a fiscal paradise for them," says Nahui, explaining that Bonafont has been able to steal water from Indigenous communities for decades thanks to "protection from the state."

The US off-shores its pollution. It is also one of the largest exporters of plastic waste, sending its trash to Canada, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, and Thailand. Further, countries like Canada may also then re-export the waste. In addition, poorer countries have fewer financial resources to monitor and punish corporate pollution or treat contaminated water. For example, in Mexico, only 25 to 57% of wastewater is treated, and over half of the treatment plants are not in working order. As a result, 80% of water bodies are contaminated with industrial waste.

Flores says that the number of water monitoring centres in Mexico has halved over the last few years due to budget reductions. The industry does "what it likes" because authorities are more interested in spending

money on pro-business projects such as the so-called Maya Train, she argues. And bottled water companies only take the pressure off governments to improve the water supply. For example, Nestlé started selling Pure Life in Lahore, Pakistan, in 1988. Local experts say that they could go anywhere and get clean tap water for free back then, but nowadays, everyone is drinking bottled water.

## The correlation between countries with highly polluted water and high bottled water consumption:

While the resources that go into bottling water would be better used in treating tap water and preventing pollution, that is never the case. Instead, those countries that most consume bottled water do so because they have to, except for many European countries who have faced strong marketing campaigns that portray bottled water as a healthy lifestyle choice. As a result, top bottled water per capita consumers include Mexico, Thailand, El Salvador, Indonesia, China, Brazil, Romania, Germany, the US, and India. In contrast, the countries with the worst water include India, Germany, Indonesia, Brazil, China,

Thailand, and Mexico.

Safely managed drinking water is still very much a privilege of wealthier countries. Elsewhere, the lack of access to safe tap water only further exacerbates inequality. Poorer regions are more vulnerable to drought or crisis if there is little water availability. Treating illnesses resulting from contaminated water is harder for people in poor areas, and small farmers struggle to survive when water is limited..

"We have a certain amount of water available to us for food, energy, and production, and ... the fact that the water bottling companies have quantities of water guaranteed to them, reduces the amount available to other users, to rural and Indigenous communities," says Flores. Animals are also affected. The environmental damage caused by bottled water is 1400 times that of tap water in terms of species loss.

#### Charities won't solve water inequalities:

Many charities take an individual approach to the water crisis in poorer regions. But the donations they are campaigning for won't halt the abuse perpetrated by corporations. Many charities and NGOs also have strong messaging about the damage caused by plastic bottles. This messaging is accurate and valuable, but it focuses on consumer choices and ignores the role of global power and economic inequalities. Some organisations even talk about "collaborating" with industry, though in reality, companies like Danone do not engage with or listen to the communities they are affecting.

"We've been cut off from the possibility of deciding what happens to the water in the areas we live in. Instead of access to water being a human right, it is expensive and inaccessible," Nahui says.



# From Nationalist Wars to WORLD GOVERNMENT-Part II

Dr. Ravi Pratap Singh



#### (Continued from previous issue)

The inspiration of Cosmic sentiment will depend upon certain objective physical problems which must be solved on a collective humanitarian basis. In the relative objective sphere the following few fundamental problems must be attempted at [tackled] and solved. These are:

- 1) A common philosophy of life
- 2) Same constitutional structure
- 3) Common penal code
- 4) Availability (production, supply, purchasing capacity) of the minimum essentialities of life

Common Philosophy of Life

A common philosophy of life demands a clear conception in the human mind that developing the human personality means evolution in the three spheres physical, metaphysical or mental, and spiritual. Moreover, spirituality provides a human being and humanity with that subtle and tremendous power with which we can compare no other power. Therefore, with spirituality as the base, we should evolve a rational philosophy to deal with the day's physical, psychological, and socio-philosophical problems. The comprehensive rational theory

shall deal with all three spheres – spiritual, mental and physical, the totality of human nature or universal Dharma. Thus, human developmental philosophy is common to humanity in general. It will be ever-progressive and evolutionary. But, of course, objective approaches may vary according to the relative environment of the age.

#### Same Constitutional Structure

A social blending of humanity is in progress and needs a common Constitutional structure to be evolved to cement the

solidarity of human society. A world governance structure is also essential for exercising control in certain spheres; for example, there should be only one world militia. while civil policing will be part of the respective local samaj administering body. Here, Shrii Sarkar feels that world militia and custody of weapons of mass destruction be under the sole control of the world government. It may be a more feasible, safer and desirable option than the high idealism of a demilitarised government and total disarmament.

In this socio-economic setup, people are at full liberty in the spiritual and mental spheres. It is possible because the spiritual and psychic entities for which people can aspire are themselves unlimited, and the extent of possession in this sphere does not hamper the progress of others in their quests.

But the access and availability of necessities in the physical sphere are limited. Hence, unrestricted acquisition of physical wealth can create a vast majority of have-nots and thus hamper their spiritual, mental and physical growth. So, while dealing with the issues of individual liberty in the economic sphere, society shall only regulate privileges in the material sphere. A ceiling on wealth accumulation is a means to ensure equal opportunity for all community members and allround individual and social welfare. But, at the same time, we shall not curtail the creative spirit, universal human values and entrepreneurial energy that will, in any way, hamper human beings' spiritual, mental, physical growth and social welfare.

Thus, the social philosophy of Shrii Sarkar, PROUT, advocates the individual's integrated development of personality and the establishment of world fraternity, inculcating in human psychology a Cosmic sentiment.

#### **Formation of World Government**

Sarkar Sarkar (1990) opines that a World Government is necessary to materialise the concept of universalism. The World Government should be a confederation of all the federated states of the world. These federated states will consist of self-sufficient economic units or zones/samaj formed entirely on socio-economic and geographical considerations.

Economically developed areas tend to exploit economically undeveloped regions. Therefore, Federated states should be composed of autonomous socioeconomic units. Let's take a concrete example in India; despite being a Marathi-speaking area, Vidarbha does not want to remain a part of Maharashtra and become a separate state. Another important example is Azerbaijan. The Persian part of Azerbaijan agitated to merge with the Soviet portion of Azerbaijan to ensure economic development. The different units or zones formed in this way may be redefined and renamed for administrative convenience. Moreover, these units may have certain common factors, which will unite them into federations.

In the initial stage, the World Government will be a law-making body, and the different federations will have executive powers to implement the laws passed by the World Government. In this way, Shrii Sarkar assumes that the route to the world government goes through world law. The federations may or may not fully materialise the rules of the confederation, but they must not go against them. However, the confederation will have some executive power for limited and defined purposes, namely, maintaining intra and inter-federal peace and tranquillity and settling inter-planetary disputes. It will mean the maintenance of a world militia under the control of the

confederation. The federation and the units will also maintain a police force to ensure internal law and order.

The economic units or zones will have Sadvipra Executive Boards. These boards will form one higher board which will be called federated boards. These federated boards will govern the different federations. The collection of these federated boards is called the confederated board or body. This body will look after the confederation as a whole but will not ignore the interests of any federation. (Sarkar, 1992a, pp.8-9)

#### Sadvipra Boards and the Role of Counsellors

Today democracy is the most preferred system of government throughout the world, but democracy is not an ideal system because it is full of loopholes. In the present world, PROUT supports restricted democracy because, in the future, a better government system will evolve. Mahatma Gandhi said, "The rule of the majority has a narrow application, i. e., one should yield to the majority in matters of detail. But it is slavery to be amenable to the majority, no matter what its decisions are. Democracy is not a state in which people act like sheep. Under democracy individual liberty of opinion and action is jealously guarded".

What is that better system of government? According to PROUT, the rule of Sadvipras is the ideal form of leadership. Sadvipra rule cannot be established by blind physical force or idle intellectual extravaganza.

Democracy cannot solve human problems because, in a democracy, one particular class gets the scope to dominate the society while the other classes are deprived of their freedom. To ensures the all-round welfare of the society, the benevolent dictatorship of Sadvipras is an absolute necessity. Sadvipras alone can represent the genuine aspirations of the people. Sarkar proposes here a strong proposition as the Supreme Board of Sadvipras (active moralist counsellors) and other boards of Sadvipras from the world level to the level of administrative units and institutions as statutory, pressure & support groups. What form will the benevolent dictatorship of the Sadvipras take? PROUT supports the centralization of political power and the decentralisation of economic power. But the centralization of political power does not mean centralization in one person or institution. Thus, Sadvipras shall elect and form several boards consisting of persons who are conversant and experienced in the various branches of administration. These boards will include the following:

1) The Supreme Board of Sadvipras: The Supreme Board of Sadvipras shall be an elected body of Sadvipras. It shall be the supreme body for framing policy and supervising the functions of different other boards in society.

2) The Legislative Board of Sadvipras: The Legislative Board

of Sadvipras shall consist of those Sadvipras who are experienced in the work of legislation. It shall frame laws according to the principles of PROUT and the policies laid down by the Supreme Board of Sadvipras.

3) The Executive Board of **Sadvipras**: The Executive Board of Sadvipras shall consist of those Sadvipras who are experienced in the work of administration. It shall be responsible for getting the policies and laws framed by the Legislative Board of Sadvipras materialised. In addition, it shall supervise the work of selecting and nominating the personnel who shall be employed in the bureaucracy. It shall also supervise the work of the various sub-boards established for different branches of the administration.

4) The Judicial Board of Sadvipras: The Judicial Board of Sadvipras shall be elected by Sadvipras and consist of those Sadvipras who are experienced in the judiciary's work. It shall frame the rules and procedures for the appointment of judges and different judiciary personnel.

5) Sub-boards of Sadvipras for various branches of the

administration: Sub-boards of Sadvipras shall be appointed by Sadvipras and shall consist of those Sadvipras who are experts in the respective branch of the administration. The lists of names for the representatives of the subboards shall be prepared by the Executive Board of Sadvipras and forwarded to the Legislative Board of Sadvipras. The Legislative Board of Sadvipras shall recommend the list, after amendments if necessary, to the Supreme Board of Sadvipras. The Supreme Board of Sadvipras shall finally approve this list.

However, if the Supreme Board of Sadvipras does not approve the list, it will send the list back to the Legislative Board of Sadvipras with amendments if necessary. In this case, the Legislative Board of Sadvipras shall either send the list back to the Supreme Board of Sadvipras after accepting the amendments, or send their own opinion again to the Supreme Board of Sadvipras. The Supreme Board of Sadvipras shall be the final authority, so it will make the final decision concerning the appointment of the members of the sub-boards.

#### **Concluding Note**

The World Government is now in dispensable. Strongly committed, truly sincere, coordinated and unified efforts are required. Sarkar exhorts—Moralists of the World Unite.

At last I can mention that the shallow river of nationalism which once led to four hundred years of incessant bloodbath in middle ages of Europe and its fragmentation and has been putting recurring blood signs on every page of history up till now—has dried in the vast desert of hard realities of today. The piecemeal efforts of worldwide organisations limited to few trivial and cosmetic dealings need to be put in consolidated and holistic World Government.

Concluded



"Even now, nearly a year after the worst effects of the pandemic were seen, hundreds of sanitation workers and manual scavengers are permanently employed in digging up human remains for trade."

## **MANUAL SCAVENGERS**

### **Turn to Selling Human Bones Simply to Survive**

Pragya Akhilesh, Anil Balmiki and Dinesh Hela



joint research study by the World Sanitation Workers' Alliance, the South Asian Sanitation Labour Network (SASLN) and the Safai Karmachari Ekta Manch, West Bengal, - has revealed that 178 manual scavengers have been employed as 'bone scavengers' in the graveyards of West Bengal's Birbhum, Siliguri and Cooch Behar districts. They are so desperate that they illegally gather and sell human bones to earn the money they need to feed

themselves and their families.

The bones they collect are sold to traders, who, in turn, sell them to calcium manufacturing factories and small units that produce cosmetics. In some cases, the bone scavengers themselves trade directly with those who require these resources. A study titled Toilet Stories of India was released on March 21, 2022, and shows that West Bengal has the highest number of manual scavengers employed as bone scavengers in the country,

followed by Odisha with 65 and Rajasthan with 61. Moreover, Kolkata has the highest number of sanitation workers employed by illegal bone traders, gathering bones from graveyards for as little as Rs 200 per transaction.

#### Small-scale business models

Most people have not heard of bone scavenging as a kind of livelihood. Still, for many of India's manual scavengers who struggle even to survive, it is an occupation that earns them enough money to live on. Manual scavenging is, in any case, banned work according to the Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (PEMSR) Act, 2013. However, the continued presence of dry latrines (toilets without water supply) in the country means that the need for people to clean these toilets persists.

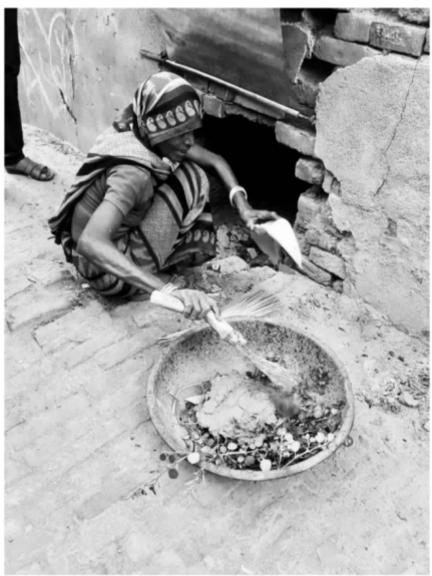
While bone scavenging has existed for the past two decades, there has been a 90% increase in bone scavengers in West Bengal since the coronavirus pandemic broke out two years ago. When the government imposed the nationwide lockdown in March 2020, manual scavengers lost their work and, due to chronic hunger, poverty and the lack of an alternative means of livelihood, had no option but to gather bones from mass cremation sites and pre-dug burial spots to sell to traders.

After the lockdown was lifted and life began to return to normal, many of them continued to scavenge for bones in addition to their everyday work because it earned them more money. The fact that they work after dark and have access to landfills and dumping grounds makes it easy for them to find places to hide the bones they gather and sell them to the traders later.

According to the Toilet Stories of India study, within a year of the continued practice of bone scavenging, bigger bone smugglers developed this illegal bone trading supply chain into "a network of underground and small-scale business models". The formula is simple: the scavengers gather as many bones as possible and sell them to 'masked men' for cash on the spot instead of waiting for a month or longer to be paid for cleaning dry latrines.

There is another trade model: bone scavengers get their supply of bones illegally from hospital sanitation workers who are permanently employed and cannot risk revealing their identities to the bone traders. According to the Toilet Stories of India study, a part of the cash earned by the bone scavengers is then given to the hospital sanitation workers, who are "severely underpaid" according to the Toilet Stories of India study. A third business model for bone scavengers is to sell human tissues and bones to the hospital sanitation workers, who then sell them to medical institutions and students who require them for dissection and research.

The smugglers also employ other sanitation workers from local settlements to pack the bones into sacks and leave them at nearby dumping sites. These sacks have particular markings or are tied with different coloured string so those in the network can identify them easily. They are often kept beneath multiple layers of packs and piles of garbage — which most people avoid — and are then picked up and passed on to the



#### **Desperately seeking livelihoods**

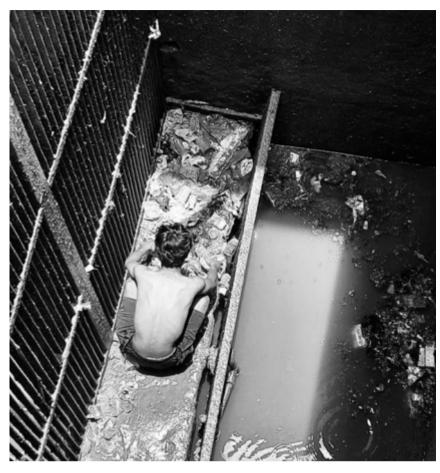
Another reason for the persistence of bone scavenging as an occupation is that many bone smugglers now avoid the traders and actively employ the manual scavengers themselves to do the hard and dangerous work of digging up graves and stealing bones. bone smugglers by sanitation workers who are higher up in the hierarchy, receiving permanent or seasonal employment in return for a small incentive.

Many manual scavengers are also employed illegally in butcher shops to collect leftover flesh and animal carcasses. In addition to cleaning the toilets, they take every scrap of the remains of the carcasses to dumping grounds, where some sell them to waste workers, who then sell them on to animal feed factories or units where the bones are ground up before being made into fertiliser.

The study also pointed out another illegal act; that manual scavengers who have been forced into bonded labour are twice as likely to be made to scavenge for bones than the others. Murshidabad in West Bengal has 13 such manual scavengers - the highest number discovered in this study - all aged below 16. These young bonded labourers live near butcher shops and are forced to do the undignified work of bone scavenging every single day.

#### Caste in stone?

Even before the lockdown, animal bones were much in demand, which is why many manual scavengers have also always been engaged in separating animal flesh from bones. In addition, in the absence of alternative sources of nutrients, many homeless waste workers themselves employ manual scavengers to recover such

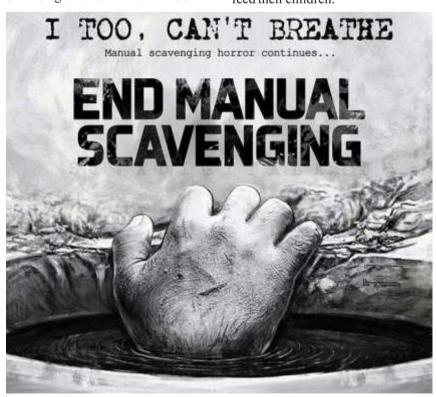


resources as leftover flesh or bones from hotels and household waste to feed their children.

For most manual scavengers, this work is more manageable than entering septic tanks since their chances of losing their lives are relatively lower. However, illegal bone scavenging as an occupation also survives and thrives because the concept of 'scavenging as destiny' is forced upon men and women due to their caste.

Whether it is the collection of excrement, animal carcasses or bones, manual scavenging continues to exist in India. This is why it is important to add 'bone scavengers' to the many categories of manual scavengers that exist beyond the PEMSR Act, which defines the practice of manual scavenging very narrowly.

With no genuine model for the rehabilitation of the manual scavengers of India, this 'newer' occupation of bone scavenging, like the 'traditional' occupation of manual scavenging, will not be eradicated easily.



Courtesy Sivakumar S @sivadigitalart

# The Mother of all Stagflations Could Lie Ahead

"India has to brace for the worst because it is now far more globalised in trade, investment and finance. Today, the US Federal Reserve's actions affect sentiment more than the RBI's".

#### MK Venu

he American economist Nouriel Roubini, who had predicted the US credit bubble in 2007, wrote in The Guardian in July last year: "Today's extremely loose monetary and fiscal policies, when combined with a number of negative supply shocks, could result in 1970s-style stagflation (high inflation alongside a recession). In fact, the risk today is even bigger over whether 1970s-style stagflation lies ahead — a prolonged and debilitating combination of income stagnation with high inflation.

History may not repeat exactly the same way, but its elements can recur. The world economy differs from that of the 1970s, which suffered the oil shock of 1973 caused by the Arab oil embargo against the US and Europe for supporting Israel 1979 and raised interest rates to 20% to put the brakes on galloping double-digit inflation. It led to the famous recession of 1981-82. Today, economists are discussing the choice between doing a Volcker — deliberately slowing the economy by severely tightening the money supply with big interest rate hikes — or letting loose monetary and fiscal policies help growth



than it was then."Roubini said this months before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has deepened the potential food and energy supply shock to the world. Many economists have joined the debate

in the 4th Arab-Israel

On the back of loose fiscal and monetary policies, oil shock inflation pushed the US economy into a deeper morass until Paul Volcker took over the Fed Reserve in rather than attack inflation. Both strategies are risk-laden and can lead to equally severe recession. It is Hobson's choice, really.

Speaking to Bloomberg, Maurice Obstfeld, former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, said, "The more protracted this period of continuing shocks, the more likely it becomes that economies suffer something like the 1970s experience."

Some economists point to important differences during the 1970s, which were marked by double-digit inflation, high unemployment and stagnant growth. In the 1970s, the global economy was far more energyintensive and more dependent on fossil fuels. The energy intensity of GDP is much less today. The world economy, on average, sources 13-15% of energy from renewables. To that extent, we are less vulnerable to energy price shock. The US was dependent on imported oil for 30% of its requirements in the 1970s, but today it is nearly self-sufficient. Europe is far more vulnerable today than the US — no wonder Germany is resisting bans on gas imports from Russia.

The 1970s oil shock pushed the world toward renewables and fuelefficient cars, and the dominance of Japanese automobiles followed. The current crises may further boost renewable energy and promote electric vehicles.

The developed world is yet to hit double-digit consumer price inflation consistently. Still, post-



Scene from the 1970s fiscal crisis

Ukraine disruption in food supply can quickly push them and emerging economies to sustained double-digit inflation. Moreover, the full extent of rising energy prices is yet to be transmitted to the broader economy. India could be vulnerable in energy and food, given its political economy compulsions and commitment to supply free food to large populations post-Covid. Worse, this is being funded by oil taxes, which may become untenable if global oil prices remain at present levels.

Roubini had warned that a negative factor that did not exist in

the 1970s is now everywhere — the bloated national debt. Then, the average national debt was less than 50% of GDP across developed and most large developing economies. Today, it is 100% of GDP in Western economies and inching towards that in emerging economies like India.

"We are thus left with the worst of both the stagflationary 1970s and the 2007-10 period. Debt ratios are much higher than in the 1970s, and a mix of loose economic policies and negative supply shocks threatens to fuel inflation rather than deflation, setting the stage for the mother of stagflationary debt crises over the next few years," Roubini says.

Emerging markets like India are far more globalised today than in the 1970s. India acutely suffered from the oil shock, which caused inflation and became a big challenge for Indira Gandhi by 1974, with widespread social unrest.

India has to brace for the worst because it is now far more globalised in trade, investment and finance. Today, the US Federal Reserve's actions affect sentiment more than the RBI's. As a former Fed Reserve chief famously told emerging economy central bankers, "The dollar is our currency. but it is equally your problem". India is far more integrated with global finance than in the 1970s. This alone heightens risk.



"In 15-20 years, India will become an ageing society. GDP growth will slow, and millions will need old-age pensions. Is the country prepared for this?"



# SOCIAL SECURITY

## FOR ALL OF INDIA'S INFORMAL WORKERS IS POSSIBLE

#### Santosh Mehrotra & Jajati Keshari Parida

ndia's Social Security Code 2020, which merges eight existing laws, will not do enough to ensure a safety net for informal workers. As much as 91% of India's workforce of 475 million is informal and therefore lacks social insurance. It includes everything from old-age pension and disability insurance to maternity benefits.

The latest government effort on the social security front is India's Social Security Code 2020 (SS Code), which merges eight existing laws. However, we find the SS Code wanting and hence spell out the principles and design that, going forward, should guide government efforts to ensure social insurance for informal workers.

In 15-20 years, India will become an ageing society. Its demographic dividend will be over; GDP growth will slow, and millions will need old-age pensions. Is the country prepared for this?

## Issues with the Social Security Code

The SS Code 2020 amalgamated eight existing social security legislations, most of which dealt only

with formal enterprises, not informal ones; that bias still exists in SS Code 2020. First, merging many Acts does not amount to an advance upon the eight pre-existing Acts. The objective of a single Code cannot be merely to consolidate Acts that, in 7 out of 8 cases, belong to the 20th century. Second, a social security system cannot be dependent upon the size of the enterprise, defined by the number of workers. However, the Code relies upon a system of thresholds defined by the number of workers employed in an establishment [e.g. ten workers for Employee State Insurance

Corporation (ESIC), twenty for Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)].

Third, a principle that any country needs to recognise is that there should be a vision and goal to universalise social insurance within a defined time frame. The SS Code 2020 passed by India's parliament does not. Fourth, all establishments should be registered on a mandatory basis, and workers working for them should also be registered by the same enterprise. There is no such provision in the SS Code 2020.

Fifth, any social insurance currently available to informal workers is voluntary (Atal Pension Yojana, Shramjivi Maandhan). SS Code (2020) should have made social security mandatory, and within ten years, all unorganised workers in whatever sector could be covered. It did not.

#### The design and architecture

India can provide social security to its informal workers. The plan is fiscally and administratively feasible. Many informal workers fall below India's national poverty line – they constituted 22% of the country's population in 2012-12, the last year for which official poverty estimates are available. Globally, there are three ways to fund a national social insurance system:

- Contributions by employer and employee.
- Non-contributory by either, where premium costs are met from government tax revenues.
- A combination of the two methods.

Given the high differentiation among different groups of informal workers in India, there is a case for three categories of beneficiaries. One non-contributory for the poorest (where government meets the cost from taxes). Two, partial contribution by the non-poor regular (but informal) wage workers and the non-poor self-employed, complemented by government subsidies towards their contribution (as found in many Asian countries), while employers make the full contribution. And three, full employer and employee contribution under the EPFO system for the formal workers.

The first two should be part of the same system to eliminate fragmentation since they are unorganised informal workers. The third category consists of government and private formal workers in organised enterprises.

#### The cost and financing

We estimate that the total cost of covering the poor, 20% of the population, comes to Rs 137,737 billion (or Rs 1.37 trillion to cover all the poor elderly, the pregnant and the costs of death/disability) 2019-20. It would cover only the bottom two deciles of the worker population, i.e. the designated poor (based on the Socio-Economic and Caste Census). One could compare this amount with the Union government's annual total expenditure under all heads of approximately Rs 34 trillion in 2019-20. In other words, the total cost of social insurance for poor informal workers, we estimate, is 0.69% of GDP in 2019-20 (i.e. at 2019-20 prices); since it will be shared equally between central and state governments (on a 50-50 basis), the cost to all state governments together will barely be 0.35% of GDP annually; similarly for the Union government it will be around 0.35% of GDP.

The cost will decline each year as a share of GDP to 0.61% of GDP in the fifth year after assuring benefits to the existing stock of all types of beneficiaries in the first year itself who are currently uncovered.

#### **Current spending on social** security and welfare

We have estimates on what the Union and state governments are currently spending annually from the consolidated fund of India. In 2019-20, according to the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) Annual Report, the total expenditure on social insurance is approximately Rs 19,000 crore. However, Rs 18,000 crore of this is on organised sector social insurance

(Rs 5,097 crore on the EPFO Employees Pension Scheme, Rs 12000 crore on ESIC). The remaining schemes absorb minuscule amounts of funds (Rs 155 crore and Rs 300 crore in 2019-20) for two unorganised worker schemes.

However, state governments of India spend much more on social security: Rs 146,629 crore. Annually. These are expenditures for all states of India on a head called 'Social security and welfare'. However, to clarify, these are all citizen-centric schemes, and are not intended to provide comprehensive coverage to informal workers which is our intention. What is clear, though, is that the state governments are already spending a significant sum, which in our view, should be redirected to cover all informal workers. Citizens, meanwhile, who are not workers could still be captured in social assistance schemes.

#### **Administratively** and fiscally feasible

This schema outlined above cannot be implemented without all informal workers being registered. A beginning has been made with the E-Shram Portal (of MOLE), where 212 million workers have been registered by January 2022. However, this is very short of all informal workers. We have elsewhere shown how the rest can be registered (including own-account workers and farmers). Nevertheless, given the political will, this is administratively feasible.

The cost is fiscally feasible since covering the poorest will require only 0.69% or less GDP per year over the next five years. However, covering the non-poor through a contributory (for employers of regular workers that constitute a quarter of all Indian workers) and subsidised for employees, the scheme would require additional fiscal costs that can be met by growing tax revenues from a growing GDP once India is on a growth path again – five years down the road.

n December 4 last year, 36year-old Antim Sitole, an Ambedkarite activist in Barwaha Tehsil in the Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh, received a call from Suhas\* from neighbouring Semalkhut village. Suhas pleaded that Sitole somehow rescues him and 26 others including women and young children - from a farm in Belagavi, over 930 kilometres away in Karnataka. Suhas said they were held hostage on a sugarcane farm with no money and very little food. "You come right away, or we will soon die," Suhas had told Sitole.

In October last year, soon after, Dussehra, a contractor from the Inchal region in Bailhongal taluk of Belagavi, visited Semalkhut and promised great pay and living conditions to villagers to work on a farm. Around 16 adults agreed to travel to Belagavi with him; they took 11 children. A part amount was paid as "advance", and every adult individual was to be paid Rs 400 for eight hours of work per day, along with three square meals and a proper house to live in. Children were only to live along. "This sounded like a much better arrangement than any place we had worked before in Gujarat or Maharashtra," Suhas told

# BONDED EATEN

### RAPED TALK OF POLICE INACTION

Sukhanya Shantha



"Last year, a contractor from Karnataka had promised great pay and living conditions to villagers to work on a farm, but they were pushed to live in squalor instead."

Instead, Suhas says, the families, including children as young as 12 and 13, were forced to toil on the farm for 16-19 hours, paid Rs 400 once a week per family for ration and pushed to live in squalor. They were beaten up, their phones confiscated and kept under surveillance 24\*7, Suhas claims. At least three women, including Suhas's wife and two young girls barely in their teens, were allegedly raped repeatedly by the contractor and two of his associates right on the farmland they worked.

On receiving Suhas's call, Sitole, a paraplegic man who uses a wheelchair, travelled to Belagavi on



December 8. He took two of his teenage sons and a nephew to help him on the journey. In addition, his wife pawned her jewellery to help him raise money for the trip. Before leaving, Sitole had contacted the local administration. "But they were taking too long to respond to my request. So, I just dropped a letter and headed straight to Belagavi," Sitole says.

It took over a day for Sitole to get to Bailhongal. Meanwhile, the contractors had found out about the calls made and had confiscated Suhas's phone. They were also swiftly moved to a new location. At Bailhongal, Sitole says, the police again took an entire day to send a team to the spot. "I knew if I had returned, the victims would not have been rescued. So, I spent the night outside the police station with my children," Sitole told The Wire.

On December 9, the police visited the location and found all victims toiling on private farmland. "They unanimously told the police that they had been ill-treated. But the police did not register any complaint," Sitole says. He further adds that even in the police's presence, the contractor and his men had intimidated the workers. "I was taken to an undisclosed place and threatened with dire consequences," Sitole claimed.

Belagavi police limited its intervention to only letting the families return to their hometown. As a result, no first information report (FIR) was registered. "All rescued persons, including young children, narrated their stories before the police. But they (the police) made it appear that this is a common thing to happen to anyone working as a labourer and that we should only be happy to return home alive," Suhas says.

A day later, on returning to Semalkhut, Sitole had taken all the victims to Chainpur police station. The police, however, refused to take their complaint immediately. "With great difficulty we could convince women and children (who were allegedly sexually assaulted) to travel from Karnataka back home without washing up. We were hoping that their medical examination would be immediately

done and the evidence would be recorded. But the police did not budge," Sitole says. An FIR was finally registered on January 6 only after Jagriti Adivasi Dalit Sanghathan (JADS), a Madhya Pradesh-based tribal and Dalit rights group, intervened.

The FIR mentions only the names of the contractors - Sunil Dharade, Govinda and Ganesh. The farm owner isn't named. And more importantly, the sugar cooperatives – invariably owned by the powerful businessmen and politicians - for whom the contractors actually work are nowhere on the scene.

The FIR, the survivors say, has only added to their trauma. The girls and women survivors The Wire spoke to said that the police have called them to the police station many times and questioned them as if they were the violators here. "We have been made to relive our trauma time and again by the police," Suhas's wife shared.

After multiple rounds of recording of statements, the police, a fortnight ago, produced the women and child victims of the





repeated sexual assaults before a magistrate to record their statements under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Wire contacted Nirmal Kumar Shrivas, the police in charge, to find out the latest update in the investigation. He claimed that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, his team has not been able to go to Belagavi to arrest the accused person. When reminded that the accusations are serious, Shrivas said, "We can't help. We are not allowed to travel outside the state because of the pandemic. Also, we are still trying to verify all the claims made by the complainants."

The FIR has missed out on sections of the two crucial Acts – the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act (BLSAA). Shrivas said, "We have not found anything substantial to support this claim. Once we are convinced, we would enhance the sections."

#### Multiple cases of bonded labour

Shrivas's response is typical. No state wants to acknowledge the rampant bonded labourers' rampant practice, points out Madhuri of JADS. Both the Belagavi administration and Khargone have

tried to wash their hands of any responsibility as prescribed under the Act. And the Adivasi migrants of Semalkhut were not the only ones to have been exploited in Belagavi. In helping them legally, JADS came across multiple cases of bonded labour in western parts of Maharashtra and north Karnataka. After the Semalkhut incident, another 57 persons were rescued from Belagavi. After much pushback and denial of accusations, the labourers managed to reach their village in the Barwani district last week.

Lakhan Bhanwar, a labour inspector in Barwani district who recorded statements of the 57 rescued labourers, said that they testified of having been ill-treated and held hostage without being paid adequate remuneration. "They were made to work for close to 15 hours on a daily basis," Bhanwar said, and "paid barely any money". But when the labourers were rescued in Belagavi, the district administration did not issue certificates declaring them as rescued bonded labourers. This, Bhanwar says, nullifies all his work. "The district administration of the place where the labourers are rescued ought to issue a certificate so that the labourers can avail the state's welfare scheme for rehabilitation and employment. But in almost all cases, these certificates are denied," he points out. Bhanwar says the district administration is more focused on proving they are free of bonded labour practice than rehabilitating the affected ones. Upon completing his examination last week, Bhanwar wrote to the Belagavi administration seeking their response and the initiation of the process under the BLSA Act. He is yet to get an answer. It is also important to note that certain exploitation is acknowledged as "bonded labour work" in one district and the neighbouring district of Khargone; the administration is busy denying it.

Meanwhile, JADS and other rights organisations in Maharashtra and Karnataka are coordinating to rescue another 250 labourers stuck at various places. In Maharashtra, the workers are rescued in Kolhapur, Pune and Satara. Among the victims of Satara, one woman has complained of repeated sexual assault by the contractors and the farm owners. In Karnataka, rescue work is underway in Belagavi and Bagalkot. In Belagavi, some 26 persons - including very young children - are currently being sheltered by an NGO Spandana until the district administration takes over. "Along with the adults, at least nine children were working here as child labourers," confirmed V. Susheela, the founder of Spandana. Susheela, along with JADS and other NGOs in Maharashtra, has been busy negotiating with the district administration, pursuing them to file a criminal complaint. taking care of the rescued labourers, and arranging for their transport back home.

#### **Lack of action**

Last week, Shivrajsingh Verma, the Barwani district collector, sent out two letters to Kolhapur and Bagalkot district administrations to intervene in the matter. In the letters, he urged the administration to rescue the labourers in captivity and initiate appropriate criminal action under the BLSS Act. However, Verma says he has not heard from the collector's office yet. Verma, unlike Bhanwar, says the situation in which the labourers were found doesn't necessarily fit in the "strict definition" of bonded labourers. "They are exploited, yes. They have been bullied and made to work in inhuman conditions, yes. But it is difficult to call this situation of bonded labour strictly," he claims.

Madhuri disagrees. The modus operandi, she says, is the same across the peninsular region of India. "An advance payment is made, which serves to act as a "bonded debt". And as defined

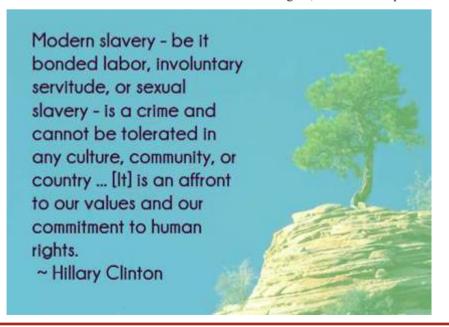


under section 2 (g) of the Act, the labourer hence enters into a system of "forced or partly forced labour, and as a debtor, is presumed to render labour either without wages or for nominal wages, forfeit the right to move freely among other prohibitions," Madhuri explained.

Most sugarcane factories across India's western region are owned and run by big businessmen and influential politicians. They hire several thekedars or Contractors to get labourers to work on the sugarcane farm. For instance, the gangs from Belagavi worked for Nirani sugars, whose chairperson

and managing director is Vijay Nirani, son of BJP leader and Karnataka mines and geology minister Murugesh Nirani. In an interview with The Hindu newspaper, Vijay has claimed that he was unaware of the incident. He further added that the contractors had been blacklisted.

Nitin, who works with JADS. explains the violation is multipronged. "They are bonded labourers, who are denied minimum work wage, made to work in inhuman conditions, battered and exploited. Each of these criminal acts are covered under separate legislations, but seldom get applied," he pointed out. Nitin feels unless the factory owners are held responsible, this vicious cycle is difficult to break. As migrants from another state, he reminds us, the labourers are protected under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act. The Act requires proper licensing of contractors, registration of workers in both states, payment of minimum wages and workers to be provided with basic amenities and a passbook recording of work and wages. "You see them all being flouted at every stage. And this happens only because the district and state administration doesn't regulate the sector," he says.





Virginie Pérotin, Professor of Economics at Leeds University Business School, examined two decades' worth of international data on worker-owned co-operatives. which are businesses that are owned and run by the employees themselves.

The findings, published by Cooperatives UK, the network for Britain's thousands of co-operatives. found that in Europe, the US and Latin America, worker cooperatives are larger on average than other businesses.

It also identified significant benefits that make the co-operative option appealing to people. These include:

It also identified significant benefits that make the co-operative option appealing to people. These include:

Involvement - because worker cooperatives are owned and run by employees, they have far more say in the business, from day-to-day concerns through to major strategic issues. "A job in a worker cooperative probably is particularly valuable, since it is a job in which the employee has a say in decisions that affect employment risks," the report

**Productivity -** because the employees are the owners with a stake in the future of the business, worker cooperatives are more productive than conventional businesses, with staff working harder and the organisation harnessing their skills more effectively. The study finds that "in several industries, conventional firms would produce more with their current levels of employment and capital if they adopted the employee-owned firms' way of organising production."

**Job security -** because the employees themselves are in control, when there is a downturn in the economy or the market, worker co-operatives have consistently decided to drop wages rather than lose jobs. When business picks up, they are ready to

## THE BENEFITS OF Sohail Inayatullah **WORKER CO-OPERATIVES**



respond and can make up for lost pay because the employees get a share of the profit.

Diversity - because worker ownership is a way of organising a business that creates involvement, relative job security and higher productivity, the approach works across industries, from traditional manufacturing to the creative and high-tech industries.

Commenting on the report, Professor Pérotin said: "What the data on different models of business shows is that worker-owned businesses often out-perform conventional firms, and the reason is that the people who work in them control the business and want it to continue to provide good and meaningful employment.

"The boost to productivity, for example, stems from the workers having a say in decisions and owning the business, so they work harder and make better-informed decisions...

"Employee-owned businesses

provide good quality, stable employment, which is likely to have beneficial effects on local communities."

Retailer John Lewis, social care organisations like Leading Lives, and wholefood suppliers like Suma are the most cited examples of worker co-ops. But worker co-ops are found in nearly every part of the economy, from creative types starting a design agency to music teachers clubbing together to ensure a steady workstream.

Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-operatives UK, added: "What this research confirms is that starting a worker co-operative offers an appealing option that gives the people working there ownership, involvement and a degree of job security in what are often high performing and productive businesses."

Courtesy

http://www.uk.coop/resources/ what-do-we-really-know-aboutworker-co-operatives

## DROUGHT AND DEFORESTATION

## How Madagascar's Children are Paying the Price

outhern Madagascar has been hammered by two years of drought, leaving 1.5 million people – half the region's population – facing extreme hunger. Children are particularly at risk. According to UNICEF, an estimated 500,000 children under the age of five are suffering acute malnutrition, and

110,000 of them are severely

Even as the giant Indian Ocean island enters its cyclone season and is lashed by a series of tropical storms, the droughts – which scientists say should be mainly attributed to natural variability, not climate change – will have a long term impact on lives and livelihoods.

#### 'People are forgotten'

malnourished.

Nurse Ralaininina Roselein Danny has been trying to help as many of the most vulnerable children as he can. He gave up his old job as a former tour guide to work in the paediatric unit in a clinic in Ambovombe, in Madagascar's Androy region. Danny is constantly on the move. He weighs and measures the frail-looking children that worried mothers bring to the clinic, dispenses high-calorie food supplements, and sticks drips into emaciated arms in the more extreme cases. "When I saw the dire situation here, I decided to leave my job and help out," he told The New Humanitarian. "I love these children as my own."

The back-to-back droughts, the worst in living memory, scorched and shrivelled the crops each time people planted, wearing away their ability to cope with each harvest failure. "Some infants coming here don't know how to eat. They lack the

Jacob Zocherman



reflexes and have to be taught," said Higor Rodrigues Machado, a doctor at the Ambovombe clinic.

Sambetoroe Jaqueline is the mother of newborn twins, Nondelimana and Mondelisoa. She brought them to the clinic a month ago because she was malnourished herself; she did not have enough milk to breastfeed.

When the infants were first admitted, Danny said he had "feared for their lives", but they have improved and are out of danger. Yet Jaqueline worries it's only a reprieve: She'll face the same harsh conditions as before when she gets home.

#### The 'red wind'

Drought and hunger are nothing new to the people of southern Madagascar. The word for the famine is 'kere' in Malagasy, and historically there have been many episodes. Unpredictable rainy seasons have been a problem for as long as the elderly in the Androy area can remember.

But it's not just the droughts that are driving food insecurity. As a result of widespread deforestation, poor rains have combined with desertification to create an additional threat known as 'tio mena' or red wind. These sandstorms whip up and bury crops in the fields.

When that happens, the poorest – those who have sold their assets and can't afford commercial food – only have wild cacti and white clay mixed with tamarind to sustain them.

#### 'The rain is very rare here'

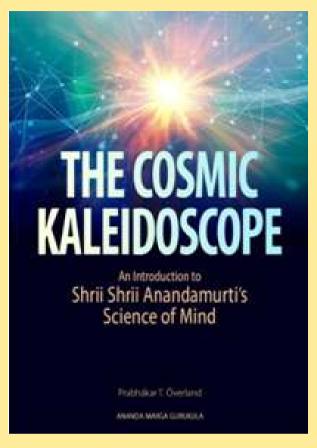
Adapting to Madagascar's worsening farming conditions requires irrigation, drought-resistant seeds, and barricades of trees and bushes to bind the soil and keep the sand at bay. But in the south of the country, most villages like Jaqueline's have neither a well nor direct access to water. Aid agencies have set up programmes to introduce sustainable, so-called climate-smart agriculture, but so far been introduced only in a small part of Le Grand Sud.

"When a child dies in front of your eyes, it hurts," said Danny – who continues to dedicate his life to save as many children as he can.

### **BOOK REVIEW**

he Cosmic Kaleidoscope, An Introduction to Shrii Shrii Anandamurti's Science of Mind, by Prabhakar T. Overland. Published by Ananda Marga Gurukula.

The Cosmic Kaleidoscope tells the story of how an immense imaginative force has arranged perfectly for our coming into the world. Its abiding support ensures that we may complete our long evolutionary journey, realise our individual and collective potentialities, and quench our thirst for limitlessness. The book details how two particular sets of circumstances frame our life experiences. The created beings live by a microcosmic framework, whereas the great creation, our common home, constitutes a far bigger and more comprehensive structure called the Macrocosm. Both Macrocosmic and microcosmic evolution move in incremental steps, each step slightly different from the preceding. Hence, both frameworks are kaleidoscopic. The book explains the constituents, similarities, and corresponding points of those two kaleidoscopes in detail. In this way, the reader is able to explore Shrii Shrii Ánandamúrtijii's science of mind and the means to realise it.



From the introduction to the book:

"Imagine you are watching patterns falling into each other inside a toy kaleidoscope. After some time, you lower the tube and look around. Now you are experiencing the natural world of sound, touch, form, and colour, smell and taste. This is a greater and more immersive world than the one inside the tube, is it not? Here is some news for you. Even that greater world outside of your little toy, filled by the wonders of nature, is kaleidoscopic. Everything of the creation reproduces itself; sprouts, and grows out of something that is already in existence. A bough of a tree starts to grow and branches off, plants propagate by seed dispersal, animals carefully pass on their genes, one generation of humans turning into the next. The basic rule of evolution is kaleidoscopic: one thing leading to the other in successive resemblance but never the same.

"The kaleidoscopic reality is equally apparent in our mental realities. Both our outer and the inner actions grow out of what we already have experienced and done. Trains of thoughts, memories, and feelings merge into each other and express themselves in our outer and inner existence. Societies, cultures, and history evolve in the same fashion. This truth is universal; we feel we know the people, places and times we live in because they replicate themselves in recognisable ways. Yet, this is the interesting thing about our existential kaleidoscope: nothing is ever quite the same, and in the long run everything changes a lot. If you would have the opportunity to meet your forefathers of, say, a hundred generations ago you would probably think that they and their children had a lot in common, whereas our ways of living, interests, ideas, etc. are very different from theirs. This fact provokes our curiosity about the likely developments of future generations as well ..."

 $The book is available in paperback (340 \, pages) \, and in various \, e-book \, formats. \, Please \, contact: \, se. gurukul.edu/the-cosmic-kaleidoscope-book$ 

Or the.cosmic.kaleidoscope.book@gmail.com

## Wage War Against Internal Enemies



Hatred, doubt, fear, shyness, dissemblance, vanity of lineage, cultural superiority complex and egotism - these are the eight fetters. These are the eight external bondages or imposed bondages. One must fight against these imposed bondages; one must wage war against these bondages. And then there are the six ripu. Ripu means "internal enemies" – not imposed samskáras, imposed bondage, but inborn bondage.

So one should wage war against these eight external bondages and six internal bondages. This fight is with the left hand and with the right hand; what is one to do? One is to serve the entire universe without any restriction of caste, creed or nationality, and with the sentiment of, with the feeling of, with the knowledge of, Neohumanism: "The universe is mine; all living beings are mine. I am to serve them, I am to help them. If I don't serve them, if I don't help them, who else is to help them?" If, in this way, you are fighting those inner and outer bondages with one hand and serving the universe with the other hand, what will happen? Your existence will be blissful in each and every field of your movement. So one's very existence will be joyful, and one's very existence will be blissful.

Human existence is a psychic flow, and to attain proximity with Parama Purusa, to become one with the Cognitive Principle, is the goal of human life, is the desideratum of all human existential flows. We should remember this, and our movement should always be with never-ending acceleration. We are to move on, and our only march, our only desideratum, is that Supreme Cognitive Principle. And there cannot be more than one desideratum for human existence.



## ACTIVITY

## We Must Get Vidarbha State: Madhukar Nistane



New Delhi: Hundred strong Proutists from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra staged a day long dharna on 06.04.2022 at Jantar Mantar here. They were led by Madhukar Nistane, PBI Organiser of the Vidarbha region and their presence vibrated the whole atmosphere with resounding slogans of "We want Vidarbha State without delay".

A delegation of Vidarbha Proutists under the leadership of Madhukar Nistane went to Prime Minister's office and submitted the memorandum there addressed to the Prime Minister.

The memorandum included their demands for separate Vidarbha State as well as allotment of land to the landless who were living on the government land for generations. Any effort to evict them is an act of gross injustice. These landless people have transformed the barren land into fertile, arable and productive farming.

The Maharashtra Government, revenue and forest departments have together framed laws to regularise





encroachment on government land from April 1, 1978 to April 14, 1990. Simultaneously Indian government tribal welfare department circular, New Delhi (Forest Rights Act 2006) Gazette of India, Part 2, Section-3, Subsection ID 1st January 2008 with amendments from September 6, 2012 under schedule Maharashtra revenue Forest Department, land's ownership was being conceded to scheduled castes, tribals and other traditional forest inhabitants. But repressive conditions are also at the same time applicable to them, e.g. 1 Certified copy of scheduled tribes, 2. Proof of residence of three generations of traditional inhabitants on forest land, 3. Proof of land possession as on December 31 2007; 4. Barring scheduled tribes and traditional forest dwellers, unjust actions on other encroachers belonging to other castes and religions.

How is it possible to give proof and evidence of their residence on the said land now? None have ever asked before for such documents although encroachers were tilling the land till 13 December 2005.

Government should consider sympathetically the dilemmas, woes of residents who were living there for centuries, one generation after another.

Regarding the demand of separate Vidarbha state, it has to be emphasized that although rich in minerals and metals, yet due to highhandedness of leaders of West Maharashtra, Vidarbha within Maharshtra State can not get economic justice and social security.





## ACTIVITY

## Momentous Sit-ins by Vidarbh Activists at Jantar Mantar





New Delhi: Jantar Mantar here witnessed a momentous sit-ins by agitationists demanding creation of separate Vidarbha state from the state of Maharashtra. About 1000 persons had come to Delhi under the banner of Vidarbha Rajya Samiti from Maharashtra to voice their demand for the Vidarbha state and succeeded in drawing the attention of the central government to their long standing demand of creation of this separate state.

At Jantar Mantar, several prominent leaders of the movement addressed the agitationists and gave clarion calls to rise to the occasion and intensify the agitation because central government is totally apathetic to their grievances. The noted speakers included, Adv.

Vaman Rao Chatap (head of this movement), Prakash Pohare, Avinash Kakde, Smt. Ranjana Mamarde, Mukesh Mamarde and Prabhakar Kondabatunwar. The national convener of Proutist Bloc India, Acharya Santosananda



## **ACTIVIT**

Avadhuta, also addressed the audience He emphasised the fact that without the creation of Vidarbha state, it is not possible to resolve the socio-economic-political crises of the Vidarbha region which is spanned over eleven districts of Maharashtra state. He also said that every year 11000 farmers are committing suicides due to their poverty and unemployment. This can not be stopped without Vidarbha as a separate state in existence. He stressed the point that Vidarbha can not get fair treatment from the West Maharashtra lobby due to latter's dominant presence in Maharashtra politics.

Former MLA and leader of the movement Chatapji traced the history of Vidarbha movement to past hundred seventeen years. During the period of past 12 years 35000 farmers have committed suicide because of destruction of the crops as well as due to their inability to repay the loans borrowed for growing the crops.

The Congress party had passed resolutions in favour of a separate Vidarbha state in its national conventions in 1891,1899,1901,1905,1920,1927 and 1940. Congress government at the centre then had constituted Dar Commission in 1948, and Sangama Committee in 1987, and Fazal Ali Commission in 1953 to explore the possibilities of the formation of Vidarbha state. All these committees had recommended creation of a separate Vidarbha state which in all probability would be affluent, prosperous and all round strong.

In 1997, BJP had also passed a resolution in its Bhubaneswar national convention for the same objective of formation of a separate Vidarbha state. In 2014, the BJP national president Nitin Gadkari had declared that once the BJP forms its government in the centre, it will not waste time in making Vidarbha a separate state. But this goal of separate Vidarbha state remains a dream even now. None of the resolutions have ever been implemented. Needless to say, no one feels concerned for Vidarbha.

It bears repetition that there are strong and genuine grounds in favour of Vidarbha state, and the demand should be conceded without delay. The sufferings and deprivation of the masses there should not be allowed to exist due to the exploitative forces active there.

Advocate B. R. Chatap ji submitted a charter of demands in order to establish separate Vidarbha State to the Central Home Minister.











Solar LED Home Lightings | Solar LED Lasterns | LED Bulbs | LED Torches

And slite is dedicated to brighten up your lives. For years, we've been creating effective ways to harness solar energy to provide you cost-effective electricity. Another effort in this course are Andslite provide quality and economical products.

UNIQUE FEATURES:

• Energy efficient lighting products - Strong ABS body & PC glass - High power focused torch lights for long distance coverage Long backup rechargeable Study lights Solar lanterns and emergency lights for lighting homes & offices, etc. More than 50 LED lighting products with 1 year warranty\*



#### Manufacturers of :

LED Solar Home Lights and Lanterns . LED Study Lights

LED Torch Lights & Head Lights & LED AC Bulbs & USB Laptop Light & Solar Modules (3 Wp to 300 Wp)

Ar A. Transitor

### AN ISO 9001-2008 CERTIFIED COMPANY

Registered Office: 103, 2nd Floor, FIE, Patpargan, Industrial Area, Delhi -110092, INDIA | Tel. +91-11-22156913 | Fax: +91-11-42141253

Manufacturing Unit: Plot No. 1D - 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, Sector-7, IIE,

SIDCUL, Haridwar - 249403 (UK), INDIA

Tel::+91-1334-239231, +91-9997739011 | Fax:+91-1334-239823

www.andslite.com | andslite.led@gmail.com | Call: 1800 11 6913 (Toll Free)





ike Us on Facebook; acebook.com/AndsitePvtical



## **SUPREME IMPEX**

Supreme Impex a well known Govt. recognized Star Export House in the apparel exports Industries in India. There are more than 800+ workers engaged in the process of export. The company is fully equipped with latest machines and technology with fully in-house merchandiser and sampling. An experienced and strong management team is turning all stones unturned under the guidance of Chairman and Managing Director Mr. Prem Singh Rana who believes that sky is no limit. Supreme Impex has two in-house factories, one in Faridabad (Haryana) and one unit at Okhla Industrial area (Delhi) specializing in women wears. Further to this, we have inhouse capabilities from cutting to stitching, labeling, washing, finishing and packing.



## **SUPREME HOSPITAL**



Supreme Hospital is a 225 bedded, 5 OT multi super specialty Tertiary care hospital, focusing on medical and surgical super specialties of neuro sciences, cardiac sciences, gastro sciences, renal sciences, critical care, ortho-trauma, mother and child, ophthalmic, ENT and many more. We are a patient centric organization, providing international quality healthcare by compassionate professionals at affordable price, in full compliance with international quality standards / guidelines. So the Supreme Hospital Is The Top Hospital In Faridabad.