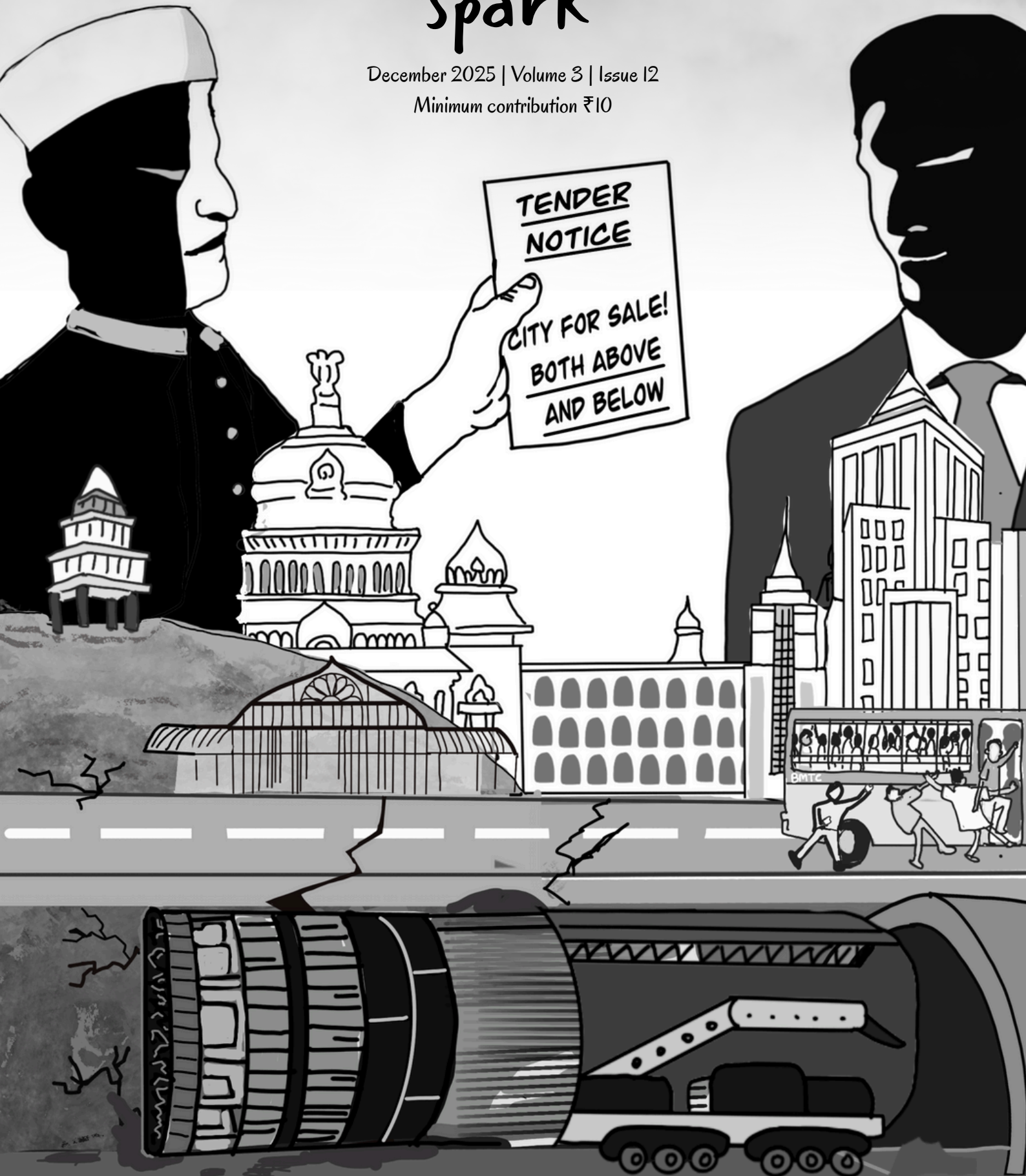


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◆— UPDATE ON PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS —◆



Residents Protest Eviction by Railways in Bengaluru

Residents of Suna Line no. 1 of KG Halli area of Bengaluru were brutally evicted and their houses demolished without any prior notice by the Railway Police Force in early November. The bulldozing was resisted by the locals. In response they were manhandled, many people, including women, were beaten with lathis by male police personnel. Over 30 buildings were demolished leaving more than 100 families homeless, despite having valid documents such as electricity bills, water bills, house papers, and SC/ST certificates. There has been no rehabilitation or compensation from either the state or central governments.



AICCTU Protests Contractual System and New Labour Code in Bengaluru

Culminating a month-long campaign seeking the repeal of the Modi government's new Labour Codes, abolition of contract system, regularisation of all workers and to notify Rs. 42,000 as minimum wages, hundreds of workers came together under the banner of All India Central Council of Trade Unions from across various districts of Karnataka to uphold workers' rights in Bengaluru on 27th November.



Adivasis in Bhubaneswar Protest Against Demolition of 565 Houses

Following the demolition of 565 houses by the fascist BJP government, the Adivasis of Salia Sahi, Bhubaneswar, pushed to the brink of desperation, have been holding hunger strikes amid police brutality. Several protestors risked their lives by lying in front of the very bulldozers that wrecked their homes and livelihoods. Sal Marandi and Nilu have been charged under sections 296/126(2)/132/191(1)/74/351(2)/3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, despite the clear violation of Forest Rights Act (2006), the Land Rights Act for Settlements (2018).



Gujarat Village Stands Against the Illegal Demolition of Religious Sites

Nearly 100 women and children gathered after the unlawful demolition of the boundary wall of a dargah in Somnath, Gujarat, sparking violent clashes between the police and the residents. Tear gas shells were fired and 11 buildings, including homes and religious sites, were razed. 17 individuals were booked under various sections of the BNS.



West Bengal BLOs Refuse to Bow Before Special Intensive Revision

On 24th November, BLOs in Kolkata, West Bengal protested against the excessive workload due to the Special Intensive Revision following the deaths of three BLOs in the same month. Members of the BLO Adhikar Raksha Committee marched from College Square in North Kolkata to the Chief Election Officer's office, after which anonymous threats were sent to the protestors.



Jharkhand Villagers Tirelessly Resist Corporate Greed

Gondalpur villagers have been protesting for the past two years against the acquisition of 513 hectares of land by the mining giant Adani Enterprises. The Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 allows the central government to seize lands for mining companies without requiring consent from the parties affected.

Indigenous Resistance to State Seizure of Ancestral Land

In mid-November 2025, indigenous protestors stormed the COP30 climate summit, held at Belem, Brazil, carrying signs emblazoned with the words: "Our land is not for sale." The demonstration, notwithstanding brutal attempts at suppression by security personnel, embodied justified resistance to the Brazilian government's plans to accede the Amazon rainforest to corporate greed in the name of development. A highway through the rainforest is under construction, and the oil company, Petrobras, has been allowed to set up oil rigs 500 km from the mouth of the Amazon River.



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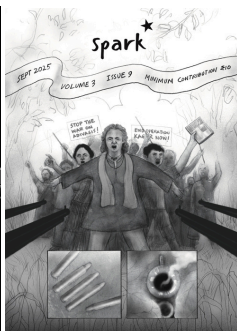
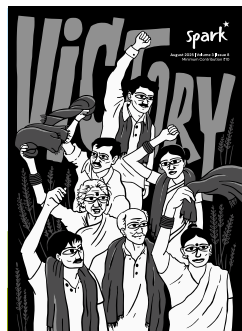
CONTENTS

Update on People's Movements	2
Bengaluru's Tunnel Project: A Corporate Scam Pushed as 'Development'	4
Babri Masjid Demolition: The Rehearsal Nobody Talks About	5
This Month in History	6
The Anti-colonial Legacy of Tipu Sultan	7
Christ University Students Need to be Heard!	8
AISA Statement on Bengaluru's State-run Hostels	9
AISA-led Left Unity defeats ABVP in JNUSU Election	9
North Karnataka and its Call for Statehood	10
Long Live the Internationalist Spirit of Dr. Dwarakanath Kotnis!	10
Lessons from the Powai Hostage Crisis	11
US Militarism and the New Offensive Against Venezuela	12
Socialist Industrialisation: A Planned Economy Based on Five-year Plans	13
On the Proxy War in Sudan	14
Condemn the Extrajudicial Killing of Maoists in Andhra Pradesh	15
Update on Student Movements	16

Spark* is a monthly magazine run by students and youth.

Today, the state and the corporate controlled media are constantly propagating fabricated news that suit their interests. This makes exposition of the truth an imminent task. Spark* aspires to provide an alternative perspective on issues that affect the masses. Please send your valuable opinion, comments, criticism, and articles to spark_karnataka@protonmail.com or call us at 8584056936

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Bengaluru's Tunnel Project: A Corporate Scam Pushed as 'Development'

Sachin

Over the past year, the Congress government in Karnataka has repeatedly claimed that it had 'no money' to run public transport. In January, BMTC fares were increased by 15%, and ridership fell by 5.7%. Just a month later, metro fares were hiked by 71% and ridership dropped by almost 16%. The government justified that it needed to recover operational costs and repay loans. Yet, while saying that it cannot afford to maintain basic public transport, it is eagerly taking on massive new loans and inviting private companies into highly expensive projects like the Bengaluru tunnel road.

The tunnel road is being aggressively pushed as a 'solution to Bengaluru's traffic', but its nature, cost, and planning reveal something entirely different. This is a pet project of Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, who is not only a powerful politician but also a major real estate figure in the state. The tunnel is planned to run for around 17 km, from Hebbal to Silk Board, making it one of Karnataka's most expensive urban transport projects. Only private cars will be allowed inside. Two-wheelers, buses and autos are not permitted. The estimated cost is between ₹17,000 and ₹20,000 crore for just the first stretch, with plans for another tunnel from KR Puram to Nayandahalli that could add another ₹25,000 crore. Instead of improving public transport, the government is pouring tens of thousands of crores into a car-only tunnel that will 'benefit' a very small section of Bengaluru's population.

The money for this project is coming through a public-private-partnership model. More than half the funding will come from private companies, while most of the public share will also be taken as loans. These loans will, in the end, be repaid by the people. Companies like the Adani Group, Dilip Buildcon, Vishwa Samudra Engineering and RVNL (Rail Vikas Nigam Limited) have already submitted bids. Whoever wins



Student groups protest the tunnel Road at Lalbagh

will be allowed to operate the tunnel and collect tolls for 30 to 40 years, with tolls expected to be very high. This arrangement creates a permanent profit pipeline for corporations, while ordinary people, especially those who rely on buses, autos, and two-wheelers, will gain nothing.

The government claims that the tunnel will reduce traffic, avoid land acquisition since it is underground, and cause no environmental harm. But none of these claims stand up to even basic scrutiny. There is no Environmental Impact Assessment. Only bare minimum geological or hydrological studies have been done. No biodiversity studies. Even flood-risk studies are missing, despite Bengaluru's well-known flooding problems. Experts have pointed out that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has major flaws. It was prepared in a rush, and parts of the first draft of it appeared to be copy-pasted from Mumbai's tunnel project and even BMRC metro documents. The DPR was prepared by Rodic Consultants, the same company linked to the Silkyara tunnel collapse in Uttarakhand, where a government investigation found serious negligence, including misrepresented data and ignored warning signs. Even Bengaluru's own mobility bodies, like the DULT (Directorate of Urban Land Transport) and BMLTA (Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority) have raised objections, saying the tunnel goes against the city's Comprehensive Mobility Plan and the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan.

The environmental risks are even more serious. The tunnel will pass under Lalbagh, an ecologically sensitive and historic landmark that contains rock formations nearly three billion years old. Experts warn that drilling through these rock layers can destabilise soil, disturb groundwater flow, and increase the risk of flooding. The tunnel also intersects with the underground metro alignment, which makes it even more dangerous from an engineering point of view.

Traffic experts have made it clear that the tunnel will not reduce congestion, rather it may worsen. Studies by IISc show that the tunnel can carry only around 1,200 to 1,800 passengers per hour in one direction. BMTC buses on the same corridor could carry four times as many. Metro and suburban rail could carry twenty to sixty times as many. Yet the government is choosing the least efficient and most exclusive option. To make matters worse, accessing the nearest entry ramp will sometimes require driving around four kilometres extra. The idea that private car tunnels will reduce traffic goes against basic transport planning principles and examples from around the world. This is a clear case of induced demand or Braess's Paradox: when you build more road space for cars, more people buy cars, and traffic actually gets worse.

Since 2017 to 2024, two-wheelers in the city increased from 55.42 lakh to 78.33 lakh, and cars increased from 17.75 lakh to 25.13 lakh. During the same period, the number of BMTC buses actually



The proposed 18 km tunnel plans to go from Hebbal to Silk Board through major IT hubs

decreased. This shows how public transport has been consistently neglected. The real solution to congestion lies in investing in more buses, expanding the metro and suburban rail, improving last-mile connectivity, and making public transport accessible and affordable. The Shakti scheme already increased participation of women in the work force by 23%, showing what public transport can achieve. Instead of strengthening these systems, the government is choosing a project that offers no real benefit to the public.

There is also a deeper structural reason as to why governments in India do not invest seriously in public transport. Big automobile companies, both Indian and international, depend on constant growth in vehicle sales. If public transport becomes efficient, reliable, and affordable, people will buy fewer cars or bikes. This directly threatens the profits of these automobile giants. That is why policies that strengthen buses, suburban rail, or metro rarely receive sustained political support. If we truly want to reduce traffic, there must be strict regulation on the production of four-wheelers, heavy taxes on private car ownership, and major public investment in buses, metro, and suburban rail.

Opposition to the tunnel is growing. Civil society groups are conducting signature campaigns and planning to submit detailed representations demanding that the tender process be stopped. The National Green Tribunal has issued two notices. On 15th November, AISA, COLLECTIVE and FridaysForFuture Karnataka held a flash protest inside Lalbagh, raising concerns about the environmental damage and the lack of public consultation. Even though BJP leaders in the state are pretending to oppose the project, national leaders like Nitin Gadkari and Narendra Modi have openly praised it, showing that both Congress and BJP stand to benefit from the tunnel construction.

This tunnel project is a corporate-driven idea that will destroy the environment, increase public debt, and worsen Bengaluru's traffic crisis. Bengaluru must reject this corporate model of development and demand infrastructure that actually serves people, not contractors and politicians.

Babri Masjid Demolition: The Rehearsal Nobody Talks About

Adiba

A rehearsal was carried out for the demolition of Babri Masjid on 5th December, 1992, just a day before the destruction, half a kilometre away from the mosque. It was documented by journalist Praveen Jain, who disguised himself as a photographer for the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), as no journalists were allowed there. While pictures of this rehearsal, as well as Jain's account of it, are available on the internet, the matter has not received the attention it warrants. A violent act of this magnitude should have made headlines, but was brushed under the carpet by the media, as were all the facts that poked holes in the narrative Hindutva forces were building. It was mostly the alternative media and international media that covered this, while the popular Indian news agencies were busy shoving the VHP narrative down our throats.

It presented the demolition as a result of spontaneous mob violence. While the Supreme Court in its 2019 verdict condemned the planting of Ram idols in the mosque as well as its subsequent demolition as illegal, the special CBI court rendering the demolition as nothing but a spontaneous, unplanned accident in its 2020 verdict, shows the hold this narrative has had not just on public opinion but on the judiciary too. Testimonies of Praveen Jain and other eyewitnesses, the presence of more than a hundred thousand volunteers armed with the tools required for the demolition and the previous attempts that had been made to get hold of the mosque, could not suffice in proving the demolition to be a pre-planned act. It was declared to be an innocuous religious gathering gone awry.

This façade is not even well maintained and has survived on fear, instilled through the penalisation of those who dared to expose the truth. As the demolition began, the karsevaks promptly got to work destroying every camera and thrashing every journalist in sight. Praveen Jain has faced threats and humiliation in the courtroom, in the presence of a judge, and deliberate extensions of his cross-examination by defense lawyers who persistently pressurised him to deny his presence at the rehearsal. Ruchira Gupta, another journalist who documented the demolition, was sexually assaulted and almost killed by the karsevaks who mistook her for a Muslim. L.K. Advani, who was watching the demolition from a distance,



told her to forget what had happened to her and have some sweets to celebrate the historic day. She has faced slut-shaming, stalking, vandalising of her car, and a smear campaign by the lawyers of the Bajrang Dal, the VHP and the BJP. Atal Bihari Vajpayee told her in person not to testify, being a girl from a good family. These are just two examples of how all possible attempts were made to control the narrative.

This narrative has also led to the acquittal of the very people who had been at the forefront of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, and who had watched the demolition from a perfect vantage point. In fact, the CBI court declared them to have played a preventive and pacifying role. Praveen Jain too, like Ruchira Gupta, had approached L.K. Advani and M.M. Joshi as the photographers were being attacked, only to be ignored. Anju Gupta, Advani's personal security officer on the day of the demolition, testified that intelligence inputs had indicated the possibility of a demolition attempt the day before. She also revealed that the leaders present there, including Uma Bharti, Sadhvi Ritambhara, L.K. Advani and M.M. Joshi, among others, delivered provocative speeches, raised anti-Muslim slogans, hugged each other and distributed sweets as the domes collapsed, that VHP leader S.C. Dixit praised the state administration for their support and the police for their inaction, and that karsevaks entered the disputed area in police vehicles in which the personnel would respond with 'Jai Shri Ram'. The acquittal was done on grounds of insufficient evidence. The court did not accept photos (including those of the rehearsal), videos, newspaper clippings or printouts of the speeches by the accused as evidence, citing technicalities of how these either failed to prove the allegations or were not produced in accordance with the mandated procedure. The court also questioned the government for not looking out for the interference of Pakistani agencies, and pinned the blame on nameless anti-social elements who were supposedly disguised as karsevaks. The verdict is an insult to the victims of the demolition and the subsequent communal riots, and to the witnesses and the litigants who risked their own safety in this long-drawn legal battle. It has set a precedent for just what the Hindu right can get away with.

The due process was duly exploited and weaponised. The demolition itself was a disrespect to the judiciary, as the gathering was allowed by the Supreme Court on the condition that the mosque would not be harmed, and the Allahabad High Court had ordered maintenance of the status quo. The final verdict has proven the futility of legal safeguards in the face of organised majoritarian violence mobilised over decades.

The entire timeline of Babri masjid demolition, what led up to it and what followed, will always be relevant in seeing our 'democracy' for what it is, a totalitarian regime with unchecked power shaping public opinion through relentless control of the media, going great lengths to distort reality and rewrite history. How many more such facts have been buried? How many victims could never even approach the judiciary? And what do we do about



the questions that remain unanswered about the rehearsal, such as the identity of the masked man who was supervising it, the successful coordination and execution of such a large-scale illegal project, and the probable involvement of trained professionals, given the expert precision with which the rehearsal and the demolition were carried out?

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

December 1, 1997 - The Laxmanpur-Bathe massacre was a massacre conducted in the Laxmanpur Bathe village in Arwal district of Bihar, where 58 dalits were killed by members of the Ranvir Sena, an upper-caste militia.



December 18, 1878 - Birth anniversary of Joseph Stalin. He was a Soviet communist revolutionary who led the newly formed Soviet Union on the path of socialist

construction until his death. He served as both General Secretary of the Communist Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union. From proving that socialism is possible in one country to successfully preventing a fascist takeover of the world, Stalin remains an inspiring figure for communists all over the world.

December 17 and 19, 1927 - Kakori Martyrs' Day - Ramprasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Roshan Singh, and Chandrashekhar Azad, were among the revolutionaries who carried out the daring Kakori train robbery: looting the treasury of the colonial Government to fund the war for an independent India. except Azad the other four were arrested and hanged on 17th and 19th Dec 1927. All of them were founding members of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).



December 26, 1893 - Birth anniversary of Chinese revolutionary, Marxist theorist, military strategist and poet, Mao Zedong. In essence, the Chinese revolution marked an advancement of Marxism-Leninism, particularly in the context of colonies and

semi-colonies that constituted the largest chunk of the world. Comrade Mao formulated the ideological basis of the great proletarian cultural revolution.



The Anti-colonial Legacy of Tipu Sultan

Aratrika

In all the communal commotion surrounding Tipu Sultan and Hyder Ali, the RSS-BJP cleverly tries to bury the powerful, anti-colonial legacy of their 40-year rule. Contrasted with the RSS's role as the Crown's 'most obedient servant', the ongoing maligning of Tipu's reign is reflective of a state-sponsored project of erasing the anti-British role played by him.

Tipu Sultan, popularly called the 'Tiger of Mysore' for his battle prowess, was born on 1st December, 1751 in Devanahalli. His father Hyder Ali rose to become the ruler of Mysore kingdom around 1761 from being a commander in the Mysore army. Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan built a strong Mysore kingdom in a short time effectively weakening the hold of feudalism over the people, building early industries, and establishing a civil bureaucracy. The Mysore kingdom under them thus became one of the first to break centuries of feudal fetters and develop early industrial and mercantile interests. It is in this backdrop that one must see the series of anti-colonial wars they fought against the British with an aim to oust the looters from the Indian subcontinent.

The Battle of Plassey in 1757 ended the rule of the last independent Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Dawlah. The British East India Company (EIC) emerged as the victor, assisted by the betrayal of Mir Jafar. Thus the EIC, which arrived as a mere merchant, established itself as a major military and political power over a large part of the subcontinent that was to continue for at least another century till it was overtaken by the British government. Among all the European plunderers like the Dutch, the Portuguese, and the French, the Battle of Plassey decisively turned the EIC into the principal colonial force. It was Hyder Ali, who identified the long-term danger posed by British colonial expansionism while he was in the process of developing the Mysore kingdom as a

mercantile force-in-itself. He realised that the contradiction with the British far surpassed the petty feudal squabbles rife among Mysore and the neighbouring Peshwas and Nizams. Tipu's military-strategic training was

continued on the same lines. However, they were alone in this despite repeated attempts to forge an anti-British alliance in the Deccan.

In the process of annexing the South, the British provoked the Mysore kingdom into the first Anglo-Mysore war (1767-69) without having done an objective reading of the might of the Mysore Army. Hyder Ali was a master military strategist who learned and applied European tactics of warfare into his own army that set him miles ahead. It was a very well-maintained army with a strong cavalry that gave it swiftness and agility. They dealt a heavy blow to the British side defeating them decisively in this anti-colonial war.

The second Anglo-Mysore war (1780-84) saw the Mysore army up against a combined force of the British, the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Peshwas, the Rajas of Travancore and Cochin, and a host of Palegaras (a predatory class of feudal lords who were ousted from their strongholds by Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan). Despite this, the Mysore army emerged victorious. In the middle of this war, Hyder Ali died of cancer in 1782, leaving the kingdom to Tipu. In his last letter he urged Tipu to carry forward the task of ousting the British not just from the Mysore kingdom, but also the Indian subcontinent.

In the third Anglo-Mysore war (1790-92), Tipu was defeated by the joint British and the Peshwa forces. A major chunk of the Mysore kingdom and 33,000,000 rupees as reparations had to be handed over through the Treaty of



Tipu Sultan's last stand at Seringapatam, 1799

Seringapatam. At that time Tipu again approached the Peshwa commander Haripant Phadke advising him to recognise the British as the true enemy, albeit to no avail. True to its colonial character, by 1818, the British ended the rule of the Peshwas through the Battle of Kirkee.

Despite such heavy losses, the Mysore kingdom swiftly recuperated to a great extent and arming itself stronger than before. By the time of the fourth Anglo-Mysore war (1798-1799), the British realised that they were outmaneuvered by Tipu's army in terms of forces, weaponry, and other supplies. In this situation, the British found their saviour in the form of Mir Sadiq and Poorniah, who were the Prime Minister and Dewan of Tipu Sultan respectively. Armed with this treacherous liaison, the British easily breached the capital of the Mysore kingdom, the fortified Srirangapatnam. Despite being surrounded by the enemy on all sides, Tipu fought till his last breath. The traitor Mir Sadiq was beheaded by a soldier from Tipu's army.

Thus ended the most formidable resistance to British colonial expansion in India. The British continued their unbridled exploitation of the masses basing on a strengthened feudal zamindari system till a series of Adivasi and peasant revolts broke out in response. Today when India's past is being buried under an Islamophobic narrative, it is important to recognise the anti-feudal and anti-colonial character of Tipu Sultan and uphold it.

Christ University Students Need to Be Heard!

Anonymous submission

Christ University is known for its strict rules, mandatory attendance, and draconian dress code. Christ University, like many other Bangalore colleges, have made research compulsory for the PG students. However, Christ University does not focus on producing individuals who can think critically, rather it is producing students who are trapped in the mandatory 85% attendance rule and have to attend classes from 9:45 am to 4:45 pm. Some departments even have a habit of taking classes at 8:45 am beyond regular college hours.

Under this jam-packed schedule, there is no hour allotted for doing research, lab work, field work or for spending time in the library for doing literature review. Either the college must allot certain hours specifically for doing research or research should not be made mandatory. This 10 to 5 culture leaves students exhausted, with no energy for research. Being overloaded with useless assignments is another problem. Postgraduate students are already struggling to find adequate time for research and laboratory work, yet several policies further restrict their ability to do so. One major concern is the imposed time limit on laboratory access in the evenings. For students whose research requires extended hours, such restrictions are not only impractical but also fundamentally contradict the purpose of a research-oriented postgraduate program.

Compounding this issue is the poor planning of the academic schedule. A syllabus ideally meant to be taught over six months is being squeezed into a span of barely three to four months. This results in an overload of extra classes and leaves students with little to no time for critical thinking, independent study, or even basic mental downtime—elements that are essential for quality research.

The situation is further aggravated by the compulsory 8:45 am classes. Under normal circumstances, the attendance

app closes approximately fifteen minutes after the start of the hour. However, this does not apply to the 8:45 slot, where the app remains open for the entire duration of the class. In a city like Bangalore, where traffic delays are inevitable, students commuting from distant areas cannot always reach exactly on time. Many arrive just 10–15 minutes late due to factors beyond their control. Some teachers accommodate this by giving attendance when informed in advance, but many do not—even refusing to wait for the standard fifteen-minute grace period. As a result, students unfairly lose attendance for reasons unrelated to academic commitment or discipline.

The consequences are serious. To be eligible to write the mid-semester examinations, students must maintain a minimum of 75% attendance in each subject. Those who fall short are required to pay a ₹700 fine to sit for a repeat mid-semester exam. Christ provides the students an option to claim attendance for the days or hours missed via the yellow form and blue form. Yellow form provides attendance for hours missed due to co-curricular activities, extra-curricular activities, intra collegiate and inter collegiate fest. Usually students get the claims for attendance within a few days which is filled via the yellow form. The real problem comes with blue form that is meant to provide attendance for hours missed due to medical reasons. Attendance via the blue form can only be claimed when the student has an overall attendance of 75%, students do not face this problem in the yellow form. If a student has fallen ill or is hospitalised for many days resulting in an overall attendance less than 75% before the mid-term, they will not be able to claim the attendance and will end up missing the exam and paying a hefty fine. At least the students filling the attendance via blue form should not be made to face this problem, the 75% overall attendance requirement for



COLLEGE CORNER

claiming attendance via blue form is illogical. Moreover, for the end semester examinations students who fail to meet the overall 85% attendance, are expected to pay a fine of ₹1000 or more in order to get their hall tickets unblocked. Christ University has made this fine collection into a business. This not only imposes an unnecessary financial burden but also penalises students for systemic issues rather than personal negligence.

Overall, these policies collectively undermine the very essence of postgraduate education, which is supposed to prioritise research, academic freedom, and intellectual development. Instead, students are left juggling an overloaded schedule, restrictive rules, and inconsistent administrative practices that hinder rather than support their academic growth. In the absence of an elected student council, none of these issues can be raised to the administration.

In this situation the students demand:

- An end to the mandatory 85% attendance rule
- Remove the mandatory 75% attendance requirement for claiming attendance for medical reasons
- Scrap the regressive dress code
- Special hours to be allotted for doing research and using laboratory for both UG and PG students within the regular college hours
- An elected student council that can raise student concerns effectively in front of the management.

All India Students' Association Strongly Condemns the Poor Facilities and Zero Privacy in Bengaluru's State-run Hostels

This exposes the state government's carelessness and their lack of commitment towards the students of the marginalised communities.

In a surprise visit by Lokayukta teams to 34 state-run boys' and girls' hostels in Bengaluru, it was found that many of these hostels had zero privacy, lack of window panes in bathrooms, defunct geysers, unhygienic toilets and no separate rooms for changing clothes. For instance, the Post Matric Backward Classes Girl's Hostel run by the Backward Classes department at Laggere, girls complained that they had no separate rooms for changing clothes. This hostel is a four storey private building, the ground floor is used as a reading room by the girls, first floor as a kitchen and dining hall, and the remaining two floors accommodated 50 students each without any separate rooms. Narrating their grievances to Lokayukta Justice BS Patil, the girls told him they experience severe embarrassment when they have to change their clothes. It is reported that the government pays ₹2.30 Lakhs every month for the four storey private building being used as a hostel. In another case of government inaction, Dr BR Ambedkar Government Post-Matric Girls' Hostel run by the Social Welfare department, near Manuvana in Vijayanagar, reported lack of window panes in bathrooms. The girls said it is very embarrassing for them to take a bath as there's no privacy. During these inspections across 34 hostels, students complained of expired medicine in the first aid box, lack of libraries and computers, improper fridges, rotten vegetables, lack of solar water or hot water to bathe, and unhygienic toilets. Honourable Lokayukta, Justice Shri B.S. Patil, personally visited the Government Science College Boys' Hostel on Mahatma Gandhi Road and inspected it. The sanctioned strength of students in the hostel is 275. However, the hostel accommodated 373 students without providing required basic facilities for all the students. A room is meant for four students, but 6-7 students are accommodated. The Lokayukta team directed the Backward Classes department and the state government to take prompt action and resolve the issues faced by the students in these hostels. In recent years, the Karnataka Congress government promised various welfare measures and promised to bring schemes to uplift students, women and marginalised classes. However, the pathetic conditions at the state run hostels expose the government's apathy and negligence. The Karnataka government has allocated only 10% of its state budget to education, this reveals how investment in basic student welfare - safety, hygiene, accommodation and dignity remains severely neglected. The contrast is very clear: while the government speaks of empowerment, students and women continue to live in unsafe and unhygienic environments.

In the wake of such apathy and negligence towards the state-run hostel, we put forth the following demands in front of the state government-

- Take strict action against the officials in charge of the hostels for their apathy and negligence.
- Conduct an independent audit of all the state run boys' and girls' hostels and provide proper facilities to the students.
- Allocate 25% of the state budget to education, especially towards the education and safety of women and marginalised communities.

Stand against the Congress government's apathy and negligence! Long Live Students' Unity!

AISA-led Left Unity Defeats ABVP in JNUSU Election

The AISA-led Left Unity alliance—comprising AISA, SFI and DSF—won a decisive victory in the 2025–26 JNUSU elections held on 4 November, the second election in the same year. Comrade Aditi (AISA) was elected President, Comrade Gopika (SFI) Vice-President, Comrade Sunil (DSF) General Secretary and Comrade Danish (AISA) Joint Secretary. With a turnout of 67.17% (5,818 of 8,657 voters), all Left Unity candidates secured strong margins.

In contrast to the April 2024–25 elections, where AISA–DSF won three central posts but ABVP narrowly captured the Joint Secretary position, the entry of SFI this year resulted in a complete sweep. ABVP lost all central panel posts and even its traditional councillor strongholds in science schools. Students rejected ABVP's hooliganism, pro-administration politics and absence from everyday struggles.

The campaign period saw violence by ABVP, including attacks on the Left, disruptions of GBMs and casteist, misogynistic, transphobic and Islamophobic abuses. Delhi Police, under RSS–BJP, also assaulted students protesting this violence. While ABVP used money and muscle to influence the election, students rallied behind the Left.

Women candidates emerged prominently: seven of AISA's ten candidates were women, and eight won. Left Unity also increased vote share in science schools, alongside victories by anti-ABVP independents.

The results signal AISA's organisational consolidation and reaffirm that unified Left forces can defeat ABVP on campuses. Despite turnout rising less than expected, JNU once again demonstrated its resistance to RSS–BJP.



North Karnataka and its Call for Statehood

Prakash

The debate over regional imbalance in Karnataka has resurfaced, driven by familiar concerns that have persisted for decades. A recent letter by Kagawad MLA Bharamagouda Kage to the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister has reignited discussions around the long standing demand for a separate North Karnataka state. In the letter, he argued that the northern districts have faced consistent neglect in development, administration, and resource allocation.

Across Belagavi, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, and several other districts, the issue is being viewed with careful attention and quiet recognition. For organisations like the Uttara Karnataka Horata Samiti, which has spent years pointing to disparities in irrigation, infrastructure, and employment, the letter is being treated as a fresh reminder of unresolved questions. Others see it as a political moment that has appeared many times before, often around major legislative sessions.

Historical context is central to understanding the mood in the region. North Karnataka has struggled with water scarcity, limited investment, and slower infrastructural growth since the reorganisation of states. Over the years, multiple committees, including the Nanjundappa Committee, have identified significant gaps between the northern and southern districts in terms of income, irrigation potential, educational

access, and public services. Although successive governments have announced schemes, the belief that development never truly caught up with the region remains widespread.

At the same time, the demand for a separate state has rarely evolved into a unified mass movement. Unlike Telangana, which generated a substantial share of its former state's revenue, North Karnataka continues to rely heavily on funds from southern Karnataka. Several leaders across party lines acknowledge that a full separation may create new challenges rather than resolve existing ones.

At moments of stress, issues like this tend to stir up. The Mahadayi and Krishna river disputes, recurring droughts, and budget allocations that are seen as skewed toward the south often revive concerns. For many residents, these issues feel more personal than statistical, tied to everyday struggles for water, jobs, and stable infrastructure.

As the winter session approaches, questions arise. Whether the government responds with dialogue, policy commitments, or restraint remains to be seen. What is clear among people in the northern districts is that the demand is less about drawing borders and more about being heard, recognized, and finally seeing development that is long overdue.

Long Live the Internationalist Spirit of Dr. Dwarakanath Kotnis!

Harish

The red flag which symbolizes the victory of the Chinese revolution is dyed also with the blood of this great Indian doctor. -Jiang Yizhen

Dwarakanath Shantaram Kotnis was an Indian-born doctor, best known for his heroic contributions as part of the Indian medical mission to China in 1938. Coming from a middle-class family in British-occupied India, Kotnis witnessed the horrors of imperialism from an early age and chose to become a doctor to serve his nation. In 1938, with the beginning of the Japanese fascist invasion of China, which sparked the 'Aid China' movement in India, a medical mission was organized. Dr. Kotnis, an ardent nationalist, volunteered to serve the cause of another oppressed nation.

In August 1938, Dr. Kotnis left for China as one of the five members of the medical mission. During his journey, he read Edgar Snow's book 'Red star over China' which deepened his admiration for the Chinese Communist Party and its revolutionaries. Once in China, he traveled across the war-torn regions, gaining profound experiences in every city. In Changsha and Chunyen, he witnessed mangled bodies across the streets. In Chungking, he saw the horrifying sight of a mother crushed to death while still breastfeeding her infant. In Canton, he met Madame Sun Yat-Sen and experienced firsthand the patriotic zeal of the Chinese people. In Hankow,

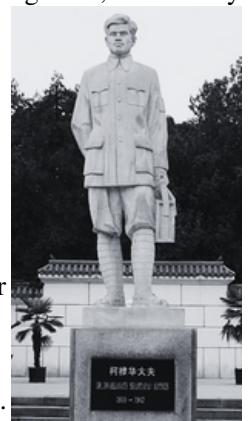
he encountered the Communist forces for the first time and met Chou En-Lai.

Finally, he reached Yen-an, a city built into caves and filled with revolutionaries.

There, he observed socialist cooperative industries and farms, and eventually met comrade Mao Tse-Tung, for whom he developed deep admiration. These experiences likely inspired him to join the Chinese Communist Party.

Kotnis was deeply influenced by the words of Canadian doctor Norman Bethune: "Doctors must not wait for the wounded to come; they should go to the wounded." He always worked on the front lines, walking several hundred miles on foot, sleep-deprived and often without food, performing nerve-racking operations in damp caves and trenches. During his Laishui campaign, he treated 800 patients and performed 585 operations in just 13 days. Due to this immense workload, he suffered an epileptic attack and passed away in December 1942. When Mao heard the news, he was grief-stricken and said, "We will never forget Dr. Kotnis' internationalist spirit." In honor of his contributions, the people of China gave him the name 'Chungo Haiza' (Son of China).

In today's era, marked by imperialist-backed genocides in Gaza and Sudan, we should uphold the internationalist spirit of Dr. Dwarakanath Kotnis.



Lessons from the Powai Hostage Crisis

Sushant

On 30th October, Mumbai witnessed an incident that blurred the lines between personal desperation and public safety. In the Powai area, inside a well-known recording studio, auditions were being held for a web series. The auditions were conducted by filmmaker Rohit Arya. He had informed the selected children and their parents that the final audition would involve a hostage scene. When the children did not come out after hours, officials at the Powai Police Station were informed. Soon afterwards, Mumbai Police's quick response team, the bomb squad, the fire brigade, and ambulances were deployed. The police soon discovered that Rohit had barricaded the studio and installed motion-detection cameras to detect any forced entry. In addition, police learned that Rohit had stored petrol cans inside and had sprinkled an unidentified chemical across the studio. He threatened to set everything on fire if the police attempted to storm the premises. He declared that he was ready to die and that the police would bear responsibility for any casualties. Negotiators began engaging Rohit. Meanwhile, a video of him surfaced on social media. In the video, he claimed he had moral and ethical demands, insisted he was not a terrorist, and asserted that he simply wanted to talk. Negotiations continued while specialised police units infiltrated the studio via a bathroom route that Rohit had not anticipated. The police operation, lasting roughly thirty minutes, resulted in the safe rescue of all 17 children and two adults. Rohit was shot in the chest and declared dead at the hospital.

Rohit Arya, a banker by training, turned to social entrepreneurship and filmmaking after leaving the corporate world. Since 2013, he had been involved in civic projects, most notably his initiative Project Let's Change. Rohit developed the idea of a Swachhata Monitor to turn schoolchildren into ambassadors of cleanliness on their

campuses and in their surrounding areas. In 2022, Rohit presented this concept to the Maharashtra School Education Department, which approved pilot trials on the condition that he would raise project funds independently through Corporate Social Responsibility or other sources. Rohit began the project at his own expense.

The first phase of the Swachhata Monitor Programme, which ran from July to October 2023, involved approximately 60 lakh students across 64,000 schools. In January 2024, Swachhata Monitor merged with Maji Shala Sundar Shala, a larger school beautification program. The government allocated ₹20 crore for the beautification project and ₹2 crore for Swachhata Monitor Phase-2. Up to this point, Rohit's work appeared successful. But when the results of the Maji Shala competition were announced, Rohit claimed he noticed irregularities, and schools with low scores were winning awards. In an interview on an educational YouTube channel, he asserted that some influential schools won repeatedly despite poor work. Rohit alleged that, after exposing these discrepancies, the education department turned against him. His payments were stopped, and he was harassed. To keep his initiative alive, he continued to run the project privately, charging schools a ₹500 registration fee. The department then accused him of profiteering and demanded that the collected money be deposited in government accounts, otherwise, his remaining payments would be withheld. The state government launched a separate cleanliness project similar to Rohit's, which he believed was based on his idea. He protested repeatedly, even staging hunger strikes outside the School Education Department and the home of former Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar. From Rohit's perspective, the system had stolen his idea, ruined his finances, and ignored his protests.



Bureaucratic barriers, delayed payments, institutional indifference, and collapsed trust gradually broke him. He appealed to the media, but no one listened.

Rohit's death closed the incident, but it opened a wider debate. Legal experts raised questions about the police operation. Mumbai-based lawyer Nitin Satpute wrote to the Maharashtra government, the High Court, and the State Human Rights Commission, alleging that Rohit's killing was a fake encounter carried out to protect criminals, demanding an FIR against the police and a magisterial inquiry. The hostage-taker, according to initial reports, possessed only an air gun and a lighter. Further controversy arose when two personal cheques from Kesarkar surfaced, one for ₹7 lakh and another for ₹8 lakh. The payments raised serious questions: Why did a minister make personal payments of ₹15 lakh to a private vendor?

Rohit's actions were criminal as he endangered innocent children. The struggle against the system should be a collective effort of people, not individual actions that endanger lives. However, his story reveals deeper structural issues including bureaucratic opacity, selective justice, and the silencing of dissent. When criticism is punished, activists are labelled enemies, and courts deny justice, people stop seeking institutional channels. The tragedy of Rohit did not start the moment he walked into that studio, rather it is the long, exhausting journey that pushed him there, from a citizen-activist to a man who lost faith in the system.

Rohit's story is a warning. If governments remain inaccessible, if citizens are treated with contempt, if bureaucracies become fortresses, the consequences will be severe, both for individuals and for the society as a whole.

From Narco-Terror Myths to Manufactured Consent: US Militarism and the New Offensive Against Venezuela

Anagha Shyam



ONLINE
SUBMISSION

In the past few weeks, the United States has moved decisively to escalate its confrontation with Venezuela. Under the veneer of ‘counter-narcotics operations’, Washington has deployed the world’s largest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, to Caribbean waters, accompanied by destroyers, assault ships, and thousands of troops. The official explanation of disrupting drug trafficking, collapses under basic scrutiny. Venezuela is neither a meaningful producer nor exporter of Washington’s ‘targets’. The facts instead reveal the revival of an old imperial Monroe Doctrine: the US asserting its dominance in Latin America through military force, sanctions, and the manufacture of convenient enemies.

In the mainstream American press, the narrative has been made deliberately simple, as is often done. The Venezuelan government, according to the US, is led by ‘narco-terrorists’. Trump has gone as far as publicly ‘authorising’ CIA operations in Venezuela, which in itself is a blatant violation of international law, something the agency has been doing covertly for decades. This ‘authorisation’ serves no operational purpose, but a political one: constructing a threat and manufacturing consent.

The drug narrative itself is untenable. Fentanyl, which Trump insists is flowing from Venezuela, is not produced there. Cocaine, the drug of the American rich, which Trump does not want to target, is manufactured mainly in Colombia, not Venezuela. Moreover, the victims of the US air-strikes in the Caribbean have been Venezuelan, Colombian, and Trinidadian working-class fisherfolk, who had nothing to do with any drug operation, as their families testified. The US has gone so far as to invent a fictional ‘Cártel de los Soles’, meaning the ‘Cartel of the Suns’. The logic resembles the 1989 invasion of Panama, when the US turned its own longtime asset Manuel Noriega into a “drug lord”

overnight to justify invasion, or in the case of Iraq where fictional ‘weapons of mass destruction’ were used as a pretext for invasion and the subsequent looting of resources.

Venezuela holds the world’s largest proven oil reserves. For the US, this alone makes Venezuela too ‘strategically significant’ to remain outside its control. The democratically elected Venezuelan government’s insistence on sovereign control over its national resources is incompatible with Washington’s vision for Latin America: a sphere of influence governed by compradors and open to foreign extraction, in essence, a colony. This is why US administrations, past and present, have treated Venezuela as an ideological and strategic enemy.

Obama intensified sanctions. These sanctions, comparable in severity to those on Cuba and the DPRK, have contributed to food shortages, medicine scarcity, and deepened poverty. They are designed to break societies until they accept political outcomes favourable to Washington. Long before open military escalation, these sanctions devastated Venezuela’s economy. During Trump’s first term, he recognised a self-appointed ‘interim president’, Juan Guaidó, whose brief international recognition collapsed just as quickly as it had arisen. Recently, the US even backed an attempted invasion, Operation Gideon, in which former US special forces trained Colombian mercenaries to overthrow Nicolás Maduro, the President. That effort ended when Venezuelan fishermen captured the invaders. Meanwhile, US-backed figures such as María Corina Machado, a far-right neoliberal ideologue, are celebrated as champions of democracy and even win the Nobel Peace Prize. That she openly advocates mass privatisation and deepened dependence on US capital is precisely why Washington supports her.

The recent military escalation cannot be separated from the domestic crisis in the

USA. As Washington commits \$18 million per day to sustain its naval force near Venezuela, 42 million Americans are currently facing food shortages due to the prolonged government shutdown. The Gerald R. Ford strike group alone consumes \$6–8 million per day, while destroyers and ships add millions more. Since late August, operations have cost US taxpayers over \$600 million. For the capitalist elite in the US, austerity at home and militarism abroad are two expressions of the same political logic. Social welfare is portrayed as unaffordable, while imperial warfare is never questioned. The working poor are denied basic necessities but funds will always be available for gunboat diplomacy to enforce global domination. This in itself lays bare the class content of American imperialism.

Latin American left movements have not remained silent. Colombian President Gustavo Petro has committed to forming international brigades to defend Venezuela in case of a US invasion. The entire region carries living memories of US-backed dictatorships, coups, and disappearances. What Washington calls ‘restoring democracy’ is a familiar euphemism for repression.

The US is escalating its attack on Venezuela as the latter strives for independence. The narco-terror narrative is a careful ideological construct, reviving the logic of both the ‘war on terror’ and the ‘war on drugs’ to justify an impending invasion driven by capitalist priorities: energy interests, geopolitical insecurity, and an imperial reflex. It is expressed through sanctions, naval deployments, CIA operations, and the criminalisation of entire governments even as millions of Americans face deprivation. This is not merely a foreign policy dispute. It is a struggle for sovereignty, resources, and the right of a nation to determine its future outside the shadow of an empire.

Socialist Industrialisation: A Planned Economy Based on Five-Year Plans

Sushant and Harish

To change from the muzhik horse of poverty to the horse of large-scale machine industry - such was the aim of the Party in drawing up the five-year plan and striving for its fulfilment.

-Joseph Stalin [The Results of the First Five-Year Plan, Report Delivered on January 7, 1933 in Central Committee and Central Control Commission of the CPSU(B) (January 7-12, 1933)]

By 1927, the task of reconstruction had been completed, and production figures in both agriculture and industry had surpassed the peak of those of Tsarist Russia (1913). This was followed by the December 1927 Fifteenth Congress decision to start the five-year Plans, which gave another boost to the process of socialist construction.

First Five-Year Plan (1928–32):

The first five-year Plan commenced on October 1, 1928. It aimed to transform the USSR from an economically backward, agrarian country, dependent on the whims of capitalist countries, into a powerful, self-reliant, and independent industrial country that would be capable of reorganising itself on the basis of socialism and defending itself from the attacks of capitalist countries. The primary objective was to completely eliminate capitalist elements, develop a socialist form of economy, and establish the economic basis for the abolition of classes in the USSR towards building socialism.

Despite the remarkable success of the New Economic Policy, the bourgeoisie and its press ridiculed the five-year plan. They dismissed the five-year plan as mere fantasy, delirium, and utopia. But the Party's faith in the working class and its confidence in the feasibility of the five-year plan were so strong that the Party found it possible to fulfil this difficult task not in five years, as planned, but in four years. Stalin understood that capitalist powers

would continue to conspire against a solitary socialist state and would strive to weaken it in order to bring it down. In the speech 'The Tasks of Business Executives' delivered at the first conference of managers of socialist industries (February 4, 1931), he said, "We are 50 to 100 years behind the advanced countries of the world. We must cover this distance in ten years. Either we achieve this, or they will crush us." Therefore, new massive industrial centres were established. Stalin, by laying a strong foundation for heavy industries in the First five-year Plan, resolved to make the Soviet land industrially self-reliant.

By the Sixteenth Party Congress (June 26, 1930), significant successes had been achieved in both agriculture and industry, and socialism was prevailing on all fronts. The kulak class had been eliminated in rural areas, and collectivisation had advanced on a large and solid scale. At this Congress, the slogan was raised: "Complete the Five-Year Plan in four years. Then, prepare for the Second Five-Year Plan." Later, the five-year objectives were completed in just four years, or, strictly speaking, in four years and three months, by December 31, 1932.

The extent of industrial progress can be gauged from the fact that industrial output was 334% of that of 1913 and 219% of that of 1928. Previously, Tsarist Russia did not produce tractors, automobiles, machine-tools, agricultural machinery, airplanes, etc., and relied on Europe and America for most of its machinery. The First five-year Plan made the Soviet Union self-reliant in these areas, even a giant airplane was constructed without using any components imported from abroad, except for the rubber tyres of its wheels. During this period, the Soviet Union surpassed other countries in the production of petroleum and coal, etc., becoming the world leader. In Central



Asia and the Caucasus, where industry used to be negligible, solid industrial foundations were established. Unemployment was eradicated. In 1928, 7.23 million workers were employed in factories, but by 1932, this number had surged to 31 million, more than quadrupling the workforce. Thousands of new factories were built.

Between 1925 and 1958, production of the means of production in the Soviet Union increased 103 times. These successes in industries were also mirrored in agriculture. Crop-area increased by 21 million hectares. By the end of 1932, the Soviet Union transformed from a country of small peasant farms into a large-scale agricultural country based on collective farms (Kolkhozes), state farms (Sovkhozes), and the extensive use of machinery in agriculture. By 1932, the contribution of socialist industry was 70% of the national economy, and two-thirds of agriculture was organised into collective farms. These achievements of the USSR become more important as in the same period the capitalist nations suffered economic crises (the Great Depression of 1930), their industrial outputs decreased (In USA 84% drop compared to 1913 and in Britain 56% compared to 1928, similar for Germany and others), and unemployment increased (in the USA employment decreased from 8.5 million to 5.5 million).

In all branches of the national economy,

the socialist victory countered the exploitation of man by man. Alongside the increase in production and industrial enterprises, remarkable success was achieved in the field of education, healthcare, transport, science, and technology (e.g., the literacy rate in the Soviet Union, which was ~28% before 1917 and 67% in 1930, rose to 90% by 1933). The Soviet Union proved that it is possible to become industrially prominent without relying on foreign capital.

Now, the imperialist media that had ridiculed the five-year Plans earlier, calling these exaggerated results, started to accept their successes. The French newspaper 'Le Temps' (April 1932) conceded: "Communism is completing the process of reconstruction with enormous speed, whereas the capitalist system permits only progress at a slow pace... In France, where the land is infinitely divided up among individual property owners, it is impossible to mechanise agriculture; the Soviets, however, by industrialising agriculture, have solved the problem... In the contest with us the Bolsheviks have proved the victors." The British magazine 'The Round Table' wrote: "The development achieved under the five-year plan is astounding. The tractor plants of Kharkiv and Stalingrad, the AMO* automobile factory in Moscow, the automobile plant in Nizhny-Novgorod, the Dnieprostroi hydro-electric project, the mammoth steel plants at Magnitogorsk and Kuznetsk, the network of machine shops and chemical plants in the Urals - which bid fair to become Russia's Ruhr** - these and other industrial achievements all over the country show that, whatever the shortcomings and difficulties, Russian industry, like a well-watered plant, keeps on gaining colour, size and strength... She has laid the foundations for future development... and has strengthened prodigiously her fighting capacity."

*Moscow Automotive Society

**Major industrial centre of Germany

On the Proxy War in Sudan *Saniya*

The globally largest displacement crisis is ongoing in Sudan, with over 9.5 million forced from their homes, and millions starving. The civil war, now in its third year, is between the traditional military, Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the UAE-

backed Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by Mohamed 'Hemedti' Dagalo. They are fighting for control over Sudan's vast oil, gold and fertile lands. To understand today's crisis, we must look back to the era of Omar al-Bashir, who ruled Sudan from 1989 to 2019. His government was known for corruption, violence and economic collapse, where people could not even afford basic needs due to price hikes. This sparked nationwide protests in 2018, which led to the overthrow of al-Bashir. Instead of a civilian democracy, the military and RSF stepped in power as a 'transitional government', which was not very different from al-Bashir's rule. At a sit-in protest on June 3rd, 2019, at least 120 people were killed and many wounded, raped, and made to disappear by the security forces. This came to be known as the Khartoum Massacre.

Power-sharing between the military and RSF was delayed, leading to growing tensions between them until they declared war on April 15, 2023 in Khartoum. The RSF looted and attacked civilian areas. Entire neighbourhoods were burned, shelled or destroyed. Families had to flee with almost no warning, abandoning houses that were later seized, looted, or shattered to rubble. 150,000 people have been killed since April 2023, with 12 million people at risk of sexual and gender-based violence. Sexual violence has been used as a weapon of war, with reports of gang-rapes and sexual slavery against people, including even children. Lack of sanitary hygiene and safe shelters makes it harder for survivors to recover from medical, psychological and social trauma.

The RSF's predecessor, the Janjaweed militias, carried out the 2003 genocide in Darfur. It became the first genocide of the 21st century, where more than 600,000 people were killed. It began after years of inequality and conflict over land and resources. In April 2024, history repeated itself in El-Fashir, the capital of North Darfur. El-Fashir was the last major city that was receiving humanitarian aid, and became a refuge for civilians who were forced out of other parts of Darfur. In April 2024, the RSF surrounded and cut off the city, trapping thousands of people inside without food, medicine, fuel and aid. The control of El-Fashir would mean the control of Darfur's heartland and access to gold-rich routes that fund their war. The RSF is carrying on mass killings of civilians and aid workers, with over 2,500 people killed, 1,77,000 trapped and 71,000 displaced in just 48 hours.

Sudan's civil war is not merely a power struggle, but a resource war. It is also a proxy war. The RSF is heavily backed by the UAE. Much of central and southwestern Sudan's goldfields are dominated by the RSF. Historically, Gulf countries like the UAE have heavily invested in Sudanese agriculture, viewing Sudan as a 'breadbasket' to help tackle their own food security challenges. Most of the oilfields in Sudan are under RSF control and remain a major source of export revenue. Gulf powers have poured money, weapons and political capital into backing the RSF to secure access to the gold, oil, land, and strategic influence in the Horn of Africa. The RSF's control over gold mines, shored up by foreign backing, funds its operations and fuels mass violence. The suffering of Sudan's common people is the inevitable outcome of a system in which profit defines power. As external powers are eager to secure cheap access to gold, land, and geopolitical leverage, the people of Sudan suffer at the hands of domestic reactionaries backed by foreign profiteers.



Condemn the Extrajudicial Killing of Maoists in Andhra Pradesh

According to police reports, Madvi Hidma (a Central committee member and Adivasi from Bastar), his wife Raje, and five other members of the Communist Party of India (Maoist) were killed by security forces in Maredumilli forest of Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of 18th November, 2025. Madvi Hidma carried a collective bounty of Rs. 1 crore declared by different state governments.

Immediately after, news emerged of their killings being a staged encounter as per statements shared by human rights organisations across India, like Civil Liberties Committee (Andhra Pradesh), Campaign Against State Repression (Delhi), Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (West Bengal), and others.

Since the start of Operation Kagar on 1st January, 2024, more than 600 innocent Adivasis and Maoists have been killed by security forces in Bastar in the name of eradicating Naxalism from India by 31st March, 2026. The real target is to clear all resistance to the loot of natural resources for mining giants in the bountiful Bastar region by displacing thousands of Adivasis from their hamlets. With four months left to meet the deadline promised to the RSS-BJP's corporate masters, efforts to eradicate Maoists have only intensified, leading to a complete disregard of the rule of law. Recently, in the Investor Connect Summit, Chhattisgarh CM announced that the state attracted a total of Rs. 6.95 lakh crores worth of investment, chiefly foreign. Countless instances across the country have already shown the hollow nature of this anti-people model of development.

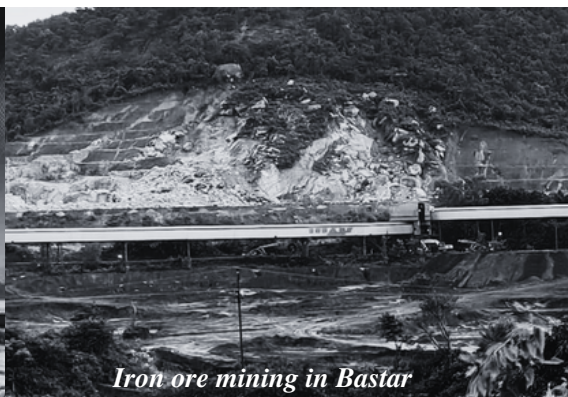
We urge all progressive and democratic organisations, student groups, human rights groups, climate activists, and left parties to pressurise the government to immediately halt Operation Kagar.

We demand an impartial magisterial inquiry into the instances of fake encounters of Maoists and innocent Adivasis.

The government must engage in unconditional peace-talks with the CPI (Maoist).

Adivasi Sangharsh Morcha, Akhila Karnataka Vicharavadi Trust, All India Lawyers Association for Justice, All India Students Association, Ambedkar Reading Circle, Aware India Movement, Bhima Sangatanegala Maha Okkutta, Bhooswadhina Virodhi Horata Samithi (Devanahalli), COLLECTIVE, Dalit Sangharsh Samithi (DSS), DSS (Ambedkarvada), Dalith Tigers, Domestic Workers Rights Union, Eddelu Karnataka, Dr. Ambedkar Dalith Sene Samithi, Fridays For Future- Karnataka, Growthwatch, Indian Social Action Forum (InSAF), Karnataka Jana Jagruti Vedike, Karnataka Janashakthi, Kannada Planet, Karnataka Voice of Public, Karavali Karnataka Janabhivridhi Vedike, Moolnivasigala Dr. Ambedkar Sene, National Alliance for Justice Accountability and Rights, National Alliance of People's Movements- Karnataka, Pragatipara Karnataka Kattada Karmika mattu Eethara Nirmana Union, People's Democratic Forum, People's Union for Civil Liberties, Spark Reading Circle, Students' Islamic Organisation- Karnataka, Students for People's Democracy, Thamate Media, and progressive individuals

Karnataka People's Forum against War on Adivasis



Condemn the Arrest and Harassment of Students in Delhi

23 students from Delhi have been arrested and kept in police custody, on account of raising slogans against the fake encounter of Madvi Hidma, the slain member of CPI (Maoist) and for allegedly protesting at an 'unauthorised' site regarding Delhi's alarming air pollution at the India gate. The arrests were made after two FIRs were registered at the Kartavya Path and Parliament Street police stations. The police have alleged that the accused are 'Urban Naxals' and slapped them with the UAPA where jail becomes the rule. The Delhi-based Campaign Against State Repression has reported that detainees have faced severe mistreatment including allegations of sexual harassment in custody. It also said that lawyers were prevented from meeting detainees, calling it a violation of constitutional safeguards. The Delhi police have also named JNUSU and other student organisations as organisers in the FIRs to increase the scope of the crackdown. Clean air is a fundamental right and the FIRs must be quashed immediately.

UPDATE ON STUDENT MOVEMENTS



Protest in Dharwad Against School Mergers

Students staged a protest in Dharwad on November 21st against the closing down of government schools in the name of merger of Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) Magnet School Scheme - this will mean that schools with less than 50 admissions located within 1 km to 5 km radius of Karnataka Public Schools will be merged with the latter, which means that those schools will be closed. Protesters are not opposed to opening KPS magnet schools.

Harassment by Principal Drives Student to Self-immolation

A second-year BA student at DAV PG College Budhana, Uttar Pradesh set himself on fire inside a classroom on 8th November after facing sustained harassment from his college principal over unpaid fees. In a video, he stated that the college administration had refused to accept his exam form and that the principal insulted him in front of everyone besides physically abusing him. The incident triggered protests outside the college by students and locals, who demanded immediate action against the administration.



Students Protest Security Forces' Assault on Displaced Persons in Manipur

Students from Imphal protest marched towards Manipur's Raj Bhavan against the 'use of force on internally displaced persons (IDP)', a day after the IDPs were forcefully stopped by security forces while attempting to return to their homes, at least four IDPs were injured in this encounter, and faced tear gas as well. Protesters were stopped 100 metres from the Raj Bhavan and were allowed to submit a memorandum addressing the governor in which they expressed their objections to the use of force against IDPs and demanded strict action against security personnel for using tear gas.



US Students Oppose Trump's New Policy

Students, faculty and staff at more than 100 U.S. universities organised coordinated protests on November 7, under the banner 'Students Rise Up', opposing the Donald Trump administration's proposed Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education, a directive inviting or requiring institutions to align with a conservative ideological agenda in exchange for federal funding. The demonstrations also called for affordable education, protections for trans, immigrant and international students, fair faculty contracts, and resistance to outside, billionaire influence in universities.

VIT Bhopal Students Protest Unhygienic food and water

Students from VIT Bhopal protested against contaminated water and unhygienic food on the campus on Tuesday night after several students fell ill with jaundice. Many students have been beaten up by security personnel and faculty, and have been threatened with disciplinary action that may ruin their career prospects. The angry students set vehicles ablaze and vandalised hostels. In response to the protests, administration has closed the campus till November 30th.

