SPARK

MAY 2026 / Volume 4 / Issue 5

Minimum Contribution ₹10



UPDATES ON PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS



Statewide protests led by civil societies against SIR in Karnataka

The month of April saw an increase in the number of protests that erupted across several cities in Karnataka against the SIR exercise. The demands were that the state government take a strong stand against SIR. Taking examples of what happened in Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the concerns raised were regarding discrimination and arbitrary deletion of names of people from minority groups.



Protest march by the farmers of Shivamogga

On 15th of April, in a protest led by Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, the farmers opposed notices being sent to the bagair-hukum cultivators who were displaced by the Sharavathi project. The protesters present that day were farmers displaced by the 1960s Sharavathi power project. These farmers had not received promised alternative lands and were now being threatened with eviction.



Noida workers' protest: Arrests over baseless claims

In Noida, the workers' movement arose seeking valid demands such as an increase in minimum wages, double payment for overtime, dignity at their workplaces. Things took a turn as some baseless allegations against some of these activists were being spread. The UP police along with pro-establishment media vilified the workers who were only protesting for their basic right of dignified wages and better working conditions. As a repercussion, multiple workers, activists, journalists, public intellectuals and authors were arrested with no due process in place.



Adivasis resist Vedanta's Sijimali mining project

In Odisha, Bhubaneswar, when the Adivasis resisted the construction of a road to the Sijimali hills for the Vedanta Group's proposed mining project, the district police and administrative authorities have been reported to have misused their powers to suppress the locals prioritising the capitalists' interest. The atrocities were committed against people in Kantamala village of Rayagada district. The forest-dwelling residents are being asked to produce land ownership documents (patta). The people of these villages live in fear as they are being monitored and subjected to invasion of privacy through drone surveillance.



Workers Protest at Jantar Mantar Over Exploitation

On April 24th, the members of the All Workers Party staged a protest taking a stand against the exploitation of labour of the Noida-NCR workers. They expressed dissent over the brutal crackdown by Uttar Pradesh Police, called for release of arrested workers and activists while also demanding a wage hike, at Jantar Mantar.



Adivasi women fight back being displaced by staging a pyre-protest in MP

A dam is set to be constructed near Dhondhan village as part of the Ken-Betwa river linking project which is leading to forceful displacement of the tribal communities living there. There were various ways in which the locals showed their objection, including sit-ins, demonstrations, road blockades and gheraos of the collector's office. Their demands remained unaddressed and the women who held their ground staged a symbolic 'Chita Andolan' (pyre protest) to convey and warn the authorities that the conditions they have been forced to face amid displacement are worse than death itself.

Printed and Published by Aratrika Dey from No. 19, Bharat Bhavan, No. 35, First Floor,
Opp. Balaji Plywoods, Infantry Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore- 560001

CONTENTS

Updates on People's Movements	2
Then They Came for Me	4
Iran War and the Crisis of US Imperialism	5
Updates on the Iran War: Ceasefire and India	7
The Heroic Role of Students and Youth During Naxalbari Movement	8
Remembering the Dalit Panthers	9
Mullivaikkal: A Rafah Unheard of!	10
NOIDA Workers' Protest: Facing the State Down	11
Defending the Jal-Jangal-Jameen of Sijimali	12
Soviets Butcher the Fascist Snake!	13
How Many More?	15
This Month in History	15
Update on Students Movements	16

EDITOR
Aratrika

EDITORIAL BOARD
Harish
Lekha
Rohit
Sachin
Saniya
Sreeganga
Sushant

DESIGN
Jowhar

COVER
Tathagata

Follow us **@thesparkmag** on Instagram

PAYMENT OPTION

Scan to contribute for Spark. Write 'Spark' in the comments.

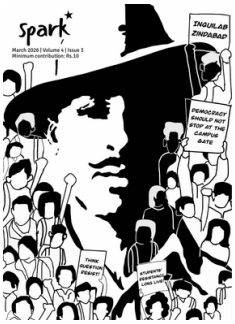
Scan to read previous issues at **thesparkmag.in**

Spark* is a monthly magazine run by students and youth.
Today, the state and the corporate-controlled media are constantly propagating fabricated news that suits their interests. This makes exposition of the truth a pressing 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**





Mail/DM/call us to get previous copies of Spark*



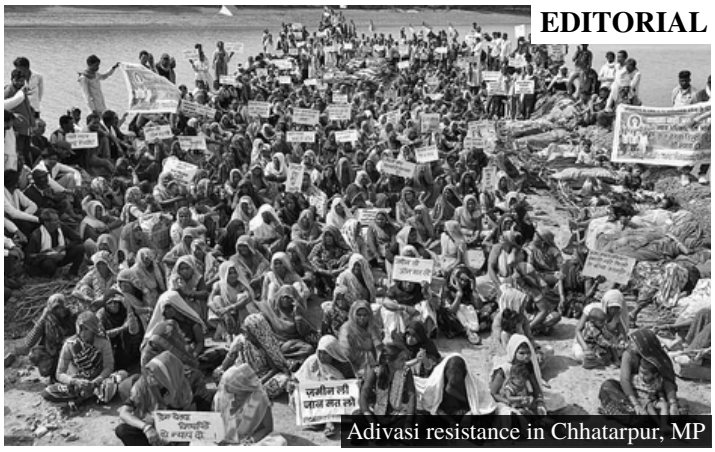


Then They Came for Me

The history of post-1947 India can be divided into two, one leading to the events of 25th May, 1967 in the Naxalbari village of North Bengal that sparked the Naxalbari uprising in different parts of the subcontinent, and the years that followed. The peal of spring thunder that crashed over a nondescript village, continues to shape India's destiny, its polity, and remains a thorn in the flesh for the state. As Naxalbari turned into a prairie fire, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) was formed on 22nd April, 1969 to lead the struggles towards the achievement of a new democratic revolution in India. Organised revolutionary movement inevitably invited organised state violence leading to the entire central committee being either killed, jailed, or surrendered. In July, 1972, Comrade Charu Majumdar, the first general secretary of CPI-ML, was martyred in police custody. However, the state failed to kill the ideology that aimed to overthrow an exploitative class rule to establish people's democracy in India. It continued in the form of divergent streams. This is how one can trace the origin of the 'single biggest internal security threat' of India, the 'Maoist insurgency'.

The affected areas have been the mineral rich districts across the eastern to central part of India, predominantly inhabited by the Adivasi communities, dubbed by the media as the 'red corridor' or the 'Maoist corridor'. Both foreign and domestic capitalists have long since vied for this wealth. The Adivasis here have a legacy of anti-British resistance that was directed against the exploitation of the free market since the 90s. The government in its own analysis of 'Extremist affected areas' states absence of self-governance, forest policy, cultural humiliation, political marginalisation, land alienation, forced evictions, and displacement as factors behind Adivasis joining the Maoists. A major part of these forested areas comes under the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), that grants autonomy to the Gram Sabhas on paper. While innumerable Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed away the vast mineral wealth of this region to corporate giants, the consent of Gram Sabhas was either ignored or coerced.

This naturally fueled resistance in the 'red corridor' against the mining giants, forest department, police, paramilitary, and the state-sponsored militia. The most violent of these militias was the Salwa Judum (purification hunt in Gondi) that was created in Chhattisgarh in 2005 to counter the Maoists. The recruits were locals, vested with unlimited power, alcohol, and arms. Their reign of terror left a trail of mass rapes, burnt villages, and refugee camps for the internally displaced. As the outrage against the Judum started intensifying, the Supreme Court in a 2011 judgment declared the outfit unconstitutional. Parallely, the finance minister P Chidambaram, backed by US imperialists, oversaw the 'Operation Green Hunt' to successfully implement the MoUs,at the cost of human and nature. This operation starting around July, 2009 was retracted around 2014 after massive Adivasi resistance and campaigns



Adivasi resistance in Chhatarpur, MP

from democratic activists in the cities.

In 2015, militarisation started in Gadchiroli of Maharashtra to help acquisition of iron-ore mines for Lloyd metals. In 2017 the Operation SAMADHAN-Prahar was started in other parts of the MoU-ist corridor (as dubbed by Arundhati Roy). It continued for five years with a stated aim of ending the Maoists and a real aim of implementing the MoUs. After this operation failed to meet its objective, the Surajkund Chintan Shivir was organised in Surajkund, Haryana on 27th and 28th October, 2022. Home Ministers of all states, top-level civil and police bureaucrats, and UT administrators joined this meeting to hatch a plan to end both 'pen-wielding' and 'gun-wielding' Maoists. Operation Kagar, starting in January, 2024 was a direct outcome.

Operation Kagar came with an escalation in attacks on innocent civilians as well as combatants. On the 1st of January, 2024, Mangli, a six-month old was killed by the security forces starting a dark chapter of absolute breakdown of law and order in the remaining 'red corridor'. Till Amit Shah's deadline of 31st of March, 2026, more than 600 people, both civilians and Maoists, were killed under this operation. Simultaneously, democratic activists fighting against the plunder of jal-jangal-jameen, labour exploitation, displacement, Hindutva fascism, etc., are being hounded under the UAPA. Organisations operating within constitutional bounds (like the Moolwasi Bachao Manch) have been banned. In the past ten months, students and democratic activists from Delhi have twice been detained and tortured extra-judicially for opposing Operation Kagar.

Amit Shah's 31st March Lok Sabha speech claimed near complete elimination of Maoists and weakening of their organisational structures. Use of brute force, aerial bombing, fake encounters, abduction of democratic activists, banning of democratic organisation, and psychological warfare; every weapon in the state's arsenal has been deployed through Operation Kagar. Even then, can the state truly rest easy while the conditions that created the ideology of Naxalbari continue to exist and deepen? Its spectre continues to haunt them as exemplified by the recent targeting of CPI-ML (Mass Line), Mazdoor Bigul Dasta activists as Naxals for voicing people's concerns, crushing of movements for jal-jangal-jameen at Sijimali, and Ken-Betwa region in MP. The remaining strands of communists are perhaps the marinating chicken.

Iran War and the Crisis of US Imperialism

Arindam

For the first time the world is completely divided up, so that in the future only re-division is possible, i.e., territories can only pass from one 'owner' to another, instead of passing as ownerless territory to an owner

...this summing up proves that imperialist wars are absolutely inevitable under such an economic system, as long as private property in the means of production exists.

— V. I. Lenin, Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism, 1916

After the Tariff War, disrupting a number of economies around the world, Trump attacked Venezuela by capturing their President, and started a war, killing Iran's supreme leader. The Venezuelan government surrendered and struck a deal with the US, however, Iran did not. Iran retaliated with heavy blows to US military bases across the Middle East and choking the Strait of Hormuz.

United States' Weakness

The last two months of war have revealed the financial and military weakness of the US. The US has been isolated from its traditional European allies and the existence of the NATO alliance is in question. Various European nations have declared openly that they will not accede to the demands of the US. They have not only blocked the usage of their bases for attacks by the US, some of them have accused the Zionist occupation to be Nazis of these times. Countries in the Gulf, South Korea, Japan, who depend on the US for their security are now getting concerned whether they can continue to do so in the future. Some of them have increased their military spending. This situation has already started creating problems for US imperialism.

Financially, the US has already spent nearly 60 billion dollars by now. The overall financial cost of the conflict, which ran for 38 days before the ceasefire took effect, is estimated by two independent groups at between $28 billion and $35 billion — approaching $1 billion per day. As of April 2026, President Donald Trump has requested a historic $1.5 trillion for the fiscal year 2027 defense budget, roughly a 40% to 44% hike. This represents the largest single-year surge in US military spending since World War II.

Militarily, nearly half of the US missile stockpile has been used up, more stocks from South Korea and Japan have been imported. Military experts say that it will take at least 3 years to replenish the missile stockpile. The strength of the US military defense system is weakened. This will affect its competition with the Russian and Chinese imperialists in this multi-polar world order. Various warplanes worth billions of dollars, radar stations in the Gulf, and military bases built up over a long period have been destroyed in Iran's counter attack. This increased financial burden has affected the US economy. Prices of goods in the US have soared. The inflation rate has gone up. Increased oil prices have benefitted the oil producers but overall, it has negatively impacted the economy. Working masses in the US have come down to streets in millions against Trump's policies. Dissatisfaction is growing even among Trump supporters. How this will play in the midterm elections is to be seen. In West Asia, the war in Gaza, Israel's economy is already under pressure. It is estimated that there is 3.5% reduction in growth due to the current war. There have been massive missile attacks in Israel and it has made ordinary lives difficult, many factories and institutions have shut and a lot of people are forced to work from home. Investments and exports have decreased. Militarily too it has exhausted a lot of its missile stockpiles. There is a shortfall of 12,000 people in the army, and this can shoot up soon. Even the head of Israel's army has openly stated that the army cannot disarm Hezbollah as demanded by Netanyahu.

This is the overall situation of the US-Israel axis. There is a lot of destruction that has happened in Iran as well. Many of its oil and gas production facilities, medical institutions, hospital infrastructures, educational institutions, etc. have been destroyed, more than 3000 people have been killed. Even with so much destruction, Iran has successfully prevented the US-Zionist aggressors from fulfilling its war objectives.

Shifting goal posts

In the beginning of the war, Trump said that the war objective is regime change. On realizing that this was not possible he started shifting goal posts. The stated aims then changed to seizing enriched uranium and then to destruction of missile stockpiles and its capacity to produce missiles. Even though it was claimed that the air force and the naval force was destroyed, Iran continued to launch till the start of the ceasefire. Meanwhile the US and the Zionist colonizers suffered heavy losses. In order to spread the effect of the war and to make it a global issue, Iran has successfully tolled the choke point Strait of Hormuz. In this asymmetric war, Iran is trying to prolong it to weaken its enemy and force them to end the war with a peace treaty. Although the peace talks in Pakistan ended in stalemate, Iran is leading morally.

Changed World Order

China's advance in the economic sphere, in comparison to the US, is striking. It is leading in AI tech, communications, robotics, electronic batteries, green energy, and has surpassed the US in several critical technological domains. Even in emerging areas such as deep-sea mining, and space technologies, the US is mostly lagging. China has emerged as South America's largest trading partner, with Chinese capital driving the construction of key infrastructure like railways, ports, and highways, while steadily expanding its control over rare earths and other strategic minerals. Yuan dominance is increasing.


Mass grave of Iranian schoolgirls

In the military sphere too, the balance is shifting, with China building a formidable force and producing weapons five to six times faster than the US. A secret US Defence Department report leaked by the New York Times warned that the US would lose a war with China. Meanwhile, as the US retreats from many international fora, China is asserting itself, and drawing a majority of 'third world' countries into its expansive Belt and Road initiative, thereby consolidating its position as a rising imperialist power against the relative weakening of the US. The increasing contradiction between the EU and the US, and the question mark on the existence of NATO, should also be noted.

In such a scenario, a redivision of the world has started, resulting in wars and conflicts all around the world. This is intensifying with some experts strongly indicating the chance of a World War III. The US is trying to maintain dollar dominance over the oil trade. Tariffs, Venezuela, and the Iran war are all consequences of this. Maintaining dollar dominance is the only way by which the US can fund its military expenses all around the world and keep the prices of goods in check. This is the 'exorbitant privilege' that it continues to exercise. After the 2022 removal of Russia from the SWIFT system, the process of de-dollarization of the world has escalated. Institutions like the WTO have been made defunct by the US to shift from the era of globalization to the era of protectionism.

India's Position

India's position here is volatile, on one end due to its subservience to imperialist economies, and on the other hand, due to multipolarity, India is getting to bargain. Imperialists eye the huge market, cheap labour, and natural resources available in India. However, increasing contradictions between the imperialist forces will shrink this space. India will have to decisively choose a camp.

We are already seeing India's complete surrender to US tariffs and open siding with the US-Zionist camp. India chose to remain silent for days before making limited outreach to Iran, including a condolence visit by a senior official. India even chose to ignore the inhuman killing of 168 schoolgirls in Minab by the terrorist US. In a situation where Pakistan is being the mediator, Modi's "Vishwaguru" rhetoric stands humiliated.

India's surrender should be seen in the light of its economic dependence on the US. The US is India's largest export destination. With regard to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the US is the third largest ($76.26 billion investment since April 2000), after Mauritius ($182.2 billion) and Singapore ($179.48 billion). It is well known that a major chunk of the investment from Singapore and Mauritius are basically investments by US and other western countries, routed through them, to evade tax. Total multilateral loans by India amounted to $80.77 billion. 38% of it comes from the World bank and IMF which is controlled by the US, Asian Development Bank (ADB) comes second, which is again controlled by Japan and US. Japan, a close ally of the US, is the biggest bilateral loan provider.

This was summarised by Lenin in 'Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism', "Typical of the old capitalism, when free competition held undivided sway, was the export of goods. Typical of the latest stage of capitalism [that is, imperialism], when monopolies rule, is the export of capital".

The Islamic Republic of Iran

When the war started, the US wrongly assumed that it could bring about a regime change in the aftermath of the attack, using people's anger against the Iranian government. But that miscalculation does not rule out mass opposition to the regime. We saw the anger of the people erupting during the January agitation. Some protesters from January were hanged. Now the contradiction between the Iranian people and the US-Israel axis has taken a dominant position, in comparison to the internal contradictions. Living conditions in Iran are worsening, inflation has shot up to 40%. Nearly 50% of the employable people are without jobs. Even though US sanctions have played a major role in this crisis, exploitation of the Iranian ruling class is also a big factor. 1% of the population controls 30% of the wealth. IRGC, which is the ideological armed wing of the Islamic regime, is not just a military outfit, it has a major role in the economy. More than half of the oil sector is controlled by it. Iran is basically ruled by its elites, so it would be wrong to characterize it fundamentally as anti-imperialist just because it resists US aggression. The Iranian state had close ties with other western imperialists even during the US sanctions. Now it has close relations with Russian and Chinese imperialists. They are openly helping Iran in the war.

Although it stands within the imperialist system, it is an oppressed country, and thus, the resistance war waged by its rulers against the US-Zionist aggression is just and should be supported by the international progressive forces. At the same time, its anti-people and comprador character should not be ignored. Iran's emancipation from imperialism cannot be achieved by the current leadership, it can only lead to some rearrangements. However, this resistance has great importance not only for west Asia but for the whole world. The success of Iran in blocking US imperialism and defeating its objectives will have repercussions in politics and people's struggle. In Iran itself it may lead to a revolutionary awakening.

Updates on the Iran war: Ceasefire and India

Kamran

The events since 28th February, 2026 are not a series of separate conflicts but a single, coordinated war of aggression waged by the US led imperialist bloc, with Israel as its forward base, against the anti-US forces of West Asia. The US-Iran war, the Israeli assault on Lebanon, and the ongoing genocide in Gaza are all fronts in the same offensive, driven by the crisis of monopoly capital and its strategic need to crush any resistance that defies the dictates of the US hegemony.

Since 28th February, the joint US-Israeli forces have directly targeted Iranian civilian and military sites, with the Iranian Forensic Medicine Organization identifying 3,753 people killed and 22,800 wounded, the destruction of more than 81,000 civilian facilities, and the displacement of approximately 3.5 million people. The Health Ministry of Iran specified that the dead include more than 230 children and about 1,800 injured minors.

In Lebanon by 24 April, the cumulative toll from ongoing Israeli attacks had risen to 2,483 dead and 7,707 injured. Official health ministry data confirms that by mid-April the death toll included 165 children, 85 rescue workers, at least 88 health workers, and 195 injured in the line of duty. Six hospitals have been completely closed due to extensive damage. A US-brokered, 10 day ceasefire that took effect on 16 April was immediately exposed as a sham when Israel committed 220 violations in the first three days.

The genocide of the Palestinians continues unabated behind the cover of a ceasefire since October 2025. Between 12-18 April 2026, violent incidents surged by 46%, the highest weekly total since the truce began. Since the ceasefire, Israel has committed 2,400 documented violations, including killings, arrests, blockades, and deliberate starvation resulting in the deaths of 786 Palestinians and injuries to 2,217 others. The cumulative death toll since October 2023 now stands at over 72,000 killed, more than 172,000 wounded, and 90% of civilian infrastructure destroyed. The armed resistance of the popular forces aligned with Iran is not a violation of peace but the legitimate and lawful exercise of the right to resist occupation and imperialist domination.

These figures reveal not three wars, but a single system of slaughter, united by a common US strategy: destroy national infrastructure, displace civilians, impose blockades, and then offer fraudulent ceasefires that freeze the aggression in place. The US naval blockade of Iran, the Israeli buffer zone in southern Lebanon, and the strangulation of Gaza are different faces of the same policy which is the transformation of entire societies into unlivable spaces, designed to crush any resistance. The war does not remain confined to the battleground; it is exported directly into the kitchens and workplaces of the colonised world. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has triggered an acute energy crisis that cascades through global supply chains, hitting the poorest nations the hardest.



Workers going back from Surat due to LPG crisis

The working class, especially in countries like India, bears the heaviest burden of this conflict. The disruption of energy supplies has triggered an LPG crisis causing cylinder prices to rise. In Surat's textile sector alone, approximately 150,000 workers, around 30% of the workforce, have returned to their villages as factories reduce operations. In Morbi, a major ceramics hub, shutdowns and layoffs have left workers unable to afford basic necessities. Gulf countries contribute nearly 38% of India's remittances from where more than 375,000 Indian workers have been repatriated by late March, with earlier waves numbering in the tens of thousands, adding further pressure on rural economies already unable to absorb this influx. Rising fuel and fertiliser prices, with urea increasing by about 30%, are placing additional pressure on farmers during a critical planting season. For now the government is subsidising oil prices with the West Bengal and Tamil Nadu elections in mind. Due to disruption in energy imports and falling remittances, the rupee slid to 94.8 per US dollar. Goldman Sachs has warned that India faces a combination of slower growth, higher inflation, and a weaker currency. If oil prices sustain at $100 per barrel, India's GDP growth in FY27 could slow to 6.6%, that too based on murky government data.

The "All quiet on the Shipka Pass" response of the Indian government reflects a familiar pattern within the global capitalist order, a tendency to minimize crisis while its effects are borne by the working masses. Official statements talk about monitoring and control, pretending that the situation is stable and manageable. The reality shows otherwise.

This war on the people of Iran, Lebanon, and Palestine is an expression of the death throes of 'moribund capitalism' as termed by Comrade Lenin in his analysis of imperialism, the last stage of capitalism. The duty of every democratic person is to oppose this manslaughter in the name of claiming markets for and by the rotten US-imperialists.

The Heroic Role of Students and Youth During Naxalbari Movement

Sachin



Students and youth leading demonstrations at Com. Charu's call in Kolkata

The seed of the Naxalbari struggle sprouted on March 3, 1967 when a plot of land was surrounded by the peasants in Naxalbari village in West Bengal. They marked its boundaries with red flags and started harvest. Scared of the revolutionary peasantry, the United Front government of Bengal, consisting of Bangla Congress and Communist Party of India (Marxist), announced some token land reforms, but the peasantry responded by setting up committees to take over the land of the landlords. Their slogan "March forward along the path of armed peasant revolution" struck in the hearts of the landlords like a thunderstorm. Jyoti Basu, the then Home Minister of Bengal, ordered the police in. The peasantry retaliated and a police personnel was killed. Two days later, the police killed 11 villagers, including 7 women and 2 children. The struggle intensified even more, and tea garden workers also carried out strikes in support. In this region, the government deployed a large number of paramilitary forces, beating hundreds and jailing thousands.

Though the Naxalbari uprising was crushed, the 'spark' had already spread like a prairie fire. To the call of Com. Charu Majumdar, many students and youth started joining the movement, sacrificing everything like families, studies, and career, in order to serve the oppressed masses. After the killings in Naxalbari, students of Kolkata plastered the College Street walls with posters declaring "Murderer Ajoy Mukherjee [the Chief Minister] must resign." Many responded to the call of Charu Majumdar by going to villages to organise the peasantry, while spontaneous student uprisings also began taking place in educational institutions. The colleges increasingly became bastions of revolutionary politics.

An iconoclastic campaign was started by the students and youth of Bengal, who broke and destroyed statues and portraits of popular icons like Gandhi, viewing them as representatives of comprador and feudal culture. Though this was done in haste and without sufficient ideological debate, it still shook the roots of comprador-feudal culture and struck a blow to pro-establishment historians. Portraits of Com. Mao, along with his quotes and slogans, were plastered across Kolkata. There were also incidents of young students, even teenagers, snatching guns from police and running away in broad daylight. Two-thirds to three-quarters of the college unions came under the influence of AICCCR, which in less than a year became the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist). The police grew increasingly anxious and were instructed not to move alone and to keep their weapons close at all times.

This revolt by the students was met with severe repression. Despite knowing the risks, many continued their activities and were shot when found. Many precious lives were lost. The local police proved ineffective, leading to the deployment of BSF and CRP forces in the city, with CRP camps even set up inside colleges. At one stage, the Army was also deployed. The police also used gangsters and hired killers to target revolutionaries, while the CPIM and Congress mobilised lumpen elements to attack students involved in pro-people activities. The Baranagar-Cossipore massacre stands as a haunting example of this brutality, where more than 150 youth were killed in cold blood within two days, many of whom were not even activists. There were countless instances of torture, including an old man being burnt alive for not giving information about his 'naxalite' nephew, and a teenage girl having her arm chopped off because she did not know where her brother was.

More than a thousand students were martyred and several thousand imprisoned, yet they displayed death-defying courage. Even after inhuman torture and facing enemy bullets, students and youth integrated themselves with landless and poor peasants and continued to arouse them for revolution. The conditions inside prisons were extremely harsh. Fifteen to sixteen prisoners were kept in cells meant for four to five. CPI-ML members and sympathisers were often confined in solitary cells for months or even years, or in very small spaces. They had to use a single bucket for urinating and defecating. Hundreds were beaten to death. Many broke out of prison and rejoined the movement, while many were martyred in the process.

Even within prisons, they turned incarceration into centres of resistance, carrying the revolutionary spirit despite severe physical and mental torture. At the Party's call, they did not classify themselves as political prisoners, as such classification could grant privileges unavailable to comrades from worker and peasant backgrounds. Many rejected better facilities when offered. Mary Tyler, in her book 'My Years in an Indian Prison', described their condition, "their yard is as dreary and desolate as one could imagine… a cemented yard, a water tap and a row of dark little cells… five or six to a cell, in fetters, twenty four hours a day… Yet they laugh, joke and make light of it all… Physically all are affected… thin, pale, dry, attacked

by ailments diagnosed and undiagnosed." Despite such conditions, their morale remained strong.

The revolutionaries also had massive people's support. People provided shelter, food, and information about police movements, and organised protests against state repression. In August 1970, when Samir Bhattacharya, a young revolutionary, was tortured to death in a police station in north Kolkata, the entire city observed a hartal and north Kolkata remained paralysed for three days. Huge crowds gathered outside hospital gates and defied Section 144. At times, it seemed that direct clashes would occur between the military and the masses. This demonstrated that when revolutionaries fight for the masses, the masses in turn stand firmly in their support.

The condition of students at that time was also dire. Poverty and unemployment were widespread and the education system after the 'transfer of power' remained largely unchanged from the British period. It aimed to produce lackeys of imperialism, but instead created individuals who turned against it. Youth across the country: from Punjab, Kerala, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, found in Naxalbari politics an alternative to corruption, injustice, exploitation, and inhumanity. They were drawn to the dream of a new society.

They dreamed of a world where no one would remain hungry, where selfishness would be replaced by cooperation, and where justice would prevail. This dream, though still unfulfilled, became a driving force for thousands of students and youth. It remains a task for the future generations to strive towards making that vision a reality.

Remembering the Dalit Panthers

Anand and Ganga

The struggle for the emancipation of the dalits needs a complete revolution. Partial change is impossible. We do not want it either. We want a complete and total revolutionary change. We do not want a little place in the Brahmin alley. We want to rule the whole country.

-Dalit Panthers Manifesto (1973)



Logo of the Dalit Panthers

Revolution is not peaceful. The oppressors will not hand over their resources to the oppressed. We have to fight for it. Bring an end to the system itself, that thrives on the exploitation of the masses. This was the vision that the Dalit Panthers carried. May 29th marks the 54th anniversary of the formation of the Dalit Panthers Party. The emergence of this radical group was the result of millennia of atrocities and exploitation of Dalits, and of the status quo that continued after August, 1947. This was also a reaction to the opportunist Dalit parties and Left parties, who reduced the politics of revolutionary communities like the Dalits to mere competition for individual power. The Republican Party, supposedly created to make the legacy of Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision reach the broad masses, reduced their politics to legalism, and were co-opted by the Congress. Mainstream left parties failed to incorporate a programme to annihilate caste into their already revisionist politics.

It was in the background of the preparations for the 25th year of Independence, in 1972, that the Dalit Panthers were formed. JV Pawar and Namdeo Dhasal, founders of the party, immediately called for a boycott of the 25th Independence Day, calling it a "Black Independence Day". The rally called by them was joined by around 2 lakh people, mostly the youth of Bombay. Raja Dhale, another prominent leader of the Dalit Panthers, published an article on this Black Independence Day in Sadhna Magazine, to which Shiv Sena, a Hindutva outfit, and Congress threatened to burn the press down. The Panthers responded by threatening to fight back fiercely. When the goons arrived at the press, they were frightened by the strength of the Panthers, and retreated.

On 5th January, 1974, at a massive rally in support of textile workers in Bombay, the Panthers called for a boycott of the coming Lok Sabha elections. Shiv Sena attacked the rally. In a counter-protest, the Panthers were met with goons and police firing, in which Bhagwat Jadhav was killed; the first martyr of the Dalit Panthers. The fighting continued for two months.

They used tactics of self-defense against atrocities on Dalits, especially in rural areas, held massive militant demonstrations calling for boycott of elections, propagated the need for revolutionary violence, and exposed the lies of the parliamentary parties. They gheraoed political leaders who deceived the people. The influence of the Panthers spread to Bombay, Poona, Nashik, Aurangabad, with thousands of Dalit youths joining the movement so rapidly that around five units were being inaugurated per day.

A powerful impact made by the Panthers was through the literature they produced. Their rebel literature, breaking away from the standard inaccessible forms of writing, took on an anti-establishment, confrontational, and defiant tone that made the mainstream literary heads very uncomfortable. This literature came up on boards, in slums, small magazines and posters, breaking the Brahmanical-liberal hegemony over literature. The Little Magazine Movement, ongoing in various parts of the country, fueled the powerful texts that the Panthers published.

The Panthers could not find any scope of emancipation in the existing parliamentary 'democratic' system. Inspired by the Black Panthers in the USA and the Naxalbari

movement in India, the leaders of the movement saw the need for a rebellion against the social order that was designed to exploit Dalits, Muslims, Adivasis, women, and all oppressed peoples. This vision combined with Ambedkar's ideals of social equality, became the guide for these revolutionary youth. They redefined Dalits as all those oppressed: scheduled castes and tribes, Neo-Buddhists, the working class, landless and poor peasants, women, and all religious minorities being oppressed by the Indian state.

The Dalit Panthers emerged as a revolutionary alternative to the vast masses of oppressed youth who were disillusioned with the system at hand. Despite the immense popularity they gained, the leadership was fragmented from the beginning. One section upheld a mixture of Marxism and Ambedkarite ideology, while the other wanted to embrace the path of Buddhism. This fundamental ideological split combined with clashing personalities resulted in the Dalit Panthers being officially split in 1976 into three factions. There was also a chunk of the leadership that was corrupt and misused the influence of the party over the sections of rural Dalits using their positions for extortion and land grab. Similarly now, there is a trend amongst youth to appropriate the title of Panthers to anyone associated with the anti-caste movement. That title is not trivial; it carries a revolutionary legacy, a legacy of sacrifice and militant armed resistance.

In the years after the transfer of power from British colonisers to the Indian ruling class, revolts and uprisings broke out across India. Peasants, workers, Dalits, and various struggles by the people from North to South, East to West were ongoing. None of the movements were mere emotional outbursts; rather they were expressions of pent-up anger against the system that ran on a hundred forgotten promises.

The Panthers saw right through the false promises of these opportunist parties. A system run by the same old feudal classes, empowered by imperialism, would continue to keep the Dalits deprived of power, wealth, and status, as they did for thousands of years. The freedom from the Britishers and setting up of a parliament failed to solve the issues faced by the Dalits. The governments only passed laws against untouchability, but did nothing to eradicate the caste system that promotes it. For that to happen, land must be redistributed, oppressive traditions must be done away with, people must become makers of their own life, rather than millennia old scriptures dictating who rules and who serves.

The Panthers were active only for a span of four years, but the spark created by them ignited a flame that has refused to die down!

Mullivaikkal
A Rafah Unheard of!

Harish

Two years ago, in May 2024, an AI-generated image bearing the words All Eyes on Rafah became one of the most widely shared posts on Instagram. With around 44 million users sharing it, the image drew global attention to one of the most brutal military strategies known to mankind, where the settler-colonial state of Israel forcefully trapped nearly a million Palestinians in Rafah Block-2371 designated as a 'No Fire Zone' then bombed it, killing hundreds of innocent civilians. It is, however, less known that 14 years prior, this method was first tested on the Tamils of Eezham.

In 2008, the Tamils, waging a 25-year-long armed national liberation struggle, were cornered in the Vanni region of northern Sri Lanka (occupied Tamil Eezham). In September 2008, the Sri Lankan state, led by Mahinda Rajapaksa, in its aim to capture the liberated Tamil Eezham launched a gruesome military campaign. In the final months of this campaign, the United Nations reported that around 300,000 Tamil civilians were trapped in these "No Fire Zones" in Mullivaikkal.

The Sri Lankan government deliberately under-reported the civilian population in the area to 70,000, thus artificially creating a severe shortage of food and humanitarian aid leading to widespread starvation. Many of those who survived these conditions were killed in intense shelling, which claimed the life of 40,000 civilians. Further, those who survived the shelling were stripped naked and shot dead by the Sri Lankan army; women were sexually tortured and mutilated; schools and hospitals were bombed, with nearly 1000 Tamils being killed on average per day in May 2009. With the murder of Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the de facto Tamil Eezham nation, the military campaign came to an end on 18th May 2009 with a death toll of 150,000 Tamils.

The atrocities against Tamils neither began nor ended in Mullivaikkal; they have their roots in the imperialist divide-and-rule policy engineered by the British in the last century. Over the years, the fascist Sinhala government was repeatedly armed by imperialist powers and their lackeys. With America arming them with International Monetary Fund dollars and military strategies, China supplying free F-7 warplanes, Pakistan sending trained spies and tanks, Israel providing dozens of warplanes and boats, and India with its unwavering political, economical and military support had their hands stained with the blood of the innocent Tamils.



Image of civilians from the 'no fire zones'

Today, 17 years after the genocide, Tamil communities still continue to suffer, now under the National People's Power (NPP) regime, which proudly presents itself as communist in words, but remains in essence another chauvinist watchdog of imperialism in action.

NOIDA Workers' Protest: Facing the State Down

Adiba

The protest by factory workers in NOIDA, which made headlines in the mainstream media only when it turned violent, is a struggle against inhumane working and living conditions, worsened by the recent inflation of prices. But the working classes only become visible when there is disruption of the smooth flow of production. NOIDA is not the only place where workers are agitating. From Barauni to Surat to Panipat to Faridabad to Manesar to Bhiwadi, workers from oil refineries, steel plants, automotive industries and garment factories, as well as domestic workers, have been raising similar demands, exposing similar patterns of exploitation, and receiving similar crackdowns and vilification from the government, proving the precarity of India's industrial and informal workers' situation. The response the NOIDA workers' protest has garnered from the government, the media and the general public, proves the very need for such disruption, as there is no other way their voice is heard.

The workers have been explaining in interviews how they were already living on the edge of sustenance, and are now pushed beyond the limit. Their entire families have been living in small, congested rooms in dingy quarters with only two washrooms on a floor, and with health hazards posed by the lack of hygiene, the mosquitoes breeding in the drain, and the lack of ventilation in this excruciating heat. Even this namesake housing has now become unaffordable. The condition at the workplace is no better. Many workers are made to work 12-hour shifts, with wage deductions for lunch break and tea break. Wages worth 1 hour are deducted for a 45-minute lunch break, and another one hour worth of wages for being even a bit late from the break. The LPG crisis due to the Iran war has disproportionately affected the workers, with many returning to their hometowns, many others relying on cooking using firewood somewhere on their employer's premises if allowed, while still others surviving on meals that do not require cooking, such as biscuits dipped in water. Many workers have had to take loans that amount to around Rs. 50,000, leaving them with no savings even after years of overtime work. Their children's education has taken a massive hit, with some of them having to drop out of school, and some being sent back to their hometown. Thus, from meagre wages that have not been duly revised, to arbitrarily extended working hours without compensation, to rising expenses for necessities in the face of stagnant income, to absence of social security, to uncertainty of income and reduced pay due to contractualisation of labour, the impossible standards of living and working expose the parasitic nature of the system.

The workers have been asking the government for support in accessing gas cylinders, but to no avail. When they began the protest on April 9th, their demands fell on deaf ears until they resorted to destroying police vehicles and factories. Domestic workers also joined the protest, demanding higher wages, better housing, and healthcare and education for their children.

The crackdown and the smear campaign by the government combined with the promised reforms show its indifference towards the workers, and its desperate urge to restore ‘order’ and save face. Framing the protesters as ‘urban naxals’ is an old tactic straight out of the playbook of this fascist regime. While ‘naxals’ are equated with terrorists, as a pretext for atrocities against peasants and adivasis resisting loot of their jal-jangal-jameen, an extension of the label, is assigned to any semblance of dissent. The target can be students and civilians opposing draconian anti-minority laws or protesting against worsening air pollution, or workers demanding their rights. For these workers, protesting means risking their safety and livelihood. The police used tear gas on the protesters, arrested 350-400 workers, filed 7 FIRs, and detained around 1,000-2,000 workers, including those who did not even join the protest, booking them on charges like theft, rioting, mischief, and causing voluntary hurt.

The police’s response and the ‘urban naxal’ narrative being propagated by the UP government shows how violence by the state is normalised while the workers are restricted to peaceful means that have proven nothing but futile. The ‘due process,’ rigged against the people by design, is invoked only when suppressing the working classes. This systemic disenfranchising of the workers is state violence. The process itself is a weapon meant to subdue any dissent. Hundreds of workers, including juveniles, and activists have already been arrested by the UP police without following due process.

The Labour Codes, effective from 1st April 2026, have opened the door for differences in minimum wages across states, while also making it more difficult for workers to unionise. The protesting workers in NOIDA are largely non-unionised. The Codes have also formalised contractualisation of labour, making it easy for employers to exploit workers. NOIDA workers have reported how hiring on an hourly basis are on the rise, how contractors try to bargain with them and even take some of their wages as commission, and how workers are excluded from formal records and are hired as ‘helpers,’ thus allowing employers to exploit them to no end.

The UP government raised the minimum wage by 21% in response to the militant protests, much below the demand of Rs. 20,000 a month and less than the national average. The promises being made to them now are like an insult to injury. There have been reports of how the workers are often paid in cash, without any formal record of the payment that they can access, and how they are merely told that the Provident Fund amount is being deducted from their wages without being shown any proof. While the state tries to vilify NOIDA workers, this pattern of workers protesting across the country in increasing numbers is proof of the failure of this imperialist system that extracts super-profit from cheap labour at the cost of their lives and dignity.

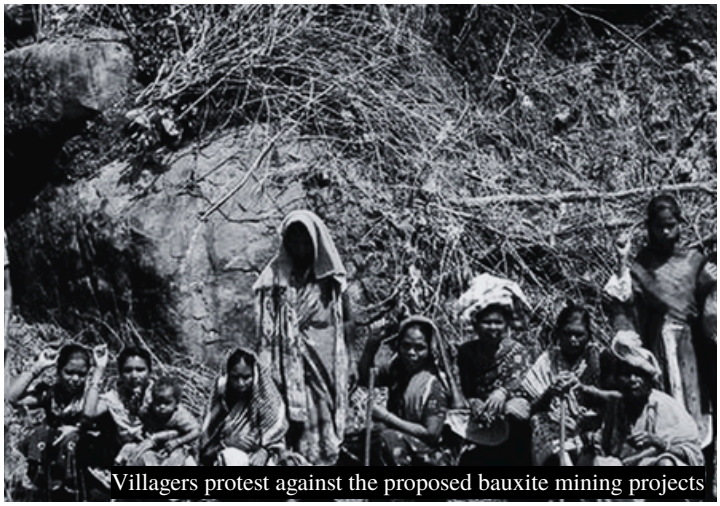
Defending the Jal-Jangal-Jameen of Sijimali

Vidhya

For over three years now, thousands of adivasi and dalit villagers in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts in Odisha have been protesting the proposed bauxite mining project contract granted to Vedanta Limited by the Government of Odisha. This mining project is spread over 1,549 hectares of land comparable to airport complexes like the NOIDA or Navi Mumbai International Airport development projects. Bauxite mining is open cast involving drilling and blasting the top surface to expose the ore, which is then crushed, washed, processed and loaded to be transported out. This means the landscape is irreversibly altered, with complete deforestation and soil erosion. The environmental damage is incalculable. The mines have an estimated reserve of 311 million tonnes, proposed to be mined over the next 50 years. Bauxite is used in transportation, construction, chemical, packaging and petrol industries. The ore here is to be sent to Vedanta's Lanjigarh alumina refinery, which feeds the company's Jharseguda smelter. And the company CEO of Jharseguda says, "With customers in more than 60 countries, the company offers more than 25 high-quality variants of billets and plans to further expand capacity across its operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh to 1.25 MTPA." What will the people get in return? Worse than nothing. Displaced, shunted to the fringes, passed over and then criminalised.

The people of Rayagada and Kalahandi oppose this loot. For the people who are primarily Kondh adivasi, the Sijimali Hills is a sacred site of the Tiji Raja, a local deity. It is their ancestral land and forest. The promises of compensation and rehabilitation ring hollow among those who have seen the conditions of those displaced. The Government of Odisha and India knew the people of the land would oppose the mining contract and so, instead of hearing them, consulting with them, or even attempting dialogue, they fast-tracked environmental clearances, forged gram sabha consents and granted permissions for both road and rail access to the mine besides granting a 50-year lease to Vedanta. It also criminalised the protests by the people by filing case after case and arresting protestors in waves. This entire ‘development’ model of mining handed over to private corporations is finally intended for the egregious export of high quality alumina to the international market. The rush to push through mining permissions also includes steamrolling prevailing legal rights of the people of Sijimali including violations of the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, PESA, Forest Rights Act, LARR besides international conventions on indigenous rights. Some laws are bent, some are disobeyed, many are broken.

Exposing the futility of legal safeguards and the history of state response to people's appeals as in the case of Niyamgiri, the people have taken to sustained, organised mass protests. This has happened despite the repeated filing of criminal cases, incarceration, illegal searches and violent assaults by the police. Meanwhile, the Brahmanical High court has



Villagers protest against the proposed bauxite mining projects

imposed casteist bail conditions for the protestors - dalit and adivasis are to clean the Kashipur Police Station.

With a history of strong, organised, prolonged struggle set by the people of Niyamgiri, the Ma Mati Mali Surakhya Samiti is determined to oust the company as well as the police. On the intervening night of April 6th and 7th, the state police entered the villages in the dead of the night, cut off electricity supply, broke open doors and lathi charged people. This midnight assault by the police was covered by the mainstream media the next day with claims that over 58 police personnel were injured. There was scarce mention of the injured adivasis, those arrested and no mention that this midnight raid was illegal. The police and other officials claimed the people pelted them with stones and attacked them with axes. Visuals in the media clearly showed officials of the road construction company Mythri Infrastructure and Mining India Pvt Ltd accompanying the police to get medical treatment in Visakhapatnam. Meanwhile, the police arrested 21 persons including 10 women in the dead of the night in direct violation of the guidelines laid down in D.K. Basu v State of West Bengal. Over 70 people were injured in this state violence. After weeks in custody, on April 27-28th, nine adivasi women protestors were released. 12 others remain behind bars. Those released were received as heroes by the people.

Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan journalist and writer, famously said, nature is not mute. The ecological crisis is a direct consequence of the unbridled loot of resources where every piece of ore, deposit of mineral or lump of coal is a commodity available to the one best able to grease palms. Today, our political system is greased by Vedanta, TATA, Adani, Ambani, and their greasier subcontractors. The people with a history of defending their lands against colonialists see right through this imperialist scheme. The people of Sijimali join a long legacy of resistance - from Niyamgiri to Koraput in Odisha, from Raigarh to Hasdeo Arand in Chhattisgarh, Surjagarh in Maharashtra and Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. They are prepared to fight for their land, life and dignity. Their resistance demands our attention. Do we have the courage to join them?

Soviets Butcher the Fascist Snake!

Harish and Sushant

The experience of the war has shown that the Soviet system is not only the best system for organising the country's economic and cultural development in times of peace, but it is also the best system in times of war - for resisting the enemy and for mobilising the entire strength of the people. The socialist system born out of the October Revolution has given strength to our people and our army, making them great and invincible.

-Com. Joseph Stalin

Hitler's Attack on the USSR

On 22 June, 1941, without any warning, Hitler broke the non-aggression pact and attacked the Soviet Union, achieving some initial success through this sudden attack. The Soviet armies, while resisting, began to retreat. They intended to inflict significant losses on the fascist forces and slow down their advance. Eight days after the attack (30 June, 1941), the State Defense Committee was established, and all power was entrusted to it. Stalin became the chairman of this committee. On 3 July 1941, Stalin addressed the Soviet people and the army about the critical situation of the country. Explaining the objectives of the Soviet Union in the war against fascist Germany, Stalin said it was a great war of the entire Soviet people against the German fascist army. The aim of this war was not only to protect the socialist state, but also to help liberate all the European nations suffering under the yoke of German fascism. He also stated that in this war of liberation, the Soviet people would not stand alone: "This war for the liberation of our motherland will merge with the struggle of the peoples of Europe and America for their own freedom and democratic liberation. It will be a united front of nations standing for freedom and against enslavement, against the danger of becoming slaves of Hitler's fascist armies." Despite clearly seeing the danger of fascism, the Western powers had greatly hesitated to unite with the Soviet Union and confront it. Taking advantage of the then favourable international situation, Stalin called upon the Soviet people to organize their entire lives for the war. He emphasized that all the needs of the army must be fulfilled first in order to defeat the enemy. Not only the Red Army and the Red Navy, but all Soviet citizens would have to fight for every inch of Soviet land, every village and every city, with every drop of their blood. Because of the Five-Year Plans, Soviet workers and specialists had already become accustomed to accomplishing large tasks in a short time. As a result, factories that would normally take three years to build were dismantled, moved, and reassembled at new locations within six to eight months.

On 6 December, 1941, the moment arrived when the exhausted German forces, having suffered immense losses, reached the outskirts of Moscow, and at that very moment, the reserve army, already prepared, struck them like lightning. The victory of Moscow forced even the skeptics to admit that Hitler's army was not invincible. On 23 February, 1942, Stalin said: "The advantage that the German fascist army gained from sudden and surprise attacks has now ended. From now on, the outcome of the war will not depend on the convenience of surprise attacks, but on sustained military operations, on the firmness of the rear, the morale of the army, the strength and capability of military divisions, the weapons and resources of the army, and the organizational ability of its commanders." In the Second World War, Stalin proved himself to be an outstanding military commander and a man of great military genius.

Battle of Stalingrad

In 1942, the German armies were advancing to capture the great oil fields of Baku and Grozny. Their next objective, it was said, was to reach India through Iran and link up with the Japanese. However, Stalin understood that having failed to encircle the capital from the west and south, the fascists were now trying to extend their encirclement and achieve the same objective from the east. Their intention was to deprive the Soviet Union of the industrial regions of the Volga and the Urals, then attack Moscow. By mid-July, the Germans indeed abandoned the route toward Iran and India and turned toward the Volga, launching an attack on Stalingrad. However, forces had already been stationed there. On 5 October, 1942, Stalin, who had earlier defended Tsaritsyn (the former name of Stalingrad) against counter-revolutionaries, ordered the commander there, "I demand that you take all measures for the defense of Stalingrad. Stalingrad must not surrender to the enemy." Thus began the historic Battle of Stalingrad, one of the greatest and most significant victories in history. Stalin said, "I believe that no other country or army could have defended itself against the invasion of the German fascist plunderers and their barbaric accomplices. Only our Soviet country and only our Red Army could withstand such blows - not only withstand them, but also crush the enemy." On 19 November, 1942, in the outer sectors of Stalingrad, the Red Army abandoned the strategy of defense and adopted an offensive policy, launching attacks on both flanks of the enemy. The attack was so powerful that, like a thread of silk burning in fire, the enemy forces shrank, became disorganized, and began to retreat. The Red Army not only encircled them but destroyed large parts of the 300,000 fascist troops and captured the rest, achieving a decisive victory at Stalingrad. After the victory at Stalingrad, the Nazi army fell into disorder, driven out rapidly by the Red Army.

Liberation of the Motherland and Reconstruction (1943)

In the winter of 1942-43, the Red Army's campaign succeeded in recapturing those Soviet territories from the Germans that had been seized at the very beginning of the war. Even then, Churchill and his associates were not willing to open a second front, despite having witnessed the severe

defeats of Hitler's army. After this, the Red Army abandoned the defensive stance and adopted an offensive policy across the entire front. The Red Army continued to advance, destroying and driving back the enemy. By November 1943, two-thirds of Soviet territory had been liberated from German control. On the one hand, the Red Army continued to liberate territories, and on the other, the people engaged in rehabilitation and reconstruction work according to a planned program. The enemy was retreating, but to prevent them from regrouping, the guerrilla army was striking them fiercely at various locations, causing heavy losses. Intensified guerrilla warfare made the fascist army confused and disoriented.

The successes of the Red Army removed one fear from the minds of Western imperialists, but at the same time raised another, that Bolshevism might spread across all of Eurasia. In November 1943, in Tehran, Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill met, discussed, and reached an agreement among the three powers on the war against Germany and post-war cooperation. In the final years of the war, the Soviet state was not only fighting battles and achieving victories but also continuously repairing and restarting factories, iron furnaces, and hydroelectric power stations destroyed by the fascists. During this very period, new steel plants were established in Chelyabinsk and Uzbekistan, and new blast furnaces were set up in Tagil, Magnitogorsk, and other places to increase iron production. A new aluminium factory began operating in Stalinsk. New hydroelectric power stations started functioning in Stalinsk, Chelyabinsk, and other locations. Stalin paid special attention to the economic reconstruction of the liberated territories. In his leadership, the Party's Central Committee and the Council of People's Commissars decided in August 1943 to adopt necessary measures for the economic rehabilitation of the areas freed from German occupation. In the Soviet Union, the collective interest of the people was not separate from individual interest. As a result, reconstruction and rehabilitation work progressed rapidly.

"Onward to Berlin!"

By 1944, the countries allied with the fascists - Romania, Finland, and Bulgaria - not only surrendered to the Soviet Union but also turned their guns against Hitler's armies. The Soviet army became fully capable of defeating Germany in a single blow. On 6 November 1944, when the Soviet people were celebrating the 27th anniversary of their great Revolution, Stalin stated in his speech that all Soviet territory had been liberated from German fascists. Not only that, but the Soviet army had now entered Germany and its allied countries, clearing out the enemy. The Red Army advanced rapidly toward Berlin. In just 40 days (January-February), through lightning offensives, the Soviet army liberated all of Poland, most of Czechoslovakia, and large parts of East Prussia and Silesia. Hungary, Hitler's last European ally, had also surrendered. The Red Army captured Vienna, destroying Germany's southern stronghold. Crossing the Oder River, it



Celebration in Moscow's Red Square on the first Victory Day in 1945

advanced toward Berlin, liberating concentration camps all the while. In April, Stalin signed the Soviet-Polish friendship treaty. The hope of Western imperialists to use Poland as a puppet in their hands and as a base for anti-Soviet activities was shattered. For the Soviet Union, this treaty was a major and decisive political victory.

The Great Victory and the End of Hitler

The great day of victory over Germany has arrived. Forced by the blows of the Red Army and our allied forces, fascist Germany has fallen to its knees and surrendered unconditionally. Now there is every reason to say that the historic day of Germany's final defeat has arrived - the day of our people's great victory over German imperialism. My dear countrymen and countrywomen! Congratulations on the victory!" - Com. Joseph Stalin

On May 2, 1945, Moscow Radio announced that the Soviet army had taken control of Berlin. The Red Army raised its victory flag over Berlin. Adolf Hitler, along with a few of his close associates, had already died by suicide in his bunker. On May 8, 1945, the high representatives of the German army signed an unconditional surrender. May 9th was declared Victory Day by Stalin. By 1945, Japan's Kwantung Army in Manchuria met the same fate as Hitler's forces. The Soviet army drove the Japanese forces out of Manchuria, southern Sakhalin, northern Korea, and the Kuril Islands. For Japan, no option remained except unconditional surrender.

During the war, the Soviet socialist system and planned economy proved itself far superior to the capitalist system. It proved itself superior again during the reconstruction period. Despite millions of Soviets being killed in the war, collective farming and collective labour soon cultivated millions of acres of land that had been left barren, and rebuilt the devastated villages. As the needs of war gradually declined, the factories that had been producing war materials began to shift toward producing goods for peacetime use. **It was proven in practice that only socialism can counter fascism.**

How Many More?

Ganga



To those who think caste is no longer an issue in Indian society or that caste exists in the remote villages, the suicide of Nithin Raj proves otherwise. The first-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery student, died on April 10th following continuous harassment from his peers, faculty, and administration. Nithin was from Thiruvananthapuram district. He was found seriously injured near the medical college block of Kannur Dental College, was taken to the hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries. The primary accused are the Director of the Dental Department and an Associate Professor. Audio clips sent by Nithin, and the testimonies of his family and friends, reveal how he had been a target of casteist, racist abuse since the time he joined the college. He was harassed by faculty members who used to hurl casteist abuses at him, target him, even calling him a 'rotten dog'. The family got to know about Nithin jumping from a building and dying through news channels. He had been facing ragging from his seniors, another issue rampant in campuses across Kerala. His complaints fell on the ears of the casteist faculty who further humiliated him based on his caste, skin colour, and the occupation of his parents, who are labourers. The faculty continued to harass him by reducing his marks, out of spite and with complete impunity.

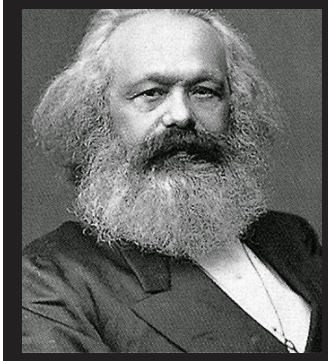
He is one among countless victims of Bramhinical violence that continues in Kerala society, that ironically boasts of development, and unparalleled socio-economic growth. It is high time this model of economic development is questioned. This is a systemic murder fueled by casteism of the dominant communities that continue to hold power in Kerala. A state-wide Hartal was observed on 28th April demanding action against the perpetrators. The protests against casteism in educational institutions must expose the impunity with which oppressor caste faculty/administrators exert their power over the marginalised students. Student movements must necessarily create spaces within campuses that fight these casteist, communal, and patriarchal systems. The fight for a Rohith Act should be seen as a part of this struggle. The institutional murders of Nithin and every other student is a slap on the face of the dominant ruling parties and structures in Kerala that show off big numbers of development for their electoral gains.



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



May 1 - May Day, also called Labour Day or International Workers' Day. A day to uphold workers' rights and demands all over the world.



May 5, 1818 - Karl Marx, the revolutionary philosopher was born in Treves, Germany. He and Freidrich Engels authored Das Kapital, the Communist Manifesto, and many other works advocating the abolition of all private property and introducing a system in which workers own all the means of production- land, factories and machinery



May 9 - Victory Day in Russia, a national holiday commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany during the "Great Patriotic War" (World War II) honouring the 20 million Russians who died in the war.

May 10, 1857 - The Sepoy Mutiny or First War of Independence, was a widespread rebellion against British rule in India in 1857–59. It started in Meerut by Indian troops (sepoys) in the service of the British East India Company and spread to Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, and Lucknow. It saw wide participation of the peasantry as well who were being ravaged by the British policies. A section of the feudal lords and monarchs also lent their support in a bid to oust the British. Due to the extensive blows suffered by the British in this uprising, the subcontinent came directly under the British crown henceforth.



May 19, 1890 - Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh was born in the central Vietnamese village of Kim Lien (as Nguyen That Thanh). In 1930, he organized the Indo-Chinese Communist party and later adopted the name Ho Chi Minh, meaning "he who enlightens."

May 19, 1925 - Black nationalist and civil rights activist Malcolm X was born in Omaha. He was assassinated while addressing a meeting in the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on February 21, 1965.

UPDATES ON STUDENT MOVEMENTS



JNUSU protests against removal of Ambedkar's portrait from college's hostel mess

A week after Ambedkar Jayanti, Jawaharlal Nehru University students union (JNUSU) protested against one of the hostel wardens Vaniki Joshi Lohani for removing the portrait of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. Condemning the act of Joshi, Aditi Mishra, the JNUSU president said "RSS-affiliated teachers and VCs are trying to turn the institution into a citadel of casteist and feudal orders". One of the demands of the students included that Joshi must resign from the warden position. Back in February, JNU's students protested against casteist remarks made by the vice chancellor Santishree Pandit.

Students in Himachal Pradesh University protest against the murder of 19 year old student Siya Guleria

Students' Federation of India (SFI) staged a protest after a 19-year-old BBA student Siya Guleria was murdered in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. Per the reports, Guleria was attacked near Gopalpur by two people on bike, as they slit her throat using a sickle. SFI's state president Anil Thakur demanded a strict action against the accused Vikas Patiyal. Despite rains, Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) also stood in solidarity and protested against Guleria's murder**.**





Protesters slapped with Public Safety Act for vandalism while protesting against sexual misconduct in J&K

At least six At least six protesters were charged with Public Safety Act for alleged vandalism during protests in Kashmir's Baramulla district. The protests were against an Urdu lecturer Ghulam Hassan Mir for repeatedly harassing female students. Post the inquiry conducted by the Educational Department, the lecturer, who had been a faculty of Government Girls Higher Secondary Institute in Sopore, was suspended. Multiple educational institutes were shut down for a period of three days.



Kannur Dental College's teaching staff submits resignation following left, right, and centre protests against Nithin Raj's death

Per the reports, Orthodontics department staff including the faculty members at Kannur Dental College submitted their resignation after several students protested against the institutional murder of Nithin Raj, a Dalit student. Nithin’s chief abuser, Dr Ram, was suspended after his death. The final-year students boycotted classes. Two of the teaching faculty is booked under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act for abetting the suicide.