



Workers' Voice

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Frederich Engels
(28 November 1820 – 5 August 1895)



The above image is of the founding congress of the Second International held on 14th July, 1889 in Paris, France. Under the leadership of Frederick Engels this congress called upon the working people of the world to observe May 1, every year with effect from May 1, 1890 as International Day of working class solidarity.



Anganwadi workers and helpers of Haryana under the banner of Anganwadi Karyakarta Sahayika Union, Sonapat District Committee, Haryana, affiliated to AIUTUC held a rally in Sonapat and demonstration before the residence of the Minister for Dept of WCD on 8.4.2017 against arbitrary termination and threat of dismissal of around 1500 workers



Comrade Samar Sinha, General Secretary, AIPF addressing the gathering of the Eastern and North Eastern Regional Electricity Workers Convention at Bharat Sabha Hall, Kolkata on 8.4.2017 organised by NCCEEE



Historic May Day Movement and the Great November Revolution — A Red Letter History of their Identification and Internationalisation

Let us begin with the call of V.I. Lenin, the architect of the great November revolution given on the eve of celebration of May Day in 1904;

“Comrade workers! May Day is coming, the day when the workers of all lands celebrate their awakening to a class- conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty, and humiliation. Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle: the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom.

On one side stand the handful of rich blood-suckers. They have seized the factories and mills, the tools and machinery, have turned millions of acres of land and mountains of money into their private property. They have made the government and the army their servants, faithful watchdogs of the wealth they have amassed. On the other side stand the millions of the disinherited. They are forced to beg the moneybags for permission to work for them. By their labour they create all wealth; yet all their lives long they have to struggle for a crust of bread, beg for work as for charity, sap their strength and health by back-breaking toil, and starve in hovels in the villages or in the cellars and garrets of the big cities”.

This is how Lenin approached the celebration of historic May Day in a leaflet prepared and published by him calling upon the workers to observe the same in 1904. It may be added here that in July 1903, in its second congress the Communist Party of Soviet Union (formerly known as RSDLP), while declaring the immediate programme of the party inter alia pinpointed the struggle for eight hour working day as one of its programmes. It is worth recalling that in 1901, in the Obkhub Arms Factory in St. Petersburg (Petrograd), while observing May Day

strike the striking workers heroically resisted the brutal attacks of the police of the Tsarist autocracy who came down heavily on them to foil the strike. This attack caused bloodshed of hundreds of striking workers. To take further revenge 800 workers were arrested and a good number were sent to exile. This created a sensational impact on the Russian workers. In 1905, in its third congress, while adopting the resolution on “Minimum Tasks to be implemented by the Provisional Revolutionary Government”, along with the overthrow of Tsarist autocracy, implementation of eight hours work day was emphasized. It is also to be noted in this connection that during the preparation of struggle to overthrow the Tsarist autocracy as well as the anti-capitalist socialist revolution in November 1917 and almost in every anniversary of May Day Lenin placed before the workers the significance and lessons of May Day Movement and its linkage with the revolutionary struggle not only in Russia but also in all the countries of the world. In fact, the “linkage” was becoming more and more consolidated with the passage of time.

J.V. Stalin, the worthy successor of V.I. Lenin and an extra-ordinary artist and builder of socialist construction in USSR, while calling upon the workers on the eve of 1st May, 1912 to observe May Day explaining its significance in following words:

“Comrades ! As far back as last century, the workers of all countries resolved to celebrate annually this day, the First of May. That was in 1889, when, at the Paris Congress of the Socialists of all countries, the workers resolved to proclaim, precisely on this day, the First of May, when nature is awakening from her winter sleep, when the woods and hills are donning their green mantles and the fields and meadows are adorning themselves with flowers, when the sun shines more warmly, the joy of revival fills the air and nature gives herself up to dancing and rejoicing—

they resolved to proclaim loudly and openly to the whole world, precisely on this day, that the workers are bringing spring to mankind and deliverance from the shackles of capitalism, that it is the mission of the workers to renovate the world on the basis of freedom and socialism.

Every class has its own favourite festivals. The nobility introduced their festivals, and on them they proclaim their “right” to rob the peasants. The bourgeoisie have their festivals and on them they “justify” their “right” to exploit the workers. The clergy, too, have their festivals, and on them they eulogise the existing system under which the toilers die in poverty while the idlers wallow in luxury. The workers, too, must have their festival, and on it they must proclaim: universal labour, universal freedom, universal equality of all men. That festival is the festival of the First of May.....”

[Source: *Works*, Vol. 2, 1907 – 1913 - Publisher : Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, 1954 - <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/1912/04/x01.htm> - written by J. V. Stalin in Moscow, at the beginning of April 1912; printed in leaflet form on the occasion of celebrating May Day 1912

While observing their own FESTIVAL – THE MAY DAY, the working people of the world must recall not only the history of May Day Movement, but also the long drawn movement for shortening of working day in general and eight hour working day in particular, which had been in the growing since the beginning of 18th century in different parts of the globe, particularly in Europe and in America, culminating in the emergence, consolidation and expansion of May Day Movement. Many glorious battles were fought in many places including in India which we refrain from detailing in this presentation. But it is mention-worthy that the movement for eight hour working day got momentum after the establishment of the First International in the name of ‘International Working Men’s Association’ (IWMA) on September 28, 1864. This also must be kept in mind that Karl Marx and his close compatriot Frederich Engels in their various celebrated works explained the justification of the demand of legislation of eight hour working day and laid the scientific theoretical foundation of the limitation of working

hours. It had an immense contribution in advancing the Eight Hour Working Day Movement that led to historic May Day Movement in 1886 throughout America that commenced on 1st May. In this connection it is imperative to have a meticulous look at startling revelation of Karl Marx as follows:

“What is a working-day? What is the length of time during which capital may consume the labour-power whose daily value it buys? How far may the working-day be extended beyond the working-time necessary for the reproduction of labour-power itself?” It has been seen that to these questions CAPITAL replies: **the working-day contains the full 24 hours, with the deduction of the few hours of repose without which labour-power absolutely refuses its services again. Hence it is self-evident that the labourer is nothing else, his whole life through, than labour-power, that therefore all his disposable time is by nature and law labour-time, to be devoted to the self-expansion of capital.** Time for education, for intellectual development, for the fulfilling of social functions and for social intercourse, for the free-play of his bodily and mental activity, even the rest time of Sunday (and that in a country of Sabbatarians!) — moonshine! But in its blind unrestrainable passion, its were-wolf hunger for surplus-labour, capital oversteps not only the moral, but even the merely physical maximum bounds of the working-day. It usurps the time for growth, development, and healthy maintenance of the body. It steals the time required for the consumption of fresh air and sunlight. It higgles over a meal-time, incorporating it where possible with the process of production itself, so that food is given to the labourer as to a mere means of production, as coal is supplied to the boiler, grease and oil to the machinery. It reduces the sound sleep needed for the restoration, reparation, refreshment of the bodily powers to just so many hours of torpor as the revival of an organism, absolutely exhausted, renders essential. It is not the normal maintenance of the labour-power which is to determine the limits of the working-day; it is the greatest possible daily expenditure of labour-power, no matter how diseased, compulsory, and painful it may be, which is to determine the limits of the labourers’ period of repose. Capital cares nothing for the length of life of labour-power. All

that concerns it is simply and solely the maximum of labour-power, that can be rendered fluent in a working-day. It attains this end by shortening the extent of the labourer's life, as a greedy farmer snatches increased produce from the soil by robbing it of its fertility.

The capitalistic mode of production (essentially the production of surplus-value, the absorption of surplus-labour), produces thus, with the extension of the working-day, not only the deterioration of human labour-power by robbing it of its normal, moral and physical, conditions of development and function. It produces also the premature exhaustion and death of this labour-power itself. It extends the labourer's time of production during a given period by shortening his actual life-time.

But the value of the labour-power includes the value of the commodities necessary for the reproduction of the worker, or for the keeping up of the working-class. If then the unnatural extension of the working-day, that capital necessarily strives after in its unmeasured passion for self-expansion, shortens the length of life of the individual labourer, and therefore the duration of his labour-power, the forces used up have to be replaced at a more rapid rate and the sum of the expenses for the reproduction of labour-power will be greater; just as in a machine the part of its value to be reproduced every day is greater the more rapidly the machine is worn out. It would seem therefore that the interest of capital itself points in the direction of a normal working-day. **(Karl Marx, "Capital" - Vol. I - July 25, 1867)**

The above examination which was made earlier form a part of "Capital - Vol-I", which was published after the Geneva Congress held on 3-8 September 1866. It may be recalled that the Geneva Congress endorsed the call for legislation of 8 hour working day as adopted in Baltimore Convention of trade unions, held on 16th August, 1866. In the Geneva Congress, the second congress of the First International, Marx and Engels jointly proposed the following with the title "Limitation of Working Day".

"Limitation of the Working Day - A preliminary condition, without which all further attempts at improvement and emancipation must prove abortive, is the limitation of the working day. It is needed to restore the health and physical energies of the working class, that is the great

body of every nation, as well as to secure them the possibility of intellectual development, sociable intercourse, social and political action.

We propose 8 hours work as the legal limit of the working day. The limitation being generally claimed by the workmen of the United States of America, **the vote of the congress will raise it to the common platform of the working classes all over the world.** For the information of continental members, whose experience of factory law is comparatively short dated, we add that all legal restrictions will fail and be broken through by capital if the period of the day during which the 8 working hours must be taken, be not fixed. The length of that period ought to be determined by the 8 working hours and the additional pauses for meals". **(Works of Marx and Engels - Vol - 20, page 187)**

With adoption of the above proposal at the Geneva Congress the demand of legislation of eight hour working day was elevated to the status and character of a general demand of international working class movement. This added a new dimension to the struggle for legislation of eight hour working day. Marx further observed this in his celebrated work - "Capital - Vol I" as follows:

"In the United States of North America, every independent movement of the workers was paralyzed so long as slavery disfigured a part of the Republic. Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded. But out of the death of slavery a new life at once arose. The first fruit of the Civil War was the eight hours' agitation, that ran with the seven-leagued boots of the locomotive from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from New England to California. The General Congress of labour at Baltimore (August 16th, 1866) declared: "The first and great necessity of the present, to free the labour of this country from capitalistic slavery, is the passing of a law by which eight hours shall be the normal working-day in all States of the American Union. We are resolved to put forth all our strength until this glorious result is attained."

At the same time, the Congress of the International Working Men's Association at Geneva, on the proposition of the London General Council, resolved that "the limitation of the working-day is a preliminary condition without which all further attempts at improvement and emancipation must prove abortive... the

Congress proposes eight hours as the legal limit of the working-day.” Thus the movement of the working-class on both sides of the Atlantic, that had grown instinctively out of the conditions of production themselves, endorsed the words of the English Factory Inspector, R. J. Saunders: “Further steps towards a reformation of society can never be carried out with any hope of success, unless the hours of labour be limited, and the prescribed limit strictly enforced.” **(Karl Marx, “Capital” – Vol. I)**

We find that movement was spreading in different parts of the world and very soon it assumed a mass scale character in the United States of America. Engels wrote on February 25, 1886 -

“..... The tendency of the Capitalist system towards the ultimate splitting-up of society into two classes, a few millionaires on the one hand, and a great mass of mere wage-workers on the other, this tendency, though constantly crossed and counteracted by other social agencies, works nowhere with greater force than in America; and the result has been the production of a class of native American wage-workers, who form, indeed, the aristocracy of the wage-working class as compared with the immigrants, but who become conscious more and more every day of their solidarity with the latter and who feel all the more acutely their present condemnation to life-long wage-toil, because they still remember the bygone days, when it was comparatively easy to rise to a higher social level. Accordingly the working class movement, in America, has started with truly American vigor, and as on that side of the Atlantic things march with at least double the European speed, we may yet live to see America take the lead in this respect too”. **[Source: Appendix to the American Edition of - New York, 1887] “ Works of Frederick Engels 1886 - The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844, - London, February 25, 1886 – Frederick Engels - - Transcribed: by Tony Brown.]**

Expectation of Engels turned into reality. American workers took the lead. An indefinite strike commenced on 1st May, 1886 on the demand of legislation of eight hour working day, at the call of American Federation of Labour in association with “Knights of Labour”. Chicago became the nerve centre of the movement although other cities like New York, California etc.

did not lag behind. Many workers were killed by police firing on 3rd and 4th of May. In an unfair trial 4 leaders of the workers namely, Albert Parson, August Spies, George Engel and Adolf Fischer were hanged on 11th November, 1887. It stirred the entire American working class and that of Europe. Any people could hardly believe that such a gigantic event could happen in American soil. Engels observed -

“In February 1885, American public opinion was almost unanimous on this one point; that there was no working class, in the European sense of the word, in America; that consequently no class struggle between workmen and capitalists, such as tore European society to pieces, was possible in the American Republic; and that, therefore, Socialism was a thing of foreign importation which could never take root on American soil. And yet, at that moment, the coming class struggle was casting its gigantic shadow before it in the strikes of the Pennsylvania coal-miners, and of many other trades, and especially in the preparations, all over the country, for the **great Eight Hours’ movement** which was to come off, and did come off, in the May following. That I then duly appreciated these symptoms, that I anticipated a working-class movement on a national scale, my “Appendix” shows; but no one could then foresee that in such a short time the movement would burst out with such irresistible force, would spread with the rapidity of a prairie-fire, would shake American society to its very foundations.**[Source: ibid]**

The “GREAT EIGHT HOUR MOVEMENT” as characterized by Engels went on and spread over in different continents. Engels felt that the message of May Day movement should be carried to the entire working class fraternity of the globe. Great Marx was no more. The First International also collapsed in 1870s due to various reasons and factors. Now Engels took a fresh initiative to bring together the vanguards of the working class movement of different countries into one platform. In this backdrop, the International Congress was convened on 14th July of 1889, the centenary year of the victory of the French Revolution and thus came into existence the Second International. This congress inter alia adopted a resolution calling upon the working class fraternity of the world to observe 1st May every year as International Working Class

Solidarity Day with effect from 1st May 1890 on the demand of legislation of eight hour working day in all countries as well as improvement of working conditions of the workers. Later on Engels wrote – **“This was the best of what our congress achieved.”** On this day Engels further wrote in the preface to the German Edition of the ‘Communist Manifesto’ as under:

“Working men of all countries, unite!”

But few voices responded when we proclaimed these words to the world 42 years ago, on the eve of the first Paris Revolution in which the proletariat came out with the demands of its own. On September 28, 1864, however, the proletarians of most of the Western European countries joined hands in the International Working Men’s Association of glorious memory. True, the International itself lived only nine years. But that the eternal union of the proletarians of all countries created by it is still alive and lives stronger than ever, there is no better witness than this day. Because today, as I write these lines, the European and American proletariat is reviewing its fighting forces, mobilized for the first time, mobilized as *one* army, under *one* flag, for *one* immediate aim: the standard eight-hour working day to be established by legal enactment, as proclaimed by the Geneva Congress of the International in 1866, and again by the Paris Workers’ Congress of 1889. And today’s spectacle will open the eyes of the capitalists and landlords of all countries to the fact that today the proletarians of all countries are united indeed. - **If only Marx were still by my side to see this with his own eyes!”**

Thus began internationalization of May Day Movement and this was no more confined in the demand of eight hour working day alone. Gradually it encompassed all legitimate demands of the entire working class. The observation of Marx and Engels that “the limitation of the working-day is a preliminary condition without which all further attempts at improvement and emancipation must prove abortive”, immensely contributed to the development of revolutionary struggle of the working class aimed at putting an end to exploitation of man by man. Thus close linkage between movement for limitation of working hours and revolutionary struggle for emancipation of labour became more and more being identified and consolidated. Consequently everywhere workers raised slogans to put an end

to the exploitative capitalist system and establish working class state overthrowing the capitalist state. This was achieved for the first time in the world in 1917 in Russia, where the first working class state was established..

One hundred twenty six years have passed since the beginning of the observance of May Day as International Working Class Solidarity Day. There is hardly any day like the May Day which is observed in all the countries of the world. This year is 131st anniversary of May Day and 127th anniversary of the International Working Class Solidarity Day. At this juncture, working people of the world are passing through unprecedented difficult times emanating from the tragedy that have befall on humanity owing to the temporary collapse of the socialism and socialist camp caused due to nefarious attacks from within and outside. An organized onslaught, even somewhere emboldened by state sponsored violence has been unleashed on the achievement of eight hour working day and other hard won rights including the right to minimum wage, social security, organize, strike and collective bargaining for the interest of monopoly houses, employers community and extending the lease of life of moribund capitalism which is engulfed in irreversible multi-prong crisis striking a blow to the euphoria of capitalist globalization. Twelve to fourteen hour working days are being imposed in many industries and services. ILO core conventions including eight hour working day are being reversed or amended in retrograde direction for the interest of corporate sector. On the other hand, despite relentless effort of the capitalist class and its subservient states in league with the compromising forces to disarm the working class, they are taking to the streets in various countries including ours as well in advanced countries namely America, Great Britain, France, Germany etc. The ruling class for its survival are patronizing religious fundamentalism, communalism and right reaction. Fascism is in the process of consolidation in almost all the countries irrespective of the stages of development. Ours is no exception. As such, it is seen that right reactionary, ultra nationalist and religious fundamentalist forces are coming to power starting from America, France, Germany to India. Imperialism is on desperate offensive. Danger of war is also looming large.

The situation demands an all out unity of the working people of all countries and to build up decisive resistance based on correct outlook and understanding of the present situation and constant sharpening of class consciousness. Comrades! We are in the midst of the preparation of Great November Revolution centenary celebration. Situation demands of us to integrate the lessons of May Day movement with the lessons of

the Great November Revolution. Let us recall the clarion call of Lenin, the architect of the Great November Revolution, given on the eve of celebration of May Day in 1904 in Russia — **“Let the celebration of May Day win thousands of new fighters to our cause and swell our forces in the great struggle for the freedom of all the people, for the liberation of all who toil from the yoke of capital!”**

Marxist Authorities on Great November Revolution and aftermath

(On 7th November, 2016 commenced the centenary of the victorious Great November Revolution. We declared that throughout the year as a part of observance of the centenary we shall publish the views of the great men and some Marxist authorities on the November revolution as also the articles on different aspects, experiences and achievements of November revolution in various walks of life of Soviet people. We have started our exercise from the 30 November 2016 issue (Bulletin No. 13), wherein we reproduced the views of some eminent personalities of the contemporary world about the November revolution. In Bulletin No.14 (15 February 2017 issue) we reproduced one article of Great Lenin, the architect of the revolution and a speech of his worthy successor - Great Stalin on the lessons of the November revolution. In this issue we are reproducing some valuable excerpts from the speeches delivered by Mao-Tse-Tung and Shibdas Ghosh, the great leaders of the proletariat on and in connection with the great November Revolution and aftermath)

Mao-Tse-Tung

“..... I would like to say a few words about the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. I think there are two “swords”: one is Lenin and the other Stalin. The sword of Stalin has now been discarded by the Russians. Gomulka and some people in Hungary have picked it up to stab at the Soviet Union and oppose so-called Stalinism. The Communist Parties of many European countries are also criticizing the Soviet Union, and their leader is Togliatti. The imperialists also use this sword to slay people with. Dulles, for instance, has brandished it for some time. This sword has not been lent out, it has been thrown out. We Chinese have not thrown it away. First, we protect Stalin, and, second, we at the same time criticize his mistakes, and we have written the article “On the Historical Experience of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat”. Unlike some people who have tried to defame and destroy Stalin, we are acting in accordance with objective reality.

As for the sword of Lenin, hasn't it too been discarded to a certain extent by some Soviet leaders? In my view, it has been discarded to a considerable extent. Is the October Revolution still valid? Can it still serve as the example for all countries? Khrushchov's report at the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union says it is possible to seize state power by the parliamentary road, that is to say, it is no longer necessary for all countries to learn from the October Revolution. Once this gate is opened, by and large Leninism is thrown away.



The doctrine of Leninism has developed Marxism. In what respects has it done so? First, in world outlook, that is, in materialism and dialectics; and second, in revolutionary theory and tactics, particularly on the questions of class struggle, the dictatorship of the proletariat and the political party of the proletariat. And then there are Lenin's teachings on socialist construction. Beginning from the October Revolution of 1917, construction went on in the midst of revolution, and thus Lenin had seven years of practical experience in construction, something denied to Marx. It is precisely these fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism that we have been learning.

In both our democratic revolution and our socialist revolution, we have mobilized the masses to wage class struggle in the course of which we have educated the people. It is from the October Revolution that we have learned to wage class struggle. During the October Revolution, the masses in the cities and villages were fully mobilized to wage class struggle. Those who are now sent by the Soviet Union as experts to various countries were but children or teenagers at the time of the October Revolution, and many of them have forgotten about this practice. Comrades in some countries say that China's mass line is not right, and they are only too happy to pick up the paternalistic approach. There is no stopping them if they want to do so; in any case, we adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, with non-interference in

each other's internal affairs and mutual non-aggression. We have no intention of exercising leadership over any country save our own, that is, the People's Republic of China.

The fundamental problem with some East European countries is that they have not done a good job of waging class struggle and have left so many counter-revolutionaries at large, nor have they trained their proletariat in class struggle to help them learn how to draw a clear distinction between the people and the enemy, between right and wrong and between materialism and idealism. And now they have to reap what they have sown, they have brought the fire upon their own heads.

How much capital do you have? Just Lenin and Stalin. Now you have abandoned Stalin and practically all of Lenin as well, with Lenin's feet gone, or perhaps with only his head left, or with one of his hands cut off. We, on our part, stick to studying Marxism-Leninism and learning from the October Revolution. Marx has left us a great many writings, and so has Lenin. To rely on the masses, to follow the mass line — this is what we have learned from them....”.

(Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung – Vol. – 5 speech at the second plenary session of the eighth central committee ... Transcription by the Maoist Documentation Project.... HTML revised 2004 by Marxists.org - https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/...mworks/volume-5/mswv5_56.htm)

Shibdas Ghosh



“..... You should keep in mind that Leninism is a method of analysis, a total outlook in this era to comprehend the process of revolution in each and every country under the imperialist world order, aware of the concrete differences of time and place from country to country. It is Leninism that has projected what should be the fundamental strategy of revolution in every country in this era. For this reason, Leninism is called the Marxism of the present era, the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. It means that in the present era, when capitalism is decadent and moribund and has become utterly reactionary having reached the highest stage of its development by giving birth to imperialism and is crushing freedom and democracy in one country after another, it is Leninism that has held aloft the fundamental guiding principles to comprehend the concrete process of revolution in the capitalist, colonial and semi-colonial countries of the imperialist world order, and to work towards social transformation.

By wielding this Leninism as the weapon, the working class of Russia led by the Bolshevik Party organized revolution. The character of November Revolution was not national but international.

November Revolution has thrown up before all countries a perspective of revolution and its fundamental principles in this era. November Revolution has demonstrated: the working class is capable of organizing revolution. This revolution has conclusively proved that the era of world bourgeois democratic revolution has come to an end and world capitalism has entered the phase of decadence, become moribund, opposed to progress, to national freedom struggle, to individual liberty and democracy, and thus, it stands as the obstacle on the path of social progress. Despite all technological developments and modernization extreme crisis has gripped production, which the capitalist class cannot do away with. Owing to the competition among the capitalists and the two-pronged exploitation of people — by the domestic capitalists as well as by the foreign imperialists — the squeezed-in market compared to the augmented productive forces is continually engendering crisis in production. And further, as its inevitable consequence, this crisis is casting its shadow on the entire process of advancement of knowledge—science, technology, arts, philosophy, literature, culture, ethics, which are stemming from the ongoing contradiction between man and nature — and is curbing their growth. Thus, from all angles, capitalism is decadent and stands against progress. So, it is to be overthrown with the force of revolution. Of course, it is the proletarian class which will lead this revolution. Therefore, the present stage of revolution internationally is the stage of anti-capitalist socialist revolution led by the working class.

Secondly, in the backward capitalist countries the world over — countries which are underdeveloped compared to the advanced capitalist countries in the sense of capitalistic development, where capitalist state has been established and the progressive role of the bourgeoisie has been exhausted — socialist revolution is to be made successful by overthrowing the bourgeoisie forging alliance of worker and peasants under the leadership of the communist party on the soil.

Thirdly, even in the countries where the bourgeois democratic revolution has not been accomplished, or those countries which are still in the stage of anti-imperialist, anti-colonial national freedom struggle, or national liberation movement, a national liberation front under the

leadership of the working class with workers, peasants and any section of the bourgeoisie that is willing to join and has that kind of disposition, is to be formed to organize the national liberation struggle. But it is to be viewed as part of the world socialist revolution, the proletarian revolution, and it must be conducted under the leadership of the working class, the proletariat. If some people think otherwise then they would commit a mistake and would have to pay dearly for this mistake in the sense that their revolution will not be successful at all. It is because, if the working class cannot establish their leadership, the bourgeoisie of the country would usurp the leadership and as part of the reactionary international bourgeoisie, it would obstruct the path and progress of the revolution. Thus, the bourgeois democratic revolution would end up in a truncated and half-baked way. As a result, people's emancipation would not come about, capitalism would rather get consolidated and even the national freedom, after having been attained, would run the risk of being endangered. Even the neo-colonialism that is being talked about today is recognized in Lenin's analysis of imperialism. He himself has spoken about it. To me, it is not the point whether Lenin used the term neo-colonialism or not. But the main feature, or the essence of neo-colonialism, that the imperialists in this era would virtually exert political and even military control over the backward independent bourgeois states through exercising economic domination, is to be found in Lenin's analysis. Imperialism, old style, will not continue; it will appear in a new form by establishing and expanding the sphere of economic domination. Therefore, in this era, the national freedom movements can reach proper and successful culmination, achieve the main object only if working class leadership can be established over them. That is, it would be possible to lead revolution in these countries stage by stage and gradually elevate it to culminate in socialist revolution, and then national freedom also will be fully attained and protected thereafter.

..... It was Lenin who pointed out the difference between the present imperialist era and the era of Marx, and showed how, because of the difference, advanced capitalist countries would not be the nerve centre of revolution; the centre would shift to backward countries, the weakest links of the world-wide chain of imperialism, and there revolution would come about. Lenin also

expounded theoretically that since the bourgeoisie were now getting more and more attached to militarism and bureaucracy and less attached to freedom and democracy in this era, revolution in every country henceforth was bound to be armed revolution. Apart from these, Lenin had to confront sharp differences and debates with Plekhanov, Trotsky, Kautsky and others on many fundamental issues like the character and form of imperialism, the question of organization of the communist party and its concept of democracy, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the role of the working class in the proletarian revolution and the role of the peasantry, and so forth. Why these controversies? We know that all of them knew the works of Marx and Engels by heart, why did the controversies arise even then? It is because a section considered the observations and conclusions of Marx and Engels alone to be the theory. But Lenin did not consider the observations only, or the conclusions Marx had arrived at in the perspective of their times, to be the theory of Marxism. He considered Marxism to be the science, the scientific methodology of analysis and reasoning by applying which Marx had arrived at the conclusions in his time. For example, seeing the liberal democratic environment in England, Marx had concluded that the proletarian revolution would be accomplished there peacefully and through democratic means. Subsequently, in the light of the experience of the Paris Commune, Marx himself changed his idea in his treatise Critique of

the Gotha Programme. The time difference between the two was not much. Marx had reached a certain conclusion before seeing the naked aggressive character of the bourgeois state. The experience of the Paris Commune corrected him. Today also those who are used to quoting Marx out of context and arguing that 'this particular observation of Marx has proved to be correct in history, but that particular remark has not' – are they really Marxists? They have not understood Marxism at all. Lenin grasped correctly that these are not Marxism. In this way, Marxism can be neither understood, nor applied.

In the same way, whatever Lenin said in a specific context is not Leninism. The science applied by Lenin, the manner in which he did so and while doing so, the way he developed that science, that method of analysis, and on its basis determined the fundamental principles, those fundamental principles constitute the main basis, and that method of analysis is the essence of Leninism. Unless one can master it in this way, simply by memorizing Lenin's observations and parroting these, nothing at all is achieved; it merely is tantamount to copying blindly. Thus, the method guiding formation of the party during Lenin's time and in present-day India cannot be exactly similar, especially because the dangerous form that bourgeois individualism has assumed today was never like this during Lenin's time....." **(Selected Works, Vol – IV, pp 394-396 & pp. 406-408 - "Science of Marxism is the Scientific Dialectical Methodology")**

November Revolution eradicated child labour in Soviet Russia

[In the previous issue of our journal we presented to our readers a brief account of various achievements of Soviet Union workers and working people during socialism in the USSR. In this issue we are dealing with the question of eradication of child labour therein as prepared by Soviet Union official authorities in the period of 1970s to 1980s when capitalism was in the process of restoration in Russia. The revisionist leadership also could not deny the achievement in respect of eradication of child labour and improving the working conditions of young people during the first few decades of the establishment of the working class state. When

our readers will read the following they will have to keep in mind that this is the picture of what was achieved even a century back during the life time of Great Lenin and Stalin and what is the state of affairs in advanced capitalist economies and also in India where robbing of childhood and generation of crores of child labour are continuing unabated even a century after].

“..... In pre-revolutionary Russia child labour was extensively used in various sectors of the economy. The growth of the workers' movement and protests of public opinion compelled the Tsarist government to make a

number of laws restricting the use of child labour, so that the minimum age for juvenile employment was set at 12, and night work for children between 12 and 15 years of age was prohibited. During the First World War, however, the Russian government passed a law which practically invalidated the restrictions of earlier legislation. This law allowed employers to use child labour for night work and underground in mines.

The earliest decrees of the New Soviet authorities banned the use of child labour.

Under socialism participation by minors in the production process is merely the practical implementation of the fundamental principle of Soviet education which provides for close links between schooling and practical work and the best possible blend of education with socially productive labour, so as to ensure a balanced intellectual, civic, cultural and physical development for the young. Child labour is not used, for raising output or boosting the national product. The aim is an organic combination of schooling with socially useful work. This principle is clearly and explicitly reflected in the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Union of Soviet Republics. Article 142 of the Constitution, in reference to the guarantees of the right of citizens of the USSR to health protection, stipulates that this right is ensured by special care for the health of the younger generation, including prohibition of child labour apart from the work done by children as part of the school curriculum. Indeed, given the desire to provide the young with a balanced upbringing, the ban on child labour for the protection of children's health does not affect schooling and education through work, always an integral part of the socialist approach to education. In any discussion of gainful employment of children from the historical standpoint, the words of Frederic Engels should not be forgotten: **"The first day it seizes political power the working class will have to take much more stringent action to safeguard women's and children's labour than, just a bill introducing the ten or even eight hour working day."** One of the first Soviet decrees was designed to introduce the eight-hour working day, to ban children from gainful employment and to regulate employment of adolescents. The same provisions were incorporated in the Russian Federation's Labour

Codes of 1918 and 1922. **The decree on the eight-hour working day was enacted on the fifth day of the October (November) Revolution.** It was binding on all industrial operations, whether private or public, and covered the entire labour force. The decree included as safeguards a number of articles regulating the employment of young people. Article 9, for example, stipulated that minors under the age of 18 could not be gainfully employed, while adolescents between 15 and 18 years of age were not allowed to work for more than six hours a day. (Pravda, Moscow, 2 September 1979, The Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Article 112, 1977) A note to Article 9 of the Decree stated that as of January 1, 1919 no employment of minors under the age of 15 was to be permitted. Article 6 of the decree barred persons of both sexes under 16 years of age from night work. Article 15 ruled that adolescents under the age of 18 would not be permitted to work underground; Article 18 placed an absolute prohibition on overtime for persons under the age of 18. The decree set forth stiff penalties for failure to comply. Article 28 read "persons contravening this legislation shall be punishable by law, and sentenced to up to one year's imprisonment". Finally, working hours were reduced, the pay for the shorter working day was made equal to that for the full eight-hour day and finally the work of young people was arranged to permit education and training combined with actual work. Naturally, the enforcement of legislation on youth and child employment relating to hours, wages and other working conditions required extra resources and at first created considerable difficulties for State-owned enterprises, especially in view of the grave economic situation of the young Soviet Republic in its earliest years. Nevertheless, during this period the Soviet authorities in no way diluted the labour legislation for young people. In fact, the protection offered by them was extended and a compulsory quota of vacancies specially set aside for young people was introduced. The enforcement of labour legislation in general and juvenile labour laws in particular also necessitated enormous organizational endeavors by the agencies. On 8 November 1917, shortly after the November Revolution, the People's Commissariat of Labour (Narkomtrud) was formed. Departments were set

up to deal with occupational safety, social insurance, manpower distribution, and to assert workers' rights over the power of capitalist employers, etc. In May 1918 the Government of the Russian Federation enacted a decree establishing a Labour Inspection Board, the objective of which was "to protect the lives, health and work of all those engaged in any economic activity, and extending to the entire range of living conditions of persons engaged in employment, both at their places of work and elsewhere. This decree set out in the minutest detail the Inspection Board's method of work. Under the decree, it was given the broadest possible powers in combating contraventions of employment of labour protection regulations, including those concerned with juvenile labour protection. The Board was responsible to the People's Commissariat of Labour and the latter's local offices (labour departments), Labour inspectors (local officials) were elected by trade union councils and were given wide powers ranging from the right to impose fines on those who failed to take the proper steps to protect the lives and health of workers, including young people, to the right to bring legal action for malicious and persistent violation of labour regulations, Under a resolution by (Collection of Statutes, 1918, No. 36, art. 74. the Government of the Russian Federation) of 31 July 1918, the People's Commissariat of Labour issued an ordinance for the Labour Inspection Board where the rights and duties of labour inspectors were listed in detail.' The Board was assisted by local working-class organisations, such as trade unions and works committee& actively enforcing strict observance of the labour legislation.

The foregoing helps show the way the child labour problem in the Soviet Union was dealt with, how the ban on child labour was instituted and how, in an effort to promote balanced development of the young, their health and interests were safeguarded through regulations governing their employment. **Legislation on youth employment in the USSR** Youth employment in the USSR is subject to various laws, particularly the Fundamental Principles governing the Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics (herein after referred to as "the Fundamental Principles") which form the basis for regulating labour relations in which the

trade unions play a key part. The Fundamental Principles, which constitute an act of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, contain a separate chapter on the employment of young persons. The nine articles in this chapter set forth regulations governing various aspects of youth employment. The first, Article 74, lays down the statutory minimum age for employment. It stipulates that it is unlawful to employ any person under 16 years of age: Provided that, in exceptional cases, it is permissible to employ persons who have reached their fifteenth birthday, with the consent of the works, local or branch-of-union committee Two articles (75 and 78) prohibit the employment of persons under 18 years on arduous work in unhealthy or dangerous working conditions, or underground work. Under these articles, it is unlawful to employ young persons under 18 on nightwork, overtime or on rest days and holidays. Considerable attention is paid in the Fundamental Principles to the health protection of young workers. Article 76 provides that "all persons under 18 years of age shall undergo a preliminary medical examination before being accepted for employment, and after that they shall undergo a regular medical examination every year until they have reached their eighteenth birthday," (Collection of Statutes 1918, No. 56, Art. 620. International Labour Office: Legislative Series 1970 - USSR 1, Geneva, ILO, 1970, p.20.)

For, persons under 18 the law provides for a shorter working day. The working week for young people from 16 to 18 years of age is one of 36 hours, and from 15 to 16 years of age it is of 2 hours less. (The normal working week in the USSR is 41 hours). It should be noted that, notwithstanding the shorter working day, working people under 18 are paid at the same rates as those at corresponding grades who work a complete day. Separate articles in the Fundamental Principles (Articles 33 and 79) regulate the length of annual leave for persons under 18 years of age and the time at which it may be taken. Manual and non-manual workers under 18 years of age are entitled to an annual leave of one calendar month in summer or, if they so choose, at any other time of year. The Soviet State maintains a constant effort to expand and improve the general education and vocational training of young people to take account of scientific and technological progress and the

growth in output, and it pays close attention to prompt placement in jobs and to vocational guidance for young people who discontinue or interrupt their full-time general education or vocational training for one reason or another. The system of job quotas is used to give prompt assistance to such young people in finding employment. Article 80 of the Fundamental Principles establishes a special procedure for placing young people in employment. It lays down that every undertaking and establishment shall reserve a certain quota of posts for the employment, industrial training and apprenticeship of young persons who have completed their general education or vocational and technical school training, and other young people. It is of great importance that the nature of work done by young people reflects the trade and skills that they have acquired. This need is catered for under Article 81, which says: the Young workers who have completed their training at vocational and technical schools, and young persons who have completed their training in special skills in higher educational establishments and specialized secondary institutions shall be provided with employment in keeping with the skills and vocational training they have acquired. The status and qualifications obtained by the young through completion of training at educational institutions mirror the existing division of labour and also display their occupational and technical abilities. Qualifications, however, are not merely a yardstick for evaluating their abilities. They are also a key factor in their subsequent

vocational development and progress,. The guarantee contained in Article 81 Of the Fundamental Principles is therefore crucial if young working people are to show a high degree of efficiency and quality in their work as well as for the molding of their abilities and skills.....

The present paper has been contributed as an overview of the changing situation in the USSR and has been presented by the Deputy Minister of Education of the USSR and Associate Professor of Political Economy, University of Moscow. As such, it represents an official point of view and stresses the major achievements made in eradicating child labour and increasing schooling and related educational facilities in the country. Thus, legislation on the employment of young persons in the USSR can be seen to be in total conformity with the ILO standards, the complete protection of children and young people being a fundamental goal. This is true for the statutory minimum age for employment, for the mandatory medical examination of minors, for the prohibition against young people being employed on arduous work in unhealthy or dangerous working conditions, and for the prohibition of night work, overtime, and work on rest days and holidays. (Sources: <https://ideas.repec.org/p/ilo/ilowps/213224.html> by VN Yagodkin - 1981-ŷ& staging.ilo.org/public/ libdoc/ ilo/1981/81B09_531_engl.pdf - July 1981. llhllllllllll!iiiiiiiIlhlllll/ijji. 467Q3 (Supplement to Report II), (Geneva, ILO, 1979 - UNFPA Project No.: GL0179/P43-WEP 2-21/WP.109)

1st May 1949

On this day, i.e. on 1st May 1949 our beloved organisation came into existence. Coming 1st May 2017 is the 69th foundation day of the genuine revolutionary trade union organisation of the working class of our country. On this occassion we convey our warm greetings to our readers, activists in the trade union movement as well as the working millions of our country.

— Editorial Desk, 'Workers' Voice'



National Scenario ; Labour, Capital, Governments & the State

Life-long imprisonment of 13 Maruti-Suzuki workers ; unrest in Gurgaon Industrial Belt — Country wide protest demonstration on 5th April, 2017

All those who believe in justice to the deprived and exploited people engaged in the production either in industry or the agriculture or elsewhere under the subjugation of economically and politically powerful owners feel highly injured on hearing **the pronouncement of life sentence to 13 leading workers and 5 years rigorous imprisonment to 4 other workers** of Maruti-Suzuki Plant of Manesar, Gurgaon (Haryana) on 18th March, 2017 by the Trial Court of Additional Session Judge, Gurgaon in the case of alleged murder of an officer due to suffocation **and burning** out of fire in Maruti-Suzuki Plant on 18.7.2012. Out of 148 workers against whom charge sheet were filed, 117 workers have been proved non-guilty and thus are acquitted after suffering jail custody for 4 years; 31 workers were held guilty **on 10.03.2017, out of which 14 workers though proved guilty were freed from jail custody as they have already passed 4 years in jail**, while 60 other workers have been proscribed absconder who may be arrested any time to face fresh trial. After the alleged incident of 2012 AIUTUC demanded an impartial judicial enquiry by the sitting judge of High Court which remained unheeded.

It is to be recalled that Maruti workers have been facing the onslaughts of the management since the year 2000 when they were asked to execute a Bond promising good conduct, on the violation of which their job could be terminated at any time. A large number of workers who protested against the move of the

management, were ousted of their jobs. 2500 permanent workers were retrenched in two phases - 1250 in 2001 and 1250 in 2003. Much more onslaught had followed. Curtailment of the rights of workers including wage reduction was imposed besides increase in workload with oppressive dealings in day-to-day work schedule. At present only 15% of the workforce are permanent workers, rest 85% workers are either casual or contractors' workers **including apprentices, trainee workers and student trainees**. Now the Japanese company Suzuki has assumed its ownership holding majority shares. Govt. does not hold any share. It is a fully privatised company. It has earned huge profit. **Instead of one in Gurgaon, now it owns 4 more big Plants, 3 in Manesar and another in Gujarat state.** Presently it is having 250 subsidiaries with more than 800 Units in Gurgaon Industrial belt stretched over 100 KM from Delhi border to Rewari district. Even after giving 35% over-production beyond the capacity of the company the workers are deprived of their legitimate share in the form of wages and social securities. They demand decent work and decent wage – it is their crime. They are not allowed to form the union of their choice. Whenever they applied for registration of the union, the applicant workers were forcibly terminated from the services. How the Honda workers were treated worse than animals, brutally beaten and victimized in front of the office of the Deputy Commissioner (DM), Gurgaon on 25.07.2004 – whole country had witnessed on TV Channels

vividly. Section 144 was imposed now and then. The factory had been just like a police cantonment. Similarly, on that fateful day of 18.07.2012, one supervisor misbehaved with one worker. **The company cared little to take any action against him rather suspended that worker. When the newly elected union leaders (the same 12 have been awarded life sentence now) demanded withdrawal of suspension and pressed for action against the erring supervisor,** they were severely beaten by the hired bouncers in presence of large number of police who merely remained a mute spectator. In between fire broke out in the campus for which **these** workers are being held responsible. The police officers patronized the hired goons of the management were made Enquiry Officer in the case. The former Congress Govt. headed by Bhupendra Singh Hooda exercising its special power provided a high level Legal Assistance to the Company against the poor and innocent workers by hiring a Supreme Court advocate K T S Tulsi spending crores of rupees. BJP and its labour wing BMS had also protested this move of previous Haryana Government. But after coming to power at the Centre as well as the State, the BJP Govt. blatantly followed its predecessor and contributed to the present outcome. It could withdraw the case in the interest of justice in favour of the workers and initiate an impartial Judicial Enquiry. But it preferred not to follow such step in order to teach a lesson to the workers and crush the trade union movement. No sensible citizen shall dispute that the class having domination over wealth and allied economic agenda not only controls the politics but everything else including the judicial system and the powerful media. The news telecast of 10.03.2017 by one local TV Channel bears testimony of the media's providing distorted and cooked up news. Whereas the Court put off the case for proscribing the sentence till 17.03.2017, dominated by the ruling capitalist class the said TV Channel announced on 10.03.2017 that 13 workers will be hanged to death. Clearly this demonstrates pre-meditated design to thwart morale of the workers.

Under the decision of Trade Union Council, Gurgaon comprising AITUC, CITU, AIUTUC,

HMS, INTUC and others the workers expressed their resentment against the anticipated order of conviction and boycotted the Lunch (provided by the factory owners in the noon) on 16.03.2017 in the entire industrial belt from Delhi border to Bawal, Rewari. On the day of proscribing life sentence on 18.03.2017, all the workers of the 4 Plants of Maruti-Suzuki suspended their work for one hour from 9 AM to 10 AM successfully. On 23.03.2017, the Martyrs Day of Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh, a valiant fighter for the workers' cause in the Freedom Struggle, all the workers from entire industrial area marched to Manesar and assembled in Devilal Park to hold a massive public meeting in protest against the injustice to the workers. As a constituent of Trade Union Council, Gurgaon AIUTUC have appreciated the unprecedented unity of the workers and have congratulated them for rousing their voice of protest.

In this backdrop Central Trade Unions met in Delhi on 25th March, 2017 and called upon the working people of the country to organize solidarity meetings and demonstrations on 5th April, 2017. In response to this call workers in different parts of the country organized protest mobilization against the heinous attacks on Maruti-Suzuki workers. Thousands of workers in the Gurgaon Industrial Belt organized a vast protest assembly which was addressed by the central trade union leaders.

Soon after the pronouncement of the court verdict Comrade Satyawan, President, AIUTUC Haryana State Committee in a statement has demanded stay of the sentence by the Trial Court and to institute a Judicial Enquiry by a sitting judge of High Court. He also demanded adequate compensation for 117 acquitted workers for robbing their liberty by keeping them in jail for 4 years and also to reinstate them at the earliest. He further demanded reinstatement of those 525 workers of Manesar Plant whose services were terminated in July 2012 without any sort of enquiry or giving them any opportunity of hearing. He also demanded to abide by the Labour Laws and other legal and democratic rights of the workers in the Gurgaon Industrial Area and stop their victimization.

MEETING AGAINST OCCUPATION & OTHER ATROCITIES BY ISRAEL ON THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

ANNIVERSARY OF LAND DAY AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

NEW DELHI, 30TH MARCH, 2017

The Embassy of the State of Palestine in India and the The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) affiliates in India viz. AITUC, CITU, AIUTUC, AICCTU, TUCC and UTUC jointly organized the above meeting on 30th March, 2017 at BTR Bhawan, New Delhi. A presidium, comprising comrades Satyawan, (AIUTUC), Vijay Laxmi (AITUC), Santosh Roy (AICCTU), among others conducted the proceedings of the meeting. The speakers included Mr. Adnan Abu Aheja, the ambassador of the State of Palestine in India, Comrades Tapan Sen (CITU), Sankar Saha (AIUTUC), Amarjeet Kaur (AITUC) and Rajiv Dibri (AICCTU). Comrade Swadesh K. Debroy was also present in the dias. The meeting unanimously adopted the following Declaration.

“On this 30th March 2017, The Embassy of the State of Palestine in India and the Central Trade Unions in India affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) commemorate the Land Day and declare their solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle against Israeli aggression and occupation.

It was on this day, 30th March, in 1976 that six unarmed Palestinians were killed, hundreds injured and hundreds more were arrested by the Israeli army when the people were marching in protest from Galilee to the Negev against the Israeli government’s announcement of its plan to expropriate thousands of acres of their land. This was a pivotal event in the struggle of the Palestinian peoples for their Home Land.

The Palestinian people have been courageously carrying on the struggle for their independent Home Land braving inhuman attacks. They have been suffering for many years from the Israeli aggressiveness, from their illegal

establishment of settlements, the looting of the natural resources and products of their land and from the blockade. The conditions of the nearly 1.8 million people living in the Gaza strip have become unbearable as a result of the continuous sanctions and economic blockade by Israel. Palestinian children are murdered in the streets. Workers are imprisoned every day. Today more than 300 Palestinian children are detained in Israeli prisons.

Instead of recognizing Palestinians sovereignty over their rightful land, Israel has reinforced its occupation and truncated the remnants of the Palestinian land. In recent years, the extreme right-wing governments which have been in power in Israel have further encroached into Palestinian territory, built Jewish settlements and snatched away the private lands of the Palestinians. They have built a security wall which has truncated the limited territory under the Palestinian Authority. This Israeli aggression with the open support from the USA has even more intensified after the election of Donald Trump as the US president, specially after the declaration called on a UN resolution stating that Israel’s settlements have no legal validity, and urged the enforcement of last year’s UN Security Council Resolution 2334 as is evident from its announcement of the building of 3000 houses of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and from the recent bill of the Israeli Knesset legalising the grab of Palestinian property in the same region.

The central trade unions in India affiliated to WFTU strongly oppose the racist colonial policy of Israel and reiterate their total support and solidarity to the fight of the Palestinian people for the end of Israeli aggressiveness and settlements.

We support the struggle of the Palestine people for their just cause for their independent home land and the recognition of a free and an independent Palestinian state on the borders of 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The central trade unions in India affiliated to WFTU believe that it is the workers who can resist, who can demand, and stand up, through the activities and the initiatives of their trade unions, for the end of the destruction of the

Palestinian people and land. The working class of Palestine have the power to compel the US imperialism backed Israel to concede the just demands of the Palestinian people. The WFTU affiliated central trade unions in India assure the workers and the people of Palestine continued support to their just struggle.

**STOP TO THE SETTLEMENTS —
RECOGNISE INDEPENDENT
PALESTINIAN STATE!"**



Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, AIUTUC, addressing the meeting

While conveying warm revolutionary greetings to Mr. Adnan Abu Aheja, the ambassador of the State of Palestine in India, Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, AIUTUC, in his brief speech said that AIUTUC has always been with the people of Palestine and will remain firm in support of their fight for home land and against Israeli occupation. Referring to WFTU position on this issue he said that WFTU since its foundation in 1945 always stood against capitalism-imperialism, fascism and racism despite its various limitations. It had always supported the cause of Palestine liberation. All are aware that with the message of solidarity of WFTU, present General Secretary comrade Mavrikos went to Palestine and stood by the fighting workers staking his life. In course of his deliberation on international

situation, comrade Saha observed that had the World Socialist Camp been in existence, had it not been dismantled due to attacks from within and outside and had the leadership of the Soviet party and state not been deviated from the path of great Lenin and Stalin, the international situation to remain conducive to not only the struggle of Palestine people but also for all oppressed people and emancipation of labour from the yoke of capitalism-imperialism. In his concluding observation he opined that solidarity meeting is not enough, effectively help Palestine people and such other people. It is the need of the hour to sharpen class struggle in every country on the one hand and on the other build up united militant mass movement against imperialism, fascism and rascism.

Anganwadi Workers and Helpers of Haryana are on the path of movement against arbitrary termination and threat of dismissal of around 1500 workers

Hundreds of Anganwadi Workers and helpers held a massive protest demonstration in the city of Sonapat on 8th April 2017 under the banner of Anganwadi Karyakarta Sahayika Union, Haryana, regd. No.1996 affiliated to AIUTUC. Starting from Ambedkar Park, Bus stand the procession led to Sector 15 at the residence of Smt. Kavita Jain, minister for Department of Women and Child Development to submit her a memorandum demanding revoking of services of an Anganwadi Worker Smt. Anita Dahiya president district committee Sonapat and withdrawal of show cause notices issued to 1482 Anganwadi Workers and stop harassing them.

It may be recalled that a programme in the name of 'Mahila Samman Samaroh' was organized on 15th March, 2017 at Murthal, Sonapat and addressed by Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal Khattar. There in the said programme the Chief Minister incidentally announced an increase of Rs. 640 and Rs 321 per month in the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers respectively consequent of implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission's report. Hearing this Anganwadi Workers reacted sharply in spontaneity and left the meeting place. It is worth mentioning that according to a press statement issued by the Revenue Minister on 31st January, 2017 and published in almost all the news papers next day, it was stated that an increase of Rs. 1072 for workers and RS. 500 for helpers per month will be effective from 1st January, 2017. Thus the reaction of the Anganwadi Workers present in the programme was just spontaneous. The government and the administration of Women and Child Development department labeled it as a planned protest and started to harass the Anganwadi Workers. First of all services of Smt. Anita Dahiya, district president of our organization were terminated instantly on 16th March, 2017 without any show cause notice and depriving her of right of self defense which is detrimental to democratic norm and principle of natural justice. Later on show cause notices were

also issued to 1482 Anganwadi Workers asking them why not their services be terminated. It is surprising to note that the government has resorted to the action alleging that chief minister's security was at stake due to the reported resentment of Anganwadi workers. Hence the government also pleaded that the action was taken in 'PUBLIC INTEREST'. However, when these workers submitted their reply, the officials did not receive that and they were asked forcibly to submit letters of unconditional apology. Many of them were asked to submit the unconditional apology even more than once.

Earlier to it, State office bearers of Anganwadi Karyakarta Sahayika Union had met and submitted a memorandum to the CWD Minister Kavita Jain on 25th March and 4th April, 2017 at Sonapat demanding immediate revoking the services of Smt. Anita Dahiya narrating whole incident and stating that it was never a planned programme but a spontaneous reaction over the declaration of reduced amount of increase in the monthly honorarium as never expected and never happened. Evidently it is clear that the reaction of the anganwadi workers was simple and natural out of the frustration created incidentally by the Government itself where the Revenue Minister announces something and the Chief Minister something else unexpectedly in contradiction to each other.

There was a lot of pressure on the anganwadi workers from various corners including that from the administration for not taking part in the today's protest. Threats of further termination of the services have been sailing in airs. In spite of that the protest demonstration was a grand success. The leaders also warned the government that if the remedial measures were not taken in time they would be forced to sharpen their agitation and even to hold statewide protest demonstrations which may lead to complete strike to compel the state government to retreat. The leaders also demanded implementation of minimum Rs. 18000/- per

month as honorarium/wages to the Anganwadi workers and helpers as per the recommendation of 7th Central Pay Commission. The speakers who addressed this rally are Comrades Hariprakash

and Iswarsingh Rathi (AIUTUC), Silak Ram Malik (SKS), R.K.Nagar (SKM) and Pushpa Dalal, Secretary, Anganwadi Karyakarta Sahayika Union, Haryana

Eastern and North Eastern Regional Convention of the Electricity Workers in Kolkata

Opposing and demanding to scrap the anti-worker provisions of Electricity (Amendment) Bill – 2014, anti consumer provisions of Uday Project and on the demand of equal pay for equal work a convention of electricity workers of eastern and north-eastern states was held on 8th April, 2017 at Bharat Sabha Hall, Kolkata at the call of National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees & Engineers (NCCOEEE). This convention was the first out of four to be held at four corners of the country at East, West, North and South as envisaged by the NCCOEEE. The eastern and north eastern region convention was convened by All India Powermen's Federation (AIPF) as per decision of the core committee of NCCOEEE.

The convention was represented by workers representatives from as many as six states like Assam, Sikkim, Odhisa, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. Comrade Samar Sinha, General Secretary of AIPF and convenor of the convention placed the resolution. In his short speech comrade Sinha made it clear that the proposed Bill is aimed to form multiple licenses within the same area by way of splitting Carraige & Content of the distribution system. The main object of the Bill is to push ahead the aspect of commercialization of electricity to serve interest of the private operators by alluring them in the revenue potential area. He also criticized the anti-consumer provisions of Uday Project and appealed the electricity workers to build up mighty protracted united movement against proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2014 and anti-consumer provisions of the project and also on the demand of "Equal Pay for Equal Work".in conformity with the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court of the country. Comrade Prasanta Nandy Chowdhury, General Secretary of EEFI explained the disastrous effects of the Electricity

(Amendment) Bill 2014. He told that due to continuous pressure of movement the Bill could not be tabled before the parliament as yet. At this critical stage he urged the delegates to intensify the movement. The other speakers were Comrades Brojalal Prasad Singh, AIFEE (Jharkhand), Rajesh Pani, AIPF (Odhisa), Kapil Jadav, AIFEE (Bihar), Kamal Silan, AIPF (Sikkim), D.K.Saha, EEFI (Assam) and Manas Sinha, AIPF (West Bengal). The convention was conducted by four member presidium comprising comrades Dipak Raychowdhury (EEFI), Krishna Majumder (AIPF), Dipak Saha (AIFEAU) and Bidya Sagar Singh (AIFEE).

The convention resolved to carry forward the ongoing movements of the electricity workers on the following demands and through the programme enumerated below:

Demands :

1. Scrap anti-worker provisions of Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2014 and anti-consumer provisions of Uday Project
2. Implement "Equal Wage for Equal Work"
3. Stop draconian Game Plan of Central Government to privatise the Electricity Industry

Programmes :

1. To hold state and district level conventions – demonstrations – Dharna etc.
2. Massive campaign amongst the electricity workers and consumers
3. All out preparation for Delhi March during Mansoon Session of the Parliament

The convention ended with amongst much enthusiasm and thanks to the chair.

AIUTUC extended solidarity towards PAME's movement against persecution of Trade Union Leaders of Greece

Extending solidarity towards PAME in the above incidence AIUTUC General Secretary Sankar Saha sent on 20th March 2017 the following letter to the General Secretary, All Workers Militant Front (PAME)

The General Secretary
All Workers Militant Front (PAME)

Dear Comrade,

On behalf of the All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) and the working class of India we strongly condemn the evil designs resorting to measures persecuting 35 Trade Union leaders of PAME, Presidents of dozens of Trade Unions and Federations by the Greek government once again. Indeed shocking, the said Trade Union leaders stand acquitted from fake charges out of the previous trial.

We are utterly dismayed over the Government's fresh initiative backed by EU-IMF to throttle the trade union rights and freedom of the Greek workers. Against such anti-worker measures paving the way for new attack, we appreciate, the steps you have chalked out for necessary preparation and intensification of the movement of workers culminating to National General Strike.

While expressing solidarity of the millions of Indian working class with the Greek workers in their fight to protect and secure trade union rights, we once again record our condemnation over the Government's new effort to criminalize the trade unions' action.

With revolutionary greetings,



Despite various repressive measures are being taken by the governments of the respective countries to suppress the mass and workers movements, workers around the world in every corner of every continent are staging demonstrations, organizing rallies and also going for strike actions against the anti-worker, anti-people policies, job losses, and also demanding higher and legitimate wages, bonus and other benefits and rights and above all against the capitalist oppressions. Hereunder in this issue we are reproducing the reports of the preparation for the ensuing nationwide strike by USA workers to

be held on historic May Day on May 01, 2017 which is a great action programme in continuation of the long drawn movements that are being carried on since the beginning of President Donald Trump's assuming state power.)

In January, women across the world came out in droves to march in protest against President Donald Trump. But on March 8, they accelerated the movement by calling a general strike throughout USA and many other countries of the world. The women and men across the U.S. participated in A Day Without A Woman—a movement that sought to show the vital role

women played in both the domestic and global economy.

**Next steps in the strategy to defeat
Trump has been taken to build for
mass protests and strikes across the
country on May 1**

— All Out Against Trump

Millions have protested since Trump's inauguration, yet the Billionaire in Chief has relentlessly pursued his racist, sexist, anti-working class agenda. Now his latest budget and health care proposals declare war on everything from the Environmental Protection Agency to Medicaid to public schools, while handing out major tax cuts to corporations and the wealthiest Americans. Trump can be defeated, but it is a question of social power. Whether or not the administration can carry out its agenda is linked to how broad and militant a movement can be built to oppose it. Many right wing governments throughout history have been forced to change course, or brought down altogether by revolts of ordinary people. But symbolic protest alone will not be enough. We will need to engage the real power working people have through mass civil disobedience and strike action. If strike action is wide enough this will affect the profits of the corporate elite, large sections of which have been happy to go along with Trump because of his agenda of deregulation and regressive taxation. This will put real pressure on them to back away from Trump.

International Workers Day : May 1, also known as "May Day" or "International Workers Day," is historically a day of global mass action and major immigrant rights protests in the U.S. The time has never been more relevant to return to May Day's roots, and to launch a summer of resistance against this dangerous right wing administration. Trump's brutal attacks on immigrants have been front-and-center in his first two months in office, and already they provoked immigrant protests and strike action on February 16, which while organized rapidly, involved thousand of immigrant workers in cities around the country. The mass protests at the nation's airports in response to Trump's anti-immigrant ban dealt the president his first humiliating blow, as sections of the ruling class pushed back on him over growing concerns at the resulting "chaos" of

mass civil disobedience. Now, immigrant workers around the country are preparing for what are likely to be the biggest May 1 demonstrations since hundreds of thousands walked off the job in 2006 on "The Day Without an Immigrant." The most important May Day developments so far are in California, where 340,000 service workers are preparing for strike action, led by a coalition including SEIU United Service Workers West (USWW) and immigrant workers centers. "The president is attacking our community," said Tomas Mejia, a member of USWW's executive board. "Immigrants have helped form this country, we've contributed to its beauty, but the president is attacking us as criminal." A "Caravan Against Fear" is also being organized by the coalition, to travel throughout the state of California during the month of April to build for May 1 action. The president of United Teachers Los Angeles, Alex Caputo-Pearl, has called on superintendent Michelle King to shut down schools district-wide on May 1. In the Bay Area, the San Francisco Labor Council issued a statement on March 7 endorsing worker solidarity actions on May 1 and asking that their be "no retaliation against any worker – union or non-union – who chooses to exercise their civil rights" by taking the day off.....Momentum around May 1 has also been growing in Washington State. In Martin Luther King County, which includes Seattle, the county labor council voted to urge its affiliate unions "to consider all forms of action on May 1, 2017, whether striking, walking out, taking sick days, extended lunch hours, exercising rights of conscience, organizing demonstrations or teach-ins, or any other acts of collective expression." This kind of flexibility has been stressed by organizers around the country who want to minimize retaliation against workers, while building for the broadest and most powerful possible May 1 actions. A number of other unions in the Seattle area have also passed May Day resolutions, including WFSE Local 304, representing workers at Seattle community colleges, and IBEW Local 46, representing electrical workers. At the University of Washington, the largest university in the Northwest, 6,000 graduate student workers represented by UAW Local 4121 will be soon voting whether to go on strike on May 1, following a strike resolution passed by the union's Executive Board. As a member of the City

Council, I have used my platform here in Seattle to call on the city's mayor, Ed Murray, to allow all city workers to take May 1 off without retaliation (Washington State law already allows all public employees to take 2 days off each year for reasons of conscience or religion). But the biggest developments in Seattle are with the Seattle Education Association (SEA), where 5,000 teachers will soon be voting on whether to shut down the city's public schools for the day, in response to longtime unconstitutional underfunding of schools in Washington State. "We have tried the same thing for years," said SEA educator Kit McCormick. "We've been writing our legislators and we've been going to Olympia and it's time to take a bigger step." "We're fed up," said Socialist Alternative and SEA member Justin Vinson. "Educators have been fighting to defend our schools and now we have Trump and Betsy DeVos setting their sights on major education cuts. But there is a larger principle at stake here as well, with the administration going after our immigrant sisters and brothers, women, Muslims and LGBTQ people. An injury to one is an injury to all."

It's Not Just About Trump : In Illinois, SEA's sister organization, the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), is also weighing whether to hold a one-day strike on May Day in protest against ongoing, brutal cuts to the public education. Other unions around the country, such as the Minnesota Nurses Association, have also passed resolutions in favor of action on May Day. It is still too early to say how much this momentum for strike action will continue to grow, but the need to fight back against Trump is a clear and present danger. We must recognize that our movement will not continuously grow in a straight line that there will be setbacks also. And while we will not defeat Trump in one day, we should build for the broadest and most powerful possible actions on May 1 to take our struggle to another level. Going forward, we need to engage broader and broader sections of working people and youth to resist Trump and the Billionaire Class. We can do so by fighting for positive changes that can make a real difference in people's day to day lives. With healthcare under attack, we must not only defend against the Republican plan, but fight boldly for Medicare for all. With workers and union rights under attack, we must not only oppose right-to-

work-for-less legislation, but demand a federal \$15 minimum wage. And it's not only about one president or one political party. Trump was assisted in his election victory by the anger of working and middle class people at being sold out over decades by the brutal, bipartisan neoliberal policies. We need to build a new political party that will fight for socialist policies, and declare its independence from corporate money and power. Because our fight is not only with Trump, it is with the broken system of capitalism, which is the underlying basis for this dangerous rise of right populism and vicious attacks on working people. On May 1, we will strike back.

May 1 & Beyond: Toward a Summer of Resistance :

We can defeat Trump's agenda. But to do so we will need to build a powerful movement that both stands up against his right wing policies, and fights for positive change for working people and all those under attack.

- No ban, no wall, no raids! Not one more deportation. For real sanctuary cities.
- Stop Trump and Ryan's assault on healthcare. Defend Medicaid and Planned Parenthood.
- Defeat Trump's vicious anti-working class budget. No cuts to public education, mass transit, or affordable housing.
- We need Medicare for all, with free and accessible reproductive care.
- No to Trump's military build-up.
- Stop the Republican war on the labor movement. No right-to-work-for-less legislation.
- Stop the war on the environment! For a massive expansion of renewable energy.
- Defend the right to protest.
- Pass a federal \$15 minimum wage.
- Tax the rich! Fully fund human services.
- Free college for all. Cancel student debt.
- Black Lives Matter! End the mass incarceration state

(Source: Workers' Movement | Socialist Alternative - <https://www.socialistalternative.org/category/workers-movement/> - ... March 24, 2017 ... build for mass protests and strikes across the country on May 1.- SA Newspaper Published On March 24, 2017 | By Kshama Sawant | #ResistTrump, Workers' Movement)



Facts & Figure :—

‘Globalisation kills lakhs every year

According to a study paper report focused in the journal ‘Nature’ as published in ‘The Times of India’ dated 31st March, 2017, quoting the report published by ‘The Independent’ - globalization causes lakhs of air pollution death every year. The report published with the headline **‘Globalisation kills lakhs every year’** is as under:

“Globalisation has become, in the eyes of some, the epitome of everything that’s wrong with the world, allowing multinational corporations to drive down wages, run roughshod over workers rights and even challenge democracy itself.

But an international team of scientists has now laid another alleged crime at its door – the premature deaths of more than 7,50,000 people. They found that 4,11,100 people died in 2007 after breathing in fine particles of air pollution, known as PM2.5, which were carried on the wind from one region to another. But they also concluded that PM2.5 resulting from goods and services produced in one part of the world then transported or used in another had caused 7,62,400 people to die earlier than they otherwise might.

The study paper said “Millions of people die every year from diseases caused by exposure to outdoor air pollution. Some studies have estimated premature mortality related to local sources of air pollution, but local air quality can also be affected by atmospheric transport of pollution from distant sources. International trade is contributing to the globalization of emission and pollution as a result of the production of goods (and their associated emission) in one region for consumption in another region. Results reveal that the trans-boundary health impacts of PM2.5 pollution associated with international trade are greater than those associated with long-distant atmospheric pollutant transport. The paper also noted a tendency for polluting industries to move to parts of the world with less strict environmental rules forcing politicians to weigh the importance of attracting inward investment and have clean air to breathe”.

Despite claim of growth, insecurity of jobs and earning aggravates in India

“.....No more than 16.5% of workers earn a regular wage or salary, according to the Fourth

Annual Employment & Unemployment report (2013-14), the latest available data. In another estimate made in the same report, three in four households (78%) had no one earning a regular wage or salary.

On the other hand, the proportion of casual labourers in the workforce is considerable – 30.9% and growing. Contract and casual work have been growing at the expense of regular employment. In more than a decade, between 1999 and 2010, the share of contract workers in total organised employment rose from 10.5 to 25.6% – and the share of directly employed workers fell from 68.3 to 52.4% in the same period. Even regular workers were appointed increasingly on short-term contracts, with little or no social security. This is how the increasing informality in the organised labour market has blurred distinctions between formal and informal labour. The informal sector generates around 50% of India’s GDP. It employs more than 90% of country’s workforce. The total figure for formal and informal employment in the unorganised sector is 82.7%. Of the current workforce of around 475 million, around 400 million, considerably larger than the population of the US, are employed with little job security or any formal protection of the labour law regime.

Contrary to the promises of successive governments to generate more employment opportunities, the reality has been more uncertainty, fewer jobs and even less security. In the decade 1999-2000 to 2009-10, while GDP growth was reportedly accelerated to 7.52% per annum, employment growth stayed at just 1.5%, less than the 2% annual employment growth rate seen over the four decades starting 1972-73.

Job contracts with formal agreements and legal responsibilities (at least on paper) are becoming increasingly rare: About 93% of casual workers and even 68.4% of contract workers do not have any job contracts, according to a government report. Even among more formal wage/salaried employees, about 66% are reported to be working without a written job contract.

Beyond the realms of the formal/legal, it is the ever-presence of extra-legal modes of mobilisation and disciplining (harnessing caste, kinship or

community relations) that has received further fillip with the larger trend towards informalisation and casualisation of workforce.

This refers to a workforce which is without any social security and employment benefits and whose labour rights (such as maternity benefits, paid annual or sick leave, overtime pay, right to unionise, etc.) are being diluted over the years in the name of “reforms”.

The brunt of this casualisation is borne by the most oppressed sections of society. What explains this marginal decline of casual workers among SCs and STs in urban areas? The National Sample Survey data show a spike in rural-urban migration stream from 18.8 to 19.5% between 1999-2000 and 2007-2008. However, recent studies show a decline in the contribution of migration to urban population growth. This can possibly be explained by the argument that migrant workers are finding it difficult to get a foothold in cities.

Who, then, is filling the gap between the rising ranks of rural destitute and the faltering ranks of permanent migrants to the cities? They are the seasonal or circulatory labour migrants who remain virtually invisibilised, informalised and unenumerated – the footloose migrants who make their ends meet by adding up both their seasonal remittances and the income from the shrinking agricultural sector.

An estimated 12.24 million people are seeking work for two to six months as per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data. Of these, 77% are resident in rural areas and more than two-thirds migrated to urban areas. Some estimates show that about 35-40 million labourers – almost half the number of casual labourers outside agriculture – could be seasonal migrants. A peep into the state of agriculture would complete the picture. Today,

over 80% of the total land holdings belong to marginal farmers who own less than one hectare, according to the NSSO. STs are over-represented among the landless, and SCs among marginal landowners. Considering 75% of all migrants come from marginal landowning households, one can estimate how they overwhelmingly would be from the most marginalised sections of society.

So, the destitution in the countryside, the casualisation of labour and the erosion of their labour rights are not just the results of a flawed model of development. This neoliberal model of development is also made possible by this despair in the countryside and increasing informalisation of labour. The burden of this “growth”, as is evident, falls on the most disadvantaged.

The trend is that of “vulnerabilisation of the labour markets”, as G. Vijay, an assistant professor at the School of Economics University of Hyderabad, calls it, wherein vulnerable sections of the labour force are consciously chosen as they would be materially and socially compelled to accept greater deprivation with least resistance to the dehumanising conditions of informalisation. Till this is acknowledged and addressed at its fundamentals, millions will continue to shuttle between the distressed countryside and the unwelcoming megacities.

(Sources: Job Security in India Falls Even as GDP Continues to Rise - Only 16.5% of workers in India earn a regular wage. - The Wire <https://thewire.in/119161/job-security-falls-gdp-rises/> - By Vivek Mishra and Anirban Bhattacharya on 27/03/2017, GDP up but job security falls, only 16% earn regular wage ...economictimes.indiatimes.com & GDP Grows But Job Security Falls: Only 16% Indians Earn Regular ... <https://www.bloombergquint.com/>; [IndiaSpend @IndiaSpend](https://www.indiaspend.com/) - March 25, 2017)



[This column of ‘Workers’ Voice’ invites from the readers - their views, valuable opinions and suggestions as also constructive criticism regarding the magazine to make it more attractive and useful for strengthening the working class movements. They are requested to send their views in brief on the issues affecting them addressed to “The Editorial Desk”, Workers’ Voice. For views and observations expressed in the letter, The Editorial Desk is not responsible]

The Editor, Workers’ Voice,

I am a regular reader of your esteemed journal. I appreciate your sincere and dedicated

efforts to inspire the workers to build up uncompromising protracted workers movement in our country conducive to change of this social

order. Very eagerly I wait to have the copy of every issue of your periodical to know something more and new on workers movement in India as also in abroad. You also invite the readers' advices, opinions, experiences of their daily life struggles in domestic, social as also of work places. As such, I convey my following request to you.

The historic May Day is approaching. From previous some articles and writings I have come to know that your struggling organization - AIUTUC which was earlier known as UTUC, and

thereafter for certain time as UTUC, Lenin Sarani, was born on this glorious historic day of 1949 i.e. on 1st of May, 1949. In this connection I would request you to publish a suitable article depicting the emergence of AIUTUC in course of the history of Indian Trade Union Movement. It will immensely help many like myself who take interest in the movements of Indian working class to know the true picture of the Labour movement of our country.

With warm greetings,
Sainik, Kolkata



Casual Bank workers rally at Lucknow

Under the auspicious of All India UCO Bank Employees Unity Forum, hundreds of casual workers engaged in its various branches staged a demonstration before their regional headquarter at Lucknow on 10th April 2017. They demanded in the main – their regularization and other benefits so also the legitimate minimum wage. Apart from the representatives of the workers from UP, Bihar and other states, All India president and General Secretary of All India Bank Employees Unity Forum (AIBEUF), Comrades J. Raymandal and Vijay Pal Singh respectively addressed the gathering.

World Health Day Observed in Delhi

On the occasion of observance of the World Health Day, a seminar was organized by National Public Health Alliance (NPHA), Delhi State Committee at the G.B. Panth Hospital Auditorium on 7th April 2017. Around 250 public health employees from various hospitals and services including a good number of public health sector officers attended the seminar. The topic of the seminar was – Role and Responsibilities of

Latest Despatch :-

Public Health Sector and its employees to ensure “HEALTH FOR ALL” at the earliest. According to the report received off late, the seminar created an enthusiasm among the health employees to mobilize themselves effectively and consciously discharge their role in all directions.

AIUTUC stands in solidarity with Port Employeess Struggle

In view of proposed All India Strike of eleven major ports on 19th April 2017, AIUTUC General Secretary Comrade Sankar Saha in a press statement issued on 15th April, 2017 urged the port and dock employees of eleven major ports irrespective of affiliation to continue their struggle to force the BJP led central government to refrain from amending “MAJOR PORT TRUST ACT, 1963” and replace the same by the “MAJOR PORT AUTHORITY ACT, 2017”. He also reminded the workers of the role played by the Congress led UPA government and the BJP government of 1999. He observed that the present government's move is not only the extension of the previous government's role in the dismantling of the centralized core sector but also privatizing the same in various ways.



Maruti Suzuki workers at the Manesar rally on 23.3.2017 in protest of court verdict for life imprisonment of 13 leading workers and 5 years rigorous imprisonment to 4 other workers of Maruti-Suzuki Plant of Manesar, Gurgaon



As a part of All India protest call given by Central Trade Unions in solidarity to Maruti-Suzuki workers in their movement against the life imprisonment of 13 workers and 5 years rigorous imprisonment to 4 other workers of Maruti-Suzuki Plant of Manesar, Gurgaon there was a gathering of thousands of workers at Kamala Nehru park, in Delhi on 5th April, 2017.



On 1st May, 1890, European Socialist Parties organized May Day Demonstrations and rallies in Industrial cities of Germany, France, Belgium etc. in befitting manner. The above is the photo of one of them.



But, if you think that by hanging us, you can stamp out the labor movement - the movement from which the downtrodden millions, the millions who toil and live in want and misery - the wage slaves - expect salvation - If this is your opinion, then hang us! Here you will tread upon a spark, but there, and there, and behind you and in front of you, and everywhere, flames will blaze up. It is a subterranean fire. You cannot put it out.

— August Spies —

AZ QUOTES

Concluding part of the statement of August Spies, one of the martyrs of the May Day Movement 1886 made before the trial court.