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Online Weekly

Volume – 1

Issue – 1

5 February 2011

### Significance of Red Star Weekly as an online edition

A little more than a century and half ago, even when the Communist ideas were beginning to be talked about and the proletarians and the oppressed were beginning to get organized, the new propertied classes, the bourgeoisie, and all their backers had united in launching the most vicious attacks against it. *The Communist Manifesto*, prepared by Marx and Engels and published in 1848, started its analysis of the new world situation and the challenges faced by the proletarians and the oppressed, by pointing this out as: “*A spectre is haunting Europe- the spectre of Communism. All the powers of old Europe have entered in to a holy alliance to exorcise this spectre: Pope and Czar, Matternich and Guizot, French radicals and German police spies*”. Even today, in spite of the severe setbacks it could inflict upon the socialist camp and in spite of the degeneration of large sections of the former revolutionary forces, communist parties, to social democratic positions, the US led imperialists and their lackeys along with their new earned friends who are hoodwinking the masses by *raising red flag to destroy red flag* have not reduced the intensity of the anti-communist counter revolutionary offensive.

In spite of it, these are days when decades after these setbacks suffered by the revolutionary movement internationally, once again the significance of the slogan: *Countries wants independence, nations want liberation and people want revolution* is more urgently felt. Even in the belly of the beast, the US imperialism, working class and oppressed masses are renewing the *Occupy Wall Street* movement which they had launched last year, with more vigour. If the US imperialists, their allies and the Zionists are planning even after their not so glorious experience in Iraq and Afghanistan, another war front in Iran, it is not a sign of their victorious advances, but the reflection of the intensity of the crisis the imperialist system is confronting. The new edition of *stagflation* and resultant crisis faced by the international finance capital has reached such serious levels that except by promoting war industry, intensifying the plunder of the countries subjected to neo-colonial order and launching aggressions against those who do not fully fit in to their hegemonic system, they have no other way outs left to perpetuate their control and hegemony.

For justifying and propagating these barbaric loot and aggressions, besides the most modern destructive weapons, and divide and rule policies, they are using the media with all its new immense possibilities to justify their heinous actions. Imperialists and their lackeys are creating public opinion to perpetuate their barbaric hegemony in all fields. And when they are finding that taking a leaf from their practice, the working class and the oppressed peoples and those who speak for them are trying to utilize the very same means of communication to create public opinion to revolt against them as was seen in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere, they are frantically seeking methods to suppress these channels for the masses. The new offensive by the imperialists and their lackeys everywhere to suppress the online avenues opened before the people to communicate freely should be seen in this context.

When the enemy is thus intensifying its hegemony in every field in this manner, it is the task of the revolutionaries to challenge them in whichever way possible, utilizing all forms of struggle according to concrete conditions, utilizing whatever facilities are available. Last one year witnessed many revolts, mass upsurges in a number of countries starting from Tunisia and Egypt against imperialists and their lackeys. At least in some countries people have succeeded in overthrowing some of the worst dictators also. If it was the objective situation intensifying the fundamental contradictions which aroused the masses, in almost all these revolts the new electronic communication facilities were used by the popular forces in mobilization of the masses. Internationally the working class and the oppressed peoples have learned from these experiences and have started utilizing these communication channels everywhere.

Our experience, though limited is also positive in this respect. If due to our limited publication facilities and organizational reach the ideological political offensive launched by the CPI (ML) could not be taken to larger sections, though these problems still continue to remain in taking our printed material to the vast

masses, which the whole organization is trying to overcome, in taking the ideological offensive to the new generation, many of whom are utilizing the modern communication facilities, important gains could be achieved through our website: ww.cpi.ml.in, Facebooks, Blog etc. It is in this context, based on the experience so far gained in utilizing the modern communication facilities, the new Central Committee elected by the Ninth Party Congress has decided to launch an online edition of **Red Star Weekly**. It is hoped that all friends and comrades of the revolutionary movement shall fully utilize this new effort to launch the ideological political offensive with full vigour.

We shall be emailing **Red Star Weekly** to you on every Saturday. Please collect as many email addresses as possible and forward it to as many friends as possible. To make it successful your cooperation is fully needed. As it is going to focus on news and views as a tabloid, please send all the news about the struggles taking place around you, not only under the leadership of CPI (ML) committees or class/ mass organizations politically led by it, but under the initiative of various popular forces including the spontaneous upsurges taking place nationally and internationally. Please send these news and views regularly, every week, to our email address continuously so that they can be edited and published. The enemy has successfully utilized information as a weapon to create public opinion in the most reactionary manner during the last century or more to spread slander and calumny against all the independence struggles of the countries, liberation movements of oppressed nations and revolutionary struggles of the people. So in order to counter it in whichever way and to whatever extent possible, let us mobilize all our efforts and make a counter offensive against the barbarous imperialist system and its lackeys who are lording over the people nationally and internationally.

We are bringing the first issue of **Red Star Weekly** as an online publication to you on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. Immediately send it to all your friends and to all email addresses known to you. Send your criticisms and suggestions and contributions in the form of brief news and views. Together let us make it a great venture which will reach hundreds of thousands of our friends, comrades, all publications and masses who utilize the new information technology.

**Editorial Board, 04-02-2012**

### **UPA Government Fully Exposed for its 2-G Spectrum Deal**

The scrapping of UPA's 122 illegal 2-G Spectrum sales to different companies by the Supreme Court on 2<sup>nd</sup> February has fully exposed the fraudulent manner in which these deals were executed by the UPA government in 2008. The advocates of privatization during the Keynesian days used to condemn the 'license raj' for lack of transparency and for corruption in the government deals. But the 2-G Spectrum deal has exposed that after neo-liberal policies were introduced the system has become a hundred times more corrupt and much less transparent. In almost all lucrative deals including the highly priced petroleum deals with Reliance, the unscrupulous companies using their nexus with elected leaders and bureaucrats went ahead with their quest for fabulous profits. Though only the 2G-Spectrum case came out, all such deals involve huge underhand transactions, plundering the public wealth. The obnoxious thing is that even after the SC order, the senior ministers of UPA are coming out with statements that only Raja is responsible and he had done it even after the prime minister and finance minister had asked for public auctioning. Then what about the so-called collective responsibility? What was the PM and FM doing when Raja flouted their instructions and even after the news of the scam came out? Did they try to cancel the deals when it was exposed that precious national resources were allotted so cheaply? The whole UPA government was responsible for this scam, and it has no right to be in office after swindling the country's interest in this manner.

It is interesting to note the way in which the CPI (M) leaders and their LF partners have now come out with statements asking the PM and FM to resign taking the responsibility for the deal. But, can anyone forget that as a bloc of 55 MPs it was the LF that kept the UPA govt in power when this scam occurred? Even after the scam started coming out, did they try to force the govt to come out with all facts, or to resign? Rather, their opposition was only to the nuclear deal, which also was fraudulent, since they did not oppose when Manmohan had already signed the initial deeds leading to it.

The 2-G Spectrum deal is only the tip of the ice-berg. The whole system is corrupt and it is a government of scamsters. Uncompromising and all out struggles should be waged to expose this corrupt ruling system and the government, and to throw them out.

**CPI(ML), 03-02- 2012**

### **The biggest \$10 billion defense deal for whom?**

Indian Air Force is going to be richer with 126 Rafale fighter planes from France replacing the older planes from Russia. Naturally neither Britain which canvassed for its Typhoon nor US for products from its arms producers is happy for loosing such a big deal. A lot is written by the corporate media about the

virtues of such a deal. But nobody is asking why India is going for such a costly purchase. It can only gladden the French imperialists who are facing financial crisis, while frightening the small neighbours and threatening Pakistan. Whichever plane is purchased, the comprador Indian government is going to serve as junior partner of the US imperialists. Spending such a big amount for an arms deal which is sufficient to promote universal public distribution system of essential commodities and universal healthcare and education for all, exposes its anti-people nature. The priorities of this comprador government are different.

Instead of debating which plane India should have purchased, if the media have any semblance of pro-people character it should have questioned the priorities of this government. Including the opponents of Congress in UP elections, if any political party is really opposed to India's reactionary foreign and defense policy, they should have questioned the purpose of this deal. But nothing of that sort is happening. Like supporting and implementing the neo-liberal policies with their own interpretations, all the ruling class, regional, communal, caste-based and reformist parties are not basically opposed to the reactionary foreign policy of the comprador govt. All the progressive, democratic and left forces should severely condemn this defense purchase and the very comprador foreign policy of this govt.

**CPI(ML), 03-02-2012**

### **The Compradors are in Real Hurry to Impose 100% FDI in Retail**

Soon after the UPA government took over for a second time in 2009, a worried Hillary Clinton, the US state secretary, had enquired from her embassy in New Delhi: "How does Sharma (her obedient commerce minister of India) view India's current FDI guidelines? Which sectors does he plan to open further? Why he is reluctant to open multi-brand retail?" (*Wikileaks*). She enquired further: "Why was (Pranab) Mukherjee chosen for the finance portfolio over Montek Singh Ahluwalia? How do Mukherjee and Ahluwalia get along? Does Sharma get along with Mukherjee and Prime Minister Singh?" There is no need for Hillary worrying; they are all getting along fine in serving her government. They are all in it as a team. And this team hurriedly tried to push through with 100% FDI in retail to her satisfaction. But the US manipulation of the other leaders of opposition parties did not work as planned and the UPA government had to retire hurt for the time being as the parliament did not go along with it.

But the compradors are really loyal to the cause of serving the US dictated opening of the retail sector to MNCs. Even when the Congress leaders Sonia and Rahul are busy in promising to do wonders for the people during their election speeches, Manmohan, Sharma and company were busy with opening the single brand retail to 100% FDI. And according to latest reports, on 27th February Sharma has assured Walmart and Metro, the giant retail MNCs, that the reforms agenda is well on course and the decision to put on hold FDI in multi-brand retail is just a pause forced by compulsion of coalition politics. This assurance was given by him to Walmart president Doug McMillon and Germany based Metro's board member Frans WH Muller. What a loyalty? Hillary and company will be delighted to have such compradors down here who are ready to do anything at their bidding. The FICCI and CII chiefs, true to their comprador character, are delighted with the speeding up of the opening of retail and remaining sectors also to MNCs.

When the government is repeating that opening retail to MNCs and Corporate houses will do away with the middlemen, the first to be affected are the millions of men and women who are making a living by taking the vegetables and other essentials to the people. The millions of the small shop keepers will be forced to close business, with thousands of them committing suicide. The fatal consequences of opening up of a sector which presently provide employment for 44 million and a total sale of \$400 billion is not even discussed in the country. Only thing which is evident is that Walmart and other MNCs will be immensely benefitted at the cost of many millions in the country eventually surrendering the whole lucrative sector to them at the peril of not only the vendors and shop keepers, but also of millions of farmers and of working class and owners of small and medium industries.

UPA government is in a hurry to fully open up the country to MNCs and other imperialist agencies, pauperizing the masses and devastating the country, taking orders from the imperialist masters. It is the task of the revolutionary left and democratic forces to beat back this reactionary offensive of the compradors in power, running the ruling system.

### **Students Should Revolt Against Commercialization and Trade in Education, Make All India Protest of Students' and Teachers' on 16<sup>th</sup> February Great Success**

A picture of the protest by the students of California University, Los Angeles, US, on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2011, against rising tuition fees and student debt which has reached \$1 trillion in US alone which are set to rise sharply with escalating educational costs is given below:

In UK, France and in many imperialist countries students have come out to protest in militant forms. In spite of these the UPA government is going to impose a number of neo-liberal policies to facilitate the domination of the education field by the MNCs, various imperialist agencies, corporate houses and education mafias. Along with these the religious and caste organizations are also given more opportunities to dominate the education field. The concept of a progressive, secular, democratic education that create scientific temper and sense of equality is consciously destroyed. In this context, united countrywide struggles of the students and the teachers along with all progressive democratic forces is a must to resist and defeat the neo-liberal onslaught of the ruling system in the field of education.

The **All India Forum for Right to Education (AIF-RTE)** in which all progressive-democratic student organizations and teachers organizations have joined hands, is organizing country-wide protest against the anti-people trade oriented reforms in education, the UPA government is going to push through in the budget session of the Parliament.

AIRSO, as an associate of AIF-RTE, has called on all its units to join hands with other students organizations and progressive forces to make the **16<sup>th</sup> February All India Program** a great success. It has called for launching continuous struggles to force the central government to reverse the commercialization and trade in education policies.

### **Kerala: Anti-BOT Struggle to Intensify**

In spite of various diversionary tactics and repressive police actions and imprisonment of CPI (ML) cadres including the State Secretary of the Party, the Oommen Chandy government in Kerala has not yet succeeded in implementing the BOT (build, operate and transfer) scheme and toll collection from the newly constructed stretch of National High Way 47 in Kerala. At the behest of the BOT mafia composed of the speculative financiers, bureaucrats and politicians, by this time though the chief minister himself has convened several meetings and announced attractive 'rehabilitation packages' to dismember the fighting unity of the people, he has not yet succeeded in his heinous tactics. On the other hand, accepting the political leadership of CPI (ML) which has clearly identified the BOT as the neo-liberal way of corporate plunder, the people are unitedly coming forward to resist the government move.

In this context, under the political initiative of the CPI (ML) the anti-BOT People's Committee has called for a state level convention against the BOT schemes on February 26 to coordinate the ongoing struggles at the state level and to spread the agitation to other areas where the government is bent on implementing the anti-people BOT schemes.

### **Kerala: People's Initiative on Mullaperiyar Dam Issue**

While the ruling class parties and the so-called opposition led by the CPI(M) in Kerala have taken a chauvinistic approach to Mullaperiyar dam issue, from the very beginning the CPI(ML) has been stressing the unity and solidarity of the working people in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala and upheld the simultaneous twin tasks of safety of Keralites and water for Tamil Nadu. Now, while the Mullaperiyar still continues as a live issue, all the acrimonious scenes and divisive tendencies unleashed with political and economic vested interests in both states, though remain dormant now, may flare up at any time. In this context the CPI(ML) has initiated steps to unite all like-minded forces to draw out a long-term scientific solution to the problem. Since a new dam in Idukki district is ecologically not feasible, the proposal is for the application of modern science and technology to maintain the existing Mullaperiyar dam as a 'diversion dam' instead of a 'storage dam' and take appropriate steps for diverting and storing the rain water in Mullaperiyar catchment area within Tamil Nadu. This will alleviate the potential threat from dam break and at the same will ensure uninterrupted supply of water to Tamil Nadu. On February 5, the Party is taking the initiative to call a meeting of concerned people to carry forward this task paving the way for the ultimate resolution of the Mullaperiyar in the interests of the peoples of both states isolating all the vested interests.

### **West Bengal: Loomtex Jute Mill Workers' Struggle**

In a stupendous show of working class solidarity, all workers of Loomtex Jute Mill (Titagarh, West Bengal) stopped work from 31<sup>st</sup> January demanding immediate reinstatement of their two suspended colleagues, Shyamsundar Shaw and Rajkumar Singh. Thus production in the mill has stopped and the workers have unanimously threatened to continue the cease-work unless their demand is immediately met. Shyamsundar and Rajkumar, two fighting workers of the mill, were suspended along with six others in January 2011 for 'daring' to lead a movement demanding PF and gratuity dues of thousands of workers. Although the other 6 workers were subsequently taken back in their jobs following mass agitation by the workers, the management remained adamant about Shyamsundar and Rajkumar. Finally, following a weeks-long dharna in front of the mill gate, a tripartite meeting was held on December 6, 2011, in which

the management agreed in writing to reinstate Shyamsundar and Rajkumar if the dharna was withdrawn. However, though the workers kept their part of the agreement and withdrew the dharna, the management went back on its promise and refused to take the two back. Repeated appeals to the labour commissioner, the administration and even the labour minister to compel the management to keep its promise proved to be of no avail as the government and administration shamelessly sided with the mill authorities.

The workers gave an ultimatum. The management remained deaf and mute. Having reached the end of their tether, the workers ultimately went on an indefinite cease-work from today, defying dire threats by the management and its lackeys. The agitation, led by the TUCI-affiliated Sangrami Mazdoor Union, will continue till the management gives in to the just demand of the workers.

It is to be noted that the management is adamant about not reinstating Shyamsundar Shaw, who is also the general secretary of the Sangrami Mazdoor Union, in service because it is he who had spearheaded the movement that compelled the management to pay up a certain amount of gratuity dues to retired workers (in 2010-2011) for the first time in 20-odd years. The amount of PF and gratuity money that the mill authorities have appropriated, while the workers have writhed in poverty and despair, over the last couple of decades is unimaginable. Shame on the 'world's biggest democracy'!

### **AIRWO in the Forefront of Struggle against Rapists and Liquor Policy**

The AIRWO in Odisha launched a vigorous struggle against the rapists and the ministers, the BJD leaders and police who protected them as soon as the news of the gang rape of Babina Behera and the way the police and authorities tried to protect the culprits came out in the first week of January. Thousands of women were organized in the mass movement which spread to as a statewide popular movement soon compelling the resignation of the agricultural minister involved and police action against the culprits. AIRWO has demanded CBI enquiry and early punishment of all culprits.

In Chikmangalore district of Karnataka, the AIRWO committee in Duraguni panchayat organized a successful struggle to throw out the liquor vendors from the panchayat. Defeating the efforts of the panchayat presidents and liquor mafia, the AIRWO has succeeded to declare this panchayat as a liquor free one. The AIRWO state committee has decided to spread this struggle to other areas also along with the struggle against other forms of oppression against women.

AIRWO is organizing an all India activists camp at Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on 25-26 February in order to work out an all India agitation program focusing on women's issues.

### **Mass Upsurges around the World Will Intensify, But They Call for a Left Alternative**

2011 had started with the popular uprising in Tunisia which saw the overthrow of the more than three decades long dictatorship of Ben Ali. Then on 11<sup>th</sup> February Egyptian people celebrated the end of the 30 year autocracy of Hosni Mubarak in Tahrir Square. The revolts in North African and West Asian countries continued. As the Washington Consensus had led to the ruling classes becoming fabulously rich while rampant poverty was spreading among masses of people, widespread unemployment and under employment were increasing to alarming levels among the youth, and police brutality and state terror were intensifying in the name of 'war on terror', the youth, workers, students, the oppressed peoples, all these exploited and oppressed sections came out to revolt in a large number of countries, starting in the neo-colonially dependent countries and spreading to US and the Euro-zone countries. Its reverberations reached every country from China to India to Chile, drawing tens of millions to the streets. Even after a year they have not subsided. The *Occupy Wall Street* revolt is renewed with more vigour and participation in US this year. And this revolt is bound spread with more intensity this year as the reasons for which they started have not disappeared, but have become more serious. The people everywhere have lost faith in their rulers. They are revolting, seeking positive alternatives to resolve their problems.

Though these people's upsurges called for a positive left alternative, by and large nowhere they could be given effectively in the present situation. The reformist, the social democratic left themselves have become apologists and executioners of the neo-liberal policies wherever they shared power within the ruling system, and irrespective of the lip-sympathy they express, have become incapable of providing leadership to the struggle against them. The left adventurist, anarchist sections have become alienated from the masses and are incapable of coming to the leadership of these upsurges. Utilizing this opportunity, the US Imperialists, their allies and lackeys have succeeded to lead many of these movements astray or end them with reformist remedies with the help of religious fundamentalists and various reformist forces. In West Asia the Islamic fundamentalists of various hues are coming to the rescue of the reaction, often raising pseudo-anti-imperialist slogans.

But no revolution, no upsurge of the people become a waste. In spite of their failure, retreat, they provide new lessons for next advances. The present upsurges have given the lessons to the masses to advance again for social justice and dignity, for ending economic plunder, for resisting the devastation of nature and human life. They have educated the masses about the importance of forging unity of the workers and oppressed masses of the world for revolts transcending the national borders. They have raised the importance of defeating reformist and anarchist deviations, national chauvinist distortions, and mobilizing the masses in ever larger numbers with an advanced understanding of the Marxist-Leninist path according to present neo-colonial phase of imperialism. So revolts are not going to end, but shall break out with more clarity, with more advanced vision of world proletarian socialist revolution. Let us strive hard to make 2012 brighter than the 2011, trying hard to come to the leadership of these popular movements.

### **Long march for freedom started in Europe**

On January 31, the Long March for Freedom organized by the Kurdish federation KOM-KURD and supported by other migrant associations like **IGIF** [Federation of Migrant Workers Switzerland] and **ATIK** as well as by Marxist-Leninist Communist Party [MLCP – Turkey/Northern Kurdistan] and some other revolutionary organisations started in Geneva, Switzerland with a march ending in front of the United Nations` office.

Our party MLCP opened a banner saying "Freedom to the Kurdish people and all political prisoners" and participated with several activists and party flag in the action.

The long march organised under the slogan "Freedom for Ocalan, a political statu for the Kurdish people", which is protesting against the total isolation of Ocalan and demands freedom for the political prisoners, will pass many different cities of Europe during a route of 420 km and will end on February 18 in Strasbourg with a mass meeting and demonstration on the occasion of the 13 anniversary of the international conspiracy of kidnapping the **PKK** [Kurdistan Workers' Party] leader Ocalan.