

# *Students' Pledge*

December 2021



**SALUTE TO THE  
FIGHTING FARMERS**



AIDS volunteers at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders (from Left to Right) on 26th Nov. 2021  
ON COMPLETION OF ONE YEAR OF HISTORIC FARMERS' MOVEMENT

## Glimpses of Motorcycle Rally in support of historic farmers' movement from Hussainiwala, Punjab to Tikri and Singhu Borders, Delhi organised by AIDS



At Hussainiwala (From Left to Right): Com. Satyawar (All India President, AIKMS) and Com. V.N. Rajashekhar (All India President, AIDS) paying tribute to the martyrs and Com. Sourav Ghosh (General Secretary, AIDS) addressing to the volunteers



Rally was flagged off on 15th January 2021...



...and after travelling around 1000 Kms. reached Tikri (Left) and Singhu (Right) Borders on 19th January



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**December 2021**

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**Central Organ of All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO)**



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## *The Editor's Desk...*

Since the last one and a half year, the whole country has been reeling under the grievous impact of the Novel corona virus that has dawned upon us its dire consequences and an ugly dance of death. Thousands have lost their lives in want of hospitals, beds, ventilators, Oxygen and medicines. Crores of people are moving here and there searching for bread. Everywhere there is an invincible shadow of darkness, pain and suffering. But, this deadly crisis has been utilized by the central government completely to implement its nefarious pro-corporate agenda and brought one after another anti-people, anti-students, anti-education policies. In complete disregard to the valuable opinions and opposition from several educationists, scientists, intellectuals, teachers, guardians and students and the people of India, the Union Cabinet unilaterally had approved the NEP (National Education Policy 2020) last year in the month of July. Avoiding all sorts of debate and discussion, the BJP-led central government is now implementing the NEP-2020 in full swing. Education being a concurrent subject, the vital task of eliciting the opinions of state governments was bypassed and now with total disregard to our federal structure, the central government is bullying on the state governments and is all set to impose this NEP - a blue print of Privatisation, Commercialisation, Communalisation, Centralisation and Vocationalisation of Education.

On 19th May 2021, the Universities Grant Commission (UGC) had issued a public notice to implement blended mode of teaching in Higher education institutions. It has been decided that all the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) will teach 40% of the syllabus to their students through online mode (other than SWAYAM course) and the remaining 60% syllabus through offline means, i.e., class room mode.



Universities are the seats of universal learning and are the grounds where teachers and students from diverse backgrounds assemble and exchange their ideas and engage themselves in the pursuit and cultivation of knowledge and culture. It is precisely for these reasons, that a vast section of academicians opine that online education can never be called a comprehensive education model, it can at best become a monologue online lecture model. Online lecture can only aid the formal education and can be a tool to engage the students, but if it replaces the time-tested formal classroom teaching then it will be disastrous. Experiences over the last year and a half have vindicated this point. It is a foregone conclusion that 'Online teaching' seriously jeopardizes the very process of teaching, learning and cultivation of knowledge. Also, in our country the internet penetration is mere 36% and in the rural households, it's a pathetic 14.9%. A whopping 75% of our people do not have access to Smart Phone; mere 8% of households with members aged between 5 and 24 years have both Computer and Internet; 50% of villages do not have electricity for half of the day. So, in our country to impose blended mode and to talk of Online Teaching, is highly discriminatory and anti-egalitarian.

Actually, the party in power is using the situation created due to lockdown as an opportunity to thrust upon 'globalisation & liberalisation reforms' in higher education. All governments are pursuing these globalization reforms only to make Indian education a global commodity. The FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) inflow into India through the indirect route is Rs. 16,802.45 Crores; and India is projected spending is Rs. 6.43 Lakh Crores. (Source: Economic Survey 2019-20). It is to be noted that the major amount of FDI is invested in e-learning, smart classes, etc. According to IBEF (India Brand Equity Foundation, is a Trust under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Report; April 2020) - Education sector in India is estimated to reach US\$ 101.1 billion in 2019; India's e-learning is second largest in the world, with 9.5 Million users is projected to be US\$ 1.9 Billions worth market by 2021. "By 2022, online education offerings across grades 1 to 12 are projected to increase 6.3 times to create around Rs. 74,000

Lakhs (\$ 1.7 billion) market, while the Post Class I 2 market is set to grow 3.7 times to create around Rs. 74,000 lakhs (\$ 1.8 Billion) market." (Source: "EdTech in India Report - by the RedSeer and Omidyar Network India) All this reiterates the fact that our education is out to become a commodity; and thus ensure the loot and plunder of our people through infringing autonomy and imposing such undemocratic anti-student "Blended Mode of teaching".

NEP-2020 advocates the introduction of vocational education Programmes into mainstream education. Now, we are observing the central and almost all state governments nurturing an attitude to implement these from the early stages of schooling and are trying to hand over to the NGOs affiliated to RSS. The mission of conversation will be started by Prime Minister of India from "Satyabdi Banavidyalaya" the first man making school established in Odisha by the great renaissance Gopabandhu Das and four other great personalities of independence struggle.

It's important to mention here that after the completion of tenure of Sarva Sikhya Abhiyan (SSA) in the year 2018, now the central government has stated same mission in another name of 'STARS' project under Samagra Sikhya Abhijan. It is being implemented in 6 states Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh, aim is to "encourage the introduction of work benches/multi-skilling centers in schools, which would be closely linked with the SSCs (Sector Skills Council) to ensure that the trades being introduced in schools are tightly connected to the labor market."

'Vocationalisation' of entire education from class 6th onwards will destroy the time-tested process of teaching, learning and cultivation of knowledge. Providing some vocational training can never be called education. Also, when thousands of ITI and diploma holders are roaming on the streets in search of jobs, even thousands of Engineers, Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses etc. are becoming unemployed and hundreds of them are underemployed or doing works which are not related to their subject; when the real cause for unemployment lies in exploitative capitalism, how can

vocational education from 6th standard to PG level ensure jobs? The fact is that students will neither have jobs nor knowledge!

NEP-2020 emphasizes on the establishment of School Complexes/Clusters, advocating sharing of teachers, infrastructure, library, etc. in the school complexes. The NEP acts like an apologist of the government deliberate failure. It liberates the government from all responsibility of funding, recruiting adequate teachers, providing infrastructure and reopening of new schools. As a result, we are observing different state governments in an absolute hurry to close and merge a large number of institutions. In Odisha, they have already taken a decision to close down 14, 379 primary schools (after the movement they have reduced the number to 7 thousand), in MP 10,000, in Gujarat, in Andra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, in Assam and in many other states all across the country, lakhs of Schools & Colleges will be closed down. The opportunity of getting education in nearby Institution will be snatched away and accessibility will be shrunked.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has circulated a draft B.A history syllabus in the name of Learning Outcomes based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) on 15th February 2021, which highlights an undue glorification of the ancient Indian past; the curriculum contents portray reliance on Oral source of history and discardment of the scientific process of studying history. Over 100 historians from India and abroad have recently endorsed a letter to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, expressing deep concern over the proposed changes in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) history textbooks and objected to the allegation that the books contained “unhistorical facts and distortions”. Among the signatories were Romila Thapar, Mukul Kesavan and professors from Delhi University, Punjab University, University of Toronto and Jawaharlal Nehru University. It's a matter of utmost pain and anguish that the new draft does not recognize and uphold the rich heritage of our renaissance movement and uncompromising freedom struggle against British Imperialism.

Like all their fascist predecessors, RSS-BJP , too, hoots down



Scientific knowledge, humanity, unity of the people and progress of our country. It is deplorable that in order to make their divisive and communal ideology an 'official history', the BJP government is out to destroy all democratic and autonomous institutions. Thus, the UGC has resorted to communalise Indian history at the behest of central BJP government. Across the world, universities follow the time-tested path of studying and cultivating history based on scientific evidences and scientifically verifiable facts. When History book becomes a propaganda of the ideology of the party in power and universities become a platform for spreading communal ideas, the situation is then, indeed, a threat to the onward March of civilization.

NEP-2020 advocates creating Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) which could digitally store the academic credits earned from different HEIs so that the degrees from an HEI can be awarded on the basis of the credits earned. (NEP/document 11.9) NEP-2020 emphasizes "Liberal Arts (multidisciplinary education) must be brought back to Indian education (11.1), HEIs shall include credit-based courses (11.8) and the UG degree will be of 4year duration with multiple exit and entry options within this period (11.9). In the mean while we are observing the central government has rolled out on 29th July the Academic Bank of Credit for students in over 290 top institutions from the current academic year 2021-22 onwards. All institutions in the top 100 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework as well as those who have achieved an A grade under the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) will be allowed to participate in the credit transfer system, which will also allow multiple entry and exit options for students. On 29th July, the Prime Minister of India has also launched the system of studying engineering degrees in regional languages in about 14 smaller institutions. He also announced the establishment of the National Digital Education Architecture and National Education Technology Forum and merger of institutes as well as to give students the choice of taking subjects such as social sciences, music and sports while getting engineering degrees, or even get a minor degree in emerging areas while majoring in a different

subject. Karnataka became the first state to accelerate the process of restructuring Higher Education in the shadow of NEP-2020 through introduction of four-year UG course with multidisciplinary education and multiple entry–exit option.

Many premier institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology have balked the idea of introducing courses in Indian languages and many intellectuals of our country were opposing introduction of 4year UG courses and multiple exit options. What a tragedy, the policy abdicates the government from the responsibility of providing quality university education; and universities or colleges are reduced to the level of marketing and selling varieties of 'certificates.' By wielding the 'carrot of jobs and certificate' the NEP shamelessly 'legalises the dropouts! Among the 'army of educated employed' any private company will prefer a 4-year Bachelor Degree holder over a diploma or an advanced diploma holder is a foregone conclusion. Further, to proclaim that after exiting from the course midway, students will return to pursue studies shows how insensitive the policy makers are towards poverty and unemployment. Whatever may be the attractive certificate offers, the economic crisis in every family is so acute that those who discontinue will never come back to pursue education unless they are given free scholarships and ensured recruitment. The motive behind introducing 4 year degree programme is that since the western countries follow, the NEP intends to restructure our degree programme to 4 years so that an Indian student can purchase a foreign degree and a foreigner can purchase Indian certificate. To achieve this, collaboration of Indian colleges/universities with foreign institutions is made easier.

We appeal to the students community in particular and teachers, educationists, and education loving people in general to come forward and save education from the disastrous New Education Policy to save education and society.

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# *Amidst Historic Farmer's Movement*

After one year of heroic struggle, the BJP-led central government ultimately compelled to repeal the three anti farm acts. The historic movement was started on 26th November 2020 by the farmers of Punjab and Haryana against three farm acts brought by the BJP-led central government and the Electricity Act 2020. The appeal of the movement was so high that within no time, it ignited not only the farmers of entire country but people from all walks of life joined it. Students, Youth, Women and workers joined the protest. Facing all odds either created by nature or by the ruling BJP regime, the farmers sitting at different borders were determined to continue it till the achievement of their demands. This perseverance has not only created hope among the countrymen but has taught lesson that how a movement

can be build up if people once determine. We cannot forget that this success has been achieved after martyr death of around 700 people across the nation.

AIDSO is with the movement from the Day 1 and has been consistently trying to strenghten the movement which is not just a farmer's movement but a movement of all those who live by food. Among many such programmes, in the month of January, AIDSO took up the responsibility to organise a motorcycle rally from Hussainiwal, Punjab to Tikri and Singhu Borders and carry out the message of farmer's movement in different villages and cities. Following is an account of the historic motorcycle rally which attracted a vast section of people towards the movement and was applauded by one and all.



## ***The Motorcycle Rally From Hussainiwala to Singhu and Tikri Borders***



It was a chilly winter morning, the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. The young volunteers from AIDS0 were filled with great enthusiasm. Some of them could have visited the place earlier but most of them did not. Even the name of Hussainiwala, the National Martyrs Memorial was enough to fill their heart with the memory of the heroic struggle that Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev did nearly hundred years

back. How these heroes are still alive in the minds of students and youths of this country was clearly visible on the bright and shining faces of the students assembled there to participate in a Motorcycle Rally. More than hundred volunteers from AIDS0 assembled from more than 20 states covering from North to South and from East to West of our country joined the rally. It had been raining for 3 days right before the day the rally

started, stinging cold waves were not less than arrows, the roads were covered with fog, but the extremely adverse weather condition could only made the determination of the volunteers stronger to travel hundreds of kilometres on motorcycles to reach the starting place, Hussainiwala in Punjab. The historic Motorcycle Rally from National Martyrs Memorial to the Tikri and Singhu Borders of Delhi was more

than a rally. It was the reflection of the suppressed feelings of the exploited mass of this country which is under the yoke of the ruthless capitalism. This merciless capitalist economy is rearing its ugly head time and again and this time it is in the form of three anti-farm laws and Electricity Act 2020 being brought by the BJP-led Central Government. This rally was in support of the ongoing historic farmers' movement.

The motorcycle rally was organised to express solidarity with the protesting farmers and to send a message to the ruling class of our country that students of this country are with the peasantry and that students have taken a pledge to remain with the farmers till the three black laws are repealed by the government. This motorcycle rally was not a sudden programme but was organised by AIDS0 as a part of the protracted movement against the farm laws and Electricity Act

2020, which is going on from past few months and is not just confined at the different borders of Delhi but has shook the entire country up. AIDS0, being a

revolutionary students' organization, stood with the farmers from 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 itself, the time BJP-led central government promulgated the three farm laws. Further in

***When the entire nation was groveling under the threat of Covid - 19, the central Government has been helping the ruling class to strengthen their wealth by implementing, one after another, draconian policies of Privatization - Commercialization in all service sectors. At this moment when the peasants of our country are on the roads, the students community of this country is in another struggle against the disastrous National Education Policy 2020, which is a blueprint of Privatization, Commercialization, Vocationalization Centralization and Communalization of Education. Not a single section of common people is spared from the ruthless attack of capitalism. All the political parties who captured power in different times right from the time of independence, either in centre or in states, including presently ruling BJP and the earlier Congress regime, have only served the national and international capitalist class and exploited the toiling people of this country. In such a situation, AIDS0 calls upon the common people in general and students in particular to learn from the Peasant's movement and holding our hands together strengthen the movement against anti-farm laws, Electricity Act 2020 and other anti-people policies and safeguarding the unity of students like apple of eye, unleash a massive and protracted students' movement against the National Education Policy - 2020 to save education, culture and society.***

the course of the movement, responding to the call of Delhi Chalo on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020, when the farmers reached the borders and after being stopped by the Police, the borders itself turned into a protest camp, AIDS0 volunteers have been present at the borders from the day 1 in solidarity with the movement with a message that the movement does not belong to the farmers alone. It is a movement of all those who live by food and the students of the country are with the farmers. When AIDS0 volunteers rallied at the borders, shouted slogans, sang progressive mass songs, helped them in Langar seva, took Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh's book to them, everyone blessed the volunteers for standing firm with them having deep hope in their eyes.

The motorcycle rally with the message "Desh ke Chhatra, Kisano ke Sath" has been a life changing experience for almost all the participants.

The rally went through the places where there is no organizational base but the people of Punjab and Haryana welcomed the volunteers with deep respect and emotion. While going to Hussainiwala, on 14th January 2021, the volunteers participated in the peasants' protests at Sirsa and Dabwali where the peasants blessed everyone and wished for success of the motorcycle rally. The groups of students reached Khalsa Gurudwara, Ferozpur late in the night. The next morning, on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the rally started from the Gurudwara to reach the starting place of the motorcycle rally, the National Martyrs Memorial, Hussainiwala where the memorial of Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev is situated at the shore of Satluj river where the bodies of those fearless revolutionaries were thrown into by the fearful British Government. Not only the Gurudwara Management Committee but also many eminent personalities came to see off

the rally. The cold waves had been telling that the journey was going to be very tough but the soil of Hussainiwala filled everyone with enormous energy and strength to face all the odds and that too with a smiling and determined face. When the rally entered The National Martyrs Memorial, Hussainiwala, despite of extreme cold, all the eyes were shining with spirit, the memorial place was echoed with slogans, "Long Live Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev". 90 years before, the martyrs were hanged in a dark evening and thrown into Satluj River but death could never embrace them. They are still alive in the hearts of all the countrymen. All the eyes were teary while standing there, the blood was flowing with so much of energy in the veins. All the volunteers became emotional and took oath by their own selves to accomplish the dreams of the great revolutionaries. The eminent guest Comrade Satyawar, Core-Committee



member of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha and President, All India Kisan Khet Mazdoor Sangathan (AIKKMS), Comrade V.N. Rajashekhar, All India President of

AIDSO, Comrade Sourav Ghosh, General Secretary, AIDSO, Comrade Shibasis Praharaj, Rally Incharge and Incharge, AIDSO Punjab, Comrade Sachin Jain, All

India Vice-President, AIDSO and Comrade Dinesh Mohanta, All India Treasurer, AIDSO paid floral tribute to the memorials of the great martyrs, Shaheed-E-Azam

***Three agriculture laws - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essential Commodities (amendment) Act, Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 have caused tremendous dissatisfaction among the farmers of the country. The impact of these laws can be summed up as***

***Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 aims to reduce subsidies and push for privatization, especially in the distribution segment of the power sector leading to the hike the cost of the production.***

***Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act will empower the corporate houses to compel the peasants to produce only those crops which will suit their business need and profit maximization objective.***

***Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act will gradually dismantle the APMC Mandis and abandon the MSP (Minimum Support Price) regime to provide ample scope to agri-giants to buy agricultural produce crops at the rate of their choice.***

***Essential Commodities (amendment) Act has now provided the legal sanction to stock essential food articles like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, potatoes and onions etc. as per the desire of the stockists. It will facilitate unlimited hoarding resulting in black-marketing and price manipulation of essential food items.***

***Needless to mention, these inter-linked farm laws are meant to shorten and aggregate the extremely fragmented supply chain into a more compact and organised unit as a prerequisite for big business plans for retail chains in the interests of big corporate houses. This would, in turn, affect the entire chain of food production and supply imperilling food security. So, the laws which have resulted into this battle are not going to affect the farmers only, but have a deep impact on the whole nation and the farmers have been fighting a battle for the Nation.***

Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, BK Dutt (his memorial was established there as he wished) along with the memorial of Smt. Vidyavati, Bhagat Singh's Mother.

With the strength and inspiration gathered from the revolutionaries, the rally started for Jainto Via Faridkot. While leaving Ferozpur, the statue of Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha was also garlanded. It halted in Gurudwara Mata Khivi ji, Faridkot for a warm reception. The rally reached Gurudwara Gangsar Sahib, Jainto in the night. The first day of the rally was spent. Everyone was physically tired but there was not even a pinch of tiredness on anyone's face. On the contrary, the arrangement done by the people of Jainto brought smiles on everyone's face. Everyone was more prepared for the upcoming days. The next morning, many eminent people came to see off the rally. On 16th Jan 2021, with a warm see off the rally started. When it

reached Bathinda, the local people of the city were waiting. Teacher's Association, Pensioner's Association and Association for Democratic Rights had organised a short programme in Teacher's Home, Bathinda. The participants along with the local people rallied in the market and shouted slogans. After the warm reception, the rally went to Gurudwara Sahib Shaheed Bhai Mati Das Nagar, Bathinda. The rally then halted at Mansa. Democratic Teachers' Front enormously received the rally. From there when the rally was going towards Budhlada, a group of farmers and common people were shouting slogans. The truck and the bikes from the rally stopped. It was Bappiyana Village. Those farmers had returned from the Singhu Border for a few days. The group of old aged protesting farmers blessed the young students and gave their best wishes for the rally. Then, the rally drove to Gurudwara Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, Budhlada. The night

stay was there. Next morning, the Gurudwara premises was crowded with many eminent personalities, local students and other common people. All of them came to meet the young, energetic and determined volunteers of the motorcycle rally. After the meeting, a rally was organised in the city along with the local people. People sitting in their shops, standing at their terrace, walking on the roads were shouting slogans along with the volunteers. No one wanted to let go off of the rally- such was the emotional connection that was established between the AIDSOS volunteers and local people, even though they didn't know each other. It left a deep impact on everyone. With this overwhelming see off, the rally started for Patiala. Nabha and Sunam were the next halts but some old AIDSOS activists got to know about the rally. They could not imagine a rally in Punjab without passing through their place and insisted on having a visit to their village, Bachhoana. The

rally went to the village. With deep emotions, they arranged tea and snacks. A warm meeting with the old activists surfaced many old memories and it was a truly emotional moment. From there, the rally went to

Sunam, the city of Shaheed Udham Singh, who went to England and assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, the culprit of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The statue of Shaheed Udham Singh was garlanded and the rally went

on. It was already late in the evening when it reached Nabha. All the local people were eagerly waiting for the rally. The arrangement was done in Gurudwara Shri Adarsapura Sahib, Kalyan, Nabha-Patiala road. The

***Today, when the toiling people of India are passing through utmost difficult times and the whole country is standing before an unprecedented crisis in the realm of economy, politics and culture, the recent movement against the anti-farmers black bills has once again awakened the whole nation. We salute to the brave struggle of our "Annadatas" who overthrew all the obstacles from lathis to the chains of barricades. This movement not only set an example in terms of physical struggle but also portray how a democratic people's movement is conducted irrespective of caste, creed, region, language etc.***

***The peasants, who are 70-80 years old, say that they would anyway die in a few years but they are fighting with so much of determination, not for their own selves but for the next generation and are teaching them how to fight firmly in a battle ground. A father of a 6 year old girl said, "hume to yahan bhi marna hai, wahan bhi.. Hum sher ki maut marenge (we have to die either here or there... we wil rather fight and die with honor)" when he was asked whether he is concerned about his little daughter, he beautifully answered, " Bhagat Singh ki to hum barabari bhi nahi kar sakte lekin wo Bhagat Singh ban paye kyonki unhe ghar se hi ek mahaul mila tha, hum bhi chahte hain ki humare bacche dekhein ki ladai kaise ki jati hai isliye main apni beti ko yahan le kar aaya hu (we cannot even compare ourselves with Bhagat Singh but he could become a great revolutionary because he got such an environment from his home itself, we want our children to see the fight with their own eyes, so I've brought my daughter here)". A student of 11th standard said that he is a single child. So his parents were so worried about him yet they allowed him to be a part of the movement with hidden tears in their eyes. It is needless to mention that no protestor has been sleeping empty stomach. Not only the protestors, even the hapless children who roam around there emotionally said that they are homeless, most of them don't even know about their parents, they hardly used to get food before but ever since the movement started, they don't have to sleep without having food. There are countless inspiring incidents like these.***



local people felicitated the rally. After the warm welcome, the rally reached the destination of the day, Patiala. The journey of the next day was not going to be easy, a huge distance of 200 km was to be covered in a day. Everyone got ready and left early in the morning. The rally started by paying tribute to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's statue situated near Sirhind Bus stop, Patiala. The cultural team presented a drama, dedicated to the farmers' movement, on the streets. The rally, then, went to the Punjabi University, Patiala. Many Professors and students were eagerly waiting to receive the rally. Prof Gurunam Singh welcomed the rally and expressed his deep respect and emotions for the participants. Comrade Shibasis Praharaj thanked everyone for the warm welcome and the rally started for Rohtak, Haryana. On the way, in Kaithal, a protest was going on under the leadership of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha and AIKKMS. All the farmers overwhelmingly received the

rally. Driving consistently, the rally reached Rohtak, late in the night. In Rohtak, the administration had cancelled the venues for staying at the end moment. Yet the people of Rohtak were waiting for the rally with full arrangements in Rathi Dharmashala, Bharat Colony. No matter how many hurdles were created by the administration, the participants of the bike rally as well as the common people stood firmly to make the rally a grand success. The spirit of the ongoing farmer's movement on one hand and the deep respect, affection, blessings showered by the people of Punjab and Haryana on the other have been the source of inspiration for the young volunteers. In all the places, the rally had halted or stayed, the overwhelming reception cannot be forgotten by any of the students. Everywhere, the local people woke up at 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning to make sure that the volunteers could get ready and the rally started on time. One elderly man started

massaging the legs of a young participant the moment he got to know about the bike rally. Everyone asked him not to do that yet he did it with a big smile on his face. Even the people who came across the rally on the way, helped as much as they could. Everywhere, the local people welcomed the students with open hearts. They have been looking at the energetic faces of young boys and girls with hope in their eyes.

The next day was the last day of the rally. Every participant was filled with much more energy. The rally, paying tribute to the busts of Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Rohatak, Haryana, reached Tikri Border. All eyes were glued on the shining and determined faces of the students. The rally was welcomed at the dias. Comrade Sourav Ghosh addressed the farmers. The leaders presented the photographs of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat

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Singh to the farmers' leaders. The Cultural team presented a revolutionary song.

It was, then, in the last phase of the rally, that everyone became emotional. It reached to its final destination, Singhu Border, where already the people were waiting to receive the rally. Peasants' organization A I K K M S , W o m e n ' s Organization, AIMSS, Youth Organization AIDYO and other Peasants' organizations welcomed the rally with inspiring slogans. All the eyes were shining with strong determination. The Sanyukt Kisan Morcha felicitated the rally and the AIDS O leaders

presented them the portraits of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh.

At every spot where there were statues of the revolutionaries and martyrs, the volunteers gathered inspiration and strength by paying tribute to them. The cities and markets were echoing with the song "Ae Bhagat Singh Tu zinda hai har ek lahu ke katre me...". The cultural team, with very less preparation, presented revolutionary songs everywhere. The truck where the sore throats were sitting in was reverberating with inspiring and vibrant slogans. The whole journey has

become an unforgettable memory for all the participants as well as for those people of Punjab and Haryana who anyways came in contact with the rally. Not only will it be alive in all the hearts forever but it will also keep on strengthening the revolutionary spirit in the students. The bike rally which started from the memorial of Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev has given the message to the country that AIDS O is carrying forward the legacy of the revolutionaries of this country- the legacy of the battle to make India free from exploitation of man by man which is still unaccomplished.





## *Dreams of a Youth*

*(The present article was originally written in Bangla by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in May 1923. It was later translated in English by Prof. Hirendranath Dutt and was published in 'Dreams of a Youth' - a collection of letters and articles by Netaji)*

**W**e have come to this earth to fulfil some purpose, we have a message to give the world . The sun rises in the sky to light up the whole universe; flowers blossom forth in order to sweeten the air with their fragrance , the stream rushes forward to offer its rich store of water to the sea. Likewise we have come to this earth with our joyful youth and full-blooded life in order to establish some great Truth. With single - minded devotion and practical

experience of life we have got to discover that unknown and secret purpose of life which transforms an otherwise meaning-less existence into a fruitful one.

Full of youthful vigor we have come to this earth to give a taste of joy to all fellow men, because we represent the very spirit of joy. We shall move about on this earth as the living embodiments of joy and mirth. We shall laugh ourselves and make the whole world laugh with us. Wherever we may turn our eyes, the gloom of melancholy will vanish like mist and the living touch of our joy shall remove all maladies and sorrows, and sufferings from this earth which, to many, is a veritable vale of tears.

We have brought with us the divine gifts of hope and zeal, renunciation and courage. We have come to create things because in creation is real joy. We shall carry on our creative work with all the physical energies at our command, and all our creations will be informed with the spirit of Truth, and Beauty and Good which we have realized in our own

being. We shall lose ourselves in the great joy born of self-immolation and all this joy will turn this earth into an abode of happiness.

There can be no end to our sacrifices, no end to our duties. For :-

The more we shall give of our lives

The more ceaseless will be the flow of life.

We have so much to talk about, so much

to sing about.

And there's such an excess of life in us.

There's so much of joy, so much of hope,

The cup of Life is full to the brim.

We have come equipped with endless hopes, unbounded enthusiasm, and indomitable courage - there is no power on earth that can stop the onward rush of life in us. Let doubt and despair block our way like a mountain, let the antagonism of entire mankind try to resist us, still our joyful march shall continue all the same.

We have a religion of our own. We recognize no other religion. We are the votaries of all that is new and

unknown and beautiful. We give a touch of freshness to what is old and worn out, we infuse life into what is lifeless, we invigorate the old with the Spirit of Youth, and discover the Infinite in the finite. We do not feel bound to abide by the lessons of history on all occasions. We are the pilgrims of eternity but we would much rather follow the unknown path. The uncertain future has always a fascination for us. We must have the right to make the blunders. That is why most people fail to sympathise with us. To them we are nothing but a set of daredevil fanatics.

But we thoroughly enjoy of what we are. We are proud of ourselves. Youth by its very nature is bound to be desperate and dare-devil. It has been so everywhere and at all times. Urged on by unfulfilled aspirations we rush forward ceaselessly- we have no time to listen to the council of the elders. We may commit blunders, we may go astray, we may stumble down, but we never lose our zeal, we never flinch. There is no end to our daredevilry because we are ceaselessly

on the march.

The history of freedom in all countries has been our making. It is not our business to preach the message of peace. We rather sow seeds of dissension, incite warfare, and bring destruction in our wake. We strike at the very root of dogmatism, superstition, narrowness, and all that stands in the way of our progress. Our only business is to keep the path of freedom free from impediments so that soldiers of freedom may march along unfettered by obstacles.

To us human life is the one great truth. Hence the freedom we want (and life without that freedom is a torture-the freedom for which we have been smilingly shedding our blood for ages and ages) must be all-round and complete. We have come to preach the message of freedom in all spheres of life. To all fields of human activity-social, religious, economic and political, we shall bring with us the light of truth, a thrill of joy and a breadth of vision.

We have been singing the song of freedom

from the times immemorial. The longing for freedom runs through our veins even from our infancy. The piteous cry we give out at the time of birth is nothing but a note of protest against the worldly bonds. In infancy our only strength lies in crying but as we attain to youth we depend both on our brain and our brawn. And what, have we not accomplished with the help of our physical and mental power? Read the history of Phoenicia, Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Turkey, England, France, Germany, Russia, China, Japan, India or that of any other country, you will find our achievements recorded in burning letters on every page of history. We have made and unmade Kings and Emperors. We have helped them to the throne and again at a turn of our finger they have had to abdicate and take the flight for life. On the one hand we have built up the Taj-Mahal, a representation in marble of tearful love, while on other we have besmeared the face of the earth with a regular flow of blood. Society, state, art, literature, and science have grown up from age to

age mainly as a result of our corporate affairs. Again when we have played a destructive role, social structures and empires have come down to dust at one angry stamp of our foot.

At long last we have discovered our own strength; we have come to recognize our native genius. Now who is going to dominate or exploit us? The greatest fact, the greatest hope that emerges from this new awakening is the self-determination of youth. Once the dormant soul of youth has been awakened, life in all its spheres will be illuminated, by the blood-red rays of youth. This youth movement is all-pervading and universal in its scope and functions. One marked characteristics of the present day world is the manner in which the generation has asserted itself boldly and defiantly in the face of the cold challenge thrown by the older generation. Who can deny that this new force will illumine the whole world with a divine light?

Awake, arise, my young comrades, look! The new day is dawning!



# On Recent Developments in Afghanistan

"Death is better than being taken by them.... I burnt all of my University papers and documents. I burnt all my notes of achievements and certificates. I did it on our balcony. I have a lot of books, Lovely books that I was reading. I have hidden them all..... Now, I think I will have to leave the country because I'm Hazara. They've attacked schools for Hazara girls before, killing hundreds. So, they will kill us, probably rape us. As a girl and also as a minority, there is no space for me in my own country."

These words by a University student in Kabul may get the readers scared to bones, yet are they enough to convey the terror and pain engulfing the Afghan people at its fullest? It is beyond imagination how the Taliban has taken control of Afghanistan again. Throughout the world, the fundamentalist forces shall be encouraged in their respective countries through this victory. On the contrary, the common folks of Afghanistan are apparently preparing for a journey towards nothingness. The videos of people getting onto the wheels of an aeroplane and subsequently falling down went viral. Did they not know they would die this way? If they knew, why would they push themselves to death?

This rise of the Taliban has made all the democratic and progressive minds wonder about the upcoming challenges. It will not only endanger the lives of people in Afghanistan but is also a tremendous attack on the struggle for peace altogether. Now, the question arises, "Is this incident isolated from the history of Afghanistan and the present scenario of World Imperialism?" In order to understand this dreadful scenario, it becomes necessary to understand the conditions of Afghanistan with its present as well as historical

background.

Back in the early 20th century, it was an extremely backward country ruled by the kings. The countryside had a farming system with a life based on small cottage industries. It was not a nation as a whole but a bunch of different ethnic groups, majorly, controlled by spiritual ideas. In the late 1940s, Afghanistan, a former British colony, sought help from the US to modernize its army but was refused. It, then, turned over towards the Soviet Union, which then walking on the path of the lofty concept of Proletariat Internationalism and global obligation of a socialist state, responded positively. Under the impact of Soviet Socialism, democratic ideas began to evolve within mediaeval Afghanistan. But as soon as the Soviet Union took off with its revisionist ideas, the Gradual Emergence of hegemonic attitude towards Afghanistan became glaring.

As a culmination of the series of events, in 1974, the democratic battles against feudalism and fundamentalism overthrew the monarchy system. Subsequently, Afghanistan

was declared as a Republic and the new democratic government was established under the leadership of Mohammed Daoud. The democratic values began to make space to set foot. In this scenario, when the national aspirations of Afghan People were emerging, Nur Md. Tarakki of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), backed by the revisionist leadership of the Soviet Union, overthrew Daoud in 1978 through a coup. The transfer of power with the help of foreign forces apparently obstructed the process of establishing democratic values within the country men. The intervention of foreign power in the internal affairs of the country resulted in the indignation of the people against the Soviet revisionist leadership. When most of the provinces of the country were battling against such rule, Hafizullah Amin seized power in a palace coup in 1979. This seizure of power resulted in the direct intervention of revisionist soviet leadership through the military. They dethroned Hafizullah Amin and installed Barbrak Karmal at the position of President. The

entire process did not only give birth to an anti-Soviet feeling among the democratically-minded people but gave a ladder to the forces of reaction, fundamentalist powers to step up. In fact, it opened up a way for US imperialism to grow and set foot in the country. The US imperialist powers provided arms and fulfilled the requirements of the reactionary forces in Afghanistan including some factions of Mujahedeen, a coalition of guerrilla groups etc. to fight against the Soviet Army.

In 1986, the Soviet Union under the revisionist leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev deposed Barbrak Karmal and replaced him with Mohammad Najibullah who was the chief of KHAD, the Afghan secret service. As President, Najibullah initiated steps for a return to peace, known as the National Reconciliation Policy (NRP). Glasnost was sweeping through the Soviet Union, and the Red Army's continued presence in Afghanistan looked untenable. Hence, Under the NRP, Najib reverted to the country's old name of the Republic of Afghanistan, Islam was declared the state

religion, and the PDPA itself became the Hezb-e-Watan Party, in a bid to appeal to the Islamist Mujahideen victors of the war. But his efforts were in vain. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991, Najibullah was left without foreign aid. This, coupled with the internal collapse of his government, led to his resignation in April 1992 and the reactionary forces backed by the US took control and the rise of the Taliban took place.

The Taliban recruited thousands of aimless, jobless, rootless young lads, refugees and orphans who never saw their country at peace. They finally captured power in 1996 which led the country to obscurantist feudal culture and religious revivalism. The US imperialist powers than in the name of containing terrorism by Al-Qaeda and others deployed huge army. From 2001 till the rise of the Taliban, Afghanistan encountered one after another Client Regimes of US imperialism. The land of rich mineral deposits including gold, copper, lithium, high-quality gemstones as well as natural gas, petroleum etc. turned

into a land of war. Lakhs of Afghan people lost their lives, millions became refugees, and the lives of the common people of Afghanistan were shattered. The oppressive rule of US imperialism gave plenty of space for the Taliban to rise again, this time backed by China, Russia and Iran. US imperialism, not being able to face the resistance of China, Russia and Iran, has come on a bit of a back foot. Even though US imperialism has evacuated the land of Afghanistan, secretly, they are going hand in hand with the Taliban itself and there is an obvious reason behind it, the economic crisis.

The education system of Afghanistan is worst affected. Mehran, an expert in conflict at the University of Exeter, who grew up under the Taliban before leaving the country to pursue her own education, said it would take years, if not generations, to undo the damage. The Taliban banned almost all education for girls during their 1996-2001 rule. After the Islamists were ousted, there was no such remarkable development under the rule of US imperialism. Schools were caught between

deteriorating security conditions, weak governance and systemic corruption. Rebel groups, including IS and the Taliban, were capturing schools and educational spaces to extort resources and radicalise young people. This was happening throughout the vast rural areas that remained largely under the control of the Taliban, at the same time as the US-backed government was in power in Kabul. The country has one of the biggest education gender gaps, with UNICEF saying girls account for 60% of the 3.7 million Afghan children out of school. Only 37% of teenage girls can read and write, compared to 66% of boys, according to Human Rights Watch. Government data suggests a third of girls are married by the age of 18 and nearly 9% by 15. However, school attendance rose with more than 3.6 million girls enrolled by 2018 - more than 2.5 million in primary school and over 1 million in secondary though enrolment was mostly in urban areas. The increase in girls in secondary education was particularly marked, with nearly 40% enrolled in 2018 compared with 6% in 2003, according to the U.N.

children's agency, UNICEF. It's also noteworthy that the female students did not have to abide by a dress code, and universities were co-educational, with men and women studying side by side. After taking control on 15 August 2021, the Taliban have said they will not prevent women from being educated or having jobs. But they have asked all women, except those in the public health sector, to stay away from work, until the security situation improves. Higher Education Minister Abdul Baqi Haqqani indicated women would be allowed to study, but not alongside men. Now, in reality, the new rules will exclude women from education because the universities do not have the resources to provide separate classes. Besides, the much-feared department was responsible for deploying religious police to the streets to enforce Sharia law during the Taliban's previous spell in power. It became known for beating women for infractions such as dressing immodestly and being outside without a male guardian.

In a meeting with university faculty, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, the Taliban's acting

higher education minister, said modern studies were "less valuable" than religious subjects taught at madrassas, Islamic religious schools, and said his ministry would hire teachers with "values" that are useful to Afghanistan, an apparent reference to the Taliban's as-yet-undisclosed interpretation of sharia. "No PhD degree, master's degree is valuable today. You see that the Mullahs and Taliban that are in the power, have no PhD, MA or even a high school degree, but are the greatest of all," Sheikh Molvi Noorullah Munir, the newly made Education Minister of Afghanistan, is heard saying in a video. He told reporters that the Taliban wanted to "create a reasonable and Islamic curriculum that is in line with our Islamic, national and historical values and, on the other hand, be able to compete with other countries". However, educationists are also protesting against this policy. Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat, Chancellor of Kabul University tweeted, "Folks! I give you my words as the chancellor of Kabul University: As long as real Islamic environment is not provided for all, women will not be allowed to come to

universities or work. Islam first." If this be the stand of the rulers, could a country grow? No matter how democratic they call themselves, do their actions convey the same? Many more questions like these are rising in the minds of progressive forces of the world.

Needless to mention, Afghanistan has been a land of chaos, but is it only Afghanistan where fundamentalist forces are trying to curb every voice that has the nerve to challenge them? Even in our country, which is called a secular and democratic nation, examples of RSS-BJP's agenda of Hindu Rashtra are so glaring. In recent times, many student activists as well as general protesters who have been raising their voices against them have been arrested and booked under NSA or UAPA. The people who dare to think critically and raise questions against the Anti-People Government are being called Anti-Nationals. To break the spine of the country, the RSS-BJP is desperately following the footsteps of Hitler. Hitler had said, "Let me control the textbooks, and I will control the State." They are gradually



## *Students' Pledge*

changing the syllabus everywhere and trying to establish the myths as science and history. In the times of modern education, they are trying to establish the Hindu scriptures as a guide to society. They are constantly destroying the scientific bent of mind and inculcating the orthodox thoughts, rigidity within the youths. All over the world, fundamentalist powers are trying to set their foot, the ruling forces are either quiet or standing with the Taliban, even pseudo-

Marxist parties in India have said in a statement that the new set-up controlled by the Taliban give due regard to the rights of women and acknowledge the rights of ethnic minorities. Although the Taliban, which is an ally of Al-Qaeda, has come with a masked face this time, it is pretending to be a democratic force, but is it believable? Could a country, which doesn't even belong to its own citizens anymore, be called a free country? Could a place, where there are no rights for students, women,

the whole human civilization, be called democratic?

In these dark times, when there is no certainty of life itself, the protest by common people against the oppressive rule of the Taliban is a ray of hope. Hundreds of people are coming onto the streets and bravely fighting against the brutalities of the oppressors. This struggle shall not go in vain, all the progressive forces, the democratic-minded people of the world should stand unitedly with the common masses of Afghanistan.



Afghan People protesting against Taliban Rule



# Victory ! Historic Students' Movement in Karnataka

Due to the second wave of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown imposed by the state of Karnataka, the students community was once again faced with several unprecedented challenges. Entire education system came to a standstill. As the spread of the virus reduced, state higher education department decided to gradually reopen colleges and conduct examinations. But as a result of their unscientific planning, there arose a situation wherein, students were forced to write two semester exams within one month! This applied for under graduation, Post

graduation, Engineering and Polytechnic students. Without having any democratic discussion with the concerned people, the state government planned to go ahead with their plan unilaterally. The entire students' community of the state, pursuing higher education, who were yet to recover from painful effects of covid-19 were terribly shocked and were pushed into deep emotional distress. Gradually it came to light that the main ploy behind the urgency to conduct examination even without vaccinating students was the huge income universities and government would earn from the examination fees paid by the students. Karnataka state committee of All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) took up the issue and they released a massive online survey among students asking whether they are prepared to write two semester examinations within one month. More than 52000 students participated in the online survey and close

to 47000 among them opined that they were not ready to write two exams within a single month. This survey created a huge impact in the state and generated support from prominent educationists and intellectuals. Based on this a historic webinar was conducted which was attended by 4 former Vice Chancellors who expressed their support to our demands. Students' struggle committee was formed in all 31 districts of the state. Movement was jointly led by Struggle committee and AIDSO.

All the Vice chancellors, Ministers and MLAs were approached with the demand to conduct only one semester exams for students. Finally, after series of protests in the state where thousands of students participated, a signature campaign was launched in both online and offline modes. Overall, in the survey and signature campaign 1,25,000 students, parents, teachers, common people participated

which was termed by even bourgeois media as largest signature campaign of students in history of Karnataka.

Later these signatures were submitted to the Chief Minister on the 13th of July, appealing him to fulfill the demands of the students and the common people.

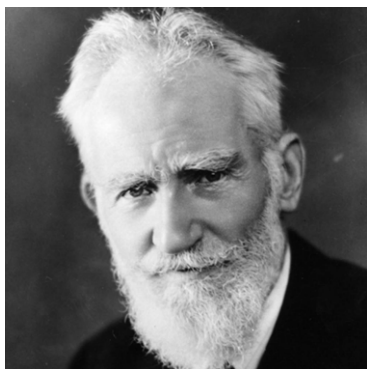
UGC (University Grants Commission) issued a guideline, due to the pressure of the students movement, to conduct only terminal semester examination and promote other students due to the effects of Covid-19 and disruption in academic calendar. Even after the guidelines were issued, neither the universities nor the state government pay any heed to these guidelines and went ahead with announcing exam schedule based on their earlier plan. This generated strong resentment among students and movement continued with massive protests across the state in districts, taluks and state capital. More than 200

an entire day on 23rd of July, which was the 36th day since the movement began on June 16. Even parents joined the sit-in protests at many places. At last, the State Government was forced to accept the demands of students and except for final year students, one exam was cancelled to other Degree, PG, Polytechnic and Engineering Students, providing relief to

over 17 lakh students in the state.

At a time when it is becoming extremely difficult to achieve even genuine demands raised by all sections of toiling masses, this victory which was achieved due to sustained struggle of the students community has generated hope among people of the

state about strength of mass movement. Government which was very adamant from the beginning had to concede to the demands. AIDSO calls upon all the students who are yet to get relief and student community in general to remain vigilant and develop grass root level students struggle committees to save education.



“ People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who got in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want and if they can't find them, make them.”

**- George Bernard Shaw**



“ The youth in whose heart does not burn the fire of revolution is not the youth of today. The youth who does not have the audacity to rise against injustice inflicted on the innocent, against the acts of mischief of the kind, and the unjust laws in vogue, of the ignorant and narrow-minded men and the society, do not deserve to be called the youth of today.”

**- Jyoti Prasad Agarwal**



# Victory ! In Jharkhand Demanding reopening of Scholarship Portal



Students' movement led by AIDS0 Jharkhand state committee demanding reopening of scholarship portal in the state finally became victorious after a tireless struggle for 5 months. It is well known that Jharkhand is one of the most economically backward and tribal populous states of our country where students come from very poor families and mostly depend on scholarships for their studies. But shockingly, in



this academic session, the government had opened the E-kalyan scholarship portal for only 15 days in the month of February. It was closed even before the admission process of different courses was complete. Naturally, 80 percent of the students could not apply for their scholarship. Students pursuing higher education, particularly those from engineering and B.Ed courses, were very anxious about their future studies as they were to deposit a hefty amount of 1.80 lakh rupees in their respective colleges as their course fees. Usually, these students meet up at least 50% of their course fees through scholarship.

The AIDS O Jharkhand state committee had organised a series of programmes demanding the reopening of the scholarship portal in different colleges, universities and before district collector offices. In spite of lockdown and imposition of section -144, a huge demonstration was held

by AIDS O in front of the office of the chief minister in Ranchi and a big number of students from different parts of the state started had joined the movement. The movement got intensified. In the initiative of AIDS O, a Chhatravritti Adhikar Manch (scholarship right forum) was formed. AIDS O state Office Secretary Com. Sachin Jeevan Yadav became its Co-ordinator. Com. Asha Rani Pal, President and Com. Rinky Bansiriar, secretariat member of AIDS O, Jharkhand state committee remained as important members of this forum and all the AIDS O activists of the state took active part in organising this movement.

Besides the chief-minister, the welfare minister and the secretary, the memorandum was submitted to around 30 MLAs. Movement continued through online as well as offline platforms and on 15th July a huge demonstration was held at the CM office. As the government did not pay

any heed to the demands of the students, on 26th July, in spite of section 144 and police not allowing for dharna, hundreds of students marched towards Raj Bhawan in Ranchi and started on an indefinite hunger strike. Several students actively took part in this hunger strike. In spite of heavy rain, the strike continued for 3 days in which 4 students got seriously ill. When the demands remain unheeded, students were compelled to block the road. This incessant struggle brought the desired result and the government was eventually forced to accept the demand of reopening the scholarship portal. On behalf of AIDS O, Com. Samar Mahato, Secretary, Jharkhand State Committee, congratulated all the struggling students for this victory and ended the hunger strike by offering juice to the students sitting on the hunger strike. This movement will definitely inspire the future students' movements in our country.



## Victory ! In Andhra Pradesh

We have witnessed the country being devastated by the covid pandemic. No matter how dangerous the virus is, if the government had understood its severity and taken steps to curb the spread of the virus accordingly, the destruction would not have occurred on the scale we see today. But today's situation is overshadowed by the reckless attitude of governments. Ordinary people from almost all walks of life have faced and continue to face many difficulties. The sector that is facing more serious difficulties along with all sectors at this time is education. Many educational institutions have not been opened since March 2020, when the pandemic began. The academic calendar became completely chaotic, although some educational institutions opened within a period of just

three to four months in the middle of second and first wave. The new form of teaching that came to light during the pandemic is online teaching with which most of us are unfamiliar before this pandemic. We see governments and educational institutions today describing online classes as an alternative to offline teaching. However, before saying this, we shouldn't lose sight of how many of the poorest, middle-class people in our country don't have smartphones and lack uninterrupted internet access. Here are some of the major issues that students face during these online classes...

- Lack of smart phone, lack of parents who can afford to buy a smart phone for a student.

- Having only one phone at home and having two or three children. In such a case one has to attend classes in the morning while the other has to attend classes in the afternoon.

- In most of the villages, the network is not working

properly, resulting in repeated disconnection from the class and consequent poor understanding of the lessons.

- Lack of the desired atmosphere to listen to lessons at home.

- Families are thrown into such a situation where the children should also go to work and earn money to cope with the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic.

These are just some of the problems that students are witnessing today. Based on such flawed online lessons, almost all the universities in the state started releasing the schedule in a hurry to conduct the exams even before the vaccination was completed, even before the covid second wave graph had reduced. When we examined the examination schedules, we noticed that while some have released the examination schedule five or six days earlier, others some had done so just 2 days earlier.

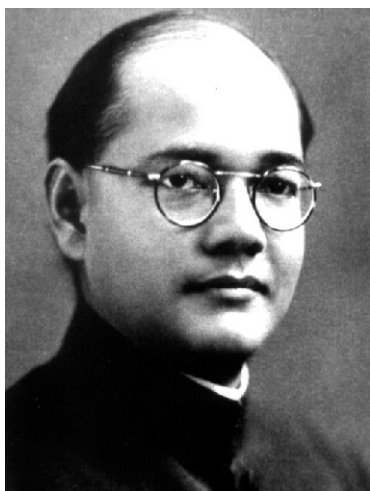
Different Universities of Andhra Pradesh had declared examination schedules for both UG and

PG courses all of a sudden without completion of the course syllabus by the teachers, thus leaving the students with no time for preparation. Immediately, state-wide movement was organised by the AIDSO, AP State Committee, demanding postponement of examinations till the vaccination is over for both the students and the teachers. On this occasion, more than 27000 students studying degree, PG and engineering in various universities in the state participated in an online survey conducted by AIDSO and expressed their views. Of these, 93.3 per cent students said they were not ready to write the exams immediately at this time. Based on this, the students organized under the banner of AIDSO and asked the respective university authorities to postpone the examinations. The students strongly condemned the arbitrary attempt of the university authorities to conduct the examinations irrespective of the opinion of the students. On the one

hand, the students fervently beseeched the university authorities to give them their due time to study and write the exams, but the authorities, on the other hand, displayed their callous attitude towards reanimations, in particular, and education, in general, when they openly said that students will be passed in their examinations, irrespective of what they write in their papers! Today, they have degraded down to such low levels which shows that exams are no longer intended to test the knowledge of the students, but only to hoard

meaningless marks and degrees, which is nothing but the complete destruction of the education system. It is highly reprehensible that universities today, which were meant to enlighten students, are abandoning autonomy and acting as puppets at the hands of the politicians. Therefore, AIDS0 is mobilizing a large number of students on this issue and working tirelessly to build a militant struggle movement. Memorandums have been submitted to the State Board of Higher Education and to the authorities of the leading universities in the state

namely Sri Krishnadevaraya, Sri Venkateswara, Rayalaseema, Andhra, Vikramasimhapuri, Acharya Nagarjuna and Adikavi Nannaya and Krishna University. At that time the concerned authorities acted arbitrarily ignoring the request of the students. However, as a result of the struggle of the students, the examinations at the Andhra University affiliated colleges were postponed. This is the success of the students. AIDS0 firmly believes that students can fight the tyranny of university authorities when they are able to fight in the spirit of this movement.



**“ There may be some people in this country who are not at all willing to see students and youths united in an organisation of their own. But I believe, such views or attitudes are totally wrong, like any other people students want their own rights, they want to lead life as self respecting men and women. Sometimes when the situation so demands the self respecting students come into conflict with the educational authorities and even with the Government. In such circumstances, asserting their rights become absolutely essential for the students.”**

**- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**



# Victory !

## Militant Student Movement across West Bengal



Darkness of evening came down. One by one eleven students came out of the Bankura district jail. It was as if a streak of bright light pierced through the darkness. No, there is no sign of tiredness in their eyes and faces. They are bright, they are strong. They lined up like heroes. Hundreds of students and common people of the town arrived at the jail premises

to congratulate them. They greeted them with bouquets of flowers. During the last few days, students, teachers, professors, lawyers, reporters and other people of the society including many organizations had been vocal in demanding their release. But, what was the fact? What did these students do? Why had they been held captive?



Taking opportunity of people's helplessness due to the Corona Pandemic and Lockdown, both the central and the state governments have been taking steps to destroy the education. Educational Institutions are closed for more than one and a half year. The study of most of the students has been ceased. So, all the people including students, teachers and guardians have been demanding for opening up the educational institutions. AIDSO, West Bengal state committee, placed its proposal to the state government to prepare a roadmap involving students, teachers and guardians representatives and pandemic experts, so that education system may proceed. But the government didn't respond. Again, while schools, colleges and universities are closed, students are not receiving different facilities from their institution, different fees are collected time to time from the students of all levels. Now, the economic condition of most of the common people

is in a tight. So, AIDSO raised the demand to waive off all kinds of fees and to take financial responsibility of the institutions by the government. They also demanded for the refund of the examination fees already received for the Madhyamik and the H.S. examination from the students. Alongside, they demanded students' concession in all kinds of mass transport. The demand of smooth and quick resolving of the result disorder of the Higher Secondary students was also a very burning issue.

AIDSO, time and again, has urged the state government to solve the problems of the students community and asked appointment with the education minister and the Chief Minister. But, the state government didn't pay any heed to this urge. Then, on 2nd July, 2021 AIDSO activists demonstrated in front of the Assembly Gate. The Police tortured the demonstrators ruthlessly and arrested them. Meanwhile, students agitation spread throughout West Bengal. In a

large number of schools, students and guardians burst into protest against taking excessive fees from the students, specially of class XI and XII at the time of admission. They demanded to waive off fees of all kind in this crucial time of pandemic. In different districts, AIDSO organized gherao, demonstration, deputation and other forms of militant movement. AIDSO state leadership called a statewide symbolic road block program on 26 July, 2021. In this peaceful and symbolic road block program Police of TMC led state government launched brutal assault on the agitators in Kolkata, Bankura, Kanthi (East Midnapur) and other places, and arrested more than hundred students agitators. Police filed non bailable cases against 11 students of AIDSO including district president and secretary in Bankura. Among them four were girl students and two were examinees. Police didn't even allow them to avail medicine and clothes in the jail custody. This inhuman behavior of the Police hurt

the people of the state. People condemned this vindictive attitude of the Police. Students of Bengal, again under the leadership of AIDSO, came on the streets, organised massive campaigns and demonstrations during 30th and 31st July. Again on 31st July Police lathi charged ruthlessly on the peaceful demonstrative program of College Street, Kolkata and 38 activists of AIDSO including state president Comrade Samsul Alam were arrested. At last, due to this pressure of people's opinion and the spontaneous pleading of the advocates of the Bankura district court the

state administration became bound to give bail to the 11 agitators of AIDSO. This high tide of movement has reached to every nook and corner of West Bengal. Numerous common people expressed their emotion, sympathy and support to this students' movement. Taking this desire of common people into their core of hearts, AIDSO activists have taken pledge to carry forward this movement till the day of victory.

As a result of this movement, DI of different districts have been compelled to give circular to the head of the schools with the order of not

receiving any excess fees from the students and even to refund the excess amount already taken from the students and to waive off the total fees of the students who are not able to pay due to this pandemic situation. Now, AIDSO West Bengal state committee has announced the program of mass signature collection on the demands mentioned earlier. They have planned to strengthen farther this movement to save the right of education of the students foiling the evil design of the central and the state government to make education a field of profitable business of the corporate house.



“...Remember, those who can sacrifice at the initial stage for ideology and idea - they are not many people, they are always few people - young, bright and students. At every stage of development of society, in every country, it is the students and young people who come forward, being influenced by and imbued with the revolutionary ideology and being completely dedicated go to the masses, rouse the masses organise them in thousands and help them in creating their political power. Then the time comes for the masses for action - that we call revolution.”

**- Shibdas Ghosh**

## Historic Victory of Nurses' Struggle in West Bengal



(Right) Dr. Anshuman Mitra,  
Secretary,  
Medical Service Centre,  
addressing the gathering of  
Nurses (above) at SSKM  
Hospital and Dr. Biplab  
Chandra, All India  
Secretariat Member, AIDSO  
along with other doctors  
expressing solidarity



On the 6th of August, 2021, the historic movement of the Nurses' Unity, which was going on for almost/more than 30 years, demanding the end of disparity in the pay-scale/salary of the nurses, has achieved victory at last. The movement had started during the tenure of the CPI(M) led

government in West Bengal, who did not pay heed to the nurses' demands. When the present TMC government came to power, they resorted to the same recourse as their predecessors and ignored their demands. But the movement was not dampened, rather it fortified with every passing day and on the

26th of July, 2021, a tremendous battle took place on the steps of the SSKM Hospital, which culminated in this historic victory. SSKM Hospital had turned into the centre of this movement for 12 days, during which, any direction that you might turn your head towards, you could see thousands of nursing officers, wearing white aprons, giving speeches and raising fierce, fearless slogan, demanding to end the depravation of their basic right. Dr. Mridul Sarkar, Vice President of All India DSO and Dr. Biplab Chandra, Secretariat Member of the All India Committee of AIDSO went to the movement to show solidarity with the nurses. Medical students of different colleges throughout Bengal showed their support to this movement by spreading the news to various medical colleges and helped them in various ways. Under the guidance of AIDSO, the medical students from all across the state, stood beside the nurses throughout the movement and took an active part in it. On the

8th and the 12th day of the movement, two huge demonstrations took place where thousands of nurses from different districts of Bengal took part to show their support to this movement and to compel the government to address their grievances. Under the banner of Nurses' Unity, the nurses came to join the movement every single day, either before or after completing their duties. This is a shining example of their sense of duty during the pandemic situation. The doctors, under the banner of Medical Service Centre, showed their support by giving deputations and taking part in the movement actively. Finally, after a grueling demonstration for 12 days, the government promised to pay heed to their demand and execute it within 3-4 months. This movement has impacted not only the nurses, but the toiling masses of this country and all sections of the society as well, who can see that demands can be achieved only through movement, and not by staying under the secure ambit of the ruling party.



**“ The university must be free from external control over the range of subjects of study and methods of teaching and research. We have to keep it equally free from the trammels in other directions - political fetters from the state, ecclesiastical fetters from religious corporations...”**

**- Ashutosh Mukherjee**



# Victory !

## B.Ed Students Protests in Odisha



In the year 2020, the NCTE (National Council for Teacher Education) withdrew its recognition from all the 15 stand-alone government B.Ed colleges of Odisha, citing the cause of insufficient teaching staff. It is pertinent here to mention that it was in the year 1999 that teaching staffs were last appointed in these colleges.

In this situation, instead of taking necessary steps to restore the recognition by NCTE, the government of Odisha introduced 600 B.Ed seats in 12 general degree colleges on self-financing mode having annual course fee of Rs. 45000. Against this decision, AIDSO organised statewide movements, forming unity of

students, teachers & intellectuals to demand appointment of adequate number of teaching staff in the B.Ed colleges, resuming admission process and to stop introduction of self-financing B.Ed course. But, instead of responding to the demands, the government issued notice to merge these B.Ed colleges with nearby general degree colleges, with the B.Ed colleges functioning as separate campuses of these general degree colleges. If it happens, these stand-alone B.Ed colleges will lose their special identity & entity and also the research work on teacher education & its specialities will be jeopardized. Analysing this very move of the government, AIDSO organised people from

all walks of life and intensified the movement further. Faced with the pressure of the movement, the govt. was compelled to roll back the decision of merging B.Ed colleges. But the movement continued on other demands. Finally, on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the govt. of Odisha advertised for appointment of 385 teaching posts. Then on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, the NCTE primarily restored its recognition of 7 B.Ed. colleges and also the govt. has notified for admission. With the appointment on all the 385 teaching posts, the remaining 8 colleges are supposed to get back their recognition soon. AIDSO is resolved to carry forward this struggle till all the demands are met.



# The NEP-20 and its repercussion upon college system

## A Case study of Gujarat

In the 1990's, the policy of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization was brought by the ruling class of our country with much fanfare in order to privatize every possible sector earlier managed by the government. Special focus was set upon Education under GATS accord, so as to reap maximum profit from this "Sector", and for this purpose "Birla-Ambani Committee" was formed. This was the first time in Indian history that a committee consisting of leading Industrialists was formed. But due to stiff resistance from the Education loving people and Intellectuals from every part of the country, the government couldn't implement its heinous motives in Higher Education.

Then under Modi government, the ruling class once again tried to gain control over higher education in the form of DNEP-19, which was the blueprint for the destruction of Scientific & Democratic public education of the country. When the whole country was reeling under Corona pandemic, the government took the benefit of situation and undemocratically passed the Draft NEP with some changes in parliament with approval from President. And with unimaginable pace, the government is hurried to implement the different sections of NEP. Under this, in the name of "Student Centric learning through restructuring and consolidation of the existing Institutions of Higher Education", the Private Universities can now affiliate the Grant-in-Aid colleges which was not allowed earlier.

In this regard, it is pertinent to mention the case of Gujarat Model and how it is dooming its own Government Educational Institutions. In the year 2021, the government of Gujarat passed "Gujarat Private Universities (Amendment) Act 2021" which allows the private universities to grant affiliation to Grant-In-Aid colleges. Within months, various govt. colleges in various parts of Gujarat declared to have affiliation from the private universities. With this, the fee structure was changed to suit the interest of private universities and the fees were increased with astronomical proportion in the name of "interdisciplinary education in higher educational institutes".

In this regard it is pertinent to mention about K K Shashtri College. K K Shashtri college is a government college in Ahmedabad, affiliated to Gujarat University known for its academic excellence. With the implementation of NEP-21, a "Special Purpose Vehicle (SVP)" was formed to convert K K Shashtri college into "Shri K K Shastri Government Colleges Confederation" which is basically a College Complex. This complex will now constitute six colleges – Government BCA College (self-financed),

Government Law College, Government BBA College (self-financed), Government Science College (self-financed), Government Arts College and Sri KK Shastri Government Commerce College. It was declared as a successful pilot in government press release. And After the formation of SVP, the fees structure for every course has been increased making it out of reach for poor students.

With this, the Gujarat state saw a spree of different Grant-In-Aid colleges seeking affiliation with the Private Universities. Various Colleges from Gujarat Technical University (GTU), Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU) are in process to be taken by Private Universities. But heinous moves of Government are being vehemently opposed by the Teachers and Students of Universities. And due to this, the government is now compelled to re-think to reverse its action on "Gujarat Private Universities (Amendment) Act 2021". And it is the need of the hour to oppose such a heinous move of government to snatch the right of education from the large section of students who cannot afford to pay such huge amount of fees.



**" Universal popular education must be provided by the state and should be the first charge on state revenues. Any attempt to provide for national education by private agencies and private funds is futile and to attempt it is to attempt the impossible."**

**- Lala Lajpat Rai**

# AIDSO in Solidarity with Lakshadweep...

Lakshadweep is a Union Territory with an area of 32 sq km and a population of 64,000. Most of the inhabitants are fishermen. The island is spread over 27 villages, with each elected representative forming a district council. Lakshadweep Advisory Committee consisting of Government Appointed Administrator and District Council. IAS / IPS officers who are usually retired or in-service are appointed to the post of Administrator.

The BJP-led central government is now targeting the island to pursue its corporate interests. Newly appointed administrator Praful K Patel has unilaterally imposed several anti-people policies. In the name of development, the new administrator is implementing policies that are detrimental to the

current, time-tested socio-cultural environment.

Restrictions on fishing and animal husbandry have been put in place to weaken the island's small economic structure and make life unbearable for locals. The islanders were fired from their temporary jobs in various government offices, schools and anganwadis and prevented from transferring patients to Kerala for treatment. The government seized the rights of democratic institutions and enforced anti-democratic gunda law that allows anyone to be detained for as long as the government wants to. The inhabitants started raising their voices through various social media platforms. They observed Black day and even conducted a Twitter storm. Soon the movement gained extensive support from the cultural, social and political

spheres of Kerala. This pressurized the government. To suppress the people's movement, they even reduced the internet speed which is the only means for the islanders to inform their situation to the outside world.

This issue directly affected the students community.

In this absurd situation, AIDS O took up the movement. A social media group 'In Solidarity with Lakshadweep' was created to build this movement. A few students who were members of these groups contacted us and informed their problems regarding online classes and poor internet connectivity on the island. This issue was taken up immediately and

groups of various islands were formed under the initiative of students of Lakshadweep. The islands namely Minicoy, Amini, Androth, Kalpeni etc gave a petition to the Deputy collector / sub-divisional officer to address the issue and find a remedy as soon as possible.

Under the leadership of AIDS O, 'Lakshadweep students collective' was also formed to address the issues faced by Lakshadweep students studying in Kerala. A petition was submitted to the CM, Educational and Health minister of Kerala regarding the exams conducted by various universities in Kerala during the dreadful covid pandemic situation. Around 300 students signed the petition.

Later a protest was organised against the decision to relocate the Lakshadweep Educational Department office from Kochi to Kavaratti, capital of Lakshadweep. The main aim of this decision was to cut off the link between Kerala and Lakshadweep.

Most of the students of Lakshadweep pursue their higher studies in other states, especially in Kerala. This office in Kochi functioned to solve the grievances and facilitate scholarships for those students studying in Kerala. The relocation itself can create a huge crisis for the students as they have to travel back to their native place for every single thing. The movement is continued.



**"A hundred times everyday I remind myself that my inner and outer life depends on the labours of other men, living or dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am receiving..." we eat food that others have grown, wear clothes that others made, live in houses that others have built. The greater part of knowledge and beliefs has been communicated to us by other people through the medium of language which other have created.**

**- Albert Einstein**

26-06-2021

## Replacing Campus Life & Classroom Teaching by Blended Mode of Teaching will be disastrous

### PRESS STATEMENTS

On 26th June 2021, Sourav Ghosh, the General Secretary of AIDS0 has issued the following Press Statement on Blended Mode of Teaching.

“ Our country is now reeling under the grievous impact of the second wave of Novel coronavirus with dire consequences and an ugly dance of death we all are witnessing throughout the country. People are dying helplessly in thousands for want of hospitals, beds, ventilators, Oxygen and medicines.

In this very painful heartbreaking situation, the Universities Grant Commission (UGC) in its 547th Meeting which was held on 19th May 2021 has issued a public notice to implement the blended mode of teaching in Higher education institutions. It has been decided that all the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) will teach 40% of the syllabus to their students through online mode (other than SWAYAM course) and the rest 60% of syllabus through offline means classroom mode. Without consulting educational experts and students the Central government left aside all humanity in a very criminal way took the advantage of Corona pandemic implementing the policy of

NEP-2020 one by one through the back door.

In a press statement, AIDS0 General Secretary Sourav Ghosh has said the UGC constituted in India to monitor the standard of universities and provide them grants. By crossing all its jurisdiction has imposed "Blended Mode" of teaching is totally infringement on the autonomy of the universities. It has to be resisted by all the Vice-chancellors, Lecturers, Professors and all who uphold the autonomous functioning of the universities. Secondly, the imposition of the blended mode of teaching is a recommendation of the most controversial NEP-2020; which has been totally rejected by the majority of people of India. The central BJP government is out to throttle the UGC and bully down the Universities and the state governments cunningly implementing the recommendations of NEP-2020 from the backdoor. Thirdly, Universities are the seats of universal learning and are the place where teachers and students from diverse backgrounds assemble and exchange their ideas and engage themselves in the pursuit and cultivation of knowledge and culture. It is precisely for these



**PRESS STATEMENTS**

reasons, a vast section of academicians opine online education can never be called a comprehensive education model, it can at best become a monologue online lecture model. The online lecture can only aid formal education and can be a tool to engage the students, but if it replaces the time-tested formal classroom teaching then it will be disastrous. Experiences since the last 1 year have vindicated this point. It is a foregone conclusion that 'Online teaching' seriously jeopardizes the very process of teaching, learning and cultivation of knowledge. Fourthly, in our country, the internet penetration is mere 36% and in rural households, it is pathetic 14.9%. A whopping 75% of our people do not have access to Smart Phone; a mere 8% of households with members aged between 5 and 24 years have both Computer and Internet; 50% of villages do not have electricity for half of the day. So, in our country to impose blended mode and talk of Online Teaching is highly discriminatory and anti-egalitarian. Fifthly, when this is the reality it is deplorable that the party in power are using the situation created due to lockdown as an opportunity to thrust upon 'globalisation & liberalisation reforms' in higher education. All governments are pursuing these globalization reforms only to make Indian education a global commodity. The FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) inflow into India through the indirect route is Rs. 16,802.45 Crores; and India's projected spending

is Rs. 6.43 Lakh Crores. (Source: Economic Survey 2019-20). It is to be noted that the major amount of FDI is invested in e-learning, smart classes, etc. According to IBEF (India Brand Equity Foundation, is a Trust under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Report; April 2020) - The education sector in India is estimated to reach US\$ 101.1 billion in 2019; India's e-learning is second largest in the world, with 9.5 million users is projected to be US\$ 1.9 Billion worth market by 2021. "By 2022, online education offerings across grades 1 to 12 are projected to increase 6.3 times to create around Rs.1,33,200 Lakhs (\$ 1.7 billion) market, while the Post Class12 market is set to grow 3.7 times to create around Rs.1,25,800 lakhs (\$ 1.8 Billion) market." (Source: "EdTech in India Report - by the Red Seer and Omidyar Network India) All this reiterates the fact that our education is out to become a commodity, and thus ensure the loot and plunder of our people through infringing autonomy and imposing such undemocratic anti-student "Blended Mode of teaching".

In this situation AIDS0 strongly opposes this move and demand to withdraw totally NEP-2020 and these out and out anti-students, anti-education policy of Blended Mode of Education and AIDS0 also calls upon the students, teachers and parents to raise their voice against this undemocratic move."

08-07-2021

## On the 'Custodial Murder' of Stan Swamy

### PRESS STATEMENTS

On 8th July 2021, condemning the 'Custodial Murder' of Stan Swamy and expressing deep condolences, Sourav Ghosh, the General Secretary of AIDS0 has issued the following Press Statement:

"Father Stan Swamy, an 84-Year-Old Tribal rights activist arrested by the NIA under Bhima Koregaon Case, breathed his last on July 5th, 2021. He was a voice of Dalits, tribals, oppressed and downtrodden people. It is an irreparable loss to the democratic movements in our country. He was suffering from an advanced stage of Parkinson's Disease and was dependent on fellow inmates for the regular chores even in the jail. An elderly man who could not even walk or speak properly was put behind the bars and booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act [UAPA]. Not only was his bail denied several times but also, he was treated worse than a criminal in the Prison. This act is highly insensitive and inhuman, it is nothing but a part of the conspiracy against those who stand for Democratic Rights.

In a democratic nation where raising our voices should be our constitutional right, has become a

punishable offence. Those who gather the courage and strength to stand against the tyranny of the state are being viewed as political threats to the despots. The right to protest is a fundamental right, hence all the democratic constructions have upheld it but it has been quite evident in past years that the BJP led Central Government has left no stone unturned to gag those voices who dared to express the disapproval of the unjust acts brought by them. The fascist regime has jeopardized even the fundamental rights of the common people.

All India Democratic Students' Organisation pays heartfelt tribute to Father Stan Swamy who always stood for Human Rights and never feared to challenge those who violated human rights, be it the government. In the present time, when the entire society is grovelling under such dark times, AIDS0 demands to repeal the highly undemocratic acts such as UAPA and calls upon the common people to stand unitedly against the fascist attack and fortify a movement to save Humanity and Democratic Rights and demand to repeal the draconian act UAPA and the likes."

10-07-2021

### **Stop unscientific mixing of Modern Medicine with AYUSH**

On 10th July 2021, demanding to stop unscientific mixing of Modern Medicine with AYUSH, Sourav Ghosh, the General Secretary of AIDSOP has issued the following Press Statement

“Recently the 'Draft Regulations for compulsory Rotational Internship 2021' has been published on the website of the National Medical Commission (NMC) and it is found that the MBBS interns will have to be trained by the Indian System of Medicine as the elective subject for one week each. It is stated that if the subjects of AYUSH i, e. Ayurvedic, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy are available in the hospital then the MBBS interns may opt for these subjects in their one-year compulsory rotational training. We strongly oppose this curriculum prepared by NMC. This type of mixing of the MBBS curriculum with the AYUSH system which is completely different from the curriculum of modern medicine is unscientific, anti-students and harmful to the medical science, public health delivery system and society as a whole.

From the very beginning when NMC Bill was drafted, the central government tried to introduce cross pathy in many ways. Initially, they introduced a bridge course for the other systems of medicine to make them equivalent to MBBS. But it was rolled back due to severe protests by the medical community in particular and the education loving people in general from the whole country. When NMC Bill was enacted it was found that the government added one Clause to introduce cross pathy in the name of medical pluralism. Now they are going to implement it by introducing AYUSH subject in the internship curriculum.

From the very beginning, we have been opposing the implementation of NMC and the unscientific approach incorporated in it. We demand immediate withdrawal of this heinous policy to save the medical education, public health delivery system and society as a whole. We appeal to the countrymen to build up a mighty resistant movement against this conspiracy.”

01-09-2021

## **AIDSO Vehemently Condemns the 'Evil Design' to Turn Historic Jallianwalla Bagh into a Theme Park**

### **PRESS STATEMENTS**

On 1st September 2021, vehemently condemning the 'Evil Design' of the BJP-led central government to turn historic Jallianwalla Bagh into a theme park, Sourav Ghosh, the General Secretary of AIDSO in a press statement has said "this 'Disneyfication' will erase even the last traces of the history of savage assault by British imperialists on the innocent people of India.

"Jallianwalla Bagh is not a garden for enjoyment, rather it tells the history of mass agitation against the anti-people laws and the palpable violence by the British government to gag the voice of protest. That massacre of 1919 made a deep impact on Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Udham Singh and the likes who sacrificed everything for the sake of a genuinely free and independent country. Stories about the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre are still reverberating in the air. But in the name of renovation, this historic monument is practically on the verge of destruction. School children first learn about the 'Jallianwalla Bagh massacre' and they are told about the narrow single entrance, by blocking which Reginald Dyer cut off escape for the crowd assembled inside, and mowed down hundreds. It has been transformed into a tunnel partially closed to the sky,

complete with a new floor, and with the walls on either side crowded with a shiny mural of dozens of human figures. Similarly, 'Shahidi Kua' (Martyrs' Well), where people cornered by the British soldiers had jumped in to save themselves, has now been enclosed with a variegated glass shield. The points of entry and exit to the monument have also been changed, and a lotus pond has been built around the main structure. It is also heard that the visible bullet marks have been covered with glazed ceramic tiles.

It's noteworthy that the RSS and the predecessors & mentors of the BJP not only opposed the freedom struggle of India but also helped the British imperialists to suppress it. Now, the BJP is implementing various anti-people policies viz. agricultural laws, labour codes, National Education Policy 2020, National Monetisation Pipeline and crushing the protest movements in the interest of the monopolists. Hence, they are corporatising the monument on the one hand and erasing the history on the other. In this hour of crisis, AIDSO urges upon the people in general and students in particular to rise in protest against such disgraceful act of defiling history and destroying historical monuments under the garb of renovation."



19-11-2021

## **AIDSO congratulates the historic victory of farmer's movement! Calls upon students to take lessons from this and build up strong movement against NEP-20**

After the announcement to repeal three farm laws by the Prime Minister of India today, Sourav Ghosh, General Secretary of All India Democratic Students' Organisation stated:

"This victory of farmers and common people of this country would be imprinted in the history of not only India but of entire world. One year long consistent battle against the three farm acts led by the farmers and joined by women, students, youth, workers and every section of toiling people has compelled the PM to make this announcement possible. This valorous struggle can never forget the sacrifice of more than 700 people who laid their lives to bring this movement a success. All India Democratic Students' Organisation, which has joined this movement from the Day one with the slogan 'Desh ke Chhatra Kisanon ke Sath' and has been consistently organising students throughout the country to strengthen it, congratulates the student community to play a brilliant role in this historic movement.

This movement is teaching us that no power in this world, no matter how oppressive, can stop the victory march of the toiling people fighting for a democratic demand if it is fought tirelessly, unwaveringly with a correct direction.

We appeal to the student community of India to remain vigilant and help to continue the movement till the three farm laws are repealed in the parliament. Also, the movement shall continue with renewed strength to guarantee procurement of all crops at MSP and 50 percent more than the cost prices, to withdraw all false cases registered against farmers throughout the country and to force the Modi government to own up the responsibility of the families of martyred farmers.

We also appeal to the entire student community to take lesson from this historic movement and develop a powerful movement against the disastrous NEP-2020, the policy which destroys the future of students, nation and society."

### **PRESS STATEMENTS**



**Observance of 107th Martyrdom Day of Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha in Punjabi University, Patiala. Com. Sourav Ghosh, General Secretary, AIDSO and Com. Shibasis Praharaj, Incharge, AIDSO Punjab are talking with students in the campus.**





Delhi, 17th Nov. 2021; Observance of The Great November Revolution in JNU



Jharkhand, 30th Nov. 2021; Convention in Ranchi against NEP-20 and other educational problems



Chhatisgarh, 30th Nov. 2021; Protest in Raipur on various burning issues of students



Bihar, 6th July 2021; Burning effigy of CM at LS College gate, Muzaffarpur against educational problems of Bihar University



Haryana, 21st August 2021; Protest at MDU gate against question paper leak



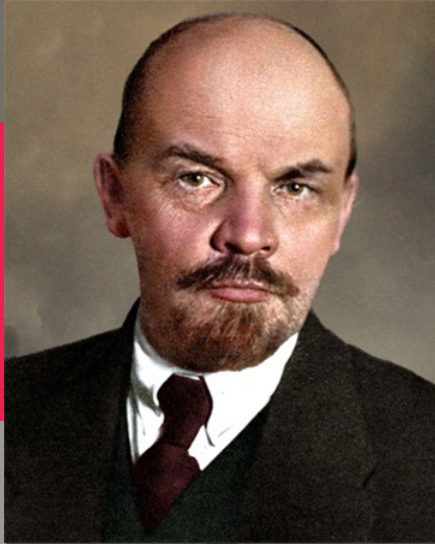
Madhya Pradesh, 24th Oct. 2021; Convention in Bhopal against NEP-20 and Closure-Merger of Govt. Schools



Assam; Observing Martyrdom of Shaheed Khudiram Bose in Silchar District



Chennai, 9th Aug. 2021; Observing Quit India Movement Day & paying tribute to the martyrs of Indian freedom struggle



**V. I. Lenin**

22nd Apr. 1870 - 21st Jan. 1924

"Democracy for an insignificant minority, democracy for the rich - this is the democracy of capitalist society"

"Remember, we are all mortal beings. So, If to die, don't die begging, don't die humiliating yourself. When to die, die with honour and you have got only one surest way to live and die with honour, that is taking active part in the revolutionary struggle of the masses in bringing about a revolutionary transformation of the society, and for that purpose you will have to organise yourself in thousands and close up your ranks."

Observe 68th Foundation Day of  
**AIDSO**  
in a befitting manner



**Shibdas Ghosh**

5th Aug. 1923 - 5th Aug. 1976