

Centenary of First Communist Conference in India

**Defeat Anti-communist propaganda of Fascist Rulers
Build People's Struggles to advance revolutionary
movement towards victory !**

Date : December 24, 2025

Venue : Subodh Mullick Square, Kolkata

People's upsurge in India against colonial rule after First World War created the fertile ground in which the message of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia reverberated in India. Communist movement was born with Marxism-Leninism as its guide and workers & peasants as the main forces for achieving independence from colonial rule and egalitarian society in India. Terrified by entry of this new force in the milieu of already growing anti-colonial struggle, colonial rulers hounded the communists and foisted Peshawar conspiracy cases and Kanpur conspiracy case. In this backdrop First communist conference was held on December 26, 27, 28 in 1925 in the city of Kanpur in UP in which communist organizations working in different centres participated- those working in UP, Bengal, Bombay, Madras and Lahore.

During hundred years since this Conference, hundreds of thousands of communists devoted themselves to the cause of the toiling sections- workers and peasants, fought for independence of the country and waged revolutionary struggles including armed struggle to free the people of the country from the yoke of colonialism and feudalism subservient to it. A large number of communists, men and women, young and old, made supreme sacrifice of their lives dying at gallows, in encounters and in jails; braved atrocities of the rulers including long jail sentences and endured countless hardships to advance the cause of revolution in India. They organized workers' strikes, peasant struggles including revolutionary struggles, organized tribals and Dalits, and built movements of students, youth and women; fought for democratic rights of the people including rights of oppressed nationalities occupying front rows in struggles of Indian people.

In the colonial period, continuous agitation of communists helped bring demand of complete independence on the agenda of the freedom movement including of Indian National Congress. Struggles of workers forced colonial rulers to make several labour laws while peasant struggles for which communists worked brought land question on the national agenda. Influence of communists led to many progressive changes in society and which ruling classes were also forced to recognize.

Communists in India built countless struggles of oppressed. Sholapur commune though short lived, was an important intervention of working class in freedom movement. Notable among peasant struggles were of Tebhaga, Punnapra Vylar, Worli. glorious Telengana armed struggle and struggle in PEPSU. It is these struggles

that forced the Congress Govt. to usher in first round of land reforms. These led to elimination of multiple layers of intermediaries. Later Land Ceiling Acts were passed by state govts. but these measures did not solve the land question. These struggles also led to Bhoodan movement by Vinoba Bhave to contain land struggles of peasantry. Pressure of these movements was one of the important factors which compelled British colonial rulers to transfer power changing India from a colony to a semi-colony.

Communist movement in India not only faced repression from enemies but also obstacles placed by those who embraced revisionism abandoning revolutionary Marxism. Communist movement in India had to also struggle against impact of modern revisionism. In this period, communist movement has been reorganized twice, and in the second reorganization, after Naxalbari peasant armed struggle, CPI (ML) was formed. The revolutionary struggles of the people especially peasantry were advanced later by communist revolutionaries. Naxalbari armed uprising was followed by armed uprisings in Mushahari, Debra Gopiballabhpur, Lakhimpur Khiri and Srikakulam and a number of other revolts of peasants, a stream which has continued in the form of attempts to wage armed struggle including resistance struggle in different parts of India.

It is these struggles initiated with Naxalbari that forced the Govt. to usher in second round of land reforms leading to formulation of uniform policy on ceiling on ownership of agricultural land according to quality of land. Struggles of communist revolutionaries led to occupation of lakhs of acres of land by tribals in forest areas and landless poor peasants mostly from Dalits and oppressed castes in plain areas. These struggles forced state govts. to prohibit alienation of tribal lands. Communist revolutionaries are a continuation of communist movement in India building struggles against different types of oppression and opposing reactionary ideas and offensive. Communist revolutionaries thwarted attempts to evict tribals from forest in the name of conservation and built struggles against forcible displacement of tribals to hand over their land to corporate.

While people of the country have been struggling against the exploitation and oppression by the alliance of imperialism, big comprador capitalists and big landlords, major section of the ruling classes have rallied behind fascist RSS-BJP who with their allies are ruling at the Centre and in most of the states and are moving to impose fascist dictatorship over the country. This has not only intensified exploitation of workers and peasants, oppression of Dalits, minorities, tribals and women, has jeopardized future of students and youth and grossly diluted educational opportunities and health care facilities for the vast majority of the people, but has also endangered even the rights which had been won by the

toiling people through their struggles and sacrifices. Fascists wish to do away with existing democratic rights and whatever rights of tribals, socially oppressed, minorities are there in the Constitution. For this, they want to do away the present constitution, whatever rights of states are in that and to achieve these, they want to control all state institutions including apex Court packing them with RSS nominees.

While bigger section of ruling classes back the fascist forces, conditions of the overwhelming majority of the people is declining and becoming unbearable. Workers are being robbed of their rights by new Labour Codes, land reforms are off the agenda while corporate penetration of agriculture is increasing and siphoning off the earnings of the peasantry, tribals are being forcibly displaced for their land while all out attacks are being made against minorities especially Muslims, mostly poor peasants and workers. Their lives, properties, religious places are being continuously attacked while their patriotism is regularly questioned. Exploitation and oppression are being taken to new heights and rulers are mocking the people by distributing alms.

To usher in the fascist state, their Hindu Rashtra, RSS-BJP are ruthlessly attacking communist revolutionaries killing them in fake encounters, denying them democratic rights declaring that they would eliminate Naxalites by March 31, 2026. RSS-BJP have launched an all-out attack on revolutionary Marxism itself as they consider it as the biggest ideological challenge. Education institutions are being packed by RSS obscurantists, critical thinking is being purged from the syllabi and even slogans like *Inquilab Zindabad* and *Lal Salam* are being criminalized.

We are observing this Centenary at a time when the situation is full of challenges and opportunities. Imperialist system is plagued with ever deepening crisis. Over accumulation of capital and drive to maximize the profits, increasing scramble for natural resources and markets is intensifying contradiction between imperialism and oppressed countries and peoples, conflict among imperialist powers and contradiction between labour and capital in imperialist powers. They are fanning wars in different parts of the world, wars becoming tools of maximizing profits. Capital is becoming intolerant of even existing democracy, promoting xenophobia and racism targeting immigrant workers. Brooking no obstacle ultra-right sections of ruling classes are accusing liberals, even 'less' rightist opponents of being communists. Spectre has come once again to haunt them. On the other hand, workers and other toiling sections are rising in struggles and protests.

In India also the fascist rulers, RSS-BJP, are launching attacks against all sections of toilers, targeting minorities, diluting federalism, monopolizing state institutions even changing Constitution for this aim. They are targeting communist

revolutionaries, conducting Operation Kagar to kill leaders and cadres of CPI (Maoist). They are trying to crush all dissent, branding democratic rights activists as “Urban Naxals”. They are erasing rich history of anti-colonial struggles of people of India and all culture of resistance against oppression and exploitation. Struggles of the toiling sections and unity forged in the course of building these struggles is the most formidable fort against fascist forces and their drive to impose fascist dictatorship.

However, so deep is the crisis that imperialism and reactionaries can have no respite. They are being driven from one crisis to another, deeper crisis, afraid of the toilers of the world, their grave diggers. Objective situation is growing increasingly favourable. subjective forces have to be built.

During its existence communist movement in the country has faced many challenges including the present danger of fascist dictatorship. We have made advances and suffered setbacks, built on positive developments and drawn lessons from the losses, have tried and are trying to overcome weaknesses and shortcomings. We have assessed and accommodated changes in the international and national situation to advance revolutionary movement. Century since First Communist Conference has been a century of relentless struggle against rulers as well as of two-line struggle for the correct line to make revolution in India by waging protracted people’s war; struggle for evolving revolutionary mass line in India is still continuing having built glorious struggles and having made countless sacrifices.

We observe Centenary of First Communist Conference not only to celebrate a century of struggles and sacrifices but also and more importantly to rededicate ourselves to victory of New Democratic Revolution in India, a part of the world socialist revolution. And for this Communist Revolutionaries in India must unite into single party based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought practicing revolutionary mass line, integrate ourselves ever closely with the workers and peasants, lead the struggles of all sections of people, minorities, Dalits, tribals and women and entrench the Party deep in their struggle.

Let the lessons of over a Century of Communist Movement in India guide our path to victory and liberate people of our country from want and misery; from exploitation and oppression; from the clutches of foreign and domestic corporate and big landlords.

Central Committee
CPI (ML) - New Democracy