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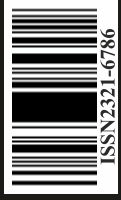


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PRROUT

A Journal of Proutistic Views and Neo-Humanistic Analysis

The sun descends beyond a column of smoke billowing after a US-Israeli military strike in Tehran on March 3, 2026

An Iranian flag stands amid the rubble of a police station damaged on March 2, during the US-Israeli military campaign in Tehran



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USA ISRAEL IRAN WAR

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Fundamental Principles of PROUT

I advise each human being you should try to build yourself in a nice way, in a complete way. But you should not only build yourselves, you should also build human society in the same way. To achieve this you will have to take the help of PROUT.

– Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar



1 No individual should be allowed to accumulate any physical wealth without the clear permission or approval of the collective body



2 There should be maximum utilization and rational distribution of all mundane, supra mundane and spiritual potentialities of the universe



3 There should be maximum utilization of the physical, metaphysical and spiritual potentialities of unit and collective body of the human society.



4 There should be a proper adjustment amongst these physical, metaphysical, mundane, supra mundane and spiritual utilizations.



5 The method of utilization should vary in accordance with the changes in time, space and person and the utilization should be of progressive nature.

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Wars and War Criminals

Following the 12 day war in June 2025, the present US, Israel war on Iran throws up many questions. Beginning on February 28, with a pre-emptive strike, it killed Iran's top political and military leadership including the 86 year old supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a single shot in broad daylight using precision guided munitions. This happened while negotiations were still going on? The same day a US Tomahawk missile also struck and destroyed a girl's elementary school in Minab, southern Iran, killing around 150 and wounding almost 100. UNESCO said that this was grave violation of humanitarian law.

This war is still going on with Iran being bombed daily extensively but fighting back by missile and drone strikes on US bases in the region and Israel. By all accounts despite the spectacular success on the first day and tremendous destruction of Iran, the war appears to be heading for a stalemate!

All these raise questions in the minds of enlightened people, who is to be held accountable for such crimes against humanity carried out in the guise of war – both declared and undeclared? Usually the victors try others once the war is over. Those vanquished are branded as war criminals. During the Second World War Allied Forces (England, France, USA and USSR) were victorious and the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) were defeated. The victors passed judgement on many so-called war criminals without properly verifying who were guilty and to what extent.

Axis leaders Adolph Hitler of Germany and Benito Mussolini of Italy died unnatural deaths. In the same war Allied forces mercilessly killed hundreds of thousands of absolutely innocent men, women and children in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by dropping atom bombs on them. They threw innumerable men, women and children into the jaws of death, and poisoned, maimed and mutilated countless others through nuclear fallout. This black history can never be suppressed.

In a similar way in 2006 Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic was tried for War Crimes in former Yugoslavia. War crimes tribunals are ineffective in transforming a fractured society into one of stability and peace. Following the end of apartheid in South Africa, the Rev. Desmond Tutu argued against a war crimes tribunal, pushing instead for a truth and reconciliation commission. He believed that no reconciliation or transformation was possible if the accused were not forgiven. War crimes tribunals necessarily demonize individuals and sometimes whole groups, further separating parties, instead of building peace. But the most powerful argument against war crimes tribunals is that they offer only the victors justice. What was most obviously missing following World War II was a trial for Americans, French, British, and Russian individuals who committed acts that would have been considered war crimes had the Allies lost the war. The firebombing of Dresden and the use of atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are clear examples of acts for which Allied leaders would have been tried had the war ended in favor of the Germans and Japanese.

The International Criminal Court (I.C.C.), Hague, Netherlands was officially established on July 1, 2002. However, all of the world's nations have not ratified the Rome Statute of the I.C.C., the document outlining the purposes, capabilities, and restrictions of the I.C.C. In fact, the United States, Russia, and India are among the major states that have yet to ratify this document. However, a sufficient number of nations have ratified the Rome Statute, and in accordance with its rules, the court now officially exists.

Still, war crimes tribunals offer a rare chance for the world's leaders and citizens to scrutinize both the deplorable decisions made by particular leaders, and the atrocities committed by the soldiers and agents of those leaders. Without such a forum, there would be no method for assuring that the masterminds and perpetrators of genocide and other war crimes are justly punished. But Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu against whom the ICC had issued arrest warrants in 2024 for alleged genocide in Gaza, simply cared not for such an indictment and brazenly ignored it.

While it is easy and satisfying to put the enemy in prison for what he or she has done, it does not seem entirely fair if all those who participate in a war are not held to the same standards. In fact, one of the reasons that the United States has so far failed to support the International Criminal Court is fear that U.S. officers would be found guilty by the court. The United States also fears that this Court could be used for political revenge against the world's only superpower. And not surprisingly US is not a signatory to the Rome Statute for the establishment of International War Crimes Tribunals, who will try the Americans for the killing of 150 school girls in Minab? ●



Graves being prepared for victims of a US Tomahawk strike on February 28 on a girls' school in Minab, for a mass funeral ceremony on March 2, for 165 schoolgirls and staff.



Sadvipra Society

Sadvipras are strong in morality and always ready to wage war against immoral activities. Those who strictly adhere to the principles of morality, are ensconced in sacrificing service (Tapah) and can work for the welfare of the human society. Marching ahead towards such a future society would lead to nothing short of heavenly bliss.

- *Prakash Chander, Ludhiana*

Developing Countries' Problems

One of the main reasons why so many countries are poor to begin with is because their wealth was looted by European colonizers. Today they are sadly called developing countries and still most of them allow their raw wealth to be taken by the western world. Today even after independence, poverty is caused by corrupt political leadership. That is the root cause, people suffer due to sins of their leaders.

- *Gita Ramani, Mumbai*

Emerging World Order

A very thought provoking article. For a noble society to be established on Earth it is most essential for all to conduct themselves as elevated human beings in both the external world and internal worlds by following the guidelines of Yama and Niyama as on page 17.

- *Sarabjit Grewal Panchkula*

Macaulayism and NEP

Unfortunately today most feel that education system is profit making business, there's little thirst among teachers to try and awaken a genuine thirst for knowledge in their students. NEP good or bad, ultimately it is the teachers who shape and inspire their students. That is what ultimately counts. It is well known that children remember their school teachers who shaped their youth, hardly a few remember their college professors.

- *Sarojini Sampath Iyer, Chennai*

Pensions for Financial Security

Yes, pensions are important for financial security especially in old age. It is the duty of society to look after their senior citizens and care for their welfare.

- *Arup Ganguly, Howrah*

Poorly Paid Jewellery Artisan

All that glitters is not gold?! Poor wages of the artisans that produce such exquisite ornaments with painstaking hard work, is a sad commentary on today's society. Jewellery shop owners should seriously look into this disparity and make amends.

- *Tracy Smith, Goa*

Why Doctors go Overseas

I read with interest the first part. The second part is even more informative and thought provoking. These Cuban doctors are like shining examples to the medical fraternity in rest of the world.

- *Manickam Nair, Kochi*

India China Complimentary Cosmologies

Today in a world with over 8.2 billion people India and China

account for around 2.9 billion. Therefore the histories of these two ancient civilizations need to be seriously studied. Their complementary spirituality should without doubt be able to light a path for the rest of the world. Dogma of communism has no place in it.

- *Win Tao, Taiwan*

Film Stars and Film Extras

It is unfortunate that while film extras struggle for living wages and better working conditions, there is no limit to the film stars' payments. Such inequality is not desirable. There should be wealth ceiling in all aspects of society so that wealth is shared reasonably based on the principles of Prout.

- *Harjit Singh, Pune*

Gold Smuggling in India

The main question is why should one fourth of all the gold entering India is smuggled. Why have such barriers and high customs duties. Let gold come freely into the country there would be no illicit trade and gold prices would stabilize and be within easy reach of those who wish to buy for their families for occasions like marriage etc.

- *Tahira Hussein, Bengaluru*

Technology and Children

While technology has grown by leaps and bounds for benefit of humanity, this is one of its unfortunate negative impact affecting children. This is indeed sad. Today children do their homework getting answers from Google and AI. Its future portents don't look very good. Parents need to look after this aspect of their children growing up and curb overuse. ●

- *Swati Mukherjee, Gurgaon*

LOVE AND COMPASSION HUMANITY'S PILLARS

In India and elsewhere in the world state funerals are normally given to political leaders and military personnel killed in the line of duty. February 15, was a notable exception, when ten month old baby Aalin, was laid to rest with full state honors in Kottayam, Kerala. Her parents' decision to donate her organs—liver, kidneys, heart valve, and eyes made her Kerala's youngest donor, prompting this rare tribute of full state funeral with police guard of honour from the government.

The funeral was conducted at St. Thomas CSI Church in Mallappally. Aalin's organs saved four lives including a six-month-old infant. Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi, and other leaders recognized the immense courage of the parents, Arun Abraham and Sherin Ann John. The funeral saw massive public participation, highlighting the emotional impact of the tragedy and the inspiration of her story.

Aalin Sherin Abraham, may have had a short life, but her impact will be felt for years to come. Aalin's untimely and tragic death became a strong message for human kindness and the will to live, as her family decided to turn their unimaginable tragedy into a gift of life for others.

Aalin was seriously injured in a road accident on February 5, while traveling with her mother and grandparents. After receiving initial care in nearby hospitals, she was transferred to Amrita Hospital Kochi, for advanced treatment. Although the doctors from the Amrita care team attempted every possibility to preserve her life, her brain death was confirmed the following day.

While her parent's loss is unthinkable, they made a choice based upon their immense strength and generosity. Even while mourning the passing of their daughter, they chose to make her live through another by donating her organs. This was facilitated through the Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (K-SOTTO) so that her gifts could be utilized to provide others an opportunity for new life.

The funeral of the baby was conducted at Kottayam with state honours, with the parents of Aalin receiving messages of recognition for their utmost generosity from the Governor of Kerala Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, among others for their noble decision in most unusually difficult times. As grief shared gratitude State Health Minister Veena George, Minister VN Vasavan and MP Suresh Gopi arrived quietly for the state funeral. By nightfall as church bells faded baby Aalin was laid to rest.



A solemn moment of prayer and gratitude at Amrita Hospital, Kochi in honour of a young life that gave hope to four others.



Such noble acts are at the heart of humanity where of love and compassion are its foremost ambassadors. The perfect coordination of the medical team, the transplant authorities, and the grief counselors made sure that Aalin's last act of giving was treated with the greatest respect.

Aalin's life is not just a story of tragedy, it is the story of light that her parents decided to ignite amidst the most trying circumstances. In giving life to others, this child became a symbol of selfless love. ●

Marching Ahead Towards Sadvipra Society

Contd from previous issue

Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar



In a capitalistic social system or in a democratic structure the situation of middle-class people (the viksubdha shúdras) is generally miserable. This is because they are the greatest critics of capitalism and the strongest opponents of exploitation. An increase in the number of viksubdha shúdras in a society is an early omen of a possible shudra revolution. It is therefore the duty of those who want to create a world free of exploitation to help to increase the number of viksubdha shúdras. It will be harmful for the revolution if these people die or are transformed into shudra-minded shúdras. All the sadvipras in the

world should be vigilant to make sure that the number of viksubdha shúdras does not decrease due to unemployment, birth control, or other bad practices or policies.

Democratic Change

Revolution means a great change. In order to bring about such a change it is not inevitable that there will be killing and bloodshed. If the ksatriya-minded viksubdha shúdras are in the majority, or are most influential, however, the revolution will indeed come about through bloody clashes. It cannot be unequivocally stated that a revolution can never be brought about through intellectual clash, without bloodshed – it is possible, if there are a large number of

influential vipra-minded shúdras among the viksubdha shúdras. But we cannot have much hope that this will be the case; so it has to be said that the liberation of the people generally involves bloodshed.

Some people claim that they will be able to bring about socialism or communism or the liberation of the people through democratic methods. Generally speaking, a welfare state is based on the same principles. They often say that England, France and some other democratic countries are progressing towards socialism. But I would ask, what is the use of tortoise-like progress such as this? Many countries which do not

follow a democratic system have brought about the welfare of their population with greater speed than has Great Britain within a democratic structure, over a period of hundreds of years. In this situation speed is the most important factor.

Countries that exploited their colonies used to make efforts to promote the welfare of their population within the democratic structure, but if they had wanted to contribute to social welfare and had stayed outside the democratic framework, preferring instead the path of shudra revolution, they would have progressed faster, and without exploiting any colonies. In fact, in a democratic structure the people's progress is very slow. It cannot be called revolution; rather it is evolution, that is, gradual change.

If undeveloped countries avoid the path of revolution and choose the path of slow change, or deliberately ignore the defects in democratic socialism or in the concept of a welfare state, the welfare of their people will never be anything but castles in the air. In order to secure votes in a

democratic structure, the assistance of thieves, thugs and other antisocial elements is required. These antisocial elements certainly do not support candidates selflessly. They expect that when their candidate becomes a minister he or she will then turn a blind eye to the antisocial behaviour of their supporters.

One of the most important basic features of socialism is cooperative bodies. Cooperative bodies cannot survive unless the state administration is run by honest citizens. Similarly, a socialistic state cannot survive unless the cooperative organizations are run by honest citizens. Hence if the public does not have a very high moral, spiritual and educational standard (an average standard or above average standard will not suffice), we cannot expect to find worthy people as representatives, as ministers, or as directors of cooperative bodies.

Dishonest directors of cooperative institutions will steal money; dishonest ministers will indirectly support such activities; and weak-minded ministers will

deliberately avoid looking into those activities out of fear of losing their ministerships, or in hopes of securing votes in the future. If such abuses continue, it will never be possible to build up cooperative institutions, corruption will never be flushed out of the courts and secretariats, and socialism will never be established.

It is extremely difficult, although not totally impossible, to attain the high moral standard necessary to establish socialism within a democratic structure. Thus while democratic socialism is theoretically not bad, we cannot hope that it will ever be possible in the real world.

Post-Revolution

Whether they have ksatriya intellects or vipras intellects, the viksubdha shudras who take over the leadership of the shudra revolution are ksatriyas in terms of their courage, personal force and capacity to take risks. After the shudra revolution the leadership of society passes to the viksubdha shudras, at which point their ksatriya qualities become still more strongly expressed. In the



post-revolutionary period they cannot be called vikṣubdha shūdras; by that time they have become the kṣatriyas of the second rotation of the social cycle.

The moral, spiritual fighters who keep an eye on the kṣatriyas to ensure they do not descend into an exploitative role in the future, are called sadvipras. If the kṣatriyas descend into exploitation, the sadvipras will fight them and establish the Vipra Age in the second rotation of the social cycle. If the vipras descend into exploitation, they will also fight against the vipras and initiate the Vaeshya Age of the second rotation. And if the vaeshyas descend or wish to descend into an exploitative role, the sadvipras will inspire the viksubdha shudras and bring about a second shūdra revolution.

The social cycle will rotate continuously. Nobody can stop its rotation. If the post-revolutionary Kṣatriya Age is called thesis, the steps taken by the sadvipras against the kṣatriyas who descend into exploitation are called antithesis. The post-revolutionary Vipra Age which evolves out of this conflict is called synthesis. If, in a later period, the vipras wish to descend into exploitation, the steps that the sadvipras take against them are called antithesis. Therefore the post-kṣatriya Vipra Age cannot be called synthesis at that time. It can be called the thesis of the next stage.

Nobody can stop the rotation of the social cycle, not even the sadvipras. They stay in the nucleus of the social cycle, wakefully and vigilantly observing the process of rotation. One after another, one age follows the next: Vipra after Kṣatriya, Vaeshya after Vipra. The sadvipras cannot stop this process.

After the establishment of the post-revolutionary Kṣatriya Age, the sadvipras will have to keep a vigilant eye on the kṣatriyas so that they, as the representatives of



kṣatriya society, only rule and do not descend into an exploitative role. When they show signs of beginning to exploit, the sadvipras will immediately create an antithesis to end the Kṣatriya Age. They will do the same thing in the Vipra and Vaeshya Ages. In other words, they will not allow society to follow the process of natural evolution. They will bring about social revolution whenever necessary.

So the sadvipras will have no rest. A time will never come in the life of a sadvipra when he or she will be able to sit back in an armchair and say, “Ah, I have nothing to do today. Today I will have a nice rest.”

Sadvipra Society

So far in the first rotation of human history on this earth, no sadvipra society has been formed. In most countries the last stage of the first rotation is in progress. In a few countries the post-shūdra-revolution Kṣatriya Age has been established, and here and there the

first indications of the Vipra Age are beginning to emerge. As there is no sadvipra society, the social cycle is rotating in a natural way.

In every age the dominant social class first governs, then starts to exploit, after which evolution or revolution takes place. Due to the lack of sadvipras to lend their help, the foundations of human society fail to become strong.

Today I earnestly request all rational, spiritual, moral, fighting people to build a sadvipra society without any further delay. Sadvipras will have to work for all countries, for the all-round liberation of all human beings. The downtrodden people of this persecuted world look to the eastern horizon, eagerly awaiting their advent. Let the blackness of the new-moon night be lifted from the path of the downtrodden. Let the new human beings of a new day wake up to a new sunrise in a new world. With these good wishes I conclude my discourse. ●

Concluded

USA ISRAEL IRAN WAR

■ Bhupendra Singh

Iran's Foreign Ministry accused the US of seeking to take control of Iran's oil resources



Two Iranian Red Crescent Society women watch as a thick plume of smoke rises in Tehran skies March 8.

After World War II, the US which a regional power, confined largely to the western hemisphere, became the most powerful nation and model for the world. Its experts were sent all over the world to help other countries achieve this aim. Many wars later and with the latest Iran War the United States has shed the pretense of liberal internationalism, when the very vocabulary of media criticism has been captured by the nationalist right.

The current war in Israel US Iran which began on February 28, with a pre-emptive strike, killed

Iran's top political and military leadership including the 86-year-old supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a single shot in broad daylight using precision-guided munitions. This happened while diplomatic parleys were still going on?

The same day a US Tomahawk missile also struck and destroyed a girl's elementary school in Minab, southern Iran, killing around 150 and wounding almost 100.

Iran's Foreign Ministry accused the US of seeking to take control of Iran's oil resources: "Their design is clear, their

enterprise is quite obvious – they aim at partitioning our country to take illegal possession of our oil riches. Their objective is to violate our sovereignty, defeat our people and undermine our humanity. US-Israeli attacks on Iran have put all international laws at risk, "They have violated all international norms and practices". Criticising US President Trump for planning to exert influence over Iran, "the will of our people will define Iran's future and Iranian people are fully prepared to defend their home soil".

After over a week of



Demonstrators wave Iranian flags during a pro-government rally against US and Israeli strikes in Tehran, Iran, on February 28.

relentless bombing and missile strikes, Iran's deputy health minister, said that more than 12,000 people have been wounded and 1,255 people killed of ages eight months to 88 years; this includes 200 women; 55 healthcare workers who were wounded and 11 killed, including four physicians, two nurses and three emergency workers.

continue firing drones and missiles at targets across the Middle East. And a week later his second son Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei was duly elected as per Iran constitution as the Supreme Leader — so the change in regime did not happen.

In fact he has the strong support for the new supreme leader, who takes office in a very



Women chant slogans holding pictures of the late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as government supporters march against the ongoing US-Israeli military campaign after Friday prayers at the Imam Khomeini Grand mosque in Tehran, Iran, on March 6.

One of the professed aims was regime change in Iran. If Israel and the US hoped their attack on Iran would force the country to capitulate quickly, they were wrong. Despite the death of the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and many other senior figures, Iran has managed to

tough situation as the country is dealing with a war triggered by the joint US-Israeli strikes. He has to deal with a crippled economy due to years of international sanctions combined with internal mismanagement. And when it comes to the social aspect, since the announcement of his appointment, people

have gathered in different parts of Tehran. In downtown, supporters gathered to express support for the new supreme leader, also in Enghelab (Revolution) Square — one of the most politically important centres in the city — which has been attacked. There is a sense of rallying around the flag, even though Iran is a polarised society; late December, there were massive protests taking place, initially driven by economic difficulties; however, political and social demands were added to that. Whether the new supreme leader is going to make a change and deal with all these complexities is something that needs to be seen.

At the same time if the war drags on it poses serious challenge for the US and its allies, including Israel and the Gulf states — they might run out of air defences before Iran runs out of airborne projectiles. The US and its allies use a number of weapons platforms to knock down incoming missiles and drones. The most important are Thaad interceptors, Patriot systems and SM-family naval missiles, while Israel also uses longer-range Arrow interceptors. However, the supply of these interceptors has been under severe strain in recent years.

Many have been provided to Ukraine, which faces relentless Russian aerial assault. Others have been used in the Red Sea to protect shipping against attacks by the Iran-aligned Houthis. And more still have been stationed in the Indo-Pacific to defend South Korea and Taiwan from possible North Korean and Chinese attacks.

Despite their importance to modern warfare, US stockpiles of these munitions are dangerously low. There are simply too many competing priorities, and production has only recently been increased. The 12-day war the US and Israel fought with Iran in June 2025 is said to have consumed around one-fourth of the entire US inventory of Thaad's.

When stocks of these munitions diminish during a war, choices have to be made about which targets to protect – and which not to protect. This usually means focusing on the defence of strategic military installations, allowing some civilian areas to be hit. Israel is widely believed to have made this choice during the 12-day war. That moment may be approaching again. However, this time it is not just Israel that is at risk, but half a dozen other Middle East countries.

The main problem is in the Gulf States, which are in range both of the sort of long-range missile that Iran fires at Israel and its shorter-range projectiles. These Arab countries can also be hit more easily by Iran's Shahed exploding drones; these are much easier to launch than missiles, require less risk to do so and can reach some targets in the Gulf within minutes. Iran has around 80,000 of them.

Missile defence systems are designed to launch several interceptors at each incoming projectile, meaning their stocks can run down quickly. Even if the Gulf States are the most exposed,

the situation is not rosy for Israel or US military forces across the region either. Some US forces are in range of Iran's Shahed drones and short-range missiles. Others are in proximity of Iran's long-range missiles. While exact numbers of missiles are not known but budgetary and procurement data suggests that US forces will become stretched within a matter of days or several weeks at the very most. At that point, the US will have to begin drawing down missile defence stocks from the rest of the world, South Korea for instance and Ukraine will get fewer. And US military readiness will be severely degraded around the world, inviting aggression and the possible opening of a second front?

Iran's capabilities are somewhat unknown. Long-range missiles are the type of munition it has the least of, and they are also the riskiest to launch. The US and its allies can be fairly confident that over time they will significantly degrade Iran's ability to launch these missiles. Whether it will be fast enough to happen before a critical interceptor

shortage, is less certain. But Iran's short-range missiles and drones are a different matter. The drones, especially, can be launched without large, visible weapons platforms, which make an easy target for US and allied air strikes. Particularly if Gulf air defences become very degraded, there are a host of highly damaging targets for them to hit – ranging from US bases to oil and gas infrastructure to shipping.

Ultimately, the answer to how prepared the US and its allies are for a protracted conflict that seems to be not very. Even if it runs out of long-range missiles, Iran can probably continue its drone attacks for a very long time, causing chaos throughout the region and spiking energy prices by disrupting production and shipping. Stopping them will not be easy.

Fresh with the success of the January 3, brazen kidnapping of the President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, US President Donald Trump thought he would be able to affect a similar regime change in Iran after eliminating the top leadership on February 28, in a single strike within 48 hours. But that did not happen, at the time of going to print it's been over three weeks. Iran even though devastated by overwhelming bombing and missile strikes, not only fought back, but also struck important targets in the region that put the mighty US forces on the back foot and brought the world oil economy to a grinding halt.

It now has become abundantly clear that the Americans and Israelis cannot win this war with air and missile attacks alone. It appears to be heading for a stalemate. US called for ceasefire for honourable exit but Iranians refused. They want a permanent solution for peace for their people without pressure of crippling economic sanctions and American military threat in the area. ●



Humanity's Pathway to a New Society

Ronald Logan

US now has a fascist government, different from the Nazis', different from Mussolini's, but has the hallmarks of fascism."

Hope is necessary to animate humanity's transition to a life-centered society. But reason to have hope is difficult for those who see the global economy starting to crumble. It's difficult for those aware that the fight to contain climate change has failed, for those aware that 7 of 9 planetary boundaries have been crossed, for those aware that humanity is using resources at a rate requiring 1.8 earths to sustain, and for those seeing democracies failing and fascism rising?

And hope is particularly difficult for those who recognize that all of these crises are upon us at once, that we're dealing with simultaneous crises on a scale that appears unsurvivable? Can we reasonably have hope that survival is not only possible but that a new world is being born, one in which humanity — all of humanity — can thrive?

Yes, there is a pathway that will get us there. But that pathway will of necessity involve epic struggle. This struggle to attain a life-centered society will take us through the rise of fascism, then through global economic crisis, then through a reckoning with the catastrophes of a changing Earth before we prevail.



Each of these challenges will strengthen us and bring needed shifts in the collective psychology of humanity. And in the end, they will bind us as one humanity having a common destiny.

The Fall of American Fascism

Noted American historian Heather Cox Richardson recently made the following assessment of the

American state: "The Trump administration has embraced fascism. There are people who get upset when you use this term. But that is just what it is. The United States government is now a fascist government. It is different than the Nazis were, different than Mussolini's government was, but still has the hallmarks of fascism."



Heather Cox Richardson was not speaking rhetorically; she was being precise. The formal criteria that define fascism, in her expert view, have been met. American fascism won't be overcome easily. But taking up the struggle against American fascism is of utmost importance if Americans are to enjoy a free society. And because of America's position in the world, this is also a struggle of global importance. Whatever may be the cost, this struggle must be fought.

By what reasoning can the rise of fascism and the struggle against it be seen as a source of hope? There are two reasons. First, this struggle will empower those who rise to defend democracy. Second, this will bring the defeat of the reactionary elements that support American fascism.

The threat of American fascism is forcing an awakening. It is pushing the defenders of democracy out of angst-ridden comfortable lives. It is forcing them to build community, connectivity, and shared purpose. It is making them aware that freedom and democracy are ultimately only secured by an awakened, engaged populace. These changes to our way of life will prove invaluable in the years ahead as humanity has to take up bigger crises.

So, this is the first beneficial outcome of rising fascism. The second outcome will be at least as valuable.

Throughout history there have been those contending for power who have been motivated by personal or group gain at the expense of social equality. They have long been an obstacle to social progress. In this present moment, this element has become strong in America. They are the primary constituency supporting MAGA fascism.

This loose coalition of neo-Nazis, Christian Nationalists, white supremacists, believers in American exceptionalism, fundamentalists, Neo-Feudalists, anti-Semites, racist skinheads, etc. looks to the Trump administration to champion their divisive social causes. This fascist and supremacist mentality drags on America's capacity for unity and on the progress that is so necessary at this time. It is a blockage that, if it persists, will have catastrophic consequences.

However, the policies of the MAGA administration are failing, and there are now several trends that are eroding support for Trump among his far-right populist base. These trends will only intensify. In actuality, the interests of Trump's populist base were never those of

Trump's billionaire cronies, or the mega-corporations that are reaping favorable treatment. The inner contradictions of the MAGA world are now starting to unwind.

The growing failures of the Trump administration will fuel the growing disillusionment of the MAGA loyalists. And it will reveal the utter failure of their far-right social vision. Reality will burst the illusions of the MAGA movement, crush the reactionary wave, and open new hope for real progress.

Opportunity Amidst Financial Collapse

The most devastating crisis that is being triggered by Trump administration policies will be that of an economic depression. Trump's economic policies are only the triggering cause of economic collapse, as the deeper cause of this crisis has been building for decades. That deeper cause lies in the unconstrained greed of the capitalist system.

Over the past 50 years the pay going to American workers had risen at the same rate as CEO salaries, workers would now be getting an average wage of \$432 per hour. In the past 50 years \$79 trillion has flowed from the bottom 90 percent of Americans to the top 1 percent that would have remained with the bottom 90 percent had income distribution remained the same as in 1975.

Wealth is being concentrated at an unprecedented rate, and this wealth concentration is eroding the foundations of the economy. This erosion is further fueled by vast sums that are diverted from the productive economy to invest in bitcoins, stock options, and other arcane speculative markets. Then add to this toxic mix the erosion of the social safety net.

Sooner or later, the economy is bound to tank, and when it does the effects will be devastating and they will be global. But economic collapse, while painful, will offer

us another wave of hope. For two reasons. First, economic collapse will stem rising greenhouse gas emissions. Less industry, trade and transportation will mean less carbon emissions. Painful though an economic depression will be, it will lessen the suffering due to a warming and unstable climate.

Global temperatures are now on course to rise beyond the critical 2 degree C threshold within the next 5 to 10 years — which would put us past one or two of the global climate tipping points. A sudden and deep economic depression alone can slow carbon emissions enough to give us the breathing room we desperately need to enact real climate change solutions, most important of which would be to bring under control capitalism's cancerous growth model.

Second, an economic collapse will both awaken people to the failures of capitalism and put people in a position to challenge the formidable power of the big capitalists. Many businesses will go bankrupt. This will present an opportunity for workers to buy up failed enterprises and convert them to cooperative enterprises, extending democracy to the economic level and ensuring that business earnings go to workers, not stockholders, bankers and top executives.

To take full advantage of an economic collapse, progressive forces will need a vision for a new kind of economy, as is offered by PROUT.

At present, a pathway to such an economy seems nearly impossible to envision. But during a global economic depression, an economic vision like PROUT could rapidly become the dominant economic paradigm.

Facing Ecological and Climate Crises

The English anthropologist Gregory Bateson once observed that “The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between the way nature works and the way humans think.”

Human civilization is profoundly out of sync with the way nature works. The Earth's metabolic functioning is designed to support all life. Humans are not privileged. The Earth is capable of rectifying imbalances, though the ways she uses may not be gentle on human life, should extreme responses be triggered.

Due to our inability to live the “way nature works,” seven of nine planetary boundaries required to maintain planetary balance have already been crossed. Across the planet, water shortages are worsening, the tundra is thawing

and releasing methane, glacial melt is causing sea levels to rise, the forests are falling at great loss to ecological balances, toxins are building in living webs, oceans are acidifying, mass extinction is occurring — the list goes on.

It's now all but inevitable that all this ecological destruction will elicit a severe reckoning. How severe this will be is difficult to predict. The Earth's magnetic north pole has moved into the Eastern Hemisphere, a possible sign of profound Earth changes.

But Earth's forceful defense of planetary life may be our ultimate source of hope. For the challenge to survive Earth's response will force the whole of humanity to make a worldview shift — to change our story of who we are, of our relationship to planetary life, and of the very nature of the universe. We will come to see ourselves as spiritual beings able to build a society based on love.

Ultimately, it is these deep cognitive shifts that will deliver us. They will give rise to neohumanism, which will become the solid rock upon which a new human society can rise. This new foundation will enable us to live in accord with how nature works, and in accord with our own innermost human dharma. ●



Asymmetric Warfare

Asymmetric warfare is a potent weapon for weaker adversaries to take on stronger ones.

■ Arun Prakash

The ongoing US Israel joint war on Iran, driven by confidence in overwhelming military superiority, has targeted over 1,000 sites and key leadership to neutralize regional threats. While on paper the US holds a massive power advantage, the conflict risks triggering asymmetric warfare, where Iran might utilize drone swarms, regional proxies, and potential homeland threats to retaliate.

Despite U.S. air superiority, Iran hopes to leverage unconventional warfare, such as drone swarms, potentially closing the Strait of Hormuz, and using its extensive proxy network across the Middle East.

The attacks on Iran have targeted infrastructure and leadership in cities like Tehran, Isfahan, and Qom.

Analysts warn that while the strikes are intended to degrade

Iranian capabilities, they risk a broader regional war and potentially violate the UN Charter and could spiral out of control.

Iran's military doctrine was shaped in the 1980s, favouring asymmetric methods of warfare such as supporting proxy militias in the region. The emergence of a low-cost, modernised native military industry has allowed the Islamic Republic to reinforce its conventional fighting forces and methods, supplementing its unconventional doctrine. Iranians have identified the need for a more technologically-oriented and robust conventional army after setbacks to its unconventional power projection capabilities.

Military advances have encompassed projectile, drone, cybernetic, navy, and land warfare, with the likely support of limited technology sharing from Russia and China. As regional powers

seek to carve out their spheres of influence, strategic partnerships like these will continue to drive multi polarisation.

Based on the above the present conflict echoes previous asymmetrical confrontations, where smaller powers use unconventional tactics against conventionally superior forces, similar to anti colonial conflicts. The effectiveness of these strategies remains to be seen, as the conflict introduces significant unpredictability regarding long-term outcomes, including potential impacts on global energy supplies and US homeland security.

In war, a weaker opponent will often resort to asymmetric warfare, a tactic Iran is exploiting against the US. A look into its history of asymmetric warfare in the recent past is shown the series of self explanatory AI generated images below courtesy History Illustrated.



The US attack on Iran comes from a place of confidence. On paper, the world's most powerful military would seem unbeatable. But war can be unpredictable, and weaker opponents often resort to unconventional tactics, or asymmetric warfare, with early anti-colonial conflicts showing how it can work.



In 1946, for example, France entered the First Indochina War confident of victory, ignoring Vietnam's desire to rid itself of French colonial rule. But the communist-led Viet Minh waged an effective guerrilla war, culminating in a French defeat in the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, the loss partly blamed on French hubris.



In the Algerian War of Independence from 1954 to 1962, the French once again failed in the face of the hit-and-run tactics of guerrilla warfare. Algerian fighters, relied on allies in densely populated urban neighbourhoods, in cities like Algiers, using sabotage and assassinations to great effect.



During the Vietnam War, the Viet Cong preferred dense jungle cover to limit the use of US airpower. They laid booby traps, sprung ambushes and dug hidden tunnels. The Viet Cong also used propaganda tactics to test the US public's resolve to endure the deaths of American soldiers. A weaker force, in effect, won in 1975 by holding out longer.



In Afghanistan, starting in 2001, the US military again faced a weaker enemy. But the Taliban leveraged improvised explosive devices, suicide bombings, hit-and-run tactics and the killing of local officials to outlast the Americans, who left in 2021.



Iraq was no better. After the US's conventional invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003, the conflict spiraled into one of IED attacks on convoys, suicide bombings, assassinations and kidnappings.



Today, Ukraine has redefined asymmetric warfare, keeping the much larger Russian invasion force at bay since 2022, in part through the use of inexpensive consumer drones.



In the Middle East, Iran has asserted itself and kept the much more powerful US military and its allies off balance with proxies in Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen. The Houthis in Yemen, for example, have fired missiles and drones into Saudi Arabia, targeting the kingdom's electricity infrastructure.



Now, as the US wages war with Israel's help, Iran fires its cheap but effective Shahed-136 kamikaze drones at US military bases in the Middle East and at US allies in the Gulf region. The worry, of course, is that this war could be dragged out as a weaker opponent refuses to give in to a stronger aggressor.



The longer the war goes on, the greater the incentive for the Islamic Republic to apply all forms of asymmetric warfare, including retaliation that could affect the U.S. homeland, in hopes of coercing Trump to abandon his war aims. ●



War is the black spot of human character. In individual or collective life one can struggle, but war is based on hatred and on divisive tendencies. Is it not black? Struggle and war are not synonymous. While war springs from hatred, struggle is a part and parcel of life. War blackens everything; it darkens the future. Let life be bright both individually and collectively. Let us fight these divisive tendencies which want to make our life dark. Light is beautiful because it is luminous. When there was no creation, there was only one colour – black. Lack of life is black. After creation we see this beautiful play of colours. Why shall we be lost in darkness? All human beings want light. One individual human is more luminous and more throbbing than that universal darkness. So human beings should always be optimistic. The cimmerian darkness cannot retard your progress, cannot cover the light of the human heart. The spirit of your heart must move on and on against obstacles. Kick away your obstacles like pebbles from your feet – you are stronger than your obstacles.

-- Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar



ANTHROPIC EXPOSURE OF Capitalism

AI's capabilities are exposing Capitalism and is forcing humanity towards spiritual ideology

Prof. R.P. Singh

A San Francisco-based AI startup Anthropic has jolted the IT sector in the stock markets the world over, the IBM shares in particular, since mid-February this year. The decline followed a fresh announcement from Anthropic, which introduced a new AI capability tied to COBOL systems - a legacy infrastructure. Investors viewed the move as a potential threat to core services business of IT companies including IBM.

As per media reports, the sell-off echoes earlier volatility triggered by Anthropic's AI legal tools, which unsettled investors in

legal tech. Markets initially stabilized but resumed declines as new AI releases from firms like "where users generate software with minimal expertise - could reduce demand for legacy enterprise platforms.

The Artificial intelligence systems have been evolved from the earlier expert/knowledge systems which are known as Business Expert/Knowledge Systems in the field of business. They use procedural languages like C, COBOL and PROLOG in industrial applications. Though these are third generation languages, such systems are very

strong in logical and inference mechanisms. The AI systems are also using such languages like C, COBOL, PROLOG, LISP, OPS5, etc., with much more sophistication.

The COBOL Connection

Anthropic - the company behind the Claude chatbot - unveiled an upgraded AI tool designed to reduce the cost and complexity of managing COBOL systems.

COBOL (Common Business-Oriented Language) remains foundational to major industries. Anthropic mentions that the language processes underpin critical systems across finance,

aviation and government. Despite its importance, the pool of developers proficient in COBOL continues to dwindle, increasing maintenance challenges for businesses.

The AI of Anthropic can analyse massive COBOL codebases, detect risks that might take human analysts months to uncover, and significantly lower modernization costs. The company argues that AI reverses the long-standing economic challenge where understanding old code was more expensive than rewriting it. That shift could pressure companies offering traditional modernization and consulting services. This is the leverage with this American start up upon which it is leveraging its competitors.

IBM introduced its own AI-powered mainframe coding assistant in 2023, designed to help clients analyse and convert COBOL into modern languages such as Java. The number of

professionals skilled in COBOL is shrinking and many COBOL specialists are retiring, while current software developers have been trained on modern languages.

Moreover, older COBOL systems may not always meet

modern security and regulatory requirements. There are also issues with integrating older COBOL apps with modern cloud platforms and software stacks. Modernizing a COBOL system once required armies of consultants spending years mapping workflows. This resulted in large timelines and high costs. Modern AI tools like Claude Code can 'automate the exploration and analysis phases' which consume most of the time in COBOL modernisation.

As Anthropic notes, with AI, teams can modernize their COBOL codebase in quarters instead of years. AI excels at streamlining the tasks that once made COBOL modernization cost-prohibitive. With it, a team can focus on strategy, risk assessment, and business logic while AI automates the code analysis and implementation.

The announcement reignited fears that generative AI could disrupt traditional enterprise software and consulting revenue streams. This Artificial intelligence lab has unveiled 10 new ways for business customers to plug in its technology to key areas of their work, weeks after other releases sparked an aggressive selloff of traditional software company shares.

Anthropic PBC is has developed a family of large language models (LLMs) named Claude. Anthropic operates as a public benefit corporation, which researches and develops AI to "study their safety properties at the technological frontier" and use this research to deploy safe models for the public. It claims to have introduced the world's most powerful model for coding, agents, and professional work. Also this corporate lab has the most capable Sonnet model yet with frontier performance across coding, agents, and professional work.

Anthropic was founded in 2021 by former members of OpenAI, including siblings Daniela Amodei and Dario Amodei, who serve as president and CEO, respectively.

Public Benefit Corporation

In business, particularly in United States corporate law, a benefit corporation (or in some states, a public benefit corporation) is a type of for-profit corporate entity whose goals include making a positive impact on society. Laws concerning conventional corporations typically do not define the "best interest of society", which has led to the belief that increasing shareholder value (profits and/or



share price) is the only overarching or compelling interest of a corporation—a greedy exploitative phenomenon of capitalism.

Interestingly, in India, with mandatory CSR contribution of minimum 2% of three years average profit in philanthropic, welfare and development activities under the Companies Act, 2013 all Indian companies are *de facto* public benefit corporations,

Proutistic Insights on New Technology

- 1) In the over-enthusiasm of modern ways the legacy achievements should not be ignored.
- 2) A new start up, if given level playing field, can teach newer ways to the stalwarts prevailing in the market.
- 3) Technology is getting more and more disruptive for production, employment, marketing and the socio-economic system as a whole.
- 4) With such disruptions resources and opportunities have to be rationed to protect and benefit all. Else it will lead to few opportunist haves and most unfortunate have-nots irrespective of abilities and competencies. This will lead to more and more exploitation, inequalities, dissatisfactions and rebellions. A day is going to come soon when every working person will get work of say, only five minutes work a week. Prout feels that in such situation opportunities will have to be rationed to all. People will have to utilize their leisure time in cultural, spiritual, sports, research and aesthetic and supra-aesthetic pursuits.
- 5) Shri P. R. Sarkar, the propounder of PROUT philosophy, mentions about future biological babies and mecha-



nical babies. Now artificial intelligence is competing with human intelligence, robotics and humanoids are equating the humans. We need not avoid the temptation of advancing technology but it has to be channelized into proper directions of progress. 'Pragati' or Progress is not a narrow materialistic concept. It is a holistic concept encompassing physical, psychological, spiritual, individual and collective directions.

- 6) Competition is bound to give way to mutual cooperation and co-existence with advancement of technology and the inherent dangers.
- 7) In the present world, capitalists accumulate increasing wealth and possessions for themselves, leaving others to suffer acute pangs of hunger. In the emerging AI order it is the responsibility of society to make these people understand their mistakes by every possible means so that they stop their antisocial activities, because the very aspiration to become rich by exploiting others is a kind of psychic ailment which will facilitate

their AI progenies to backfire on them. There should be a social order in which every person will work according to his or her capacity. Those with greater physical capacity will provide physical labour, and those with greater psychic capacity will provide psychic labour. It is the responsibility of society to look after those who cannot render either physical or psychic labour because of their inability.

- 8) Society will not grant social rights to only those who have the physical capacity to work. All will have equal rights – and the rights of one individual will not violate the rights of others. Everybody should be guaranteed the absolute right to make psychic and spiritual progress according to their maximum capacity.

The study of history makes it clear that a strong and healthy society has not yet evolved on this planet. This was mainly due to the inadequate propagation of a comprehensive spiritual ideology. But the challenging capabilities of AI are forcing the humanity in this direction. ●

Causes of Poverty in India Its Solutions

Mother tongue-based education, improves concept comprehension, while targeted gradual English instruction ensures future employability

Acarya Dhanjoo Ghista



Major causes of poverty in India include rapid population growth, high unemployment, low educational levels, and deep-seated social inequalities. A heavy reliance on underdeveloped agriculture, lack of capital for industrial growth, and high out-of-pocket healthcare costs further trap millions in poverty. Despite significant declines in extreme poverty due to welfare programs, these systemic factors remain major challenges.

I. Key factors contributing to poverty in India

1. Economic Factors

• **Unemployment and Underemployment:** A major cause of poverty is the lack of stable, well-paying jobs. The workforce is growing faster than job creation, particularly for youth. Limited job opportunities, especially in rural areas and in manufacturing, result in high unemployment and underemployment.

• **Agricultural Dependence & Low Productivity:** Over 40% of the workforce relies on agriculture, yet the sector accounts for less than 20% of GDP. Low

productivity is caused by fragmented landholdings, traditional farming methods, and a lack of modern infrastructure like irrigation.

- **Extreme Inequality:** India is one of the most unequal countries globally; the top 1% hold 40.1% of the wealth, while the bottom 50% own only 6.4%.
- **Inflation:** Rising prices for essential goods, especially food, disproportionately affect low-income families, pushing many below the poverty line.

2. Social and Demographic Factors

• **Population Pressure:** Rapid population growth (adding approx. 17 million people annually) strains resources, infrastructure, and the labor market.

• **Low Education and Skill Levels:** High illiteracy and a lack of vocational training prevent many from accessing skilled, higher-paying jobs, trapping families in a cycle of poverty. Poor educational infrastructure and high illiteracy rates restrict access to skilled, high-paying employment.

- **Caste and Social Exclusion:** Marginalized groups, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, face systemic barriers to resources, education, and employment. They account for five out of every six multidimensional poor people in India. The caste system and other social barriers create disparities in accessing resources, education, and employment.

- **Gender Inequality:** Women face lower labor force participation and wage discrimination, making them more vulnerable to poverty.

3. Infrastructure and Healthcare

- **Inadequate Healthcare:** Millions are pushed into poverty annually due to high "out-of-pocket" medical expenses. It is estimated that 55–60 million Indians fall into poverty every year because of healthcare costs. Lack of adequate public healthcare causes millions to fall into poverty annually due to high private medical expenses

- **Poor Infrastructure:** Lack of reliable electricity, clean water, and roads in rural areas hinder economic growth and limits access to markets.

4. Historical and Political Factors

- **Colonial Legacy:** British rule exploited India's natural resources, weakened its traditional industrial base (like textiles), and left a lopsided economic structure.

- **Governance and Corruption:** Inefficiencies and corruption in the distribution of government resources often prevent aid from reaching the intended beneficiaries.

II. Eradicating poverty in India requires a comprehensive approach combining high economic growth with targeted social interventions

Key strategies include accelerating job creation through manufacturing and infrastructure development, enhancing education and vocational skills, improving healthcare access, strengthening agricultural productivity, and utilizing direct cash transfers for the poorest households.

Key Strategies for Poverty Eradication

- **Economic Growth & Job Creation:** Stimulating labor-intensive sectors like manufacturing, infrastructure (roads, power), and small-scale industries to create jobs for unskilled laborers.

- **Education & Skill Development:** Enhancing access to quality education and vocational training to improve employability and productivity.

- **Agricultural Development:** Modernizing agriculture through better irrigation, technology, and land reforms to increase income for rural populations.

- **Financial Inclusion & Direct Support:** Implementing programs like *Pradhan Manti Jan Dhan Yojana* for financial access and direct cash transfers to provide immediate relief.

- **Social Security & Infrastructure:** Providing essential services like clean water, sanitation, housing, and healthcare to improve quality of life.

- **Empowerment:** Promoting women's empowerment and enforcing affirmative action (reservations) for marginalized communities.



III. Ending poverty in rural India requires a multi-faceted approach

The focus can be on enhancing agricultural productivity, fostering non-farm rural employment, improving infrastructure (roads, electricity, water), and strengthening social safety nets like Public Distribution Systems (PDS). Key strategies include skill development, promoting self-help groups (SHGs), improving education and healthcare access, and ensuring digital financial inclusion.

Agricultural Modernization and Support:

- ❖ **Technology & Irrigation:** Increasing adoption of technology and improving irrigation systems to boost agricultural productivity.
- ❖ **Financial Access:** Improving access to credit for small farmers.
- ❖ **Training:** Providing better training for farmers to enhance productivity.
- ❖ **Land Reforms:** Implementing land reforms to ensure fair access to land.

Rural Non-Farm Economy Development:

- ❖ **Diversification:** Promoting non-farm employment through, handicrafts, and local marketing activities to reduce dependence on agriculture.
- ❖ **Empowerment:** Supporting Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to provide women and families access to credit and sustainable livelihoods.

Infrastructure and Basic Services:

- ❖ **Connectivity:** Enhancing road connectivity through programs like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- ❖ **Utilities:** Improving access to clean water (e.g.

Jal Jeevan Mission) and electricity.

- ❖ **Housing & Sanitation:** Providing affordable housing (e.g., Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin) and sanitation facilities (e.g., Swachh Bharat Mission).

Social Safety Nets and Governance:

- ❖ **Employment Guarantee:** Strengthening National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) to provide guaranteed wage employment.
- ❖ **Food Security:** Ensure, through the Public Distribution System (PDS), that subsidized food reaches poor households.
- ❖ **Financial Inclusion:** Continue leveraging initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana to increase bank account access and reduce subsidy leakages through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ❖ **Education and Healthcare:** Prioritize quality education and healthcare access to break the cycle of poverty.

Targeted Interventions:

- ❖ **Focus on Vulnerable Groups:** Target interventions for the poorest, including marginalized communities (SC/ST), widows, and those with disabilities.
- ❖ **Local Governance:** Empower Panchayati Raj institutions to tailor development projects to local needs.

IV. Language a key factor for rural population

Language is a significant barrier restricting rural Indian access to education. While teaching in non-native languages (often English or Hindi) increases dropout rates by 20–30%, it works in tandem with



poverty, poor infrastructure, lack of qualified teachers, and social prejudices, making it a key factor in a web of interconnected, often insurmountable, obstacles.

Key Factors Details:

- ❖ **The Language Barrier:** Roughly 37% of students in lower-middle-income countries (including many rural Indian students) are not taught in their mother tongue, leading to poor comprehension and higher dropout rates.
- ❖ **English Dominance:** While rural education often uses regional languages, higher education and competitive exams heavily favor English, placing rural students at a severe disadvantage.
- ❖ **Socio-Economic Barriers:** Poverty forces families to choose between schooling and survival, often leading to child labor or migration.
- ❖ **Lack of Infrastructure:** Many rural schools lack basic amenities like electricity, functional toilets, and clean drinking water.
- ❖ **Teacher Shortage:** There is a critical shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in STEM subjects, and high rates of teacher absenteeism.

While language poses a major challenge to learning and comprehension, it is, in effect, a "multiplier" of disadvantage, as poor, under-resourced schools with absent teachers are the fundamental root causes of the educational divide.

V. Why Rural Indian Population Cannot Access School and College Education

Solving language-based education barriers in rural India requires implementing mother tongue-based multilingual education, providing high-quality bilingual textbooks, training teachers in regional languages, and utilizing technology for translation. Shifting to localized instruction reduces dropout rates and improves concept comprehension, while targeted, gradual English instruction ensures future employability.

Key Solutions to Bridge the Linguistic Divide

- ❖ **Mother Tongue-Based Education:** Implementing instruction in the child's home language or regional language in early years is crucial to overcoming barriers, as studies show this reduces dropouts by 20–30%.
- ❖ **Bilingual Textbooks and Resources:** Developing teaching materials in local languages that gradually introduce regional or



Girl School in Rural India

English terms ensures students understand concepts while building necessary vocabulary.

- ❖ **Teacher Training & Recruitment:** Training teachers to be proficient in local dialects and multilingual techniques allows them to bridge the gap between home and school languages. Recruiting teachers from the local community can also address this issue.
- ❖ **Gradual Language Transition:** Rather than forcing immediate English medium, adopting a phased approach—starting in the mother tongue and transitioning to English—allows for better assimilation.
- ❖ **Community & Policy Engagement:** Involving local communities to support language learning and encouraging policy changes that favor inclusive language education helps ensure long-term success.

By focusing on these strategies, the education system can transform language from a barrier into a tool for empowerment in rural India.

VI. Addressing Linguistic Complexity in Indian Classrooms

The critical role of language in education is well-recognized globally, especially in multilingual contexts where diverse linguistic needs must be addressed to ensure equitable learning outcomes. Language is the medium through which knowledge is transmitted, allowing individuals to interpret and make sense of the world. This insight becomes particularly relevant in the Indian context, where linguistic diversity creates both opportunities and challenges in educational settings.

Multilingualism is inherent in Indian society, with many individuals proficient in multiple languages, often using different scripts and dialects.

This diversity reflects the broader sociolinguistic landscape of India, and it is manifested in Indian classrooms. Here, teachers and students often engage in a dynamic process of negotiating meaning across different languages. As a result, classrooms become sites where multiple languages intersect, interact and influence the process of learning, especially learning history and geography, science and mathematics.

However, this multilingualism also presents challenges, particularly when the language of instruction is different from the learners' home language. At one end of the linguistic continuum, some children may have home languages that closely resemble the instructional language, albeit with variations in oral and written forms. At the other end of the continuum, there are classrooms where children come from entirely different language families, requiring more complex strategies for language instruction. To address these challenges, tailored pedagogical approaches are needed to ensure that all learners can fully participate in the learning process, regardless of their linguistic backgrounds.

Key Strategies to Support Children's Literacy Development

1. An oral language development strategy that acknowledges and encourages the use of the child's home language,
2. Systematized alphabetic instruction to build foundational literacy skills,
3. Use of multilingual storybooks (containing picture-based materials) to promote engagement with both local languages and English.

These materials can allow teachers to first introduce concepts in children's local languages, gradually scaffolding instruction to include both the local language and English. Children could then navigate the literacy journey with some confidence, utilizing their home language as a foundation while progressively incorporating the instructional language. This method has the potential to be adapted and applied in multilingual settings, providing a model for inclusive education that values linguistic diversity as a resource rather than a barrier to learning.

In multilingual education systems, integrating children's home languages into classroom instruction through explicit, structured pedagogy is critical for equitable learning. Combining systematic mother-tongue instruction along with English language acquisition can help literacy development. The key to this involves:

Extended oral language development: Dedicated time for listening, speaking and vocabulary building in both home and instructional languages.

Teacher training: Equipping educators to deliver effective multilingual instruction

Community engagement: Families and leaders reinforce learning, creating a supportive ecosystem.

By combining these elements, we can create inclusive pathways where all children — regardless of their linguistic background — can develop strong literacy skills and the confidence to thrive and perform academically. Honoring linguistic diversity while providing structured, time-rich language experiences can lead to deeper learning and long-term success. ●



Teacher teaching classroom in a rural Indian school, showing focused engagement, of children sitting on floor mats, reflecting community-based learning in village environment.

How 'Saving Muslim Women' HELPS JUSTIFY THE SELF-SERVING WARS OF WESTERN DEMOCRACIES

From Afghanistan, Iraq and now Iran, the symbol of the veiled, 'oppressed' Muslim woman is strategically deployed when it suits US foreign policy.

The assassination of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the possible end of the Islamic regime is being perceived and discussed as particularly beneficial for Iranian women. In joint strikes on February 28, the US and Israel attacked Iran, killing Khamenei and other senior leaders in the country, setting off a broader confrontation in West Asia.

On social media and in the news, videos and posts claim to show women especially, 'dancing and celebrating Khamenei's death. The undertone is that the US and Israel are now the saviours of Iran and especially Iranian women – even as the strikes bombed a primary school in Iran, killing at least 165 people, most of them girls between the ages of seven to 12. As of March 5, Iran's death toll

Real emancipation of women can be realised only by themselves

Divya Aslesha



had crossed 1,000, according to a local news agency.

Such gendered narratives have a long history. For instance, a series of widely circulated images compare “women in Iran in the

1970s”, dressed stylishly in short skirts and dresses, their hair free, with images of women after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, in black chadors or headscarves. Among the most popular of these images is one showing women sitting in a public space, their legs bare and hair open....

But this is disingenuous. It ignores the reality that the regime under pro American Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran, was deeply unpopular, even brutally repressive, until it was overthrown.

Veiling and unveiling, say scholars, had more to do with how Iran negotiated Western modernity over the course of the 20th century amid British colonial influence and American ambition in the



region. Reducing veiling to an embrace of religious fundamentalism does not account for the anti-imperialist and anti-Western sentiment that drove the Iranian Revolution.

Besides, Iranian women have tried to resist veiling and coercive punishments for flouting dress and morality codes in the country for decades, often at great cost to their lives. Saviour narratives by Western countries appropriate this resistance and undermine women's agency as political actors.



Iranian woman protest in front of the presidential office against a clergy order for all female employees of government offices to put on veils at work, in Tehran in July 1980.

When it serves American foreign policy, the symbol of the veiled and “oppressed” Muslim woman has been deployed to rally support for and justify military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq and now in Iran.

In August 2021, as the Taliban seized Afghanistan following the retreat of the US forces after a failed 20-year-war, a widely circulated image “Women in Afghanistan, 1972” showed smartly dressed women wearing skirts walking down an avenue. It drew on years of news media coverage and political rhetoric shaped by America's post-9/11 “war on terror”.

In such picture essays, often published by the BBC and other English and American news organisations, the veiled Muslim woman is contrasted with the unveiled woman in the “past”, as if to show that Islamic regimes are inherently misogynistic. The burqa or veiling is portrayed as a manifestation of a violent and religious patriarchal culture, thrust on helpless Muslim women while Arab and Muslim men are typecast as sexually rapacious.

Feminism and women's rights, such narratives seem to say, can only be guaranteed by Western liberal democracies under the protection of their military might.

It is an extension of how powerful Western countries, as colonising empires in the past, framed their brutal and dispossessing conquests around the world as civilising missions that would improve the lives of natives.

Literary scholar Teresa Heffernan, in her book *Veiled Figures*, writes that “the desire to ‘save’ the Eastern woman from her own culture, a gesture that inevitably involves unveiling her, has a long history in the West, a history that has little to do with women's freedom or rights.”

Indeed, there has been little effort to save Muslim women from Israel's devastating military assault on the Gaza Strip, underway since October 2023, which UN bodies are now describing as a genocide and ethnic cleansing. Instead, Israel depicts itself as West Asia's sanctuary for queer right and democracy while being surrounded by religiously conservative countries ruled by autocrats.

American anthropologist Lila Abu-Lughod in *Do Muslim Women Need Saving* has criticised how the resort to cultural framing prevents a serious examination of historical and political explanations for conflicts in West Asia and especially the complicity of the United States in destabilising the region. “Instead we were offered ones that worked to artificially divide the world into separate spheres – re-creating an imaginative geography of West versus East, us versus Muslims...” writes Abu-Lughod. This time, the United States is being refreshingly honest but there is little solace in that. In a press briefing on March 2, Pete Hegseth, the bellicose US Secretary of War, said, “This is not Iraq. This is not endless.”

Over the last couple of years, there has been a damning and harsh reckoning of America's invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and then Iraq in 2003. Shifting



Afghan women in a street in Kabul in 1962.

goalposts of destroying Iraq's stockpile of nuclear weapons, building up democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq and, most

prominently, saving Muslim women from repressive Islamic regimes and the oppressive burqa, have crumbled and been

emphatically disproven – “A Bloody Delusion”, is how The Guardian headlined an article marking 20 years of the Iraq invasion in 2023.

The attack on Iran, nearly 25 years later, is none of that, Hegseth insisted: “No stupid rules of engagement, no nation-building quagmire, no democracy building exercise, no politically correct wars.” The irony this time is that the US has no need for the fig leaf of democracy or women's rights and gender when the Trump administration cares little for either and is actively undermining both within its own country.

More than two decades later, the words of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan, issued on Women's Day in March 2004, come to mind: the freedom of a nation is to be achieved by itself – similarly, the real emancipation of women can be realised only by themselves. If that freedom is bestowed by others, it may be seized and violated any time. ●



In Belém, Brazil, the spectacle of COP30 diplomacy has already faded. While the global leaders gathered to trade new promises on climate action, the real crisis raged on the ground.

India, a key player in this fight, is currently battling a confluence of climate-driven disasters. Last year's punishing extreme heatwave, one of the earliest and most severe on record, scorched vast swathes of the subcontinent. Simultaneously, the recent unprecedented floods in Punjab, India's essential "food bowl", have submerged huge tracts of farmland, destroying crops and jeopardising the nation's food security.

A new global assessment done by the UN now identifies India as one of the world's largest methane emitters, driven largely by agriculture, crop-residue burning and overflowing dumpsites adding fuel to an already accelerating crisis. This is the grim reality of climate change – extreme heat and flooding directly cause massive food loss at the farm gate, which in turn

AMID HUNGER AND POOR NUTRITION

INDIA'S FOOD WASTE IS FEEDING A DISASTROUS LOOP

Poor logistics and erratic weather are causing enormous produce loss, which in turn intensifies climate change as food rots in landfills.

Pranjali Chowdhary & Shivang Agarwal

intensifies the climate threat when it rots in landfills.

Food rotting in landfills releases methane, a Short-Lived Climate Pollutant that is up to 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide over 20 years. India is caught in a disastrous loop, where its colossal food waste problem is both a symptom and a significant accelerator of the climate crisis. We are, quite literally, feeding our garbage dumps instead of our people, creating a downward spiral where wasted food heats the planet, and a hotter planet struggles to grow food.

Paradox of hunger and waste

The United Nation's latest report, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025*, states a fundamental, painful truth: millions are malnourished because safe, nutritious food is often not affordable. This global paradox finds its sharpest echo in India. While we strive for food self-sufficiency, we rank a serious 105th out of 127 countries on the 2024 Global Hunger Index. Our failure isn't a lack of food, but a monumental crisis of waste.

The numbers are staggering. The average Indian household



discards 55 kg of food annually, totalling a national loss of 78.2 million tonnes, valued at a crippling Rs 92,000 crore. This waste is more than an economic failure; it's an environmental time bomb.

Supply Chain of Neglect

An estimated 30-40% of total food production gets wasted, amounting to a loss of Rs 2 lakh crore per annum, and this happens at various points along the supply chain:

The “First-Mile” Crisis (Farm) :

The journey of neglect begins here. Up to 16% of fruits and vegetables wilt in the fields due to a critical lack of affordable cold storage and refrigerated transport. Small farmers are forced into distress sales to avoid total loss, a situation exacerbated by climate-driven crop damage from extreme weather events like the recent Punjab floods.

The “Middle-Mile” Chaos

(Logistics) : Produce that survives the farm hurdle faces an inefficient logistics network. Further wastage occurs due to poor infrastructure and, notably, “cosmetic filtering” – the arbitrary rejection of perfectly good produce by supermarkets for superficial blemishes.

The “Last-Mile” Disconnect

(Consumption): In urban India, a growing detachment from food's origins leads to profligate consumption. Enormous amounts of food from homes and lavish social events end up in landfills, where they are a primary source of the harmful methane emissions.

Current national food security policies like the National Food Security Act and the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, while successful in distributing staples like rice and wheat, have a blind spot: they largely overlook the colossal quantities of perishable, nutrient-rich fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. These are the very items essential for fighting malnutrition and yet, tragically, remain undistributed.



Resilient India

Tackling food waste is a dual imperative: it can simultaneously enhance food security and build national climate resilience by curbing potent greenhouse gas emissions. This demands a multi-pronged, policy-driven response.

While the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has published regulations for surplus food distribution, they don't fully shield businesses from potential lawsuits under the broader Food Safety and Standards Act 2006. This fear of litigation deters many restaurants and supermarkets from donating. A nationwide “Good Samaritan Law” is critical to protect donors from liability, empowering a robust food-rescue ecosystem.

Fragmented supply chains demand urgent, mission-mode investment. A dedicated national initiative must establish farm-level pack-houses, refrigerated transport, and modern storage facilities. This infrastructure will not only slash food wastage and curb harmful methane emissions but also provide a massive boost to farmer incomes, a triple win for the economy, environment, and society.

The final policy response

must be to strictly enforce the Solid Waste Management Rules, requiring bulk generators to segregate and divert organic waste from landfills. Simultaneously, the government must act as the anchor customer for this diverted waste.

Schemes like SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) can guarantee the purchase of Bio-CNG produced from organic waste. This creates the necessary market demand, as successfully demonstrated by Indore's pioneering Bio-CNG plant under the GOBAR-Dhan scheme, which is already generating 77,400 km/day of equivalent transport fuel that is being produced for 430 buses.

Tackling food waste is not merely waste management; it is a strategic climate and food security imperative for a nourished and resilient India. The path to achieving our climate goals and feeding our population begins on our farms and ends with responsible consumption. ●

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Nearly nine of 10 garment workers surveyed in India feel that extreme heat inside factories was making them sick, according to a new report that links rising temperatures to a growing workplace health and labour rights emergency.

As many as 87 per cent of workers reported suffering from headaches, dizziness and muscle cramps during the summer months, while 78.3 per cent said the heat on their workstations is so intense that their workstations felt like “working in a furnace.”

The findings were part of a new report, *Breaking Point: Heat and the Garment Floor* by HeatWatch and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), which looked at how extreme heat is endangering the lives, health, and livelihoods of India's garment workers, most of whom are women.

Drawing on surveys of 115 garment workers, 47 in-depth interviews and case studies across 15 garment and textile units in

Working in a FURNACE

HEAT IS MAKING INDIA'S GARMENT WORKERS SICK

Without stronger coordination between climate and labour authorities, millions of workers will continue to face escalating heat risks without formal recognition, protection or accountability

Shagun

Tamil Nadu, Delhi-NCR, and Gujarat, the report described employees operating near machines that reach temperatures of up to an appalling 99 degrees Celsius.

It documented widespread heat-related illnesses among workers. Overall, 68.7 per cent said the heat had affected their ability to work and 78 per cent skipped breaks to meet production

targets, showing nearly double stress levels compared to others.

To quantify the scale of the crisis, the researchers developed a composite Heat Stress Index (HSI) by converting survey and interview responses into standardised risk scores across six domains: physiological strain, workload, clothing, sanitation, environment and hydration.

The findings place the





average HSI at 58.9, pushing the majority of workers into the 'high stress' category. A quarter of the workforce scored above 70, indicating a critical state. Under established benchmarks such as the Belding-Hatch Index, scores between 40 and 60 are classified as 'severe heat strain' — a direct threat to health — meaning many workers are already experiencing heat exposure beyond the body's natural cooling capacity.

When assessed against ISO 7243 standards for Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT), factory conditions frequently exceeded the 28°C threshold for moderate work and the 25°C limit for heavy work, signalling that current metabolic demands are physically unsustainable.

At least 36.5 per cent workers reported, that although water is available on the factory floor, it can run out or is not clean. Furthermore, due to lack of access to toilets, workers often said they try to consume less water even during the summer months.

“What was most concerning was the widespread acceptance of unbearable workplace temperatures. We see people working near

machines operating at 90°C and women lying on the factory bathroom floors to get a few minutes of respite from the heat. Heat among indoor workers cannot be ignored any longer,” said Vasundhara Jhobta, Project Associate at HeatWatch.

However, factory-level safeguards to address heat stress remained severely inadequate. Nearly 60 per cent of the surveyed factories did not have any medical clinic or doctor on site. Only six of the 15 units had an on-site clinic and medical officer, and even among these, one in five did not have a full-time doctor. Instead, most factories said they relied on informally training workers to respond to medical emergencies.

Infrastructure gaps further compounded the risks. Eleven out of 15 factories — 73.3 per cent — had roofs made of metal or asbestos, materials known to trap and intensify heat.

A detailed ground level account by *Down To Earth* in 2024 had underscored how unbearable heat inside “hellfire” factories plays out in workers' daily lives. Visits to textile and boiler plants found temperatures near furnaces

often soaring well above 40°C with high humidity, forcing workers to spend long hours in suffocating conditions with minimal ventilation or cooling, wiping sweat constantly and taking only short breaks outside before returning to stifling interiors.

Women Bear the Brunt of Heat

The burden of heat stress was not evenly distributed. Women recorded a significantly higher average HSI score of 61.5 compared to 18.6 for men, underscoring the disproportionate physiological and occupational strain they face in garment factories.

Overall, the findings pointed to alarming physical consequences, especially for women workers, highlighting how rising heat interacts with long working hours, factory abuse, and gendered power dynamics on the production floor. Nearly 96.8 per cent of women workers reported burning sensations during urination — a likely sign of dehydration — and 92.6 per cent said their menstrual cycles were disrupted.

“When we ask for fans, or even to use the toilet more often,

we are criticised,” the report quoted Jothi, a garment worker from Tirupur, as saying.

“Most management and owners are men, so there is no one to recognise heat stress as a real labour issue for women. Only when women trainers or organisers genuinely ask us do we feel safe enough to speak. For many of us in manufacturing, our heat problems are treated as unimportant because they are not seen as affecting business, but they affect our health and dignity every day,” she said.

Heat Stress as Business Risk

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) India could lose the equivalent of 35 million full-time jobs and face a 4.5 per cent decline in GDP by 2030 due to heat stress if urgent action was not taken.

The textile and garment sector — one of the country's largest employers — was particularly exposed. The industry employs around 45 million people and exported textiles and apparel worth roughly US\$35 billion in FY 2023-24, the report noted.

With dense factory settings,

long working hours and intense production pressures driven by global supply chains and fast fashion timelines, the sector was especially vulnerable to rising temperatures.

Arguing that protecting workers from heat stress was inseparable from business responsibility and long-term economic sustainability, the report recommended expanding the definition of what is a heatwave using a graded classification system and comprehensive temperature thresholds like WBGT (which also takes into account humidity along with temperature) or Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI) to address heat stress among indoor workers who work in high temperatures.

It also urged to recognise heat stress and heat morbidity as occupational diseases and including heat stress in the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 and extend coverage under the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923.

Policy Gaps

The report concludes that India's

climate policy architecture remains largely disconnected from the realities of the workplace. National frameworks such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) and City Climate Action Plans (CCAPs) focussed primarily on sectoral priorities such as energy, agriculture and rural resilience. However, they lack detailed vulnerability assessments or enforceable safeguards to address extreme heat in indoor workplaces and informal urban labour settings.

At the same time, the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is responsible for worker safety and conditions, remained largely absent from climate action planning. Without stronger coordination between climate and labour authorities, the report warned, millions of workers will continue to face escalating heat risks without formal recognition, protection or accountability, even as temperatures and economic stakes continued to rise. ●



THE PLASTICS RECYCLING SYSTEM IS FAILING CAN IT BE CHANGED?



The interconnected reasons include inefficient plants, poor collection and cost considerations.

Jodi Diaz Marcos



As good citizens, we diligently fill the recycling bins provided by our local authorities with all manner of plastic trays, boxes, bottles and bags. But as these bins fill up quicker and quicker each week, an awkward question arises: is all this effort actually doing any good?

Many of us would answer with a sceptically resigned “of course not”. The facts unfortunately support this increasingly common view. In Europe, only around 15% of plastics are recycled, while in the United

States the figure drops to 9%. The remainder ends up in incinerators, landfills or, in the worst of cases, in the natural environment.

The question we must answer is therefore not whether plastic recycling has issues, but why the system we have all trusted for decades is failing so catastrophically.

Problems Begin Before The Bin

To understand what's going wrong, it's worth taking a step back and looking at how we actually use plastic. Around half of all plastics

are used for single-use products: containers, packaging, bags, agricultural sheeting and so on. ...

Between 20% and 25% are used in long-term applications – pipes, cables, building materials – and the rest is used in consumer goods with an intermediate lifespan, such as vehicles, furniture and electronic devices.

In the EU, post consumer plastic waste already reached 24.6 million tonnes in 2007, and has only grown since then. Packaging is still the main source but others – such as electrical waste and

vehicles at the end of their lives – are taking up an increasingly large share. Recycling is failing for many reasons, all of which are interconnected.

Why Recycling Plastic is Failing

We can break the assortment of reasons for this failure – and the potential solutions – into 12 main points.

1. Inefficient Recycling Plants

During important processes like cleaning, fragments of plastic are lost as microplastics. This means the system itself creates plastic waste, and we urgently need to rethink the design and operation of these plants.

2. Recycled Plastic is Expensive

At the moment, virgin plastic is usually cheaper to produce than recycled. Without financial incentives, taxes on virgin plastic or greener public procurement, market forces will keep gravitating towards the cheapest option.

3. Low Quality

Polymers degrade, and this limits their potential for reuse. Investing in new sorting, washing and regranulation technologies is key to closing the loop here.

4. Inefficient Collection

Losses and pollution start at the

source. Optimising collection – bins, logistics, incentives – are just as important as industrial processing plants.

5. Hidden Workforces

In many places, waste collection and sorting is precarious and invisible work. Training, job stability and recognition are not just a social issue – they also affect efficiency.

6. Workers Exposed to Dangerous Chemicals

People who work with plastic waste are overly exposed to toxic substances. Fixing this is an urgent question of public health.

7. Exporting Waste

For decades, wealthier countries have sent their waste to countries with lower environmental management capacities. As well as being an injustice, this is shortsighted, as environmental damage doesn't have any respect for borders.

8. Incompatible Plastics

Mixing incompatible polymers drastically reduces the quality of recycled material. Accurate sorting is a critical bottleneck.

9. Overly Generic Policies

There are no universal solutions here. Recycling policies must be adapted to suit local contexts, infrastructures and consumer habits.

10. Unrecyclable Products

Multi-layered products, mixed polymers, complex adhesives and black plastic are just some examples of this. While plastics can be sorted into seven main families, in practice only PET and HDPE are commonly recycled. Almost all of the rest end up incinerated or in landfill.

11. Reliance on Individuals

Properly separating and cleaning waste and following recycling symbols is a help, but it can't be the only thing we do. Placing all responsibility on the consumer is both unfair and ineffective.

12. Not All Waste Gets Recycled

Impurities such as food scraps, moisture, paper, textiles, metals, or polymer mixtures drastically reduce performance in a recycling plant. The amount that goes in always exceeds the amount that comes out as new material.

We can liken this to cooking. When you make, for instance, a vegetable omelette, you invariably produce waste in the form of eggshells and peelings. The same thing happens in recycling, only on an industrial scale.

Collective Change

There is no magic wand we can wave to eliminate all plastic from the planet, but there is enough knowledge to do much better than we are today. Recycling is not a panacea. It is an important but incomplete part of a broader approach that includes reduction, reuse, eco-design and the circular economy. The question is no longer whether we know what to do, but why we still fail to do it.

Technology is advancing, and the problems are clear. What's missing now is not innovation, but the collective will to put words into action. ●

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Why Chhattisgarh's Midday Meal Workers FIGHT FOR BETTER PAY

On February 24, the Chhattisgarh state government presented its annual budget for the coming financial year. Among those who scrutinised its details closely were the state's midday meal workers, thousands of whom had been on strike in shifts for two months, demanding an increase in their wages, from under Rs 70 a day currently to at least Rs 350.

The workers were in for a crushing disappointment – there was no mention of them at all in the budget. The total lack of even an acknowledgement from the government left them dismayed. The protest had extracted a tragic cost for some. Workers said that cold weather during those weeks, and unsanitary conditions at the site had led to many contracting ailments. In late January, two

Their work is crucial for children's wellbeing, but they earn less than Rs 70 a day. A two-month strike sought to secure them a daily wage of at least Rs 350.

■ Nolina Minj

striking workers, Dulari Yadav and Rukmani Sinha, died after falling ill.

“We protested for two months,” Ramrajya Kashyap, the state president of the Chhattisgarh School Madhyanbhojan Rasoiya Sanyukta Sangh, told *Scroll*. “We spent all our money and begged others for food and money to continue protesting, and not a single official or leader came to see us.” The association represents more than 90,000 mid-day meal workers from across the state. Kashyap added, “The least they could have done was to tell us that our demands would be ignored.”

The day after the budget was

presented, the workers adjourned their protest at Naya Raipur's Tuta Dharna Sthal. By then, it had by then been underway for 59 days. On March 2, they returned to their work at government schools in their hometowns. But Kashyap explained that the workers did not view this as the end of their struggle. He noted that midday meal workers had over the decades mounted several protests, and won small increases in their pay. “We are disappointed but we have not lost,” he said. “We are thinking of picking up the protest again before the July assembly session.” He added that they would also aim to issue a “muh todh jawab”, a jaw-





breaking response, to the current government in the 2028 state election.

The Scheme and the Demands

Midday meal workers work under the centrally sponsored Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman scheme, formerly known as the National Programme for Mid Day Meal in Schools. Under the scheme, the government provides one hot cooked meal to children enrolled up to Class 8 in government and government-aided schools across India.

According to the scheme's

guidelines, schools with up to 25 students have to employ one “cook-cum-helper”, while those with between 26 and 100 students have to hire two. For every additional 100 students a school enrolls, they have to hire one more worker.

Midday meal workers are not classified as permanent government employees but as volunteers. In keeping with this categorisation, the scheme's guidelines state that the workers are to be paid for around 10 months of the year, when schools are open, and not for

the other months, when they are closed. Currently, the central government pays an honorarium of Rs 1,000 per month for each worker. However, the scheme's guidelines note that states are “free to give more honorarium over and above the prescribed minimum”.

In March 2025, in an answer to a parliamentary question, Jayant Chaudhary, the union minister of state for education, listed the rates paid to workers across the country. Among the states that paid the workers the highest honorariums were Kerala, which pays Rs 12,000 a month, and Lakshadweep, which pays between Rs 18,000 and Rs 20,200 a month. However, Chhattisgarh pays only an additional Rs 1,000 to each worker.

Workers say this pay is not commensurate with the time and effort that is required from them. The pay they are demanding, they argue, is more consistent with government-mandated wages for several other comparable categories of workers in the state. “Most of us have been doing this work for some 30 years in the hope that the government realises our



worth and increases our pay,” Kashyap said. “Who can afford to work six hours a day and survive on Rs 66 a day?”

The workers also demand greater stability for their posts. “We want all part-time posts to be made full-time posts,” Kashyap said. “And no workers should be removed if the number of students at a school drops.”

They have also put forward demands that have arisen over the course of the protest itself. On January 29, the workers marched to the Naya Raipur railway station – in response, police lodged FIRs against 600 unnamed workers, accusing them of rioting. The workers have demanded that these FIRs be withdrawn. Further, they have called for the government to pay compensation to the families of the two workers who died in the period of the protest.

Grueling Workload

Around 95% of Chhattis-garh's midday meal workers are women. Development economist Dipa Sinha noted that the scheme encourages the employment of marginalised women. “The

scheme prioritises women from Dalit and Adivasi communities, and also single women who are widowed or unmarried, or whose husbands are unable to work,” Sinha said. “In many cases they are the primary breadwinners in their homes.”

“Most of us are occupied for five-six hours daily in schools,” said Durga Sen, a worker from Rajnandgaon district. “We have to reach school by 9 am and start preparing the food. Many schools don't provide gas cylinders, so we have to cook on firewood, which makes our eyes burn. By 1.30 pm we serve food, and then washing up can take till 3 pm.”

Workers complained that this routine left them little time to take up other work to supplement their incomes. “There is no time to take up other labour or NREGA work,” Sen said. Workers explained that while the lack of time hampered their ability to earn an adequate income, so also did the administration's ambiguous categorisation of them.

Kachra Chandrakar, a worker from Mahasamund district, noted

that when it came to wages, “we are viewed as part time workers who don't deserve proper pay”. But in other contexts, she added, they are treated as government employees, such as when they are assigned election duties. Crucially, she noted, local authorities also often view workers as formal government employees, and thus deny them other work or benefits to which such employees are not entitled, under schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, and Mahatari Vandan Yojana.

As a result, workers struggle to earn enough to meet their families' basic needs. “They say they are providing us opportunity, but they are actually exploiting us,” Chandrakar said. “Most of us are unable to send our children to college.”

Teeja Nag, a widowed worker from Dantewada district, recounted, “Last year I couldn't even buy new clothes for my children on festivals. I am unable to feed them well, so I have had to send them off to stay with my relatives.”

The workers' strike drew support from teachers in the state, and parents of students. “They do a lot of work and it takes up half their day,” said a middle school principal of Dhamtari district, who requested anonymity because they had not been authorised to speak to the media. “Even the cleaning staff gets paid more, around Rs 3,400, and they work fewer hours than them.”

Parents, meanwhile, expressed deep appreciation for the workers. “My wife and I are both labourers and we are not at home in the daytime, so we depend on the school to feed our two children lunch,” said one parent, Chetan Mahar, also from Dhamtari. “What is Rs 2,000 a month these days? On good weeks where I find decent work, I earn that much within a week.” ●



Protesting midday meal workers

THE COURT, THE CRAB, AND CUBA

According to recent leaks to Axios, the U.S. State Department has bypassed Cuba's official civilian government, to hold discreet talks with 41-year-old Raúl Guillermo Rodríguez Castro. Known in Havana as "El Cangrejo" (The Crab), Rodríguez Castro is the grandson and bodyguard of Raúl Castro, and a figure deeply embedded in the island's sprawling military-commercial conglomerate, GAESA.

Simultaneously, the U.S. Supreme Court is preparing to hear oral arguments in a pair of highly consequential cases: Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Corporación Cimex and Havana Docks Corp. v. Royal Caribbean Cruises. By weaponizing Title III of the 1996 Helms-Burton Act, these suits aim to bypass the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and slap billions of dollars in liabilities directly onto the balance sheets of Cuban enterprises for assets nationalized over 65 years ago.

By freezing out the official state apparatus and dealing directly with the younger Castro's circle under the shadow of these massive impending legal judgments, Washington is actively attempting to cultivate a new comprador elite. As one senior Trump administration official bluntly admitted to Axios, the U.S. government's position is simply that "the regime has to go," and they are actively looking for "the next Delcy in Cuba."

Yet, to understand the logic behind these maneuvers, we must look beyond the immediate tactics of the State Department and the courts, and ask a structural question: What purpose does a subjugated Cuba actually serve

within Marco Rubio's vision for "Fortress America"?

The Material Vacuum

In the historical calculus of imperialism, a periphery is only as valuable as the resources it can extract, the markets it can pry open, or the surplus labor it can exploit. Up until this point, the aggressive territorial expansionism of the Donroe Doctrine in Latin America perfectly aligns with this classical Marxist understanding of imperial extraction.

Applied to Cuba, this approach reveals a glaring structural paradox. Unlike the rest of the region, the island is a material dead zone for the immediate needs of U.S. capital accumulation. A systemic comparison with the rest of the region reveals just how little modern Cuba has to offer the imperial core.

As the Trump administration's moves in Venezuela clearly demonstrate, one of the primary drivers of the Donroe Doctrine is energy dominance, for which the

What does the Trump administration want with Cuba?

Logan McMillen

oil fields of the Orinoco Belt were the ultimate prize. Cuba, conversely, is entirely energy-dependent, relying entirely on the subsidized crude that the United States just cut off.

The global transition to green energy has turned the Andes into a hyper-exploited sacrifice zone for lithium, copper, and rare earth metals. Although Cuba does possess reserves of nickel and cobalt, its mining sector has been severely capital-starved and underdeveloped for decades. What little it does export is largely locked up in Canadian joint ventures (such as the Sherritt International operations in Moa).

The island also lacks the sprawling, hyper-exploited maquiladora infrastructure that makes Mexico an indispensable, value-extracting node in North American supply chains. The Cuban industrial base is antiquated and energy-starved,



offering no immediate plug-and-play manufacturing capacity for U.S. corporations seeking to “nearshore” their operations.

And while nations like Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina function as the mechanized agro-industrial breadbaskets of the global economy, Cuba’s agricultural sector is in a state of terminal decline. The island currently imports the vast majority of its food and cannot compete on the global commodities market.

Finally, Cuba lacks the modernized transoceanic logistics infrastructure that make Panama, Peru, and Mexico vital to global trade flows.

Cuba’s total lack of traditional peripheral utility makes the State Department’s obsessive focus on the island seem almost irrational. Why expend the political capital, risk the blowback from Miami hardliners, and engage in shadowy talks with El Cangrejo for a country that produces virtually nothing of value to the American empire? The answer is that under the Donroe Doctrine, Cuba is not being conquered for what it can produce. It’s being conquered for what its subjugation represents.

The Ideological Trophy

For over six decades, Cuba has stood as a living, breathing challenge to American imperialism. In the era of the Donroe Doctrine, which explicitly demands unquestioned U.S. primacy and resource monopolies in the Americas, the persistence of a sovereign, anti-imperialist project just 90 miles from Florida is an intolerable ideological irritant.

As Noam Chomsky and other critics of the U.S. empire have long observed, Washington’s primary grievance with Havana was never its military capability, but the “threat of a good example.” A socialist project in the Caribbean demonstrated to the rest of the Global South that independent development outside the dictates



Donald Trump at the Oval Office talking to the press about Cuba, March 16, 2026

of Washington was materially possible.

By co-opting the regime from within and forcing a transition toward a market economy under extreme duress, the Trump administration seeks to achieve a monumental symbolic victory.

But to claim this ideological trophy without the messy logistics of military intervention, the Trump administration requires a legal mechanism. In this context, the Supreme Court’s recent decision to hear oral arguments in cases like Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Corporación Cimex and Havana Docks Corp. v. Royal Caribbean Cruises must be understood as an attempt to create a massive, weaponized debt burden for the Cuban state.

By utilizing Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, the U.S. judicial system is attempting to abrogate the sovereign immunity of Cuban state-owned enterprises under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA). When legacy corporations sue entities like CIMEX (a direct subsidiary of GAESA) for “trafficking” in nationalized property, their real goal is to render the assets of the Cuban state legally toxic on the global market. If the Court rules that Helms-Burton bypasses sovereign immunity, it will establish more than a billion dollars in legally enforceable liabilities directly onto the balance sheets of the entities controlled by El Cangrejo and other elites.

The purpose of this engineered debt is not to collect payment for Exxon or the descendants of pre-revolutionary elites. It’s meant to serve as leverage in the State Department’s backchannel talks. By threatening to enforce these crippling judgments globally, the United States provides the GAESA elite with the legal and economic pretext it needs to facilitate their transition from state bureaucrats to the island’s new comprador bourgeoisie.

The Privatization of the State

If El Cangrejo and his circle accept the terms of this structural coup, what becomes of the Cuban domestic economy? Without raw materials to export or cheap commodities to manufacture, a post-revolutionary Cuba must find a new comparative advantage in the global division of labor. It’s unlikely that Washington would invest in Cuban industrial development. Rather, the blueprint would most likely mirror the disastrous post-Soviet “shock therapy” of the 1990s, where the military officials currently overseeing state enterprises would be encouraged to launder their political power into private, oligarchic wealth.

GAESA controls vast swaths of the Cuban economy, including real estate, the tourism sector, retail chains, and port infrastructure. Under a U.S.-backed transition, these assets would be aggressively

privatized. U.S. private equity and transnational capital would buy up coastal real estate and telecommunications grids at rock-bottom prices, while the newly minted Cuban comprador class would become local, rent-seeking junior partners.

The remnants of the Cuban social contract (universal health-care, subsidized housing, and free education) would be “adjusted” out of existence by the IMF and World Bank, institutions that would immediately swoop in to offer “reconstruction” loans conditioned on brutal austerity. The Cuban working class, already battered by the U.S. blockade and the loss of Venezuelan oil, would be thrust into a deregulated labor market with no safety net.

The island’s geography makes it prime real estate for exclusive tourism and speculative property development. The rapid construction of luxury enclaves would be cordoned off from the impoverished domestic population. Cuban workers would be relegated to the service sector, serving drinks and cleaning hotel rooms for foreign capital, a tragic, modernized return to the neocolonial dynamics of the 1950s Batista dictatorship.

The Caribbean Laundromat

If the island cannot be integrated into U.S. supply chains as a manufacturing hub or an extractive sacrifice zone, what is its utility to transnational capital? The answer lies in the massive, systemic crisis of capital flight across the Global South. Currently, an estimated 27 percent of Latin America’s total private wealth is deposited in offshore territories offering strict banking secrecy and favorable tax treatment. For decades, jurisdictions like Panama, the Cayman Islands, and the British Virgin Islands have functioned as vital sinks for regional oligarchs, corrupt political elites, and multinational

corporations looking to evade domestic taxation, bypass exchange controls, and launder funds. However, massive data leaks like the Panama and Paradise Papers have exposed these traditional havens, and global financial regulations have occasionally tightened. Transnational capital is therefore constantly hunting for new, highly deregulated, and legally impenetrable geographies to hide and multiply.

With the Donroe Doctrine actively destabilizing progressive governments and aggressively pushing privatization across South America, the volume of extracted wealth seeking an offshore sanctuary will only increase. A post-socialist Cuba—geographically close, desperate for foreign currency, and politically dependent on Washington—is perfectly positioned to fill this void.

In this scenario, Havana would be transformed into a premier Caribbean laundromat. The macroeconomic blueprint would likely mirror the territorial tax systems of Panama or the Bahamas, designed entirely around the servicing of capital. This “new” Cuban state would rapidly pass legislation establishing anonymous International Business Companies (IBCs) and offshore trusts, protected by banking secrecy laws that criminalize the sharing of financial data with foreign tax authorities. It would eliminate capital gains taxes, corporate taxes on foreign-sourced income, and all exchange controls. This would allow wealth extracted from the lithium mines of the Andes or the agribusiness monopolies of Brazil to be legally parked in Havana without the friction of local taxation or regulatory oversight.

The kleptocratic military elite currently managing GAESA is uniquely positioned to facilitate this transition. From overseeing a

planned economy, it would pivot to become the local gatekeepers, rentiers, and legal intermediaries for transnational capital, taking their percentage for maintaining the island’s political stability and financial opacity.

This would represent a tragic, modernized return to pre-1959 Havana. Before the revolution, U.S. banks, corporations, and Mafia syndicates utilized Cuban state development banks (like BANFAIC) and the massive casino industry to freely launder money and skim profits, while Batista’s cronies took their cut as compliant junior partners. The modern iteration of this neocolonial dynamic would simply replace the mob-run casinos and bolita lotteries with the sterile, digitized transfer of offshore capital.

The Cuban Tragedy

The tragedy of this moment lies in the convergence of external imperial aggression and internal bureaucratic betrayal. By weaponizing the catastrophic loss of Venezuelan oil to starve the island, and deliberately blocking genuine diplomatic off-ramps, Washington is applying maximum pressure.

Simultaneously, a kleptocratic military elite within GAESA, sitting on billions in assets, is being offered a gilded parachute: surrender the socialist project and retain some wealth as the island’s new capitalist oligarchs.

Stripped of its sovereignty, Cuba is poised to become a symbolic trophy of imperial dominance and a deregulated offshore playground where global capital can operate with absolute impunity. For the Cuban working class, the victory of the Donroe Doctrine promises only a bitter return to past subservience, dressed in the “neutral” language of free-market transition. ●

Utilize All Your Potentialities

- Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

This universe of ours is a Macropsychic conation. This entire Cosmological order is a Macropsychic conation. The people of the entire universe are the progeny and the Supreme Consciousness is the progenitor.

The microcosm cannot create anything original. The microcosm can create physical, mental and spiritual compounds. But nothing original can be created by him or her. A microcosm should make maximum use of the world's physical potentialities, mental and intellectual potentialities, and spiritual potentialities.

Suppose that a man has got a tractor and there is a big block of uncultivated land. Similarly each and every living being, each and every microcosm, has physical capacity, physical potentiality; mental and intellectual potentiality; and also spiritual potentiality. But you know, in the realm of physicality there are certain limitations; in physical structure a human cannot be stronger than an elephant or stronger than a rhinoceros. But in the realm of intellectuality, there is no such limitation; a human can acquire as much intellectual strength as he or she desires. The scope for development of intellectual potentialities, although not infinite, is immeasurable. That is, a human can acquire immeasurable mental strength by dint of his or her intellectual culture.

But in the realm of spirituality there is no limit at all. The spiritual strength that a person can acquire is not only immeasurable, but also infinite.

This special chance has been guaranteed only to human beings by the Supreme Progenitor. So each and every person, each and every individual, should make maximum utilization of this world. That is, one must not waste a single second in developing his or her intellectual capacity, intellectual potentiality and spiritual potentiality. ●





PBI Protests Against Cooperative Fraud in Yavatmal



On March 17, a protest demonstration was organized by Proutist Bloc, India (PBI) against irregularities in the Rajalakshmi Multi-State Cooperative Society located in Yavatmal, Maharashtra.

On this occasion, under the leadership of Proutist Bloc, India's Vidarbha Convener Madhukar Nistane, a memorandum addressed to Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah was submitted through the District Collector. The following demands were raised during the protest, and memorandum:

1. Conduct an inquiry into the corruption of crores of rupees in Rajalakshmi Multi-State Credit Cooperative Society and immediately suspend Managing Director Kshitij Tayade.
2. Dissolve the Rajalakshmi Society board.
3. Stop the brutal recovery methods that are driving debtors to contemplate suicide and ensure action as per RBI norms.
4. Order an Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigation into the assets of the society's current president, former presidents, and managing director.

Earlier, on June 13, 2022, aggrieved citizens had staged a protest against Rajalakshmi Multi-State Credit Cooperative Society at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

Based on the Audit Report of the Cooperation Commissioner and the inspection report of the Assistant Registrar, Proutist Bloc, India had previously followed up with the Joint Secretary and Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi.

Nistane alleged that the appointment of Managing Director Kshitij Tayade is illegal. He further claimed that the Tayade family members have established dominance over this credit cooperative society, and have amassed crores of rupees. He stated that the agitation will continue until a high-level investigation is conducted and action is taken against the society.

Activists present during the protest included Proutist Bloc, India's State President Vivek Dehankara, District President Arun Kapile, Yashwantrao Bonde, Manikdas Tonge, Vishwabandhu, Ravi Kuthe, Mohan Pawar, Pandurang Kiranpure, Ashwin Dafale, Krishna Tekam, and others.



PBI National Convention Countdown Begins



On 17 March, the key officials of Proutist Bloc, India (PBI) held an online meeting to finalize preparations for the party's upcoming National Convention.

Scheduled for April 25-26, 2026, at the Geeta Bhawan, Adarsh Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan, the convention is being branded as a milestone event for the party, and for Rajasthan in particular.

The virtual meeting, which saw robust participation from different state units across the country, focused heavily on ground-level logistics. Discussions centered on managing the massive influx of delegates expected from Delhi, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and especially from Bihar & Odisha—states where the party has recently intensified its grassroots presence.

Party coordinator Nidhi Sati presented detailed plans regarding transportation, accommodation, and food arrangements for the cadres traveling from these regions to ensure a smooth experience upon arrival in Jaipur.

Party President Dr. A. K. Bhaskar opened the session by stressing the importance of discipline and punctuality. "This convention is not just a gathering; it is the launchpad for our vision of a moral and economic renaissance in India," Dr. Bhaskar stated, urging state conveners to submit their final delegate lists by the end of the week. He specifically highlighted the need for efficient crowd management at the venue to ensure the event maintains its professional stature.

Adding to the organizational strategy, party leader from Jaipur Dr. Rajiv Nagar provided key insights on volunteer deployment. He suggested the formation of dedicated teams to handle registration, media outreach, and security.

National Convener Acharya Santosananda Avadhuta said, "Our cadres coming from different states are our strength. We must ensure their efforts are supported by flawless local hospitality and clear communication channels," He also talked about the venue readiness – the stage setup, sound systems, and signage etc., stressing that they be ready in time.

Other key officials present in the meeting included Rakesh Ranjan, Pranav Kaul, Ravindra Singh, and Tarun Samantray. They also gave their valuable inputs.

The meeting concluded with a unified call to action for all party workers to ensure that the "Morality in Politics, & Economic Democracy" remains the central theme of the convention, transforming the slogan into a tangible political movement. PBI leadership anticipates that the two-day convention will draw hundreds of supporters, setting the stage for the party's future political roadmap.



AMURT Holds a Medical Camp in Karjat, Maharashtra



On March 7, 2026, a free medical camp was organized in Kashale village, located in the Karjat town of Maharashtra. This camp was held under the joint auspices of AMURT (Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team, Shelu), Ananda Marga (Mumbai Branch), and Gurumauli Clinic, Kashele.

In this camp, women, men, and children from the area received health consultations and medicines. Dr. Shreyas (Neral) and Dr. Purushottam (Bhiwapuri) provided their services in the camp. The village in-charge, Mr. Pundalik, and the local youth team provided special assistance in the arrangements to make the program a success.

On this occasion, Acharya Rupateetananda Avadhuta and Acharya Artapremananda Avadhuta were also present. The local community highly appreciated the camp and requested that it be organized regularly at least every two months.

The organizers informed that the next camp will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2026, in another nearby village, in collaboration with the Anandwadi village team. All medicines used in the camp were provided free of cost by Ananda Marga (Mumbai Branch).



'Moralists of India Unite'

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National Convention

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Welcome All

FOR DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT :

Dr. Rajiv Nagar - 9829069305

Dr. A. K. Bhaskar - 7004254301

Acharya Santosananda Avadhuta
9212199658

Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

The world Got life in Thy Oblation

Tumi ásiá cho shata janapad váhiá
ayuta kanthe sur bharite bharite.
Tumi ásiá cho shata niiháriká bhediá
ayuta chande nác nácite nácite.

*You have come crossing hundreds of hamlets
Filling countless throats with melodies and melodies
You have come parting hundreds of nebulae
Dancing and dancing in a detached rhythm.*

Dharañii peyeche práñ tomáre bariá,
dharañii peyeche man tomáre japiá.
Tomár apár dáne tomár samvedane,
dharañii shikheche gán gáite nácite.

*The world got life in thy oblation
The world got respect chanting thy name
With thy infinite gifts in thy consciousness
The world learnt to sing and dance.*

Tumi chára gán náí,
tumi chára nác náí,
ayuta mantra elo tomáke smarite.

*Without thee there's no song,
without thee there's no dance
mantras wafted in to remember thee.*

The Cygnus Loop Supernova Remnant courtesy Hubble Heritage



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