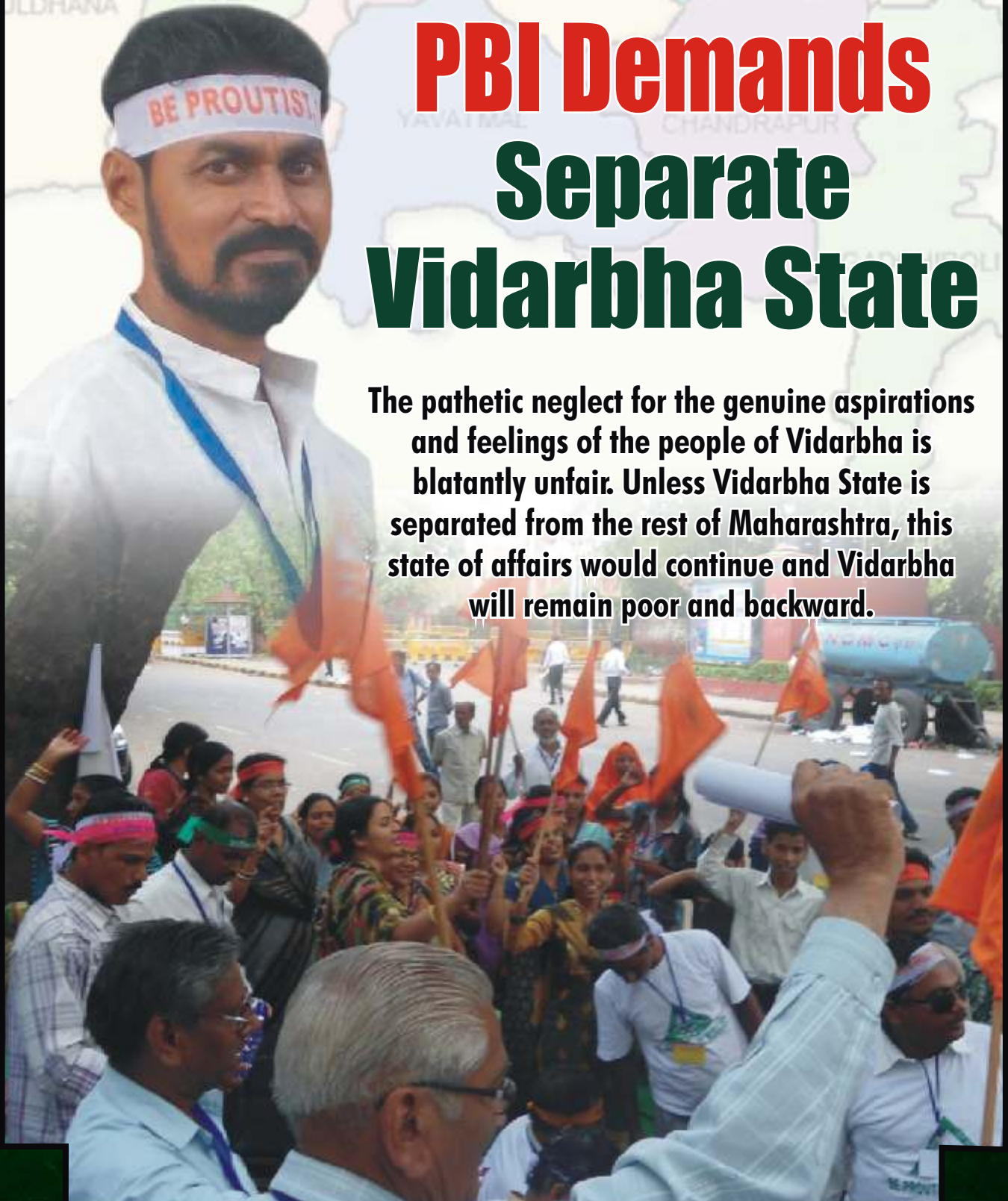


PROUT

A Journal of Proutistic Views and Neo-Humanistic Analysis

PBI Demands Separate Vidarbha State

The pathetic neglect for the genuine aspirations and feelings of the people of Vidarbha is blatantly unfair. Unless Vidarbha State is separated from the rest of Maharashtra, this state of affairs would continue and Vidarbha will remain poor and backward.



PROUT

Progressive Utilization Theory

A Vibrant Magazine which Informs & Inspires

Cry of the Suffering Humanity

What is PROUT :

PROUT is an acronym for the Progressive Utilization Theory. Conceptualized in 1959 by Indian Philosopher Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, PROUT is a viable alternative to the outmoded capitalist and communist socio-economic paradigms. Neither of these approaches has adequately met the physical, mental and spiritual needs of humanity. PROUT seeks a harmonious balance between economic growth, social development and cultural expression.

Combining the wisdom of spirituality, the struggle for self-reliance, and the spirit of economic democracy, Proutist intellectuals and activists are attempting to create a new civilizational discourse. PROUT news-magazine aims at conveying comprehensive and visionary goals of PROUT Philosophy.

PROUT magazine invites scientists, economists, politicians, artists, intellectuals and others to join us in the creation of a new, spiritually bonded society by propagating and popularising unambiguous elevating thoughts. Through Proutistic views and Neo Humanistic analysis, it strives to serve as beacon for the benighted civilization of our times.

Main principles of PROUT and Neo-Humanism :

Neo-humanism expands the humanistic love for all human beings to include love and respect for all creation - plants, animals and even inanimate objects. Neo-humanism provides a philosophical basis for creating a new era of ecological balance, planetary citizenship and cosmic kinship.

Basic necessities guaranteed to all : People can not strive toward their highest human aspirations if they are lacking the basic requirements of life. PROUT believes that access to food, shelter, clothing, education and medical care are fundamental human rights which must be guaranteed to all.

Balanced economy : Prout advocates regional self-reliance, cooperatively owned and managed businesses, local control of large scale key industries, and limits on the individual accumulation of excessive wealth.

Women's Right : PROUT encourages the struggle against all forms of violence and exploitation used to suppress women. PROUT's goal is coordinated cooperation, with equal rights between men and women.

Cultural Diversity : In the spirit of universal fellowship PROUT encourages the protection and cultivation of local culture, language, history and tradition.

World Government : PROUT supports the creation of world government with a global constitution and a common penal code.

For both civilization and science, intellectual knowledge is indispensable. Spiritual or intuitional development is possible through the happy blending between civilization and science.

- Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

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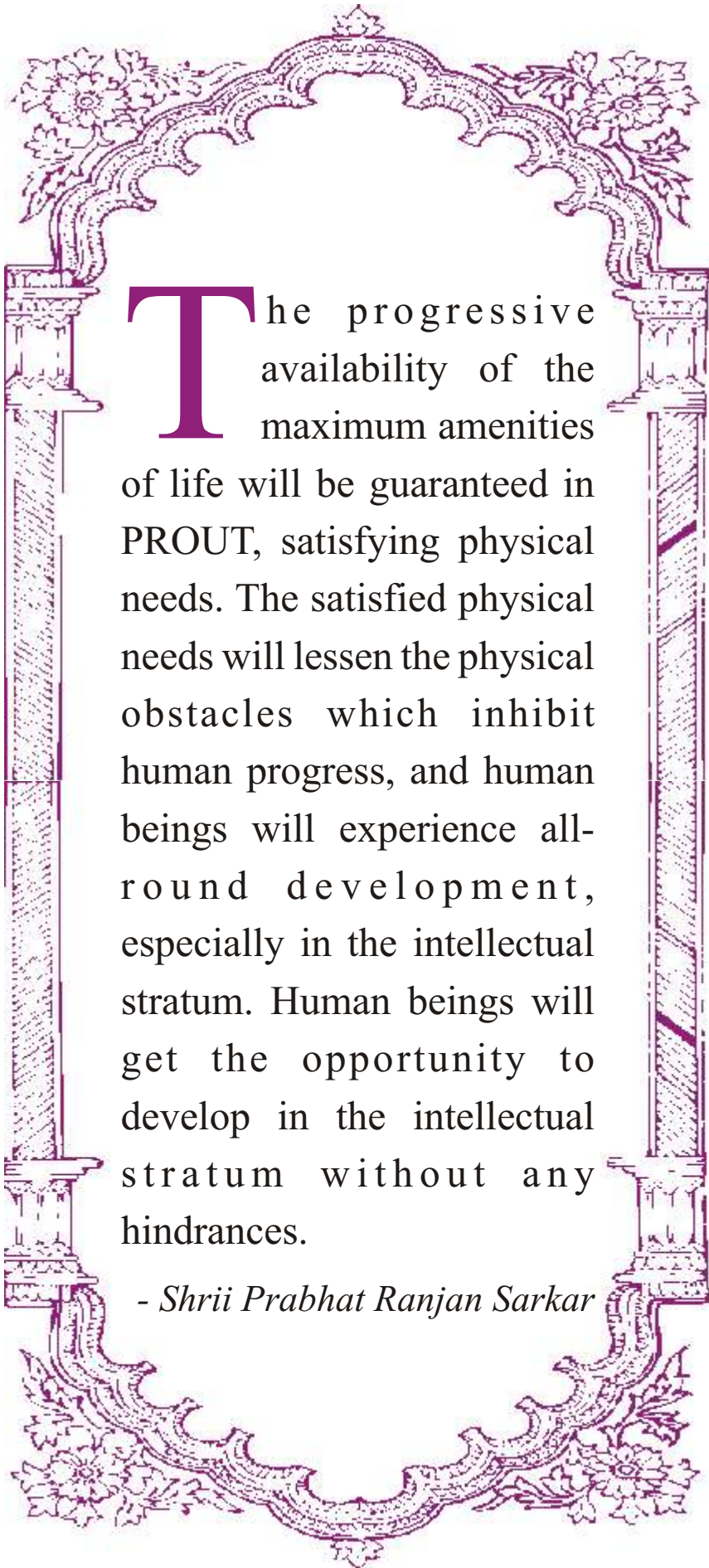
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Fundamental Principles :

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.



The progressive availability of the maximum amenities of life will be guaranteed in PROUT, satisfying physical needs. The satisfied physical needs will lessen the physical obstacles which inhibit human progress, and human beings will experience all-round development, especially in the intellectual stratum. Human beings will get the opportunity to develop in the intellectual stratum without any hindrances.

- Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

From the **Editor's Desk**

Patents vs Patients

The recent Supreme Court of India judgment that dismissed the patent application of Swiss Pharma major, Novartis, leaders in cancer medicine, has brought cheers to many not only in India but in far corners of the world. The Supreme Court has dismissed the application, saying the new version was only slightly different from the old one. The landmark ruling sets a precedent covering patents on all existing drugs in India. India's \$26bn generic drug industry, supplies much of the cheap medicines to the developing world. The Indian companies will be making a version of this drug, which is very cheap. The Indian companies have the technology, and if a drug is off-patent then its benefit should go to the patients. History of patents goes back to 500 BC when the Greek city of Sybaris (in what is now southern Italy) ruled, "Encouragement was held out to all who should discover any new refinement in luxury, the profits arising from which were secured to the inventor by patent for the space of a year". Patents in the modern sense originated in 1474, when the Republic of Venice enacted a decree that new and inventive devices, once put into practice, had to be communicated to the Republic to obtain the right to prevent others from using them. A patent thus is a limited property right the government gives inventors in exchange for their agreement to share details of their inventions with the public. World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO, defines patent as an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem. In order to be patentable, the invention must fulfill certain conditions. Over 5.5 million goods, services and classes were specified in the estimated 3.6 million trademark applications filed worldwide in 2010, and patent applications neared the 2 million mark.

These raise ethical objections as happened in the Novartis case specifically with respect to pharmaceutical patents and the high prices for medication which enable their proprietors to charge, which poor people in the developed world, and developing world, cannot afford. Critics also question the rationale that exclusive patent rights and the resulting high prices are required for pharmaceutical companies to recoup the large investments needed for research and development. A recent study concluded that marketing expenditures for new drugs often doubled the amount that was allocated for research and development. Other critics claim that patents reward and abet misplaced pharmaceutical R&D priorities, which they describe as being directed to creating incremental improved treatments for diseases prevalent in wealthy countries and away from diseases that cause devastation in the developing world. 'Doctor Without Borders', an international medical humanitarian organisation, warns that victory for pharmaceutical companies would deny important medicines for millions of poor people around the world. Many of the drugs used to treat HIV and AIDS, are copied in India but that does not guarantee these cheaper drugs are always available where they are needed.

Alternatives have been discussed to address the issue of financial incentives to replace patents, mostly, some form of direct or indirect government funding. For example Prize Money from a "prize fund" sponsored by government. Another is to remove the issue of financing development from the private sphere altogether, and to cover the costs with direct government funding. In fact as per PROUT all research including medical that go to provide human guarantees should not be in secret private hands but be in the public domain with Government. PROUT therefore wholeheartedly supports the Supreme Court judgment.



Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

The fine article on Netaji (January 2013) makes clear that whatever Subhash Chandra Bose did as a political leader, he did out of love for mother India. But if his love for India was so great, why then did he turn away from the cause of Indian liberation and toward attaining his spiritual liberation? In the answer to this question lies even deeper reason to admire Bose's greatness. Subhash had to overcome an immense disappointment. But for the fortunes of war, Subhash could have become the leader of India, the world's largest democracy. Though the masses were with him, events in the war went against him. To attain Indian independence, Bose made common cause with the Japanese. When Japan was defeated, Subhash's credibility was lost. And elements in the Congress Party leadership were ready to conspire with the British against him in his weakened position. His dream to help build India as a free and great nation could not move forward. To continue as a political leader would have been futile. But rather than letting this disappointment turn his life into a bitter failure, Subhash went on to achieve even greater victory — the liberation of the human soul. Subhash had reached a dead end in his role as Netaji. So he turned from the charismatic hero that millions would die for to the life of a solitary Tantrika, bringing his total determination to the greatest challenge in human existence. The example of Subash's life was not diminished by this choice, but only given greater glory. How many of us have faced deep disappointment; how many have dedicated themselves to a noble ideal then found the way forward blocked? How many of us in defeat can again stand and find the spiritedness to reach even higher?

Ravi Logan, Eugene Oregon, USA by email

Netaji's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff feels that her father is still loved and regarded in the Indian subcontinent. In a recent interview she said "I can understand this from the people who came in touch with him. But to think that young people who were born much after his time and only knew him through stories should love and respect him and be so passionate about him today is so overwhelming". She asserts "I think we should all remember his life as death is something uninteresting". — Eds

SOCIO ECONOMIC GROUPIFICATIONS

The formation of self sufficient economic groupifications as advocated by PROUT appears to be the only solution that can free mankind from the clutches of capitalistic economy and the social, economic and political bondages attached to it. Shrii Sarkar shows the way, it's time leaders around the world who care for their people, seriously consider adopting PROUT economics. But at the same time people have to elevate themselves with spiritual practices.

Archana Sethi, Bokaro

HUGO CHÁVEZ

Dada Maheshvarananda's legacy of Hugo Chávez was really heartwarming. Here was a true leader with genuine love for his people. Unfortunately they are few and far between as political events in Venezuela after his death show. Already deep differences have surfaced on how his legacy is to be carried forward. One hopes that people will be watchful and thwart these destabilizing forces.

Roy Theresa, by email

ROMANI GYPSIES

It was distressing to read the article on the Romani Gypsies and their contin-

uing exploitation. I have recently become a subscriber and look forward to my copy of PROUT Journal every month containing well researched and thought provoking articles.

Latika Chakrabarty, NaviMumbai
FDI RETAIL

Mahesh Prasad has struck the nail on the head when he says that any attempt to tamper with centuries old rural urban balance is fraught with dangers to the agricultural based economy in India. We do not need giant foreign corporations to come and upset small farmer's lives. The cartoons accurately convey the message.

Siddharth Puri, Nashik

PEOPLE'S HEALTH MOVEMENT

A very fine movement indeed, when people get together and unite for common social cause of public health for the poor and neglected. Bravo Dr. Punyabrata Gun for telling us this story.

Koeli Saha, Howrah

ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

Hirak Nag's ideas are truly remarkable and revolutionary. Why can't our political leaders take an oath that they are responsible to create conditions in their constituencies to ensure that people should get two square meals a day?

Narain Singh, Almora



Articles / Suggestions Invited

We invite your articles, comments, letters, wit & humour materials etc. on any aspect of human life including Spiritual, Socio-economic, Political, Cultural, Ideological, Educational and local self government. Clips, photographs and cartoons are also welcome.

Please send them at the following address :

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Horse That Wanted More Beauty

A cosmic god had a horse. The horse was beautiful and also it had many good qualities. But it wanted to be more perfect in every way. It especially wanted to become beauty unparalleled.

One day the horse said to the cosmic god, "O Lord, you have given me beauty. You have given me other good qualities. I am so grateful to you. But how I wish you could make me more beautiful. I would be extremely, extremely grateful if you could make me more beautiful".

The cosmic god said, "I am more than ready to make you more beautiful. Tell me in what way you want to be changed". The horse said, "It seems to me that I am not well proportioned. My neck is too short. If you can make my neck a little longer, my upper body will be infinitely more beautiful. And if you can make my legs much longer and thinner, then I will look infinitely more beautiful in my lower body".

The cosmic god said, "Amen!" Then immediately he made a camel appear in place of the horse. The horse was so disheartened that it started to cry, "O Lord, I wanted to become more beautiful. In what way is this kind of outer form more beautiful?" The cosmic god said, "This is exactly what you asked for. You have become a camel." The horse cried, "Oh no, I do not want to become a camel I wish to remain a horse. As a horse, everybody appreciated my good qualities. Nobody will appreciate me as a camel."

The cosmic god said, "Never try to achieve or receive more than I have given you. If you want to lead a life according to your desire then at every moment you will want more and more. But you have no idea what the outcome will be. If you cry for a longer neck and legs, this is what will happen. Each thing in my creation has its own good qualities. The camel is not as beautiful as you are, but it carries heavy loads and has a tremendous sense of responsibility."





Humanity's journey on the path of civilization started only 15,000 years ago. The four major races are the Austrics, Aryans, Mongolians and Negroids.



Geology and Human Civilization

SHRI PRABHAT RANJAN SARKAR

About 8000 million years ago, there was no solid structure in the world and the earth was a glowing gas. The land mass was formed only about 2330 million years ago. Eventually Gondwanaland was created. At that time, the middle portion of the earth was composed of the liquid factor. In those days there was no Arabian Sea, no Bay of Bengal and none of the islands presently there, no Indonesia and no Australia. There was no North India, no Tibet and no Himalayas. There was only one contiguous land mass from what is now the eastern portion of Africa, including South India and Malaysia, up to Australia. This land – the oldest land

mass of the world – consisted mainly of a long island in an archipelago. What is now Canada and Argentina also existed at that time. This land – which covered what is presently the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, the Indonesian Archipelago, the Deccan plateau, South East Asia and Oceania – has been named Gondwana land by geologists because the Gond people of the Austric race lived in the central portion, although this portion was not the oldest part of the land. Even today the descendants of the Gond people still live in the Chattisgarhi area. Rárh – the oldest part of this Gondwanaland that has remained above the sea – was the birth place of human beings. The hills of Anandanagar in Rárh are also at least 300 million years old. At that time there was no Himalayas.

Ancient Earthquake

Then at least 30 million years ago, a plutonic earthquake occurred. The land in the portions where the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are now was submerged under the sea and the present North India emerged. In the same earthquake, those parts which were previously hills became islands in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea after the earthquake. In this way a group of 503 oceanic islands, comprising Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines islands, was also formed. All this, including the emergence of the Himalayas, took place about 30 million years ago. The Himalayas are therefore approximately 30 million years old, but Gondwana land and Rárh are much older than that. The fossils of ocean creatures can be found in the Shivalik ranges. This is proof that at one time the Himalayan ranges were under water. The Indo-Gangetic plains were formed from the alluvial deposits of the Himalayas. The Sahara desert and the Thar Desert of Sind and Rajasthan were previously under the sea, thus their sand dunes are of marine origin. These dunes are proof that these regions were under the oceans at one time.

Geology of Rárh

There are five types of rock – hard rock, metallic rock, metamorphosed rock, igneous rock and sedimentary rock. The old hard rock of that time has now become dead rock. Examples of this rock are found around Ananda Nagar and Marapahari. Mara means “dead” and Pahari means “hill,” so Marapahari means dead hill. Marapahari is now colloquially called Marafari and officially called

Bokaro Steel City. How can dead rock be identified? If one takes dead rock in the hand and crushes it, it will become dust. There are three types of volcanic eruptions – volcanic, plutonic and tertiary. In a volcanic earthquake, a great deal of old, hard rock comes to the surface. Whatever metal we find is associated with this old hard rock. Wherever this old hard rock is found, petroleum will not be found. Petroleum and mineral oil can only be found where there is sedimentary rock, such as in the Sargasso Sea. In the past, the rivers which merged into the Sargasso Sea formed a trough in the sea bed due to the pressure of the opposing currents. In this trough, the dead bodies of many large animals collected, and over the course of time they decomposed to form mineral oil.

In Bankura and Purulia, we find iron, gold, tungsten, manganese and mercuric sulphide in old hard rock. In western Rárh there is less chance of finding petroleum. Petroleum can also be recovered from certain types of river valleys. Where the river bed

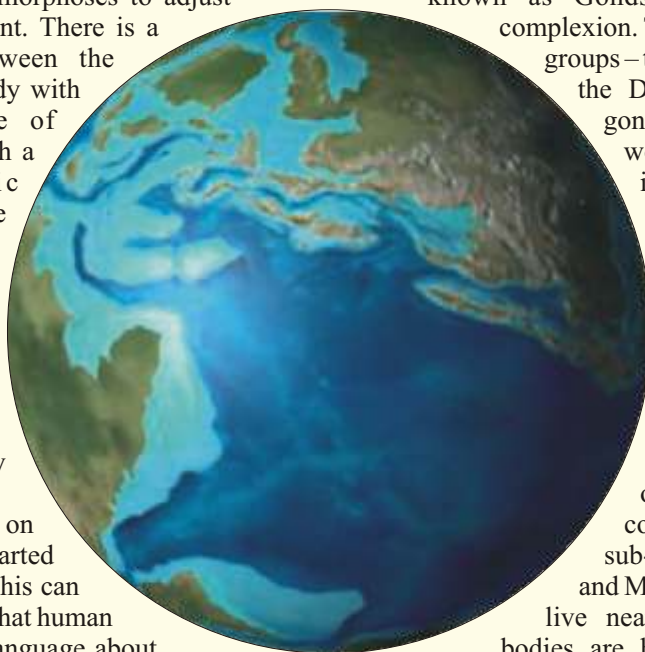


is broad there is a chance of finding petroleum. Up to Durgapur the river-bed of the Damodar River is not so broad, so petroleum will not be found. Dam means “energy” and udar means “belly;” thus the Damodar River means “the river which is carrying energy in its belly.” From Golsi between Burdwan and Durgapur, and down river to the Bay of Bengal, petroleum can be found in Hooghly, 24 Parganas, Nadia and Midnapur. Although the soil of the eastern portion of Burdwan is not as old as that of western Rárh, petroleum can be found there. Petroleum can also be found in Khulna and Barisal in Bangladesh and in some portions of Tripura. Offshore, off Midnapur district in Contai subdivision, petroleum can also be found. In geological and archaeological terms, western Rárh is similar to Kaoshal and eastern Rárh is similar to Utkal. (Kaoshal and Utkal are both parts of Orissa.) Thus, in geo-historical terms, Rárh is a land with a great deal of antiquity.

The Beginning of Human Civilization

According to geology, there have been several ages on this planet. These ages include the Pleistocene, Pliocene, Miocene, Oligocene, Eocene, Paleocene, Cretaceous, etc. The Pleistocene age is going on now. Each age has its distinctive identity, flora and fauna and leaves a mark. There have also been geological ages on other planets and stars. With the passage of time, physical changes take place according to the changes in time, space and person, and to adjust with these changes, psychic metamorphoses takes place. According to the development of the psychic structures of human beings, changes occur in the realm of thought and ideas. More development takes place in the psychic sphere than in the physical sphere, and physical structures undergo metamorphoses to adjust with psychic development. There is a marked difference between the male and the female body with regard to the degree of complexity. On this earth a tremendous psychic change took place 1,000,000 years ago. While human beings evolved about one million years ago, the present humans originated only 100,000 years ago, and a long time passed before they became civilized.

Humanity's journey on the path of civilization started only 15,000 years ago. This can be inferred from the fact that human beings began evolving language about this time. The oldest part of the Vedas belongs to this period. There is a close similarity between the language used in the oldest part of the Vedas and the language of the people living 15,000 years ago. The Vedic civilization is the oldest civilization in the world. A full-fledged civilization, with the four symbols of advancement – agriculture, the wheel, dress and script – started only about 7000 years ago. Human beings had grasped the rudimentals of these four inventions by this time. Pictorial letters were invented less than 7000 years ago, and philosophy was discovered about 4000 years ago. The first philosopher was Maharshi Kapil, who will be remembered and respected for all time. Cardinal human principles change little from age to age, but social values may change dramatically to keep pace with the dominant social psychology.



The Four Races

The four major races are the Austrians, Aryans, Mongolians and Negroids. The differences among these races and sub-races can be easily discerned by two factors: the skull index and the nose index. The skull index is the distance from nose point to nose point around the skull, touching the hollow of the ears; and the nose index is the distance between the base of the nose and the tip of the nose. For example, the Aryans have a small nose index and a big skull index. Negroids have a big nose index, an ordinary skull index and curly hair. Their curly hair is due to a slightly larger than normal percentage of mercury in the fat at the root of the hair.

1) Austrians. The Austrians were the original inhabitants of Gondwana land. They were tribals known as Gonds – tall, and of black complexion. They were divided into two groups – the Raj gonds or leaders and the Dhruva gonds or ordinary gonds. The derivation of the word “Austrian” is *astra* plus *ikon*, meaning those who carried weapons (*astra*). The names Australia and Austria come from the word Austrian. The Austrians have medium-sized bodies, pointed noses and mud-black coloured skins.

2) Aryans. The Aryan or Caucasian race is comprised of three distinct sub-races: the Nordics, Alpines and Mediterraneans. The Nordics live near the North Pole. Their bodies are big, their skin is reddish white, their eyes are brown-coloured like those of cats and their hair is golden. They inhabit Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Finland and northern Russia. The Alpines have medium-sized bodies, blue hair, blue eyes and milky white skin colour. They inhabit Germany, France, Western Europe and parts of Asia. The Mediterraneans have black hair and black eyes. They inhabit South Caucasia, Spain, Portugal and Italy. Jammu people are from the Mediterranean stock.

3) Mongolians. The Mongolians have five distinct sub-races: Nipponese (Japanese), Chinese, Malay, Indo-Burmese and Indo-Tibetans. The Nipponese have big faces, flat noses and big bodies. The Chinese have flat noses and slanting eyes. They are short in stature with muscular bodies. Like all Mongolian sub-races, their skin is a yellowish colour

and they have little hair on their bodies. The Malays, who inhabit Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, have thin figures, small bodies and flat noses. The Filipinos have small faces. The Indonesian, Thai and Malay languages are of Samskrta origin. The Indo-Burmese people who have flat noses and comparatively big bodies, inhabit an area covering Tripura, Manipur, Mithai, Mizoram, Burma, Thailand and Assam. The Indo-Tibetan people inhabit an area which includes Tibet, Ladakh, Kinnaur, Nepal, Garo, Tharu, Gurung, Newari, Sherpa, Bhutia, Lepcha, Khasia and North Bengal. Their figures are like the Aryans. They have flat noses, are good looking and their language is a mixture of Samskrta and Tibetan. They frequently use nasal sounds when speaking, and their script is Tangada. In Indo-Tibetan phonetics, the sound "Ra" is sparsely used. Among the Indo-Tibetans, the males have thin beards and mustaches and the females have flat breasts. The girls are very laborious: they can do physical work continuously for long periods. Their lymphatic glands are well-developed, and they have a lot of stamina which enables them to ascend and descend hilly tracts.

4) Negroids. The Negroids have three distinct sub-races: the general Negroids, who are five and half to six feet tall, the Zulus, who are six feet or more in height, and the Pygmies, who are less than five feet tall. Steps should be taken to protect the Zulus and the Pygmies.

Blended Races

There has been much blending and mixing amongst the people of the different races and sub-races. Some examples of blended races in India include the Bengalees, who are a mixture of the Austric, Mongolian and Negroid races, the South Indian Austrico-Negroids or Dravidians, and the people of Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. Those who have fair complexions amongst the Bengalees have Aryan blood. In Rárh there is less Mongolian blood, and in the north east there is more Mongolian blood. Although the Bengalees are of Austrico-Mongolian-Negroid stock, the Mongolian influence diminishes as one moves south-west, and increases to the north east. Although the people of Mithila are of Austrico-Mongolo-Negroid origin, their structure becomes



broad where there is an excessive influence of the Mongolian race. In Bengal the body size becomes smaller as we move towards the east, but towards the west the body size increases and the people are taller. If an imaginary line is drawn connecting Arambagh, Burdwan, Kishanganj and Angara, it will be found that people living along this line are taller in size. Beyond the River Sone, the body size again becomes bigger and the size of the cattle is also larger. In Gaya and

Aurangabad people are smaller compared to the people of Bhojpur who are bigger in size. The cattle of this region also follow the same pattern: the local Zebras of this region are known as Pattni-gai (a type of cow) and are of ordinary size. They are taller than Indian Zebras but shorter than western cows.

Another blended race is located in South India. South Indian Brahmins have fair complexions as they originally came from the north. The people of Madras, who are dark in colour, are part of the Austrico-Negroid sub-race. South Indian Brahmins are called Ayyars and Ayangars; Ayyars are Shaevas and Ayangars are Vaesnavas. A third example of racial blending is amongst the people of Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. They are a mixed race of the Mediterranean sub-race and the Austric race. Their colour is blackish. Once Sirmaur covered an area from Kumaon to Simla. The Rajputs migrated there (to Sind) from Rajasthan during the reign of Aurangzeb. In Kinnaur the skin colour of the people is yellowish or brown and their noses are flat; the people are as attractive as angels. The derivation of the word Kinnaur is kin plus narsh meaning, "Are they human or angels?" As the people were very attractive, the place where they settled was called Kinnaur. Similarly, the land of Tibet is known as Kim Puruśa Varsa. There the males have scant facial hair. They also wear pigtailed, so it is difficult to distinguish between males and females. India has two groups of Mediterranean Caucasians, the Cytheo-Mediterraneans or the Gujuratis who have triangular faces and the pro-Cytheo-Mediterraneans or the Marathiis. They descended from the Shakas, Huns, Kushanas and Yucins. They came in the second phase of the Buddhist era during Kaniśka.

The Semitic Race

The Semitic race is an important blended race.

The Semitic race is a blending of Central Mongolians, Alpines, Mediterraneans and Negroids. This blending took place 15,000 years ago and is known as the Semitic race of today. This race is characterized by its perseverance, intellectual orientation and high degree of tenacity. Their original abode was the central and southern portions of West Asia (now commonly known as the Middle East), excluding Persia.

The original Semitic tongue was bifurcated into northern and southern languages about 1500 years ago. The metamorphosed southern group is Arabic and the metamorphosed form of the northern group is Hebrew. People of the northern group have fair complexions but they are a bit less fair than the Mediterraneans, and the people of the southern group have a darkish brown tinge in their complexions. Both the old Hebrew and Arabic languages are written from right to left, and both are of course related as is obvious by the following word comparison: Old Hebrew: Joseph, Jacob, Solomon, Adam, Jesus, Moses, Socrates, Mary, Alpha, Alexandria and Palestine. Arabic: Yusef, Yacub, Sulomon; Ádam, Ísa, Musa, Sukrát, Miriam, Alif, Sikandria and Filistan.

Both the Hebrew and Arabic sub-races follow the system of circumcision, which is an ancient practice of the Semitic people irrespective of caste, creed or nationality. In ancient times both the sub-races had a network of lanes branching from the main road of the town, and the people were fond of restaurants or eating houses. Islam, Judaism and Christianity are all Semitic religions and have fixed days of worship – Friday, Saturday and Sunday respectively. In Samskrta, Semitic is called “samiti.”

Language

In Tibetan, Ladakhi, Kinnauri and Pahari-Punjabi, the verb is used less and the gerund or verbal adjective is used more. For example, “Ram is going,” or, “Ram is in a moving stage” (Ram chaludasa). In Samskrta and the language spoken by the Indo-Tibetans, nasal sounds (anusvara) are common. Bengali letters and tadbhava letters are very similar. There are Indo-Tibetan influences on the Bengali language. Kash means “to oppress.” Those who give pain, who oppress, are kash. Kash Rajputs oppressed the indigenous population. In Mundari, dikka also means to oppress or give pain. So outsiders are called Dikku. Kash plus meru equals Kashmir. From Kashmir carpenters went to Himachal. So they are called kashmeru (or suradhar in Bengali). The word Arya has come

from the root verb “R” plus suffix “yat” meaning “double march” or “moving speedily.”

Shiva was Indo-Tibetan. He had three wives – Parvati, Ganga and Kali. Gauri Parvati was Aryan and had a reddish white complexion (Gaur varna), Ganga was Mongolian and had a pale complexion, and Kali was Negroid. Shiva’s mode of transportation was the yak. Polyandry is prevalent in Kinnaur, Laddakh and Tibet. The Drupad Kingdom was in Kinnaur or Tibet: Draupadi, the wife of the five Pandavas, came from here. Bengalees partially follow the matrilineal system, and in Bengal more importance is given to women compared with other parts of India.

About 900,000 to one million years ago, the top of the Dimdiha Hill, near Anandanagar, was blown off by a volcanic eruption. The debris fell within a radius of about two miles, killing all of the people and animals living there. Due to the abrupt change in temperature, they were fossilized. Uneducated people called this explosion the work of the goddess Candi. This kind of volcanic eruption is called “jvala-mukhi” in Samskrta. Spiritual practice (sádhana) was first started by the Mediterranean Caucasians and the Indo-Tibetans. Later on, it was learnt by the Mongolians and the Alpine Caucasians, and still later by the Nordic Caucasians. Ananda Marga was the first to teach sádhana amongst the Negroids. The Rg Veda cult was started by the Aryans, but the practice of sádhana originated in India. The unity in diversity amongst all the races and sub-races of the human society is the pinnacled entity Parama Purusa. Parama Purusa is the Absolute, the Supreme, the non-attributional Entity of all the attributional entities, the Father of all fathers.



PBI Demands Separate Vidarbha state



✱ **Acarya Santosananda Avadhuta**

Since the dawn of history political governance has not been able to solve the problems of the people at large. It has been unfair and ineffective. Laws were made that were unjust and caused untold suffering to humanity. In 900 BC in the city state of Athens a group of aristocrats enacted laws that looked after their interests in the main. Human slavery was an offshoot of those times.

The Romans of 500 BC were no different nor were later day kings and monarchs who proclaimed a god given right to rule. Then came the English Parliament of 1295 AD when the parliamentarians were rich nobles with whom the king was forced to share the spoils of power. Since then the system of governance now called democracy is being followed till this day – the rule of the rich and influential over the poor and suffering, gaining legitimacy with universal franchise. Barring few, most countries follow this form of governance in one way or

PBI was established within an ideological framework with a system of governance based on cardinal human values and principles of a new economic order that guarantees basic minimum human needs.

Gathering at the co



the other. This system grants political freedom but denies economic freedom to the mass of people – for their basic needs and human dignity.

It was in this backdrop in 1968 the renowned philosopher, Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar founded the Proutist Bloc India (PBI) to establish a new political consciousness within an ideological framework with a system of governance in place based on cardinal human values and principles of a new

why people are suffering so much in an environment of corruption, exploitation and injustice. PBI was formed to undo just that. It is a political party registered with the Election Commission of India with a difference whose battle cry, “PROUT for suffering Humanity” resounds from the leaders and workers of high morality whose sole aim is to bring solace to the exploited people. PROUT stands for a balanced and decentralized economy which will help eradicate unemployment, poverty



economic order that guarantees basic minimum needs and lifts people out of ignorance and plight, possible only by moral leadership. Today in India we have a surfeit of political parties with immoral leaders whose sole aim is to garner votes and capture power while divisive, sectarian and communal hatred raise their heads and the wily politicians, the greedy businessmen and the arrogant bureaucrats make life hell for the common man. This is precisely the reason

and injustice, within the framework of a socio-economic ideology to establish an egalitarian society that guarantees basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, education, health care aided by adequate purchasing power by way of wages in consonance with human dignity derived from the principle that ‘God is the sole creator of the universe and we living beings are all His children’.

Since its inception in 1968, PBI has been quietly doing its work in bringing those





concepts to the notice of the people and educating them about Proutistic values. This is an on-going process and the PBI has been holding national, state and district level conventions to give further impetus to this socio-economic revolutionary movement. And on April 13 and 14, 2013 the national convention was held in Hindi Bhavan, Vishnu Dighambar Marg, New Delhi. Around 300 Proutists from all over India actively participated in the convention.

The morning session of April 13, began by lighting of the auspicious lamp and garlanding the portrait of Prout's founder Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar.

Thereafter the convention began with national chairman, Subhas Chand Tyagi giving a call to all Indians to join PBI and strengthen its efforts to create polarisation between moral and immoral forces. The PBI is striving hard to become a party having politicians of high moral character so that the



On the 15th there was a day long Dharna at Jantar Mantar to focus the attention of the people on farmers' suicides in Vidarbha and Odisha. Madhukar Nistane of Vidarbha state unit and Kedar Nath Sahu of Odisha state unit submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister and Home Minister, on behalf of the people of their states to highlight the farmer's plight. PBI activists from Vidarbha also staged an impressive play highlighting the tragic event of farmers' suicide.

ominous downslide of the immoral politics is checked. Y.B. Singh, the General Secretary of Universal Proutist Labour Federation, exhorted the audience to fulfill the dream of Prout's founder by establishing a Proutist government in the country.

Ganesh Bhat, Dr. S.D. Dhotre, Dhanpat Rai, Shiv Narayan, Rajshrii, Kedar Nath Sahu and R.P. Nirala also thrilled the audience by their informative and inspiring speeches. All were unanimous in their resolve that a moralist



Elections for the new national committee were held and following office bearers declared:

Subhas Chand Tyagi	Chairman
Dr.S.D.Dhotre	Vice-chairman
Arjun Narayan Chaudhary	Vice-chairman
Baljit Aditya	Vice-chairman
Janmeji Rao	Vice-chairman
Naiim Khan	Vice-chairman
Rajesh Singh	General Secretary
Pranav Koul	Publication Secretary
Acarya Santosananda Avadhuta	Public Relations Secretary
Kanhu Charan Behura	Organising Secretary
Anandam	Treasurer
Ganesh Bhat	Training Secretary
Anusuya Mahapatra	Head, Women's Wing
Rajiv Singh	Office Secretary

government of Proutists is the need of the hour. A corrupt government without moral ideals cannot implement PROUT which is the cry of suffering humanity. Rajesh Singh, the national general secretary of the Party, compered the entire programme. Octogenarian Jagannath Lenka (Odisha), septugenatian Dr. S.D. Dhotre , Arjun Narayan Chaudhary and vibrant Vidarbha leader Madhukar Nistane were felicitated on the occasion for their precious contribution towards Proutist movement launched by PBI.

Ravi Singh, Dhanpat Rai, Kedar Nath Sahu, B.D. Singh were elected members of the national committee,

besides others. Dr. S.D. Dhotre, Arjun Narayan Chaudhary, Baljit Aditya, Janmeji Rao and Naiim Khan will look after the affairs of West, East North, South and Central India respectively. Basavraj was appointed convener of the Karnataka state committee. Further it was resolved that PBI would contest at least one Lok Sabha seat from Bihar, two from Odisha and six Vidhan sabha seats from Odisha and one from Haryana.

As in a Proutist government, poverty line is an anathema, in its economic resolution at the convention, PBI declared that minimum requirements necessary for a life of human dignity would be guaranteed to one and all. Also a ceiling on the accumulation of individual wealth would be fixed in keeping with Proutistic principles.

Dharana at Jantar Mantar

The daylong dharna at Jantar Mantar on April 15 was well received. The memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister and Home Minister also mentioned that despite Prime Minister's Office writing to Odisha Government to take action on PBI memorandum submitted during the dharna at Jantar Mantar last year (letter no. 6826 dated July 5, 2012), State Government has taken no action and continues to sit over such genuine problems of the people. This year's memorandum highlighted how farmers, unable to repay loans, commit suicide in a state of terrible desperation. It also demanded that: 1) CBI enquiry be ordered in the recent land scandal amounting to thousands of crores of rupees involving top brass in politics and bureaucracy; 2) Farmers should be empowered to fix the price of their produce; 3) 100% employment be guaranteed to the local population in the industries setup in their areas; 4) Raw materials and minerals must not be sent out of their areas; 5) Agro and agrico industries be set up at the source of raw materials and 6) Income from industry and business be invested locally and utilised for the welfare and benefit of the resident population.

With inputs and images by Rajesh and Divyendu



OVERVIEW OF MEMORANDUM TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA FOR CREATION OF SEPARATE VIDARBHA STATE

*Submitted on April 15, 2013 by
Dr. Sahebrao Dhotre Vice Chairman PBI, National committee
Madhukar Nistane, Organizer PBI, Vidarbha Samaj*

Since long the people of Vidarbha have been demanding a separate state for themselves out of Maharashtra. In contemporary Indian history such demands are nothing new and have been met on the political level. Recent examples are Uttarakhand and Jharkhand separated from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar respectively, but the demand for separate Vidarbha state which goes back before Independence to the 1920 Congress Committee meeting in Nagpur has not been met. Though this is a legitimate demand reflecting the aspirations of the people of the region apparently for some unknown political considerations the national leaders and state leaders of Maharashtra turn a deaf ear towards the poor people of the region.

When one traces the history of the movement it becomes clear that in 1928 a committee comprising Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel and Patabhi Sitaramaia also demanded a separate Vidarbha State. Even in the Assembly of the Central Provinces and Berar, a separate Vidarbha State was proposed as it was considered logical and economically viable as affirmed by Justice S.K. Dar. Raja Punar Nirman Committee felt that Vidarbha State can flourish and progress well. After Independence during 1951 elections this was an important point in the Congress Party's manifesto. Even the Bhartiya Janata Party as recently as 1995, made this an election pledge. Balasaheb Thakare, the head of Shiva Sena had declared that within two years they would focus on maximum development for Vidarbha otherwise he himself would spearhead the demand for separate Vidarbha. All these turned out to be mere election promises and though later many political dignitaries continued with the demand for a separate Vidarbha State, the Government of India continues to do nothing.

Following points highlight the areas of discrimination between Vidarbha Region and West Maharashtra. To begin with geographically it makes little sense for Vidarbha to be part of Maharashtra. This has perpetuated a regional imbalance ever since Independence. From the centre of Vidarbha region Maharashtra's capital Mumbai is 900 km away, whereas Bhopal the capital of Madhya Pradesh is 400 km, Hyderabad the capital of Andhra Pradesh is 350 km and Raipur the capital of Chhattisgarh is 300 km away. So naturally, developmental resources get garnered by Western Maharashtra - regions which are closer to Mumbai as seen below

- 1) In Western Maharashtra lot of funds are regularly earmarked for irrigation, whereas in Vidarbha 80% of land depends on rain, has only 9% irrigated land. Even funds meant for Vidarbha were siphoned off for Western Maharashtra over the years as a result Western Maharashtra has more irrigated land, while in Vidarbha 10 Lakhs, 76 thousand 790 hectares of land remains dry.
- 2) Even in the provision of Irrigation Pumps there is a shortfall of 295 crores rupees. This is around 60 % of the funds that Western Maharashtra gets.
- 3) Vidarbha farmers as compared to their brethren in Western Maharashtra are poor and cannot afford costly chemical fertilizers which they depend on.
- 4) For Electricity too there is discrimination. Vidarbha farmers get only 10.44% out of the total electricity actually earmarked for Vidarbha.
- 5) As a result Vidarbha farmers get a yield of Rs 25 thousand Rupees for 5 Acres of land but Western Maharashtra for the same area gets yield of 5 lakhs of Rupees.
- 6) Short fall and loss to cotton producers of Vidarbha is Rupees two thousand crores but onion producers of West Maharashtra earn Rs.25000/- per acre.
- 7) In Vidarbha 600 crores of Rupees worth of road work remains to be done but in Western Maharashtra 96% of road work is completed.
- 8) Also due to financial neglect forests, land, and animals of Vidarbha are vanishing day by day. This is not happening in Western Maharashtra.
- 9) Vidarbha's natural resources viz. Coal, Managanese, Dolomite, Cement, Raw Cotton etc. goes out of the region to factories in Western Maharashtra but Vidarbha gets nothing in return from Western Maharashtra.
- 10) Also Vidarbha does not have factories for the crops it produces. All cotton mills are concentrated in Western Maharashtra.
- 11) Projects like Mihan Cargo Hub that would give jobs to lakhs of people out of the one crore unemployed are yet to take off.
- 12) Vidarbha region grossly lacks adequate medical facilities and hospitals to treat the poor people.
- 13) Most of the premier higher educational institutions are located in Western Maharashtra as a result Vidarbha lags behind in public service competitive examinations.
- 14) Artists and sports persons of Vidarbha region lack facilities and incentives compared to those in Western Maharashtra.

As a result what one sees is that within the state of Maharashtra Vidarbha region has been neglected over the years by the politically and economically stronger Western Maharashtra. Vidarbha being far from the power centre of Mumbai continues to remain poor and backward with over one crore of people unemployed while Western Maharashtra progresses materially by leaps and bounds. On the other hand, in Vidarbha where irrigation facilities are very poor compared to Western Maharashtra, whose economy entirely depends on main crops viz. Cotton, Orange, Soyabean, Jwar and Bajra, thousands of farmers have been committing suicide because they were unable to return their bank loans due to drought and other natural calamities. While this sad state of affairs has been publicly debated by senior leaders and thinkers nothing seems to be done.

The pathetic neglect for the genuine aspirations and feelings of the people of Vidarbha is blatantly unfair. Unless Vidarbha State is separated from the rest of Maharashtra, this state of affairs would continue and Vidarbha will remain poor and backward. If Uttarakhand and Jharkhand can get separate states for their people for same reasons, and the demand for Telangana state is being considered actively, why should Vidarbha not be considered similarly? A separate state should be created at the earliest.

Refugees and Statelessness

A worldwide Phenomenon



Delegates signing the 1951 Convention on Refugees

✶ Arun Prakash

People have fled persecution from the moment in earliest history when they began forming communities. Images of refugees caused due to famine and hunger and political strife are stark and shocking. Tens of thousands of people carrying the burden of hunger trudge long distances away from famine affected areas or flee terror and murder, inflicted by their own government, because of their ethnic background. Men, women and children, bundled in blankets and carrying whatever possessions they could fit into bags or, if they were lucky, broken down carts and rusting tractors, staggered into neighbouring countries in search of

safety. Nowadays these images are commonplace in color and transmitted live into every TV-owning household around the world from 1960 onwards and more recently from the wars following the breakup of Yugoslavia of the early 1990s from Kosovo and the Balkan region, and now from countries spread across the African continent.

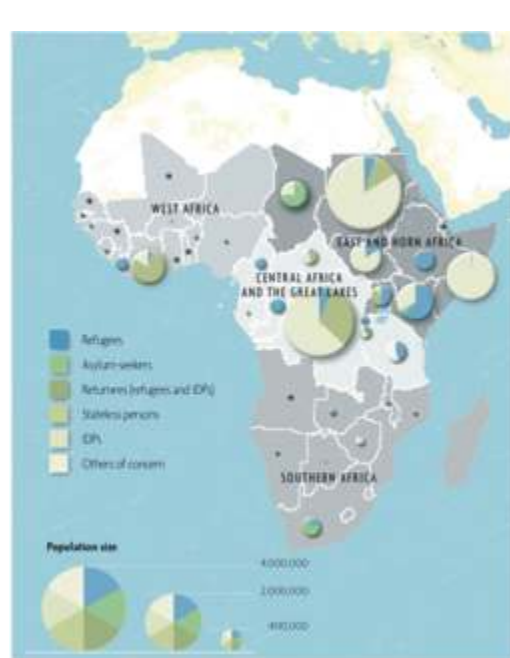
World Refugee Day

On 4 December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly vide Resolution 55/76 decided that, from 2001 - the year that marked the 50th anniversary of the '1951 Convention relating to Status of Refugees' every June 20 would be observed as 'The World Refugee Day'. Article 1a (2) of the legal protocol of the 1951 Convention defines, "A refugee is a person with

Those simple and unwary people who placed their faith and trust in them and were misguided, may become uprooted from their ancestral homes and be forced to live a life of shame and disgrace.

As refugees, they have to move for shelter from place to place like street dogs. For their precarious existence, for the ignoble deaths of those millions of wretched people, only a handful of people – demons in human form – are really responsible.

-Shrii PR Sarkar



a “well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion...” It also lays their rights and the legal obligations of states. In 1951 it was restricted to Europe where World War II had long since ended, but hundreds of thousands of refugees still wandered aimlessly across the European continent or squatted in makeshift camps. The international community had, on several occasions earlier in the century, established refugee organisations and approved refugee conventions, but legal protection and assistance remained rudimentary. It was hoped the ‘refugee crisis’ could be cleared up quickly and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), was given a three-year mandate to solve the problem. Fifty years later, the treaty remains a cornerstone of protection. Delegates signing the 1951 Convention on Refugees

With the treaty’s help, UNHCR assisted an estimated 50 million people restart their lives. The global crisis outgrew parts of the original document and a 1967 Protocol to the Convention eliminated the time constraints. Issues which the original delegates, all males, never even considered such as gender-based persecution became major problems. This refugee world also became more crowded, with millions of refugees, economic migrants and other internally

displaced persons (IDP) on the move. And after 50 years of torture, persecution, violence and human rights abuse—the Convention is as important as ever for protecting those who have no other source of protection.

Bengali Refugees

June 20 has in fact been remembered by many African nations even before 2001. On this solemn occasion that falls this month it is worthwhile to recall the words of PROUT’s founder Shrii PR Sarkar of 1981 in Calcutta: “The Indian capitalists followed the example of the British. Their exploitative psychology was clearly manifest in the refugee policy. By the end of 1949 the rehabilitation problem of the refugees who came from West Pakistan had been completely solved, but the refugees who came from East Pakistan were subject to an altogether different policy. The Bengali refugee problem was kept in abeyance. Many Bengali refugees, by dint of their self-confidence, physical capabilities and hard work, still struggle for survival in Tripura, Assam, Bihar and Orissa while millions of poor and helpless refugees continue to live on the streets in the towns and cities of Bengal, wandering aimlessly in search of food and shelter”. This problem is still not fully resolved till this day and in fact has been aggravated with a continuous influx of refugees into West Bengal and Tripura, caused mainly due to religious persecution. 1971 witnessed worst human influx from Bangladesh to neighboring India. Indian government reports that around 10 million migrants took shelter in 829 refugee camps. The UN in Bangladesh estimated that around 20 million people were displaced within the country. To escape mass killing, rape and destruction, men, women and children defied many odds that took toll of untold sufferings and death. Such a colossal influx had

naturally been a huge burden on Indian economy and took India few months to give refugees logistic support in make shift refugee camps. In Eastern province of Tripura, refugees outnumbered local inhabitants. In initial period, some refugees had to take shelter in subhuman conditions in abandoned drainage pipes at Salt Lake, Calcutta.

Chronological Account Worldwide

UNHCR faced its first post-war emergency when it suddenly called to coordinate assistance activities for 203,000 Hungarians who fled the country’s October 1956 uprising. As the era of colonialism began to end in the 1960’s, conflict erupted in many parts of Africa. Until 1964, refugees from Rwanda accounted for the greater part of UNHCR’s activities in Africa. Africa’s first modern refugee crisis – took place in the late 1950s when it was asked to organize material assistance for 200,000 refugees, mostly older men, women and children who sought asylum in Tunisia and Morocco from Algeria’s war of independence against France. When clashes erupted between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in 1974, 400,000 people became homeless throughout the island. The flight of Vietnamese refugees began after the



Bengali refugees circa 1971

fall of Saigon in 1975. In spite of the dangers of unfriendly waters and piracy, tens of thousands took to the South China Sea, and by 1978 the exodus had grown to dramatic proportions. This group of 162 persons arrived on a small boat which sank a few meters from the shore. In the late 1970's, Thailand became the country of first asylum for refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. These Cambodian children at a camp in Aranyaprathet were among the tens of thousands who hurried towards Thailand, driven by famine and fear of the Khmer Rouge soldiers who were emptying the cities at gunpoint. During the 1980's, a vicious cycle of repression and violence began in countries in Central America. As terror gained ground, refugee camps multiplied. More than 300,000 people were assisted in the region, including this Guatemalan refugee in Mexico. In devastating drought, crop failure and war resulted in a massive influx of Ethiopian refugees into Sudan. Relief efforts could not keep pace with the number of new arrivals and many suffered terribly in the first weeks of the emergency. Fleeing the conflict between rebel and government forces, nearly 1.5 million Mozambicans sought safety in six neighbouring countries during the 1980's. The exodus of more than 6 million Afghans started in 1979. The assistance provided to the refugees during their long – term presence in Iran and Pakistan represented one of the heaviest burdens ever shouldered by the international community. The beginning of the 1990s was marked by war in the Persian Gulf, followed by the exodus of 1.5 million Iraqi Kurds. Thousands found themselves trapped on snow-covered peaks and many did not survive. A massive international aid effort allowed many of the displaced, including children to return home within weeks of their flight. Early 1991 saw the beginning of an influx of 250,000 Rohingya from Myanmar into Bangladesh. By late 1991, the

number of refugees and returnees in Ethiopia had risen dramatically: Nearly 750,000 people were sheltered in 7 huge camps in Hararghe region, one of the most inhospitable parts of Africa. The refugees need for wood to build shelters and prepare food represented a serious burden on this fragile environment. West Africa was not spared: More than 800,000 Liberians were uprooted in the early 1990's and 120,000 Sierra Leonean refugees had sought refuge in Liberia's upper Lofa region by mid 1995. After years of exile and a 13-month repatriation operation completed in April 1993, Cambodians were starting a new life in their homeland. UNHCR's integration package for returnees included food rations and household tools, as well as the choice between agricultural lands, a cash grant, or a plot of land building materials. In April 1994, the Rwandan genocide triggered a massive exodus into Tanzania. Within 24 hours, nearly 250,000 refugees arrived in the Ngara area. Worse followed in July 1994 when more than one million Rwandans arrived in Goma and Zaire within four days. As many as 50,000 people died of cholera. 6,000 women and children from the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica assembled in Tuzla one year after their fathers, husbands and sons had disappeared during one of the most appalling chapters of the war in the former Yugoslavia. They carried banners embroidered with the names of their loved ones. Within 3 days of the beginning of NATO's air war on March 1999, huge numbers of Kosovars began to arrive in neighbouring Albania and Macedonia. Like thousands of others, these civilians were expelled from towns, such as Pristina, on a special "refugee train" and dumped near the border crossing at Blace, Macedonia. When civil war erupted in Tajikistan in May 1992, at least 20,000 people lost their lives, half a million displaced and a further 60,000 fled to Afghanistan. Since the collapse of the USSR in 1991, a

number of CIS states have been troubled by armed conflict and refugee movements. In 1996, the tiny Republic of Ingushietia in the North Caucasus was host to some 40,000 Chechen IDPs and 30,000 ethnic Ingush IDPs from North Ossetia, including this group at a collective center in Plievo. The end of the century was marked by a refugee exodus from East Timor when militias opposed to independence made hundreds of thousands run for their lives.

Refugees a Pictorial Representation

These pictures courtesy the UNHCR tell their own stories about the plight of these unfortunate refugees worldwide:

Statelessness

As though these horrifying problems aren't bad enough, these poor and unfortunate people forced to lead wretched lives away from home with little or no hope of ever going back also face the problem of statelessness. While nationality is a legal bond between a state and an individual, statelessness is a massive problem that affects an estimated 12 million people worldwide. They are socially excluded people and are deprived rights and facilities due to citizens and are not allowed to participate in the economic, social, and political life of the society in which they live. In most cases, the underlying issue is one of discrimination – usually on the basis of race or ethnicity, religion and at times sex. In many cases, statelessness affects entire minority populations that have never been recognized as nationals of the state where they are habitually resident with ethnic discrimination handed down from one generation to the next, caused by conflict of nationality laws. While statelessness has existed for several centuries, the international community has only been concerned with its eradication since the middle of the twentieth century. There are millions of such people all over the world though all this is against the

Algerian refugees in Tunisia 1961



Rwandese refugees in Uganda 1964



United Nation's Declaration on Human Rights which provide both the right to asylum and the right to nationality. The problem of statelessness can be prevented through adequate nationality legislation and procedures as well

Vietnamese boat people in Malaysia 1978



Cambodian Refugees in Thailand 1978



Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras 1982



Afghan refugees in Pakistan 1984



as universal birth registration. In March 2012, the International Stateless Persons Organisation (ISPO) was founded by HH Prince Dr. Fernando



Refugees from Ethiopia in Sudan 1985



Somali Refugees in Ethiopia 1991



Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh 1992



Rwandan refugees in Burundi 1994



Rwandan refugees in Tanzania 1995



IDPs in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1996

Macolor Cruz, tribal prince and instructor of History and Political Science at the Palawan State University in the Philippines to provide institutional representation to stateless persons throughout the world through a network of volunteer human rights law practitioners who act as Country Representatives. Stateless Bengalis

Most of these people especially the illiterate ones in developing countries do not hold the magic card - proof of nationality and therefore suffer all the more. The case of the Bengali refugees who fled Bangladesh after 1971 due to religious persecution for some inexplicable reasons the Government of India made 1971 as the cut off year for granting Indian nationality. According to news

report in Ananda Bazar Patrika, Calcutta of August 18, 1998 attributable to Government sources around 10.2 million so called illegal immigrants live in India. Many of these are Dalits living not only in West Bengal but also in other parts of India like Orissa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhatisgarh, Uttarkhand, Madhya Pradesh among others and are suffering enormously. These people have been living in India for over four decades and there is no way these downtrodden people would be able to adjust if forced back to Bangladesh, a poor country that does not want them. Timeless Values

Though the 1951 Convention values are timeless, it is in the danger of coming apart, with rich European nations with Britain in the

lead unwilling to take the burden of refugees on their shores. But there are saner more humanitarian voices. Ruud Lubbers, a former Dutch Prime Minister and recently appointed High Commissioner, has warned, however, that "many prosperous countries with strong economies complain about the large number of asylum seekers, but offer too little to prevent refugee crises, like investing in conflict prevention, return, reintegration". UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed to the World's conscience, "We must work together to mobilize the political will and leadership to prevent and end the conflicts that trigger refugee flows. Despite budget constraints everywhere, we must not turn away from those in need. Refugees leave because they have no choice. We must choose to help." Meanwhile the refugees roam about hither and thither, and today the number of refugees is not only thousands but many millions not only in India but also the world over, especially in Africa. We have a long road to travel before we can achieve a protection regime which is genuinely fair and effective. World Government modeled after PROUT's founder Shrii PR Sarkar's pointers is the answer. He also advocates that all people have the right to settle anywhere in the universe. This is a vision of the distant future where there are no artificial borders and barriers and no requirement of passports or visas for inhabitants of Earth to travel freely in the world.

How to Make 'Aam Aadmi' Oriented Budget 2014

(As envisaged by a Proutist)

✱ Mahesh Prasad

Successive Finance Ministers have presented Union budgets since Independence and the 'aam aadmi' has looked to them as harbinger of prosperity and hoped improvement in their lot, but alas! They remain grossly disappointed till to date. The sincere and honest promise of "Justice, social, economic and political" is still a dream for them. The promise of 'socialism' as adopted in the opening paragraph of the Constitution and 'Direction' of minimizing inequality in income of individuals as well as groups has, on the contrary, given rise to over 42800 crorepatis (this figure may be much more as there is a general tendency to under declare income) and many many arabpatis while 40% of the population is still living under BPL level. At places, disparity is so stark that even two square meals are not

No one will disagree that wide disparity of wealth amongst individuals, groups or nations has been the major cause of crime and conflict, the world over.

available to many millions; even pure drinking water, without which life is not possible, has not been secured in the long march of progress. It is, of course, another matter to define what constitutes a real progress.

Chanakya, the greatest arth-shastri of yore had spoken of acceptable disparity of 1:16 only; over that he warned of corruption and even disintegration of the state. While incorporating Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution, probably, the Founding Fathers had this dictum in mind, but the flash light of materialism, liberalism and capitalism as practiced by the West and USA, appears to have blinded the budget framers as they





have forgotten the Golden Rule of Chanakya and, thus, aam admi, in reality, seems to have been given no space in the development and progress of India. No one will disagree that wide disparity of wealth amongst individuals, groups or nations has been the major cause of crime and conflict, the world over. Advancement of science and technology accelerating greed and monopoly has further aggravated the problem. When we talk of progress, growth and DGP are at the front of discussion. They have, in fact, become the present day parameters of progress. However, with the slow-down of economy and shaking off the jobs at the mass scale, even in super developed countries economists of Noble Prize fame are baffled about the sinking of their erstwhile 'robust' economic theory and are in search of a new paradigm.

Here PROUT may come to their rescue, though not recognized yet. It is a socio-politico-economic philosophy with source of inspiration from India's old age cultural and spiritual ethos. To Prout man does not need material prosperity and progress alone, but also psychic and spiritual food for his all round development and peaceful coexistence with biodiversity, animate and inanimate, both.

Thus bequeathed with its old heritage, it was expected that the budgets will squarely cater to this eventuality and need, but our FMs instead, have blindly followed the path shown by Adam Smith in his 'Wealth of nations' and over and over again have harped upon the outmoded and worn out parameters of development and progress namely GDP and growth.

The future budget should, therefore, try to remedy the incongruities of previous mistakes and the proposals here will try to meet that direction. Prout stands for 'accumulation of wealth to a certain limit only'. Its First Principle is specific: "No individual should be allowed to accumulate any physical wealth beyond a certain limit without the clear permission or approval of the collective Body". But, this brake has to be applied in a manner which does not suddenly disturb the psychology of any individual or balance in society. Accordingly, the containment of income and wealth should be gradual and NOT like during the Stalinist era when with a stroke of night people were rendered pauper and helpless. Expenditure depends on resources. As such, how to procure income consistent with the Golden Rule will be dealt with first.

PART A

In order to contain the growing disparity in income and to progressively reduce it to the Golden Rule, which may be modified somewhat since the days of Chanakya, the scheme of Direct Taxes needs to be revised. Keeping in view the escalation of prices at all levels and thus great hardship felt by low and middle income-groups, it is proposed that there should be no income tax upto five lacs. For income above, the following scheme is proposed:

From	5	upto 20 lacs	10%
From	20	" 50 "	20%
From	50	" One Crore	30%
From	one core and above		50%

No surcharge or cess of any kind.

Having thus liberalized the present scheme of Income Tax, which will give great relief to the lower middle and middle class, there appears to be no justification of plethora of exemptions granted under one head or the other. Thus, there should be NO EXEMPTIONS either in investment or expenditure. This will make the implementation and compliance easy and will remove scope for corruption at various levels. It will also make the assessee easy to file his return without any assistance. For senior citizens over 60 yrs of age there should be exemption limit of six lacs, for above 70 yrs of seven lacs and for super citizens above 80 yrs of age it should be 8 lacs.

With industrialization and development at all levels and thus spurt in employment opportunities, women have rightly joined the race. There are cases galore where each adult member of the family is employed. Thus, while all the members of the family enjoy common facilities of hearth and home and share common expenses giving impetus to accumulation of wealth and creating disparity, it is, therefore, high time that income of all the members of a family, living together, should be clubbed and taxed as one unit. It is, therefore, proposed to club the income of husband and wife living together and that of minor children. In case, both the spouses are actually living separately OR have filed papers for divorce and the matter is pending for adjudication, their income should be taxed separately along with that of a minor or minors living with either.

Wealth Tax

To stop accumulation of wealth in the hands of an individual and to proceed gradually in this regard, it is necessary that we must start taxing wealth beyond a certain limit in a progressive manner. It is, therefore, proposed to tax it whenever it exceeds 50 lakhs in savings plus another 50 lakhs in personal belongings or movable property including jewellery; one self occupied property should also be exempt. This norm should apply to the assessee Unit as defined above.

Excess of one cr upto 10 cr should be taxed @1% and 2% in excess of that.

In order to ensure that there is proper compliance, a

high powered committee, over and above the usual taxing machinery, should be constituted at the level of each CCIT. This committee will devise ways and means to see that there is no pilferage or tax evasion. Suitable penal laws must be framed to punish the offenders, though the First offender may be left with light punishment or even with a warning. This committee will be responsible to watch against evasion of Income Tax also. In a way, it is expected to act as a Watch Dog in matters of tax compliance. Since wealth is going to be contained, there appears to be no justification of Gift Tax or any other tax chargeable direct on income. They should, therefore, be abolished.

Price Fixing

Wide disparity in income is the product of gross capitalism which bears no check on profit motive, greed or exploitation. This disparity is so wide that while on one hand a daily wager in remote villages (which are in lakhs) hardly earns upto Rs. 100/- a day and that too for a fraction of the year, there are employees who are bestowed packages of over a crore a year. Business, commerce and industry have been so monopolized that a few persons managing the affairs and production do garner the bulk of profit for themselves, the rest are made content with a few crump only. In this unholy process consumer has to bear the brunt by paying more for such extravagancies! Prices are fixed many many times the actual cost of production. Its stark and naked play can be seen in medicines and pharmaceuticals where MRP is fixed exorbitantly and capital is made out of human misery. In a recent example Supreme Court has come down heavily on one foreign pharma co who was selling one cancer medicine @ 1.2 lacs a month while the indigenous generic co's cost has been for only eight thousand. Time has come when all such exploitation has to be bidden good-bye and a healthy atmosphere fair to all has to be created. It is, therefore, proposed that in the first instance certain specific products be brought into its orbit and their MRP be fixed after adding reasonable profit to the basic cost which must be 'raw materials consumed and direct services employed in production' of a product; (administrative or miscellaneous expenses excluding) as approved by an independent Body created at state levels by the GOI considering the needs of a particular region.

To begin with such items would be: 1) All kinds of medicines and pharmaceuticals; 2) All foods and beverages sold in sealed containers; 3) All types of electric & electronic goods; 4) All types of refrigeration & air-conditioning products; 5) All kinds of vehicles; 6) All kinds of footwear; 7) All kinds of ready-mades; 8) All kinds of cosmetics & toilets; 9) All kinds of textile fabrics and 10) All types of IT products

These measures, it is hoped, will go a long way to curb the generation of excessive wealth in the hands of Corporate or big businesses which, in turn, would help remedy many ills gone rampant in society like wastage and conspicuous display of wealth in marriages, hordes of money being spent in elections and advertisements or

through media creating a sort of cultural invasion changing the very ethos of our cultural heritage. It is strongly felt that professionals like doctors, lawyers, consultants, architects et al have no qualm of conscience in charging exorbitant fees while these services are so essential that despite non-paying capacity, one is compelled to comply with their demand, whatever it may be. This trend has also created distortion in the economy, as far as accumulation of wealth and its evil are concerned. And all of these are respectable professions claimed to serve the people in their time of need. Yet, for a healthy and peaceful society, free from crime and criminals, check has to be exercised on its vent. Every religion has laid great emphasis upon service. There is a well known quotation: "Service to man is service to God". Anandmurti ji has said that "Don't think you are obliging someone by your service, in fact, he is obliging you by affording you an opportunity to serve". Thus, these professionals will do well if their service is more service oriented than money generating one. In this proposed first budget of its kind, no measures are being recommended, and only the malaise, as it is, is being high lighted with the hope that it will appeal to the conscience of these professionals and that remedial measures will be taken by they themselves and their reluctance will not compel the state for putting any constraint or taking any measures, in future, in this direction.

Corporate Tax:

Since Corporate tax is a tax on income levied on corporations, it must be subjected to larger tax, if curb in accumulation of wealth and its concomitant evils is desired. It is well known that there is a nexus between the politician, bureaucrat and businessman. Thus, at times, the government does play in the hands of corporate lobby. This has to be mitigated, if not completely shattered in the first budget, as it is going to be. It is, therefore, proposed to tax it more and hence to increase the present 30% to 50%.

Black Money:

Black money and corruption go hand in hand. Both have cut deep into body politic and social fabric of our



society. Even moors and morality have been distorted. Both are spreading like cancer and have assumed gigantic proportions; so much so; that they now even threaten the viability of Indian State as a successful democracy. Some harsh decisions will have to be taken. Some measures have been suggested by different people like demonetization of big denomination currency, regulating all transactions after a certain limit through cheques only, checking expenditure in high profile hotels, touring places, marriages etc.; they are all important and useful ones. In fact, the attempt should be to make the utility of black money ZERO. It is, therefore, proposed that currency notes above rupees one hundred i.e, of 500 and 1000 should be discontinued from a particular date. It is also proposed that all transactions beyond rupees two thousand be made through cheques only or through credit/debit cards embossed with signatures of the user to be made on the copy of the bill. Railways, airways or the services like this should make necessary arrangements for such records. All such transactions be reported to the HQs of Central Tax Deptt. to be specifically opened for the purpose. Most of the black money is stored in the shape of gold, jewelry and real estate. Without putting a check on these it will be futile to harp upon other measures. It is, therefore, proposed that purchase and sale of gold and gold ornaments should be regulated only through specified places strictly under the control of the Central Government. No individual should be allowed to own more than one immovable property, excluding self

occupied property. The prices of property are going sky high daily and it has become impossible for a middle income person to purchase it, which, in turn, has grown necessity of taking bribe and under valuing it to save from vigilance eyes and also saving from stamp duty. This all needs urgent remedial. It is therefore proposed to constitute a Designated Authority for the purpose and also that all transactions involving immovable property should be regulated through this Authority. The builders or property dealers should be required to get themselves registered with this Authority and only then should be allowed to conduct business.

Indirect Taxes: Customs: No change recommended. **Excise: Proposal of Transaction Tax, Instead.** There is a big tendency to evade excise duty, and the staff, either through pressure of work, over smartness of the manufacturer, or even its own connivance, is incapable to check the huge pilferage. Since it involves a very large number of small, medium and big manufacturers, harassment, felt or done, cannot be ruled out. Moreover, there is a long standing demand for doing away with multiple taxes and saving the ordinary businessman/manufacturer from day to day hassles. An alternative to this levy is thus the demand of the day. It is, therefore, proposed to impose 2% transaction tax on every deposit, whether in cash or through cheque, exceeding rupees one thousand in all banks. This can be easily collected with some extra staff to the bank. In an age of IT and digitalization switch over to such levy will save millions of small medium and big manufacturers from day to day hassles. On the other hand compliance would be hundred percent. **It is expected that it will not only compensate the loss but may even over subscribe.**

Service Tax: This is a much recent levy. Tax compliance is very poor. Only those that are conspicuous or are on records and have little scope to evade are complying fully like IT, companies, govt depts., starred hotels etc. Moreover, return is not encouraging while, on the other hand, it has its own share in harassing people. As far as the loss on this account is concerned, as in the case of excise duty, the proposed Transaction tax on deposits in banks will very well compensate this also. It should, therefore, also be abolished.

Central Sales Tax: India is one unit. It has adopted federal structure for administrative convenience keeping in view the cultural diversity of each state. There should be no barrier in trade or commerce amongst them. There is, therefore, no need of sustaining CST. It must also be abolished. Similarly, there is no justification of any other central Levy and if there is any, it should also be abolished in this budget of 'aam admi'

To be concluded





“Gurgaon was nothing but a land grab operation by builders and politicians”, the media quoted a World Bank official recently.

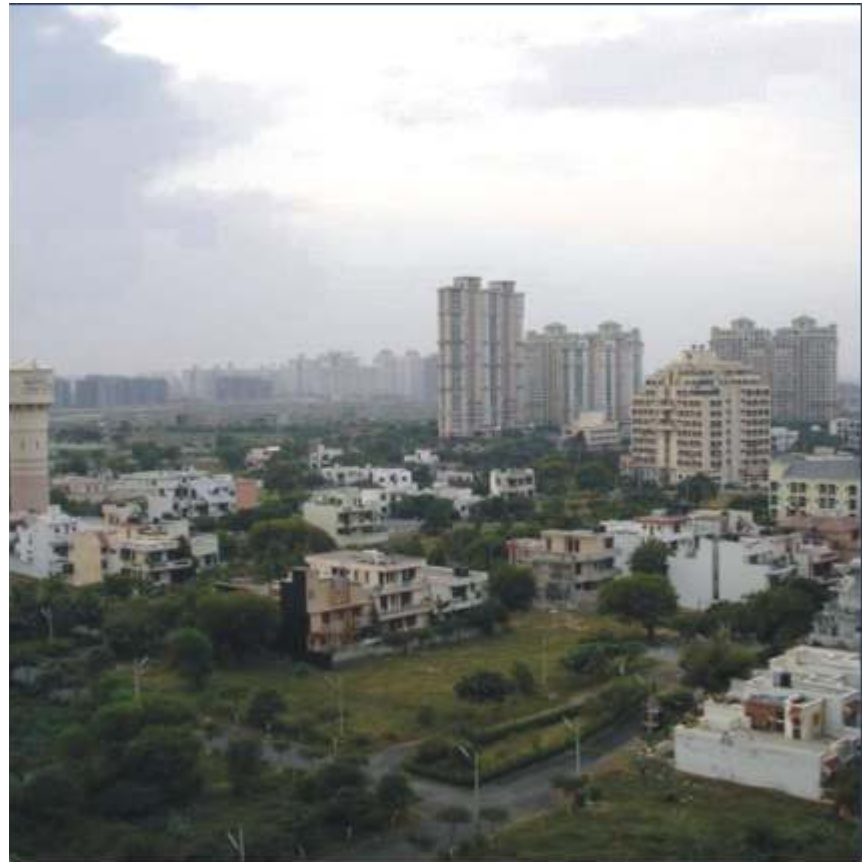
✱ **Gurgaon Workers News**

Gurgaon's population has grown from a few thousand to more than 1.5 million in 30 years. This article is a critique of reformist views on capitalist urbanisation. Most reformist positions complain about the 'private character' of development, which neglects 'public infrastructure' and demand a more democratic urban planning. This perspective neglects the class character of urbanisation. Consequently we start our critique with some short points about the systemically contradictory process of urbanisation, we then describe the class composition and stratification of urban development in Gurgaon. We finally summarise some of the expressions of urban crisis and raise some questions about 'working class struggle' within the urban space.

Description of Class

Composition of Urbanisation in Gurgaon

Urbanisation is a historically



Urbanisation *and* Systemic Disaster

specific process: the separation of town and countryside under capitalism. Urban areas grow due to disappropriation of the means of subsistence of the rural population and subsequent increase in rural poverty; and due to the concentration process of industry and the labour market. The war-type situation of the partition in 1947 and the exodus after 1971 increased Delhi's population, but since then

Delhi and its satellite towns (Gurgaon, NOIDA, Faridabad, Gaziabad) mainly grew with the attraction of migrant workers into urban (industrial) employment. Compared to other mega-cities, the Delhi area is an 'industrial melting pot' rather than being merely an informal container of rural misery. Gurgaon's urbanisation was closely linked to the building of the Maruti Suzuki car plant: Gandhi's idea of

developing an Indian version of a 'Volkswagen' mirrored the German developmental ideology of a sanitised people: the industrial project, the expulsion of slum dwellers from Delhi and other urban centres, and the sterilisation campaign targeting the urban and rural poor went hand in hand.

On the wider social level 'urbanisation' itself is an expression of class stratification. Leaving the countryside is enforced by impoverishment, and it is a claim: people starve in the countryside, rarely in towns, given the different power-situation of a concentrated proletariat. Urban planning therefore is the management of social crisis and struggle. India's celebrated architect Charles Correa recently expressed this conjuncture between 'urban planning' and control of the proletariat from the perspective of the 'neutral' professional: "Migrants must be diverted away from the main cities to second or third-tier towns where planners have an opportunity to anticipate the changes ahead and build better public transport for instance." "They come to the cities for jobs. If you can find ways to employ more people in the villages, that's wonderful, but if they are coming for jobs they don't have to come to Delhi and Bombay." With the urban concentration process the segmentation of 'rich and

poor' creates constant tension and need for social control. This is one of the systemic pillars which leaves little scope for 'democratic urban planning'. The other pillar is constituted by the fact that urban development has to obey the commodity form. The budget and foreign debt crisis of the state in India in 1991 pushed urban development like in Gurgaon seemingly into 'private hands': the state co-managed 'private funds' of global over-accumulation by trying to mould a real estate bubble into an urban landscape. Urban development expands and contracts with the boom and crisis cycle of the real estate commodities and the price of credit money. The 'urban form' itself – not merely the conflict between rich and poor and the instability of the commodity form of land and buildings – contradicts any 'collective and conscious determination of life'. The separation from 'the rural' (agriculture), the subsequent increase in the need for transport and energy production and the higher concentration of population enforce a disciplining/labour regime which reproduces hierarchies, not least between generations and differently-abled human beings. All this has to be kept in mind as a 'systemic framework' when we now look at the different class segments which constitute the urbanisation

process in Gurgaon: the 'agents' of urbanisation are not in control of the underlying and determining social process – something very difficult to understand for bourgeois thinking. The main violent organised force of urbanisation is the state. In Gurgaon state organisations like

Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructural Development Corporation (HSIIDC) and Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) are the main enforcing and mediating bodies between 'private interests' and land. The state materially depends on land sale and tax revenue.

The Industrial Management

In industrial regions like Gurgaon, the bigger industrial capital and their formal associations like ASSOCHAM have a major influence in the urbanisation process. The first stage of transformation of land into a commodity legally frame-worked by the 'Land Acquisition Act' for industrial projects.

The Real Estate Management

Once industrial capital and state have formalised the transformation of land into commodity, real estate developers become the agents and profiteers of the speculation on this 'rare commodity'. 'Private' companies like DLF 'developed' large areas of Gurgaon for middle-class residents and corporate office-space and own large areas as 'land-banks' – DLF still owns between 3,000 and 4,000 acres of undeveloped land in Gurgaon.

The Political Class

The political class in the form of political parties functions as a buffer zone and sensory element between state apparatus, capital, landed class and 'population'. Protests against land acquisition or slum demolition are largely translated into 'legal or electoral questions' by the transmission belt of the party system.

The Landed Class

As commodity owners, the 'landed class' and local peasantry first turn into a lobby group of 'sellers', be it Vis-a-Vis the state or the private developers. They often have the local state structure, the 'village council' (Panchayat) as a representative. Their 'united front' dissolves quickly, given the differences in amount of land owned



and subsequent diversification as 'capital owners'. Some manage to become land speculators, others landlords, others small business men and many turn into proletarians.

The Local Population and Petty Bourgeoisie

Overlapping with the 'landed class' is the category of 'local population' in a region whose population mainly consists of migrant workers. 'Local' might mean ownership over shops and houses and/or a network of remaining 'village community' and political affiliations. They are the main actors when it comes to 'water or electricity' protests – see previous articles on road blockades. They also form the back-bone of the emerging 'anti-corruption' movement in Gurgaon and wider Haryana.

The Squeezed Middle-Class and 'Civil Society'

Parallel to the 'petty bourgeoisie' of the local population there is a formation process of the 'squeezed middle-class', e.g. residents of private development projects and so-called 'professionals' (e.g. engineers, middle management in software companies) in Gurgaon. This section is excluded from the 'real estate drip' and lacks influence in the local political power structure. As 'civil society' in the form of urban NGO's and resident associations they re-group as a social force. As 'gated communities' they have a specific socio-psychological relation to the rest of Gurgaon – see previous article.

The House-Ownning Working Class

To a much lesser extent than in older industrial regions like Faridabad there is a section of the working class in Gurgaon which managed to buy a small plot of land before the real estate bubble and to build a house as part of an 'irregular

colony' or shanty town. Their main concern is the threat of 'demolition'. An even smaller segment of the permanent work-force is affected by the question of 'corporate housing', sometimes mediated by the trade unions.

The Renting Working Class

Most workers and therefore 'residents' in Gurgaon are 'recent migrants' who live in rented accommodations set-up by the local former peasantry. They are organised within the factories and largely invisible as 'citizens' – officially most of them still live 1,300 kilometres away. Their main concern is rent price, limited water and electricity supply (often



controlled by the landlord) and problems of commuting and police/thugs harassment. Having to commute to work becomes an issue of class violence itself – see article on riot at Faridabad station. The 'industrial zones' as part of the urban space itself have changed: while in Faridabad workers' slums are next to the factory wall, in newer Gurgaon Udyog Vihar workers live separate from the industrial areas, though there are still chai stalls and other 'public spaces' within the industrial zones. In Manesar, the newest industrial zone, even these small pockets of 'proletarian public life' have been marginalised within the industrial area, mainly 'thanks' to canteens and company buses.

The Slum Dwelling Proletariat

A smaller sections of the proletariat live in make-shift slums. These are either service proletarians, such as domestic workers or corporate cleaners who have to live close to their masters; or they belong to formerly nomadic artisan and cattle-rearing tribes from neighbouring Rajasthan, which have been paralysed by industrialisation and urbanisation – see article on slum fire in Gurgaon.

The Patriarchal Domain

Apart from the domestic sphere the urban space is the main domain of direct expressions of patriarchal power, be it against women or lower caste proletarians.

Urbanisation is a process of dissolution of older patriarchal village communities, which opens spaces for 'bourgeois individual freedom', but at the same time contains dynamics of indifference and brutalisation. The recent public rape near Gurgaon has to be seen against this background. The sketch above can serve as a rough framework in order to read some of the recent news concerning 'urban conflicts' in Gurgaon. Most of these news describe 'inner-

bourgeois' tensions arising from the struggle about the distribution of land and rent revenues. Others describe the 'urban breakdown' as a consequence of these tensions, such as lack in infrastructure.

Land Appropriation and the Formation of the Anti-Corruption Movement in Gurgaon / Haryana

"Gurgaon was nothing but a land grab operation by builders and politicians", the media quoted a World Bank official recently. During the 1980s and 1990s the real estate developers created a deep-link with the political class from the top-level to the village representatives – see previous

articles in the land-grab politics. The main company in the sector was DLF. Between 1981 and 1990, DLF got 57 of the 101 realty project licences awarded in Gurgaon – about 56 per cent of the total. In his autobiography ‘Against All Odds’, DLF Chairman K P Singh’s refers to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi as being key to India’s real estate’s transformation: “He asked me what I was doing out in the wilderness and heard with great interest about my plans and how archaic laws and policies were stifling real estate development. Not long after, he became the prime minister of the country and was instrumental in ushering the private sector back into urban development. These reforms would revolutionise the real estate sector and also allow DLF to expand at a scorching pace....”

The personal connection between DLF and the Gandhi family became one of the main issues of the emerging ‘anti-corruption’ movement in Gurgaon and Haryana, centred around Kejriwal and Khemka. The ‘anti-corruption’ activists criticise amongst others the ‘concessions’ which DLF and the Haryana government made to Robert Vadra, who is married to Rajiv Gandhi’s daughter. For example, DLF Magnolias project showed 70 per cent increase in prices just before Vadra’s investment. In recent media interviews the ‘anti-corruption’-activists remarked: “The misuse of Section 42 of the consolidation act to transfer Panchayat [village council] land worth hundreds of crores to newly-formed companies with a paid-up capital of as little as Rs1 lakh is well known. There is another scam in Gurgaon and Faridabad where forest and hill areas are sought to be partitioned to corner prime plots near highways to build farm-houses and resorts. Panchayats are losing their lands due to deliberate under-valuation during the consolidation proceedings.” “Some senior public servants misused their position for a favorable exchange for themselves

or their relatives or their companies floated for this purpose. Huge investments of black money and ill-gotten money have been made through companies in the purchase of land in some villages in Gurgaon and Faridabad districts to benefit from the consolidation scheme.” The ‘anti-corruption’-populists mainly link up with parts of the former peasantry which feels left out of the big money game. In late 2012, Kejriwal blamed Haryana Central Minister Bhupinder Hooda of favouring the ‘private developers’. ‘He was addressing farmers at the Rashtriya Kisan Mahapanchayat [National Peasant Council] who had gathered to protest against land acquisitions from farmers at cheap rates. “Hooda is working on the behalf of private builders. He had to change the use of land bought by Robert Vadra so that he could sell the same land to DLF at much higher price. The chief minister knew that if he did not change the land use, Sonia Gandhi would have removed him from his post,” said Kejriwal. In Manesar region, villagers are critical of the manner in which the state government had been passing on the acquired land to private builders for developing townships and colonies. “The biggest problem the landowners are facing is due to the acquiring of land by HUDA to benefit builders in the region

developing townships and colonies”. The region has over 600 acres of land acquired by the state government that is under litigation in different courts.’ The relation between the local peasantry / landlords, who are the backbone of the ‘anti-corruption’ movement and the workers in Manesar, residing in villages like Aliyar was manifest during the wildcat occupation of Maruti Suzuki factory in 2011 and the subsequent mobilisation, the local ‘panchayats’ at large offered support to Maruti Suzuki management and the repressive organs of the state. The state itself tries to mediate between the interests of industrial management and landed classes by tax and revenue redistribution: ‘With the first phase of enhancement money collection in Manesar over, the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructural Development Corporation (HSIIDC) has recovered only 20 per cent of the target amount. Senior officials told TOI that Rs 400 crore of enhancement money has been collected so far. Earlier this year HSIIDC had paid Rs 1,500 crore to the district revenue officer, as compensation money for the local farmers. And it is this money, with 11 per cent interest added to the amount, that the HSIIDC says is recoverable from factory plot owners in Industrial Model Town Manesar in the form of enhancement fee. Industry representatives, especially the local associations, have mounted a protest movement against enhancement fee.’ At the same time the state makes sure that the compensation money does not just sit in the pocket of the former peasants. The state government puts pressure on the local state to increase taxation. Given that many of the ‘villagers’ rent out rooms to the working class, the taxation is likely to be passed on: ‘After the state government made it clear to the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon that it should not expect any financial assistance, the local body is now planning to increase its



revenue through property tax by issuing house tax assessment notice in all the villages that come under its jurisdiction. So far, the MCG had refrained from collecting property tax from villagers, but now, authorities say, they have to do so in order to manage the budget. According to the officials, about 46,000 people live in the 39 villages that come under the MCG's jurisdiction. Half of them have already been served the notice.' We can see that the system is churning. Under the crisis the tension between the different levels of the state apparatus increases. 'Corruption' is one expression of this churning. We can see that 'corruption' has two main elements, both entirely neglected by the populist anti-corruption movement of the 'marginalised middle-classes': a) corruption as a form of 'extra legal' redistribution of profits and posts within the social hierarchy becomes prevailing in times when property relations in particular and social relations in general change so rapidly that the formalised legal channels are not able to mediate between the emerging tensions within the 'owning classes'; corruption in this sense is a spontaneous re-creation of balance within an unstable, but expanding system; it is grease in a cranky mechanism, it is a systemic element, rather than an exception b) in times of crisis, corruption is an indicator for the fact that the 'owning classes' have lost trust in the 'normal affairs' of profit production and long term investments; it becomes an indicator for the struggle over pieces of a shrinking cake. From a workers' point of view the 'anti-corruption' movement is either a delusional effort or an expression of mere reshuffling within the ruling class.

Slum Demolition

For the state or real estate developers to get hold of land they often have to get people and their houses off the land. In Gurgaon this is less the case compared to older urban working class areas in Delhi region – see article on slum

demolition in Faridabad and Kolkata. The slums seem to be an 'irregular' space, but in fact 'irregular' slum dwellers are often more closely tied to the representatives of the state and their control. The threat of 'eviction' creates space for dependency on political party representatives who promise 'regularisation'. A recent example from Gurgaon confirms this general experience: 'A day after the city municipal corporation demolished some houses in Rajiv Nagar a large number of residents in the area staged a demonstration by blocking traffic for several hours, condemning the high-handedness showed by the civic agency. "The buildings that were demolished by MCG on Friday are at least two decades old and no new construction was taking place in them. We are protesting at the way they were demolished. On the one hand, the MCG is not willing to provide basic infrastructure in unauthorized colonies and on the other hand it is quick to bulldoze the homes of poor people," said Indian National Lok Dal [main opposition party in Haryana] councillor Gaje Singh Kablana, who led the demonstration.'

Water Wars

Gurgaon's water situation is symbolic, a high-rising city sucks itself dry and the struggle over the vital resource becomes a barometre for social power – see previous articles on water politics and 'shaky foundations' of Gurgaon's towers. According to the groundwater department, in summer 2012 the water table plunged by 90 centimetres to 1 metre. In some areas the water-table in Gurgaon's semi-arid belt has reached depths of 51 metres, a serious concern. The state blames the 'more than 30,000 illegal tube wells' in Gurgaon, while most of the water is used for the industry and the golf courses and lawns of the upper classes. The hoarding of water results in health risk, in recent years the cases of dengue fever during summer months has increased. In summer

2012 over 400 cases were reported, often from areas with a high concentration of water tanks. The local state seems to have difficulties to intervene within this 'semi-private sphere': "The reason why we have not been able to issue any challan [fine bills] so far is because we haven't received any written order from the concerned authorities. We have only received some verbal orders on how much fine we can impose on those who are not maintaining hygienic conditions that lead to mosquito breeding," said Dr VK Thapar, chief medical officer, Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon. The other problem concerns waste water: "A city drowning in its excreta". Between 2006 and 2011 over 35,000 new dwelling units were built in Gurgaon. Only a third of Gurgaon is connected to a sewerage line. Residents who live in private colonies say HUDA officials turn their complaints down, arguing sewerage lines are the responsibility of private builders like DLF. The private developers in turn blame the state. They allege that development charges collected from them towards providing for infrastructure were diverted. "More than Rs 12,000 crore was collected and made available to the state government. But all this money has been used up by politicians in their constituencies. Nothing flows back into the city," says a senior executive with a prominent real estate company who did not wish to be identified.

Energy Crunch and Report by Casualised Energy Workers

Gurgaon's energy supply depends to a significant extent on fossil fuel operated generators – see previous article on energy crunch in the industrial sectors. With the government's decision to increase diesel prices, energy 'back-up' costs in Gurgaon are expected to rise by 30 per cent in 2013. 'Malls, offices and luxury hotels burn thousands of litres of the fuel every day just to keep their backup systems running. "Gurgaon is a city that virtually runs

on diesel. The entire commercial sector depends on it for power backup,” said a businessman. Commercial buildings consume as much as 1,000 litre of diesel a day and having to pay Rs 10 extra for every litre of diesel. Call centres are looking at an average increase of about 15% in maintenance costs, hotels will pay even more. “The upkeep costs here will rise by 25%. Considering the kind of diesel consumption Gurgaon’s hotels register, this is going to pinch really bad,” says Anirban Sarkar, executive manager of the Radisson Blu hotel. In Sahara Mall diesel

Haryana Electricity Distribution Corporation, North Haryana Electricity Distribution Corporation, and South Haryana Electricity Distribution Corporation. After the board was turned into corporations contractors entered in mass into the power generation and distribution sector. They started to sub-contract all electricity-related work. Regular employment was turned into irregular work, permanent employees into temporary workers. The contractors changed frequently, the workers remained the same. Obviously there are rules for the

the talk about opening new bank accounts the wage payments of the workers got delayed. The previous contractor had been holding the contract for five years, but he did not pay contributions to the workers’ IPF, neither did his predecessor. They did not issue pay slips or PF numbers. Those who had left the jobs have not received their PF money after two years. The typists are hired through contractors, as well. The billing department the meter reading and the bill distribution is also done through contractors. Drivers and computer operators are hired through contractors. In each electricity sub-station there are seven workers hired through contractor for each permanent employee. Given the involvement of the central government in the breaking up, can workers expect anything from the Haryana government? This is something to consider. What can be done and what should be avoided? An even more precarious situation in the outsourced refuse collection in the ‘private colonies’ of Gurgaon: ‘Residents of Sector 23A have complained to the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) that private sanitation contractors were making children collect garbage from the area. The area residents claimed the contractors hire boys, mostly from slum areas, on daily wage basis. “It suits the contractors to hire boys since they get paid very less,” said a resident.’

NH8 – Highway to Hell

The highway NH8 is another symbol of ‘fatal and failed’ neo-liberal development – see previous articles on the highway. For people who have to cross the highway in order to go to work there are still long stretches without save crossings. In 2012 more than 250 people were killed in accidents on the 40 kilometres from Delhi/Gurgaon border to Manesar, most of them pedestrians. The main concern for automobile drivers in turn is the fact that the traffic jams in front of the toll gates reduce the



consumption is around 1,000 litre a day, a figure that shoots up further during peak summers.’ Usually the criticism of ‘bad energy infrastructure’ is launched from the perspective of the large consumers. Following a report by energy workers about the impact of ‘privatisation’ on their working conditions.

Haryana Electricity Board Worker: From Electricity Board to Electricity Corporation

After the central government and the Haryana government passed new laws, on 14th of August 1998 the Haryana State Electricity Board was dismantled and divided into four corporations: Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited,

corporations, there is no lack of laws. Nevertheless, transgression of laws is the norm and adherence to the law the exception. Apart from some construction workers all workers are ITI [skilled] workers or diploma holders. In order to get hired through contractors even the educated youth has to pay bribes to university teachers, members of parliament and ministers. In the South Haryana Electricity Distribution Corporation in Faridabad a contractor disappeared after having settled all accounts with the corporation, while the workers were left with three months of unpaid wages. In the Haryana Electricity Distribution Corporation in Gurgaon on the 1st of April a new contractor came in and together with

average speed during rush-hour to just above 20 miles an hour. Every day around 200,000 cars have to pass the toll gates. The highway was developed by the private company Delhi-Gurgaon Super Connectivity Ltd's (DGSCL). This company is more or less bankrupt and has Rs 1,600 crore credit debt. End of 2012 Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that either the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) or the state government could "purchase" the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway – a major bail-out for Punjab National Bank, Bank of India and other creditors of DGSCL.

Affordable Housing Swindle

While crores have been pumped into deadly highways the 'affordable housing scheme' of the Haryana government turns out to be an election gimmick. The Gurgaon Citizens' Council (GCC) – a middle-class residents' association – alleged: "In 2009 the government of Haryana gave wide publicity to the proposal that it would build one lakh low-cost houses in the state. Out of them, 40,000 were to be built in Gurgaon, 30,000 in Faridabad and Panchkula and the remaining 30,000 in the rest of Haryana in places like Rohtak, Hissar, Panipat, and Sonapat. While Gurgaon was stated to be a high potential zone, the rest were considered medium- and low-potential zones. However, even after three years there is no sign of these housing complexes, meant for the poor, coming into being".

Private Developers, Local Authorities and the Gated 'Civil Society': Re-Making of the Local State

Parallel to the 'anti-corruption' mobilisation focussed on the land-owning class / peasantry there is a second formation of middle-class discontent, based on a disillusioned professional middle-class and centred around the issue of 'living in New Gurgaon', a space of scary rapid social change and little regularities. Similar to the land-owning middle-strata the relation of

these 'middle-class activists' towards the working class is arbitrary. For them it is no contradiction to run NGOs for illiterate children and at the same time pressure the state to remove slum dwellers from their neighbourhood. They are largely 'corporate professionals' with their characteristic illusions that 'things can be fixed, you just have to know how to', an illusion which arises both from their social isolation as 'intellectual workers' and as residents of gated communities. We quote from a dissertation which captures the reality of this class segment and their 'political activism' nicely: 'Residents are able to escape the dysfunction of the urban in high-rise communities offering "exclusive conveniences...stringent security, wide-open space, parks, schools, health centre and shopping arcades" (Unitech Heritage City). The gated enclaves are serviced by 24-hour generators and privately sourced water; and disparately linked by "secessionary networks" of private infrastructure and transport services. DLF provides residents a private shuttle service to metro stations, mall and workplaces, whilst the in construction 16-lane DLF toll way 11, and private rapid metro system services DLF's Cyber City SEZ.'

'I Am Gurgaon' represent one such group, aimed at "awakening a responsible, aware and vigilant populace" and bringing together "the administration, corporate organisations, schools, Resident Welfare Associations, NGOs and developers" to "make a true 'Millennium City'". Led by a group of residents from DLF City, the group's primary project has been the "Million Trees Campaign" through which the group organise tree-planting, monitor sanitation and street-cleansing workers and have developed a Biodiversity Park at the heart of DLF City. The campaign is



sponsored by multinational corporations such as Coca-Cola, Canon, and KPMG and has the willing support of both the HUDA administration and the Municipal Council (Hindustan Times 2012). The Biodiversity Park is built on land previously used for mining and over the past few years has been occupied by slum "encroachments" and illegal developments; cleared and gated to make way for the park's development (Hindustan Times 2010). So they petition, make regular visits to the HUDA office and slap Public Interest Litigations against authorities for not taking action against illegal wine shops that have come up all over Gurgaon. They organise tree planting programmes and cleanliness drives and campaign for women's safety. The people organising these programmes are bankers, architects, doctors, IT professionals and businessmen.

In Gurgaon the triangle of local state, private developers and contractors and 'civil-society organisations' toss and turn about responsibilities and finance of social reproduction. 'The Haryana government has decided that the developer, as defined in the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975, shall transfer the administration of the condominium to its residents' welfare association (RWA) immediately after the grant of the occupation certificate. Raman Sharma, president, Gurgaon Progressive Forum explains the

reasons for the reluctance of the colonizers to hand over administration to RWAs, he said, “Before the hand-over the colonizers will have to pass on the entire details of the project that include the super area, common area and other factors like commercial and basement aspects. Now this will open a Pandora’s Box and result in conflicts.”

‘The South City-I residents’ welfare association (SCRWA) protested against Unitech’s apathy towards the maintenance of one of the earliest private colonies (set up in the early 1980s) in Gurgaon on Saturday. The protesters alleged that the builder showed utter disregard to the residents, majority of whom were senior citizens and women. Instead of addressing the problem, they locked their office gates and hired goons, bouncers and outsourced security men to attack the residents. Over 200 residents belonging to all age groups participated in the protest, which was led by the SCRWA president, Ashok Bhardwaj. The protest was also attended by R S Rathee, president of Gurgaon Citizens’ Council, and other RWAs’.

Urban Anonymity and Patriarchal Brutalisation

The urban space is a space of bourgeois freedom and its double-character. The old patriarchal village communities, the sexist and caste-based hierarchies are, if not dissolved, then transformed. As proletarians, Hindu and Muslim garment workers and their families live together in extremely confined spaces in rented houses in Kapashera – see report – sharing one tap, without any major tension. Under the pressure of ‘individualised sellers of labour power’ the boundaries between ‘individual freedom’ and ‘escape from the shackles of the village oppression’ on one side and atomisation, indifference and brutal competition on the labour market on the other are free floating. If workers don’t manage to create new

collectivities of struggle as a process of an association of free individuals, the urban space will turn into a mixture of battlefield and solitary confinement. ‘At least one suicide, on an average, is taking place every 36 hours in Gurgaon as victims hang themselves, consume poison or jump from a height, according to police figures which show that 104 people have ended their lives in the first four months of 2012. Nearly 88 of the suicide victims since January were aged between 20 and 40 and bulk of them were in their 20s. A total of 13 victims were aged 15-19 years, police data showed. The chief medical officer of a government hospital here told IANS: “Increasing suicidal tendency is a social as well as medical problem. We are ready to provide psychologists at special camps if some NGO takes the initiative.”’ Some violence is internalised, other violence targets others, most often those close to us. Domestic gendered violence is wide-spread, the shrinking families cannot cope with the pressure of proletarian existence. Patriarchal violence existed in the village, but there were other (female) family members who could intervene. In the urban sphere a female proletarian community has still to be created – as we witnessed ourselves in Chakkarpur. The material background for the more rampant and openly aggressive masculine violence is the gender heritage of the patriarchal (peasant) community whose ‘communal aspect’ is dissolved by massive (short-term) influx of real estate money, which gives young men command over a mass of newly arrived migrants, as land-lords, as contractors, as the people with local roots and power. A sudden boost of power in an increasingly anonymous space, a space which due to 80 per cent male migrant workers is a largely male space. This is combined with the feeling that ‘despite the money, there is no future for the sons of the soil’ – a precipitation of social death. The public gang-rape at the Gurgaon

– Delhi border was an expression of this aggressive hyper-masculinity. The ‘social indifference’ is often projected into the urban architecture, like in the following women’s descriptions of Gurgaon, which also express the fear of the (male) ‘rural uncivilised world’ and of the (men of the) dangerous classes:

‘If Delhi’s bad, Gurgaon’s worse: girls’

Anything can happen in Gurgaon’s barren stretches. “I think it is the mindset of the majority of people in Gurgaon that makes it worse in terms of safety. The young corporate professionals and nuclear families just form a small percentage when compared to people who come here from the neighbouring border areas. And not just that, our mindset too, that ‘oh this is Haryana and that kind of people’, makes it difficult for me to feel safer here. Also, for me, I know Delhi roads well, there are people on those roads and you understand the routes. But in Gurgaon, the place is still developing and sometimes you have to cross these barren stretches to get to your destination” says Bhavna Chaudhary, 21. “Day or night, you are subject to harassment. For me, Delhi is a little safer than Gurgaon. I lived in Greater Kailash for one-and-a-half years, and then shifted to Sohna road, Gurgaon, in an apartment. I shifted because I got a job here. But I think it was a bad decision. Even in daylight, people stare at you. You step out of your door and people start staring at you so hard, you get very uncomfortable. That is not the case in Delhi – at least, not in daylight. I have visited GK’s M-Block market even after 9pm, and still never had people staring at me or passing comments, but here, after 7, you shouldn’t be out” says Anushka Saxena, 28. You never know when someone will take out a gun. “The biggest problem in Gurgaon is the local guys there who create a ruckus very often. Being a girl, I have to stay away from them; you never know when someone

picks a fight and one of them pulls out a gun or a knife. And if this were to happen in Delhi, there will be at least some cops in the vicinity. In Gurgaon, there is police only in the few check posts, and many areas, due to this, we are not safe” says Shamita Khanna (name changed), 24. “There are vast expanses of absolutely nothing. Outside the apartment complex where I live, there is literal wilderness at night, and it is pitch dark. The safety is limited till my complex’s gate, where the guards stand. There are way too many pockets of deserted or not-so-developed areas and a stark contrast between what’s behind the complexes’ gates and outside it. Outside complexes’ gates, the roads are far from developed, there’s barely any lighting, and a lot of people who roam the streets are rowdy and uncouth” says Rishika Bhatnagar, 26.

The reaction of many ‘radical left groupings’ to the gang-rape was knee-jerk, demanding ‘tighter control’ (GPS for public transport) and law and order – which has been criticised by comrades. It is a lost race to try to deal with brutalisation by demanding more ‘control’ in the anonymous hands of the state. The combination of ‘bourgeois atomisation’ and delegation of power to the state is the material basis for indifference, which in turn becomes a precondition for (gender) violence. It will be largely in the hands of the female workers, to break patriarchal violence. The female call centre workers and other ‘young professionals’ will have to enforce that their recent position as wage earners and night-shift workers finds an expression in the freedom to move around freely outside the office walls – which will have to be enforced against the ‘men on the street’ and the ‘protectionism’ and moral conservatism of the ‘public opinion’ (the middle-class opinion of ‘safety’). The sexual harassment within the factory – like most forms of violence in the factories – remain invisible in most



cases. Women in the garment and electronics factories, where they sometimes account for half of the work-force will have to find ways to translate their collective self-confidence into the domestic sphere. It will be first priority of any communist politics to support this.

‘The urban’ has become the preferred space of a certain faction of the academic and bohemian left, which waters down Marxist class perspective with post-modernism and/or insurrectionist romanticism. Consciously or not they follow the bourgeois ideology of ‘post-industrialism’ which tries to render invisible any significance of ‘workers collective productivity’ for society and reduces workers to either ‘subjects’ or an unruly mass of poor people. We can relate to this bluntly with a quote by Otto Ruehle, a left communist in Germany in the 1920s, whereby ‘factory’ might well be replaced with any work-place which brings workers together under one roof in a systemic cooperation / division of labour: ‘Only in the factory is the worker of today a real proletarian, and as such a revolutionary within the meaning of the proletarian-socialist revolution. Outside the factory he is a petty-bourgeois, involved in a petty-bourgeois milieu and middle-class habits of life, dominated by petty-bourgeois ideology. He has grown up in bourgeois families, been educated in a bourgeois school, nourished on the bourgeois spirit. Marriage is a bourgeois penal institution. Dwelling in rented barracks is a bourgeois arrangement. The private household of every

family with its own kitchen leads to a completely egoistic economic mode. There the husband looks after his wife, the wife looks after her children; everyone thinks only about his interests. Even the child in bourgeois schools is directed to knowledge influenced by the bourgeoisie, which is tailored in accordance with bourgeois tendencies.’ The class character of the space outside the work-place is evident, the slums next to the mansions. ‘The dwelling in rented barracks’ sometimes turns from a bourgeois arrangement into collective proletarian resistance against the land-lord. Many working class initiatives keep these ‘proletarian experiences’ in their separate spheres, they either focus on the ‘workplace’ or the ‘area’. This newsletter hasn’t broken the dichotomy. It mainly refers to ‘workers’ in the urban space and does not manage to trace the social links to their reality within the production process. We have seen how certain ‘urban struggles’ become channeled into ‘problems of disadvantaged citizens’, we haven’t seen yet how collective conflicts which arise from the fact of ‘being a proletarian’ in the urban sphere (around housing, water, traffic, oppression) are influenced by or influence the numerous conflicts in the factories. Instead of conclusions we want to refer to a text by Sergio Bologna, which tries to understand the ‘productive political background’ of the ‘urban movements’ in Italy in the late 1970s, after the struggles in the older industrial strongholds had been defeated.

If the US stops Genie Energy from going ahead with oil contract, it invites the wrath of myriad pro-Israel groups.

Israel, Obama, *and* Other People's Oil

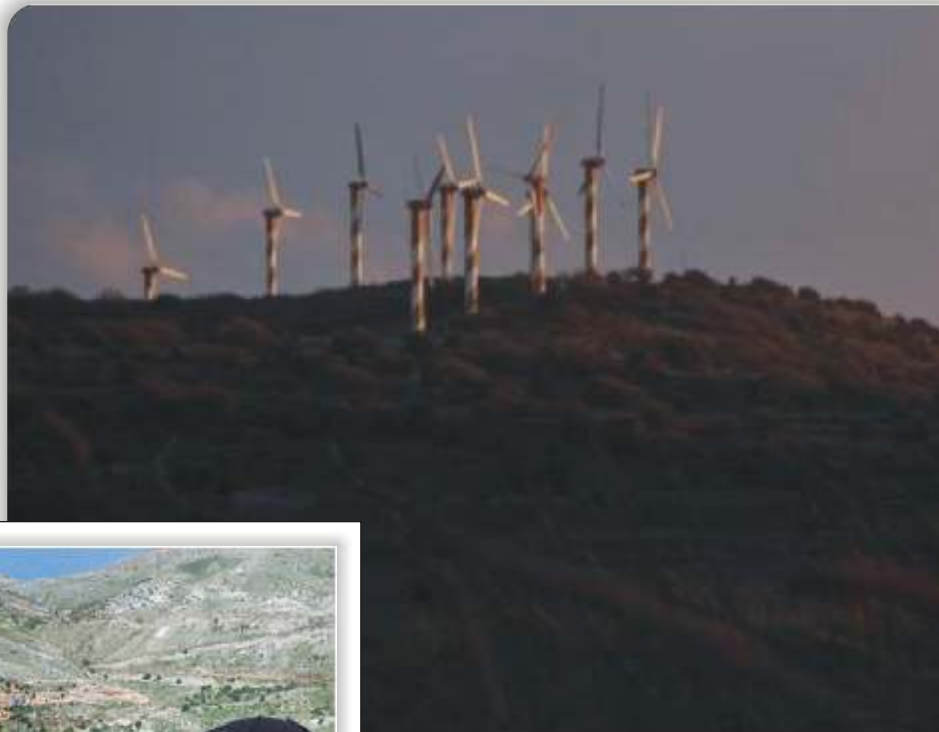
✶ Nadia Hijab



The

schedule for President Barack Obama's first visit to Israel and the

Palestinian territories shows no surprise that the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is not on his travel agenda. And yet Israel put it on the international agenda less than a month ago with its award of licence to a US energy firm to explore for oil in the Golan Heights. Oil drilling by the New Jersey-based Genie Energy



The Golan Heights

Ltd in the occupied Golan Heights could well result in a lawsuit claiming that Israel is engaged in an illegal act of pillage as defined in the Hague Convention. Perhaps Israel is now so used to living off the fat of other people's land - Palestinian and Syrian soil and water, among other resources - it has seemingly thrown caution to the wind. Even as it plans to illegally drill for oil in the

occupied Golan Heights, "Israel appears to have its eye on the occupied West Bank oil", according to a classified Foreign Office correspondence. The award puts the US on the spot. If the Obama administration tries to stop Genie from going ahead with the contract, it invites the wrath of myriad pro-Israel groups and their neocon allies, whose strength was most recently on display in the battle to confirm Chuck Hagel as Secretary of Defense. And if the administration ignores the oil deal, it leaves US corporations exposed to potential lawsuits for profiteering from



Israel's violations of human rights and international law. An additional worry for the Obama administration is the cast of characters involved in Genie Energy. The company is headed by former Israeli minister of infrastructure Effie Eitam, who lives in one of the illegal settlements on the Golan Heights, and includes former vice president Dick Cheney

as an adviser and Rupert Murdoch as a shareholder. Of course, Israel thinks it can get away with it. It has violated international law with impunity since it prevented the Palestinian refugees' return, annexed East Jerusalem, and extended Israeli law to the Golan Heights, among other transgressions. Moreover, although Israel's settlement building in the territories is regularly condemned, international sanctions have yet to be imposed. In fact, the US, the European Union and other donor nations effectively subsidise Israel's exploitation of Palestinian resources. Their aid to the Palestinian Authority enables Israel to get on with its colonisation at little or no cost to its budget, and to make a handsome profit from the Golan-based wine industry, beauty products from the Dead Sea, and other natural resources. This ignores the limitations on such exploitation of occupied territory clearly set out in the Annex to the Fourth Geneva Convention and widely recognised as applying to the territories occupied in 1967. A further irony is that Israel makes donor aid necessary by blocking sovereign Palestinian development of their own resources, especially water, but also others such as the potentially lucrative gas field off the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, even as it plans to illegally drill for oil in the occupied Golan Heights, Israel appears to have its eye on the occupied West Bank's oil, as revealed by classified Foreign Office correspondence obtained through the United Kingdom's Freedom of Information Act. As one staffer in Jerusalem wrote, it was "hard enough" to justify to British taxpayers "spending 100 million pounds a year on an economy that would be self-sufficient if able to exploit its own natural resources. Harder still if those resources included oil". However, the tide is turning though

perhaps too slowly for Israel to notice. EU member states are increasingly nervous about their implication in international law violations. For example, some EU states have been labelling settlement goods as coming from occupied territory. Most recently, EU consuls general in East Jerusalem and Ramallah issued an unprecedented report recommending sanctions on bodies involved in construction in Israeli settlements and much stricter application of the EU-Israel free trade agreement. These recommendations have yet to be translated into policy, but the EU consuls' report has pushed the "S" in BDS – the Palestine-led campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel's violations of international law – further into the mainstream. Israel's drilling award is certainly a gift to the global BDS movement, which has scored many successes against companies doing business in the Palestinian territories. So far, campaigns on the Golan Heights have largely focused on Eden Springs water and Golan wines with good results. A US company breaking international law in the Golan Heights would be an obvious target. The oil contract will also spotlight the racism of a growing number of Israelis toward Palestinians. Genie Energy's Eitam provides particularly rich fodder. In a 2006 interview, he called for most Palestinians to be expelled from the occupied territories and for Palestinian citizens of Israel to be removed "from the political system". Israel may be betting that the international community's preoccupation with Syria will not extend to the Syrian Golan Heights and that it will get away with it again. But it would do well to remember that even slow grinding wheels can produce justice.

Nadia Hijab is Director of Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network.

10 Things The Processed Food Industry Doesn't Want You To Know



Eating highly processed or highly concentrated foods can artificially stimulate dopamine (the pleasure neurotransmitter), which plays a role in addiction.

★ Donna Gates

We've been led to believe that processed foods seem like the answer to today's busy lives. New fads and fancy advertisements make promises that keep us coming back for more. The sad reality is that processed products are everywhere we look, making them increasingly harder to avoid. Processed foods are also more convenient - that's what it really comes down to in an ever increasing time poor society. It's so much easier to bake a cake by opening up a box, pouring out a dry mix, and some oil than starting from scratch. But what is the price we really pay for this seemingly great convenience?

1. Processed Foods Are Addictive and Can Cause You to Overeat

Whole foods are made up of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, fiber and water. When foods are processed the components of these foods are modified (for example, fiber, water and nutrients are removed) and in other cases,

components are concentrated. In each case, processing changes the way they are digested and assimilated in your body. Eating highly processed or highly concentrated foods can artificially stimulate dopamine (the pleasure neurotransmitter), which plays a role in addiction. In this way, you are eating foods that lack nutrients and fiber, but create a pleasurable feeling. A food addiction starts because you feel good when you are eating these foods and they make you think they taste better. You crave that pleasurable feeling again and again and voilà...this is what starts a food addiction.

2. Processed Foods Are Linked to Obesity

Additives in processed foods, like high fructose corn syrup, sugar and MSG have been linked to weight gain and obesity. Dr. Mercola recently reported about a new study that showed childhood obesity could be reduced by 18 percent, simply by cutting out fast food advertisements during children's programming. The Australian government is clearly more concerned about their children's health as television advertisements to



children were banned several years ago.

3. Processed Foods Often Contain Ingredients That Do Not Follow The Principle of Food Combining

This can lead to low energy, poor digestion, illness, acidic blood and weight gain. An example would be a frozen meat and cheese pizza. Cheese (a dairy product), meat (an animal protein) and pizza crust (a grain product) make a terrible food combination that can wreak havoc on your digestive health.

4. Processed Foods Contribute to an Imbalanced Inner Ecosystem

This can lead to digestive problems, cravings, illness and disease. Beneficial microflora cannot survive in your digestive tract when you are poisoning them. Like us they thrive on foods that are made by nature not by man.

5. A Diet High in Processed Foods Can Lead to Depression, Memory Issues and Mood Swings

Ingredients in processed foods are often the lowest cost and sub-par, nutritionally. For example, the fats and oils used in processed foods are refined, which means they are stripped of the essential fatty acids necessary for healthy blood sugar levels, moods and memory. Your heart, hormones and brain suffer when you choose to eat these fats and oils. Instead choose organic, unrefined or “virgin” fats and oils.



6. Processed Foods Often Go Hand In Hand with “Eating on the run” or Multitasking

Most people will choose convenience if they are on the run and in today’s busy lives, who of us isn’t? Unfortunately, multitasking while eating causes people to lose touch with their natural appetite, often leading to weight gain. Additionally, multitasking sends the wrong

signals to your digestive system, which needs to be in a restful mode to digest properly.

7. Nutrition Labels on Processed Foods Are Often Misleading and Have Harmful Health Effects

Many labels say “sugar free,” but contain other sweeteners like agave, which is like high fructose corn syrup. Additionally, product labeling may hide ingredients like GM (genetically modified) foods and harmful additives like MSG. (These are hidden behind words on the label like “natural flavorings” or “approved spices”).



8. Diets High in Processed Meats (like hot dogs and deli meats) Have Been Linked to Various Forms of Cancer

One of the reasons for this link to cancer is thought to be because of the preservatives used in processed meats. Clare Hughes, Australian Cancer Council nutrition program manager, says a number of studies have linked processed meat to cancer and the problem is multi-fold. "Processed meats are high in salt and fat. In addition, chemicals such as nitrites are added to many processed meats to maintain their colour and to prevent contamination. Nitrites can be converted in the stomach to carcinogenic nitrosamines."

9. Eating Too Many Processed Foods Can Lead to Infertility and Malnutrition

Processed foods, like cereal, are stripped of important vitamins and nutrients that your body truly needs. You could be eating a large amount of calories and still be malnourished if your diet is high in processed foods. Animal studies have shown that over three generations, a deficient diet causes reproduction to cease. Today, infertility is on the rise, affecting 7.3 million people in America.

10. Processed Foods are Made For Long Shelf-life, Not Long Human Life!

Chemicals, additives and preservatives are added to processed foods so that they will last for a long time without going rancid or affecting the taste of the food. Food manufacturers spend time, money and research on beautiful packaging and strategies to lengthen shelf-life, with little attention on how the foods will lengthen your life or create lasting health.

It's Time To Focus

On

Creating Value, Not Profit

"Fairness" and "sharing" have become dirty words in our country, words that immediately get the speaker branded a "liberal" or "communist."

★ Henry Blodget

Since the late 1970s, when American companies were fat and complacent, the focus of American capitalism has been on the bottom line. Spurred on by activist shareholders, private-equity firms, and bonuses based on stock prices, corporate managers have become obsessed with maximizing quarterly profits.

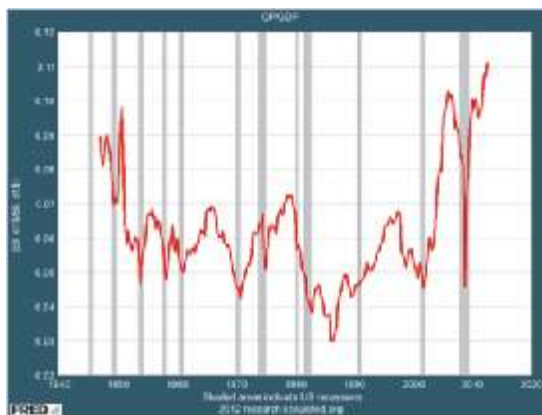
This new focus has produced remarkable results. Corporate

profits have hit an all-time high as a percent of the economy. Over the past three decades, big American companies have gone from having below-average profit margins to the highest profit margins in history (see chart).

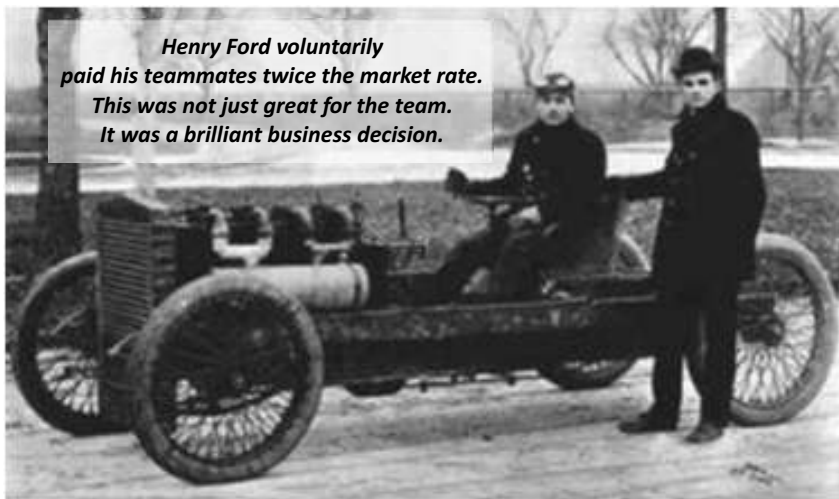
Unfortunately, this obsession with profit maximization has come at a cost. By focusing their entire effort on the bottom line, many American companies have reduced

their value to the other constituencies that great companies serve, namely: customers, employees, and society. One result of the profit obsession, for example, is that big American companies are now paying the lowest wages as a percent of the economy in history. (See chart).

Wages have hit an all time low as a percent

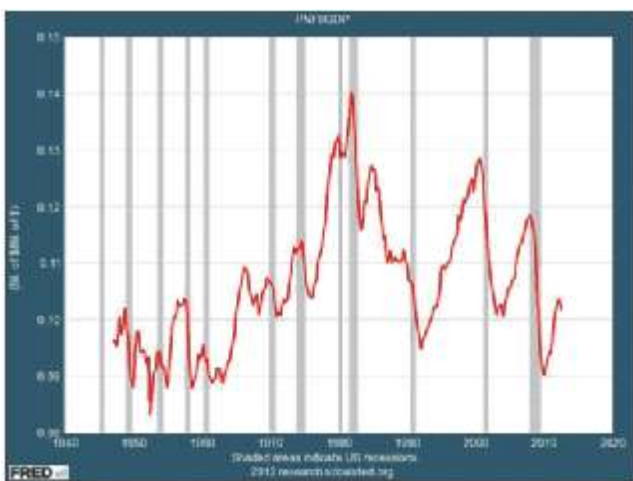


Henry Ford voluntarily paid his teammates twice the market rate. This was not just great for the team. It was a brilliant business decision.



of the economy. This means that a record low percentage of the vast wealth these companies have is being shared with the people who help earn it. Another result is that companies are now scrimping on capital investments, which have also dropped sharply as a percent of the economy. (See chart).

Both of these efficiency initiatives help "maximize profit," at least in the near term. But they hurt the economy. And they also hurt our



companies' overall growth rates. Why? Because every dime that companies pay out in wages and capital investment becomes revenue for other companies. Capital investment as a percent of the economy (non-residential) continues to fall. Rank-and-file employees at American companies — Walmart employees, for example — are also American consumers. They spend nearly everything they earn buying food, clothes, gas, houses, entertainment, and other products and services. This money then becomes profits and wages for companies that provide those products and services. And so on. The problem in the American economy right now is not that there isn't enough investment capital. There's plenty of it. (There's so much of it, in fact, that some companies don't even know what to do with it: Witness the massive cash mountains building up at companies like Apple, Cisco, Google, Bank of America, JP Morgan, et al.)

The problem in the U.S. economy is that rank-and-file American consumers are over-indebted, under-employed, and broke. And these consumers account for a staggering 70% of the spending in the U.S. economy. To restore the economy to health, we need to persuade our companies to balance their priorities — to share more of their wealth with the employees who help earn it. More broadly, we need to persuade our companies to focus on creating value for all of their constituencies, not just shareholders.

This is the new American manufacturing worker. Her company's doing great. She needs a raise.

Walmart employs 1.4 million Americans, approximately 1% of the entire American workforce. The average full-time Walmart associate makes \$12 an hour — \$480 a week and \$25,000 a year. That's just above the poverty line. These 1.4 million Americans who are dedicating their lives to making Walmart successful, in other words, are paid so little that they're nearly poor. Walmart itself made \$27 billion of operating profit in 2011. If Walmart were to give each of its U.S. associates a \$5,000 raise, it would cost the company \$7 billion a year. This would reduce Walmart's operating profit to a still-extremely-healthy \$20 billion. It would also



give 1.4 million hard-working Americans another \$100 a week to spend. And, chances are, they'd spend a lot of it at Walmart.

The same can be said for Bank of America, Citigroup, and many other huge American companies that are furiously engaged in finding ways to fire people and cut costs. In addition to their massively profitable Wall Street operations, these banks have huge branch networks in which tellers and local loan officers make modest salaries while serving their communities. Some of them would undoubtedly be grateful for a raise. And they'd probably spend it close to home. The point is that our three-decade drive to make our companies more efficient has been spectacularly successful — so successful that, in the interests of "maximizing

profits," we're now starving the key growth driver of the economy, average Americans.

How can we fix the economy? We can reinvest profits in people. To fix this, our companies need to share more of their wealth with their employees. They need to aim to earn a reasonable profit, not a "maximized" one. And they need to reinvest their excess profits in creating more value for their other constituencies, namely customers, employees, and society. "Fairness" and "sharing" have become dirty words in our country, words that immediately get the speaker branded a "liberal" or "communist." This is depressing. Fairness and sharing aren't political concepts, and the fact that they're interpreted that way shows just how polarized the country has become.

But given that half the country now associates "voluntary sharing" with "communism," arguing that companies should share their wealth because it's the right thing to do won't get us very far. So let's just base the argument on self-interest. It is very much in companies' self-interest to pay employees more.

If companies pay their employees more, they'll increase loyalty, reduce turnover, and get better employees. Over the long term, this should reduce training and hiring costs. By increasing customer satisfaction, it should also increase revenue. By paying their employees more, companies will also put more money in the hands of American consumers, who will then turn around and use it to buy products and services from American companies. So the companies will help accelerate the growth of the economy as a whole. And as the economy grows, so will the companies. This, in turn, will help create more long-term shareholder value.

In short, to restore our economy and society to health, we need a new corporate mission in America. We need to stop maximizing profit and start maximizing value.



Since last fall, Republicans have pretended to be more moderate - but their politics are harsher and more destructive than ever



Republican Vice Presidential nominee Paul Ryan waves as he takes the stage at the National Convention

The GOP's Real Agenda

✱ Tim Dickinson

After watching voters punish the Grand Old Party (GOP - a nickname for the Republican Party of the United States) in the 2012 elections, Republican elites have been talking a brave game about reforms that would make the party less repulsive to Latinos, women and gay-friendly millennials. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, the GOP's hip-hop-quoting young standard-bearer, is pressing conservatives to back an amnesty for undocumented immigrants. Dozens of party stalwarts, headlined by former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, renounced their opposition to gay marriage in a Supreme Court brief. GOP bigwigs have even launched New Republican - a group modeled after Bill Clinton's centrist Democratic Leadership Council - which seeks to rebrand the party as

"colorblind," "not anti-government" and dedicated to "ending corporate welfare."

How The Gop Became The Party of the Rich

Don't be fooled. On the ground, a very different reality is unfolding: In the Republican-led Congress, GOP-dominated statehouses and even before the nation's highest court, the reactionary impulses of the Republican Party appear unbowed. Across the nation, the GOP's severely conservative agenda - which seeks to impose job-killing austerity, to roll back voting and reproductive rights, to deprive the

working poor of health care, and to destroy agencies that protect the environment from industry and consumers from predatory banks - is moving forward under full steam.

The hardcore rump of the party is even working to punish moderate outliers like New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie - the party's most popular leader - who was denied a speaking role at the conservative movement's annual convention, CPAC. Today's GOP may desperately need to remake itself as "culturally modern, environmentally responsible and economically inclusive," argues David Frum, a veteran of the George



W. Bush White House, but it remains, he says, in the throes of a "Tea Party tantrum."

As it works to lock in as many retrograde policies as possible before it finally chooses to either modernize or die, the Republican Party is like a wounded beast: Rarely has it been more dangerous.

The Deficit: Hysterical Austerity

In the Tea Party narrative, president Obama is a reckless socialist spending America into oblivion. In reality, the president has governed like an old-school Republican. Despite having taken heroic measures to rescue the economy in 2009, Obama has presided over the slowest expansion of federal spending since Eisenhower – and repeatedly offered to help Republicans slash the social safety net as part of a "grand bargain" that would restore the nation to fiscal balance. Thanks to a rebounding tax base and the nearly \$1 trillion in budget cuts that both parties agreed to in the first phase of the debt-ceiling deal, the deficit, entering 2013, was shrinking at a faster clip than at any time since the peace dividend after WWII. Federal

outlays on both guns and butter were on a path to hit postwar lows as a percentage of gross domestic product by the end of Obama's second term. But for anti-government Republicans, simple belt-tightening isn't enough. Since 2009, the party has fetishized the kind of draconian cuts to social services that have been practiced in Europe in recent years – and that have failed spectacularly to revive economies there. And today, with the imposition of the sequester – \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts divided between domestic and military expenditures – the Republicans have finally succeeded in bringing shock-and-awe austerity to America.

The sequester was born of Republican recklessness – a fixture of the debt-reduction package that the House GOP secured in 2011 after threatening to push the United States into default. In theory, neither party wanted these cuts. They were designed to be so politically toxic that lawmakers would be forced to work out a smarter mix of new revenue and targeted spending reductions. During the "fiscal cliff" negotiations that opened 2013, President Obama laid out a fix to the sequester mess, limiting domestic and defense spending cuts to \$200 billion. He sought to make up the difference by leveraging government purchasing power to reap \$400 billion in health-care savings and banked another \$200 billion by ending waste in farm subsidies and other "mandatory" spending. Obama rounded out his proposal by demanding sacrifice both from the wealthiest – limiting tax deductions and loopholes for the rich – and from future retirees, trimming Social Security payouts by adjusting the way Washington measures inflation. Twenty years ago, this is the kind of self-negotiated proposal that might have been floated by Republican Sen. Bob Dole. But the party of Eric Cantor and John Boehner reacted as if it had been proposed by Hugo

Chávez.

The GOP House's counterproposal lurched into even greater Tea Party extremism. A budget bill passed in December by the House would have protected defense contractors by restoring all Pentagon spending and delivered the \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction on the broken backs and empty stomachs of low-income Americans – hollowing out social programs, decimating food-stamp benefits, even abolishing Meals on Wheels for hundreds of thousands of hungry seniors. Speaker Boehner praised his caucus for endorsing these "common-sense cuts." Underscoring the priorities of today's GOP, their plan also contained a huge giveaway to reckless Wall Street speculators by eliminating the funding necessary for the government to shutter huge financial institutions. The bill also would have given Congress the ability to zero out the budget for the hated Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the watchdog agency brought to life by Elizabeth Warren that protects homeowners and credit-card holders from the abuses of predatory lenders.

As a result of the GOP's refusal to negotiate in good faith, America is now being subjected to austerity-by-a-thousand-cuts. Budgetary sadists like Paul Ryan will delight in the sequester's blows to vital anti-poverty programs: \$285 million a year from heating assistance to keep the poor from freezing to death in their own homes. Another \$543 million will be cut from nutrition assistance – throwing as many as 750,000 at-risk kids and moms out of the WIC program. California and Texas alone likely will be forced to lay off more than 2,000 teachers – leaving some 350,000 students in the lurch. Tens of thousands of preschoolers will be kicked out of Head Start.

Yet for all the pain they cause, these cuts will do little to balance the budget. As Fed chairman Ben Bernanke testified to Congress, "If

you slow the economy, that hurts your revenues, and that means your deficit reduction is not as big as you think it is." Worse for a nation still mired in eight percent unemployment, Bernanke said, "This will cost a lot of jobs in the short run." The impact is particularly brutal for jurisdictions whose economies are dependent on federal and military contracts. Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., are poised to lose a combined 450,000 jobs—double the losses projected for a megastate like California.

Some Republicans have attempted to blame the president for the pain caused by the "Obamaqueter." But for the big bosses of the conservative movement, the true problem is that its cuts don't go far enough. Pointing to a right-wing think tank slamming the sequester as "insignificant," the GOP's anti-tax Svengali, Grover Norquist, snarked, "Ouch. Ouch. I cannot stand these 'meat cleaver' cuts in sequestration. Chain-saw massacre stuff."

Tax Cuts: Starve The States

Controlling only one-half of Congress, the Republicans can do little more than play defense by creating a deadlock in Washington. But with 24 statehouses now run by Republican governors and GOP-majority legislatures, the party is turning the states into laboratories for radical conservative governance.

In recent years, the GOP has sent talent from Congress back home to pursue its cruel economic agenda. From Louisiana to Kansas to Indiana, Republican governors with congressional pedigrees are working to slash state income and corporate taxes that hit the wealthiest—often calling on the working poor to make up the difference by paying higher sales taxes. In Indiana, Gov. Mike Pence—until 2010 the number-three Republican in the House leadership—has asked the legislature to squander a rare surplus by passing an "across-the-board tax cut" that heavily favors the rich: Twenty-

eight percent of benefits would go to the top five percent of earners. One in three low-income Hoosiers would see no tax cut at all.

In Louisiana, Gov. Bobby Jindal wants to abolish income and corporate taxes—financing the giveaway by increasing the flat tax on purchases. Jindal claims the proposal "will put more money back into the pockets of Louisiana families." That's a lie. Taxes on the poorest 20 percent would rise nearly \$400 a year in order to lower taxes on the top one percent by \$25,000. In Kansas, Republican Gov. Sam Brownback, a former U.S. senator, is trying to pull off the same boondoggle with the backing of powerful allies—the billionaire Koch brothers, whose Koch Industries is based in Wichita, and the American Legislative Exchange Council, ALEC, a corporate front group that pushes right-wing policy across state legislatures. Brownback began his tax-cutting in 2012 by eliminating the state business tax and slashing the state income tax, promising that these cuts would act like "a shot of adrenaline into the heart of the Kansas economy." Instead, the state is on track to pile up \$2.5 billion in debt by 2018, yet Brownback is still calling on the legislature to whittle away at income tax rates—which he declares are on a "glide path to zero"—even if that

requires higher sales taxes. Thanks to the Koch brothers, Brownback enjoys a rubber-stamp legislature. Koch campaign cash in the past election put hardcore conservatives in control of both chambers; a board member of ALEC is now speaker of the Kansas House. If Brownback's latest cuts go forward, Kansas' \$6 billion general fund will have been slashed by \$1.1 billion a year, giving millionaires a tax cut of \$28,000. "The magical growth model that the governor talks about only exists for the wealthiest Kansans who benefit from his tax plan," said Terry Forsyth, president of the Working Kansas Alliance.

Voting Rights: Rig The System

Republicans are painfully aware that a demographic tide has turned against them and that even turnout-suppressing voter-ID laws couldn't block the re-election of a Democrat to the White House in 2012. So party officials have become even more audacious in their plans to steal elections—this time by rigging the Electoral College itself.

The Electoral College is almost exclusively winner-take-all: The top popular vote-getter in Florida, for example, receives all 29 electoral votes. To benefit future GOP nominees, however, Republicans from blue-trending battleground states are seeking to divvy up their states' Electoral College bounty. These ploys are nothing more than dirty politics—and even GOP leaders admit it. "It's something that a lot of states that have been consistently blue that are fully controlled red ought to be looking at," said Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus, making clear that the strategy to reapportion Electoral College votes is appropriate only for strategically important swing states, not for Texas or Georgia.

In Pennsylvania, Republicans have introduced a bill to split Electoral College votes proportionally—a plan that would have robbed Obama of eight of the

**No man is good
enough to
govern another
man without
that other's
consent.**

Abraham Lincoln
Republican US
President

state's 20 votes in 2012. In Michigan, the state GOP has endorsed a plan to award an electoral vote to the winner of each congressional district. Because those districts were themselves gerrymandered by Republican politicians, this plan would have awarded Mitt Romney a majority of the Electoral College votes from Michigan – a state he lost by nearly 10 percent. These state measures pale in comparison with a case now being weighed by the Supreme Court. Conservatives are hoping to nullify a bedrock provision of the Voting Rights Act, the law that brought democracy to the American South. "Section 5" of the 1965 law – renewed almost unanimously by Congress in 2006 – gives the Justice Department oversight of elections and redistricting in nine mostly Southern states. The suit is backed by the Koch-founded Cato Institute, which declared in a friend-of-the-court brief that "three generations of federal intrusion have been more than enough to kill Jim Crow. . . . Without the threat of federal interference, would state legislatures feel free to engage in mischief? It seems wildly improbable, even in the Deep South."

During oral arguments in February, the hard-right majority on the Supreme Court appeared receptive to this line of attack – which is not surprising. As a young attorney in the Reagan Justice Department, the current chief justice, John Roberts, wrote legal briefs challenging the constitutionality of the VRA. And in the February proceedings, Reagan appointee Antonin Scalia slammed the law that guarantees the franchise to all Americans as a "racial entitlement." The recent history of the Deep South proves that racially discriminatory mischief is still with us. In Texas, where Gov. Rick Perry decries Section 5 as having been "unconstitutionally extended," the Justice Department used the provision to block a voter-ID law that could have disenfranchised some 600,000 duly registered voters

– most of them black and Latino. (The law endorsed a conceal-carry gun permit as acceptable ID for voting but deemed student and even state worker IDs invalid.)

The Lone Star State also violated the Voting Rights Act in its congressional redistricting. A panel of three federal judges decried the "discriminatory intent" displayed by state legislators who had carved job-creating commercial centers out of majority African-American districts and redrawn the lines of at least one Hispanic-dominant district to "strengthen the voting power of . . . Anglo citizens."

Global Warming: Deny, Deny, Deny

The Republican party also remains committed to violence against the environment. The House Science, Space and Technology Committee, which has jurisdiction over global-warming research, has been stacked with hardcore deniers like California Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, who once blamed climate change on "dinosaur flatulence," and Georgia Rep. Paul Broun, a creationist who blasts science – "all that stuff I was taught about evolution, embryology, big-bang theory" – as "lies straight from the pit of hell." The committee is chaired by Texan Lamar Smith, who has taken more than \$500,000 in oil money during his political career and recently received a \$10,000 check from Koch Industries. In one of his first moves as chairman, Smith planned a hearing about giving global-warming skeptics a congressional platform in a House "review" of climate science – only to have it postponed because of a severe storm.

In the states, Kansas is poised to join Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas in passing ALEC-sponsored legislation mandating that schools teach the "scientific controversies" of climate science. In South Carolina, conservatives have suppressed publication for more than a year of a study predicting dire global-

warming impacts in the state – which reportedly include flooded homes, shriveling wetlands, ocean dead zones, and an invasion of piranhas and Asian swamp eels. For his part, Sen. Rubio in Florida doubts whether humans are driving climate change and believes we should just let it ravage the planet in any case: "We can pass a bunch of laws that will destroy our economy," he said, "but it isn't going to change the weather."

Reproductive Rights: Declare War On Women

In Republican politics, limited government ends at a woman's vagina. Early this year, the GOP-controlled legislature of Arkansas passed a bill outlawing abortion after just 12 weeks' gestation, a law "designed to dial the clock back 40 years," said Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights. The measure was vetoed by Democratic Gov. Mike Beebe, who decried it as "blatantly" unconstitutional – under Supreme Court precedent a woman has the right to terminate a pregnancy before at least 22 weeks. But in March, the state legislature voted to override the veto, enacting the most restrictive abortion law in the nation – and setting up a certain court challenge that may tempt the Roberts court to reconsider *Roe v. Wade*.

Republican legislatures across the country are also pushing bills that would force a woman to be penetrated by a dildonic-ultrasound wand before she can legally terminate her pregnancy. A similar bill in Virginia last year became synonymous with the Republican party's "War on Women" – a PR fiasco that contributed to the loss of at least two Senate seats. But state Republicans are unabashed in supporting ultrasound mandates: "This bill is a priority," said Scott Fitzgerald, Republican state senate leader in Wisconsin. "It is long overdue."

In Indiana, lawmakers have sought to punish women seeking access to the abortion pill RU-486

GOP Dickinson Illustration courtesy Victor Juhasz



by forcing them to undergo not one but two ultrasound penetrations. Public outcry forced the legislature to reduce the ultrasound mandate to one. "This bill is about politics, not women's health or safety," said Betty Cockrum, president of Planned Parenthood of Indiana. "Statehouse politicians need to get out of our doctors' offices."

The Safety Net: Screw The Working Poor

The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the constitutionality of Obama-care last year also gave states the right to opt out of an expansion of Medicaid – the joint state-federal insurance program – to cover the working poor.

A few high-profile Republican governors, including Rick Scott of Florida and Christie in New Jersey, have embraced this Medicaid expansion as a sweetheart deal: The federal government will pay all costs for new enrollees for three years, ponying up 90 percent thereafter. But other GOP leaders who despise government are content to put the health of millions at risk rather than sacrifice ideology. Rick Perry in Texas – who calls Social Security a "disease" – is refusing to expand Medicaid, claiming it would

"threaten even Texas with financial ruin." In fact, Perry is looking a gift horse in the mouth. The feds would give the state \$100 billion over a decade to cover nearly 2 million residents, while requiring just \$15 billion in state matching funds. Perry's prominent peers include Govs. Tom Corbett of Pennsylvania, Nikki Haley of South Carolina and Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who count among the nearly 20 GOP leaders who so far have refused to expand coverage.

Even the Republicans' best efforts to demonstrate that the party is moving forward have backfired. The Violence Against Women Act expired in 2011, and Republican obstructionism blocked its reauthorization. After the election, GOP leaders were desperate to put the issue behind them. But to pass VAWA in February, Speaker Boehner had to suspend normal House rules, which require a majority of the majority party to pass a bill, and team up with Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats to reauthorize the law. In all, 160 House and Senate members voted against the act – all of them Republicans. If this is the "new" Republican party, it looks even more radical than your father's, or even your grandfather's. A leading new face on the party's right

flank – Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas – recalls a famous 1950s Republican right down to the crook in his nose. Channeling Sen. Joseph McCarthy, Cruz has declared Barack Obama to be "the most radical" president in our history, adding that Obama was educated at Harvard Law School by "Marxists" who, Cruz insists, "believed in the Communists overthrowing the United States government."

It may be tempting to believe that danger posed by the GOP's lunatic fringe is cabined off in the House and the states of the Great Flyover. But 2014 is already looming, and vulnerable Democrats will be contesting Senate seats in red states from Alaska to Arkansas and Louisiana to South Dakota, as well as in hotly contested battlegrounds like Virginia and North Carolina. Flip just six seats, and the GOP will control Congress – and set the agenda of the last two years of the Obama administration. Here's hoping that when the next wave of Todd Akins or Richard Mourdock's charge onto the scene – mouthing off about "legitimate rape" or the latest Tea Party cause célèbre, that the American body politic has the good sense to shut that whole thing down.

Election of PBI Bihar State committee

Patna : In the meeting of PBI cadres of Bihar state, office bearers of the Bihar state Proutist Bloc India were elected for the new term.

The meeting was chaired by Arjun Narayan Chaudhary, Chairman of the Bihar State PBI. He announced the dissolution of the existing state committee and asked PBI workers present in the meeting to elect office bearers for the new term.

Acarya Santosananda Avadhuta, the Public Relations Secretary, National Committee of PBI was the central observer during this election .

Following members were elected as the office bearers in the formation of new state committee :

Shiv Narayan	Chairman
Pravin Prasad Singh	Vice- chairman
Prince Victor	General Secretary
Mrityunjay Kumar	Joint General Secretary
Ramesh Chandra	Treasurer
Ram Nandan Prasad	Office Secretary
Prem Shankar Prasad	Public Relations Secretary
Ashok Kumar Singh	Convenor
Dilip Kumar Singh	Assistant Convenor
Ram Prasad Nirala	Cultural Secretary
Ravi Shankar Singh	Head, Youth and Students wing
Smt. Giita Devi	Head, Woman wing
Chandreshwar Prasad	Auditor
Gautam Kumar.	Organiser, Patna district
Ashok Kumar Rai	Organiser, Bhagalpur district
Tarni Prasad.	Organiser, Muzaffarpur district
Surendra Singh.	Organiser, Vaishali district
Guru Prasad	Organiser, Banka district
Paras Nath Sardul.	Organiser, Maner district
Awinash Kumar Singh	Organiser, Madhepura district
Sushil Kumar Rahi	Organiser, Araria district
Sushil Kumar Singh	Organiser, Ara district
Dr. R.K. Rajan	Organiser, Gaya district
Dr. Nilu Singh	Head, Women wing, Muzaffarpur
Kumari Tanu Bala	Active member
Dr.Chandra Mohan	Active member
Sachiranjan Hemant	Active member
Subodh Kumar	Active member
Baidyanath.	Active member
Sitaram.	Active member
Ram Deo	Active member
Pradyumna Narayan Singh	Adviser
Acharya Kishan Sood	Adviser

The meeting resolved to have the provincial office at Patna as early as possible. Ahsok Kumar, convenor, was given the responsibility to find out a suitable accomodation and rent it for the purpose.

Resolutions were also passed to raise fund for organising various activities, to accelerate membership drive and to organise cadre training programmes everywhere.

Self Immolation of a Great Proutist

**40th Anniversary of Self-immolation of
Acarya Dineshvaranand Avadhuta
24th April, 2013**

"Tell all my brothers and sisters that I have laid down my life to history and to show that Anandamurtiji also had a proper band of disciples who are ready to die at His wishes at any moment, who had not joined Ananda Marga or His mission for power or for anything else but to love Him, to be with Him and to merge in Him."

- Dineshvarananda



New Delhi : The 40th anniversary of the self immolation of Acarya Dineshvarananda Avadhuta was solemnised in Prout Bhawan, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi, on 24th April 2013. There was collective meditation followed by his admirers recounting their days with him.

Dada Dineshvarananda was an ardent Proutist who worked for Prout in different capacities throughout his missionary life. He was the editor of Bhojpuri Varta, a Proutist monthly newsletter published from Bhojpuri belt of Bihar. Later he joined Prout, the English weekly published from New Delhi as the circulation manager and worked very effectively in that capacity for a long time.

He was a loving person with a sweet smile always on his face. He was also a bold man, and had no fear of the opponents of Proutist movement.

When his spiritual master (Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji whose temporal name was Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, the founder of Prout) was administered poison in the jail, he felt very aggrieved. To stir government's conscience to institute a judicial probe in this incident, he committed self immolation in Purana Qila, New Delhi. Shrii Anandamurtiji was also on an indefinite fast for pressing this demand of the judicial enquiry. Since the government was adamant and not prepared to concede this demand, dada Dineshvaranandaji took this extreme step.

Few of his statements reproduced below show the kind of person Dineshvaranandji was and how he was firmly resolved to fight injustice.

Mahadadhici Dineshvarananda Avt

One month before his death, 150 margis in Ghazipur were addressed by Dineshvaranandji. He said that "If all the particles of the universe were to disagree with Anandamurtiji, if all the world were to desert Anandamurtiji, still this Dineshvarananda will not leave Anandamurtiji, whatsoever may happen. He will accompany Him till his last drop of existence." While saying this, his face grew so red-hot that all present were in tears.

Last words — the Day Before Death

"To all humanitarian minded men and women, to all moralists, in order to see the Supreme Form and because of corruption, my one brother immolated himself, only to give this Consciousness to us. They will come forward surely, it is my faith. My self-immolation will come with great power and great power will never be challenged by anyone, any powerful government, or other types of powerful corrupt societies. I think you will be

satisfied with this answer.

My day of self-immolation should not be Balidan Divas (Martyr's Day) and must be considered as Manawata Divas (Humanity Day). Everybody will be happy. They will rejoice. They will sing. They will all work happily and not cry. Nobody will weep on my death for this noble cause. My thanks to all.

I am going to self-immolate. This is my personal desire. It is fully my own decision and I alone am responsible for it. No one should hate me for this. It is my heart's desire because my Guru Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji who has given so many noble things to the society, is in jail. He wants to create Sadvipra Samaj, but corrupt and immoral people are not ready to hear Him. And my dear brother Divyananda Avadhuta has immolated himself, but the Bihar government and the Central government are not going to pay heed to his great sacrifice because they do not care for the feelings of 300,000 Ananda Margis all over the world.

What am I going to do? It is decided in my mind. O brothers and sisters of this universe, please convey all my feelings to this society and I am doing it for you and the coming generation and for humanity.

Tomorrow, the fixed date..., I, Acarya Dineshvarananda Avadhuta am going to self-immolate to stir the consciousness of humanity. O brothers and sisters, O dharmic brothers and sisters, O people of this generation, come forward! You come forward! Save Dharma, save society and fight against corruption and immorality. Fight against all types of tortures against humanity.

These are my last words and I request that when I shall do my duty, my brothers and sisters, Please cover my dead body with a shawl and place beside, a copy of Ananda Sutram and Anandamarga flag with Swastika. It is the sign of my Sadvipra Samaj. It is my dream. And this dream which I am leaving unfulfilled on this earth; it is the duty of my brothers and sisters to fulfill it.

My final namaskar to all."

Final Day Story

Dineshvaranandji said, "Tell all my brothers and sisters that I have laid down my life to enlighten the Guru Bhakti, to enlighten the history of my Guru." Dineshvaranandji expressed that he was going to restore proper colour to history and show that Anandamurtiji also had a proper band of disciples who are ready to die at His wishes at any moment, who had not joined Ananda Marga or His mission for power or for anything else but to love Him, to be with Him and to merge in Him."

Final Moments

Dineshvaranandji called everyone by name and said, "Brother, I am going". After that he sat on the seat and poured the petrol on himself. Then he recited BABA! BABA! BABA!, followed by "Ananda Marga Amar Hai, Ananda Marga Amar Hai, Ananda Marga Amar Hai" (Ananda Marga is immortal).

Then he lit the match, the first flame that burst rose over 20 feet and Dineshvarandji could be seen with an effulgent face, sitting in silence and then he began chanting BABA! BABA! BABA! BABA!

Baba's Tears

*You see a human being is not immortal.
Human being is to die.
Actually the work of these two sons
(Ac Divyananda and Ac Dineshvarananda Avt)
Is really excellent and remarkable.
Though I feel pain when I think of them,
I cannot tell you because they were young
And have died,
And when I think they have died for Me
I feel so much pain
And I want to weep.
I cannot weep in front of you,
But alone I can weep.
And it is the government who is at fault.
They are to blame.
It is something remarkable
In the history of India.
It is not like suicide.*

*For the ideology they have died.
They are bound to get moksa.
So don't think they have
Done something wrong.
Only one having great courage
Could have done such a thing.
It is a fact that everyone
will have to die someday,
but they have died by not accepting death.
Rather, it is death who has made them immortal.
There is greatness in life and success
And there is meaning in life.
Everybody is to leave this life.
Do something great in this life.
By their deeds,
They have become immortal.*

BABA

August 1977 Crimson Dawn

Proutists Interviewed



Dada Mahesh Varananda and Mirra Price were interviewed by Jeff Messer on his progressive talk show on "880, The Revolution" clear channel radio station in Asheville, NC (USA). We talked about Prout, women's issues, Dada's book (After Capitalism : Economic Democracy in Action), and the current political situation in Venezuela. There was a lively, inspired call-in time after the interview.

(In a subsequent issue we will print the transcript of the interview)

Azamgarh Kisan Andolan 1 to 6 April 2013

Azamgarh (U.P.) : Pragatisheel Bhojpuri Kisan Sangh organised a six-day massive dharna (sit-in) of farmers at Rickshaw stand near collectorate.

The gathering was addressed by Dinal Rai, Advocate who dealt with the problems and plight of Indian farmers at length. He said that the farmer produces grains, vegetables, milk, fruit etc for the population , but has to starve himself due to squalor and poverty. Successive governments have been giving false assurances which have never been fulfilled. Rai also said that the farmer is now awakening , and will establish his right to free electricity, irrigation, besides free education and healthcare for his children. Agriculture has to be given the status of industry in order to eradicate unemployment from rural areas.

Farmers' demand for economic justice has to be granted, asserted other speakers who included Janardan Singh, Dr. Jaishankar Mishra, Kunwar Rajesh Singh, Vijay Singh, Ravindra Yadav, Vijay Bahadur Yadav, Kailash Singh, Laxman Singh and Yadunandan Yadav. Dasrath Rai was conducting the entire programme.



Let us all come together

ÁMI RIJU PATHE CALE CALI BHÁÍ-----,
ÁBOL TÁBOL NAI, SOJHÁ KATHÁTÍ---
BOLE JETE CÁI, ÁJ BOLE JETE CÁI-
ÁMI RIJU PATHE CALE CALI BHÁÍ-----,

ÁKÁSHE LEGECHE RÁM DHANUR KHELÁ---
MÁTITE RAHECHE NÁNÁ RÚPER MELÁ---
TÁRI MÁJHE VÁYU BAHE BHÁVE UTALÁ-
ÁMI IHÁDER SAKAL KE BÁNCAITE CÁ-I-

RÚPRAS GANDHAJÁ ÁCHE DHARÁTE---
SNEHA BHÁLOBÁSÁ JÁHÁ ÁCHE MANETE
IHÁDER NÍSKALMASÁ KARITE-
ESO HÁTE HÁTE, SÁTHE SÁTHE, KÁJ KARE JÁI
ÁMI RIJU PATHE CALE CALI BHÁÍ-----,

Along the straight path I move brother,
Without any roundabout drivel,
Straightforward words
I want to speak, today I want to speak

In the sky there's a play of rainbow colours,
Upon the land a carnival of beauty.
Amidst all of this, the wind blows,
Turbulent with feelings.
All this I must preserve.

All forms, tastes, fragrances in the universe
All affection and love in the mind,
To keep them pure and undefiled
Come hand in hand, O friend, O friend
Together let us work.

(Translated from Bengali original)



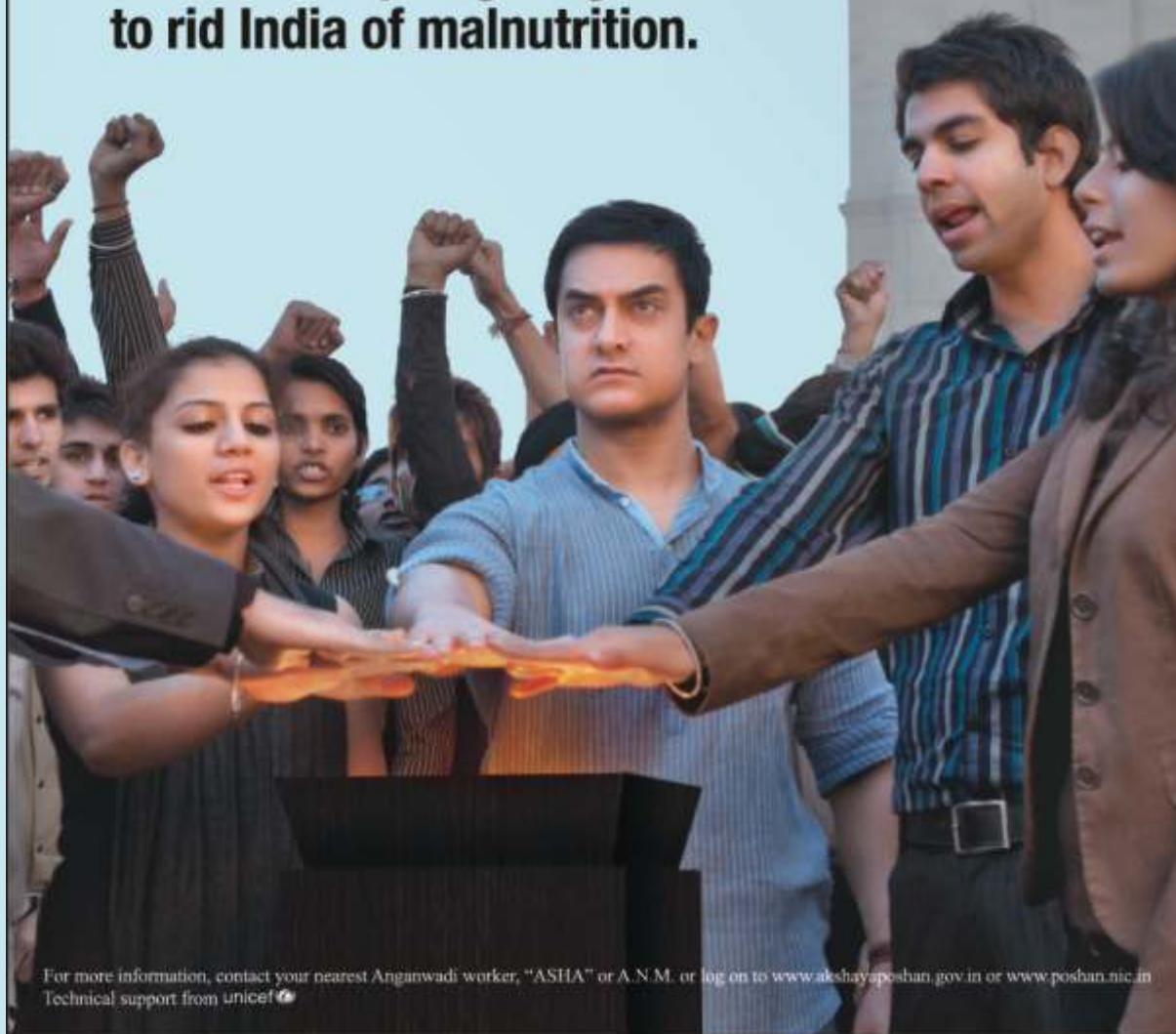
Towards a new dawn
Ministry of Women & Child Development
Government of India

Malnutrition Quit India

Many years ago, we had taken a pledge to become a free nation. And we succeeded. However, there's one thing that we are still to be free of - malnutrition. Malnutrition is an invisible killer that silently sneaks up on our children and permanently weakens them physically and mentally. And if our children are weak, how will our nation become strong? Malnutrition isn't going down without a fight, we all have to come together and wage a war against it.

Malnutrition is the lack of right nutrition. The time from conception till the age of two is when a child is extremely vulnerable to malnutrition. If proper care is taken during this period, our children can be saved from the dangers of malnutrition.

Let's take a pledge together to rid India of malnutrition.



For more information, contact your nearest Anganwadi worker, "ASHA" or A.N.M. or log on to www.akshayposhan.gov.in or www.poshan.nic.in
Technical support from unicef