

## **Patriotic and Democratic Forces shall strive to Educate People in the Elections against the Policies of Ruling Class Parties' Subservience to Imperialism and Feudalism!**

Assembly elections in the five states – Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa are to be conducted from 10<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The political parties contesting for governmental power in these states have started their election campaigns and are using every tactic to woo the voters. The media has been incessantly speculating about the outcome of the election results by posing the question whether the ruling party BJP at the centre and in the majority of these states – will win or not? Entire debate and discourse is being focused on this question.

In this connection it will be relevant to remind that for the past 75 years, from the day of transfer of power, the ruling classes have been preaching and insisting that conducting elections to parliament and assemblies itself in democracy. At the same time they have been cunningly and conveniently disregarding the constitutional values and the public decorum touted by them, in their greed to ascendancy of political power. For all these years they have been systematically undermining and vulgarising the idealistic virtues attributed to the so called parliamentary democracy. They have betrayed the democratic aspirations of the people. Democracy is conveniently reduced into a mere farce.

Today India stands out as a poor and very unequal country. The gap between the top 1% and the bottom 50% is widest in India among the major economies in the world. The gap is wider than in USA, UK, France, Russia and China. The people at the bottom of the social structures are pushed to a life in perpetual poverty and deprivation. This exacerbation started from the past four decades, with the introduction and implementation of imperialist neo-liberal economic policies in the country. These policies are the culprit to the shameful conditions of perpetual poverty and deprivation lacking the basic social democracy in India.

Neither national ruling-class parties, the BJP and Congress-nor the local ruling-class parties, that are vying for government power are against the implementation of imperialist neo-liberal economic policies or oppose to subserving the interests of imperialism and particularly the American

imperialism that became a bane and perpetual threat to the well-being of the entire world.

All these national and local parties differ only on how best they can serve the interests of international finance capital - in the form of transnational giant corporations, the imperialism and its modalities.

No doubt there are specific and varied problems in every state. But the source of all these problems is the subservience of our ruling-classes represented by all the ruling-class parties to Imperialism; and these problems are stemmed from this subservience to imperialism; while unemployment, scams, economic slump, social and economic inequality, inflation, sky rocketing prices are the common problems in these states: 1) In Uttar Pradesh the sexual abuse against women, rampant communal actions of state administration and police, police encounters and murders of people from the lower end of caste hierarchy, stray cattle and cow protection drives are the other specific problems of the state. 2) Farm debts, escalating epidemic of drugs, depletion of ground water and mafias are the specific problems in Punjab. 3) In Goa economic slump, scams and domination of Hindutva forces are the specific problems. 4) In Manipur it is the AFSPA Act, lack of development and the divide between hill valley people and tribes and anti-Christian sentiments provoked by Hindutva forces are the specific problems of the state. 5) Lack of development and lack of equal opportunities to all people are the problems in Uttarakhand state.

In all these states party-hopping and switching parties in these elections is a common aspect, which underlines that these lack any distinct principles and ideologies but have the common goal of attaining government power by hook-or-crook. That is why all these parties are raising emotional and controversial issues in their election campaigns; raking caste and community identities; forming opportunistic electoral united fronts and raining promises on the voters.

The marginal position of democratic forces to oppose these opportunistic, unprincipled ruling-class parties has made the 'electoral democracy' a playground for these political parties.

Consistent and patient work has to be taken up among the people-the voters -to educate to oppose these ruling-class parties of one-shade or the other and to activate them to realise a real and representative governing system of a new democracy based on the unity of workers and other toiling masses by ending the present existing system of fake democracy working exclusively for the benefit and interests of the ruling-classes that are sub-serving the interests of imperialism at the cost of the interests of our country and the people.

The BJP is in power at the Centre. In the political arena, its attempt to spread the basic ideology of the RSS into practice is in full swing. In line with its ideology, it is relentlessly pursuing dictatorial forms and fascist methods to protect the interests of the imperialists, corporates and the feudal classes. It is trying to impose centralized rule by mocking federalism. It is discriminating different parties in different states to control them. Some states are able to question this discrimination. Some states are submissive. In states where they are not in power, promoting anarchism shamelessly through the Governors. They are openly provoking religious, caste and regional differences. People are understanding BJP's dictatorial fascist activities and observing their practice. The consciousness given by the democratic and progressive forces will help create the conditions where people can decide whom to vote for in the respective states.

We call on all democratic forces in these states to support those candidates that have sincerely avowed to serve the people in distress and misery. Participating in the elections shall be with the objective of educating the people (voters) fight against imperialism and feudalism deep-rooted in the socio, economic and cultural system in our country!