



## **For Favour of Publication**

### **International Conference on Karl Marx Day-2**

**Patna, June 17.** Delivering the Joan Robinson Memorial Lecture, ADRI Chairman Anjan Mukherji, also Professor Emeritus, JNU, New Delhi, on Sunday said the flow of information has led to greater expectations for higher wages among the working class. This, in turn, has led to more repressive measures from the powers that be. The concept of subsistence wages was given in the Marxian theory. But an enhanced flow of information with the advent of radio, television and now, the social media, has raised the aspirations of the working class who now want to acquire modern gadgets and so higher wages. This has led to regimes being more repressive rather than sympathetic to the demands of the wage-earning work force. Mukherji's lecture was titled 'Marxian Economics: Notes from a Neo-Classical Viewpoint'.

It was the seventh in a series of 37 lectures which will be delivered in the course of the five-day International Conference on Karl Marx, being organised by the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) here. The conference began Saturday.

Kipton Jensen, Associate Professor, Morehouse College, Atlanta, US, delivered the D D Kosambi Memorial Lecture by quoting Martin Luther King regarding his visit to India in 1959: "To other countries I go as a tourist, to India I go as a pilgrim." The Black rights crusader was obviously speaking in deference to Mahatma Gandhi. The topic of Jensen's lecture was 'The History of Black Marxism in the USA'. Saying that the ordeal of slavery accelerated the economic power of Europe, he traced Marxism's 150-year journey in the US through different phases – the Reconstruction Period in 1868; the aftermath of the Civil War; the heights of the Socialist Party in 1918; the poor people's campaign in 1968 following the assassination of Martin Luther King; and the use of Marxism by different scholars to explain the meaning of the present geopolitical moment in 2018. Drawing an analogy between the Blacks in the US and untouchables in India, he added that the Blacks still haven't got much in terms of their legitimate rights.

In an earlier session, Ish Mishra, Associate Professor, Hindu College, Delhi, said the failure of Indian communists to fulfil the unaccomplished task of bourgeois democratic revolution

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subsequently led to the growth of identity politics. He said in India's current political scenario, the invocation of caste identity by a section for social justice groups is as big a speed-breaker as the invocation of religious identity by communal forces by way of spreading class consciousness among workers, peasants, Dalits, Adivasis and others on the road to their emancipation.

Other key speakers included Craig Brandist, Professor, University of Sheffield, UK, who delivered the Friedrich Engels Memorial Lecture titled 'The Origins of Marxist Oriental Studies in the USSR and its Stalinist Distortion'. Riccardo Bellofiore, Professor, University of Bergamo, Italy, delivered the Maurice Dobb Memorial Lecture titled 'Is There Life on Marx? The Critique of Political Economy as a Macro-Monetary Theory of capitalist Production'. Barbara Harriss White, Emeritus Professor, Oxford University, delivered the Otto Neurath Memorial Lecture titled 'Science and Policy in the Era of Globalisation'.

Presenting her paper 'Revolution, Emancipation and Social Reproduction', Chirashree Das Gupta, Associate Professor, JNU, concluded that assuming the growth of productive forces as the focus of extensive transformation rather than egalitarianism of social reproduction can undermine the objective of revolutionary objective.

Seven lectures were delivered and four papers were read on the second day of the five-day conference. On the inaugural day on Saturday, six lectures were delivered and four papers read. As many as 17 papers will be read and 37 memorial lectures will be delivered before the conference comes to an end Wednesday.

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