



COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

Central Committee

Press Release

Nov 17, 2020

Red Salutes to Comrade Jan Myrdal

A True Friend of Indian Revolution and World Socialist Revolution!

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Maoist) pays humble revolutionary homage to the true friend of Indian revolution, anti-imperialist struggles of the oppressed people of the world and World Socialist Revolution, a renowned writer and a Marxist intellectual Comrade Jan Myrdal. It conveys condolences to the near and dear of Jan Myrdal with deep grief on his demise.

Myrdal was born into a family of intellectuals. His father Gunnar Myrdal, a Sociologist and Economist and mother Alva Reimer, Swedish Ambassador to India were awarded Nobel Prizes for their work in Economics and disarmament. Jan differed with the liberal bourgeois stand of his parents and in personal matters in his childhood and started a life of his own. He made public his denial of the European colonial and imperialist influence through his autobiographical book, 'Confessions of a disloyal European'.

He not only observed the working class struggles and nationality liberation movements of his time but also studied and developed a Marxist perspective towards them. He upheld the movements. He read Marxism as a theory and saw it as a guide to practice. He believed that Marxian theory and practice would liberate the people from exploitation and oppression. He identified with the proletarian struggles in various parts of the world. He went and met the revolutionaries of various countries and made a note of the movement. He wrote a big article 'Loyal Images' on the relations between Europe and the Third World countries that stands as one of his famous contributions. His articles in magazines like 'Monthly Review' illustrate the experiences of the revolutions and also the working class spirit of Myrdal.

Jan Myrdal came to India more than once. He studied the past and the present revolution in the country. He toured the areas of Telangana revolution in the 1980s. He wrote an article 'India waits' in which he also wrote about the then ongoing peasant struggles of Karimnagar and Adilabad of the present state of Telangana. Almost thirty years later he came to meet the leadership comrades of the CPI (Maoist) in 2010. He wrote a very important, thought provoking and inspiring book 'Red star over India' in which he detailed his observations on the Indian revolutionary movement and the people's political power that was in an embryonic form in Dandakaranya. The book was translated into several Indian and European languages and became popular among the sympathisers of revolution all over the world. It helped our Party ideologically reach the Maoist Parties of various parts of the globe.

Our Party learnt many things from his extensive study of the world revolutions when he visited us. He was very humble when he said 'I do not give suggestions to anyone'. He firmly believed that revolutions will be successful. His perspective was, 'People make revolution. The Party that leads the people must decide the strategy and tactics as per the concrete conditions of the country and make revolution. This is what Russia did. This is what China did. You too must do the same way.' His objective was to 'explain the just struggles of the people as a writer. My intention is to tell the people inside and outside India as to why and how the people of the country are making revolution...'

To quote more from the book, '...all through the history, whenever there is a conflict between the rulers and the oppressed the oppressed proved to be right. This is true in India too in 2010...' '...in the situation when the

destitute people are turning into sparks, red star is flying over India. I write my experiences, thoughts and primary proposals when I saw the light of the star. This is my bounden duty...'

Jan dedicated the book to the memory of Comrade Hari Sharma (1934-2010), who made enormous efforts to propagate the Indian Revolution across the world.

The Central Government of India tried to stop Jan Myrdal from coming to India for an inaugural meeting of the book. They tried to block his passport. They even attempted to foist a false case on him. But he stood staunchly for what he believed and gave a fitting reply to these ill deeds.

Jan Myrdal did not limit himself to speaking and writing. He propagated people's struggles as a writer. He spoke against the offensive Operation Green Hunt that the Indian ruling classes unleashed to curb the CPI (Maoist) and operate the MoUs with MNCs. He was not for fame or money. On one occasion, the world renowned working class intellectual let out his feelings. He said, 'I gave away the royalty out of the publication of my books and my property to the youth organisations in my country. Now I own only a land of six feet in the burial ground in my native place Brume'.

Jan wrote 30 books. He visited more than a dozen countries. He had enormous heartfelt hopes on the contemporary revolutionary movements. Starting from his youth he voiced and penned in support of the revolutions around the world. He left us at the age of 93 dreaming the future egalitarian society.

Comrade Myrdal spoke to almost each and every one of our comrades he met. When he came to visit us at an advanced age of 82, the PLGA comrades took great care of him. He felt extremely grateful to comrades who helped him with his daily chores. They remember him fondly for his affection and concern towards them. He wrote in his book about his conversation with the PLGA comrades who hail from the local Gond tribe. He diligently analysed the aspects of culture and human relations in the society, the Party and PLGA.

In the situation where fascism has become the trend of the world, the demise of Jan Myrdal is an intense loss to the ongoing struggle to bring down imperialism. His writings, his analysis and his spirit shall always inspire the activists and sympathisers of revolution. His thought and practice is ideal to one who wishes a change in the society, especially the pro-people intellectuals. Let us all imbibe his spirit of hatred towards the exploiters and love towards the people that made outstanding contributions in the path of development of the human society. Let us take forward the contribution of Jan Myrdal to the cause of the oppressed classes of India and the world. Let us pledge in his memory that we shall fight until the end for the elimination of all kinds of wage slavery and imperialism and for Socialism and Communism.



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