REPORT OF PEER-TEACHING: LEFTIST MOVEMENTS (CC13):-

On 28th April 2026, an online peer teaching session on the topic "Origin of Communism in the Soviet Union and its Foundation and Evolution in India" was conducted as part of the Leftist Movement (CC13) course. The session aimed to examine the historical development of communist ideology and its impact on Indian political movements. The presentation combined political theory with historical analysis and offered participants a broad understanding of the evolution of leftist thought.

The first part of the session briefly discussed the intellectual origins of communism through the ideas of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Their critique of capitalism, theory of class struggle, and vision of a classless society were introduced as the ideological basis of later communist movements. The socio-economic conditions of Tsarist Russia and the rise of revolutionary politics leading to the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 under Vladimir Lenin were also explained. A brief overview of the formation of the Soviet state and the later consolidation of communist power under Joseph Stalin was also provided.

Greater emphasis was placed on the evolution of communism in India and its relationship with anti-colonial politics. The session highlighted how the success of the Russian Revolution inspired Indian intellectuals, workers, and nationalists to engage with Marxist ideas. The role of M. N. Roy, especially his involvement in international communist networks and his contribution to introducing Marxist ideology into Indian political discourse was discussed. The formation of the Communist Party of India in 1925 was identified as a major turning point in the growth of organized communist politics in India.

The presentation further examined the spread of communist influence among industrial workers, peasants, students, and trade unions during the colonial period. Important movements such as labour strikes, peasant mobilizations, and anti-imperialist campaigns were discussed to show how communist organizations attempted to connect class struggle with the broader nationalist movement. The significance of the Chandpur massacre and its impact on labour activism and anti-colonial resistance was highlighted. The rise of cultural movements associated with the Indian Left, particularly the role of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) in spreading progressive and anti-imperialist ideas through theatre, music, and literature was also examined. The discussion emphasized how culture became an important medium for political mobilization and public awareness.

The session further explored the origins and significance of the Naxalite Movement, beginning with the Naxalbari uprising of 1967 in West Bengal. The causes of peasant unrest, land inequality, and radical communist politics were analysed in detail. The differing relationship between communists and the Indian National Congress was also briefly discussed, particularly during phases such as the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement.

Overall, the session provided a comprehensive understanding of the ideological roots and political evolution of communism while placing special emphasis on its development within the Indian anti-colonial context. The session was informative, and useful in understanding the historical significance of leftist movements in modern India.