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With backing of monopolists of India and abroad Starts their 'Darling' Modi's journey to Delhi *masnad*

As Narendra Modi came victorious for him and his party BJP once more in the last December 2012 Gujarat Assembly Election to be sworn in as the chief minister of Gujarat for the fourth consecutive time (2001, 2002, 2007 and 2012), a section of media called it a *resounding* victory brushing aside the fact that the election and Modi's rising to the chair of CM were beset with stunning contradictions between trends and results. True, it was a clean sweep, 115 out of 182 seats, but in course of that Modi and his party secured a few seats less than what they had done in the last 2007 elections. Also they had seven ministers of the last government failing to return in this election. Four of these ministers as also four other MLAs of BJP were defeated in their North Gujarat seats, the region considered bastion of BJP.

Dismal scenario of Gujarat under Modi

In fact and unambiguously, this time there was a strong anti-incumbency, anti-Modi mood in people in the state. Reality was not far from truth, when Keshubhai Patel, Modi's arch-rival said 'Development in the state has remained restricted to the cities. The villages have got nothing.

Tribals have been left out of the development race. Drinking water shortage plagues Saurashtra and North Gujarat'. People were fuming within, exasperated at the way Modi had dished out benefits to the rich and the affluent middle class, and consigned the poor to further misery and penury besides making every attempt to keep the state communally surcharged. Memories were still alive of the ghastly bloodbath of the 2002 anti-Muslim pogrom which Modi himself planned, executed, steered. Even after a decade people could recall unrepentant state complicity with the pogrom, government's refusal to set up relief camps, reluctant and meagre compensation, proved engagement of senior members of the Modi government and BJP in the massacre as well as in extrajudicial killings or fake encounters in connivance with senior police officials, extensive subversion of legal justice, victimization of honest police or other officials, or murder of even important party leaders if and when they dared to question Modi and his government. One could also recall that under pressure of the rising public opinion, the Supreme Court of the country had to set up a Special

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SUCI(C) strongly opposes step towards decontrol of diesel price, demands immediate policy roll-back

Strongly condemning the latest brazenly anti-people move of the Government of India as announced on the 17th January 2013 allowing the oil companies to periodically increase diesel price, a partial decontrol and precursor of total decontrol of diesel price, Comrade Provas Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), in a statement issued on 18 January, 2013, said that this Congress-led UPA government has surpassed all records of demonstrating slyness and in dealing fatal blows upon common people of the country already devastated by the spate of savage fiscal measures and economic assaults. While there is no rise in international crude price nor any fall in the booked profit of the oil behemoths, the central government in naked subservience to the sinister class interest of the ruling capitalist class has rolled out the policy of decontrolling even diesel price destined to push the general price line to yet more dizzy a height. And as a mockery, it has announced a cosmetic increase in availability of subsidized LPG cylinders from 6 to 9 a year as if it is showing pity to the people at large albeit with a covert indication of raising price of the same also in near future. Pointing out the fact that under the smokescreen of so called 'reforms' and 'removing subsidies' the Government is today hell bent on taking away one after another hard earned economic benefits of the common people so very vital in their struggle for survival, Comrade Ghosh condemned these brutal attacks and called upon all not to accept these ruinous moves of the government by lying low but rise in vehement protest and compel the government to roll back the policy under pressure of prolonged powerful democratic movement organized from the grass route level.



A section of the massive gathering of the open session of 3rd All India conference of AIMSS at Tiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on 29 January, 2013 [More photos on page 10, coverage in next issue]

Narendra Modi, 'darling' of monopolists

Gujarat tops in winning investment, fails to fight hunger-poverty-discrimination

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Investigation Team (SIT) to work under its monitoring, with a view to investigating the complicity of Narendra Modi in the horrific anti-Muslim pogrom of 2002. But soon afterwards, both the Congress leading the Union government — shattered from the barrage of scams involving its corrupt ministers and leaders — and the BJP eager to come out of the ashes of the heinous 2002 pogrom condemned inside the country and outside all over the world, went into an understanding so much so that BJP assured Congress no real harassment in the parliament and the latter vowed sparing Modi from further attack. Understandably this came at the behest of the master of both, the ruling capitalist class. It was clear from the way the Apex Court of the country suddenly decided to transfer the whole case to the Magistrate level lower court of Ahmedabad, along with the SIT Report and the authority to pass judgement. It thus washed its hands off. To everyone's dismay, the SIT turned 180 degree from its initial report in which it reportedly held that political and communal agendas 'weighed heavily' in Modi's handling of the criminal justice system, recorded his government's abject failure in providing justice to the victims, found Modi guilty on many counts: a communal mindset, inflammatory speeches against the Muslim community which "showed a measure of thoughtlessness and irresponsibility on the part of a person holding a high public office", destruction of crucial records, appointment of Sangh members as public prosecutors, illegal positioning of ministers in police control rooms during the riots, and persecution of neutral officers etc.. The SIT gave a clean chit to Modi on the ground of absence of any "prosecutable evidence". Thus Modi who deserved to be tried in any international court of law on accusation of transgressing all norms of humanity and civility to mastermind a carnage or in any court of the soil on charges of blatantly neglecting, rather misusing his constitutional assignments and responsibilities as the Chief Minister of a state was not only acquitted of all his crimes, but was allowed to revitalize himself in his attempt to emerge as a phoenix from the ashes of the

pogrom. All these still had been looming large in mass-mind when Modi was going to face the 2012 election.

Agenda of Hindutva kept silently as the basic plank

Over and above these, behind the claim that everything in Gujarat was running fine and the minorities were safe and sound, the latter, more precisely the Muslims, lived silently in the 'ghettoes', having been forced to live there. The shock, numbness and powerlessness they were planfully thrust into in the 2002 pogrom were still alive in the neglect and discrimination they faced from the Modi administration. Their ghettoes lay by the sides of glittering neighbourhoods, conspicuously bereft of any minimum essential services like roads, sanitation, drinking water and electricity. In fact, revitalized Modi, his party and his administration carefully nurtured the same agenda of anti-Muslim Hindutva, the spearhead of the 2002 pogrom, to be retained as the main plank in the December 2013 election too, aided and abetted by a strong dose of caste and subcaste politics to manipulate vote banks within the ambit of Hindutva itself.

On the other hand, poor common people cutting across castes and communities were seriously beginning to doubt Modi's "progress" and governance. Feelings of betrayal and suspicion of fraudulence mount up day by day. For common people the 'investment' Modi is getting bring financing capitals but do not provide much jobs. These are capital intensive, not labour intensive. High growth rate thus clashes with patchy social development record; malnutrition, hunger, unemployment, sanitation, water scarcity, and inadequate schooling facilities persist all over the State. Reports of peasants committing suicide are pouring in from villages. In addition to the army of educated unemployed (close to 8,32,000 at the end of 2009-10), there exists a massive category of informal workers, as many as 89 per cent of men and 98 per cent of women who earn a pittance in poor working conditions without any social protection. Gujarat ranks 14th among 20 major States in India, in terms of daily wages given to rural casual workers (men). In terms of urban casual workers' (men) wages, it ranks

seventh. Thus top in the country in winning investment, Gujarat under Modi dramatically turns into an abject laggard in battling poverty, discrimination and want. Between 2005 and 2010, poverty in Gujarat was reduced by only 8.6%; well behind states like Orissa (19.2%), Maharashtra (13.7%) and Tamil Nadu (13.1%). The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) found the Hunger Index of Gujarat 'alarming', the lowest among all high-income states, and below even Orissa and UP. To fuel the 'development', farmlands are lost, production of cereals and pulses has fallen and as a consequence enough foodgrains have become a further rarity to the poor. It was Modi's government that reduced the food given at midday meals and the consequences are coming out now. Nearly 45% children below five are malnourished. Even the State Health Department could not but present grim facts that in Gujarat under-nutrition contributes to more than one-third of all deaths of children under the age of five. Infant mortality among girls at 51 per 1,000 is higher than the national average of 49. More than 55 per cent of the women are anaemic. Nearly 70 per cent of Dalit and Adivasi women in Gujarat suffer from malnutrition. In fact, in Gujarat today, a female has been turned into the weakest and most helpless creature be it a girl without food, a riot victim, a displaced tribal, or a saltpan worker. While Modi and his party and government were meeting the monopolists, diplomats and businessmen of the country and from over the world in the Vibrant Gujarat 2013 after the election with claims that women are safe in Gujarat, hapless womenfolk of the state were facing the usual ordeal: rapes, at other 'safe' corners of the state. However, this is no surprise as Gujarat is a state in which at least one-third of its MLAs face criminal charges, including rape.

Obviously such abysmal plight and consequent deep resentment had been forcing people to come out in waves of movements throughout Gujarat involving different sections of people from farmers to students, women to workers, including huge procession of government employees or the ASHA workers on their respective charter of demands. Some of these movements, like the one against Nirma Cement Plant in

Mahua could also meet with success.

Modi needed new slogan to allure disillusioned people

It was in such a background that Modi was facing the 2013 election. Prolonged pro-rich rule was causing disillusion in the vast masses, generating wrath, with the scenario turning graver with days. In such a situation Modi and his party which sustained upon the rabid anti-Muslim agenda of *Hindutva*, could neither shun it, nor fully bank on it. So the *Hindutva* agenda remained the main plank, silently working at the base to be hyped up at every possibility. At the same time, Modi embarked upon the loud new slogan of development, posed outwardly, promoting himself as the *vikas purush* (architect man of development) who had reared his state, Gujarat, to become a paradise for investment and development. The rich and the affluent middle class, particularly their urban counterpart, including the non-resident Gujarati population, already pampered and nourished with the policies of Modi government greedily took up this slogan. But how far the facts narrated above endorse the claim for development and good governance, who was going to judge that?

No doubt Modi's government helped Gujarat achieve a double-digit growth at rates higher than most other states. With just 5% of India's population, it contributed 21% to India's exports and 13% to its industrial production in 2009. What Modi-supporters ignore or fail to note is, as analysts reveal, *even more than 21 years before* Modi's dispensation, Gujarat was among the three fastest-growing states. Allured by the slogan of development, they tend to brush aside the fact that for 2005 Modi claimed that out of Rs.1,06,161 crore proposed, investment of Rs.74,019 crore (63 per cent) was made; but the information available under RTI show only Rs.24,998 crore (23.52 per cent) projects under implementation. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), itself reported that the investments bagged by Gujarat do not match with their implementation. Until December 2011, 51.8 per cent, that is more than half, of the projects covered in the Rs.16.28 lakh crore investment are yet to pick up steam.

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Memorial Meeting of Comrade Anil Sen

“Comrade Anil Sen had deepest of affection and caring mind for the comrades” — Comrade Provash Ghosh

Comrade Anil Sen, former member of Central Committee of our party SUCI (Communist) and former all India President of AIUTUC, breathed his last after ailing for long on December 24. A memorial meeting was held on January 13 last, at the University Institute Hall in Kolkata. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran Polit Bureau member and Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary of our party was the main speaker. The Polit Bureau members and Central Committee leaders paid their homage to the departed leader by offering floral tribute. The homage of the Central Committee was read out by Comrade Ranjit Dhar.

Comrade Provash Ghosh at the memorial meeting

(This is the free translation of the speech delivered by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), at the memorial meeting of Comrade Anil Sen, member of former Central Committee, held in Kolkata on 13 January, 2013. The responsibility of translation error as well as inadequate representation, if any, solely lies with the Editorial Board of Proletarian Era)

I seek apology from all of you in coming late to this memorial meeting because of being stranded in a traffic jam. You all know that Comrade Anil Sen was a member of the Central Committee elected at the First Congress of the Party. This memorial meeting has been organized to pay our respect to the departed leader and draw necessary lessons from his life struggle. We all are students of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Right from the departed leaders like Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, Sachin Banerjee, Subodh Banerjee, Pritish Chanda and Hiren Sarkar to the leaders of the next batch, all were his ardent students. All of us including the young comrades of today, those who have come to the Party recently, are all engaged in the struggle for developing ourselves as true human beings, as proletarian revolutionaries based on the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. This struggle has ceased for those who are no more. But we need now to try to acquire those specific qualities of theirs which would help us in our struggle. It is from this objective that we organize memorial meetings. Comrade Anil Sen was like my elder brother. I had said earlier also and all other leaders share the same view that Comrades Anil Sen, Sukomal Dasgupta, Tapas Dutta and Sitesh Dasgupta were initiated into the Party at a time when joining the Party itself was a struggle. It was a big test, an arduous struggle. Because, at that time, let alone the country, even in the state of West Bengal or the city

of Kolkata, the name of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was not known to anybody. Equally unknown was the name of SUCI(C). How many people were aware what a mammoth preparation was going on in a small club room of south Kolkata along with a handful of revolutionaries to build up a



Comrade Provash Ghosh paying floral tribute to Comrade Anil Sen at the memorial meeting on 13 January

genuine revolutionary party on this soil? How many could realize then that a great revolutionary struggle was slated to surge forth from there? You all are aware that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in his historic speech at the All India Conference of AIDYO in Suri, West Bengal, on 21st June, 1975, said how the opponents used to ridicule us at the time he started the Party along with a handful of revolutionary compatriots. ‘If the SUCI (C) is a party then a bat is also a bird’, ‘that is not a party but a club’— such were the taunts from them. The undivided CPI, RSP and Forward Bloc who were then big parties used to pass such deriding remarks.

I want to repeat again and again before the Party workers of today how immense were the difficulties faced by the party at that stage. During the early phase of our freedom struggle, that is the period of martyr Kshudiram and others, freedom fighters were jeered at as carpet-knights by many. ‘The sun

does not set in the British Empire and they are out to achieve independence of the country’—such bantering they had to face. Despite all these, a movement crystallized to free the country from the chain of foreign imperialist rule. Similarly, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had to hear that his thoughts were correct, logic was right but he would not succeed because in a vast country like India where there were so many big parties, so many well-known leaders, a person like him unknown, unheard, having no following, no money, was destined to spoil his life in this experiment. Even those who accepted his logic also held that his was an impossible mission. That time, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, as a historic challenge, took the initiative

strength among the dock workers. They used to organize big rallies and meetings in Kolkata. On the other hand, we used to think our meetings were successful if there was a gathering of 100 to 150 people. 15 or 20 people used to attend study classes conducted by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. It was not just conduction of a study class but a struggle for creating new men. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh used to say then: let it be clear at the outset that we might not be able to achieve anything except laying some bricks on which would be founded the revolutionary struggle of tomorrow; nothing more than that. You must be clear about that when joining the Party. Are you prepared for that? Those like Comrade Anil Sen and others who, following in the footsteps of the first seven revolutionary compatriots of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh could then correctly recognize the worth of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, responded to his call and joined the Party while imbibing the correct ideology in an all-embracing struggle needed for Party formation — they deserve immense respect for their role in the history of development of the Party, and their place in this respect is next to the first seven leaders. Comrade Sen also deserves that respect. And I have a personal obligation to him. I forget a lot of incidents. But some of the incidents have left a decisive imprint in my mind. I had referred to one such incident in an earlier meeting also. Many of you are aware of that. My link with the Party was accidental. After coming to Kolkata in 1950, I was admitted in a school where I had formed an organization. I started my political activities based on a cultural organization. Before this, I was first associated with RSP and then undivided CPI in East Bengal (now Bangladesh) out of emotion at an age one hardly understands politics. Under that influence, I started a cultural organization here with my friends. I was in search of books, a congenial environment to pursue my activities. One day I was passing by my school. Suddenly I saw that lights were on inside. I went inside and found an exhibition of paintings. The paintings were by Comrade Tapas Dutta and Comrade Sitesh Dasgupta and depicted the history of evolution of human civilization. I was greatly attracted by that exhibition. This was a turning point in my life. I am

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Comrade Provash Ghosh at the memorial meeting

We ought to keep in mind the immense contributions of the leaders and workers of the days of Party formation

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indebted to Comrade Tapas Dutta and Comrade Sitiesh Dasgupta for that. My second indebtedness is to Comrade Anil Sen. In my childhood days, though I had a passion for doing something, I was very shy. I was moving around the exhibition, wanted to say something but hesitated because of shyness. At that time Comrade Anil Sen noticed this and elicited from me what I intended to convey. He came forward to get acquainted with me, asked my name and enquired about my place of stay. I told him that I was looking for a good library. He gave me the address of the Culture Club from where I became associated with the Party. So, I am highly obliged to him.

There is another aspect. We were hardly 14 to 15 year old when we left home to join the revolutionary struggle. At that time, even Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and others had no food, no shelter, let alone us. What was necessary at that time was love and affection of the elders, their care and concern. I am narrating this for the understanding of those who are relatively senior in the Party today. When the younger comrades leave home, their near ones in conventional sense, like parents, brothers, sisters, kith and kin, they are mainly surcharged by the emotion about the Party. That is not the stage to understand that much of theory. It is incumbent on the seniors to look after their needs, oversee their well-being and rear them with warmth of love and affection. The name of Comrade Anil Sen deserves special mention among those who had discharged this responsibility at that time. Some more leading comrades were there also. There were many who were like a mother and elder sister to me. All of them have left an indelible mark in our mind. Comrade Anil Sen was very affectionate in nature. He used to keep detailed information about the comrades, particularly the juniors. He was highly concerned about the difficulties and calamities, if any, of the comrades. Even when he was gravely ill and completely bedridden, he kept himself informed about all this. I understand from my own experience how a particular phase of history had created this mind in us. Though, I might be younger than him in age by 6 to 7 years, yet I could see at that particular time also that Comrade Anil Sen and his contemporaries were alive to the spirit of that

golden period. That phase is no more but we must recreate that environment. At that time, there used to be cultivation of the lives and teachings of Vidyasagar-Vivekananda-Rammohan Subhas Chandra-Deshbandhu Chittaranjan-Rabindranath-Saratchandra. Mothers used to sing the song on Kshudiram. Guardians used to tell us that they were great men and we must bow our head in respect before their portraits. The teachers used to tell us about such luminaries. So, at the very dawn of life, the students and youth of that time had these names before them as ideals, founts of inspiration. Alongside these names, we were also aware of the names of great Lenin and Stalin. That also had a great impact on us. So, an emotion developed in us right from the school days. And I can well guess that Comrade Anil Sen was also inspired like this. That is why he could so easily accept the ideology of the Party, embrace the arduous course of Party life. You have just heard from the homage of the Central Committee that he came in contact with Satin Sen, then a front-ranking leader of the freedom movement in the district of Barisal in erstwhile East Bengal. Satin Sen was a revered leader and his name was not confined to Barisal district only. Most probably Mukundadas, the famous firebrand bard-poet was inspired by him. Comrade Anil Sen was groomed in such an environment marked by the presence of so many great names. This was indeed a great opportunity. I was not that acquainted with the other members of Comrade Anil Sen's family. But I knew his mother very well. We respected her much. She was indeed a mother worth the name. Perhaps, she did not have that much of formal education; might be upto school level only. But she used to think about the country, had patriotic feelings in her. She was proud that Comrade Anil Sen was engaged in a noble task. She used to read the works of Rabindranath, Saratchandra and other litterateurs. She used to write poems which were of a good standard. A mother with such qualities must have contributed in creating a higher mind in Comrade Anil Sen. I am stressing on this point because the Party comrades today suffer from a great void in this regard. We do feel that. But that dearth ought to be removed. In our childhood days, we got all these without asking, with much ease in the natural course. But today it is no doubt missing. So

what is needed but is not available in normal course should be obtained through conscious effort. Alongside conducting the struggle for remaining insulated from being led astray by the forces of reaction, we need to gather ingredients for developing ourselves as higher human beings. Those in the AIDS, AIDYO and Komsomol need to keep this in mind. I remember that Comrade Anil Sen and a handful of other comrades used to paste posters covering the entire city of Kolkata, from Tallah area in the north to Tollygunge in the extreme south. Our posters were so prominent that others taunted us as 'poster party'. They used to go out in the evening and continued postering throughout the night. This large scale postering also helped a lot in making people acquainted with the Party. *Ganadabi*, our Bengali organ, was hawked in the streets. The Party then was not known nor was its organ. How difficult it was to sell *Ganadabi* or raise funds for the Party. The thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh were conveyed through *Ganadabi*, which Comrade Anil Sen and others sold through painstaking efforts. The Party was not familiar, nor was the name of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. His historic speeches which stir the people today were not published. In such a situation, it was so hard to be associated with the Party. It is for this struggle that Comrade Anil Sen and his contemporaries deserve profuse respect. In future when we would not be there, the next generation must keep in mind with respect the immense contributions and arduous struggle of Comrade Anil Sen and others of his time. The Party is growing today. It would grow further following the inexorable course of history. But without being aware of the past history of the Party, proper realization of the Party would not take place. Today the Party commands tremendous respect. Whenever and wherever our workers meet people, they receive accolades for being SUCI(C) workers. They find high respect and emotion for the Party among the masses. But, some people once told Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that he would not succeed in his struggle. He was fighting in vain. His entire career would be doomed. But Comrade Shibdas Ghosh replied with firm determination, "I would fight till death, die amidst fighting. If there is truth in my struggle, history would once give recognition

to that." What hard struggle this Party is the product of! As we received no coverage in the media in those days, the same holds true also today. The Party is making bold stride ahead because truth is invincible. But comrades must remember that past chapter of hard struggle.

Another point I have already stressed. That is the question of infinite love, affection, sense of responsibility and caring attitude of the seniors towards the juniors. This creates a tremendous impact on the juniors. It is one thing to understand theoretically that the Party is a large family. But it is important to realize it through the love, affection and tender feeling of the seniors. At that time, our seniors had no money to arrange for our food, to take care of our other requirement. But within all limitations, whatever best was possible, in whatever way it was possible, was done by our seniors. At least they regularly enquired about us, ascertained whether we fared well or badly. It gives one immense strength if one is aware that a pair of eyes with deepest of affection is always keeping watch; someone is around to extend help and support. If the seniors only take account of the work done by the juniors, allocate work to them, criticize them and pull them up them for failure, then the bond of affection gets never cemented. We must also learn this aspect from the struggle of Comrade Anil Sen as a senior comrade in those days.

His deep love and affection for the Party workers was widely manifest in his discharge of responsibility to the ailing comrades. Right from the top leaders to the ordinary cadres, even supporters and sympathizers whoever had fallen sick received due attention from Comrade Sen. He did it on his own, never waited for any formal request from any state or district unit. Noticing this quality in him, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had assigned this responsibility to him. He discharged this responsibility even when bed-ridden and till he breathed his last. In discharge of this responsibility also, he left the stamp of his tender mind. He shouldered the responsibility of medical treatment of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh with total dedication, in body and mind. We saw him in the same role in case of medical treatments of Comrades Sachin Banerjee, Subodh Banerjee and Pritish Chanda and later of

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Narendra Modi, 'darling' of monopolists

Development was the outer cloak with agenda of Hindutva as the basic plank

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In the present case of Vibrant Gujarat 2013 too, details of MoUs are not made available to public.

Side by side with the slogan of development, the media standing for the corporates and business houses instantaneously coined the term "Modi magic" which meant free land, free water, and free electricity for setting up of industries as well as assurances of no movements or strikes by the workers. A shameful invitation to the monopolists to invest and exploit, it made even mainstream leading economists like Indira Hirway observe that "government is spending more on incentives than on development", which she regarded to be a kind of "crony capitalism", in which industries set up bases in Gujarat because of the concessions given to them.

Modi offers unbridled subsidies to monopolists from people's money

The Tata Nano car project set up in 2008 is a glaring case in point. The much vaunted 'Nano' motor car project was shifted by the Tatas from Singur in West Bengal to Sanand in Gujarat following gallant resistance by the poor peasants against forcible occupation of fertile multi-crop agricultural land in Singur. On the contrary, Modi government had gifted unprecedented tax concessions to the Tatas; it gave the company Rs.33, 000 crore away from the treasury against an investment of Rs.22, 000 crore for the Nano project. Modi arranged a 20-year loan of Rs 9, 570 crores to them at an interest of 0.001% pa. 1,100 acres of land were provided at one fourth of the market price without any condition of recruiting locals for job. There was no registration fee, stamp duty or transfer fee. Uninterrupted supply of water and electricity at minimal charge was guaranteed. What a feast of inverse subsidy to the big industry from people's money! A government really keen to bring about development for people sets up project for people's benefit. And here you see, in the name of development people's money is squandered to add to the coffers of monopolists; people are betrayed without any compunction. It was thus not astonishing that the Tatas will find Modi an "exemplary" leader who efficiently delivered what he promised. A fact worth

noting is that despite showcasing Nano, the electorates of Sanand having been blatantly betrayed by Modi and the BJP in regard to promise of direct employment at the Nano plant and finding only casual low wage third party contract labour as so called job opportunity inflicted defeat on Modi's candidate there.

It was in a state with such condition of its people and their life, that Modi faced the 2012 election. The Modi and his administration did not just have the minorities and opposition subdued, to thwart any disaster, the same administration delimited constituencies ahead of polling in such a way that increased the number of urban voters, particularly the rich and affluent middle class vote bank in each Assembly segment who would vote for Modi and Modi only! Even the Election Commission abruptly stopped their drive by putting a check on cash flow in which they had initially seized crores of rupees. It also had 5,90,000 males and 6,40,000 females registered in just 25 days between June and August 2011. Flow of money in the last election was stupendous be it in yatras (road trips) that Modi has a penchant for, or melas or fairs or such others. However, it was not restricted only to the BJP or Modi; Congress too did not want to lag far behind. To ensure loyalty amidst strong anti-incumbency mood, even discredited or tainted candidates were taken into the fray. Thus Amit Shah who had been Modi's right hand man and former Minister of State for Home and accused of cold-blooded murder to cover up evidences of 2002 carnage was brought back to Gujarat only before the election and was returned with a clear margin.

Was the victory really resounding ?

Despite all these, polarization was extreme; the oppressed, exploited, suffering people stood on one side and the rich, and their crumb-eaters on the other. And how did it go for Modi? After the first phase of election was over on 13 December, the media, both print and electronic, indicated at least a significant jolt for Modi and the BJP in Saurashtra and South Gujarat. Electronic media showed Narendra Modi in hysteric mood at the thought of that inevitability; also there were complaints that files

were being removed from the *Sachivalay*, the Secretariat. But then there was a sudden change between December 15 evening and 17 morning, as if a magic wand changed the total ambience including media behaviour. The same media that had spoken otherwise, predicted thumping win for Modi and the BJP. Earlier Modi had visited China and Japan and assured them land in Gujarat more liberally than even what Tatas got for their Nano project. Now strikingly, foreign diplomats, businessmen and journalists, including federal judges and legal experts from the USA rushed to the state just before the polls on December 13 and 17 with promises of business and other ventures in the state. It was so glaring that different political circles and social activists could not but raise questions. Widely and conspicuously circulated was a report of a renowned socio-political activist tendering resignation from all five important central government committees including Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), alleging that such drastic, unexpected and unreal change in ambience just before the second phase of election could not have taken place without "connivance" of the leading UPA partner to make sure the victory of BJP and Modi in Gujarat. Serious allegations of tampering of EVM machines and demands for abandoning these in future elections were raised from responsible quarters of political leaders and social-political activists, going to the extent of expressing the note of concern: "If Gujarat was used as the laboratory of the hate ideology, it can also be used as the laboratory of undermining the democracy in India". Serious allegation was also made by the Press Council of India chairperson Justice Markandey Katju, when on the basis of the reports of the fact-finding team of PCI which found how an "octopus-like" grip of the Modi administration on media gave way to and controlled large scale practice of 'paid news' in Gujarat elections, he commented that it was "a blot not only on the press but also on the democratic process"

The entire election scenario went topsy-turvy. The result was baffling. The BJP won assertively in the south Gujarat including its tribal belts and gained significantly in OBC constituencies of

Saurashtra. These were the two regions for which a jolt against Modi was predicted emphatically by the media after the first phase of polls. But in north Gujarat, the bastion of the party and Modi's own backyard, the BJP fared poor, losing its ministers and MLAs too. So, even though the election stood upon these bizarre facts, a powerful section of the media, but more particularly the corporate houses, MNCs and monopolists of this country and foreign countries, came out jubilantly to term the victory *resounding*.

Monopolists pay back their faithful servitor Modi with liberal certificates

And not only that. Immediately after the election in January 2013 Modi held the sixth Vibrant Gujarat industrial meet of monopolists, industrialists, corporates, businessmen, diplomats, even ambassadors. The participants included the galaxies of leading Indian monopoly and corporate houses like the Ambanis, Tatas, Kumarmangalam Birla, Ruias, Mahindra, Dhoot, Adani, Adi Godrej as Godrej group chairman and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president and others, but also of representatives of business and monopoly houses, including ambassadors in certain cases, of USA, Britain, Russia, Denmark, Australia, Spain, China, and Japan. Though not present in the meet close and cordial relationship of Gujarat with Israel is an open fact. The beneficiaries of Modi's 'development' were effusive in praise for his governance. Mukesh Ambani, one of the leading monopolists of the country and named among the top ten rich in the world, was explicit in his claim that Modi, an architect of unprecedented development, a visionary, effective and passionate leader and hence a fit candidate for prime ministership, is making Gujarat occupy a distinguished position in the world map through its spree of development.

His brother Anil saw in him a "role model" for other states to emulate, and hyperbolically claimed he is the best leader Gujarat has had after Gandhi. Ratan Tata regarded him to be an "exemplary" leader. Sunil Mittal was convinced that Modi is prime ministerial material. The foreigners too were liberal and

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Narendra Modi, 'darling' of monopolists

People must foil the ominous move to project Modi for Delhi *masnad*

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effervescent. Immediately after the 2002 pogrom, both the USA and British governments, under tremendous pressure and condemnation from their people were forced to take a stand against Modi for his heinous role in the pogrom, the former refusing Modi visa and the latter imposing boycott of Modi. The British government already announced its withdrawal of the decade-long boycott; stepping ahead now the British High Commissioner as well as the representative of the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) proceeded to comment that 'Gujarat's fiscal growth is more than that of China'. Similarly, a State Department spokesperson of the USA, made it clear that they are considering Gujarat with 'a very welcoming environment where American businesses flourish' and so the US business interests 'continue to promote and encourage investment there'. Representative of the US India Business Council (USIBC), called Gujarat's progress "stunning". Prominent American newspapers reported the results of the Gujarat Assembly elections, rarely done by US dailies. Even the daily Washington Post made headline of its article as "Modi wins 3rd term as state leader, setting stage for prime ministerial bid". In their cacophony of investment-development, their exuberance went so far as spokesman of the Mahindra group of industrialists

saying, 'Today people are talking about the China model of development in Gujarat; the day is not far when people will talk about the Gujarat model of growth in China' or the US Congress pronouncing that Gujarat is "perhaps India's best example of effective governance". The September 1 Report by the US Congressional Research Service, a bi-partisan and independent research wing of the US Congress that provides briefs for the American lawmakers, aired a view which showed that Modi is endearing himself not only to domestic but even foreign monopolists and imperialist sharks.

The omens

With such a scenario centring round Modi, people must clearly note the totally degenerated state bourgeois politics has come down to anywhere and everywhere in the capitalist-imperialist world. To eulogize their man of choice monopolists and their servitors, including the political managers in charge of different governments, do not hesitate to play upon fraudulent data and their catering through paid news under firm grip. Their good governance only means liberal scope for fleecing people without any care of democracy, humanity and civility.

And thus with Narendra Modi and Gujarat we find that just a decade back a highly aspirant

rabid communal politician rose to power with his hands soaked in human blood derived from a pogrom carried out on a community of people simply because they belonged to a different religion. Step by step, the same politician has moved up to consolidate his position and has now come out with an agenda, a claim for ushering in investment-development in his state. As facts stand out, the claim is directed to and the agenda is designed for the glittering world of the monopolists, Indian and foreign and their crumb-eating henchmen of the rich and affluent middle class. His harping upon the chorus of Gujarati pride is a ploy to allure unsuspecting unaware people. His effective governance is meant for setting up the smooth road-map for the master of the system, the monopolists and this privileged section of society to reap the maximum harvest. It is at the same time designed to ruthlessly uproot any chance of opposition and resistance to his means and methods. If in the parlance of politics fascism is defined as an anticipatory move designed to save the crisis-ridden, chaos-discredited capitalist order from collapse in the face of mounting dissatisfaction of the people against the existing system, the entire agenda of Modi smacks of the trend to that dangerous enemy of humanity. It is now well known that fascism assumes different forms in different countries to suit the local conditions. Somewhere it adopts the form of individual dictatorship, somewhere the autocratic rule of a military junta and yet in some other

countries it stealthily creeps in under the garb of parliamentary democracy though limiting its power by way of economic and political centralization and leading to administrative fascism, if necessary from behind the verbiage of efficient, firm and purposive governance.

And India being now placed in a condition where the Congress, the most trusted servitor of the ruling capitalist class is facing ever-mounting wrath of people on account of its corrupt, totally anti-people pro-monopolist policies, the masters of the state, the ruling capitalist class, the monopolists are playing enthusiastically upon the idea of projecting the arch-communal party of BJP to rise to power, in case the Congress fails to do so in the coming election, with a leader like Modi at their helm whose hands are soaked in human blood, who bears no compunction for that, whose record of governance is riveted on faithfully serving the master at any cost.

Eulogy of Modi by the capitalists, the monopolists, the imperialists and their agents to project him as the fittest candidate for the *masnad* of Delhi needs to be seen in this light. It is not just an affront to the country's people, it is ominous and disastrous. Toiling democratic-minded people of Gujarat, and the country as a whole, make themselves aware before invaluable time is lost. For them need of the hour is to rise in all earnestness to foil the dangerous move once for all through sustained mass movements.

Tripura state conference of AIMSS



First Tripura state conference of AIMSS was held in Agartala on 25th December last. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, President, AIMSS, was the main speaker while Comrade H G Jayalakshmi, General Secretary, AIMSS, was the chief guest. An 11 member strong state committee was constituted with Comrade Shibani Das as President and Comrade Shefali Chowdhury as Secretary.

State-Level Education Convention at Bhopal, MP

A state convention was organized on December 23, at Bhopal, MP against the proposed no-detention policy, and against all-out commercialization of education held at the Central Library. The main resolution passed at the convention referred to no-detention policy, fee-hike and other anti-people educational policies being followed by the government in education and it was read out by Comrade Sachin, Guna District Committee. The other resolution related to the inhuman and most heinous incident of gang-rape in Delhi was read out by Comrade Nivedita, member, Bhopal unit, AIDS0.

The main speaker at the convention, Comrade Sourav

Mukherjee, General Secretary, AIDS0, pointed out in his speech that such measures on part of the government as the Right to Education Act and the No-Detention policy cannot but contribute to the increasing commercialization and privatization of education. He also said education was being converted into a sellable commodity in the market.

Sri Ganesh Solanki also addressed the gathering on behalf of Ambedkar Hostel, Bhopal.

Student representatives from different schools and colleges, from different parts of the state like Sagar, Gwalior, Jhansi etc. attended the convention amidst great enthusiasm.

Comrade Provash Ghosh at the memorial meeting

Significance of memorial meeting lies in drawing appropriate lessons from the struggling life of the departed leader

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Comrades Ashutosh Banerjee, Tapas Dutta and Sitesh Dasgupta. So long as Comrade Nihar Mukherjee was alive, Comrade Anil Sen kept himself abreast of every detail of his treatment, no matter whether anyone of his own gave him any information or not. Many a time, he was not given all information lest he should suffer from tension. But he was pained, and sometimes out of concern got annoyed and even angry if information was not provided. Suddenly, he telephoned me a few days back and asked if I was sick. He must have come to know from someone that I was not keeping well. Since he himself was so sick, we were not telling him much about our illness. There was no need also.

I remember two incidents. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had given us the responsibility of looking after one comrade who had joined our Party from CPI some days before and was suffering from tuberculosis. It was decided that he would be brought to our Party commune at Akhil Mistry lane in central Kolkata. In those days treatment for TB was not as advanced as today. Comrade Anil Sen sat with all of us in a meeting, explained how that comrade would have to be nursed. In another incident, the brother of Comrade Priyabrata Mukherjee, the then Party in-charge of Asansol Area in West Bengal, had an attack of cancer. He was a sympathizer of our Party. The doors of his relatives were closed to him. No one agreed to give him shelter in Kolkata. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh assigned the responsibility of his stay and treatment to Comrade Anil Sen. He was kept at our Party commune at Hatibagan in north Kolkata. Comrade Anil Sen convened a meeting there and distributed responsibilities to all. Comrades also responded and the female comrades discharged their responsibilities with much dedication. Comrade Anil Sen was a bit sentimental, touchy also. Many could not understand it from outside. If there was any disagreement with anyone on any issue or he felt injured at someone's behaviour, the same was expressed in anger or sentimental overtone. This happens with emotional people. But if Comrade Anil Sen came to know that the comrade concerned had fallen sick, he became a different person, restive for providing him all necessary help

and took initiative to ensure that. So far, we have not seen anyone like that in the Party. Now, the comrades of our medical unit are taking the responsibility of the treatment of the Party comrades. But that is a normal discharge of assigned responsibility. This quality of Comrade Anil Sen is, according to me, extremely educative. Here also was expressed his caring mind for the comrades. Not only the comrades, he even used to come forward to help the relatives of the comrades, neighbours and known persons in their distress and difficult times. He possessed a deeply sympathetic mind.

Another aspect was his concern for the Party. Sometimes he was pained for that as well. If he heard of any good work or advancement of the Party, he was jubilant and ecstatic like a child. On the other

this concern, if one has to be responsible in the real sense one cannot but have this concern.

I shall refer to another point. He had a very good sense of humour. He had a rare quality of easing any uncomfortable situation created for some reason, bring a smile on a gloomy face with witty talks in the way a wafting breeze clears sultriness. This witty talk was no light talk but refined relishing humour. We have seen this in our early life, enjoyed it and benefitted. Once, I along with Comrades Sukomalda, Siteshda and some others was with him in Dum Dum jail. It may be for 22 to 25 days; I do not exactly remember that now. It is reminiscence. In normal times, we go to the Party office, remain engaged in our respective works. But life in the jail was different. There was no work but chatting and

Shibdas Ghosh, we know the cause behind this all-pervasive crisis. We also know from his teachings what we need to do. The parties which existed with huge strength earlier are now on trial in the people's court. CPI (M), CPI, RSP, Forward Bloc—all are hated by the people. Ours is the only Party which people hold in respect, trust and repose confidence in. In this state, the ground is much more fertile wanting to be cultivated properly. But there is dearth of expert cultivators. This is the condition of this state. The ground that our erstwhile leaders and workers have made arable step by step through toil needs to be ploughed and the harvest reaped. Though the situation is not so favourable in other states, yet the Party is growing fast in all of them. Those who had attended the recently concluded All India UTUC



A section of the gathering at the memorial meeting

hand, if any deficiency was noticed or he thought that something was not correct—his understanding could be right or wrong—he became extremely angry, upset and restive. There is a trend among many leaders to remain busy with their assigned responsibility. I am absorbed with the work I have been given and happy that the work has been done—such is the attitude. But, as regards thinking about the good or bad of the Party as a whole, identifying with the progress or setback of the Party and feeling concern based on that, Comrade Anil Sen attracted me relatively more than his contemporary leaders. He differed with me on a number of issues. Those are not a subject matter of discussion here. But I never failed to understand that whatever he said was from his concern about the Party. I do respect

discussing with others. Comrade Anil Sen was the central figure of that. Comrades have seen that in the Party office also. He had an uncanny knack of continuously regaling others with neat and clean wit and humour. He had the mind and ability to do that.

Comrades, we are receiving one after another blows. Many of us on the dais would also not be there same day. We have to go as per the law of nature. The task of the posterity is to have the flag hoisted by the predecessors to flutter yet at more height. You are all aware of the present situation of the country, the severe crisis it is sunk in. Economic, political, social, cultural, moral, individual life, family life—every sphere is gripped by this horrific crisis, hitherto unprecedented in the history of the country. As students of Comrade

conference in Bangalore had a feel of that. Those who would go to Kerala for the All India conference of AIMSS would see how the Party has gained strength. During the last Delhi March, you have seen what has been the extent of growth of the Party in other states. One lady comrade associated with AIDYO was telling me the other day that when she is in West Bengal, she does not fully realize the power of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought because the Party is well known here. But when she goes to other states where the Party is not that known, she is overwhelmed to find the way people are attracted towards Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought whatever little of that could be conveyed to them by her as per her own understanding. The whole country is now having the thirst of a

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Memorial Meeting of Comrade Anil Sen

“Love and affection for revolutionary people got concrete shape in Comrade Anil Sen in his love and affection for comrades”— Comrade Ranjit Dhar

Contd. from page 7

desert. There is immense attraction towards the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh everywhere. Not even an iota of confidence in any of the mainstream parties is noticed. One of our comrades has seen that in the small town of Amravati in Maharashtra, study classes are conducted in the local CPI office based on the works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. There is no Party organization of ours in that area. Such is happening in many places. We are getting a host of new connections. You all know that the Communist Party of Pakistan contacted us and sought permission to publish Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Works in Urdu. In the last All India UTUC conference in Bangalore, the fraternal delegates from the biggest left party of Sri Lanka expressed the desire to do something with us jointly. They have said they do not have any confidence in any other party of India. You are also aware how we are able to establish relations with the leftists-communists and anti-imperialist fighters of Bangladesh, Nepal, Turkey, West Asia, North Korea and other countries. So many new connections are developing. But we are suffering from a limitation. Comrade Anil Sen and others in course of their development as proletarian revolutionaries worked with a firm determination and challenge. From Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, they learnt that “I cannot do this” is a sentence precluded to the revolutionaries. They always thought how much additional responsibility they could shoulder over and above the allotted work. In fact, they used to grumble if they were not given additional work. I would do a lot of things, shoulder difficult tasks, develop myself to attain yet higher standard, would not remain content with success in a relatively easy work—such was the line of thinking in them. I shall make the impossible possible, embrace the task considered extremely tough, shall struggle for overcoming the hurdle others think insurmountable. This was the bent of mind of the Party workers of the early days. But there is a marked absence of this doggedness among the leaders and workers today. I tell the leaders of AIDS and AIDYO, the junior leaders of the state committee who have taken over from us that a feeling of stability has engulfed them. I am all right, pursuing the routine activities to the

best of my ability, attending study classes, delivering speeches in the meetings, giving advice to the juniors, receiving appreciation from the comrades about the pulpit speeches—that is enough. But what for are all these? Are not these for revolution? Yes, the Party is growing. But should I not be concerned about how fast and widespread could be the growth? What needs to be done for that? Should not more time and effort be given for the development of the comrades? Is not more toil required? If a particular method is failing to achieve the desired result in discharging a particular task, what different methodology needs to be adopted? These thoughts ought to make them restive. Comrade Anil Sen used to think like this. The parents in earlier days toiled hard to rear their children. But Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had engaged himself in much harder a struggle to develop us as revolutionaries. He had struggled for creating true human beings, a batch of proletarian revolutionaries who are now scattered round the country holding aloft the banner of revolution. We are indeed high in numbers, capable of doing so many things. But there is a deficiency in this regard. But Comrade Anil Sen and his contemporaries did not lack in this. They were fidgety for shouldering higher responsibilities. The significance of this memorial meeting lies in drawing appropriate lesson from the struggling life of the departed leader and bringing a change in my life, in my style of activities I followed till yesterday. With this, I conclude. Red salute to Comrade Anil Sen.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar

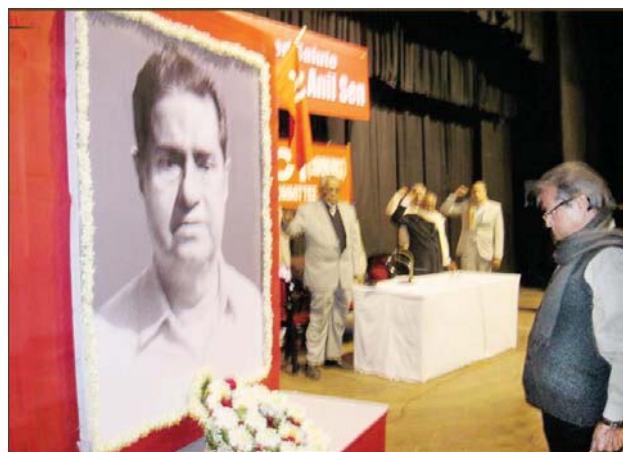
(This is a free translation of the speech delivered by Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) at the memorial meeting of Comrade Anil Sen on 13 January. Responsibility for translation error or inadequacy of expression, if any, lies with the editorial board of Proletarian Era.)

General Secretary, Comrade Provash Ghosh has already delivered an extremely valuable and emotional speech on the life and struggle of Comrade Anil Sen. At the very beginning of my party life, Comrade Anil Sen was a sort of guardian to me. His memory is so intertwined with my life, his affection so intensely showered on me that it makes it very hard for me to say something about him in this

memorial meeting. When I first came in touch with the Party, I was staying at Kalighat area of south Kolkata. My place of stay was very close to where Comrade Anil Sen used to live with his cousins. His mother too was there. His grandmother was alive then. I was alone shorn of any guardian. I had neither shelter nor any wherewithal then. Comrade Anil Sen kept track of me. I often paid visit to their house. I used to write posters sitting in that house. In fact, I almost became a member of the family of Comrade Sen. Not only Comrade Anil Sen, his mother, his grandmother, his elder brother, his sister-in-law – everyone had immense love and affection for me. At that time I took the Intermediate examination. On each day of the

hawker near Lake Market. Centering on a dispute, Asitabha Guha slapped Comrade Madhab Roy Chowdhury in public. Our Party decided to challenge this insolence of the CPI leader. Given our strength, it was an over-daring decision. But the Party didn't flinch back. We went to the house of Asitabha Guha in a team and taught him due lesson. I was a member of that team led by Comrade Anil Sen.

Close on its heels, another incident happened. We were then in control of the workers' union of Bard Company at Khidderpore area near Calcutta dock. There was one cashier with surname Chowdhury. I cannot recall his first name. Accused of defalcation of union funds, non-compliance with party instruction, discretionary activities,



Comrade Ranjit Dhar paying revolutionary tribute to Comrade Anil Sen

examination, Comrade Anil Sen gave me money to eat. Of course, it was not in case of me only; whoever came in contact with the Party, I observed, Comrade Anil Sen's love and affection flowed for them all. He was a very affectionate person. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said, ‘...politics calls for noble feelings of heart. Nobler still is the feeling that spurs on to revolutionary politics.’ This nobler feeling of heart was a great asset in Comrade Anil Sen. He was in possession of another wealth – utmost concern for the wellbeing of the Party, loss and gain of the Party.

I remember two incidents of that time. At the beginning, our Party was unfamiliar to all. Hardly, anyone was aware of the name of our Party. Undivided CPI was very strong at that time. Asitabha Guha was then a known leader of CPI at the Rashbehari area of south Kolkata. Comrade Madhab Roy Chowdhury of our Party was a street

embezzlement of money, it was decided that Chowdhury should be punished. He used to stay in the union office. A team led by Comrade Anil Sen hauled up Chowdhury at Khidderpore area and taught him necessary lesson. I was also a member of that team. This caused tremendous commotion in that locality. Quite a number of people thronged the spot. The police appeared. Somehow I got out of the disturbance and stood on the street from where I noticed the police taking away Comrade Anil Sen on arrest. That case continued for a long time. The courage Comrade Sen demonstrated in leading such actions on Party instruction and the way he discharged the responsibilities assigned to him to guard the Party's prestige and honour is surely a lesson to all. I found him to be very affectionate, tender and soft-minded towards the comrades. At the same

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Comrade Ranjit Dhar at the memorial meeting

Comrade Anil Sen's sense of responsibility is a lesson for all of us

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time, he was severe against those who tried to do harm to the Party. He meticulously collected on his own information about the growth or setback of the Party at different places. When he heard news of progress of the Party at any area, he was agog in joy while he became sorely sad if there was any information of any setback anywhere.

Departed Comrade Anil Sen participated in various social works while in school itself. He organized free food distribution centres to help the starved and hungry people during the devastating famine of the 1940s. At the advice of the freedom fighter Satin Sen, Comrade Anil Sen plunged into struggle led by the former to protect the Hindu-Muslim unity when the vested interest engineered communal riot. In his early days, he was attached with the RSP. Later, he associated himself with the *Jugantar*, one of the revolutionary groups like the *Anushilan Samity*. Then he came in contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh through the Culture Club. On joining the Culture Club, he could realize what revolution is, how this revolution is to be organized, what the revolutionary character was. Once the realization dawned upon him that the path deduced by Comrade Shibdas

Ghosh was the correct one and it is only by adopting that revolutionary path, one could become a genuine proletarian revolutionary, he never looked back. Once he joined the Party, his whole and sole concern centred on its woes and weals till he breathed his last. Short of a keen sense of values and firm desire to traverse the revolutionary path in pursuit of truth, this was impossible for anyone at that point of time.

He was very outspoken by nature. Characteristic of his behaviour, he strongly expressed his feeling. If any act of anyone benefitted the Party, his happiness knew no bound. But he was equally disturbed, irritated and enraged if one's work, according to him, caused harm to the Party. He expressly reacted in such cases. This implies that his mind was distinctly expressed through his behaviour, through his open talk.

He looked after the medical treatment of all the leaders and workers of the Party. In 1972, when Comrade Shibdas Ghosh fell seriously ill owing to a severe viral attack that resulted in partial paralysis and even posed to be life-threatening, Comrade Anil Sen contacted his cousin, Dr. Anupam Dasgupta, eminent neurologist, and made all necessary arrangements

for his proper treatment. When Sachinda and Pritishda, our respected leaders, became seriously ill, Comrade Anil Sen looked after them with all responsibility of their treatment. When Comrade Nihar Mukherjee was taken to Mumbai for bypass surgery, Comrade Anil Sen accompanied him with others there and made all the arrangements. Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee was operated upon twice in Calcutta but it failed. He was then sent to Chennai for surgery. Comrade Anil Sen accompanied him and supervised all arrangements. When Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta underwent a major surgery, Comrade Anil Sen was present by his side. Whenever anyone had to undergo surgery, Comrade Anil Sen, I noticed, made sure of his presence before the Operation Theater from beginning to the end even ignoring his own illness. He did not leave the place until the operation was over. He used to talk to the doctors, take information in detail about the diagnosis, course of treatment and monitored everything. This was not only for the leaders but for anyone, any ordinary worker of the Party. Whenever anyone was admitted in hospital or nursing home, Comrade Anil Sen rushed there to take information and necessary help. He not only enquired of their treatment, but directly made arrangement for it, kept in contact with the doctors until they were cured. Even after their coming round, Comrade Anil Sen kept on enquiring about their health. This

concern of his was not only for the leaders but even for any ordinary comrade.

He himself was the medical representative of a big pharmaceutical company and earned well. While on tour, the company provided him allowance suitable for staying in the star hotels. But he volunteered to accommodate himself in a very low-priced ordinary inn. He was eligible to travel in first class but booked his ticket in third class. Thus, whatever he could save he gave away to the Party fund. This way he helped the Party monetarily. Occasionally he used to tour different districts in connection with his company jobs. There are Party centres in many of these districts. Of those which were economically in bad shape and were in difficulty to afford a square meal a day to the comrades, Comrade Anil Sen would stay there and enjoyed immensely by feeding them well during the days of his sojourn. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us that love and affection to the revolutionary people gets concrete shape in the love and affection to the comrades. Comrade Anil Sen acquired this quality.

Every person is symbiotically embodiment of good and bad. Comrade Anil Sen too was no exception to it. But I feel the positive qualities far outweighed the negative sides.

There were many more things to share with you. But time is a constraint. I end here by paying my respectful revolutionary tribute to Comrade Anil Sen.

Villagers Demonstrate in Bihar against Construction of Asbestos Factory

On January 16, villagers under the banner of Khet Bachao Jeevan Bachao Jan Sangharsh Committee (KBJBC), marched from Rampur Rajdhari of Vaishali District of Bihar to the capital city Patna, as part of their ongoing agitation against the construction of hazardous plant of white asbestos (chrysotile asbestos), which might cause cancer. They have been agitating for more than two years. Earlier on June 14, 2012, the villagers had set on a Mahadharna (The Big Rally), following which, the district administration had put a stay on the construction of the factory. When construction was resumed on December 16, 2012, the villagers blocked the Mohua-Samastipur road for 9 hours to register their protest. Reportedly, chrysotile asbestos has been banned in not less than 55 countries. In India mining of asbestos is technically banned and so is its trading, but its import from other countries is yet to be banned. It should be noted that, health is a state subject in India and so the

state government's stand to maintain passivity regarding the use of white asbestos cannot but be condemned.

On January 16 last, the villagers submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister demanding immediate stoppage of work at the proposed factory site of West-Bengal based Utkal Asbestos Ltd. Company. The memorandum also sought the withdrawal of fake cases that the company namely the Utkal Management which itself has fraudulently claimed fertile land as barren to its own interest of starting the plant, had lodged with/at the Mahua Police Station, Vaishali.

In the demonstration, left and democratic parties took active part, thereby expressing solidarity with the struggle of the villagers against this hazardous project which will be inimical to public interest. Among the leaders were Comrades Shiv Shankar, Bihar State Secretary, SUCI(C), Arun Kumar Singh, President, AIUTUC, Bihar and leaders of other left parties and trade unions.

Memorial meeting of Comrade Anil Sen organized by All India UTUC

All India UTUC organized a memorial meeting of Comrade Anil Sen, former All India President, at the Indian Association Hall, Kolkata on 19 January last. Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, All India

UTUC, was the main speaker while Comrade Sunil Mukherjee, Vice-President, presided over. Homage by the All India committee of All India UTUC was read out in the meeting.



Comrade Sankar Saha addressing the memorial meeting

In Memory of Great Leader Lenin



Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) garlanding the portrait of Lenin, the Great Leader of the proletariat, on the occasion of his 89 death anniversary at the Party's Central Office in Kolkata on 21 January.

IACC condemns French military intervention in Mali

The International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC) has issued the following Statement on the French military intervention in Mali on 17 January, 2013 :

The French military intervention in Mali which has received full support from USA and the European Union is the latest example in the series of aggressions by imperialist powers on sovereign countries to further their economic and political interests. This is a blow to the national sovereignty of all countries and will only serve to bring chaos and devastation and the common people of the affected countries will have to bear the brunt. The Security Council in adopting the Resolution 2085 at the behest of the imperialist powers opened the door to military intervention in Mali. IACC condemns the despicable role of the Security Council in toeing the imperialist line. IACC staunchly upholds the sovereignty of nations and the people's right to self-determination and to chart their own course of development. We call upon the freedom and democracy loving people of all countries to protest against the French military intervention and to organize militant movements in their respective countries demanding the immediate withdrawal of imperialist troops from the Malian soil.

Manik Mukherjee
General Secretary

International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee



Budhlahda, Punjab

Protest against the Delhi Gang-Rape incident



Ranchi, Jharkhand

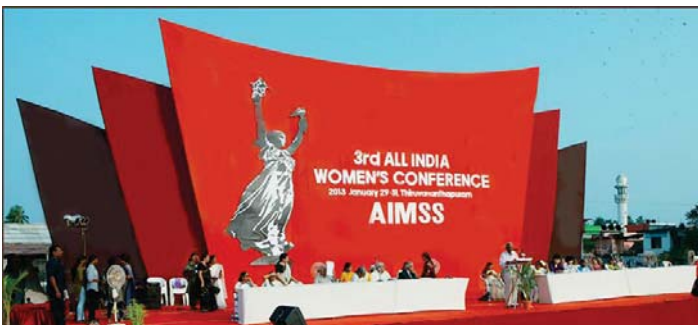
Against price-hike, entry of big capital in retail trade and new pension scheme, and demanding social security of all workers, minimum wage of Rs. 15,000, enhancement of gratuity with abolition of ceiling on bonus and PF and other burning problems

All India U T U C calls upon workers to make successful

All India General Strike

on 20-21 February, 2013

convened by the central Trade Unions



Dais at the open session of the 3rd All India conference of AIMSS at Tiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on 29 January, 2013 [Left] and Justice Venkatachaliah inaugurating the Conference.

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