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Corruption the omnipresent virus

Capitalism breeds it, nourishes it, thrives upon it

Corruption has suddenly become a live issue in the country. So far, through the years a cunning campaign was let loose to run across the society. In this land where people are tutored by all overt and covert means to tie up their life with destiny, that campaign tended to make people accept corruption as an inalienable part of their life, in every sphere of social-political-cultural-economic activities. They got used to find all the political parties, national or regional, rightist or with leftist cloak, which shuttled between the treasury and the opposition benches of legislative houses, union or state, were tuned to an orchestrated pattern. While in opposition they spat venom against corruption of the ruling party now and then as it came convenient. As they happened to rise to power, they took to the very practice of corruption, that they had earlier criticized, now bearing the brunt of the same kind of attack from the opposition they had themselves carried out.

Thus, the Congress, installed in governmental power for decades since independence as the most trusted representative of the ruling capitalist class, did never fight shy of practicing corruption, at the same time clamouring against it. In 1948 immediately after independence, there was a jeep-scam, that involved Congress leaders taking bribes; in 1949, the central minister of industries had to be taken into

custody for a similar offence; in 1958, the then finance minister had to resign in a LIC scam; virulent corruption during the rule of Indira Gandhi in the late seventies made it one of the main issues in the well-known movement led by Jaiprakash Narayan; Bofors scam adorned the Rajiv Gandhi rule; Narsimha Rao was allegedly provided with a suitcase full of money by infamous stock market agent Harshad Mehta.

But all the records seemed to have been decidedly shadowed by the darkness of the series of mega

scams that surfaced during the rule of the Congress-led UPA government. Here there was the dumbfounding 2G spectrum scam in 2011 which squandered people's money reportedly to the tune of 1.77 lakh crore rupees (1766.45 billion) for personal gains. It involved politicians and government officials including union minister and MP particularly of the DMK party, an ally of the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre. There was the Coal Auction scam of 2012 also known as Coalgate scam, in

which coal blocks were allocated without auctioning and thus allowing both public sector enterprises (PSEs) and private firms to pay less than they might have otherwise, incurring a loss of Rs.1.86 lakh crore to the exchequer; in addition, there was tampering of documents on the part of the PMO, shameless yet weak defending of an irregular act even by the prime minister on the floor of the parliament. There was the Telgi scam of embezzling

Contd. on page 4

SUCI(C) strongly opposes setting up of Rail Tariff Authority and vile move to privatize Railways through PPP mode and FDI route

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), issued the following statement on 13 October, 2014 :

We strongly oppose the out and out anti-people decision on the part of the Union Railway Minister to set up an independent Rail Tariff Authority vested with the power of periodically determining the fare and freight structure bypassing parliament. It is also a height of hypocrisy to claim that with constitution of this highly undemocratic body, the hitherto prevailing system of rate determination exercise being 'behind the veils' would be done away with. Rather, with the most atrocious move to gradually privatize this extremely vital public

utility service through PPP mode and FDI route, this Rail Tariff Authority is destined to bulldoze the people with unilateral and arbitrary hikes in fare and freight from time to time and thus foist on the people reeling under harrowing price spiral an outright opaque system. In fact, the government had announced formation of such a body in the last year's railway budget itself and is now bent upon implementing it in utter disregard of public interest and countrywide resentment.

We also vehemently protest the cunning ploy of rolling out the mechanism of heftily raising passenger fare by way of introducing demand-based pricing which, though stated to be now applicable in case of certain special

train, will most probably become the norm for all trains.

We severely condemn the way the Congress-led UPA government announced a slew of policy decisions in an interim vote-on-account railway budget in flagrant violation of all democratic norms and constitutional provisions.

We demand immediate reversal of the decisions to set up this highly controversial body, give up the brazen move to privatize the railways, withdraw the back-door move to increase train fare by hosting so called demand-based pricing formula and call upon the people to rise up in protest and compel the government under pressure of organized movement to roll back the proposals.

Inhuman vote merchants are exacerbating plight and fright of hapless poor by designs to reap nasty electoral benefits

What an abysmal low these vote-based power-mad bourgeois politicians and their privilege-seeking lackeys have stooped to! For the sake of staying in power or snatch power from the opponents, they have now been exposing their demonic face in boastful arrogance — rejoicing at the haplessness and animal-like existence of the inhumanly tortured and bestially persecuted citizens reminding one of the way wild beasts howl after

predation. The untold misery of the camp-dwelling victims of the planfully orchestrated communal riot of Muzaffarnagar in UP and the way those occupying the seat of power are poking fun at it with boisterous guffaws is akin to a pincer attack on barest of human essence. It is by now clear to everyone that the horrific communal riot which engulfed a sizeable area of Muzaffarnagar and adjoining places in Western UP and sniffed

out 60 odd precious lives besides inflicting grievous injuries on many more and forcing over 55, 000 common villagers to flee their home for saving life, was orchestrated by arch Hindu zealots of RSS-BJP. The perpetrators of this ghastly crime were aided by the muscle and brawn of the ruling Samajwadi Party (SP) and its government with Mayawati's BSP, Congress and other vested interested groups chiming evenly from the common

narrow sectarian interest of whetting electoral benefits. We exposed the details in our previous article published in the Proletarian Era of 01-10-13. Now it is unfolding that not just driving a wedge between two communities, hitherto living in harmony and fraternity, by pitting one against the other fanning divisive thoughts and precipitating mutual hatred, the vote-merchants of different hues are now feeling no

Contd. on page 2

Relief Camps — Dungeons of death

Contd. from page 1

qualm in exacerbating by design the grief and misery of the distressed to pocket votes. Glimpses would make any sentient start in a fright.

Deaths particularly of children bear testimony of humanitarian government

Forced out of hearth following savage attack by sword-wielding fanatic killers let loose on them by the arch Hindu communal Saffron Brigade of RSS-BJP, these poor villagers of Muzaffarnagar area have been huddled inside makeshift camps made of thin plastic sheets – inhabitable to say the least, given the terrible winter! As if this were not enough, there has been a serious dearth of everything essential in the camps including food, clothes and even medicine. It was indeed a hell-like ambience that naturally took a heavy toll of lives to surpass even the number lost in the riots. Inevitably, babies died pitifully in number. Still those hapless riot victims could not but cling to these camps – however ghoulish may be the atmosphere there, since they were battling forth in the face of dire threat to their life if they ventured to move back, and spending days in utter trepidation.

The Malakpur relief camp around 18 km from Shamli, one of the epicenters of the September riots, is one that houses the largest number of displaced people. It has also been the place where maximum number of deaths has taken place in just one month: One almost every day. Of the 28 dead, 25 were infants, all under a month old. A plastic tent surrounded by filth and human excreta is the homes of persons like Murshida Khatoon who lost her 20-day-old newborn. She like others like Dilshana Begum, who lost her five-month-old-sleep on dry grass, without a quilt to protect her other children from the pinching cold. Three other camps — Khurban, Badheri Khurd and Barnabi — have witnessed eight deaths, which include four children aged less than 30 days. Mohd Shaqir and his wife, Sabira, rushed to a nearby health centre around midnight after their eight-month-old child woke up screaming and wheezing. But the doctor told them that the boy needs oxygen and that was not available there. So, the couple rushed to another hospital. “While we looked for a hospital, I realized my son had stopped breathing,” recalls Shaqir. “He died in my arms.” Too afraid to take the dead back to the villages which were once home, hurried burials are

carried out in graveyards close to the camps.

But, when such a grave human crisis has ensued, the Samajwadi Party-led state government and its bureaucrats have been proving their “civility” in a cavalier manner. Principal Secretary (Home) Anil Kumar Gupta said: “None of the children staying in the riot relief camps in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli districts died of cold but of pneumonia. Nobody can die of cold. If people died of cold nobody would have been alive in Siberia.” Pratap Singh, the additional district magistrate (ADM) of Shamli denied having any information of death in the camps in Shamli. What is noteworthy is that initially, the officials denied the deaths altogether. Only after a Supreme Court rap was a fact-finding committee set up and it accepted that 34 children had died in the camps.

Vulnerability of the women

Helplessness of the camp-dwellers has made the women extremely vulnerable. Rape and sexual assault on them are soaring in number. Landed in the scene are also a gang of touts and brokers who expertise in trafficking women and children and find easy preys in these relief tents. “We used to live in harmony in the village. But now I have to live in shame”, lamented a rape victim. The victim was even mistreated and ridiculed by the communal-minded doctors appointed for medical examination. “Who will rape you? Don’t Jats (i.e. the dominant Hindu community who were instigated against minority Muslim people by the devious engineers of the riot) have wives in their homes”, quipped one such doctor. We came across similar instances during the RSS-BJP-sponsored and supervised of anti-Muslim mayhem in Gujarat in 2002 when the police-civil administration and officially engaged medicos of Modi government meted out similar inhuman treatment to the bruised and battered victims. The paranoia of sexual assault has been so severe in Muzaffarnagar relief camps that many are marrying out their daughters even at underage as a protection from the “prying eyes”. “It didn’t matter if the girls were of marriageable age or not. We wanted our girls to be safe after the riots...A married girl becomes the responsibility of the husband,” said Shamim Khatoon, from the Loi explaining why she chose to marry off her 17-year-old daughter at the camp. In fact, mass weddings are also arranged. Riot relief camps

have seen about 700 weddings in less than three months, many involving underage girls. There are other pitiable reasons as well for such marriage-fests. The SP government in a populist overture announced ‘compensation’ of up to Rs. 1 lakh from the chief minister’s relief fund for newly-wed couples. The news spread like wildfire and the dirt-poor camp-dwellers scrambled to get this dole. Certain interested minority organizations also fed into this wedding hysteria when they started giving financial assistance to the newlyweds. One such organizer said that no one married their girls out of greed or for compensation but for saving the honour of their daughters.

Threat of renewed attack dissuading camp-dwellers from returning home

What is most unfortunate and revealing is that despite all these calamities, predicaments, apprehensions and intimidations, the victims lodged at the many relief camps are scared of returning to their homes. Wakilludin Siddiqui, of Fugana village who saw how neighbours turned on neighbours and slain them to death, refuses to go back. “They killed my uncle. They burnt our homes. Our women were raped. How can we even think of going back? My pregnant daughter-in-law had to hide in the sugarcane fields. The killers haven’t been arrested. They still roam free in the village.” Not a single Muslim family has returned to Fugana, Lisad, Lak, Bahavadi, Mohammadpur Raisingh, Kharad, Kutba-Kutbi and Kakda villages, where they had lived for generations until September. Communal divide has penetrated so deep that as per a fact finding team, inhabitants of Palda and a few other villages of Budhana area are averse to rehabilitating the minority community families currently staying at Basikalan relief camp. Saner section of the people rues the situation most. “We want our Muslim brothers to come back. The village is incomplete without them,” says Rakesh Malik, a Jat neighbour. “They worked as labour in our farms and we too are paying more now to source labour at a time when sugarcane is ready to be cut. I hope one day the feeling of brotherhood will return. I take the blame for our mistakes and hope they will too,” observes Babloo Singh of Fugana. Reciprocating his sentiments, Akhtar who saw his house razed to rubbles and relatives killed says, “Some like Babloo are reasonable but the accused call constantly, threatening us against returning.”

Inhuman act of Samajwadi party government

When such a grave humanitarian crisis is unfolding, the SP government has been extremely remiss, if not heartless, in addressing the situation. As we had pointed out in our previous article, involvement of top notch SP leaders, of course with the backing of the government and abetted by a pliant police-administration, had taken active role to perpetuate the riot so that the divide between the hitherto peacefully cohabitating communities is sharpened and a polarization on communal line is sustained. Calculation is, if the RSS-BJP camp corners majority community votes, the minority vote would swing in favour of the SP. It is clear that the SP leadership in whom the ‘official’ leftists like the CPI (M), CPI finds a ‘secular’ ally, deliberately allowed the riots to continue so that persecuted minorities in a desperate attempt to save life are somehow compelled to rally behind it. But once the riots stopped at least for the present, the SP leadership enjoying backing of a powerful corporate lobby began exploring if more electoral advantage could be extracted by playing with the relief camps. Coming to know that most of the inmates of the makeshift camps are loath to return home fearing reprisals and those having vacated the camps have taken refuge in the homes of relatives, the State government, in late-October, ordered payment of relief at Rs.5 lakh each to about 900 affected families on condition that they sign away their rights to their property in the villages. This is nothing but official sanctification of the communal divide.

And of late, the SP government, in order to stave off criticism that it has failed to reinstate the riot-affected people has decided to forcibly close down the camps and virtually drive away the camp-dwellers to rot under the open sky and grapple with extreme insecurity. The State officials claim that since they have completed the formality of distributing compensation, the camps are “officially” over. These officials are now reportedly pressuring the villagers to vacate camps and return to their villages. “Both in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli, the district administration officials are under tremendous pressure from the State government to ensure that no one remains in camps ...Instead of taking care of compensation issues and providing health and sanitation facilities for displaced

Contd. on page 3

Beyond all limits of humanity, UP ministers call camp-dwellers “professional beggars”

Contd. from page 2

people, they are putting pressure on the camp managers to ask people to leave... people have been thrown out of their land and made refugees, they deserve a better deal and not mere politicking” said Shandar Gufran, social activist and educationist.” The glaring example of most callous and disdainful attitude of the government machinery was seen in Bassi Kalan village. Hundreds of Muslims, displaced from their village Kutba-Kutbi had taken refuge inside a madrasa here where, notwithstanding an open sky to live under, they were at least getting some relief material from voluntary organisations. But, they were “forced” to leave the place a day before the National Human Rights Commission team came for inspection. The distribution of relief has also been prohibited. “There is no camp running now in Bassi Kalan ... We have settled almost all cases of compensation there,” proclaimed Muzaffarnagar District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma suppressing the truth. While the same very Sharma claimed that only one camp was running in the district at Loi, where around 1,800 people have taken refuge, Mursalim, the village head, said that apart from Loi, there were at least two other places, Jaula and Malakpura, where camps were being run. And what is more disturbing is that official abdication has led to the vacuum being filled by Muslim religious groups resulting in communal tensions being kept alive.

Repugnant utterances reflect putrid mind of the riot-mongers

Over and above this, repugnant utterances from all quarters, including the ruling political leaders, have only rubbed salt into the wound. One would recollect that The Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi himself then spewed venom against the minority Muslims openly by calling them “Alis, Malis and Jamalis” and “child producing factories.” This open hate-campaign by no one else than the state’s chief minister obviously encouraged the inhuman rogues and frenzied killer brigade to slay and slaughter the targeted minorities with incensed fury. A repeat display of this beastly savagery was witnessed in Muzaffarnagar. An unfazed Modi even dared to compare Muslim riot victims with puppies. In tandem are vocal Mulayam Singh and his colleagues

of Samajwadi Party. Mulayam boastfully declared that there were no riot victims in the relief camps but people sent by political rivals. They “are agents of the opposition parties”, observed he. Soon after his statement the state administration sent bulldozers to evict the riot victims and uproot the relief camps. Buck did not stop at that. In sheer display of unparalleled insensitivity, Principal Secretary (home) Anil Kumar Gupta said: “None of the children staying in the riot relief camps in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli districts died of cold but of pneumonia. Nobody can die of cold. If people died of cold, nobody would have been alive in Siberia.” Going a step ahead, Narad Rai, who holds the Sports portfolio in the state ministry, remarked that “deaths of children, adults and elderly are inevitable. It is not necessary that only those living in camps are dying. People die in palaces too. It is not that children in our homes don’t die. Deaths occur everywhere.” And the last to add his name in the list of such ‘novel’ commentators is Atiq Ahmed, mafia-turned-Samajwadi Party leader who observed that “all those holed up in relief camps in Muzaffarnagar are professional beggars found in every class and community”. It is worth recalling that Atiq’s name had hit the headlines at the fag-end of the previous SP regime when he, then a sitting MP of the Samajwadi party, tried to shield the accused of rape of Muslim minors at a madrasa in Kareli were stated to be his relatives. The motive for rape was allegedly to scare away occupants of the madrasa which was occupying a 200-foot-wide road leading to Alina City and Al Amra residential colonies being built by Atiq and his brothers-in-law.

But what has been further disquieting is that the SP government, after treating 50,000-odd victims living in shoddy relief camps, has now asked some of the homeless people who got compensation of Rs 5 lakh to return it on the plea that there have been some bogus claimants and hence wrong payments must be recovered. However, instead of nabbing the fraudulent claimants, notices are sent to those actually affected by riots. It goes without saying that but for connivance with a section of corrupt disbursement officials and muscle-flexing touts basking under the shelter of the ruling party as well as the

opposition outfits equally adept in unscrupulous manipulations, monies cannot land in wrong hands. People have died in camps due to cold and other hazards, but officials never turned up to help them. So many people who did not get compensated have been forced out of the camps. But, now the government is showing extraordinary promptness in pestering the eligible claimants for refund of solatium. Cruelty par excellence!

They are fiddling when camp-dwellers are wallowing in wail and woe

In fact, the ruling Samajwadi party and its parliamentary opponents are now on a spree of celebrating the utter distress of the hounded riot-victims in jovial ecstasy. As 2013 wound down amid the whiff of the death of children in relief camps, riot victims including the bereaved families were battling with biting cold, ramshackle tents and absence of food, drinking water, sanitation and rudimentary healthcare in the makeshift shelters, the ruling Samajwadi Party’s Saifai Mahotsav was underway at chief Mulayam Singh Yadav’s ancestral

village in eastern Uttar Pradesh’s Etawah district. Mulayam hit out at the opposition for “politicization” of the Muzaffarnagar riots and minutes later attended the “rangarang karyakrams” (variety programmes) with Bollywood glammers at the 15-day long festival. His son and state chief minister Akhilesh Yadav was pictured enjoying sensuous dance of scantily dressed girls while SP dignitaries and the who’s who of UP beamed at the shimmies and shakes on the stage. The SP leaders even bristled at questions on Saifai Mahotsav spending huge sum from public exchequer and that too at a time when children were dying of the cold in the relief camps. “Whenever the SP government does any public-connect event or programme, why do rivals and the opposition get restive. It is a festival for rural folk, promoting rural art, culture and tradition,” said minister and SP spokesperson Rajendra Chowdhary. And if SP is on the centrestage, could Mayawati’s BSP, its *bête noir*, remain in the hiding? So, the decibel levels rose in BSP camp for

Contd. on page 7

Generously Donate to the Fund for Reconstruction of Central Party Office

Construction of the new central office building is going on, on the site of the previous office of the SUCI(C), the party voicing protest against all kinds of injustice and relentlessly engaged in developing legitimate democratic movements on the burning demands of people’s life. The old office building virtually reached a dilapidated stage making it difficult for carrying out the vastly increased multifarious day to day activities. Even the space posed a big constraint. In view of this, the leaders, activists and supporters-sympathizers of the Party cutting across the states sincerely wanted that new building be constructed by demolishing the old ramshackle structure. Accordingly, the Central Committee of the Party took the decision to build a new Party office in place of the old one.

The initial expenditure towards buying the old building premises and completing the primary work of erecting a new building was met mainly from the contributions made by the leaders-cadres-supporters-sympathizers. More funds are required for completing the pending work. So, we fervently appeal to the people at large for generously contributing to this Building Fund. Our workers would reach out to you at your homes or on the streets with this appeal.

We strongly believe that the people would come forward and generously donate to this Fund for new building construction the way that they had in all previous occasions to make all the programmes of the Party successful.

With greetings
Debaprosad Sarkar

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S U C I (C)

Cheque should be drawn in favour of :

SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)

Corruption

Bourgeois petty bourgeois political parties spit venom against it from opposition, practice it while in power

Contd. from page 1

government revenue by faking non-judicial stamp papers of nearly Rs 32000 crore rupees, effected on the strength of complicity of and protection from politicians even of the rank of chief ministers of different parties or MLAs and others as well as fore-ranking politicians of the then Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and highly placed officials and top brass in the police without whose assistance printing of these fake papers would not have been possible; there were huge scams in the fields of games and sports, viz., the Commonwealth Games and the IPL scam which involved some top Congress leaders including a union minister; in Maharashtra there was the Adarsh housing scam in which a galaxy of four Maharashtra Chief Ministers of different times and parties including the present union home minister from the Congress, former Congress MLCs, a score of retired army officers of brigadier, major general, colonel and other ranks, and bureaucrats including IAS officers, secretaries etc., were found involved in a money laundering case regarding purchase of residential apartments, and a score of other scams.

The record is so enviable as to crown the Congress with the title of the king of scams in the country and to help the main opposition the BJP to train its guns with full arsenal against the Congress. But even such a party as the Congress was, did not hesitate to pounce upon the BJP during the brief interludes when it remained out of power and the BJP-led NDA was in the rein of the central government. That brief rule of the BJP was enough for surfacing a number of scams like their party president being caught red-handed in a sting operation for accepting bribe or a BJP chief minister alleged to have misused his power to grant undue favours to mining companies to receive large "donations" to a trust maintained by his immediate family; it went to the extent that he had to be expelled from the BJP though reinstated recently. There was again a NDA union minister of State billing the Airport Authority of India (AAI) a huge sum for fancy renovations in his official residence, including a fountain and the purchase of paintings worth Rs 2,26,600 besides furniture, mobile telephones, greeting cards, *et al.* Even

Narendra Modi the Gujarat chief minister, the architect of the 2002 Gujarat anti-minority community pogrom, and presently the prime minister designate of the BJP who had been repeatedly showered with chosen adjectives by the leading monopolists of the country even abroad for his competency as the PM candidate, for efficiency and honesty, cannot erase the Gujarat Comptroller and Auditor General's report pointing out irregularities to the tune of nearly Rs 17,000 crore in several projects amid familiar charges of misusing public sector undertakings to benefit a handful of corporates.

The regional bourgeois parties are also in the fray. Thus in the state of UP, the BSP in opposition raises finger against the SP in chair for corruption; while the SP does not spare the BSP and its supremo Mayawati for the series of scams during their rule. In West Bengal, the CPI(M) which virtually institutionalized corruption in an organized way is now vociferous against the TMC in power, which latter when it was in opposition, was equally venom-spitting against the CPI(M). Institutionalization of corruption, now by the ruling TMC seems to have found a new depth in the legislative chicanery, mainly the cross-voting in the recently held election for the Rajya Sabha seats from West Bengal allegedly with the lure for money and privilege playing instrumental. From behind a contrived ideological veneer, the TMC disgracefully buys vote of some turncoat MLAs from the opposition for ensuring a clean sweep, setting up at the same time a shameful instance of political corruption hitherto unheard of in the state.

The matter of fact is that these bourgeois petty-bourgeois parties which throng the parliamentary system of the country for power and pelf, speak against corruption when they are out of power to allure people since they need their sanction and support for reaching it. But as soon as they are successful in accomplishing their mission, they retrace their earlier stand and merrily make use of the governmental and other powers. Thereby the parties in power serve their master the ruling capitalist class, the monopolists or their cohorts turning a blind eye to the corrupt practices they take to or themselves practice corruption to build up fortune for themselves.

But the usual scenario seems to

have been shaken of late. A few months back there was a movement against corruption led by Anna Hazare and his people. The malady of corruption and the cunning propaganda of holding the politicians and the politics responsible had made people so restive, that the movement could make a dent into mass-mind. Declared apolitical at the beginning, the movement even gave birth to a new political party to crop up in the murky field of bourgeois parliamentary politics. It assured people that corruption can be swept away with a broom stick even within the system and thus allured them to seek for a new pedal to stand upon and to choose that party to form a new government in Delhi. Within a few days of its existence the party and its government are being charged by their own dissidents of going back upon its commitment. Raging voices in society against corruption also led some people to plead for stricter law to prevent penetration of this vice in every walk of life particularly government-administration.

And then right from the President of India, who in the immediate past was one of the top leaders of the Congress fully immersed in corruption, to everybody who matters, started firing salvo against corruption. The president issued warning to his erstwhile colleagues, the leaders of political parties to lose out in elections if they abet corruption. The Congress, particularly its PM designate Rahul Gandhi now made fiery speech against corruption at his meeting with the corporate representatives, assuring them a good governance. Or, he cried hoarse for tearing down the ordinance to protect tainted MPs, of course without explaining what he had been doing when it was adopted or why the prime minister from his own party acted deaf and dumb on the face of scams like the 2G spectrum or Coalgate. Next moment, Rahul was thumping fists against the Congress-led Maharashtra government for rejecting the investigation report on the above-mentioned Adarsh housing scam, again not uttering a single word for removing the union home minister from his own party who, among others, was also implicated in the Adarsh scam. It was not difficult to understand that all these poses were meant for the election. Towards the monopolists inching closer to the BJP, it was an ill-knit frantic appeal for reverting

back their fading support towards the Congress. It was an equally weak attempt to appease people who have largely shifted away from the Congress on the question of corruption as also other monopolist policies. The BJP leaders, with the baton having been handed over to Modi, are in their turn attacking the Congress for being unable to stem corruption and instead promoting it. The other parties are also charting out the same pattern of attacking each other, at the same time waiting for things to mature to help them decide whom they would side with.

The situation is coming to such a pass as to bring forth a stream of questions. Is the issue of corruption and fighting it simply coupled with winning or losing an election? Should people wait and see for elections to come and go once more, as they have been doing for years together to find out whether all this can put any rein to corruption? Or, should they take an added initiative to delve seriously into a little more depth to understand the origin and growth of this all-pervading corruption and adopt due remedial course to fight it? Why has corruption become so virulent in society today? Is corruption necessarily associated with politics – politicians and political parties? Does such an idea carefully exclude other fields of social life, particularly the other roads to the corridor of power, like the monopolists, the military, the bureaucracy- executive or even the judiciary, from being held under scanner? If not, if corruption has spread its roots wide and down into all the corridors to power, all the pillars of the state machinery, how can it be fully eradicated with the state itself kept intact? A law can be laid down at the stroke of pen. Can it be enforced if the machinery entrusted with the job or supposed to overview the rule of law or to set the wrong-doing to the right track itself, is itself plagued with the disease? Rather does not laying the onus solely and exclusively on the politics cunningly create an anti-political anti-movement mindset in people to help the rulers and the wrong-doers carry on with their business unopposed?

We started with what the parliamentary political parties have done and been doing. Obviously the governmental power is the lucrative source and means for corruption.

Contd on page 5

Corruption

Pervades entire capitalist state machinery, military, bureaucracy, judiciary and all

Contd. from page 4

But, if indulging, encouraging or perpetrating corruption is a crime, abetting corruption, remaining mute spectator to corruption, shielding the corrupt from petty sectarian interest, heading a corrupt system or group and looking the other way, are also equivalent offences, which do not absolve the so-called honest head of the office of his or her duties and responsibilities and rather stand out encouragingly meaningful for the wrong-doers. When the prime minister defends his colleagues in the 2G or Coalgate scam, people can hardly view him taintless in isolation. Defence of the corrupt colleagues itself is a corrupt act. Committing a sin and hoding brief for the sin are one and the same. The avowedly honest chief minister of West Bengal and the unchallengeable supremo of her party the TMC is not freed from her responsibility, when the funds-starved Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) run by the TMC gets involved in gross irregularities in inviting tenders in the purchase of the trident lights on Kolkata streets and placing orders at exorbitant rates. Obviously such acts are nothing but attempts to cover up the crime. And this becomes still more glaring when some leading monopolists are found to stand implicated in some major scam. Then and there all the quarters of power that matter, jump upon the attempt to douse the fire right on the spot. With a lightning speed, the allegations fizzle out in thin air. Surfacing of Kumarmangalam's name in 2G scam or the Tatas in the Radia tape scam are two of the glaring examples.

Notwithstanding their importance, governments and the politicians are some of the fleeting members of the state. The permanent pillars of the latter do not present any brighter picture in regard to corruption. While people tend to believe that the police is one of the most corrupt and the most organized of the criminal gangs of this capitalist society, they are likely to think that the military entrusted with protecting the motherland would be disciplined and honest. To their dismay, they find an Army Chief revealing in a TV interview that he was offered a fat sum of bribe by a lieutenant general, for pushing a deal for purchase of sub-standard army vehicles, that was sure to tell horribly upon the adequacy and

combat- efficiency of weapons and equipments. Again the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) found the army acquiring golf carts in 2009 as electric multi-utility vehicles for army hospitals spending a total of 1.17 crore. The CAG also took exception in 2013 with the deal for 12 VVIP helicopters for the Indian Air Force at a cost of about Rs 3,600 crore, from Italian-British firm Agusta Westland a subsidiary of Italian conglomerate Finmeccanica against bribes changing hands. Political furore forced the government had to decide to scrap the deal. However, the long hand of corruption was further revealed as an alleged middleman in the deal submitted in writing to an Italian court to have advised top Agusta Westland officials to 'target' UPA chairman Sonia Gandhi and people close to her to bag the contract. In a recently-busted Indian Military Academy (IMA) recruitment scam three serving lieutenant colonels were booked on charges of conspiracy, forgery and for furnishing fake documents, fake experience certificates and for fudging answer sheets to help favoured candidates clear the written test. Three more IMA employees are also being made co-accused and involvement of more senior Army officers, including a major general is suspected. So this is how the disciplined army is recruiting its officers, purchasing defense equipments and weapons. Corruption galore even in the army.

And what about the judiciary, at which people look out for justice? As mentioned, outbursts of scams are recently shaking the political class. Side by side, a Supreme Court bench candidly acknowledges "Something is rotten in the Allahabad High Court," and criticises the way kith and kin of some judges of the Allahabad High Court amassed fabulous wealth in a startlingly short time by practising in the same court. Then again a former law minister Shanti Bhushan moved an application in the Supreme Court naming and accusing eight former chief justices of India of "corruption". In an unprecedented move, a former Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan initiated a Constitutional case for removal of Justice Soumitra Sen, Judge, Calcutta High Court, for conveniently converting the money he had received as a Receiver in a case between the SAIL and the

Shipping Corporation of India to his own use, as also for misappropriating related funds. However, Justice Balakrishnan himself had to face demands from several quarters for a probe into the reports of a "baffling increase" of assets of his son-in-law, an advocate and a leader of the Youth Congress in Kerala.

The miserable role of judiciary in this regard is further and glaringly evident with the event of the horrible Gujerat pogrom of 2002 which was personally engineered and monitored by the chief minister of state Narendra Modi. Under pressure from the secular forces, the Supreme Court intervened and appointed a SIT (Special Investigation Team) to work under its monitoring after long seven years in 2009, a period enough to destroy the incriminating evidences. Even then the SIT report in 2010, exposed in a sting operation, strongly implicated Modi. But the Supreme Court simply put it under wraps. Finally in 2012, the SIT ceremonially exonerated Modi and others for want of "prosecutable evidence". What this series of events speaks about the judiciary, people should themselves judge! It may be added only that there were reports filling the air with the idea that it was an exchange deal. Exoneration of Modi relieved the Congress of attacks from the BJP in the parliament on series of devastating scams unfolding at that time involving UPA ministers and leaders.

Bureaucracy- executive, another permanent organ of the state machinery, too did and do not fight shy of embracing corruption for personal gains. The CBI was found to register cases against 170 public servants, including 130 gazetted officers, of which the majority 116 cases were registered under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Even appointment of the Central Vigilance Commissioner by a panel with the prime minister as a member faced question as he had been involved in court cases like the Palmolein case or 2G scam. But when it comes to the question of CBI as a so-called independent investigative body it could not keep itself beyond question. In a recent vivid example, the CBI gave the CPI(M) and its government a fairly clean hit for the butchery and bedlam at Nandigram in March 2007. But it was a shameless brushing aside of the fact of firing upon unarmed protesting peasants by CPI(M)

cadres - masquerading as policemen in uniform albeit with slippers on and chasing the victims with a war cry with vengeance. It reflected a measure of brutality unheard of in the country and seen in full details by the world live on the small screen, courtesy the commendable courageous role of a section of media. The CBI bluntly ignored these. If exoneration of Modi was a contribution of the Apex court, this latest CBI report on Nandigram massacre clearly vindicated the Apex court pronouncement that the CBI parrots the union government. Amidst the shady combinations and developments before the forthcoming parliamentary election not too favourable for the Congress, a revamping of its old day friendship with the CPI(M) may have been judged to come out prospective in the long run! Does corruption only involve misuse of money? Do not these filthy political games deserve the distinction of being deplorable corrupt acts?

Media, called the fourth estate of democratic state, is hailed as the watchdog of democracy. However, allegations of catering news in exchange of money or privilege are not few and far between. In addition, on face of mounting scams a method called sting operation became popular for boldly revealing behind the curtain or underhand deals. Unfortunately, even leading media persons and pace-setters of such sting operations are now facing charges of taking undue advantage of, even molesting, their female interns. Obviously such a revelation plays a definite damaging role in the fight against corruption, which the media often boast to have started.

The above narration hardly any representative of the enormity of the problem is only a part of the rainbow of corruption in India. Certainly it casts an ominous spell. All the permanent pillars of the state machinery of the Indian capitalist state, namely, the executive-bureaucracy-military- judiciary along with the ruling class, the industrialists- monopolists and the temporary political managers like the governments are adequately adorned with the distinction of corruption. And it starts from the highest levels and permeates downwards.

Hence the present uproar on corruption being raised by the political parties on the eve of a

Contd. on page 6

Corruption

Can be restrained only by people's movement under correct leadership

Contd. from page 5

parliamentary election is nothing but a ploy to distract people's attention from the real issue. It is the same political parties who are practicing corruption are now vociferously spitting venom against it. At the same time they keep the truth beneath the carpet that it is the entire capitalist system, all the organs of the capitalist state that are infested with this virus. In fact the exploitative capitalist system at this dying moribund stage of it, is breeding corruption at every moment, in every sphere.

Capitalism thriving upon profit-making leads to exploitation; exploitation breeds poverty, unemployment, illiteracy as well as wrath and resentment in people. Oppression is the last resort of the rulers to thwart people's wrath. However, following inexorable laws of social contradiction,

exploitation gives birth to crisis; market crisis puts brake upon profit-making, but stokes up the fire of anyhow grabbing the maximum profit. So capitalism not only ruthlessly fleeces people to their skin. It now shatters and tramples upon the values it once created. It makes people shamelessly amass fabulous wealth by any means whatsoever at the cost of their country's resources, material, human, financial and what not. Thus corruption adds fuel to the fire. Once hated, it has become an inalienable part of the capitalist exploitation, of the exploitative capitalist society. In such a situation an election and a change of guard can never provide people with respite from corruption. Neither can corruption be checked, as being prescribed by some, by preventing branded corrupt people from entering into legislative bodies.

Rather whoever among these bourgeois petty bourgeois parties or their leaders might rise to power, will invariably engage themselves in serving their master the ruling monopolists, will take measures and policies to allow them and their cohorts to make their fortune by any means and will only hanker after their own power and pelf. The only road to ending with this filth of life, the corruption, like all maladies of capitalism, lies in the uprooting and overthrowing capitalism and establishing new dynamic socialist society built upon the new vibrant ideology and culture of Marxism-Leninism.

But at the same time, capitalism with its spate of corruption also gives birth to people's wrath and resentment, to its anti-thesis that is, currents of sustained class and mass struggles based on higher ideology-culture

ethics on one and all the burning problems of people's life and livelihood embracing all sections of exploited people. Hence till the ultimate goal of overthrowing the system is attained, people must raise their firm and organized voices to build up powerful movement against corruption, not sparing anybody who practices it, not being allured by any fake promises of removing corruption with a broomstick or otherwise. Only such people's struggles made formidable under a genuinely pro-people correct leadership can act as one of the principal means to stem the soaring spate of corruption.

People face the task of realizing this truth and join these struggles to hasten up the process. The sooner the better, with lesser loss of resources of the mankind, material, spiritual, financial and everything human.

PECOSE holds protest meeting and press meet in Andhra Pradesh on nuclear energy

A team on behalf of Peoples' Committee for Safe energy (PECOSE) led by Dr.Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay, Professor (Retired), University of Calcutta, visited proposed Nuclear Power Plant site at Kovvada, Srikakulam District, Andharapadesh on 2 February, 2014 and conducted a protest meeting in Kovvada Village. Prior to this on 1 February, 2014 a press meet was held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh which was addressed by Dr.Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay, Dr.EAS Sarma, IAS (Retired), Former Union Power Secretary, Sri C.S.Rao, IES (Retired), President, Praja Spandana and Sri Ch.Murahari, A.P. Convener, PECOSE. At the press meet and in the protest meeting, the speakers highlighted different aspects of the problems with the nuclear energy. Dr. Mukhopadhyay held that the government should view adding to the country's power generation capability to lift the living standard of its people. And that can be done using the adequately available non-renewable and renewable energy sources, without relying on nuclear energy which is plagued with a high polluting potential.

Blaming India's continuing dependence on large centralized power generation projects for causing people's displacement from their land as well as serious pollution threats and safety concerns, Dr.EAS Sarma pointed out that no

reactor supplier is willing to take any responsibility for the liability of an accident and no insurance company is ready to insure a nuclear power plant.

Sri C.S.Rao stated that even if the initial cost may be higher, with more and more production of solar panels it will be possible to achieve benefits of large scale production. Solar energy can now be stored and it has been proved beyond any shadow of doubt that we can run a train with it. He warned that extra care need be taken to avoid FDI in this sector.

Sri Ch.Murahari brought out the role the Peoples' Committee for Safe Energy (PECOSE) is playing in conducting a rational discourse on the pros and cons of civilian use of nuclear energy in India. This debate assumes more significance especially after Fukushima nuclear incident in Japan and mass agitations against nuclear plants in Kodankulam in Tamilnadu, Kovvada in Andhrapadesh, Jaitapur in Mahrastra, Gorakhpur in Haryana, Mithi-Virdi in Gujarat and a few other places in our country.

Dr. Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay also delivered a talk on Nuclear Power Plants at Engineering College of Andhra University of Visakhapatnam on 1 February, 2014. It was presided over by Prof. Ramachandra Rao, Principal of Engineering College of Andhra University.

AIUTUC felicitates Md. Ibrahim from Palestine



At the initiative of AIUTUC, a felicitation was accorded to Md. H I Ibrahim, a freedom fighter and trade union leader of Palestine, at a meeting in Kolkata on 8 February. The felicitation address was rendered by Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, President, AIUTUC and Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C). A joint declaration was made on mutual co-operation between the AIUTUC and General Union of Palestine Workers towards the goal of establishing bipartite relation and strengthening it on the basis of commitments towards militant anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist struggles.

Ranchi people sustain their movement against eviction

Thousands of slum-dwelling poor people of the Heavy Electrical Corporation Bustee, Ranchi, Jharkhand, organized under the banner of the Struggle Committee to Save Bustee (*Bustee Bachao Sangharsh Samity*) formed at the initiative of the Party SUCI (C) staged a demonstration on 21 January against attempts at evicting those people from their dwellings, where they had been living for nearly half- a century.

Sustained militant movement of these people had forced the government and the authorities to step back from their earlier efforts, aided and abetted by the police and anti-socials. Of late the government came out with the trickery of a proposal for erecting a building for the Legislative Assembly at that place. Unmoved people led by their *Bustee Bachao Sangharsh Samity* firmly resolved to continue their movement.

Bourgeois death-merchants orchestrating riots and exacerbating distress of riot-victims for electoral gain

Contd. from page 3

its chief Mayawati's birthday on January 15. Its 21 MPs, 80 MLAs and 54 MLCs finances their chief's birthday gift — a mega rally at Ramabai Ambedkar ground in Lucknow. Each MP was told to contribute Rs. 5 lakh while MLAs and MLCs will donate Rs. 2 lakh each. And while overseeing the preparations, Mayawati lashed out at SP for evicting the riot victims from the camps. However, realizing that a multi-crore, multi-event jamboree birthday bash right under the glare of the media might deprive her of an opportunity to score over SP, feign sympathy for the suffering riot victims and thereby encroach upon latter's vote bank, Mayawati preferred to organize instead a massive rally in Lucknow to showcase her party's resurgence in the wake of the Muzaffarnagar riots. However, the usual opulent style was writ large on the size of the cake and the diamonds she wore to the brand of her handbag, everything.

This harrowing experience is common

Whether it is Gujarat, Muzaffarnagar or Assam, those displaced by riots and taking refuge in relief camps have same experience of inhuman suffering, criminal neglect and merciless treatment as if they are not Indian citizens, not eligible for receiving all necessary help and assistance and instead are meant to be on the receiving end, meted out most atrocious of dealings by the administrative apparatus. What is the afterlife of camp evacuees?

Even today, more than 20,000 Muslims who fled during the worst state-sponsored Gujarat carnage presided over by Narendra Modi have been living in relief camps, according to Amnesty International. It has been ten years since the survivors of the Gulbarga Housing Society are staying in Siddiqabad colony without regular electricity, a gutter line, or access to a school nearby. Narol (Bombay Hotel), a row of homes occupied by survivors of the Naroda Patiya massacre is next to a massive trash dump and the builder, a Muslim, told that no one else wanted to sell land to him after the 2002 carnages. Each year during the monsoon, water runs from the trash dump into people's homes. As a result, children in Narol have grown up with deformities. "Yes we see dead bodies here all the time," a resident young boy of about 12 years informed an interviewer.

Nida Yamin, an IIM research associate from Delhi, was recently denied housing because she is a Muslim. She left Ahmedabad after just a few months. "This place," she lamented, "is not for us." Though riots have come to a halt, the social fabric is altered with injection of suspicion and paranoia into regions where religious groups once mixed freely. But it made no effect on Modi brigade who went on saying that the state has been a model of development and progress—an outright travesty of truth.

A recent report on Assam villages post the most ghastly engineered Bodo-Muslim ethnic conflagration of 2012 is equally telling a tale. Hundreds of villagers from Kokrajhar, Dhubri and Chirang districts who scurried to camps for safety began to trickle back home after the authorities shut down the camps claiming restoration of normalcy. Because, closure of relief camps meant that the evacuees are no longer the headache of the administration. "After they disappear from the camp, the government thinks its problem is over," says Harsh Mander, founder of Aman Biradari, an organization working towards inter-communal solidarity. The homecoming of the camp-dwellers under compulsion has not been a seamless return to the past. 456 Muslim family homes in Kanibhur village, Chirang district, were set apart by vast swathes of fields. But when they returned, they re-built their tiny, fragile bamboo shacks, really close to each other, seeking security in tight clusters. It was as if the Muslim houses had curled up into a protective, foetal position. The village, with its mixed population of Bodos, adivasis, Nepalis, Rajbonshis and Muslims, was looted and burned down. Without pucca houses or small businesses and their cattle — the major livelihood for the Muslims — lost, Muslims have been reduced to daily labour and NGO handouts. "Everyone used to be employed here. It was quite a nice village," said Makram Ali, a local.

The fraternal bloodbath is paused for the present, camps shut but not just scars, even wounds are open. Nirmala Brahma, a Bodo woman of Aloorbui village, after her return seven months ago, does not venture out after dark. "It isn't that there is zero trust; we talk but there are small hesitations. Like I won't tie my cow far away," she says. Kanibhur village was a major supplier of vegetables to the local market. After the return of those

who fled, there is a diktat against buying from or selling to local Muslims or hiring them for field work, punishable by heavy fines. Hamer Ali, whose 10-member family owns 16 bighas of land, no longer goes to the market to sell the vegetables he grows. Down to a tenth of his income now, Hamer took his teenage brothers out of school and sent them to cities to find work. Access to borewells for irrigation has been reduced and Muslim families are also hesitant to work in fields far from home or very close to Bodo areas. Lokhiram Musahari of Tintilla village goes to the fields with his Muslim neighbour every morning. "We are not friends. We do not joke around," said he. Whether Gujarat, Assam or Muzaffarnagar, economic and social boycotts are being used to sustain hatred between communities. It may be added that like Muzaffarnagar, the landless Muslims in Assam's riot-hit areas were also offered Rs 50,000 as solatium by the state government to buy land elsewhere and sign an affidavit to not return. Harsh Mander called such a move and rightly so, as "incentivizing ethnic cleansing".

Task imperative of the sensitive conscientious educated people

All these go to prove that bourgeois politicians no matter which flag they wave belong to the same category—category of reveling regaling at the misery and destitution of the people and on ever lookout for using people's predicament for riding to power. In Gujarat pogrom, the minorities were slaughtered and burnt alive, robbed of their belongings and evicted from their homes and by the Hindutva goons with full backing of the RSS and Modi-led BJP government. Incessant anti-minority hate-campaign and continuous grist-feeding to the rumour-mills made the state sharply polarized on religious lines. Most of the Hindu community fell prey to this RSS-BJP machination and rallied behind Modi in the elections. On the other hand, the tortured and battered Muslim people haunted by the fear of fresh attack on their life and property were bullied to supine submission to a killer like Modi. As a result, Modi swept in the two consecutive elections and secured his chief ministerial berth. So, ethnic or communal riots are just no sudden outbreaks of violence accidentally sparked off by some incidents. It is part of a deeper sinister agenda

connected to the elections. Modi and BJP are aware that they cannot rustle up numbers for ministry formation at the centre without better election results in UP where they were relegated to a distant third position in the last two hustings. So, it planfully plants Amit Shah, Modi's right hand man in UP and within no time western UP went into flames. In the last one year, there have been over 50 communal clashes including 12 major conflagrations in UP the latest being at Muzaffarnagar. If communal polarization sets in at lower level particularly in the Jat belt of western UP, BJP calculates electoral gain there. Similarly, if Assam witnesses periodic outburst of communal or ethnic conflicts, the ruling Congress, the aspirant BJP or opportunist parochial-chauvinist outfits derive electoral benefits. So, people's problems, people's distress and even people's life have no value to them. Only what matters is people's vote, preferably junk votes from this or that community purely based on ethnic-communal divide, racial rancour, warped mindset or fear of survival. So are fuelled and nurtured differences and discord-disunity among the toiling people. The hapless impoverished people including the riot victims irrespective of caste, religion or ethnicity who are forced to take shelter in makeshift camps or pushed out of even the miserable, inhabitable camps at the whims of the authorities and left in the lurch to fend for themselves, are commoners. They are neither educated nor politically conscious to realize that they are being treated as pawns by the power-greedy vote-grabbing bourgeois petty-bourgeois political parties. Many a time, persecuted people cowering for dear lives turn to the same forces that feel no compunction at dooming them or playing ducks and drakes with their lives. It is for the educated and conscious section of the society who can easily discern the base electoral game plan of these political parties to come forward and make common people to imbibe the truth and rally behind the appropriate remedial course.

(Material Source: — *Hindustan Times*- 22-11-13, 28-11-13, 02-12-13, 03-12-13, 04-12-13, 30-12-13, 03-01-14, 09-01-14, 11-01-14, 12-01-14, 25-01-14, *The Hindu*—25-12-13, 05-02-14, *Times of India*— 02-02-14, 06-02-14, 09-02-14, *Indian express*, *Aapna Adda (Rape and me)*, *New York Times*—17-01-14)

SUCI (C)-led rally in Delhi raise people's demands to the new government



The SUCI (C) Delhi staged a protest demonstration before the office of the Chief Minister near the ITO crossing on 10 February, 2014. Intercepted by the police near the Police Headquarters, the demonstration turned into a public meeting there which was addressed by Comrade Pratap Samal, Delhi State Secretary, and other leaders of the Party and its frontal organizations; Comrade Birju Naik from the Communist Gadar Party of India also addressed the meeting.

The speakers demanded that the new AAP government fulfill their electoral pledges in regard to the basic and burning problems faced by the Delhi people, such as, privatization of distribution of electricity and water, increasing crimes on women, children and aged side by side with spate of obscenity

in print and electronic media, alarming rise of lawlessness, commercialization of healthcare and education, dilution and dismantling of the PDS, lifting of curbs on hoarders and blackmarketers, promotion of sale of liquor on the plea of raising revenues, annihilation and destruction of small and medium industries in the face of severe competition from outside, creation of SEZs in the vicinity of Delhi and throwing open millions of workers to the brazen exploitation of Indian and foreign corporate houses and others. The speakers called for sustained movement with people organized into 'Peoples Committees' as the instrument of struggle. A delegation led by Comrade Pratap Samal later submitted a memorandum, to the office of the Chief Minister of Delhi.



Against anti-people policies of central and state governments, SUCI(C) staged protest demonstrations across Kerala on 31 January including, among others, one at Trivandrum led by Comrade C K Lukose, Central Committee member and State Secretary, another at Alappuzha led by Comrade V Venugopal, district secretary and also at Kottayam (photo above) led by Comrade Jaison Joseph, district secretary

118th Netaji Subhas birthday observed across the country with due solemnity

The ruling class of the Indian capitalist state, the Indian monopolists and their cohorts leave no stone unturned to erase from the mass mind the impact and influence of the history of the uncompromising trend of struggles in the Indian independence movement. It thus comes upon the revolutionaries of the day and their supporters and sympathizers to uphold that history, re-establish it in full honour and on their basis prepare the present day students and youths for building up invincible struggles to fulfill the unaccomplished tasks of those bygone days. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the brightest and boldest instance of that uncompromising trend of the Indian independence movement ended his life with the dream that 'Our tasks do not end with driving the British rulers out of this country. We need another revolution to set up a new society in India.' Our Party SUCI (C), its frontal organizations as well as its supporters and sympathizers take every pain to observe the birth anniversary of this great fighter across the country with a view to imbibing present generation students and youth with the higher ideology-culture and ethics of the time to build them up as worthy soldiers for the fight to give shape to the dreams of Netaji.

With this realization and as a part of this agenda, the 117th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas was observed across the country. Remarkable was the observance at different places of Andaman. It was characterized by a nearly fortnight-long programmes of various academic and cultural activities since 10 January held under the auspices of the *Educational & Cultural Organization* with widespread and marked enthusiasm. Particularly significant was the participation of nearly 4000 students from all 16 schools of the **Little**

Andaman island in different competitions. Besides, there were a mass cycle rally on 19 January, a central cultural programme on the evening of the Netaji birthday, 23 January at Ramkrishnapur Bazar Community hall, **Little Andaman** and similar cultural programmes on people's demands later on 27 and 28 January at Rabintra Nagar Bazar and Vivekanandapur Bazar respectively. The central programme was graced by the presence of and addresses by Commandant KL Arun of the Indian Coast Guard Station, Hutbay as the chief guest, Guest of honour Shri Dayal Chandra Das and the chairperson of the evening Sri Ashamanja Halder, the Pradhan of Ramkrishnapur Gram Panchayat and others. All the speakers warmly acknowledged the commendable efforts of the *Organization* and focused on the theme of highlighting the significance of the observance.

At different places Netaji birth anniversary was observed voicing firm resolutions to develop and continue struggle against the increasing atrocities on women and the menacing trend of rising communalism. There were observances at **Ahmedabad, Surat** and **Vadodara** of Gujarat, in **Delhi**, at different places in **Odisha**, at Ankoraha Railway station in **Aurangabad** in Bihar by AIKKMS and AIDYO, at **Ranchi** in Jharkhand by the district committees of AIDS, AIMSS and AIDYO and also at important places in 19 districts as well as in **Kolkata of West Bengal**. In central part of Kolkata an anti communalism march was held by an organization 'Nayee Disha' (New direction) and in the southern outskirts of the city the regional chapter of All Bengal Save Education Committee organized another march. In Delhi AIDS, AIDSO organized a photo exhibition on the occasion.



March of 5000 odd save education activists led by eminent educationists and intellectuals in Kolkata on 7 February against abolition of pass-fail system, deterioration in standard of education, reported large-scale corruption in TET examination, introduction of sex-education etc.

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