



Just as philosophy finds in the proletariat its material weapon, so the proletariat finds in philosophy its spiritual weapon. — Karl Marx

# Proletarian Era



Strength of Bolshevism is precisely that it is not afraid of criticism and that, in criticising its defects, it acquires energy for making further progress. — J V Stalin

Volume 43 No. 13  
March 1, 2010

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)  
Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Price : Rs. 3.00



**RED SALUTE GREAT REVOLUTIONARY  
COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE**

# COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE

## — a great lifelong revolutionary of rare mettle

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), a great communist revolutionary till death and comrade-in-arms of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the Party and great leader of the proletariat, has passed away. After prolonged illness, he breathed his last on 18 February, 2010 at 11 p.m. at the Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital. He had been suffering from a number of serious ailments including COPD and Parkinson's disease and finally sepsis with multi-organ failure. Comrade Mukherjee had crossed 90 years of age. With this not only a sublime revolutionary character ceased to breathe in the proletarian movement, but an unprecedented revolutionary struggle against disease and death also finally came to an end. Deaths are always sad and painful but all deaths are not the same. Some not only bring sadness, but cause irredeemable loss too, as they mark ceasing of a heightened struggle to build up revolutionary movement and character. The struggle of the departed ceases to live, but the lessons of his struggle remain alive forever. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's death is like that, but he has left a shining example of how a revolutionary should conduct his life struggle.

With the yearning for freedom from the yoke of the imperialist rule burning in his heart, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, born in 1920 in Dhaka (now in Bangladesh), was drawn into the vortex of Indian liberation movement in 1933 at the tender age of 13 as an activist of the Anushilan Samity that pledged to free the country through armed struggle. It was here that Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, caring little for life and career and striding forward with the flag of freedom movement, came in close contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and was immensely attracted towards him. Thus was cemented a deep bond between the two as compatriots in the freedom struggle. Comrade Mukherjee invited the wrath of the authorities while organizing student movement first in Dhaka Government collegiate school and later in Jagannath College, Dhaka. At that time, the students' movement there assumed such a dimension that Sarat Bose, a

renowned leader of freedom movement had to be brought to Dhaka for mediation. The movement was withdrawn only after the legitimate demands of the students were acceded to. In order to escape arrest by the British police, the leaders of Anushilan Samity sent Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and Comrade Nihar Mukherjee to Calcutta in 1940 and 1941 respectively assigning them the charge to build up uncompromising

counsel, however, could successfully act so much so that the charges could not be proved and inevitable death sentence for both could be averted. Finally they were sent to jail for three years. Within Anushilan Samity a movement to cultivate Marxism-Leninism had been released by a section of freedom fighters in the late 1930s and both Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and Comrade Nihar Mukherjee were drawn towards that.



*First Central Committee elected in the Founding Convention in 1948. Seated in the middle Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, standing on extreme right Comrade Nihar Mukherjee*

revolutionary freedom struggle and organization. It is in the course of discharging this responsibility that Comrade Nihar Mukherjee became a close comrade-in-arms of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. During the preparatory days of 'Quit India' movement in 1942, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee was assigned the responsibility of organizing the students of Calcutta and its suburbs. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's plan was to capture Writers' Buildings (the then headquarters of the British regime), Fort William and Lalbazar Police Station through an armed upsurge in Calcutta and declare them as liberated zones. The British intelligence managed to get the news and both Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and Comrade Nihar Mukherjee along with 138 other revolutionaries were arrested. They were charged with "declaring war on British regime and planning to overthrow British rule by violent means" and were accused in the "Ward Institute Case". The defence

party formation. Realizing that emancipation of the oppressed and exploited Indian people could never be achieved without overthrowing the national bourgeoisie poised to assume state power of independent India through compromise with the British imperialist rulers, and it was imperative to have a genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat to bring about this anti-capitalist revolution, he took upon himself the historic task of building SUCI as a genuine communist party on the soil following Leninist model. A handful of his revolutionary compatriots including Comrade Nihar Mukherjee immediately realized the need and joined him in the arduous struggle of Party building.

After being released from the jail in 1945, they built up a platform of action as a part of that process of building the Party. Following that, the founding convention of the SUCI was held at Joy nagar, West Bengal, from 22 to 24 April, 1948. In the founding convention, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was unanimously elected as the General Secretary and Comrade Nihar Mukherjee was elected a member of the Central Committee and Secretary of West Bengal State Committee. In the exemplary painstaking struggle of Party building, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, as close comrade-in-arms of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, played a very significant role. In those grimly uncongenial days of Party formation when there was no certainty of food or shelter for the Party leaders, no source of funds, the person everyone depended on, for smooth conduction of all affairs with due attention and consideration of each and every aspects was Comrade Nihar Mukherjee.

After independence, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee under the direct guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, his leader, teacher and guide, carried on the struggle to acquire an elevated communist character by conducting an all-embracing relentless struggle for applying the noble philosophy of Marxism-Leninism in every walk of his life. Side by side, when Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, responding to the need of the time, assigned the crucial responsibility of developing

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## COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE

# — a great lifelong revolutionary of rare mettle

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united left democratic movement in West Bengal to Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, he demonstrated great organizing skill stemming from true realization of revolutionary purposiveness and successfully carried out the task by bringing all the left-democratic forces on a single platform of struggle which spearheaded intense mass struggles. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee played a leading role in building up teachers' movement, anti-Bengal-Bihar merger movement, movement in protest of rise in tram fare, historic food movement and such other struggles that developed against the anti-people policies and steps of the then Congress government. In course of that, he emerged as a front-ranking leader of united left movement and democratic mass movements. While leading the class and mass struggles, he was imprisoned several times during the Congress rule in independent India. In 1962, he was detained under the Defence of India Act and sent to jail for a long period.

After the untimely demise of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in 1976, the responsibility to lead the party fell on Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. Succeeding Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as the General Secretary of the Party, the post he was unanimously reelected to in both the First and Second Party Congress, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee with revolutionary audacity released a new struggle to lead the Party based on the developed and enriched understanding of Marxism-Leninism as provided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in course of concretizing Marxism-Leninism on the Indian soil and ensured that the entire Party stood as one man to fill up the void created by the untimely death of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. The whole Party and the toiling people saw a heightened renewal of a great revolutionary leader unflinching in resolve to carry out the task and struggle his leader, teacher and guide had bequeathed to him. Weathering all storms and skillfully steering the Party through all difficulties, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee as true disciple and revolutionary compatriot of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh led the Party to boldly stride ahead turning disadvantage into advantage. In the process, he elevated himself to a

new height of communist character and kept the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh ever flowing among the Party comrades as well as the toiling masses. It was at the initiative of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee that the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism- Shibdas Ghosh Thought was set up at Ghatsila so that comrades could periodically assemble there in batches to attend schools of politics, collectively study the various aspects of Marxist ideology and methodology as well as the latest developments in science and human knowledge and also learn to lead collective camp life.

It is under his leadership that the Party expanded throughout the length and breadth of the country. In all the states the Party under his leadership developed legitimate democratic mass movements of all sections of the oppressed people, either singly or in association with other pro-struggle forces. Movements on many pressing issues and burning problems of people's life in different places have surged forth and intensified over the last more than three decades. In state after state, the toiling people have increasingly been taking note of this struggling character of the Party as distinguished from other vote-based outfits and gradually getting attracted towards the noble thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, worthy continuator of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, upheld by the SUCI (C) under the dynamic leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. The task of spreading the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in his absence was a gigantic one. But resolutely, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee as his true follower shouldered that task by elevating through ceaseless struggle his own understanding and grasp of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. The historic language movement of West Bengal, save education movement round the country, various mass movements against the anti-people policies of the central and different state governments and legitimate people's struggles against systematic curtailment of hard earned democratic rights, against atrocities on women, against state terrorism unleashed on suffering deprived people, in demand for food, shelter and healthcare, anti-



*With Comrade Shibdas Ghosh at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta, 24 April, 1973*

price rise stirs, agitations against the noxious prescripts of capitalist globalization — all crystallized, developed, spread and intensified under the able leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee in the post-1976 period firmly established SUCI (C) as the Party of people's movement holding aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism, leftism defying all odds and adversities, overcoming all impediments caused due to maligning of leftism by the power-hungry pseudo-Marxists and their associates, and undaunted despite complete whitewash by bourgeois press. It was Comrade

banner of movement and began to adopt non-left anti-people policies in dexterous articulation of modern revisionist politics, it was under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee that the Central Committee of the Party, based on invaluable thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, devised appropriate strategy to fight and expose the same and protect the nobility of Marxism-Leninism. It was under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee that after fulfilment of certain historic conditions, the First Congress of the Party that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh so earnestly desired



*With Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and other leaders at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta 24 April, 1975*

Nihar Mukherjee who wisely led the Party in concretizing the invaluable teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh about building up people's movements by forming people's committees right from the grass roots level as instruments of struggles and developing volunteer corps. After 1977, when the sham Marxists, in their avid pursuit of governmental power threw away the

Party, both ideologically and organizationally.

When in the early 1990s following the dismantling of the mighty socialist camp due to revisionist conspiracy aided and abetted by the capitalist-imperialist powers, the world communist movement suffered from disarray

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and confusion, the Central Committee of the Party under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee could correctly understand that there was a fundamental change in the correlation of world forces and in the unipolar world, the imperialists-capitalists headed by the US imperialists would be unbridled in their pursuance of overlordism and

Committee was born to gradually coordinate the anti-imperialist movements in different countries. In the process, the illumining thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the most advanced, developed and enriched understanding of Marxism-Leninism providing beacon to the communists round the world in their struggle to revive international communist movement and inflict crushing defeat to all shades of

before all. In the next phase, his call was for revitalization and consolidation of the Party. At the culmination of this struggle, the Second Congress of the Party was held in November last with the resolve to take the struggle to yet higher rungs. Thus, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee as revolutionary compatriot and worthy follower of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh sought to elevate the standard of the Party to

unscathed communist kernel — that was the centre of his life. It was this singleness of purpose, indomitable revolutionary spirit and fervour that was behind the gritty determination to live as a revolutionary of rare mettle, as worthy successor of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, his leader, teacher and guide. So he could conduct an exemplary struggle overpowering one after another deadly attacks of serious ailment and succeeded in prolonging his life and led the Party to a new stature, a new height. All the eminent doctors attending him were taken aback given his precarious health condition which could collapse any moment but his consciousness about his revolutionary responsibility as the leader of the party was still aflame. It was during this most critical stage, the Second Congress of our Party took place. Despite ailing and falling health, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee chalked out the minutest details of conduction of the Congress and oversaw each and every area of the preparatory work. Though deteriorating health condition prevented him from being physically present in the Second Party Congress, he provided the basic guideline and specific direction based on which the proceedings of the Congress took place and the Party emerged much more strong, consolidated and integrated to take on the challenges posed before it and discharge the responsibility history has adjured to it. A new motion has set in in the Party.

The death of such a great communist character as embodied in Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the product of a long struggle led by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has impinged with deep shock the Party, the left-democratic movements, the class struggles of the proletariat and the world communist movement. But his exemplary life struggle has left us with the treasure-house of values and teachings that would keep imbibing all the comrades, leaders and cadres alike, of our party and play as the leading light to the toiling millions in their struggle for emancipation in the days ahead.

In his death, the country has lost a life-long revolutionary of rare mettle and a front ranking leader of left-democratic movement.

**RED SALUTE****COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE**

*Addressing the Open Session of 1st Party Congress at Brigade Parade Ground, Calcutta (Left) and Open Session of 1st Party Plenum at Cuttack, Orissa*

brigandage, usher greater attack on the people and hold the whole world ransom. So, a Party Plenum was held in 1994 under the leadership and conduction of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee to deduce, based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, the political line in the changed world situation. Based on the conclusions of the Plenum, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, in order to defend the class and mass struggles against the offence of capitalism-imperialism and resist imperialism-sponsored wars, gave call to develop a worldwide anti-imperialist movement by building up international anti-imperialist fronts involving all anti-imperialist forces with the genuine communists at the core. This, the Party under his leadership was convinced would pave the way regenerating the international communist movement. So, at the initiative and under the wise leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the All India Anti-imperialist Forum could get a concrete shape and emerged as a broad based organization of anti-imperialist anti-war pro-peace forces, and eventually the International Anti-imperialist and People's Solidarity Coordinating

reformism-revisionism and expose all conspiracies and machinations of capitalism-imperialism including the vile doctrine of globalization, could reach out to the various parts of the globe inspiring the communists to resurrect their struggle premised on correct base political line, correct ideological understanding and correct organizational build up. Thus as a revolutionary communist leader, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee discharged his obligation to the international communist movement.

At the same time, in order to protect the kernel of communist ideology and character from all kinds of vile bourgeois attacks coming from without or even within the Party particularly manifested in the menacing assault of vulgar individualism, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee exhorted upon the Party leaders and cadres to release a fresh intense struggle within the Party for elevation and rectification and thereby strive for achieving a higher communist character by fighting out every bit of individualistic thinking and identifying self with the class, revolution and Party. He himself conducted the struggle covering all aspects of life to set an example

be a true embodiment of democratic centralism in the present stage of the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution.

His glorious struggle against prolonged illness from multitude of serious ailments till the last breath shines as a great teaching to not only the comrades of the Party but to all the communists world over. A great revolutionary by character Comrade Nihar Mukherjee showed how a true communist revolutionary fights death with revolutionary purposiveness. Suffering from various ailments of heart, lung, stomach and fractured bone, he was going through excruciating pain over a very long period. The untold hardship he took upon himself in the difficult days of Party building since the 1940s had greatly impaired his health. As he was advancing in age, multiple diseases of serious nature debilitated him and affected almost every organ in his body and finally infected his blood. Each time a grave situation developed, he overcame it evincing great mental strength, exceptional power of tolerance and rare revolutionary firmness. It was the Party alone, its advancement, its unflinching revolutionary orientation, its



*Central Committee members at the Central Hall of the Party Headquarters in Calcutta*

## Bidding adieu to the beloved leader

Death falls on its knees crouching before the life that kindles lives. On 18 February, as the clock struck eleven in the night, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, a lifelong revolutionary of singular genre, comrade-in-arms of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, breathed his last, plunging the leaders and organizers, the supporters and sympathizers of the Party, thousands of his ardent admirers, vast masses of the toiling people in great depth of bereavement. The news of his demise spread like wild fire from one corner of the country to another. That very night comrades from Calcutta and the adjoining areas rushed to the Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital and joined others who were on guard there. Many others reached in the early morning next day. Comrade Mukherjee there was laid on a raised platform bedecked with flowers and red flag. Beams of the morning sun were spread over our beloved departed leader in radiant ardour. Comrades were surrounding him in hushed silence. The Central Committee leaders and other veteran leaders, attending doctors and other members of nursing team paid him floral tribute. After that, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee was taken to the mortuary where he would be kept till 22 February, the day of the last journey.

Before the day of 22 February

broke out, the central office of the SUCI (Communist) at 48 Lenin Sarani in Calcutta was all wrapped in red. On the broad red wall above was ensconced a huge portrait of Comrade Mukherjee. On the entire long stretch above it was inscribed in large bold relief : RED SALUTE COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE. The surrounding of the Party headquarters extending through to the heart of the city down to the south upto Keoratala burning ghat route that would carry the leader to the last, turned red with banners and half-mast flags. Calcutta, the citadel of left-democratic movement, the city where Comrade Nihar Mukherjee as close revolutionary compatriot of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh spent most part of his life, was ready to bid adieu to the great lifelong revolutionary leader.

Already people who had come from different parts of the country were in a great multitude patiently waiting outside in an endless disciplined queue in front of the Party office when at 10 AM started the slow march up the first floor to have last glimpse of their revered leader and offer him red salute. People wearing black badge slowly climbed the stairs, passed the Red Flag dipped in half mast, entered the central hall where Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, comrade-in-arms of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, was laid on a raised platform amidst flowers. Four comrades of Komsomol, the young communist league of the Party, were standing on guard at the four corners of the platform. One by one, the grief-stricken stream of comrades and admirers paid floral tribute and offered red salute. Many of them could not control tears

rolling down their cheeks. But silently they resolved to the tune of the call of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee: Intensify ideological struggle, read and reread, cultivate the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, fight bourgeois vices, release and continue socialist struggle covering all aspects of life to be true disciples of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, uphold nobility of communism, build up class and mass struggles, remain unwavering in commitment towards revolution.

Leaders of different political parties, mass organizations, citizens' bodies and eminent personalities also paid their tribute with floral bouquets. Then the members of various state committees, leaders of the class and mass fronts of the Party, State secretaries, veteran leaders and finally the Central Committee and Polit Bureau members offered their floral tribute.

Slowly time passed by. But the queue got longer and longer. Comrades were so eager for one last quick look of the great revolutionary leader. But there could not but be a stop. Clock was already ahead of 3 pm, the scheduled time for commencement of the last journey. The comrades and the members of the public, who could not reach Comrade Nihar Mukherjee because of time elapse, placed the wreaths they had brought in the truck that was to follow the

**Comrades, you know, politics calls for noble feelings of heart. Nobler still is the feeling that spurs on to revolutionary politics. Tender as it is in one way, inherent in it are stern reality, strict discipline, and steadfast sense of duty. Our work cannot suffer because of our grief. Outwardly, the conduct of this politics appears so heartless. But it is here, in what appears so heartless, that the significance of true realization of grief lies. That is why, big revolutionaries, even in the midst of most profound grief, unwaveringly pursue their revolutionary work (voice again chokes with tears, and he continues in a tearful tone). Work they must. In no event can they allow themselves to muddle up the work. Else, it was not for them to tread this path. They had better lead lives of common men.**

— Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

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*Comrade Provash Ghosh, Polit Bureau member, Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Polit Bureau member Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Polit Bureau member*

# Bidding adieu to the beloved leader

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bier carrying Comrade Nihar Mukherjee and stood in rows to join the last Journey.

In majestic state he lay, draped in the Hammer-and-Sickle, as pall bearers, members of the Party Polit Bureau, carried the bier down to place it on the readied platform-on-wheels to go on the Last Journey of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, beloved General Secretary of the Party, lifelong revolutionary, compatriot, comrade-in-arms, and continuator of the Great Leader of the Proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. History beckoned its muted message here and now: Follow him, who cast himself in the mould of the revolutionary character which the Great Leader and Teacher had shaped out. Follow him, who led the Party, ever after the Great Leader departed, through the twists-and-turns of the world revolutionary struggle, the vicissitudes and turmoil in the wake of downfall of the USSR, the debacle of the socialist camp, the degeneration of the CPC and the People's Republic of China into a capitalist order at its worst. Who led the Party through chaos and confusion in the international communist movement caught in the vicious web of revisionism-reformism. Who led the

Party through its struggle for rectification and elevation within, in order for strengthening itself and rising to be equal to the revolutionary task set by history now.

The carriage creaked and started slowly rolling on. The pall of silence which so long held around now made up into trails in a billowy motion. And quietly rose up a muffled strain that sang of the Great Leader:

You brought them  
the song of liberation,  
Oppressed and destitute millions.

A new life to live  
you breathed in them,  
Than die in squalor of  
humiliation, exploitation.

The four-deep column moved on down Lenin Sarani from 48, eastbound to Taltala cross-point—its front being reared up by ninety members of Komsomol holding a Red Flag each. Thereafter, followed the members of the Party Central Committee. On their heels walked down leaders of the Party's Frontal organizations. At the front of the cortege, comrades stood firm with a large festoon written with "Red Salute to Comrade Nihar Mukherjee". Behind rolled on the

carriage, with a portrait of the departed beloved General Secretary placed atop, two Red Flags in cross guarding the bier, and members of the Polit Bureau seated on guard close to him, those whose health allowed them to move on the Journey. There followed a carriage carrying the wreaths that had been placed in tribute by leaders of other different political parties, representatives of Party units from around the country, Party comrades, a countless number from the members of the public who turned up with grief-laden hearts to pay their respect. In long trails of this

Keoratala in South Calcutta. Behind were the four-deep rows of sea of humanity at the beginning with two-deep rows at the rear stretching over long way. All the participants of the cortege constituting as though a unit of family with heart torn by inexpressible pain of bereavement, but yet infused with steeled determination to overcome the loss by devoting themselves more to the struggle for emancipation from the capitalist exploitation for which Comrade Nihar Mukherjee dedicated his life. The Journey reached Taltala cross-point, turning south from here, turning again



*Members of the Polit Bureau on guard of the bier*



*Ninety KOMSOMOL members each with a half-mast Red Flag at the front*

Party members mingling up with members of the general public brought up the rear. The mourners of the procession held in hand Chinese banners with portrait of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee inscribed on the same. The procession meandered along the streets covering around 8-kilometer stretch of path to the crematorium at

westward down S N Banerjee Road. Dense bodies of people lined up all along to catch a glimpse. As though they begged history to speak up what message this moving column signalled. For, this silence was not sound muted. Nor it bespoke sorrow congealed into fathomless silence. Nay. It spoke in more eloquence than could thunders of slogans speak this day, or any sounds uttered could. History did speak up. It spoke through every move this march made. It spoke through their singing lips. This silence spoke — it spoke in eloquence, spoke in its own language. This sorrow turned

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Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Polit Bureau member Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, Polit Bureau member Comrade Anil Sen, veteran leader and former CC member

## Bidding adieu to the beloved leader

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into strength of resolve. This resolve heightened itself toward fulfilling what history behoved them to do. People need, so people want, radical change from their slavish living. People need, so people want, a life which would accord them honour that is denied. People need, so people want, deliverance from this stifling grip of denial, this mounting expropriation of labour, this steel-claw of oppression by rulers to muzzle their voice, their demands. But they know not what to do, they know not how to realize what they needed to do. They need to get to the right road. They need to rally round the right organization. This Party Comrade Shibdas Ghosh reared up and bequeathed it to them as the organizational basis of their struggle; this Party Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, lying on the accompanying bier, led all through his life to ramify throughout the country as the powerful weapon for their struggle. So people need to know their own right party, people need to rally round their own party to forge strength and win victory. This winding column passing down before their eyes is the organizational structure they needed.

On the verge of Esplanade, the column veered southward along Jawaharlal Nehru Road. Vehicular traffic had been diverted. The roadside thronged with passersby. Windows on roadside buildings teemed with onlookers trying to get a view. From atop, the long column presented the view of a torrent surging forward. Discipline in motion. Resolve pent up for its release. Human spirit outpoured into a mass that flowed ahead. Lifelong, throughout his revolutionary mode of existence, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee stood by the Great Leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. In the light of teachings of the Great Teacher, Comrade Mukherjee led the Party structure on the realization that the Party emerges as product of a dialectical process of struggle. Its foundational unity grows and develops in the course of dialectical process of open conduct of contradiction and conflict between different and diverse views and opinions.

Constantly Comrade Nihar Mukherjee reminded that this Party emerged in the course of a special particular process of conducting an intense ideological struggle without relent in every sphere of life, wherefrom grew ideological

centralism, whereupon in turn developed organizational centralism in the Party, democratic centralism in word. Not just in the form of theoretical formulations of the Leninist Party concepts, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh pursued a particular process in order for inculcating these concepts in the leaders and cadres all through the Party as transformed into their intrinsic acquired habits. This became a new dimension of the Leninist Party model, a new acquisition of the Marxist movement. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh exhorted at every turn the inescapable task to conduct an unceasing struggle to exhaust the bourgeois humanist values, ideas and ideals in full and acquire the proletarian sense of values, which is higher than bourgeois humanist values and warrants completely freeing the self from private property mental complex, at the level of tastes and habitual practices in the Party life as a necessary prerequisite in the stage preceding revolution itself. In today's circumstance, when confinement to humanist values stands out as an insurmountable obstruction on way to acquiring the proletarian values, there is no alternative, except harm's alternative, left open to us.

On this recognition, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee unleashed the struggle for elevation and rectification all through the Party. It is this which makes this Journey so different in the eye of the public.

At times slow, at times rapid, the column passed along crossing the Maidan, crossing

Bhowanipur, crossing Jatindas Park on bound to Keoratala crematorium ground. A mass of people on both sides of the street, many in a mood of grief while most fell silent at the unparalleled discipline displayed by the processionists marching past interminably. Showing great honour to the departed leader and the Party, they made way for the procession to advance. Many were found to bow their head when the bier carrying Comrade Nihar Mukherjee passed by. Some were seen offering red salute. At many points, various organizations and members of the beholding public came forward and placed floral wreaths on the cortege as a mark of their heartfelt respect to the great revolutionary leader.

Excepting for the refrains of the *Internationale* and song composed on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, sung by batches of comrades in chorus, the vast funeral procession silently and solemnly wound its way, finally reaching Keoratala Crematorium when the last persons were still striding along the road farthest from the destination. The bier was carried by the Polit Bureau members to the last spot. After posting the last guard of honour by the Komsomol and the Central Committee members offering the last Red Salute to bid final adieu to the beloved General Secretary. With the bugle playing the Last Post, the bier of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee was placed into the electric furnace amid slogans of "Long Live Comrade Nihar Mukherjee", "Long live Great Leader of the Proletariat, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh", "Long Live SUCI (Communist)". Comrades came out with tears rolling down, many sobbing profusely. But behind the rolling tears was a firm resolve — to remain unflinching to the task of filling up the void created by the demise of the great revolutionary leader by strengthening and

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Central Committee members and state secretaries in the Last Journey

# Condolence messages from abroad

## **Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BASAD)**

We are shocked at the news of the demise of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the General Secretary of our fraternal party SUCI (Communist) and the closest comrade of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the eminent Marxist thinker. At his demise the revolutionary struggle in India has lost a most worthy revolutionary leader who, at the same time, had been playing a significant historic role in the contemporary world communist movement. We would hope the leaders and cadres of the SUCI (Communist) will march ahead transforming grief into strength.

## **Alex Moumbaris Member from France, Secretariat, International Anti-imperialist and People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee (IAPSCC)**

Please transmit to the family and SUCI my deepest condolences for Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's loss. He did impress me very much when I met him in Calcutta .

## **Wil van der Klift New Communist Party of The Netherlands**

I wish to express my personal condolence. I have met Comrade Nihar Mukherjee a few times, as Tineke did once. He deeply impressed us by his wisdom and calm behaviour. We wish you, members of the leadership of the party, friends we have met in India and all other members of SUCI, strength in this difficult period.

## **Momar Sambe Dakar-Senegal**

We have a deep pain to learn the death of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of SUCI. We know the great part this Comrade took in the life of your party and anti-imperialist movement in the world. In these sad circumstances, the Secretariat of our party (RTA-S) present to all comrades of SUCI his deep sympathy and militant encouragements.

## **Sara Flounders and John Catalinotto Workers World Party, USA**

We in Workers World Party, USA, send our condolences to the comrades of SUCI upon learning that Comrade Nihar Mukherjee,

who was able to dedicate so much of his life to the struggle of the working class, had taken his last breath on February 18. It is a heavy burden to have the responsibility for leadership in a revolutionary party in any country, all the more so in a country of a billion people, and it Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's record shows that he had managed that responsibility with skill and courage. The loss of this experienced leader is a great loss to your party as well as to the workers' worldwide, and so we send our firmest solidarity in this difficult time.

## **Heather Cottin Workers World Party, USA**

I send you revolutionary solidarity and condolence for the loss of your great comrade — Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. I feel so fortunate that I met him and heard him in my life. ...When I was last in Calcutta, I saw his comrades helping Comrade Nihar Mukherjee to the stage. His body was weak, but his revolutionary mind and heart were strong. When he spoke, his powerful voice resonated throughout the hall. He gave an amazing speech with revolutionary historical understanding .... I really learned a perspective that helped me forever after. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee also spoke of Shibdas Ghosh.... The people attending this conference were strengthened in their revolutionary resolve by just hearing this one speech. I was.

## **Dr. Mohamad Tay Member from Lebanon in the Secretariat, IAPSCC**

I send my condolences to the comrades of SUCI upon knowing that Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, who dedicated much of his life to the struggle of the working class, had died on February 18. The loss of this leader is a great loss to your party as well as to the workers' worldwide and us, and so I send my solidarity in this difficult time.

## **Comrade Khaled Haddadin and Hani Haddadin Jordanian Communist Party**

I was very shocked and sad about the disturbing news that you've given me. My condolences to you and to all the party members. He was a great general, socialist and a wonderful human being. Our party will never forget him, his impact will live forever.



*With foreign delegates on the occasion of Great November Revolution Day Meeting in Calcutta on 17 November, 2003*

## **Mohammad Kassem Member from Lebanon in the Secretariat, IAPSCC**

We really feel great sorrow and pain for the loss of one of the great leaders of the working class party, the loss of a revolutionary leader who spent his life struggling against occupation and part of his life behind prison bars never giving up till the last moment of his life, leaving behind him a rich and glorifying history of anti-imperialist movement and struggle of the working class, striving and sharing in the process of establishing a genuine communist party in his country, SUCI.

Our warm condolences to the comrades of SUCI for the loss of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, with our deep sympathy and militant encouragements that you would surpass this situation. We do consider the loss of this experienced leader is a great loss to all of us as well as to the working class all over the world.

## **Nina Andreeva General Secretary, All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks)**

With a heavy heart we received the news of passing away of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist). He was a great revolutionary and worthy continuator of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder of your Party. We express our heartfelt condolence to the members of the SUCI (Communist), his family members as well as the close comrades. His memory will remain alive for ever. We are confident that, the SUCI(C) will go ahead firmly in the path of developing anti-

imperialist movement and class struggle for the improvement of the lot of Indian working people. We express our solidarity with your struggle.

## **S. K Senthivel (General Secretary) and E. Thambiah (National Organizer) Central Committee, New Democratic Party, Sri Lanka**

The New Democratic Party, Sri Lanka upon hearing the stoppage of the breath of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee the General Secretary of SUCI (Communist) has been down with deepest sorrow and would like to share the heart feelings with our fraternal neighbour the SUCI (Communist), its members and the people of India, through this message....We know Comrade Nihar Mukherjee has exhausted his whole life to fulfill the task of building up the revolutionary communist movement in India and contributing his part for the International Communist Movement, by and large the International Anti-Imperialist Movement. ...Comrades! Being a parental seed it is sure the late comrade had produced children seeds with revolutionary spirit. So, we may wholeheartedly give the farewell to the body of late comrade, keeping his valuable experience and knowledge.

## **National Democratic Front of the Philippines**

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) extends its sincerest condolences to the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) on the death of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee.

Comrade Nihar devoted decades

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## Condolence messages from abroad

*Contd. from page 8*

of his life to the cause of liberating India, first from British colonialism, then to the struggles of the poor people of India against imperialism and local reaction. His leadership has been well-respected and admired as shown by the trust members of the SUCI have bestowed on him as General Secretary of the Party since 1976.

He valiantly battled his sickness as he also vigorously battled enemies of the Indian people and working class. He may have lost the battle for his body but the noble cause he has lived and died for remains alive in the struggle of the Indian people for true freedom, genuine democracy and socialism.

The Indian workers, peasants, indigenous people, and the poor masses are continually oppressed by imperialism and the system perpetrated by the Indian ruling class. As with people in other countries in the world, the Indian people are also faced with the intensifying economic, political, social and military aggression of the imperialists, chiefly by the United States, as they struggle to bring about the destruction of imperialism.

Comrade Nihar lives in every one of the Indian people who dare to struggle. In this respect he shall never truly die.

Long live the struggle of the Indian people for national freedom and democracy!

### Jordanian Communist Party

Great sorrow and anguish engulfed our hearts at the news of the departure of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary General of the party. The departure of Comrade Mukherjee at this particular time hurts us and hurts millions of communists and activists and oppressed people in the world because he is a symbol of a long history in the fight against colonialism and occupation and dependency, poverty and hunger.

It was Comrade Mukherjee who taught not to weaken or be shaken in the resolve at the turn of events in the Soviet Union or the socialist system but to continue the struggle to recover the strength and eliminate the root cause of people's poverty. Comrade Mukherjee was the lieutenant and assistant of the founder Secretary-General Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and shared the struggle and the incarceration in

prison cells, and thus has become a great legacy in the struggle and experience.

We miss the late, great leader. We are confident that the comrades will follow the course and the path set by the late comrade and know that the tree planted by Comrade Mukherjee will grow and blossom and from among its branches will come Revolutionary Youth, the Youth who will raise red flags for revolution high on their shoulders adorned with the slogan of workers, peasants and intellectuals.

### MLCP

#### Turkey/Northern Kurdistan International Bureau

We have learnt with great pain that Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the General Secretary of your party, has passed away, leaving us an important heritage of revolutionary theory and practice. We know very well that a revolutionary cadre like him carrying a long history of struggle against colonialism, imperialism and capitalism on his body and mind does not appear easily on the scene of history. However, we believe that all his comrades and students will leap one step forward in order to fill the ranks once more taking a great revolutionary power from his inheritance. We believe that your party SUCI will carry his dream and labour to future uninterruptedly.

We convey condolences to your party SUCI, to the revolutionary and communist movement of India, to the working and labouring masses of India and to the International Revolutionary and Communist Movement. We confirm that his example will be a great source of inspiration for us in our struggle. Martyrs of the revolution are immortal! Comrade Nihar Mukherjee is immortal! Glory to Comrade Nihar Mukherjee! Glory to SUCI!

Long live revolution! Long live Marxism-Leninism!

### Ninu Chapagain

#### Cultural Bureau In-Charge, United Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)

It is with sadness that we received the news of the passing of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. The loss of each remaining member of the founding generation of the communist parties of South Asia is an acute loss for all South Asia revolutionaries. It is equally a challenge to us, individually and

collectively, to properly remember and build upon the work they engaged in. We walk upon ground that they arduously prepared under harshly repressive conditions.

As the mantle of responsibility passes inevitably to the next generation and the next, we can properly pay tribute to the founding comrades like Comrade Nihar Mukherjee only through correct and dedicated revolutionary praxis. In this light, his united front work

should equally be remembered and saluted. In that spirit, I extend condolences from across a territorial border, but from within the single United Communist Movement.

### Andy Brooks General Secretary, New Communist Party of Britain

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Nihar Mukherjee whose life was dedicated to the struggle of working people and building the Socialist Unity Centre of India. We will send a formal condolence message in the next few days,

## Those who offered floral tribute on 22 February at Party Headquarters

### On behalf of various political parties

Comrades Ashok Ghosh, West Bengal State Secretary, Forward Bloc, Benoy Konar, Central Committee member, CPI(M), Manju Kumar Mazumdar, West Bengal State Secretary, CPI, Amar Chowdhury and Subhas Naskar of RSP, Kartik Pal, West Bengal State Secretary, CPI(ML) Liberation, Amit Sinha, CPI (ML)-PCC, Subrata Bose, COIML, Debabrata Roy, Student Bloc, Biren Mahanta, Agragami Kisan Sangha, Ajay Roy, RCPI, Chitta Nath, Bolshevik Party, Samir Putatunda of PDS and Shri Mukul Roy and Shri Partha Chatterjee on behalf of Trinamool Congress chief Smt. Mamata Banerjee.

### Eminent Personalities

Smt. Miratun Nahar, eminent social and cultural activist, Shri Ashim Giri, folk and mass singer, Chhoton Das, *Bandi Mukti Committee*, Dr. A.B. Dutta, eminent psychiatrist, Shri Dilip Chakraborty, veteran journalist and cultural activist and Smt. Rupashree Kahali, noted cultural activist. On behalf of Shri Tarun Sanyal, President, Forum of Artistes, Intellectuals and Cultural Activists and a front-ranking intellectual of leftist cultural movement, Dr. Anupam Dasgupta, distinguished Neurosurgeon of the country, and Shri Kabir Suman, a mass singer of repute, Anil Chatterjee, former mayor of Howrah municipality and only living member of *Durbhiksha Pratirodh Committee* (Committee for resisting famine) of the 1950s, and many others.

### Veteran SUCI (C) leaders

Comrade Anil Sen, former member of the Central Committee and on behalf of Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, former member of the Central Committee.

### SUCI (C) Polit Bureau members

Comrades Provas Ghosh, Manik Mukherjee, Krishna Chakraborty, Ranjit Dhar and Asit Bhattacharyya

### SUCI (C) Central Committee members

Comrades Yakub Pailan, Gopal Kundu, C. K. Luckose, K. Radhakrishna, Satyawan, Kalyan Chowdhury, Debaprosad Sarkar, Soumen Bosu and Shankar Saha

### SUCI (C) State Secretaries and in-charges

Comrades Shivsankar (Bihar), Dhurjati Das (Orissa), Hem Chakraborty (Jharkhand), K. Sridhar (Andhra Pradesh), Dwarika Ratha (Gujarat), Pratap Samal (Delhi), Arun Bhowmik (Tripura), V. N. Singh (Uttar Pradesh), Umaprosad Biswas (Madhya Pradesh), K. Rengaswamy (Tamilnadu), Amrinder Pal Singh (Punjab), Girijeswar Singh (Rajasthan), Badsha Khan (Chhattisgarh), Bablu Mitra (Andamans), Madhav Bhone (Maharashtra), Anil Tyagi (Mumbai) and Ramesh Sharma (Sikkim)

### Various class and mass organizations

Comrades Krishna Chakraborty, President, AIUTUC, Shankar Saha, General Secretary, AIUTUC, Chhaya Mukherjee, President, All India MSS, H.G. Jayalakshmi, General Secretary, All India MSS, M. N. Sriram, President, AIDS, Sourav Mukherjee, General Secretary, AIDS, Dhruvajyoti Mukherjee, General Secretary, All India anti-imperialist Forum and many others.

# Tribute from political parties and distinguished personalities

**Ashok Ghosh**  
General Secretary, Bengal  
committee, All India Forward  
Bloc

That day, on 17 February, 2010, when I had gone to the Calcutta Heart Clinic to see Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, I told you: Nihar Mukherjee is not a leader of SUCI party only; you must publish an account of his life struggle. Society demands it.

Niharbabu was one of the eminent leaders among the leaders and parties of West Bengal, who had taken particular initiative to build up the foundation of the left politics in the state. I think, his thoughts and active initiative have played a major role in guiding left movement of the state in a correct way. He played a creative role in building up a genuine left unity by developing those left movements step by step in a well planned manner guided by the ideology of his party. To that extent, he is a product of history and has created history as well. Today he has made his place in history.

It was this task that Comrade Nihar Mukherjee had performed right from the inception of his political life till his death. Today, at his demise, I would appeal to my countrymen and the leaders and cadres of SUCI to carry through this historic responsibility.

**ABBardhan,**  
General Secretary, CPI

I am extremely grieved to learn about the demise of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. On behalf of our party I convey our condolences to your party and to members of his family.

**Prakash Karat**  
General Secretary, CPI (M)

I am saddened to hear the news of the passing away of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI (Communist). I got the news only today on my return to Delhi, through your letter.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee joined public life as a teenager during the freedom struggle. His commitment to the ideology of the SUCI (Communist) was total. Over the decades he made a notable contribution to building up of the Party through his dedicated work.

In his passing away the SUCI (Communist) and the left movement have suffered a big loss.

**Benoy Konar**  
CPI (M) Central Committee  
member

Unfortunately and temporarily our positions were diametrically opposite; yet he will be ever remembered in history for his great contributions to the development of leftist movement in West Bengal. Red Salute to him!

**Santosh Rana**  
General Secretary, PCC, CPI  
(ML)

CPI (ML) PCC expresses deep grief at the demise of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of SUCI (Communist).

His long political career was devoted to the cause of the working class and service for people. People of this country will not forget his contributions to their struggle for emancipation.

We extend our fraternal sympathy towards his comrades.

**Tarun Sanyal**  
President, Forum for Artistes,  
Cultural Activists and  
Intellectuals

Since my childhood, I have been keeping on dreaming of an earth as an abode of peace free of war. While going through the pages on the life sketches of the heroic men and women of the Soviet, I was deeply fascinated with that land of many nationalities, of many languages. That fascination has proved indelible as yet. In those days of my childhood and teen ages, those who were known as communists in this country appeared to me as the heroic princes and princesses of fairy tales. Once upon a time I came close to them and was inspired. Now, at these hours of my taking leave from life, I find the descendants of those communists of our country have become giants with earthen feet. A shower now and then brings out the skeleton. Yet, all on a sudden, we come across the instances of revolutionaries of giant stature. We happen to meet a genuine revolutionary who can modestly pronounce: Man lives just for once. Before dying he should be able to submit that the life he lived, did not go in vein, it was dedicated to the cause of emancipating mankind. I think, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee who breathed his last very recently at his age beyond ninety, belonged to the creed who could utter these words. He was a tested commander in the struggle for emancipation of not just the working class of this country, but of the world as well. Last three or four years, world and Indian monopolists, riding on the union and state governments, have come down terribly upon people of West Bengal to turn them into slave labours in Special Economic Zones in different parts of the state. The Forum for Artistes, Cultural Activists and Intellectuals has been founded in protest of this. We were encouraged to know that Niharbabu was sympathetic to the movement of the Forum. With the demise of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee we have lost that tested friend. We will hope that his followers and comrades would be vocal and active in protest against anti-people role and measures of the state and the union governments. Rising above party

sectarianism, our Forum in its turn will definitely extend to them its unstinted sympathy and cooperation, in the struggle for democracy and human rights..

Long live his memories.

**Dr. AB Datta**  
Eminent psychiatrist

We were acquainted long since. It is difficult to find such a character. He was gold in its purest. From my father, we used to hear about the activists of the Anushilan Samity. Niharbabu and Shibbabu were members of the Dhaka chapter.

We learnt from our father about the freedom fighters of the revolutionary trend. They did not make any compromise on questions of principles and ethics. They were of the purest mettle. Dr. Nani Guha introduced me to Shibbabu. Following that, I was acquainted with Niharbabu in the SUCI commune at Tala (Calcutta). I cherish so many fond memories of him.

I would find in Niharbabu the living embodiment of the revolutionaries of the Anushilan Samity. Whenever I came close to him, it filled my heart; it was a source of inspiration. The more I think of him today, the more I realize that his demise marks the end of an era.

It is a rare instance of mental strength with which he kept on fighting even at this age of 90 years and in face of so serious ailments.

**Partha Sengupta,**  
Well-known law professional

I have seen late Nihar Mukherjee since I developed senses. His simple plain living that has become rare with politicians today, could not but make me respect him. It did not change even when SUCI had two ministers in West Bengal that is when they could directly get into the corridors of power. I went to the commune he lived in. There too I found what a simple ordinary lifestyle they had. Without entering into any political discourse, I can add without hesitation that such a lifestyle and conduct of him, presented to us an example of a dedicated communist. I would only hope, that these lessons will not be repealed with the demise of such

*Contd. on page 11*



*Addressing All India Conference of All India UTUC in Calcutta in 1992*

## Tribute from political parties and distinguished personalities

*Contd. from page 10*

personalities as Nihar Mukherjee had been.

### Dr. Anupam Dasgupta Renowned neuro-surgeon

I bid adieu to my respected friend Shri Nihar Mukherjee with immense grief in my heart. From personalities, such as Shibdas Ghosh and Nihar Mukherjee were, everybody would get a pleasant blend of resolute conduct, cool and calmness of honesty and love for everybody. These days, all this will not be readily found.

### Dr. Sukumar Mukherjee Renowned physician of international fame

Nihar Mukherjee was very obedient, humble, very clear thinking man; his endurance power was very great.

### Dr. KB Bakshi Eminent cardiologist

It is very difficult for me to write or say anything at the demise of him. On getting the sad news on the night of eighteenth, I became quite emotional. I used to say to my doctor colleagues: It's a losing battle; but we must fight. There was no lax in efforts. Perhaps it was impossible to do any more. I have deep respect and love for him. I became emotionally attached with

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper PROLETARIAN ERA to be printed in the first issue after last day of February :

FORM IV (See rule 8)

Place of publication : 48 Lenin Sarani  
Kolkata 13

Periodicity of  
its Publication : Fortnightly  
Printer's Name : Asit Bhattacharyya  
Nationality : Indian  
Address : 48 Lenin Sarani  
Kolkata - 13

Publisher's Name : Asit Bhattacharyya  
Nationality : Indian  
Address : 48 Lenin Sarani  
Kolkata - 13

Editor's Name : Asit Bhattacharyya  
Nationality : Indian  
Address : 48 Lenin Sarani  
Kolkata - 13

Name and address of individuals who own the Newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital :

SOCIALIST  
UNITY  
CENTRE  
OF INDIA  
(COMMUNIST)

I, Asit Bhattacharyya hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/- Asit Bhattacharyya  
Signature of Publisher  
1.3. 2010

him. Both of us used to be pleased on seeing each other; I used to find inspiration.

### Dr. Susrut Bandyopadhyay Eminent Critical Care Medicine expert

He was a man of very strong personality and clear brain.

### Dr. Debasish Ghosh Well-known cardiologist

He had a very strong will power; he was very intelligent and logical.

### Dr. Gautam Sarkar Well-known cardiologist

I was associated with his treatment for more than long fifteen years. He was a man of great height. The first thing that occurs to me is that he was a 'man of science' in the truest sense of the term. Even under extremely serious conditions he was totally impersonal about the treatment of his own self. He narrated his problems to the doctors, but never made any complaint or remark, howsoever painful condition might be in. He never argued on doctors' opinions and followed their instructions word by word. He used to think that on matters of medical treatment doctors' opinions were the last words. His endurance power and cooperation knew no bounds. A character with such a broad span of qualities is extremely rare.

### Dr. Ranjan Sharma, Cardiologist of repute

I have seen many VIP patients, but none like Niharbabu. I was overwhelmed from his association and was moved at his simple, plain and hearty behaviour. He obeyed doctors silently and like a child and never put any pressure on them. He used to take doctors' opinions very seriously. At his death, we have lost a genuinely great personality.

### Dr. Subhanan Roy Well-known cardiologist

Being associated with the medical treatment of Niharbabu, I knew him since long. Ever since, I was overwhelmed with his sympathetic, sensitive mind. He had a very clear conception about his own ailment. He never claimed for anything beyond science, anything impossible or irrational. All through, he considered doctors, nurses and health workers as near and dear to him.



*At All India Conference of AIKKMS at Muzaffarpore in 1984*

### Dr. Parthasarathi Bhattacharyya, Eminent pulmonologist

I have been associated with treatment of Niharbabu for over a long period and have seen him from very close quarters. He was a very respectable personality. I feel proud that I had the chance to treat such a great personality.

### Dr. Saibal Ghosh Pulmonologist: Intensivist of Repute

He was very straightforward and very specific, with a very high endurance power. It is unfortunate that we could not help.

### Dr. Sanjoy Ghosh Physician of Repute

I have treated Niharbabu over a long period of time. At the outset, I must mention about his immense patience and unwavering confidence on doctors. I found him smilingly enduring terrible pain and suffering so long as he was conscious. It is very painful that in spite of best of efforts, we could not save him. I feel honoured to have the scope to medically treat such a fighting personality. I propose, the ICCU of the Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital be named after him.

### Dr. Pratik Das Well-known nephrologist

I was not associated with his

treatment for long. But my association with him for only a few days made me feel that he was a man of a giant stature. His cooperation with medical treatment and doctors was unlimited.

### Dr. Sitesh Dasgupta Eminent Neurologist

For quite a few years I was associated with his treatment. He was a man of great stature. He was very intimate in behaviour and had immense patience at listening to others and understanding their points. He used to follow doctors' advice with utmost sincerity and word by word. His endurance power was also great. I have found him calm, quiet and unmoved even under extreme pain. I have never seen him to lament for anything. I am really proud to have come in touch with him.

### Dr. Gautam Guha, Well-known neurologist

For a long time, I have been treating his Parkinson's disease. He was very patient and meticulous in all affairs, be it about taking medicine or any other daily score. He did never make any sort of complaint about treatment. Always he cooperated in all possible ways. I will remember him for years to come.

## Bidding adieu to the beloved leader

*Contd. from page 7*

consolidating the Party, founded, reared and steered by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, by applying the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in their lives and thus continuously elevate their standard as good communists to accomplish

proletarian revolution. This was the only dream Comrade Nihar Mukherjee cherished and struggled to realize throughout his inspiring revolutionary life spanning over 77 years. Live we must to his clarion call.

### **SUCI(C) flays the Union Budget 2010-11 as brazenly anti-people and pro-capitalist and calls for building up powerful movement against hefty increase in the duties and taxes on petrol-diesel and other petro-products**

The Central Committee of the SUCI(C) in course of a statement issued on 27 February, 2010 strongly denounced the Union Budget 2010-11 as highly anti-people, glaringly inflationary and extremely liberal in distribution of largesse to the monopoly houses and big business at the cost of the toiling millions. While the common people bleeding white under unthinkable price spiral expected some definite actionable programme on the part of the government to rein in the priceline, the slew of measures announced in the budget is, on the contrary, sure to increase the price burden much more than slaying the slain more cruelly and mercilessly. On the one hand, the Finance Minister tried to play with the catchphrase of direct tax lowering that is going to benefit in the main the rich, affluent, large corporates and capitalists. On the other hand he has merrily hiked indirect tax the brunt of which will be squarely passed on to the common citizens. Moreover, whatever miniscule benefit is perceived to accrue to the individual taxpayers particularly those in the lower and middle slabs because of marginal lowering of tax rates will soon prove to be misnomer when as a fallout of budgetary measures, priceline will soar yet more skyhigh on a sustainable basis. It is deplorable that when allocation to public welfare sectors like health and education have been meagre, most unproductive military budget has been increased to as high as Rs.1, 47,344 crore which is almost equivalent to estimated Non Tax Revenue Receipts of Rs.1, 48,118 crore and around 13 % of total budget expenditure of 2010-11 projected to be Rs.11,08,749 crore. The most heinous act has been the imposition of higher customs and excise duties and taxes on petrol, diesel and petro-products and indication of deregulating petrol-diesel prices based on the recommendation of Parikh Committee report—a step that will fuel sharp and sustained rise in the prices of

essential items including foodgrains. Similarly, brazenly anti-people policies like introduction of goods and service tax, bringing more service areas under purview of taxation, reduction in fertilizer subsidy, privatization of public sector units through disinvestment route, ensuring growth of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), requisitioning private sector participation in storage of foodgrains are all going to push up prices, squeeze the people yet more severely and cause plummeting of income of the common masses much more rapidly. The budget has neither addressed the burning problems of landlessness, availability of remunerative prices for agricultural produce and increasing indebtedness plaguing the poor peasants nor has it cared to touch upon the all important issue of massive job loss, wage cut and mounting unemployment tearing asunder the working class consequent to implementation of capitalist globalization. The Finance Minister has been categorical in announcing that “the focus of economic activity has shifted towards the non-governmental actors, bringing into sharper focus the role of Government as an enabler” and government will now create “an enabling ethos so that individual enterprise and creativity can flourish.”

This only reconfirms that this Congress-led UPA government is a obedient servitor of the heinous class interest of the exploiting capitalists having not even an iota of concern for the rising predicament, penury and misery of the common countrymen. The Central Committee, therefore, calls upon each and every citizen of the country to build up countrywide united powerful protest movement against this noxious blueprint of fiscal savagery and economic onslaught and demand in one voice immediate withdrawal of the proposed hefty increase in the duties and taxes on petrol-diesel and other petro-products.

### **SUCI (C) resents non-addressing of basic problems tormenting common passengers in the Railway Budget 2010 and expresses concern at eventual privatization of Railways through PPP route**

Reacting on the Railway Budget 2010 placed in the Lok Sabha on 24 February last the Central Committee of the SUCI (C) in course of a statement issued on 25 February, 2010 observed that although the Railway Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee in an effort to respond to the expectations of the people has included in the budget certain proposals like introduction of more trains, expansion of tracks, free travel by cancer patients, token cuts in freight on foodgrains and kerosene and some such others already doing the round in the country for quite some time, some basic problems causing severe hardship to the common passengers continue to remain either unaddressed or vaguely referred to even this time as well. Likewise, the pressing need for adopting immediate concrete time-bound measures to install new safety devices to prevent accidents rising alarmingly in number of late as well as to provide due security to the life and property of the passengers during travel has practically received no attention. It is also found that camouflaged behind the stunt of ‘no fare rise’, the deplorable means the previous UPA government adopted to indirectly raise cost of Railway travel by converting more and more express trains into superfast trains without any change in running time but charging additional superfast surcharge, enhancing fare for return journey booking, raising the number of expensive Tatkal quota seats by reducing cheaper general sleeper class seats and so forth continue to be in vogue. The budget has also not touched upon the issues like continuation with dilapidated bogies, phased and systematic reduction in the number of unreserved general compartments, fast withdrawal of passenger trains particularly fast passenger trains, virtual absence of any maintenance service worth the name and above all, prevalence of rampant corruption squandering away huge amount of public money. On the other hand, though Smt. Banerjee was opposed to the policy of privatization which the previous Congress-led CPI (M)-backed UPA government introduced in the Railways, it is found that she in her bid to maintain her alliance with the Congress is yielding to its pressure and is shifting from her earlier stand and opting for the PPP route, a euphemism for backdoor privatization, for many of the declared projects like setting up hospitals and schools by handing over Railway land to private monopolists. It may be added that the people have been experiencing right since independence that though some palatable proposals are dished out during budget presentation, most of them never see the light of the day and find permanent place in the cold storage. The Central Committee, therefore, urges the Railway Minister to make a breakthrough by expeditiously implementing the proposals she has announced and adopt in right earnest definite steps to redress the basic problems tormenting the common passengers.

## **Red Salute Great Revolutionary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee Memorial Meeting**

**3 March, 2010 at 3 p.m. at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Calcutta**

**Speaker : Comrade Provash Ghosh      President : Comrade Krishna Chakraborty**