

Proletarian Era

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Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

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SUCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON 14th LOK SABHA POLLS

Defeat BJP and Congress

Two arch enemies of the people, and other opportunists

The people of the country will have to face one more general election shortly. In view of the recent unexpected success in the elections in the 3 states of Rajasthan, Chattishgarh and Madhya Pradesh, and with the idea that an immediate election, before the people's disenchantment intensifies beyond manageable limits, might help it secure another term, the BJP-led Central government has dissolved the present 13th Lok Sabha eight months before it was scheduled to complete its tenure. As a result, the general election to constitute the 14th Lok Sabha is going to be held starting from the 20th April next. Simultaneously, elections will be held for the state assemblies in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Sikkim. Although there are precedents of dissolving Lok Sabha or the state assemblies before schedule due to some constitutional compulsion or in the face of a particular demand of the people, such utterly undemocratic instance of holding elections long ahead of schedule, spending hundreds of crore of rupees collected from the people who form the electorate, to serve the petty party interest alone, is rare. It is also noted that their exclusively vote-oriented politics has degraded to such an extent that the BJP leaders have not hesitated to go for the general elections even in this season packed with final school and college examinations.

Election is held at a time when the whole country is plunged into severe economic crisis

This election for the 14th Lok Sabha is going to be held at a time

when extreme crisis and instability grip the economic-political-social-cultural spheres in the whole country. Clearly, our country is sharply divided between handful of rich and millions of poor people. Our country became politically independent but the state power was captured by the Indian capitalist class with their most trusted political outfit, the Congress in the forefront. That is why, the highly cherished independence did not bring in its wake any gradual improvement in the economic condition of the people. Rather it has been a saga of accelerated deterioration. While a handful of the rich went on multiplying their wealth, wrenching poverty devastated the common

people at a much faster pace. The Indian capitalist class assumed state power at a time when internationally capitalism had entered into a moribund stage. So it was impossible for the Indian bourgeoisie to go for unhindered development in the capitalist way. Whatever little increase in industrial or agricultural production was brought about, the entire benefit was passed on to the ruling bourgeoisie and its associates who went from strength to strength. As an inevitable consequence to this fresh bout of capitalist exploitation by the Indian ruling class, the economic condition of the middle class, lower middle class, the poor peasants, the workers, in a word, the entire toiling

people started getting worsened day by day. Soaring price and heightened unemployment spelt disaster in the life of the common people. While the cost of living spiralled, there was no avenue before the ninety percent of the populace to augment their real income. So the economic burden on them increased, indebtedness had a strangular hold and poverty became appalling. In this way, the common people started losing their belongings and assets. The middle class has virtually become extinct and many from this class have been reduced to daily wage earners. This unbearable economic distress has become manifest in rural areas too.

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With Adoption of Constitutional Amendments Counter-Revolution in China Completes

SUCI Central Committee Concludes

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India at an emergent meeting held on the 18th and 19th March, 2004 discussed at length the constitutional amendments which had been adopted by the Tenth National People's Congress of China on the 14th of March, 2004, as recommended by the 3rd Plenary Session of the Communist Party of China's 16th Central Committee held between 11 and 14 October, 2003 which was again in pursuance of the decision of the 16th Congress of the CPC. The Central Committee after due deliberations adopted the following resolution :

The Central Committee notes that as the result of these constitutional amendments,

— the State shall protect the lawful rights and interests of the non-public economy including individual and private business. The State shall encourage, support and

guide the development of non-public economy.

— the lawful private property of the citizens shall not be encroached upon. The State shall protect by law the right of the citizens to own private property and the right to inherit private property.

The State may in public interest expropriate or take over land for public use but shall pay compensation in accordance with the law. It has also been made clear that after the amendment, besides ownership, a citizen shall enjoy other rights to his or her property such as the right to possess, the right to use and the right to profit.

Explaining the amendment relating to private sector rechristened as 'non-public economy' it has been said that besides private (or jointly owned) enterprises and enterprises run by private citizens, the private

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Crisis-ridden capitalism spells disaster in People's life

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Under ever increasing economic pressure, the common peasants wrecked and ravaged by scantiness and indebtedness have been forced to either mortgage their land or sell it at throwaway prices to get reduced to agricultural labourers, the proletariat. On the other hand, a handful of rich peasants-money lenders have become owners of huge areas of land, in their own names or in the names of others fraudulently. Finding no avenues of livelihood in the villages, the landless peasants started rushing to the cities in the hope of working as daily wage earners. This never-ending procession of rural migrants to the cities continues to be a common sight reflective of the plight and penury besetting the village life. But the avenues of livelihood are closed in the urban area as well. Although some mills and factories were built mainly in the public sector here and there immediately after independence, the path of unhindered industrialization was never opened up as the laws of capitalist economy in the present stage of third intense general crisis of decadent capitalism stood in the way. Even the old mills and factories in the public sector were caught in the vortex of crisis within a few years of the country attaining independence. Retrenchment, lock-outs and lay-offs gradually increased in the private sector. Ultimately, the industrial units have started closing down one after another. In the 57 years after independence, there has been on the other hand, unbridled rise in the prices of commodities of daily use while on the one the pressure of crores of people in the cities and villages who are jobless or have lost their jobs has assumed explosive proportions. As a result, even the last vestige of economic security has disappeared from the people's life. A horrifying sense of void has descended in, rendering the life meaningless to the myriads. While the majority of the people is condemned to bare existence, there is an avalanche of dazzling publicity of the "achievements" of both the central and the state governments in the media, both print and electronic, from dawn to the dead hours at night. So overwhelming is the falsified propaganda that sighs and lamentations of the majority people languishing in severe privation and inhuman life condition, get so easily

suppressed underneath. How many people today lead their lives with the minimal necessities assured and alert and active sense of necessary values duly nurtured? They are only a few. But to the rest, the vast majority, life is just a meaningless, unbearable drudgery. Some of them beat their chests wailing: "what is the use of living?", "better be dead", "only death brings peace", "why don't we die?" and curse their lives. Hapless fathers, unable to provide food, are killing their wives and children with their own hands and then committing suicide! Slaying their minor children are also the helpless mothers who too then are terminating their own lives. Another segment having lost all that is human, and falling victim to crass selfishness, is, in fact, getting dehumanized to the level of lower animal. Simply to eke out a living, the people are getting engaged in fratricidal bloodbath. The practice of unethical livelihood is spreading like a forest fire. Finding no other means of subsistence, the womenfolk are flocking out on to the streets, not in hundreds but in thousands to sell their most cherished treasure — their womanhood, their honour! Such is the true, real spectacle of the country. Those who have roving and probing eyes, discerning minds, cannot but be struck by this real picture. The external show of pomp and grandeur cannot dazzle their vision.

The false propaganda of "India Shining" is on to hide the attack of globalization

In such a disastrous, unbearable situation, another sword has come down on the people in the name of globalization. The entry of the Indian monopoly capitalists into the global market is facilitated and in the interest of securing more profit, foreign capital and foreign goods are rushing into the country as per prescription of globalization and liberalization and as a consequence, closure of the mills and factories in the country which had somehow been continuing to exist, has been on a massive scale. It is becoming impossible for cottage industry to exist anymore. The large factories in the public sector are being hurriedly handed over to the Indian or foreign capitalists at throwaway prices. As a result, retrenchment of workers is being accelerated. The workers-

employees in the government or semi-government industries or concerns which cannot be closed down, are forced to retire, the consequential vacancies are not filled up and a large number of posts are abolished altogether. The ruinous effect of this so-called globalization is having its toll on the rural life too. On the one hand, prices of essential commodities of daily use are skyrocketing, while on the other, the collection prices of agricultural produces are rapidly falling on account of manipulations by the capitalists and imperialists. The helpless peasant masses stare at the abyss of darkness and finding no way out, are committing suicide. It is clearly seen that the intensity with which the policies of so-called globalization and liberalization are being implemented, is blowing to bits, before our very eyes, the dream of building up a free, sovereign, self-reliant country that was cherished by the freedom fighters and the self-respecting men and women of the country.

Besides this, owing to collusion between the political parties in power and the administration, corruption at all levels has assumed alarming proportions. Heinous economic crimes and mega scams involving crores of rupees, with complicity of the central and the state governments serving the interest of the capitalist class, are coming to light almost everyday. Such playing ducks and drakes with the wealth created by the people through hard toil goes on unabated.

But the point to note is that the whole economy is stricken with intense market crisis and floundering. Even the least degree of stimulation cannot be revived in the production. Retrenchment and unemployment problems are assuming mind-boggling proportions. It is to suppress this stark reality that there is barrage of false propaganda through radio, TV and the newspapers. Hence, the pomp and grandeur of 'India shining' to keep this glaring truth obfuscated from cognizance of the people.

Not the people but black money, false propaganda and hired hoodlums now control the election results

There is reflection of this extremely unstable, unbearable

economic condition in the political scenario of the country, in the political life of the people. Under capitalist rule, the Indian people never had the right to control their economic condition that have been in the shambles. It is vivid that exploitation, deprivation and poverty of 57 long years have rendered 90-95 per cent of the people lifeless, lacking vitality. But the people are left with no effective political power to resist this. What is more shocking is that in the face of increasing people's resistance movements, the few democratic rights the ruling capitalist class had to concede to once in the situation arising out of the freedom struggle, are being systematically curtailed by the governments serving the aggregate interest of the capitalist class. By enacting draconian Black Acts, one by one, those rights are being wrested away and in this way, political power is getting more and more concentrated in the hands of the state, government, bureaucracy and the police. Thus the monopoly capitalist class, after having usurped all the economic wealth of the country, is having the political power centralized and totally concentrated in its hands. As the matter stands, the only right that is left out to the people is the right to participate, and that too for the sake of it, in the elections to the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies at 5 years' intervals. Though the people take part in the elections, they lack any interest, hope or enthusiasm in such participation. Rather they go to cast ballots with a feeling of despair and discontent and a deeply entrenched belief that the outcome of the polls would not change their lot anyway. Because true revolutionary political consciousness and matching organization have not yet developed among them as the alternative to bourgeois election. On the other hand, it is seen that the parties serving the interest of the capitalist class of the country are entering into the election fray with crores of rupees of black money provided by the capitalists. Previously, such funding was done secretly. But now such transactions take place both in the open as well as behind the screen. These parties and their leaders contest election with the support of newspapers, journals, radio and TV controlled by the

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Black money false propoganda and hired hoodlums control election results

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ruling class and they keep no stone unturned in their effort to artificially create public opinion in their favour by utilizing these media. Alongside, they go on pandering to casteism and communalism. But they do not stop at that. To capture power by any means, they do not hesitate to resort to anything starting from limitless manipulations in the voters' lists to terrorization, intimidation and forcible capture of polling booths. The ruling parties of the capitalist class have been doing these year after year undeterred right under the nose of the law, using the bureaucracy and the police for the purpose. In this way, the whole election system, having lost its democratic dignity, its tradition as a medium to reflect and exchange opinion, has been reduced to a mere trade circle for crass give and take, a vile business and a farce.

In this way, money of the capitalist class is flowing in a flood in the election. As if, it has become a competition as to who can purchase whom. And to implement this, they are destroying the moral backbone of the students and the youth, trying to destroy their conscience. At the same time, it is also seen that if a ruling party, even after resorting to all these, is ultimately dislodged from power in the face of intense mass wrath, another party of the capitalist class replaces it and comes to power. This two-party parliamentary system of politics is also another ploy of the capitalist class to preserve the exploitative capitalist system by confusing the people. Through this, although the government changes, the anti-people policies remain intact and the people are subjected to yet more exploitation and oppression. Policy, ideology, polemics and debate, analysis or rational consideration, even the personal qualities, character or capability of the candidates — none of these are relevant issues in election today. Communalism, casteism, parochialism, sectarianism, crore of rupees of the capitalist class, wholesale false propoganda and mercenary troops of armed hoodlums are the determinants of present-day elections.

But the capitalist class and its servitor governments are not putting

a full stop even at this. The laws and regulations of elections and the conditionalities of candidature are being changed in such a way that 85-90 per cent of the people and the party upholding their cause are debarred from participating in the elections. It is clearly with this motive that the deposit money of a candidate has already been increased by 20 times and preparations are on for further doubling the amount. In this way, the election process has been so designed as to enable either the multi-millionaire capitalists and their servitors or the branded criminals and notorious anti-socials under their patronage only to enter Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha and even become ministers! Beholding this, the common people, particularly the honest, right thinking people of the country are struck with apprehension. Unable to make out at whose instance and in whose interest is this happening, they are veering around a wrong notion that politics itself is a murky game and hence they prefer to keep off politics and keep away even from patriotic political activities. It goes without saying that as a result of this, it is becoming even more difficult to resist the corrupt politics and the criminalization of politics, serving the interest of the capitalist class. People watch that in this way, rule by a nexus of utterly corrupt ministers, bureaucrats, police, mafia and criminals has been established in the country with the direct support of the capitalist class, of course waving the banner of democracy! The Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas are forced to obey their command, and have palpably turned out to be appendages to serving bourgeois class interest.

Alongside indiscriminate robbing of democratic rights, crushing of democratic movements in fascist way, the unity of the people is being disrupted by pitting one section against the other through spread of sectarianism, communalism, ultra-provincialism, separatism, racial and caste hatred etc.

It is also being noticed that the capitalist class, in order to safeguard its rule, alongside concentrating economic and political power, is

poised to impose fascism upon the country outwardly keeping the Constitutional structure and democratic form intact and through bringing about a peculiar fusion between technology and religion, stoking up racial antagonism, communalism and national jingoism, reviving completely unscientific, obsolete feudal thinking and culture and by invoking a regimentation of the thought process.

The second aspect of the political situation of the country causing grave concern is that the common people torn apart by ruthless capitalist exploitation, and unable to bear the brunt, are continually bursting into angry protests all over the country. Plagued with attacks by the owners, the capitalist class, they pine for redressal. But the central and the state governments are not only refusing to accept the fully justified demands of the people, but are mercilessly crushing their legitimate movements with bullets and batons. The ruling class and its protectors are not even hesitating to deploy military or para-military forces for the purpose. Draconian fascist laws, like the POTA, purported to muzzle the voice of democracy, are being enacted. By making use of propped up government as the facade, military rule is being clamped in practice in different parts of the country on various pretexts and in this way, the people's last and most important fundamental right — right to life is being endangered. The capitalist class and the capitalist rulers are sparing no efforts to ensure that the people's protest movements are not transformed into an integrated, organized, all-India resistance movement and the correct revolutionary leadership is not established over it. Everyday they are chalking out different plans and strategies to this end. It is for this purpose that, they are fomenting and nurturing separatist, sectarian, communal mentality by not only inciting Hindu-Muslim communalism but also provoking conflicts centring round language-culture-regionalism-casteism-ethnicity, and are pitting one section of the people against another on these issues to generate gory, fratricidal strifes. The people from one part of

the country are being provoked to get embroiled in clashes with the people from another part on flimsy grounds. In this way, the people in different parts of the country, repressed and groaning under the yoke of same oppressive capitalist rule, are in fact, instead of coming forward to build up a united mass movement against the capitalist exploitation rising above the so-called division over caste, creed, religion, language, community, getting entangled in feuds and clashes amongst themselves prompted by narrow sectarian, separatist thoughts over the same set of divisions at the instigation of the ruling capitalist class and parties subservient to it. Thus the desired integration of India as a country as well as the noble unity of the great Indian people that emerged out of the struggles and sacrifices of thousands of patriots are being blown to bits. The politics pursued to safeguard the interest of the ruling exploitative capitalist class is not only mercilessly and ruthlessly holding the people of the country to ransom, but is endangering the very existence of the country.

The acute social crisis of capitalist India is glaringly manifest in the rapid spread of unethical livelihood, increasing atrocity on women and fast erosion of human values

Alongside this stifling economic and political condition, the people are also facing similar assaults in the socio-cultural sphere. The very social fabric, the entire social structure is afflicted with these aberrations. All social and human sense of values are fast disappearing from the society. The first victim of this has been the family life. After the dissolution of the joint family system as the inevitable outcome of economic uncertainty, instability and the fear of losing the last drop of security in making out a living, the nuclear family structure comprising the husband, wife and their children that evolved, too has its existence under threat. Remnants of whatever human relationship that were there in such families, have now almost vanished due to deprivation, poverty, lack of security and progressive erosion of sense of values. Husband and wife, the

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In reality there are only two sides — one for revolution and the other against it

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parents and the children — no one has any understanding with or consideration for anybody. It is only self preservation and selfish motive that dominate the arena of feeling and obligation. “Think about your father only after you save yourself” and “Save yourself before any other consideration” are the thoughts that have taken over and the miasma generated out of these are engulfing the realm of mind. It is also seen that in this environment of extreme economic insecurity and lack of safety acute mental disorders and ailments are spreading fast among all sections of the society especially students and the youths. On the other hand, unethical means of livelihood like theft, robbery, snatching, extortion, kidnapping, murder and immoral trafficking in women are what the unemployed students and youths pestered by the absence of barest needs for survival, are succumbing to. Drugs and alcohol are crippling their youth. Sense of respect for the womenfolk, the mother-race, is diminishing fast and outraging the dignity of and torture on women are assuming more and more horrid form. In a word, human feeling itself is fast vanishing from the whole social life.

Not only the realm of art-culture-literature-film is zapped by overdose of obscenity perverse proclivities and crude sexuality, the deleterious effect of this dehumanization is seriously impeding natural and healthy flourishing of all the art forms. It is clear that side by side with the economic-political crisis, a deep social-cultural-moral crisis has also engulfed the whole country.

Historical forewarning of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in 1948 about the impending catastrophe vindicated and the wayout reaffirmed

In the 57 years that have rolled by since independence, there have been many elections. Members of the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas have changed many a time. One or the other parties have been dislodged from power while some others have come into power through electoral gains or reverses. But the hardship of the people mentioned above has not mitigated

a bit. Rather, problems of all types have become more and more intense. Despite a hard earned independence that came about through supreme sacrifice of millions of our countrymen, why has this curse befallen the people of independent India? Why in spite of abundance in industrial and agricultural production, the rich are becoming richer and the poor far poorer? Why are the vast millions dying like cats and dogs while a few rich are living cozy princely life? These are the heart rending questions that are agitating the minds of the people, from the toiling millions to the thinking persons, again and again.

Having realized that these pertinent questions are bound to arise in the minds of the right-thinking people of the country, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher and guide, founder General Secretary of the SUCI and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, said just after independence, on the eve of founding our party in 1948 that through the British imperialism leaving India and the transfer of power it was the Indian national bourgeoisie that had occupied state power usurping the total fruits of the freedom struggle. As a result, the cherished goal of freedom movement of not only putting an end to the alien imperialist rule but to abolish all kinds of exploitation of man by man, to circumvent the danger of establishment of rule of a handful of rich to exploit crores and thereby laying the foundation stone of a society free from all exploitations, remained unfulfilled. Pointing out this fact of coming to power of the Indian capitalist class by confusing and misleading the people, he, forewarning the people, said that the handful of capitalists would become richer and richer under the inexorable laws of capitalism, their wealth and properties would pile up mountain-high, under the pressure of which the common man's life would be devastated. Reminding the people of a vital and pertinent truth, he said: Government and State are two different things. The state structure does not change with a change of the government. The government may be changed through election, but the state remains the same as before.

The state, the state structure is somewhat like a machine. The work of the government is to operate this machine, to look after it. So, the state can be changed only by the blow of revolution and replaced with a new state. To realize this noble objective, he exhorted that there must be mass awakening and mass uprising throughout the length and breadth of the country, from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari, as happened during the freedom struggle. Emphasizing on the imperativeness of accomplishing this historical task, he said that scientific socialism would have to be established on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and in the light of teachings of the great Russian and Chinese revolutions. And until that goal was realized, pursuing that objective, all sections of the toiling masses of India would have to build up sustained mass movements on the edifice of higher morality, ethics and culture to realize the essential demands of life. Election at any level, be it for the Lok Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha, has to be made best use of in the interest of this mass movement. Only such persons tested and tried in mass movements who can properly reflect the voice of this democratic mass movement inside the legislatures, are to be sent the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas in as large numbers as possible. And the persons thus elected would have to go on working both inside the legislatures as well as outside among the masses selflessly and tirelessly pursuing the revolutionary ideology without falling prey to any illusion or temptation. He further said, giving a clarion call to the people: Although apparently there are many a sides in politics and bourgeois propaganda machine may project and bolster up so many sides, it should never be forgotten that in the context of emancipation of the people from exploitation of all kinds, there are only two sides in politics — one is for revolution while all the others are opposed to revolution, whatever names they might assume.

It is by following these guidelines provided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that our party, the SUCI, from its very inception, has engaged itself in organizing legitimate mass movements to

secure parliamentary and extra-parliamentary demands of life and livelihood of the people. Long 56 years have passed since the SUCI was formed pursuant to this base political line. The correctness of this base political line laid down by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has been vindicated through all the developments taking place in the economic-political-social-cultural spheres every year, everyday. On the other hand, it is also a reality that right from the toiling mass to the honest and right thinking people all over the country are getting increasingly attracted towards the SUCI, and with their support, the SUCI has emerged as the most dependable force of mass movement in almost all the states of the country. At the same time, the real character of the rule and exploitation of the capitalist class is getting exposed to all sections of the Indian people every day, with yet more clarity and clear visibility to show that while capitalism is getting consolidated day by day, the deprivation, humiliation and exploitation of the people are mounting beyond any level of tolerance.

Both BJP and Congress are the trusted representatives of the capitalist class

It is in such a situation that the election for the 14th Lok Sabha is being held, and along with it, elections are also preponed for the Vidhan Sabhas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Sikkim. The ruling capitalist class is projecting two combinations before the people as the alternatives, the BJP-led NDA and the combination led by Congress, both preserver of and adherent to the established capitalist class rule. Although the BJP failed to secure absolute majority, yet it, alongwith it the other constituents of the NDA, all faithful to the bourgeois class, has ruled the country for the past 5 years without any interruption, and went on winning more and more confidence of the Indian bourgeoisie by serving with utmost efficiency the aggregate interest of the Indian bourgeois class. The Congress, too, seeing no possibility of gaining absolute majority on its own, is trying to form

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Revisionism in post-Mao China backstabs glorious Chinese Revolution

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sector also includes Sino-foreign joint ventures, cooperative business and exclusively foreign owned enterprises in China. It has also been pointed out that since the reform when an open door policy was adopted, the state has gradually realized the significance of the private sector in social development. The role of the private sector has changed from the original "complement to the public economy" as indicated in the 1988 amendments to "an essential part of the socialist economy" in 1991. And after this amendment it becomes the policy of the State to help develop the private sector.

Second major amendment relates to the incorporation of the theory of "Three Represents" into the Constitution.

This so-called theory was couched with camouflaged language and everybody knew that the sole intention of it was to formally open the doors of the CPC to the capitalists, to enable them to acquire the membership of the Party. It is to be noted that before the adoption of these amendments in the National People's Congress it was adopted at 16th Congress of the CPC and after that it was declared in the constitution of the CPC that any Chinese worker, farmer, member of the armed forces, intellectuals or any advanced element of other social strata who has reached the age of 18 and who accepts Party's programme and constitution and is willing to join and work actively in one of the Party organizations, carry out Party decisions and pay membership dues regularly may apply for membership in the CPC. The Central Committee also notes here that the basic condition of acceptance of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong thoughts which hitherto had been the guiding ideology and governing philosophy for becoming a member of the CPC, is now openly rejected.

After the incorporation of the so-called theory of "Three Represents" in the constitution of China along with the incorporation of the words "builders of the socialist cause" in the preamble of the constitution, the declared aim of which has been explained to be correcting prejudices against private

entrepreneurs and individual proprietors, it becomes explicitly clear that the newly emerged capitalist class has further entrenched itself in the Party and the State.

Whereas declaration of so-called human rights which was drafted by the capitalist rulers of the world with the twin objective of defending the vested interest of the property-owning classes and hoodwinking the exploited people by high-sounding, empty and deceptive words in the covenant had never been considered by communists and more particularly the genuine socialist states to be worth emulating by any socialist society, it is astonishing to find that the degenerate leadership of the Communist Party of China this time has thought it fit to incorporate this declaration in the Constitution.

Thus the third amendment relates to the incorporation of provision of human rights in the Constitution. By that the State shall respect and protect human rights and it has also been made clear that basic human rights comprises three fundamental parts : life, property and liberty.

After a careful and close examination of these drastic changes on the basis of authentic documents, the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Centre of India is of the firm view that these drastic moves have not come all of a sudden but are the inevitable outcome of the policy to discard one after another the correct Marxist policies hitherto being practised by the CPC in the sphere of economy, politics and culture, correctly following the teachings of Comrade Mao Zedong. Deviation from Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong thought as well as from the path of socialism which ultimately led to degeneration began soon after the 3rd Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of CPC in 1978 that denounced the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution launched and directed under the leadership of the great Mao Zedong to vigorously fight back the imminent danger of modern revisionism which was raising its ugly head through Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping and their followers. Since then class struggle, which ought to have been conducted more and more fiercely and in a still

higher form as it continues during the entire period of socialism, was just given a go bye giving enough scope to the bourgeoisie to get strengthened further. People of the world are aware how the renegade capitalist roader Deng Xiaoping, expelled twice from the Party for his capitalist leanings and counter-revolutionary activities during the lifetime of Mao Zedong, taking advantage of Mao's demise and in the name of fighting the so-called "gang of four" began to expel thousands of genuine communists and surreptitiously weed out the real revolutionary followers of Mao Zedong thought, both from the leadership of the Party and also the government and the people's liberation army most of whom were revolutionary veterans. They also began to dismantle the revolutionary committees and the people's militia that emerged during the great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and in this way they succeeded in establishing their hegemony over the Party, the State and the people's revolutionary army.

In view of the fact that well before the adoption of these amendments as per the admission of the Chinese rulers solely state owned sectors were decreasing, policy of establishing as few as possible state owned enterprises was being pursued, non-state owned capital was being introduced into state owned enterprises in order to avoid the dominance of state shares and that the non-public sectors contributed half of China's national economic growth, the Central Committee of the SUCI is of the firm opinion that these make it abundantly clear to what extent, without waiting for the formal amendment of the constitution giving a formal recognition to the existence of private sector and private property, capitalist motive force of production of earning maximum profit, capitalist production relations, capitalist mode of production had made deep inroads into the Chinese economy and assumed an alarming proportion with full consent and backing of the State and the Party.

The Central Committee, SUCI, also notes that not being content with the tampering of the correct, tested and tried Marxist postulates

in economic and political spheres and emasculating vital policies arising out of these, the arch revisionist Chinese leadership in their bid to hasten the process of counter-revolution, did everything to weaken proletarian culture and began, in a very surreptitious way, to encourage the growth of decadent and rotten Western capitalist culture as a result of which, from all available accounts, it is clear that it has already made deep incursions into the vital social and cultural life of China.

The Central Committee also notes that along with pursuing pro-capitalist and anti-revolutionary policies in the domestic sphere, the degenerate leadership of the CPC in international affairs had long ago abjured proletarian internationalism, stopped supporting anti-imperialist, anti-neocolonial, militant working class movements going on in different parts of the world and was found to be making overt and covert understanding with the imperialists, more particularly the US imperialists on crucial international issues affecting world working class revolutionary movement so much so that complicity with the imperialists is becoming increasingly visible.

Having considered the situation prevailing in China in its entirety, the Central Committee of the SUCI is of the firm view that with the adoption of these crucial constitutional amendments, counter-revolutionary turn of events in China has reached a nodal point and although there still exists a communist party in name in China, it has already been taken over by the bourgeoisie thereby turning it into an out and out bourgeois party, and the state controlled by them has also become a bourgeois state and the monopoly rule of this bourgeois party, having destroyed the last remnants of the dictatorship of the proletariat has given birth to a fascist dictatorship of the bourgeoisie which is engaged in entrenching fast the capitalist mode of production in the remaining areas of the Chinese economy. It is, therefore, an inescapable conclusion and reality that counter-revolution has already taken place in an apparently silent way in China and that the restoration of capitalism in

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BJP and Congress — two mainstays of two-party bourgeois parliamentary system

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a combination even with the regional bourgeois parties as the BJP had done. It goes without saying that no principle, ideology or programme of work are governing in the formation of these two camps of bourgeois alliances. Those who are joining either of the camps have only one consideration — which option would fetch them maximum seats. Even the too well-known leading members of the parties belonging to these two camps are unhesitatingly switching allegiance from one party to the other in petty self-interest. The people have been watching with revulsion this hated political opportunism in the game of alignment and re-alignment through floor crossing.

So, the electorates would have to examine in depth the latest political situation of the country and the true character, status and motivation of the contending political parties particularly the BJP and the Congress. Right from the aftermath of the dismantling of the socialist system in the Soviet Union, the Indian government, then under the Congress, in the interest of the Indian monopoly capitalists, started pursuing the policy of not getting involved in any conflict with US imperialism. After the BJP's coming to power, a new dimension has been added to that policy. On the question of the shameless invasion of Iraq by the US imperialists, the policy of the BJP government of not displeasing the US rulers anyway, has stunned the patriotic, anti-imperialist Indian people. Not only on the Iraq issue. The broad masses of the country nurtured by anti-imperialist feeling have been noting with grave concern that the BJP government has been openly pursuing a pro-US foreign policy by trampling upon the anti-imperialist tradition of the country. It is observed that not only in the sphere of foreign policy, the US imperialists, taking advantage of the weak-kneed approach of the BJP-led central government are trying to meddle into even the internal affairs of the country. Although the improvement of Indo-Pak relations and finding out a peaceful, permanent, just solution of the Kashmir problem are urgently needed, yet interference by the US imperialists in these issues is simply

inconceivable to the Indian people. But that very calamity is going to befall us, thanks to the connivance of the BJP government and the indirect support of the Congress to the US imperialism.

The second aspect causing concern is that the people have seen how the BJP had come to power in the three states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh through the recent elections by adopting the repugnant strategy of outwardly mouthing the slogans of development, while surreptitiously carrying out underneath with the help of Sangh Parivar, anti-Muslim propaganda in the name of Hindutva. And immediately on coming to power, their governments have started adopting anti-Muslim measures one after another under the grab of Hindutva, in the model of Narendra Modi's Gujarat. It is clear that the BJP, the whole Sangh Parivar, are contesting the coming Lok Sabha polls with this same odious strategy of fomenting anti-Muslim communalism. Behind the smokescreen of talks about "development" created with the aid of radio, TV, newspapers and journals, the RSS and the VHP are incessantly and in a clandestine manner unleashing intense anti-Muslim propaganda in favour of the BJP. It is noticed that some power-hungry old Congressites belonging to the Muslim community are being put to use by the BJP to cover up this outrageous act. It is in this way that they are trying to erase the memory of the devilish mass killing perpetrated in Gujarat. On the other side, the Congress led by Sonia Gandhi is trying to woo the Muslim voters by unfurling the banner of "secularism." But, in the Hindu majority areas, the Congress, too, in order to compete with the BJP's Hindutva, is practising utterly communal politics which came to be known as "soft Hindutva".

It is also to be noted that the ruinous economic policies that were adopted by the Congress government under the leadership of Narsimha Rao-Manmohan Singh in 1991 in the name of globalization and liberalization, are being implemented more vigorously by the BJP after it had come into power at the Centre. Hence, it could be seen that these disastrous economic

policies are not emerging as any formidable issues in the "great election battle" between the two contending bourgeois combinations. The message is loud and clear. Whichever of the two combinations comes to power, there will be no change in the anti-people economic policies. The policies of so-called globalization will be pursued more firmly and intensively.

By aligning with Congress in the name of resisting BJP, CPI(M), CPI are in reality trying to reap election benefits

In this situation, although it has become absolutely necessary to forge an alliance of the genuine left-democratic forces to lead the democratic movements to protect the people's life from attacks by the capitalist class and also to fight elections unitedly in order to carry the voice of legitimate movement inside the legislatures, to everybody's dismay it is found that it has not materialized till now. It is with the blessings of the ruling bourgeois class and propelled by the bourgeois propaganda machine that the CPI(M), the CPI and their associates adorn the platform of the leftist movement in India. Due to their pro-capitalist, reformist politics and skilful effort to totally discard the line of mass movement and keep themselves confined within the bounds of parliamentary politics, the urgent task of resisting capitalist rule and exploitation on the basis of leftist politics is not making any headway. Exacerbated eagerness to appease the capitalist class, avoiding to do anything that might incur its displeasure and practising typical bourgeois parliamentary vote politics with its support, overt or covert, in order to come to and stay in power — such has become the crux of politics of these so-called leftist parties. It is because of this that with the passage of time, the leftist movement is getting weakened. It is not difficult to understand that the very object of their parroting leftist political verbiage is nothing else but to cover up their double-facedness and to hide the fact of capitalist exploitation by creating confusion in mass mind. That is why, by raising the slogan of uniting the secular forces against the BJP combination

in the coming elections, they are forming an opportunistic alliance with the Congress which is practising the same communal politics that has come to be known as soft Hindutva.

In such a situation to all right thinking people, how to resist the utterly reactionary militant communalism of the BJP-RSS has become the principal concern. It is not unknown to anybody that although the support of the capitalist class and some other factors were active behind the ominous rise of the BJP and Sangh Parivar, it is the absence of waves of united democratic movements of the people irrespective of caste, creed, religion, community and language and based on true leftist ideology, that provided the necessary ground and environment in which they could grow fast. So, the idea of curbing the ideological and organizational influence of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar just by inflicting an election defeat can be nothing but a figment of imagination or day-dream. A resurgence of united democratic movement is the only powerful deterrent to their perilous politics. But the CPI(M) and the CPI are not willing to tread that path. In the past too, they had discovered progressiveness in the Congress, the then most trusted party of the capitalist class, just as they are now spotting secularism and ingredients for defeating the BJP's communalism within the Congress. The second important point to be noted while discussing the rise of the BJP is that although the RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha came into existence years before independence outwardly championing Hindutva but actually rousing anti-Muslim feelings, they could not flourish that much in the then atmosphere surcharged by the fervour of powerful freedom movement. Notwithstanding the Jan Sangh gathering strength gradually after the independence, it could not carve out much political space. On the other hand, as a result of its long stay in power, the Congress lost public credibility to such an extent that the capitalist class, despite all its efforts, was finding it impossible to retain it in power any more. It is then that the ruling

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Opportunistic policies of CPI-CPI(M) help BJP and Congress gain ground

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capitalist class started lending support to the BJP as an alternative subserving its class interest. This too had been a major reason behind the RSS and the Sangh Parivar's holding on to the reins of power keeping the BJP in front.

It should be noted here that the politics of the CPI-CPI(M) expunged from Marxism and leftism too had its significant contribution in the rise of the BJP. The undivided CPI in the past and after its split, the CPI and the CPI(M) never conducted any ideological-cultural movement based on true secularism. Just as the undivided CPI even supported the partition of the country by raising the religion-based two-nation theory, the CPI(M) today, despite raising the slogan of secularism, is helping to strengthen the communal forces, even if indirectly, in the interest of vote politics. It is known to all that the erstwhile Jan Sangh, predecessor of the BJP, increased its strength considerably by capitalizing the widespread student-youth movement in the Hindi belt against the autocratic Indira Gandhi government in 1973-74. But the then Jan Sangh and the Sangh Parivar would not have got this opportunity had the CPI and the CPI(M) joined that anti-Indira movement and helped to give it a leftist orientation. But owing to the CPI's open alliance with the Indira Congress and the CPI(M)'s secret understanding with it, both of them stayed out of the movement. The Jan Sangh was let loose to spoil and misdirect the movement as well as to gain strength. Again, when the CPI(M) found in 1977 that the Janata Party formed with the Jan Sangh, Morarji Congress, etc., had a positive chance of winning the elections, it somersaulted overnight and struck an alliance with the Janata Party, raising an outcry against Indira Gandhi's authoritarianism! This is not all. In 1989, the CPI(M) joined hands with the BJP to become instrumental behind awarding prime ministership to V.P. Singh. At that time, Jyoti Basu not only held a joint meeting with Atal Behari Vajpayee from a common platform at the Brigade Parade Ground, Calcutta but the CPI(M) gained control of the Calcutta Corporation with the help

of the BJP. The CPI(M)-led West Bengal government allowed Advani's Rama Rathyatra to pass through the Purulia district, as an aftermath of which the Muslim minority was attacked there. It goes without saying that as a result of such opportunistic politics of theirs, democratic movement based on higher morality and ethics and pursuing the true secular ideology has gradually come to the verge of extinction and it is in such a milieu that the RSS-BJP have thrived so rapidly.

The second question that should be examined with utmost importance while talking of resisting the BJP's dangerous growth in strength, is: Whether the politics of the ruling capitalist class, who are constantly haunted by the fear of growing unity of the struggling masses, could be anything but divisive at the present time? Can the capitalist class today continue to be in power without practising divisive politics in the name of religion, caste, creed, community, language, as well as based on separatism-parochialism? What is being observed in the different capitalist countries of the world including our country and even the advanced capitalist countries of Europe and America? How could the rabid communal thinking of the RSS, Jan Sangh and subsequently the BJP spread fast in the country during the 45 years' rule by the Congress, the very trusted political agent of the capitalist class, without getting into confrontation or clash with the ideological position of the Congress anywhere? How could there be periodic organized onslaughts on the Muslim community in one or the other place in the different states of India, all through these years, when the Congress was in power both at the Centre and in all the states? Conscious political circles are aware that the Congress during its uninterrupted rule of over four decades, has all along practised the dirty politics of allowing the RSS-Jan Sangh to carry on communal propaganda and inhuman activities by not taking any action against them and at the same time exhorting the Muslim community to stay with and vote for it, if they wanted to be saved from the RSS-Jan Sangh. Another important point is that although the Congress talks of

secularism, it has been a symbol of Hindu nationalism right from the days of freedom movement. Every thinking person knows that the concept of secularism, secular state developed in order to free the state, social life, economic life, political movement, cultural movement — everything from the influence of the church and religion. So, a truly secular state should consider religion to be exclusively a matter of personal belief, desist from practising religion and religious customs or observing religious ceremony and propagating religious belief of all types and conduct as well as direct the state level activities by rising above all religious beliefs. It goes without saying that the Congress, since its inception, did never show even the slightest of inking towards this scientific and historical concept of secularism. In protecting its narrow party interest and the interest of the capitalist class, it practised all along the undemocratic politics of encouraging all religions from the seat of the government.

It is in this way that the groundwork was prepared for the rise of the RSS-BJP. Not only that. Towards the end, to compete with the BJP in the vote race, the Congress, infact, nakedly followed the communal line of the RSS-BJP. It goes without saying that even if the Congress is returned to power again, it would practise the politics of not going into confrontation with RSS-BJP on this question, although it would go on giving secularism a lip service. It is to be noted that ignoring all these aspects, the CPI(M) and the CPI, in their "crusade" against the BJP, have chosen the Congress as the leading 'crusader'. One can easily imagine what would be the outcome of forming an unholy alliance with the Congress after having abandoned the imperative task of combatting the BJP by forging firm unity of the toiling people, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, language or community, and developing powerful democratic movements one after another centring around their legitimate demands on the edifice of higher culture and true leftist ideology. It is not that the opportunistic tendency of the CPI(M) and the CPI to anyhow increase the number of seats is only

revealed through this policy of fighting election in league with the Congress. The very proposition of resisting the RSS-BJP, out to impose fascism, drawing upon incessant spread of religious fanaticism, by way of contesting election in league with the Congress, glaringly reveals how insincere they are in taking on the menace of the RSS-BJP. It can no longer be kept a secret that to anyhow improve their position in parliamentary politics by striking an entente with the utterly anti-people Congress, confusing the public opinion by talking of stemming the BJP, is the essence of their present political line. On this, we wish to say firmly that in this country of ours mostly inhabited by people believing in Hindu religion, unless the BJP can be cornered through painstaking sustained ideological campaign stretching from the villages to the furthest corner of a town or city, it would not be that easy to defeat the BJP even in the election. And even if it is somehow defeated, the communal politics of the RSS-BJP will not be wiped out only by it. So long this ideological fight is not taken up in right earnest, the oppression of minority communities will not cease nor will be removed the danger of the BJP's comeback to power. The people have already seen how easily the BJP by practising communal politics, have returned back to power in some states and is engaged in preparing ground to stage a comeback in some other states as well where also it was once dislodged from the governmental seat.

In this context, another no less an important point is that apart from the aspect of its practising communal divisive politics, the Congress, being in power for long as the trusted party of the capitalist class, has been for their worst oppressive misrule branded in mass mind as an arch enemy of the people. Given this background, how could the question of conducting campaign against the RSS-BJP alongwith the Congress arise at all? But it is this "theory" that the CPI(M), CPI and their associates are preaching in their bid to score success in the election. This is the most tragic aspect of the leftist movement in the country.

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Ensure victory of SUCI candidates to reflect people's voice in the legislature

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Turn this election into a revolutionary political battle

Clearly, as a result of this policy of the CPI(M) and the CPI to tie up with the Congress for the election, the possibility that was there to isolate the BJP and the Congress, the two principal enemies of the people serving the capitalist class from the people, to develop a true left democratic fighting platform through united mass movement and to dislodge the BJP from power by pressure of this movement, got seriously undermined. As a direct result of this short-sighted, opportunist political outlook of the CPI(M) and the CPI, the scheme of the capitalist class to keep the voters' preference limited between the Congress and the BJP, its chosen alternatives has been facilitated.

It is therefore clear that in the current confusing political scenario

in which the correct path is yet to become discernible to the vast multitude of our people, one of these main bourgeois contenders would be saddled to power through this farcical electoral exercise and once in power, would, in order to serve class interest of the bourgeoisie, mount fresh bouts of onslaughts on the people making their lives yet more unbearable and suffocating. Under these circumstances, we call upon the electorates to transform this election into a political struggle with a firm resolve to intensify the democratic movements. Let one of the aims of this election be to correctly examine and analyze threadbare the unbearable economic and political condition of the country and to determine the course of action for solution of the burning problems in people's life. In this capitalist society divided between the rich and the poor, various parties of the capitalist class serving the interest of

the rich are on the one side, while the revolutionary working class party protecting the interest of the poor, exploited have-nots is on the other side. Parties of the capitalist class seek to preserve the present social system in the interest of the rich, whereas the revolutionary party of the proletariat strives to for clearing the path of anti-capitalist revolution through continuously strengthening and intensifying the legitimate democratic mass movements. Participation in the election is not outside the purview of this main political struggle. Let the historic necessity of strengthening people's democratic movements, both inside the Lok Sabha and outside coupled with the objective of isolating both the BJP and the Congress, the two trusted parties of the capitalist class and arch enemies of the people, be the main issue of consideration in the coming election. People of all states of our country are aware of the

tireless efforts that the Socialist Unity Centre of India has been putting in to build up united, powerful, democratic movement all over the country on the edifice of higher ethics, culture and morality to secure, one after another, the urgent demands essential for living, with the anti-capitalist socialist revolution as the ultimate goal. To step up and widen the vista of this effort has become an urgent historic necessity.

So, our fervent appeal to the people is : vote for the SUCI candidates, ensure their victory in this election to the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas to strengthen the SUCI in order to hold aloft this correct base political line at this critical juncture of national politics and to have the voice of this democratic movement reverberate inside the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas.

Long Live People's Unity
Long Live revolution

Pre-Election Scenario in States

Andhra Pradesh

The state of AP is going for simultaneous assembly and parliament polls in the month of April 2004. Since a few years nine left parties namely SUCI, CPI, CPI(M), MCPI, CPI(ML)-New Democracy, CPI(ML)-Janasakti, Unity Initiative presently known as CPI(ML), CPI(ML)-Liberation and ML-Committee have been leading democratic mass movements on the burning issues of the people in Andhra Pradesh.

It is unfortunate that the same combination of nine left parties could not contest unitedly in the ensuing elections. The CPI and CPI(M) have gone into alliance with the Congress for seat sharing. The CPI(ML)-New Democracy has decided to go it alone in the elections where as the CPI(ML)-Janasakti has given a call for boycott of the elections.

In spite of the efforts by SUCI, MCPI, and a few more left parties unity of the nine left parties for fighting in these elections could not be achieved. In this background, reflecting the aspirations of the common people of AP, five left parties have come together in a common forum to contest these

elections.

The five left parties' forum held a press conference at Hyderabad on 16 March and released the list of candidates for the assembly as well as parliament seats. This forum is putting up candidates in 9 Lok Sabha and 38 Assembly constituencies.

The press conference was addressed by Comrade K. Sridhar, secretary, AP state organizing committee of SUCI, Comrade M. Omkar, state secretary of MCPI, Comrade N. Murthy, state secretary of CPI(ML)-Liberation, Comrade G. Vijayakumar, state leader of CPI(ML) and Comrade K. Venkateswara Rao, state leader of ML-Committee.

The leaders said, the ruling TDP and BJP as well as the Congress party in the opposition all serve the interest of the ruling class to the detriment of the interest of the people. They have no difference with regard to the Globalization, Liberalization and Privatization schemes which are creating havoc in the lives of the common people. The leaders of the 5 left parties deplored that the CPI and CPI(M) instead of forging left unity to fight against the ruling class parties and policies have joined with the

Congress painting it to be a secular party on the plea of ensuring defeat of BJP but actually to get some seats at the mercy of the Congress.

In the end the leaders of the five left parties gave a call to the electorate to make victorious the candidates of their forum. They appealed to the people to vote for left and democratic forces in such constituencies where there is no candidates from this forum.

Assam

Election to the 14th Lok Sabha in the state of Assam has been fixed to be held in two phases on 20 and 26 April. It is being held at a time when common people of the entire state are under the grip of a severe economic and political crisis.

Since 1979, Assam was rocked by the Assam Movement by AGP (Asom Gana Parishad) which gave birth to hatred against people of minority communities. It also gave vent to the unscientific concept of 'ethnic exclusiveness' in the name of protection of political right, language and culture of the Assamese-speaking people and incited the latter against other linguistic people, terming them 'unwanted' to the state. This created a rift among the people. The Assam

Movement came to an end in 1985 with the signing of the 'Assam Accord'. But its pernicious effects had, by that time, vitiated the atmosphere of the entire state. The secessionist movement for the Sovereign Independent Assam spearheaded by ULFA, that developed in the womb of the Assam movement is still continuing. Separatist movements amongst other ethnic groups of the state in the line of the Assam Movement also raised their heads in the name of protection of political right, language and culture of the respective ethnic groups. The Bodo movement for the Bodoland was the direct offshoot of the Assam Movement. It was further aggravated by the policies of AGP government in 1985 and though a settlement was reached at with the formation of the Bodo Territorial Council within the sixth schedule of the Constitution, that did not ease the relation between Bodo and non-Bodo people. Rather the latter living within the council area feared genuinely of losing their constitutional rights.

That this type of solution brought no relief to the people, leaving ruthless exploitation of the capitalist class, the real cause of their plight to continue, was evident from start of movements by

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Pre-Election Scenario in States

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different other ethnic groups, like Lalung, Mishing, Rabha, Dimacha etc., for their respective autonomous councils under the sixth schedule. This also brought a setback to the united democratic movement involving all sections of common people against the capitalist class, the real guarantee for protection of the legitimate rights of people.

Bourgeois political parties, like BJP, Congress or AGP helped in fomenting and creating these movements, directly or not, with a view to fishing in troubled water. The CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML), on the other hand, term these movements for self-determination of ethnic groups legitimate. This has made the task of bringing people out of the influence of separatist and parochial forces all the more difficult.

Taking advantage of the situation, the Congress government has unleashed unbridled economic attacks on people. Education fees at all levels, medical charges in government hospitals and medical colleges, land tax for poor peasants, electricity charges, and such others have been increased alarmingly and unbearably. Without productive developmental work, the state has become a bankrupt one; the government is unable to pay salaries of its employees and teachers. In addition, the BJP-led Central government continues the policy of neglecting this economically backward state. All this gives rise to strong resentment and grievances among people.

Sensing gravity of the situation, the state committee of our party time and again appealed to all the left and democratic parties of the state to form a united front as an instrument of people's struggle. A combination could be developed during the days of Assam Movement. But CPI and then CPI(M) deserted this combination supporting the concept of that movement. They formed a combination with AGP in Assembly election and even supported AGP government, CPI by directly joining it and CPI(M) from outside. When AGP went with BJP in 2001 assembly election, they were forced to break with AGP.

In the post-2001 poll situation, a left-democratic platform involving CPI and CPI(M) could be formed at our initiative. But after the announcement of the 14th Lok Sabha election, in a meeting of left-

democratic parties, CPI(M) placed its all India stand to support Congress against BJP. The state committee of our party wrote a letter to parties of the platform. We strongly reiterated the necessity of a left-democratic alliance as an instrument of people's struggle. At the same time, we reminded that there was no difference between Congress and BJP on economic issues and policies. Besides, whoever comes to power, people will have to fight against the pro-capitalist economic policy of liberalization and globalisation. Congress was no secular force either. We appealed to all other parties of the platform to seriously consider these points and evolve a correct stand. Our letter did not find any reply. Under the circumstances, the state committee of our party has decided to contest four seats in the state to uphold the true banner of leftism, to expand its base to bring back unity of people and to carry the message of democratic movement to the floor of Parliament.

Jharkhand

Three years have passed since Jharkhand came into being. The ideologues of separatist Jharkhand movement preached that with the formation of a separate state the Adivasi people will be able to lead a life of dignity, there would not be any exodus to other states in search of jobs, they would have their rights on jungle, land and water. The treasury of minerals would result in opening up innumerable factories, generating jobs, scope for education, shelter. But all turned to be tall talks, nothing is fulfilled. Rather existing benefits are vanishing. Factories are closing down. For jobs Adivasi people are flocking to other states. Murder, torture on women, kidnapping, corruption, etc. have multiplied in the last three years of the BJP rule. These have caused mass agitation.

Ministers, MLAs, MPs of the BJP-led state government are engaged in infightings, bribery is rampant. Ministers charge one another for bribery. Even newspapers are publishing rates of bribes for specific works. Regarding corruption Jharkhand has crossed Bihar. This is BJP's good governance in Jharkhand.

In this situation BJP introduced 'domicile policy'. The purpose is to entangle Adivasi-Mulbasi people

and Bihari-Bengali people in hatred and clashes thereby diverting people's attention and covering their own misdeeds. Regarding 'domicile policy' the Ranchi High Court said that it was unconstitutional. BJP leaders also had to admit that this is impossible and unconstitutional. But the damage is already done. The seeds of conflict and mistrust between two sections of the same exploited class have already been sowed which the ruling class can use against the exploited people at any convenient time.

Also, in the last three years in almost each district of Jharkhand, Viswa Hindu Parishad, RSS, Bajrang Dal, Shiv Sena, etc., have spread their network of organization. They are bringing in gurus, matajis and are regularly organizing 'probochan', Yagna, religious demonstration, kalos yatra, etc. That these are well planned has been confessed recently by Ashok Singhal, secretary, VHP. He said that they were doing it in towns, they would spread it in countryside.

In all, Jharkhand is sitting on piled up explosives. BJP is saying that they will apply the lessons of Gujarat in Jharkhand.

Under the circumstances, with the elections coming closer, common people is seen indifferent to elections, while they are feeling insecure. A section of Naxalites has called for vote boycott and threatened to chop off hands if people vote. Parliamentary parties are moving for a clandestine arrangement with the Naxalites so that its boycott call does not work where they are organizationally strong. This is to ensure their victory.

The BJP and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha — both are claiming credit for the formation of Jharkhand and are claiming votes on this basis. In the last Lok Sabha polls in Jharkhand, BJP got 11 seats out of 14. This time, they want to be victorious in all the 14 seats. So, they did not concede even a single seat to their close ally, Janata Dal (U). For this, the latter is aggrieved and are talking of teaching BJP a lesson.

Sensing people's anti-government wrath, the Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, RJD and CPI are trying to come to a seat adjustment. CPI(M), too, is interested to be a part of it.

People are frustrated about both the BJP and anti-BJP combination. Not by mass democratic movement,

but by seat adjustments attempts are going on to defeat the BJP. This election-oriented utterly opportunistic politics — of which left parties like the CPI(M), CPI are also a part — exposes the bankruptcy of the present politics. Yesterday's friend becomes today's enemy. These parties unabashedly say that there is no permanent friend or foe in politics.

In Jharkhand, too, big capitalists, contractors, musclemen, corrupt police officers and bureaucrats as well as political leaders are very active. They play decisive role in everything. Undoubtedly, they will play the same anti-people role in the elections also.

Gujarat

Narendra Modi, the chief minister of Gujarat, wants to show the world that Hindutva and development can go together. So he boasts of Vibrant Gujarat and various schemes with sanskritized nuances are declared to create an image of development. Ironically any one who criticizes Gujarat government and its law and order situation or denial of justice, violation of civil rights, human rights is dubbed as an enemy of Gujarat. There is daily and hourly violation of human rights. Vibrant Gujarat is an eyewash. Day by day, unemployment is increasing in leaps and bounds. In 1988, educated unemployed were 2.54 lakhs which increased to 8.79 lakhs in the year 2002. In last six years, 7000 industries were closed down and 21,140 workers were retrenched. Profit making state corporations like GMDC are about to be disinvested. Rehabilitation of earthquake victims is still pending and corruption involved in rehabilitation is appearing in the media at regular intervals. Flowing of Narmada water has become an election gimmick. Drought situation has not improved inspite of tall claims of the government. The precarious condition of the people in the villages is driving them to family suicides.

It is claimed there is peace and harmony in the state and everybody is happy in Gujarat. By March, 2004, Gujarat faces a debt of Rs.62,602.08 crore. There is hike of 1156 crore rupees in electricity tariff, 250% hike in irrigation tax, 2.86% of fare hike in ST buses, Rs.1 to Rs.10 hike in veterinary charges, 300% fee hike in colleges, 500% fee hike in schools, hike in stamp duties from 0.65 paise

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to Rs.2.00 to Rs.20/-. Whereas there is tax exemption of Rs.5500 crore to big industrial houses, educational fees have gone up beyond imagination upto 2.5 lakhs to 3.5 lakhs annually in medical, Rs.40,000-50,000 in engineering and so on. 16 cooperative banks closed down one after the other bankrupting the small interests to the tune of more than 3000 crore rupees.

Gujarat is the land where labour laws are flouted under the very nose of ministers and high officials. A worker on an average works 14 hours a day and women workers 13-hours a day. And the industrialists are given a free hand to exploit the workers and retrench them at their own will and the labour law has been amended giving no protection to workers and giving full protection to owning class in the name of putting an end to inspector raj.

Election followed by either pampering or bashing of the minorities was an age old tactic of the Congress. For Congress, when pampering failed bashing was resorted to; but the Sangh Parivar has, throughout carried the hate campaign against the Muslims. The memory of the Gujarat carnage is still fresh. It is going to be the second year after the carnage. The wounds are still fresh. The threat "Behave yourself... or ..." and "join the mainstream" is a very derogatory submission under which the minority exists. The Vadodara incident (26.2.04) reflects the law and order situation of the state.

To the outside world, BJP may try to project its so-called secular image by appeasing the Muslim community, but here in Gujarat the attitude of BJP remains the same. Modi's utterances scare the Muslim community. There is constant threat on the minority. Even recently Baroda experienced another short spell of communal riot killing seven people during Muharram and Holi.

The Congress is a divided house. It has gone for patch work just before the election. It seems it has already accepted the defeat in this poll. It has nothing to offer to the people except faster liberalization and soft Hindutva which is termed as secularism by CPI(M)-CPI duo. Both the parties are organizationally poor here. In the last Assembly polls they tied up with the Congress. The SUCI has made them an appeal for their

support but no response has been received yet.

For the last 15 years, SUCI has been striving to steer people's movement in Gujarat against price rise, unemployment, fee hike, ST bus fare hike, etc., and has taken up issues of earthquake, pdrought, plague, cyclone and rendered relief attracting the wrath of government and police. SUCI combining with other forces and concerned citizens has also stood for human rights, civil rights and secular democracy. Against cultural degeneration it has tried to release social-cultural movements involving students and youths and also stood up against US imperialism. All these have been done with our limited strength.

The SUCI has taken up this election as a fight against communal fascist forces and for consolidation of left, democratic, secular and progressive parties and forces in the state.

Comrade Tapan Dasgupta is the SUCI candidate from Baroda parliamentary constituency. Some leading citizens of Baroda have come out in support of Comrade Dasgupta and are issuing an open appeal in his support.

Orissa

Following the footsteps of the BJP-led NDA government the state BJD-BJP government dissolved the Orissa state assembly one year before the due date with the sole object to recapture the governmental power by using the so-called 'feel good factor' in a state which is perennially under drought, flood and other calamities keeping the overwhelming majority of the people in utter poverty. And the moment the government was dissolved hectic move started among all bourgeois parties to align themselves in different groups.

Needless to say, the BJD-BJP government did not only not try to provide employment, it did not make any attempt to create new job avenues either. Instead, thousands of workers have been retrenched along with thousands of government posts being abolished. Many workers and employees have been thrown out of jobs in the name of VRS. To deprive the poor peasants from availability of water for irrigation, the government has initiated Panipanchayat, a scheme for privatization of irrigation and canals, to help the rich peasants

become master of entire water resources. Charges in government hospitals are raised many times denying the poor people to get the minimum scope of medical treatment that was available to some extent so far. Educational expenses including fees are being continuously increased depriving thousands and thousands of students to continue their studies. Government has withdrawn all grants-in-aids from 106 colleges and 449 high schools. The state economy is in doldrums so much so that teachers and government employees were not getting their salary for months together.

A democratic government worth its name is duty bound to supply safe drinking water to all its people. But paradoxically enough, denying its obligation flatly it has displayed a criminal negligence in this regard by deciding to set up liquor shops at cheap prices for earning maximum revenue. To this end, Beverage Corporation—a Liquor Nigam—is going to be set up to make available at least one liquor shop in every village. The motive is obvious: to destroy the backbone of the students and youths, the militant fighting section of the people so that they turn away from the burning social problems and are kept aloof from people's movement.

So, the state of Orissa being the poorest one in the country where starvation deaths throughout the year are commonplace in villages after villages like Kalahandi, Bolangyr and hundred others and where people invite deaths to anyhow eke out their living by taking poisonous shell of mangoes, the BJD-BJP government, in such a woeful and distressed situation of the state, is after cashing in on the mandate of the people of the state, well ahead of schedule date of electioneering leaving the overwhelming majority of the population in the lurch.

In such a pathetic scenario obtaining in the state, permutations and combinations of groups of bourgeois parties and forces, as usual, are taking place daily, hourly. As for example, one MP and two ministers of BJD-BJP combine has of late switched over to the Congress whereas one faction of Orissa Gana Parishad has joined the BJP camp shivering alliance with the Congress. In such a situation when unity of all left and democratic

parties and forces to forge an alliance is of urgent need, the CPI(M) and the CPI claiming themselves to be left are busy hobnobbing with the Congress to anyhow reach an electoral adjustment harping on the so-called secular front against BJP's communal politics.

The Orissa State Committee of the SUCI has decided to contest in 3 (three) Assembly constituencies and in one parliamentary constituency.

Uttar Pradesh

In Uttar Pradesh (UP) BJP, Congress, Socialist Party (SP) and BSP are the main contenders in the coming parliamentary elections. This time BJP is contesting the election making an alliance with the Janata Dal (U). The BJP with an eye to garner sizeable number of upper caste votes has taken into its fold the erstwhile chief minister of UP, Kalyan Singh, who reportedly holds a sway over this segment of voters. From the very beginning Congress is persistently attempting to make an alliance with S.P. and BSP. But till date, the attempt is in vain. Both the parties have refused to join hands with the Congress. Even the Congress is having an alliance with Indian Muslim League, National Loktantrik Party, Lok Janashakti Party and Rastriya Janata Dal. S.P. is the main constituent party in the UP state government, but the government is running with the help of the Rastriya Lok Dal and the Congress.

BSP who till the other day was running government in alliance with BJP and subsequently exploring the possibility of tying up with the Congress is contesting in this election in the state with the hope that it would be able to muster strong the support of the 'dalit' people. Both SP and BSP are openly wielding their caste credentials in wooing its target electorates. It is needless to mention that both these parties are having blessings of the class and whoever wins, would do no good to the poor, exploited 'dalit' masses. One is aware how Mayawati clandestinely attempted the Taj Corridor Project and the BJP preferring to desert her on this pretext and the Congress immediately making friendly gestures to her for forging an alliance. Neither BJP nor the Congress and of course not even Mayawati were in any way concerned about the controversial project which was a glaring

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Mafia Raj and Caste Politics Rules the Roost in Bihar

While election to the Indian parliament is knocking at the doors, the Indian polity is ridden with corruption, criminalized politics and caste animosity. None of the parliamentary parties — in power or in Opposition — be it the 'Hindutva' protagonist BJP, the so-called champion of secularism Congress, or leftist slogan-monger CPI(M), are at all concerned about this. Perhaps nowhere in India has the situation become as ugly, violent and extreme as in Bihar. Corruption in Bihar has reached such a depth that Laloo Prasad, when occupying the seat of chief ministership, himself got involved in the infamous fodder scam of thousands of crore of rupees. Although he quit his post in order to avoid scathing attack from the public, yet he continues to rule Bihar through his wife. An unholy nexus of politicians-criminals-police-administration rules the roost.

Come election and one would find the scrimmage for power gyrating on the stage attended with exacerbated caste feuds, violent group clashes, open exhibition of criminal power, naked connivance of police-administration with the powers that be etc.

Because of the inherent weakness of our freedom movement which did not accomplish the task of democratization of our society, the caste system continued as a festering sore in the society which the ruling bourgeoisie and their servitors made best use of to disrupt the unity of the toiling people. For long, the landed gentry of Bihar, most of whom by birth had an upper caste identity in the caste based social stratification, continued to oppress and

mercilessly exploit the downtrodden people, who, on the other hand, were in general belonging to the lower strata known as "dalits". In order to perpetuate their class exploitation, this rural rich and property owning class kept the caste feuds and caste hatred fuming and subjugated the poor through threat, intimidation and a host of discriminating social customs and rituals. Thus the rural kulaks have also succeeded in pitting the poorer sections of the so-called upper castes against the poor dalits. Thus the class division and class exploitation were camouflaged by the facade of caste division and caste conflicts. And taking advantage of this polarization along caste line, aspirant political leaders hungering for lucre and power, many of whom are branded criminals, contest elections on the ticket of one bourgeois party or the other, with the backing of the ruling class. When the poor dalits, being unable to bear the utter humiliation, inhuman treatment and severe repression by the exploiting ruling class including the rural kulaks, started voicing their dissent and were preparing for rising in protest, the ruling class got immediately alerted. In its narrow class interest, needed to prevent this mounting discontent and protest from being channelised into a legitimate organized democratic movement against the capitalist system and its protectors. Hence, it began backing some of the power hungry privilege seeking politicians from amongst the dalits, pitchforked them into limelight, projected them as saviours of the dalits and pretended as if the table was now turned in favour of the dalits to settle a score with the

upper caste thakurs, Bhumihars and others. Backed by the class and police administration, these so-called dalit leaders ran amuck and the same lawlessness, mafiadon, parade of gun trotting stormtroopers, loot, arson, murder continued to plague Bihar with only one change. It was some of the politicians with dalit or lower caste background who now called the shots in place of Thakur, Bhumihar lords.

But from life's experience, the oppressed people of Bihar, irrespective of their origin by birth in either the dalit segment or the so-called upper castes, are now realizing how have they been roosted in the capacious fold of the vested interest which has no distinguishing caste identity but a definite class-base of thriving on the destitution and devastation of the downtrodden millions. That is why, the so-called political leaders, who project themselves as messiahs of the poor dalits are never, like the so-called upper caste politicians, hauled up for any corruption, nor are booked for any crime. The law is equally blind for any Yadav or Paswan or Kumar as it is for Thakurs or Mishras. This is seen yet more sharply as the election draws nearer.

In Bihar the ruling class has, over the years, made use of casteism to keep the people divided and fighting among themselves. For long, the Bhumihars being mostly from the upper castes had oppressed and exploited the downtrodden commoners mostly belonging to the lower rungs of social stratification known as 'dalits'. Now, however, a moneyed upper crust of 'dalits' represented by Laloo and his ilk are,

being in power, oppressing and exploiting the downtrodden among the 'upper castes' and instigating the poorer section of the 'dalit' masses against them branding them as the source of all their woes. This coupled with attacks on dalits by the privileged section of the upper castes has turned Bihar into a veritable cauldron of caste wars, of crime of all sorts.

How strong and far-reaching is the arm of corruption and criminalization is amply revealed in the case of Satyendra Dubey. The country is still traumatic over the dastardly murder of this 30 year old project director of the National Highway Authority of India, who was gunned down on November 27, 2003 after he had written to the Prime Minister's office about the corruption in the multi-crore Golden Quadrilateral Project involving huge misuse of public money from the national exchequer. He had written to the Prime Minister's office in confidence, all in good faith hoping for redressal of the corruption. But the contents of his letter must have been leaked out and divulged to the criminals, obviously with their long hands reaching the destination point of the letter even. Or, how else could he be murdered past haste?

No less glaring is the instance of the social activist couple Mahesh and Sarita, members of the Institute of Research and Action (IRA), shot dead by unidentified assailants at Sabdo village in Fatehpur, where they had undertaken development works for the community. In both these cases, the victims paid the price for honest protest in public interest with their lives.

The atmosphere in Bihar is in fact so vitiated that if any honest, upright individual wants to protest against corruption, he is hooted out and summarily punished. Such is again the case with no less a person than the former Director General of Police of the state DP Ojha, who paid the penalty for his outburst against the jungle raj. He was removed from office at the directive of the RJD supremo Laloo Prasad. Ojha had defined the RJD leader Shahabuddin as the "Mukhiya of the kidnapping gangs operating across the country". He had also pointed out that several RJD leaders including the supremo himself visited the Siwan Jail, where Shahabuddin was lodged, to procure

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Restoration of capitalism in China

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China's economy, state, politics and culture is complete and total.

The Central Committee of the Party is fully aware of the severe blow that this tragic development will cause not only to the people of China but to the revolutionary working class of the entire world. Fully sharing their pains and agonies, the Central Committee reminds the working class and other exploited people of the world that as per the teachings of the history of revolutionary movement of the world, in the victorious march of the world working class, counter-

revolution is not the last world. It is for this that all great Marxist authorities from Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh have repeatedly emphasized that socialist system is only a transitional phase from capitalism to communism and like in all wars - in this last class-war also temporary defeat of the revolutionary forces is very much possible. But the law of development of society shows it clearly that ultimate victory of the historically growing revolutionary forces, that is the proletariat, and the fall of the dying reactionary force,

that is the bourgeoisie, are both inevitable. It is therefore only a matter of time before the events take an opposite turn.

Expressing total solidarity with China's revolutionary working class and hundreds of thousands of real communists and true disciples of great Mao Zedong, the Central Committee of the SUCI expresses the firm hope that in no time they, being imbued with the revolutionary teachings of great Mao Zedong, will regroup themselves and give a resounding defeat to the counter-revolutionaries to re-establish socialism.

Mafia Raj in Bihar

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his blessings. Ojha thus commented at one stage : " Bihar is run by rougns and rascals". The pathetic state of affair is also reflected in opinions given vent to by the Governor, the head of the administration, himself. Early this year, he pointed out that a sense of insecurity had gripped the people of Bihar and the predominant feelings among them were fear and terror.

Indeed, during the last 13 years rule of Laloo-led RJD, crime has become order of the day with cases of kidnapping for ransom, abduction, rape, dacoity, murder etc., alarmingly rising in number. In

1990, Bihar registered 212 cases of kidnapping for ransom, which rose to 382 in 2002. In 1988, the police recorded 91 kidnapping gangs in the state, whereas today it has been raised to 175 gangs. Reportedly, two dozens of Bihar MLAs have cases running against them, and so have even some of the ministers. Sanjoy Kr. Singh, Aditya Singh, Rajballav Prosad, Lalit Kumar Yadav and others, are a few of the ministers who had to vacate seats because of their association with some serious crime or other.

Even in election battle, the infamous 'mafia dons' of Bihar are solicited by the parliamentary

parties. Just as the Railway Minister Nitish Kumar is seeking the help of Mafia don Ananta Singh, so also is Ramvilas Paswan of the Lokjanashakti Party taking under his wings another equally infamous mafia-don of Mokama, Suraj Bhan. Pappu Yadav, charged with the murder of the CPI(M) leader Ajit Sarkar, is no less eager to be victorious in the elections under the patronage of Ramvilas, and so is Rama Singh, having an arrest warrant already issued in his name in a case of abduction. Among many others, is Md. Shahabuddin of RJD, already in jail with around 30 criminal cases pending against him, ready to join the election battle.

With thermal power plants, jute mills, paper mills and all other sorts of industries and production units closing down in different parts of Bihar, the economy of the state faces acute crisis. Added to this are abject poverty, ever-growing unemployment, alarming deterioration of hospital facilities, low literacy with as little as 47.53% literate and 83.47% students opting out before reaching the Madhyamik stage etc.

The only deterrent to this all-out plight of people, to poverty and pauperization on one hand and corruption and criminalization on the other, can be a state-wide protracted movement of the exploited masses of all castes, but unfortunately the opportunist politics of the parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) stands as an impediment to building up such movements. These parties claiming themselves to be leftists or communists swear by the poor people. But, as soon as the election bells started ringing, they hitched themselves on to Laloo Yadav or the Congress, with a begging bowl for a few seats. But the need of the hour is to build up united movement of the oppressed poor of all castes against the exploitation by the privileged upper crust of different castes, with the ultimate goal of developing class war and not caste war. A struggle is to be waged towards achieving this, and the election battle too, is to be viewed as a part of that struggle. Let the people of Bihar rise up in protest against this caste-based politics of the ruling class and downright opportunism of its subservients of vote-based political expediency and rally behind the real forces of movement even in this election with the ultimate goal of forcing the door of their emancipation.

Pre-Election Scenario in States

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example of corruption at the highest level of the government. Election exigencies and penchant for power decided their periodic friendship and dissociation. Though the CPI and the CPI(M) are contesting the polls jointly but their inking towards the SP is quite visible.

In UP, the main politics is centred surrounding castes and all the bourgeois parties starting from the BJP, the Congress to the SP, BSP and others are openly preaching hated bourgeois caste politics to reap benefits in the elections. All the alignments and re-alignments are solely purported to gain more seats. There is neither any principle nor any scruple in this nasty vote politics. While as already mentioned, the BSP, SP and the Congress are trying to take advantage of caste polarisation, the BJP continues to depend on its Hindutva agenda in consolidating its position. People of UP need to understand that none of these bourgeois parties or any of their combinations would mitigate their hardship. Rather, it would accentuate the problems of their life as all these parties are out to serve the crisis-ridden capitalism begetting all miseries and destitution to the common people. The only course is to participate in democratic mass movement against the capitalist onslaughts. In this backdrop, our party the SUCI is contesting alone in one parliamentary constituency at Machhlihar and calling upon the people to make our candidate victorious to carry the voice of democratic mass movement inside the parliament.

20 March World-wide Observance of Anti-US Imperialism Day



A part of huge protest demonstration in New York s
Effigy of George Bush being burnt in Calcutta t



Corrigendum

The caption of the photograph of the dais of the AIMSS Convention in Delhi on 13th February, 2004, and published in the Proletarian Era, March 15, 2004 issue, page 1, should be read as under :

Sitting (L to R) are Comrade Kusum Singh, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Mrs. G.K. Khurana, Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Dr. H.G.Jayalakshmi and Prof. Subodh Sharma.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : NIHAR MUKHERJEE

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