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RED SALUTE COMRADE KALYAN CHOWDHURY



Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury, Member, Central Committee and Secretary, Assam State Committee, SUCI (C) breathed his last on 30 March, 2012 at 13.05 hours at the Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital after prolonged suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. He was 69.
(Homage of Central Committee and coverage of the Last Journey in the next issue)

UNION BUDGET 2012

Brazenly Anti-People, Nakedly Pro-Capitalist

Every year, just before the placement union budget in Parliament, the bourgeois media try to create an impression among the people as if it is the harbinger of a new year and the government is working overtime to see that it stimulates economic growth so that the financial condition of the people improves. Speculations about the possible budget proposals by the apologists of the existing capitalist system and some of the columnists who pose themselves to be expert on economics abound in the media. Similarly, after presentation of the budget, the same set of people provides various analyses of the proposals mostly by number crunching and spattering certain mundane economic jargons. But, to the people at large, the outcome remains one and the same—increased suffering, escalated pauperization and spiralling destitution. Previously, the government, no matter which bourgeois party or combination was in power, tried to camouflage the out and out anti-people pro-capitalist character of the budget under certain sugar-coated words, jugglery of figures and feigned concern about people's welfare. It was sought to be hidden that in a class divided capitalist society, all the governments essayed the budgets in the aggregate class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie as blueprint of economic prosperity of the latter. Also under people's pressure, it was forced to give some relief to the masses and project that as its 'human face'. But, of late, it is found that the veneer is coming off. The crisis of capitalism, endemic of the very system, has reached such a scale that the bourgeois government is compelled to abandon the devious methods of stonewalling the reality and is openly talking of intensifying fiscal savagery to put people into more hardship claiming that such is imperative to improve the economy and foster growth. The budget that Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister (FM) of the Congress-led UPA government tabled in Parliament on 16th of March has been a glaring instance to what extent the bourgeois government could be tormenting, repressive and extortionist, virtually declaring war against the common and poor people through its fiscal policies while shamelessly offering bonanza to the capitalists-monopolists and big business houses. Nero fiddled when Rome was burning. The FM, too, while unleashing unprecedented fiscal savagery on

the toiling millions became poetic with rhetoric of a Shakespearean play, "I must be cruel only to be kind". However, a cursory glance at the budgetary proposals would reveal that the FM indeed has been lethally cruel to the people only to be liberally kind to the ruling capitalists.

Backdrop of the current year's budget

One would recall, even a couple of years back, the FM and his 'economist' Prime Minister had been claiming that Indian economy was resilient enough to withstand shocks of global economic meltdown and could chart out its own growth riding on its domestic consumption, demographic advantages, entrepreneurial drive and prudent fiscal management. But now when the Indian capitalist economy is ridden with soaring inflation, mounting recession, rising unemployment and its mutilated condition could no more be shielded behind manipulative macro-economic indicators, the FM had no option but to confess that the overall gloom has refused to lift and his understanding about the world economy being on the mend had been wrong. So the glimmer of hope with which he presented last year's budget has faded away. Could it be otherwise by any stretch of imagination? He and his Prime Minister have been economical with truth and continue to be so. The fact which the rulers try to shield is that all problems are stemming from the crisis-ridden capitalist economy which is holding people to ransom. As a developed capitalist country with imperialist features, India could not be and has not been insulated from the soaring insoluble crisis of world capitalism-imperialism particularly after onset of capitalist globalization. Rather, the festering sores are vivid. In order to somehow stave off the crisis, Indian government like US and other big capitalist-imperialist economies had provided huge fiscal concessions, tax waivers as well as financial assistance to the corporate sectors and industrial houses in the name of 'fiscal stimulation' by drastically curtailing public expenditure. Quantum of fiscal stimulation has been around Rs 2 lakh crores each year since 2007. It was stated that such was necessary for reviving otherwise tottering an economy. But, despite such a drag on public exchequer, the economy showed no sign of recovery as has been evident even from drop in GDP and industrial production. This

slide however has not affected the monopoly houses and big industrialists who increased their wealth manifold so much so that five of the Indian industrialists featured in the list of ten richest persons in the world. On the other hand, the poor and have-nots, workers-peasants-middle class have plunged into further plight and indigence. Galloping rise in prices and mounting fiscal savagery coupled with rapidly plummeting income—both gifted by the ruthlessly oppressive crisis-ridden capitalist economy—made the life of the common people yet more nightmarish. In other words, cruelty of FM to the masses is no new a danger. It has been what the FM and his government are systematically meting out to the countrymen over the years. Lest the obvious should shock the people, the bourgeois quarters cunningly floated a thought that in the present stage of an ailing economy, providing any kind of relief to the suffering masses is akin to 'peddling in populism' while consigning them to further doom by way of taking some 'hard measures' or 'bold steps' obviously connoting spree of privatization, showering windfall on the private capital in the form of duty reduction, loan waivers, thrust on wider speculation and liberalizing availability of institutional finance is what is 'pragmatic' and 'grounded in reality', 'capable of pepping-up the economy and poised to register a seminal achievement'. In other words, the capitalist crisis has reached such a pass that even manoeuvring options have run out of stock and so a mindset is being created to accept blatant pro-rich measures as only solutions no matter how harrowing they turn life of the common man. Budget proposals have to be viewed and appraised in this backdrop.

A glance at the taxation aspect

As against conventional way of looking at the salient features of the budget, let us take a holistic view. First we focus on the direct and indirect taxation chapter. People expected that the government would take some concrete measures to not only arrest but bring down the price line and reasonably enhance the exemption limit for the lower-end of the individual tax-payers. But the expectation has not only been belied but mocked at. While there has been marginal enhancement in the exemption limit of individual tax payers, there is large dose increase in the indirect taxes across the board. So called service tax, the

latest ploy of the bourgeois government to extract money from the depleted pockets of the continuously pauperized common men, has been extended to a vast number of areas and the rate has been increased by 20%. First of all, hardly 7% of the countrymen pay tax. Moreover, if one goes a little deep, it would be revealed that while the people in the income bracket of Rs.2 lakh would save barely Rs.2060, those earning between 8-10 lakh or above 10 lakh a year would save anywhere between Rs.21,630 and Rs.22,660. So the real benefit has accrued to the higher income group people. On the contrary, the burden of regressive indirect taxation is borne by one and all, 7% of the tax paying population as well as the rest 93% of non-tax paying countrymen out of which 77%, as per government appointed Arjun Sengupta report and the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS), languish below poverty line (BPL). Shamelessly the FM states that his proposals on Direct Taxes are estimated to result in a net revenue loss of Rs 4,500 crore for the year whereas proposals relating to Indirect Taxes are estimated to result in a net revenue gain of Rs 45,940 crore, leaving a net gain of Rs 41,440 crore in the Budget. Not only that. Common people would be assailed further as alongwith the concomitant rise in prices of all essential commodities; not only would this enhanced indirect tax be recovered from them but also other increases in fuel prices, railway freight charges, entry tax and duties are squarely passed on to them by the manufacturers in the form of price load. But if there is any slash in tax and duty, the buyer gets no benefit in the form of price drops and the resultant benefit accrues to the seller in the form of lowered tax obligation. It is also queer that while a service provider earns sales revenue, it is the consumer of service who has to pay the service tax. For example, while purchasing a railway ticket, one pays the whole cost of this service. Over and above, one has now to shell out extra money as service charge. The government knows that exacting tax from the common wretched people at the points of service providence is pretty easy. So, is this 'innovation' of levying service tax on the purchaser of service in total reversal to the very concept of taxing the revenue earners. This is the weirdness of capitalist market

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“Power of truth, power of communist ideology based on truth, is invincible”

— Comrade Provash Ghosh at the historic rally on 14 March

[This is the text of the speech of Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) delivered at the mammoth public meeting held at Jantar Mantar area in Delhi on the occasion of historic Parliament march on 14-03-2012]

Comrades and friends,

130 years back on this very day of 14 March, Karl Marx, the greatest philosopher and thinker ever produced by history, breathed his last and ceased to think. But he is and will be remembered in history as a philosopher who for the first time had shown the path of emancipation of the people from exploitation of man by man and thus how to end class exploitation once and for all. Earlier, right from the days of slave system, there were many rebellions by the exploited people for emancipation. There had been many revolutionary transformations of the social system concomitant to such rebellious upsurges. But it is a tragedy that one form of exploitation was replaced by another form of exploitation. And it was propagated that this class division, class exploitation was eternal. It would not be changed at all. Those who believed in religion, those who preached religious ideas held that division between rich and poor, division between exploiters and exploited were divine creations. Even the bourgeois philosophers also preached the idea that capital and labour, the capitalist class and working class would co-exist and must co-exist for the sake of production. Capitalists would earn their legitimate profit; workers would earn their legitimate wage. In cooperation with each other, they would continue to co-exist. It was taken for granted that class exploitation and class division would never end. But Marx said, “The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it.” Earlier, philosophers depended upon individual perception of reality, their individual judgment and hence their philosophies were not objective but speculative, subjective, idealistic. But Marx enunciated a distinctively different, a new philosophy, a comprehensive world outlook i.e. Dialectical Materialism based on modern science, on correct scientific approach and methodology of knowing the truth. Of course, Marx paid due respect to earlier philosophers and thinkers as his worthy predecessors. For that reason, Comrade Lenin said that ideas of communism, ideas of Marxism are the culmination, sum

total of all human knowledge created by mankind. Marx had shown that whatever happens in nature is law governed. Nature is changing, material world is in motion. And the very nature of motion as well as the process of change is governed by certain deterministic laws. Similarly, social changes, historical changes – these are neither accidents nor manifestations of chaos. These changes have not been occurring based on the whims of some individuals. Certain definite laws are governing the social changes, the historical changes. By scientifically coordinating, correlating, integrating and generalizing the particular laws governing particular fields of the material domain as discovered by the different branches of science, Marx discovered the general laws governing this universe. In course of discovering the laws of development of the material world, he also showed how these general laws of development based on science could be applied in studying, understanding and arriving at the hidden laws of social change and development. And in the light of the scientific philosophy of Dialectical Materialism, he showed that following the inexorable course of history, capitalism, like all other erstwhile social systems, appeared at a particular phase of production and was bound to go at another phase of production being unable to meet the growing need of the society. When production relation of a given society develops as a brake, obstructs further advancement of productive forces, the antagonistic contradiction between the two leads to new relation of production, i.e. revolutionary transformation of the society. The historical certainty of the ultimate doom of capitalism and emergence of socialism lies here. The existing capitalist society now in its death throes would be destroyed and in its place socialism, which he called scientific socialism would be established as an intermediary phase on the way to final transition to communism.

Marxism is a science

It is no utopia. Not that Marx had invented this course. This is the historically determined course of



social transformation and progress. Grasping the inherent laws of development of the material world is possible only with the help of Dialectical Materialism. That is why, starting from Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, all the great leaders of proletariat, based themselves on the science of Dialectical Materialism to concretely analyse the concrete situations and in the process developed, elaborated and further enriched it to guide the struggle of emancipation of the proletariat. True understanding of Marxism or the science of Dialectical Materialism is its concretized, developed understanding in relation to contemporary developments and changing panorama. It was Comrade Shibdas Ghosh who in course of creative application of Marxism-Leninism following the scientific methodology of Dialectical Materialism on specific Indian condition brought the understanding of Marxism-Leninism to a new height. Hence, we say that Marxism Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought is our ideological weapon. Today, on 14th of March, 2012, about a lakh of toiling masses of the people from all walks of life —workers, peasants, students, youths, men and women — have gathered here with their 9-point charter of demands. These demands are for remedying the burning problems wreaking havoc in their lives, the demands for which they have been fighting relentlessly. More than 35 million people have put their signatures in support of these vital demands and we have come here carrying with us all those signatures which have been collected during last two months which itself gave rise to a new form of mass movement. Like irrepressible tide, toiling masses from different parts of the country have assembled here

braving all odds, overcoming all difficulties and constituted this vast sea of people. Yet, not a single newspaper or electronic media in any part of the country gave any news of this preparation for this mammoth march signifying people’s struggle for a just cause. But, we know that during the time of Marx also, the ruling bourgeoisie conspired to keep his name and teachings shielded from the people so that he remained unknown, unheard of. Similar conspiracy has been going on to blackout Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, and the party he founded, SUCI (Communist). But nobody can stop our onward march. Just have a look at the sea of people here. They have gathered here as a surging wave without any media publicity. Power of truth, power of communist ideology based on truth, is invincible. Nobody can stop its advancement.

Critical national and international situations

Comrades, this is a very critical hour that we are faced with, not only in our country but in the international arena as well. Here I should recall Marx’s prognosis of capitalism. In the 18th and 19th centuries, when capitalism was advancing, growing; industrialization was sweeping across Europe breaking the feudal shackles, it was unthinkable to many that capitalism or bourgeois market economy would face any crisis. Recession, depression, retrenchment, market crisis, all these words were unknown at that time. At that very time, based on scientific analysis, Karl Marx, the great thinker pointed out that according to the social law, a day would come when this very capitalism would be doomed to death. This was historically inevitable. Capitalism would plunge into crisis after crisis. The graves of the capitalists would be dug. Who would the diggers be? The working class. Capitalism had given birth to working class and that working class would one day dig the grave of capitalism for its natural burial. And those diggers must have a weapon, an ideological, cultural and organizational weapon to make this happen.

In our country, the bourgeois media and the political leaders subservient to the ruling bourgeois class are ceaselessly propagating

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Ultimate doom of capitalism and emergence of socialism is a historical certainty

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that the country is developing, advancing, making strides forward. But objective reality is totally different. In our country more than two-thirds of the population today are unemployed and semi-employed. 75% people earn only Rs.20 a day. That is the stark reality. But media rejoice over the news that one of the top industrialists has been adjudged as the richest man of Asia. The other news, media is elated over, is that among the first ten richest persons in the world, five are Indians. 63 Indian families are the owners of 500 billion rupees. These are the news that breaks in the media. Majority of the members of the Parliament which is called the representative of the people, are billionaires. While they make fortunes in billions of rupees, millions and millions of common people, the have-nots and destitute die in starvation, for lack of minimal medical treatment. In lakhs, poor peasants and workers are committing suicide. Once darkness sets in, lakhs of our mothers and sisters, our daughters stand in the market areas, in the street junctions to sell their body. Women-trafficking has assumed alarming proportion. Lakhs of children are born in the streets and die in the streets only. The revered freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives, faced bullets for the country could they ever visualize in the wildest of their dreams that this would be the spectacle of independent India? But all these are going on. Few crores of workers have been retrenched in our country. Even the global scenario is no different. Just after the Second World War, USA became so powerful that a term 'Dollar Empire' made way into the parlance. American dollar flooded entire Europe, Japan, entire Asia, everywhere. US rulers came out with Marshall plan to economically strangle other countries and capture their markets. The same America is now sinking in the Pacific Ocean. Once, America was the biggest creditor country. Now, it has been reduced to the biggest debtor country. It cannot survive without raising debt and borrowing from the market. That is the position of the American capitalist economy. Same is the condition of all other capitalist-imperialist economies, big or small. Entire Europe is also submerged in insoluble crisis and sinking in the Atlantic ocean. Many of the European countries are suffering from sovereign debt crisis so much so as to be totally bankrupt.

No quackery, no elixir, no panacea can rescue capitalism from its inevitable doom as Marx had predicted. Bourgeois market economy is now gasping in market crisis. What is a market? Market means purchaser of goods. Who can purchase? Only those who have money. But people are so exploited, so pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless capitalist oppression, so squeezed are their pockets, that they are virtually dispossessed of any purchasing power. So there is no market for the capitalists. Once it used to be a demand-driven economy. Supply was according to the demand. But today, it is a credit-driven economy. Purchasing power is artificially stimulated by offering credit or loan. But, this liberal offer of credit is also entailing further crisis as with plummeting income, the debtors are unable to repay loans. That is the picture now. Everywhere, capitalism is enmeshed in crisis. It has become completely bankrupt today. Added to this is all-pervasive corruption stemming from the decadent crisis-ridden capitalist system. In India, every day when we look at the media, we find unfolding of one or another scam. Ministers and bureaucrats are also neck-deep in corruption. And starting from Congress with tri-colour ensign, the biggest bourgeois party, to communal BJP belonging to saffron brigade, the second big, as well as the pseudo-Marxists like CPI (M) waving muddy red flag — all are mired in corruption. Politics has become a lucrative business nowadays. During the time of freedom struggle, politics was held in high esteem as a noble activity. Politicians were considered as selfless saints. Now politicians are considered as hypocrites who cheat and deceive people, tell lies to them. They are hated as self-serving money-makers. That is the common feeling today. Politics is hated. Bourgeois politics has degenerated to such an extent. Only those who are acquainted with our Party know that we are not in the politics of pelf and power and hence represent the alternate current of higher elevated revolutionary politics.

Democracy is trampled underfoot with alacrity

There is much clamouring about democracy. Is there any semblance of democracy anywhere? Everywhere, democracy is being trampled underfoot with alacrity, democratic rights are being robbed and curtailed. Bourgeois oppressive rulers, in order to prolong their worn-out rule, are suppressing any protest

against oppression and repression, muffling every voice of dissent, crushing democratic mass movements with bullets, batons and tear gas. If there is a movement for scientific secular education for all, the same is suppressed by bayonets and batons. The lofty slogan of democracy being "by the people, for the people and of the people", the ideals of 'equality, fraternity and liberty' have now confined in the pages of the books only. The very concept of deciding the nature of governance by people's verdict expressed in the process of 'free and fair election' has turned into a farce. The democracy today is "by the exploiters, for the exploiters, of the exploiters." All the mainstream parties like Congress, BJP, CPI (M), CPI and other regional outfits are the registered political managers of the ruling capitalist class just like registered contractors seeking employment. As industrialists need industrial managers and business managers to look after their industry and business, similarly they need a political party as political manager to run the government to function as their political manager. Election means which party will now get the chance to be in power with the blessings of the industrialist houses and who would sit in opposition. With their money power, the corporate sector now manipulates and virtually decides the result of election. Money power, administrative power, muscle power and media power control everything. Stunt and manipulation has become hallmark of election today. Vote-based parties are



stooping any low to win elections. Even party like CPI (M), which suffered defeats in the last elections in both Kerala and West Bengal, sought the blessings of Jesus Christ in Kerala and Vivekananda in Bengal in their state conferences to win the hustings. This is their brand of secularism, forget about Marxism.

Fierce attack on ethics, morality, culture and character

Comrades, there is another very important aspect. Our departed leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh once said that however acute a form

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Struggles do not achieve success in absence of proper leadership and instruments of struggle

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oppression and penury may assume, the people of a country, a nation can still stand up firm and erect raising its head high even amidst severe torture if its moral strength is not decimated. Even if one starves, one can fight if one's moral backbone is not broken, if one is spurred on by revolutionary ideology and higher morality. But today, the fiercest of the attacks has come on culture and character, in the realm of ethics and morality. This country once produced martyrs like Chandra Sekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Surya Sen, Kshudiram Bose, Pritilata, Asfukulla Khan and others. There had been many other great characters and luminaries during the golden days of Indian renaissance and freedom movement whose touch enkindled new vigour in the youth. Hundreds and thousands of students and youths came out to embrace gallows and bullets smilingly. Did they contemplate a free India where the students and youths would be addicted to wine and drug, obscene films and pornographic literature, become sex slaves? That in metropolis like Delhi and Kolkata as well as in other cities, women would not be safe on the streets? Everyday there would be hundreds of incidents of rape and gang rape? The students and youths have become excommunicated from their golden past, forgot the valiant fight their ancestors put up to free the country from foreign rule and in the process acquired the finest qualities of character and human essence. The names of those great sons of the soil have been forgotten today. Situation is completely different today because as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had pointed out, the rulers are afraid of surging protests, struggles and revolution. So they are out to see that the students and youths are swamped by abominable cultural degradation, are emasculated from within, disposed of human essence, nurture self-centric mentality and be dehumanized. Otherwise, if the students and youths make a serious cult of the lives and teachings of the great freedom fighters, learn from them and try to acquire the cultural traits they carried, they would burst in protest against all prevailing injustice, deception and deprivation. Hence, the rulers are arraying their entire arsenal to foster all-pervasive cultural degradation in social life particularly among the youths. It is a dangerous conspiracy. Even in families also, there is no peace, no love and affection, no tender feeling for each other. Old parents are

thrown out in the streets, husband is killing wife. Even children are not cared for. Family obligations are disowned for meeting selfish ends. This is where modern civilization has drooped to. This is the contribution of modern capitalism. So, civilization is dying. There are festering sores all over and the root lies in the moribund capitalist system. So, unless capitalism is buried under the grave, problems will continue and aggravate further.

Movements need correct leadership to succeed

But as oppression and exploitations are there, so are also protests and struggles. There had been many movements, many struggles in the past. People are bursting forth in protest today also. But, the movements are not reaching their logical culmination. In our country also, the glorious freedom movement met with a tragic end. Why? Because, the question of ideology and question of leadership are of supreme importance in order to make a movement successful. After independence also, there have been many struggles in our country. As Comrade President has just referred, very recently, Anna Hazare also launched an anti-corruption movement in this very city of New Delhi. It took a very massive character. But it fizzled out in no time. As Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had pointed out, grievances and anger are mounting among the masses. And these accumulated wrath and discontent often explode in the form of spontaneous movement, struggles. But struggles do not achieve success in absence of proper leadership and necessary instruments of struggle. Of late, we have seen the people of many Arab and African countries had forth in spontaneous movements against their respective oppressive rulers. These movements had been given the name of 'Arab spring'. But these movements brought no spring but a chilly winter to the suffering people. Because, simply one form of dictatorial rule was replaced by another. It was just a regime change. The unprecedented 'Occupy Wall Street movement' which originated in and stirred America and spread throughout the world also could not beget the desired outcome. Because, the fighting people were not aware as to how to destroy Wall Street, the key centre of US imperialism and build up a new civilization.

Similarly movements are developing in Greece, France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Britain,

everywhere. But these are all sporadic, spontaneous movements without proper leadership and correct ideology. Hence, these too also are not in a position to make much headway. So need of the hour is the real revolutionary ideology — that is Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought—to guide these erupting people's struggles. Without that, no movement will achieve success.

Mere claim of being a Marxist does not make one a Marxist

Another aspect needs to be understood. As Lenin had warned, if one claims to be a Marxist, it does not mean one is a true Marxist. In the language of Lenin, "The dialectics of history were such that the theoretical victory of Marxism compelled its enemies to *disguise themselves* as Marxists." So you must differentiate between Marxism and sham Marxism, Marxists and pseudo-Marxists. Lenin said that "The bourgeoisie needs lackeys whom a section of the working class could trust, and who would paint in fine colours, embellish the bourgeoisie with talks about the possibility of the reformist path, who would throw dust in the eyes of the people by this talk, who would divert the people from revolution by depicting glowing colours, the charms and possibilities of the reformist path." Lenin fought against this type of sham Marxists in Russia and Europe. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had also fought first undivided CPI and then its split versions like CPI (M), today's CPI who represent pseudo-Marxism in this country. We must recall that during the independence struggle, as per the guidance provided by great Stalin, there was a great opportunity to build up an anti-imperialist people's front by the working class combining with the revolutionary petty-bourgeoisie and thereby isolate the compromising national bourgeoisie and establish, instead, the hegemony of the working class over the freedom movement. This would have turned the course of history. Had the CPI grown as a genuine communist party, it would have wholeheartedly striven for that. But, CPI did not do that and as a result, the hegemony of the compromising national bourgeoisie was established on the freedom movement, and the entire fruits of the glorious freedom movement were usurped by them. It was the common people who fought for the country, shed their blood, sacrificed their lives for freedom. None from the families of Birlas, Tatas

or Ambanis had participated in the struggle. In the Indian nationalist movement, there were two trends of leadership. One was the compromising reformist one led by Gandhiji and backed by the national bourgeoisie. Another was the uncompromising revolutionary line led by Subhas Bose. What did the so called communists of undivided CPI do at that time? They supported the compromising reformist leadership, opposed the uncompromising leadership of Subhas Bose. And Subhas Bose was compelled to resign from the post of president of the then national Congress. When Subhas Bose was expelled from the Congress, CPI did not support him. Later, Subhas Bose took the initiative to form a left consolidation in our country. And he requested the communists to join him and told them that if the proposed left consolidation did materialize, it would help growth of communist movement in India. But the CPI leaders did not join. They repeatedly violated Comrade Stalin's guidelines. Subhas Bose was not a Marxist but as a revolutionary leader of that time, he had great respect for Marxism. He hailed Soviet revolution. He said: I have studied the works of Marx and Lenin. I know communists are patriots. But when I look at the Indian communists, I do not feel that they are patriots. He made this observation with a great pain. CPI did not join 1942 movement and helped the British imperialism. This faulty politics of CPI was bitterly criticized by Stalin. When Subhas Bose in a tactical move to free the motherland from the British imperialists entered into kind of agreement with Japan, CPI leaders called him 'quisling', an agent of Japan. Undivided CPI supported partition of India. Their history is of continuous violation of Marxism. Thus, in keeping with the analysis of sham Marxists by Lenin, the CPI leaders masqueraded as Marxists had betrayed Marxism at every step. After independence, they found national bourgeoisie who captured the political power, as revolutionary and an ally of their revolution. And they sought to include the national bourgeoisie in their people's democratic front. But the Indian national bourgeoisie who controls the state power, has developed monopoly capital, has developed finance capital and also multinationals, has become the main enemy of the working class and the toiling people. The Indian national bourgeoisie has become a rising

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Toiling people yearning for emancipation are being imbued with the ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought

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imperialist power, and as per media terminology, an emerging super-power. But both the present CPI and CPI (M) still consider the national bourgeoisie as their ally. This is an out and out betrayal to the working class under the garb of Marxism. While country is in the stage of anti-capitalist socialist revolution, their proposed theory of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal people's democratic revolution is nothing but a deceptive design to shield the real enemy of the people and distract the people from the path of anti-capitalist revolution by spreading parliamentary illusion. Naturally, earlier they branded Pundit Nehru as progressive and Sardar Patel as reactionary. Later, they discovered that Indira Gandhi was progressive but Morarji Desai was reactionary. All through they have been pursuing such wrong politics, politics of opportunism. CPI (M) leaders sometimes support Congress in the name of fighting communalism. Again, sometimes they support BJP in the name of fighting authoritarianism. Sometimes they suggest that a Third Front comprising Jayalalitha, Mayavati, Mulayam and others is the alternative to Congress and BJP. Their only objective is to anyhow remain in power, atleast to stay afloat in the corridor of power. Their entire politics is directed towards that end.

Movements educate people — ideologically, politically

In this hour of grave crisis, only our Party, founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, has been developing mass and class struggles. In course of developing these struggles, our first objective is to resist any attack upon the people and try to wrest some relief for the people under pressure of movement. We have been able to achieve some demands in the process. As taught by our great teacher, our aim is to educate the masses, to enhance their political consciousness, to show them the real enemy while in the vortex of movement. It ought to dawn upon them that the real enemy is the capitalist state, the ruling oppressive bourgeois class. State is a coercive instrument in the hands of bourgeoisie for carrying out exploitation and oppression. The incumbent party or combination in the government changes. One bourgeois party is replaced by another, but capitalism remains intact, state remains unscathed. This very capitalist state is to be

overthrown by revolution. Alongside, the pseudo-Marxists like CPI (M), CPI are to be exposed and isolated from the masses. At the time of the movement we try to educate people in that way. Movement educates the people. Movements are the learning centres of the people. Movements uplift their spirit, their fighting zeal, raise their consciousness, widen the horizon of their outlook and forge their will. Movement is a school for revolutionary struggle and the teacher is the revolutionary party which guides them. And that is our objective. Without this clear objective, movements would be reduced to mere agitations to gain some economic benefits i.e. bourgeois economism.

Not obsolescence but correctness of Marxism vindicated by world events

Comrades, there is a well-orchestrated propaganda against Marxism, against scientific socialism. After dismantling of socialism in Russia and China following revisionist conspiracy aided and abetted by the capitalist-imperialist powers, the bourgeois world preached that there was no hope for socialism. But we are not frustrated with the fall of socialism. Because, our leaders had prepared us for such a sad setback. Starting from Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, everyone taught that socialism is a transitional phase. It is an intermediate phase in transit from capitalism to socialism. It meant that though the advancement in socialism will be towards communism, if leadership is wrong or undergoes degeneration paving way for counter-revolution to succeed, socialism might fall and capitalism restored once again. This eventuality was not unknown to us. Sole deterrent lies in correct application of the dictatorship of the proletariat in socialism. So, we are not frustrated. We are confident that things will change again.

Comrades, we can cite instances from history. When religion was a movement in the society, religious preachers claimed that they were 'messengers of almighty god'. This is true for all religions, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. It took hundreds and hundreds of years for scoring final victory for the religions. For a prolonged period, there were defeats followed by victories, again defeat, again victory. Many of the 'messengers of god' were persecuted, even killed. Even the 'apostles of god' also

could not ignore the course of history. It took 350 years for final victory of capitalism starting from renaissance to bourgeois republic through a long process of defeat after defeat followed by victory, again defeat, again victory. But if one takes the period from slave system to capitalism, it is a saga of thousands of years of class exploitation and class rule. Compared to that, socialism which for the first time sought to put an end to class exploitation for good could hold on to its fort for just 70 years. For elimination of the exploitative social system which existed for thousands and thousands of years in different forms and was so deep-rooted economically, politically, ideologically and culturally, the period of 70 years of socialism is too short. It is not so easy a job. Final victory would be achieved only over a period of time by way of conducting a ceaseless struggle in all fronts, i.e. economic, political, ideological and cultural; a struggle of life and death, most determined, ruthless and prolonged under the dictatorship of the proletariat following the course of victory, again defeat, then again victory. But 70 years of Socialism had proved in history that it is the only civilization which can solve burning problems of unemployment, poverty, famine etc. and rid people of exploitation. Why did great men like Roman Rolland, Bernard Shaw, Rabindranath, Subhas Bose hail Soviet Socialism? They were not communists, they were not Marxists. But, they could not think of not speaking the truth. After visiting Soviet Union, Rabindranath said that this was the holiest place he had ever been. Bernard Shaw said the Soviet Union was the only country where real democracy was in existence. Roman Rolland warned that if socialism was destroyed in Russia, not only the workers of Russia but people of the whole world would be enslaved. When Subhas Bose was defeated by the British forces, he, in his last message, said that Stalin, the saviour of mankind was still alive. They were not communists. But they were not pseudo-intellectuals as we see today all around.

Socialism provided employment to all, free education, free healthcare, a decent living for all. Socialism made no distinction between men and women. Both were treated as equal. It marked the augury of a new civilization. The apologists of bourgeois system wax eloquent of parliamentary democracy. But the ruling capitalists

keeping a façade of democracy are ruthlessly exploiting the people. Waving the flag of democracy, the capitalist-imperialist rulers generated two world wars. Waving the banner of democracy, fascism was clamped on in Germany and Italy. In the name of establishing democracy, US imperialists and their allies, of late, illegally occupied independent sovereign Iraq, killed lakhs of innocent people, destroyed industries, agriculture, cities. And now they are destroying Afghanistan also. But Soviet Union never attacked any country. Rather Soviet Union led by great Lenin and Stalin was the citadel of peace, worked as a bulwark against war mongering of capitalist-imperialist camp. It helped growth and development of national liberation struggles and anti-imperialist freedom movements throughout the world. This is history. Nobody can deny it.

Emergence of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as a great thinker, philosopher and guide

Comrades, guided by the revolutionary ideology of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, our Party with firm conviction is developing class struggles and mass movements in the country with the objective of accomplishing anti-capitalist socialist revolution. This land had produced many great people — Buddha, Mahavir, Sankaracharya, Kapil, Charbak, Kanad, many more. All of them played their role in taking civilization forward in their time. This land produced towering personalities like Rammohan, Vidyasagar, Mahatma Phule during the time of Indian Renaissance. This country produced venerated political leaders like Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, Lala Lajpat, Tilak, Netaji Subhas Chandra and others at the time of anti-imperialist freedom struggle. This country produced Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as a great leader of the proletariat at the time of anti-capitalist revolutionary struggle.

He is our beloved leader, teacher and guide. In today's world, it is only the illumining thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh which can show us the real path of struggle, his name can inspire us in taking the struggle ahead. Great Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong made immense contribution in developing and enriching the science of Marxism. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in course of concretizing Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil and contemporary

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SUCI (C) is growing from strength to strength, nobody can stop it

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international situation, developed and elaborated the Marxian science further and brought its understanding to a new height in the light of modern science. He provided us the correct revolutionary ideology, ethics and morality. We have to assimilate the essence of his teachings, acquire the higher ethical, moral and cultural standard he set before us. We have to apply it in our life and move onwards. That is our objective. Our party is developing, growing from strength to strength. Nobody can stop us. Our party will continue to grow. From many other countries, many revolutionaries are contacting us. They are asking for the works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and our Party literatures to be acquainted with the thoughts and teachings of the great leader. To study and grasp Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought has gradually become a movement not only in India, but throughout the

world among the revolutionaries. The workers yearning for emancipation are being imbued with the ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought provides the beacon

And finally, I would read out a portion from the works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Analyzing the then obtaining socio-political situation, he, in 1974, said in a public address: "Indian revolution is on the threshold of emergence, and nothing of worth remains of this society — this you should realize. No longer can the ruling class give it any lease of life with any palliatives whatsoever. The Indian society is in the throes of birth. Only, it suffers from want of people's organized conscious political movement, from want of a genuine revolutionary party with that minimum of necessary strength with which this ferment for revolution in the people,

this situation ripe for revolution can be led into an organized protracted powerful war for revolution. In entirety the objective condition for revolution is ripe, with all its ingredients and ammunition. The people yearn for a change. The ruling class has nothing else to bank on, except the military muscle of this old order. They count also on people's ignorance and political confusion, but that is not of any major importance. The reality puts so much pressure on the people that no confusing logic and delusions of religion can hold them back. Once the tide of revolution breaks out, no argument will succeed to prevent the onrush of the masses. Then the ruling bourgeoisie will be left with but one weapon to deploy against revolution — the military, police and armament. But when a country, a people stands up erect and takes to battle on the correct revolutionary line under the correct leadership, can it ever be stopped

with military power?" This was true at that time and this is more relevant in the present context. At that time, he called upon us "to go to the masses, organize them, help them in creating their own political power so that the toiling people could rise up with arms and bring about a fundamental change of the society by overthrowing capitalism and establish in its place scientific socialism." Let this call remain ever alive in the bosom of our heart and guide us further. With this I conclude.

My red salute to great Marx,
leader of the international
proletariat,

My red salute to
Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our
beloved leader and teacher,
Long live SUCI(Communist),
Long live proletarian revolution.

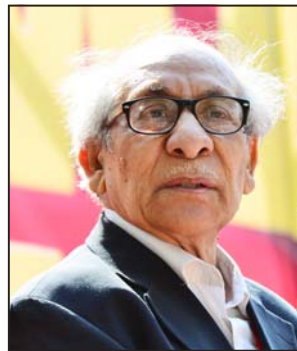
Let us carry forward the
banner of internationalism
Red Salute to you all.

SUCI (C) Pledges for a New India — Krishna Chakraborty

{Following is the Presidential speech (slightly abridged) delivered by Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(Communist), while inaugurating the historic rally at the Jantar-Mantar, Delhi, that marked the culmination of the Parliament March on 14 March, 2012} Comrades, friends and the citizens of India, particularly of Delhi - thousands and thousands of people who have come from all parts of the country, from almost all the states — 25 states in all-including West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Manipur etc., I greet you all. We have all come to meet the Prime Minister of the country and tell him that the policies of his government have made the rich even richer — they are but a few — Tatas, Birlas, Ambanis who have become billionaires. They are sucking the blood of the people, and people are starving, dying. More than 2,50,000 farmers have committed suicide in this country in the recent times. Hundreds of mothers in West Bengal languish and wait to sell their children out, as they could not feed their children. Such is the situation! Unemployment problem, growing price-rise, growing corruption, growing crime on women and children, privatization of all things

— education, healthcare, even potable water is causing havoc in people's life. So we have come to protest against all attacks. I congratulate you on behalf of our Central Committee — you who have taken all pains and braved all hardships and faced all odds to come here to tell "We need solution Mr Prime Minister. You talk of 'aam admi' but serve those people who oppress and exploit the 'aam admi'. So please listen. Offer something that can bring at least some relief to the people. This is why we have come for this mass deputation." The procession, March to Parliament, set out from the Ramlika Maidan after paying tribute to the great leader of the proletariat — the greatest and noblest thinker of the human society, of not just this era — Karl Marx on his 129th death anniversary on this Day of 14 March. His portrait is also displayed here on the dais. Now we'll start our meeting after paying tribute to the worthy student of Karl Marx-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh — the great Marxist thinker, the founder of our party the SUCI(Communist). ...

You have come in thousands upon thousands not only from distant parts, but even from the remotest villages thereof. Taking great pains you have covered long distances, you have come to the city, you have stayed in tents ravaged by rain and storm. What is the reason? The way crisis is fast engulfing our life, it is not being possible to live



on. In that case, should we just remain victims of exploitation, should we remain victims of oppression? Or should we develop movements against this and prepare ourselves for further and stronger movements? Otherwise exploitation and oppression will not stop. So you have come; you have come for movement. ...

Today, capitalism is entrenched in deep crisis. Capitalism is dying. Long, long back based on the thoughts of Karl Marx, another great Marxist thinker Comrade Lenin showed that in course of its development capitalism had reached the highest stage of its development, that we call imperialism. After the highest stage is reached, there is no scope, no possibility of further development, say for instance, for capitalism; then starts its degradation. Any phenomenon in the material world in history at first is progressive, it advances and

develops and then when the highest stage is reached, its downfall begins. It becomes exhausted. Nothing do remain eternal. This truth we find in and from the material world. Marxism has shown it and we also find it in real life. Capitalism reached its imperialist stage in 1902-1903 itself and its downfall began. Today the crisis has acquired a terrible shape. Now this society has got no possibility of being rejuvenated. And, the capitalists want that the entire burden of the capitalist crisis has to be borne on by the working class, the exploited people and the helpless masses. Why is this crisis in our life? It is because of capitalism and nothing else. So, without overthrowing capitalism, freedom from this exploitation cannot be achieved. This is why revolution is the only way out.

In capitalism, the government did not always give relief whatever it really could. Today it has stopped giving relief at all. Whatever we could achieve, or whatever rights we have acquired through movements, the capitalist rulers are snatching those away. In order to regain them, movements are essential as also movements are essential to develop those, in course of their development, as complementary to the revolutionary situation. Comrade Ghosh showed that a movement is successful not only when demands are achieved,

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Largest left rally in capital signifies the rise of real leftism

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but when in course of movement the level and standard of consciousness of the people is raised, their culture and tastes are raised, organization is strengthened and extended, and its direction is oriented towards revolution; only then a movement reaches logical culmination. Also if demands are achieved at the same time, it is added to the victory. We have started those movements.

This is no occasion to describe in detail the movements that have been developed by our Party in West Bengal. But the movements of Singur and Nandigram, that inspired people all over the country, served to become their voice and slogan and thus led all our supporters, sympathizers and comrades in all the states of the entire country to develop massive movements in their respective states and localities, those movements were steered and geared by our party. Those movements owe their success to our presence, to our leaders. Tata had to leave Singur, forsake its effort there. At Nandigram, the CPI(M) Government had served notice for establishing Special Economic Zone, evacuating thousands of small farmers from their lands to hand over to the notorious businessman of Indonesia- Salem. Through movements, we resisted, and led by us people also resisted. Lives were lost. Blood was shed. Women were also assaulted and raped by the goons of the ruling Party, CPI(M), with the backing of the police. Despite that, how women there put up resistance and fought, you know that.

Such movements have taken place in many states. In Kerala our Party launched movement against grabbing of lands- it was successful too. In Bangalore city too, land was being grabbed which our party resisted through movements. In Haryana, again, we could resist land-grabbing for Thermal Power Station construction. In this way, movements are going on in every state. Even in Gujarat we conducted movement -in the land of rivers, Diamond of Water, as it is called. Movement took place in Cotton Textile Mills etc. On top of everything, against communalism there, our party has conducted movement and is still conducting them. We launched so many movements in that state, our comrades were arrested by the Modi Government. In Delhi here, even today a movement is going on against attempts for privatization of water. It was the Sheila Dixit Government that decided to privatise water. We are protesting against it; citizens, even most

eminent citizens like Justice Rajendra Sachar and many others joined our movement. Thousands of people participated in it.

In Assam, raising a hue and cry over Bangladeshi infiltration, reactionary forces are forcing even real Indian citizens belonging to the minorities, particularly the Muslims to apply for citizenship anew. We are opposing such forced citizenship; in Assam movement is going on against this heinous move. How many should I name? In Andhra, there has been a movement of the nurses. Why do we conduct such movements? Because, the problems of life are getting more and more intense in every sphere. Price-hike is sky-high, so is unemployment. Lakhs and crores of young people have lost their jobs. None of the dreams, they cherish in their life, are going to be realized. They have been driven to such a plight. Factories and industries, one after another, are closing down their shutters. Even potable water is going to be privatized all over the country. Direct foreign investment is being encouraged even in retail trades now. Such are the policies followed by government. As I said, 2,50,000 peasants have been compelled to commit suicide. Where do then things stand in this country, what we would do without movements?

The point is — everywhere in the country, at all places, movements are going on. It is difficult to give the entire list. People are themselves coming up to take to the courses of movements. Who will show them the way? It is only the revolutionary party of the country that can lead them to the correct path. This is why, the Central Committee of our Party has taken the decision that to conduct these movements and give them a coordinated form, an all- India shape, we should merge all these movements into a country-wide single movement. This is why, the signature campaign was taken up, where crores and crores of people

have put on their signature. Had we carried on, we would have obtained signatures of still more crores of people. There is such a yearning for movement among the people.

Some days back, Anna Hazare launched a movement only against corruption- virtually all alone. It was evident from that movement, how charged and enraged people are. Lakhs of people participated in it, without any party, any organization. People realized that there is no way out other than developing movements. That movement was withdrawn too. No individual can take a movement to its culmination. However, if there is not a well-organized movement from the grass-roots level, forming people's committees, Sangharsh committees upto the national level, if there is not any correct ideology and a correct political line, the movement cannot be continued for a long time. Anna's movement amply proved this. He had begun in a big way, that is why he deserves thanks. We hail his efforts. But a movement can be culminated only by the revolutionary party and none others. I should speak this much only. Comrade Provash Ghosh will place the Party line in more detail.

A few more words I should add. Saratchandra Chattopadhyaya, the famous writer and litterateur of our past, who, as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh pointed out, was a philosopher too, in his famous novel *Pather Dabi* also stressed upon the fact that there is no way other than movements. In that novel, the great litterateur made one of his characters Bharati, in whose words Saratchandra depicted the Gandhian philosophy, to ask Sabyasachi, whom he painted as a revolutionary character: You know so much; you've learnt all; there is perhaps nothing in life you do not know about. How come, you have not found the way of peaceful movement? Do you need to accomplish revolution? Sabyasachi answered :Yes sister, I have

inspected all the ways and I have found all of them blocked. The only way open is that of revolution. This observation of the famous writer is not only a sound, but a historical one too. Under capitalism there is no way out other than revolution. Comrade Ghosh showed this way and also outlined the great ideology and the great culture needed for it. Thus movements based on higher culture are being built up by our Party.

As you will find the country is being split and split. Bihar has been split up into two parts and so has been Madhya Pradesh. Divisions are instigated among people too. People too are being influenced by Khatriatabad (upper caste-politics) and such others. They are fighting with each other. In Mumbai Biharis are driven out. They are also being driven out from Assam and so are the Bengalis. The country is still divided by caste and creed differences. Yet, this party founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh basing upon and following the same ideology, the same thought everywhere will work for ultimately to give birth to a new civilization, a new India. We are all students of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Based on Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thoughts, we keep on with our attempts. This message will reach out to all over the country, that a new civilization is being born. So many movements in different states have led to this stage of all-India movement. We have faith on the people. Even against nature you have fought, in rain all the tents collapsed- yet no one complained. Thousands of people stayed there happily, calm and composed, without complaints. You have demonstrated this culture, which has come from the culture Comrade Shibdas Ghosh set before us, from the thoughts he has left for us. We have to move further with that. If we can do that, if we can make our organizations stronger, we will move closer to our goal. If demands are realized all the better. If all the demands are fulfilled, even then we must remember in a capitalist state workers remain wage slaves, capitalists remain the owners, so long as capitalism will prevail. So we must take pledge we will establish workers' state and rule.

I conclude my speech expressing the hope that you will strengthen movements and our Party the SUCI (C) by all means.

Long Live Revolution!
Long Live Socialist Unity Centre
of India (Communist)!
Red Salute great leader Karl Marx!
Red Salute
Comrade Shibdas Ghosh!

In his brief concluding speech Comrade Chakraborty said : Comrades and friends I will declare from this chair that it is the largest ever left demonstration in the capital of the country. And it has shown very clearly that the fall of the CPI(M) government in WB and Kerala, along with the CPI, RSP, Forward Bloc does not mean that leftism has died in the country. Rather it has been proved by history and with the march of today that real leftism is growing in the country. People showed that it is the product of those struggles that they have been able to know, actually detect which is the real revolutionary party and force that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had built up in the country; it is that party which is growing. But still, on behalf of the Central Committee I will tell you that we feel this is not sufficient, it needs more strength to achieve its logical end of revolution in such a vast country with people above a billion, Party must grow stronger and faster on the basis of the Thoughts of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

UNION BUDGET 2012**Budget essayed in the aggregate class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie, spells doom for people***Contd. from page 2*

economy which the government nourishes by its fiscal measures.

Withdrawal of subsidy

Next point is about the pressing hurry the FM and his government has been showing for withdrawal of subsidy to fuel and fertilizer. It is incumbent on any civilized government to allocate more and more funds towards public welfare and ensure availability of essential utilities to people either free or at a minimal price. But the Congress-led central government has been posing for a long time that subsidizing petrol-diesel-kerosene-LPG, fertilizer and such other items is a wasteful expenditure and forcing people to pay market-determined rate (meaning artificially or manipulatively jacked up prices by the MNCs, corporate houses and big monopolists for profit maximization) is mandatory to reform the economy. Accordingly, a move is afoot to gradually withdraw subsidy from these areas. This budget is also not only indicative but a step forward towards that end. This time also, the FM has customarily referred to some extraneous factors for the downturn of domestic economy of which one is the increase in crude oil prices. He has sounded that there would be another dose of steep hike in domestic fuel tariff immediately after the budget to cope with rising international crude tariff. In addition to the hikes in indirect taxes, which are likely to mean a higher cost of living, the FM said he would rein in subsidies and followed that up by actually budgeting lower amounts for both fertilizer and petro-product subsidies in the coming year. If those numbers are to be achieved, fuel and fertilizer costs seem set to go up adding to the inflationary pressures. Everyone knows that rising fuel tariff entails higher transportation cost and pushes up general price line. But FM is not bothered as his reform agenda stipulates not only periodic rise in oil prices but also gradual withdrawal of subsidy from the sector. Here also, he played foul with the people. For example, the very plea of spurt in international crude price being responsible for raising domestic fuel tariff is a hoax. If anyone sits down to calculate the effect, truth will unfold to him in no time. Major proportion of the final domestic retail price is made up by taxes and cess. Just the other day, prices of petrol in Goa

came down by Rs 11 per litre simply by reducing the value added tax charged by the state government. If other state governments follow Goa's example of doing away with sales tax on petrol, the fuel will become cheaper by roughly Rs 15 a litre in the four metros. It showed that when the international price of oil is high, there is considerable scope for governments at the states and at the Centre to reduce taxes to lighten some of the impact as with the same percentage of the tax, governments get a much larger absolute sum when prices rise. So, there is every cogent reason that they forego this windfall gain to spare the consumer some of the inevitable pain. It may also be added that domestic tariff fixation is hardly in proportion to international crude price. In January 2011, when the cost per barrel of crude in the international market was close to \$99, domestic tariff was hiked by Rs 2.5 per litre. In May when the price was hiked by Rs 5 per litre, the cost fluctuated between \$ 110 and 115. Moreover, the oft-repeated citation of the oil companies incurring loss is also a crooked deception since 'under recovery' which denotes the difference between the domestic sale price and possible sale price internationally and thus does not represent any loss. Thirdly, the government has even imposed tax on domestic production of crude oil which constitutes 30% of total use in the name of 'purchase power parity'. But the same government has spared oil barons to contribute more to the exchequer out of the super-profit they are minting from oil trade. Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries in 2010-11 attained record turnover exceeding Rs. 258,000 crore (\$ 58.0 billion) and higher net profit of Rs. 20,286 crore (\$ 4.5 billion). A majority of its production is not sold in domestic market but exported. But there is no tax on the company. Coming to the question of subsidy, while in 2010-11 the government spent Rs 38,371 crore on oil subsidy, in 2011-12 the figure shot up 78% to Rs 68,481 crore. But as per the government's own version, the total tax collection from petroleum products is around Rs 1.6 lakh crores. How can the government claim to be in deficit in so far tax revenue-subsidy outgo parity is concerned? Even if one agrees that, as per FM's budget speech, the Government absorbed duty reduction in petroleum sector

with annual revenue loss of ` 49,000 crore, still the government is on surplus. What then prompts FM to directly withdraw in the current budget a sum of Rs 25,000 crore of subsidy making the way for increase of petrol, diesel, kerosene, fertilizers enormously? Not only subsidy withdrawal, FM has increased cess of Rs 2,500 per metric ton under the Oil Industries Development Act to Rs 4,500 per metric ton. On the contrary, it has allowed the Airlines to source air traffic fuel (ATF) at cheaper rate from abroad. What would one call it? Thuggery at its all-time best?

Agriculture and industry

The FM has stated that agriculture will continue to be a priority for the Government and hence the total plan outlay for the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is increased from Rs 17,123 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 20,208 crore in 2012-13. Apparently, it shows as if the government is interested in bettering the lot of the poor and marginal peasants as well as agricultural labourers. But are there any concrete steps towards that end or have the proposals been drafted to benefit the kulaks and the MNCs now out to grab the field of agriculture? The government has said in the budget that it would invest funds in agricultural research, at the same time they would provide exemption in tax on investment in agro industries, in food processing industries. Those who would invest capital in these sectors would be given 150% exemption in tax! Who would benefit from this other than the corporate giants, national or foreign, like Reliance, Spencers, Kargil, Monsanto etc.? What is it to the small farmers? Rather their lands would be taken away by those giant industrialists for this for producing cash crop to earn fabulous profit! The government has also announced in the budget that it is going to slash interest rate in near future to ensure that funds are available to the corporate bigwigs and rural kulaks at cheaper rate. But what about the existing loans, to the tune of thousands of crore, they availed of from the banks over the years at minimum interest and defaulting in repayment? The banks are writing off these loans alongwith other industrial loans as bad debts and interestingly to make good these losses, government is proposing injection of fresh capital in the

public sector banks in the name of recapitalization. Both the forfeited loan as well as fresh loan and recapitalization money is a drain on public exchequer. On the other hand, despite all tall claims of micro-credit and inclusive banking, hassle-free institutional finance still eludes common peasants who in order to meet escalated cost of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizer and pesticides are forced to borrow money at killing interest rate from private usurers and then be denied remunerative price of the produce fail to pay back the loan and prompted to end own lives to get rid of the plight and penury. Over two lakhs of debt-stricken peasants have already committed suicide. But the government is unperturbed. As per budget proposals, from 1st April, 2012, the price of ammonia fertilizer would increase by Rs.150, phosphate by Rs.550, Potash by Rs.100 per sack to keep economic reforms on the roll. Coupled with declared withdrawal of government subsidy to fertilizers, the situation would turn worse for the peasants and suicide rows would take further toll in millions. Landless peasants who somehow try to live on against 100 days employment guarantee programme would also join more in number this suicide procession since already the scanty funds provided to this programme would be reduced by further Rs.7000 crore as arranged in this budget. Thirdly, as a sequel to government's taxation policies, prices of steel and cement, two basic components of industrial activity are slated to rise. This too will also contribute to unbridled price rise wreaking havoc in the lives of the peasants and other sections of the toiling millions.

Picture is equally dismal on industrial front. The millions of unemployed, semi-employed and retrenched workers looked for gainful job creation by the government. But the industrialist-friendly FM has carefully skirted all these questions perhaps as 'non-priorities or trashes' in his scheme of things modelled on so called economic reform. He has only talked of infrastructure development on PPP (private public partnership—a euphemism for privatization of government sectors) basis and that too vaguely without referring to any number of permanent gainful job creations. Nor has he touched upon the question of opening of thousands

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Mounting dose of regressive indirect taxation would trigger limitless price rise

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and thousands of factories and establishments which have downed shutters, not because of any 'labour trouble' as the owners dish out but in their own interest as a result of which millions have been thrown out of job and turned into beggars. While unemployment problem is mounting by leaps and bounds, the government has not spelt out as to how it intends to tackle the problem. On the contrary, as mentioned above, it has cut thousands of crores from net spending on rural employment. Obviously, these are non-issues to the FM and his masters crafting strategy for the country's economic growth by pursuing reforms aggressively and hence even do not feature in the pedantic discourses on budget in the media.

Food and poverty line determination

Our economist Prime Minister had of late commented that it is a matter of shame that so many people are starving in the country. So, one might have thought that this time he and his government would take appropriate initiative to remove this national 'shame'. However, how the issue has been addressed in the budget? Save and except expressing some pious wishes hollow to the core and exuding overconfidence on the so called Aadhar project of granting unique identity number for direct disbursement of the miniscule subsidy amount, there is no effective declaration as to how the entire scheme would be operationalized and what the check is on possible pilferage and malfunctioning to help poor enjoy its benefit. The FM has said that the government has taken definite steps to create food security at the household level by making food a legal entitlement for all targeted people, especially for the poor and vulnerable segments of our population, and so the National Food Security Bill, 2011 has been mooted. But, the government and its pliant planning commission headed by 'educated' servitors of the ruling class thriving and surviving on the crumbs of the latter have already started all kinds of manipulative exercises to show a dip in below poverty line populace so that besides claiming success in poverty alleviation, liability of

proposed food security bill could be pegged to minimum. Curiously enough, the government pleads to have no money for a universal Public Distribution Scheme. Or even for a shrunken food security bill. The country lags horribly in human development indicators, hunger indexes and nutritional surveys. Food prices keep rising and decent jobs get fewer. Yet, well-known 'experts' and 'foreign trained economists', on the pay roll of the government boast about shrinking BPL numbers to claim success of so called poverty alleviation programmes and 'inclusive growth'. Absurdity par excellence!

Health and education

Perfidy of the government in the areas of health and proper education is glaring as well. The government with much fanfare has declared that it has increased allocations in health and education. Particularly, it has claimed that it has increased 21.7% from Rs.21,000 crore to 25,555 up by only 4,555 crore to give education to vast number of students among the country's 120 crore of people less than 4% of the total budget. Almost similar amount (Rs.21,670 crore) up from 18,000 last year to 21,670 crore would be taken away from the people as cess to education. In healthcare the budget allocations have not been more than 2.5% of the total budget this year. On the contrary in both education and health private owners have been domineering extorting the people in connivance with the government, which is rather encouraging these private health and education barons to the hilt. The government is making steady headway towards this privatization in these sectors even in the name of PPP. The budget proposal says that of the 6,000 schools proposed to be set up at block level as model schools to benchmark excellence, 2500 will be under Public Private Partnership. While the government has talked of setting up 7 more Government medical colleges on AIIMS model for tertiary healthcare, it has ended its responsibility of strengthening the nearly collapsing primary healthcare simply by increasing the allocation to National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) by just Rs 2707 to meet performance-based payments of the 'ASHA' ('Accredited Social Health Activist') workers who only advise

people about general hygiene and prevention of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, need for 100 per cent immunization and better spacing of children. What a sensitive approach to the priority sectors!

Social security

Referring to social security to the old and weaker sections, FM has only increased the widow pension amount to BPL category people from Rs 200 to Rs 300 and one time grant to the BPL family in the event of the death of the bread-earning member from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000. Everyone knows that even these paltry sums seldom reach the beneficiaries as corrupt administration embezzles it midway. All these schemes are virtually on paper only. What FM has not mentioned is that pension fund is now going to be invested in uncertain stock market to allow the punters on the bourses book huge gains while exposing the beneficiaries to the vagaries of stock market speculation. Interest rate on provident fund has also been brought down. On top of it, in the current budget the new limits for tax exemption eligibility under section 80C and 10 (10D) of the Income Tax Act has been revised from the previous sum assured-to-premium multiple of five times to 10 times. As a result, a big chunk of the premium will go towards life cover and life insurance which was an attractive avenue for accumulating savings for retirement will offer vastly curtailed returns.

Defence budget continues to soar

Of late, the whole country is stunned to learn from no one else than the army chief about "critical hollowness" in the Army's operational capabilities like army tanks have run out of ammunition, elite special forces are woefully short of weapons, 97% of the air defence has become obsolete. The army chief also revealed that he was offered hefty bribe for purchasing heavy vehicles from a particular company. In other words, the open secret about rampant corruption having permeated at every level of army is only re-established. But for the same army, there is liberal allocation of funds in every budget. This year too, the budgetary grant to defence has been stepped up to as high as Rs 1,93,407 crore based on present needs with a provision for meeting any further requirement additionally. A provision of Rs 3,280 crore for 2012-13 has also

been made for construction of office buildings including land acquisition and barracks to accommodate army personnel. Army is not under any audit, virtually not answerable to anyone. So, the loot and plunder continues unabated at the cost of drastic cut in other expenditures.

Plethora of concessions to corporate sector

Though the people have been tutored by the budget to learn bearing increased hardship for the 'growth and development' of the country, the message to the handful of rich and owning class has been just to the opposite. The FM in his budget speech has clearly stated that in case of the corporate sector, not only was he not proposing any change in the tax rates, but intending to ensure that certain measures are taken to facilitate them access to lower cost funds and promote higher level of investments in several sectors. In fact, he has lived upto his words in this regard. His generosity towards the capitalist corporate sector and foreign institutional investors, most of whom are extended arms of foreign monopoly houses, has been 'legendary'. Cuts on custom and import duties, excise duty or even service tax have been extensive. The FM has admitted that his proposals are aimed at providing relief to the manufacturing sector through cost reduction of raw materials, inputs, components and capital goods. Likewise, his proposal to encourage public private partnerships in road construction projects, allowing External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) for capital expenditure on maintenance and operations of toll systems for roads and highways as well as cost housing projects and reduce withholding tax would only elate the MNCs and corporate sector. Even the proposal to abolish Securities Transaction Tax (STT), raising of FII investment limit in long-term infrastructure bonds, corporate bonds and government securities, allowing qualified foreign investors to invest in specified Indian mutual funds and directly in equities and permitting two-way fungibility in Indian Depository Receipts would only stimulate more capital market speculation. It is for these reasons the budget has received ovation from top monopolists like Ambanis, Birlas and Goenkas who found FM having "struck a fine balance

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Corrigendum

Please read the word birth as "death" and the date 18th as 14th on page 6 of the last issue. Mistake regretted.

UNION BUDGET 2012

Large-scale corruption and corporate plunder caused huge revenue loss

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between fiscal consolidation and strengthening India's macro-economic fundamentals", "pragmatic and grounded in reality."

Corporate plunder causes budget deficit

Come to budget deficits. According to the government, "The combined effect of lower tax and disinvestment receipts and higher expenditure, mainly on account of subsidies, has pushed the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of GDP in the Revised Estimates for 2011-12" and the projected deficit for 2012-13 is Rs 5,13,590 crore which is 5.1 per cent of GDP. In order to lower the deficit, the government is stated to be, so to say, constrained to be harsh on people. But most benignly can one ask the FM and his government what caused this huge deficit? Surely not the half-starved semi-clad poor have defrauded the exchequer to land the government in trouble. What are the contributing factors then? The FM has only stated that "Due to the slower economic growth, direct tax collection fell short by Rs 32,000 crore of the Budget Estimates." But that does not explain the huge gap between receipts and payments. Fact is that since 2005-06 the union government has written off close to Rs.4 lakh crore in corporate income tax. Over Rs.50, 000 crore of that has been done in the present budget which has slashed thousands of crores from the allocation to MNREGS or the rural employment guarantee scheme. Throw in concessions on customs and excise duties and the corporate tax waivers in this year's budget sneaks up to nearly Rs.5 lakh crore. In just this budget and the last one, the government has written off Rs.1 lakh crore for diamonds, gold and jewellery in customs duties. That sort of money buys a lot of food security. The total write-off on these three heads in eight years since 2005-06 is Rs. 25.7 lakh crore i.e. over half a trillion US dollars. Add to this huge revenue losses of around Rs 1.76 lakh crores on account of 2G scam and lately exposed Rs 10.6 lakh crores 'Coalgate' scandal. Just the other day, Swiss bank authorities have revealed that as high as 1456 billion or 1.4 trillion US dollars or Rs 72 lakh crores of money are lying in the personal accounts maintained by Indian industrialists, politicians and

bureaucrats. This is highest in the world. Calculation shows that if this huge amount of black money could be brought back to India the entire foreign debt of the country can be repaid in 24 hours. Even after clearing foreign debt, there would be a surplus 12 times larger than the foreign debt which, if invested, would earn an interest more than the annual budget of the Central government. So even if all the taxes are abolished, then also the Central government would be able to maintain the country very comfortably. With this amount a few tens of crore of poor people of the country can get Rs 1,00,000 each. It is widely felt that only small fractions of this money can help solve the problems of water treatment, sanitation, waste management, renewable energy, health, education, urban infrastructure and allied fields in the country, can give effect to Universalisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) and bring all Indians out of the hunger trap, can fund higher education, scientific and social research institutes and exclusive scientific projects, all taken together and all at one and the same time. So what else but unabated loot and plunder by the ruling capitalists and their servitors and lackeys is drying up the exchequer, drawing the country to the dregs?

People must rise and resist

But FM and his government is asking the common people bled white day in and day out under ruthless capitalist oppression to "face harder days, bear more hardship and tolerate escalated fiscal savagery" to salvage sagging economy. Obvious question is why? Why should people bear the brunt of a crisis which is bred by the capitalist system and its owners and abettors? What is causing this market crisis for the capitalists? Because, people do not have purchasing power. Profit accrues to the capitalist-imperialists by squeezing the masses, depriving them of their legitimate dues. Maximization of profit means maximization of squeezing. And if the market shrinks, the capitalists do not produce goods. So, shutters are downed in the factories and industries leading to retrenchment, job loss and rising unemployment which means further fall in people's purchasing power. And market collapses further. This is the vicious cycle of capitalism. And to keep the

machine of earning maximum profit on roll, the capitalist rulers use their government and entire state machinery to find out newer methods and means to suck out even the last drop of blood from the toiling masses. Budget is one of the props in their hand to operationalize this sinister design. This is the reality. In the days to come, capitalist crisis throughout the world will aggravate further. There will be galloping rise of both recession and inflation. Common people will be pushed to much more strangulating a situation while the oppressors will thrive by trading in their hunger, amassing huge wealth on their pauperization, prospering on their skeletons. Capitalist India will be no exception to that. No bourgeois party will take up people's cause. Rather, they would subvert the ruling bourgeoisie and play the role of its trusted political agents. Even there is nothing to expect from the pseudo-Marxists like CPI (M), CPI who are maligning leftism by capitulating to the ruling class for pelf and power. Otherwise, when these self-styled

Marxists who are still viewed by a section of the masses as leftists could stall Parliament proceedings on this or that issue, what makes them maintain virtually an eerie silence over this draconian budget of the bourgeois government and blatantly expose obsolescence of the capitalist economic system? But people cannot bear this torment lying low. Already they are on the precipice of ruination. They have nothing else to lose but can definitely gain if they rise up in protest against this brazen anti-people budget by releasing a countrywide long-drawn organized powerful movement along right track and force the government bend before them under pressure of movement. Let the slogans "Down with these bourgeois government policies", "Down with the anti-people fiscal policies" and "Down with capitalism" rent the air in every nook and corner and make the ruling class and its lackeys lose their sleep. Let the servitors and protectors of the worn-out bourgeois system shake at the assertion of people's power.

Assam State SUCI(C) demonstrates in Delhi demanding deletion of 'D' mark from electoral roll and no upgrading of NRC

Assam State Committee of SUCI (C) took out a well decorated procession of thousands of people from Ramlila Maidan to Jantar Mantar in Delhi on 15 March last, and thereafter sent a delegation to submit a memorandum to the Union Home Minister, Government of India demanding immediate deletion of the inscription 'D' (standing for 'doubtful') against the names of the genuine Indian citizens in the electoral rolls and immediate withdrawal of the unconstitutional, discriminating and unjust proposal for upgrading of National Register of Citizens (NRC) separately for Assam alone. A brief meeting at the Jantar Mantar was held presided over by Comrade JoyналAbedin and was addressed by Comrade Satyawan, Central Committee Member and Haryana State Secretary of SUCI(C) and Comrade Chandralekha Das, Member of the Assam State Committee of the Party. Comrade Minhar Ali Mandal read out the memorandum, that was to be submitted to the Union Home Minister. The memorandum highlighted the facts that lakhs of Genuine Indian Citizens of Assam belonging to the minority communities had been deprived of their voting rights since 1997 alleging that they were doubtful citizens. The memorandum urged upon the Home Minister to take serious note of the issue and adopt adequate steps to delete the (D) mark put against their names in the electoral rules. Urging upon the Govt. to stop the process of illegal and unjust upgradation of NRC for Assam alone, the memorandum further demanded that in case it was at all necessary to upgrade the NRC, it should cover the entire country as per the Rule-4 of The Citizenship Rules 2003, and not on the basis of discriminatory Rule 4A, designed to rob genuine Indian citizens belonging to minority communities of their Citizenship Right. The delegation pointed out that a considerable number of people have already been sent to the detention camp without even any prima-facie case against them. The Union Home Minister assured that the government would take adequate steps .

AIMSS delegation led by Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee met President of India, on 16 March, 2012 to submit memorandum on steps to check against growing crimes on women and children



Dr. Tarun Mandal on Union Budget in the Parliament

Participating in the parliamentary debate on union budget, 2012, Dr. Tarun Mandal, SUCI(C) MP within the very limited time allotted to him strongly opposed the out and out anti-people, pro-rich, pro-capitalist Union Budget 2012-13, which is destined to spell further disaster in the lives of the wretched, impoverished and destitute people of India. The proposed Budget, he said, is for the rich, by the rich and of the rich. By trying to attribute the cause of downturn of country's economy to extraneous factors, the FM was trying to hide the endemic crisis of capitalist economy with which not only Indian economy but the economies of all capitalist-imperialist countries are afflicted. Severely criticizing the FM for being extremely harsh on people in his budget proposals, Dr. Mandal asked why the suffering people should, who are in no way responsible for this harrowing crisis, bear the burden when the capitalists-imperialists who have precipitated the crisis in

course of their hunt for profit maximization would escape unscathed? Why should the oppressed destitute millions bear the brunt of huge amount of regressive indirect tax, service tax, cess and so forth and the rich and affluent would get away by evading tax, defaulting bank loans, embezzling Provident Fund money or receiving thousands of crores of rupees as fiscal stimulation from public exchequer to make good business losses? Why should the handful of the owners be showered with plethora of tax waivers, concessions and aids, asked Dr. Mandal. Dr. Mandal also criticized FM's indication of another rise in fuel price under false pretext and the way an unholy nexus of corrupt ministers-bureaucrats-politicians-corporate sector are defrauding public exchequer to the tune of lakhs of crores of rupees when the poor countrymen are languishing in abject poverty, falling income, soaring unemployment. The Government must stop cheating the people, he asserted.

SUCI(C) demands immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those responsible for defrauding the exchequer by Rs 10.67 lakh crores in the coal acreages scam

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C) issued the following statement on 22 March, 2012 :

The very revelation from the lately published CAG report about the Congress-led UPA government's extension of undue benefits to the tune of as high as Rs 10.67 lakh crores to besides some PSUs, over 100 private houses including giant monopoly groups like the Tatas and Ambanis by way of giving them 155 coal acreages without auction once again lays bare the government's utter corrupt face and shows that extending favours to large corporate sectors by circumventing established rules and procedures and causing serious loss to public exchequer has been a way of its operation defrauding the people at large. It only shows that all the ruling parties starting from Congress to BJP and others are only engaged in facilitating amassing of huge wealth by the big industrial houses through loot and plunder at will and receiving a share of the booty. We strongly demand immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to all those responsible for a financial crime of such a gigantic magnitude.

IACC denounces US diktat to DPRK to stop peaceful satellite launch

Comrade Manik Mukherjee, General Secretary of International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC) has issued the following statement on DPRK's plan for a satellite launch:

The IACC strongly condemns the US stand as articulated by President Obama on DPRK's plan for a satellite launch for peaceful purposes during the birth centenary celebration of the great leader President Comrade Kim Il Sung. The US threat is part of a conspiracy to destabilize the socialist DPRK, and USA has no right to dictate terms and order the stopping of the launch. In the high level negotiations with USA, DPRK has consistently clarified that a moratorium on long-range missile launch does not include satellite launch for peaceful purposes and it has always reiterated its sovereign right to indigenously develop the technology for the launch. It has even invited space experts and media persons of the world to come and observe the course of the launch and check the peaceful nature of the scientific and technological development. The US attitude is blatantly confrontational, is bound to intensify the war tensions and vitiate the atmosphere for negotiations for peace and reunification in the Korean peninsula. IACC appeals to all peace and freedom loving people of the world to denounce the USA's nefarious actions and postures, and to rise up in protest demanding that USA and its ally the puppet South Korean regime give up their hostility against DPRK and enter into serious and sincere negotiations for reunification, peace and withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the Korean peninsula.

A section of party workers in a General Body Meeting organized by West Bengal State Committee in Kolkata on 31st March, 2012. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C)



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