

# Proletarian Era

Volume 37 No. 17  
April 15, 2004

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA  
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Price : Rs. 3.00



## 24 April Resplendent With Firm Resolve

country know by experience what lurks beneath this shimmering sequined apparel of “progress and development”. The common people are bleeding white owing to the ruthless oppression and suppression by the ruling capitalism that bestrides the country like a dead weight and breeds all sorts of maladies, malaises and miseries. Every walk of life — economic, political, social, cultural is totally shattered and devastated. Barest necessities for subsistence are eluding the toiling millions. Of course, the handful of rich, the owning class, the big business, monopolists and corporate tycoons are having their fortune blickering and glittering. The gap between the few rich and the teeming millions of poor is widening everyday.

### Dark cloud of fascism

To muffle the voice of dissent and contain the mounting discontent, there is inexorable slide of the Indian bourgeoisie towards fascism that is manifest in every aspect of life. Enormous concentration of power in the hands of the police-administration through promulgation of draconian laws, systematic curtailment of the hard-earned democratic and civil rights, wilful

trampling upon all bourgeois democratic norms and conventions, shameless use of a committed judiciary to subvert people’s rights etc. are in short the features of administrative fascism. Alongside there is a planned move to regiment the thought process by way of encouragement to all sorts of outmoded, backward, obscurantist thoughts, systematic fostering and fomenting of communal, casteist, separatist, parochial, fanatic and other divisive tendencies and pandering to fundamentalist ideas. And to complete the course of cultural fascism, there is severe attack on morality, culture and values through constant propagation of obscene art and literature, instigation to unethical mode of livelihood, aimless desperation and social alienation.

### The miasma of vote politics

The complete bankruptcy of the moribund capitalism seeking to dehumanize the people and tighten the noose of savage exploitation to provide an extra lease to its life is glaringly exhibited in the extreme corruption and complete absence of scruple and ethics that plague the system and its servitors. Swindling of public

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24th April, 2004 would mark the 56th anniversary of foundation of our party, the SUCI, the genuine communist party on this soil, reared and steered by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher, guide and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era. This year, the day is being observed at a time when elections for constituting the 14th Lok Sabha is on the anvil. Not that this election was due but it has been foisted on the people well ahead of schedule by the BJP, the political party trusted by the ruling capitalist class in power at the centre. Though the BJP, in its bid to secure another term, is trying to project a shining spectacle of the country by indulging in palpable falsehood and arraying deceptive contrived statistics, the people of the

### 14th Lok Sabha Election

## Abominable decadence engulfs bourgeois election

Indian parliamentary election is on the cards. Parliamentary parties in the fray, big or small, national, regional or local, get set for their rat race for power. People look lukewarm. But as and when no choice is there, they will soon be drawn into the vortex. Media is on the trail. But, notwithstanding people’s opinion, it is one of the three ‘M’-s that determine elections through the recent past, the other two being Money and Mafia. Hence media is gradually setting its own

tune to create the hype. But whatever of the electioneering process has popped up as yet, has caused every right-thinking person to exclaim in despair : what are all these things happening in the name of electioneering! One fine morning, he finds an Assamese fire-brand mass-singer, once with a leftist leaning, suddenly announces his decision to join a rabid communal party like BJP. Hypocrisy becomes apparent when he starts his campaign with his

popular songs of good old ‘leftist’ days. He does not feel like questioning himself if the Gujarat carnage blood-stains on the hands of BJP have even faded. Another moment, PA Sangma who was once in Congress, hopped about ultimately to land in Trinamul Congress via NDA. VC Shukla, once hard-core Congressman, packs up and changes court to join hitherto arch-enemy BJP. Congress on the other hand, fields Jogi, the former chief minister of Chattisgarh

to combat Shukla, where Jogi remains the same man who was accused and discredited of corruption and even suspended from the party. It also brings back Sukh Ram, expelled from the party on charges of corruption 8 years back. BJP one day takes in DP Yadav, a man with all sorts of shady antecedents; next day it eats its words to calm down the furore the move generated even within its ranks. Ram Vilas Paswan of Lok

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# Forewarning of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh vindicated by subsequent world events

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money, outbreak of mega scams, rampant malfeasance and misfeasance, open patronage to hard-core criminals, grant of amnesty to economic offenders, blackmarketeers, speculators, manipulators and people with shady past and tainted background have become the credential of capitalist India. One can have a glimpse of that in the elections as well. All the bourgeois parties and other opportunists subserving the interest of the ruling class and vying with each other to curry favour with the class for pelf and power, have joined the bandwagon of crass opportunism, political sludge, unprincipled alliance, mud-slinging, character assassination, pettifoggery, arraignment, mendacities and deceptive flurries. There is least concern for the people teetering on the brink of disaster. These vergers and vicars of the decadent capitalist system make sure that the people's dissent and resentment centring around the burning problems of life remain confined within the vortex of bourgeois vote-politics and they reap the benefits to either ride to power or scramble for a share in the scattered nuggets by way of such criminal stultification. Not only the known bourgeois parties even those like the CPI-CPI(M) who masquerade as Marxists, are equally prominent in this murky game of vote-politics and soliciting patronage from the ruling class for grabbing power. One can hardly find any difference between these pseudo-Marxists and the hard-core bourgeois parties in toeing pro-capitalist line and policies foresaking the interest of the people and crushing legitimate democratic movement. Hence, the bourgeois media and propaganda machinery are working overtime to malign communism by painting these sham Marxists as communists. All these protectors of capitalism are extremely careful that at no cost does the capitalist system, root of all evils, get exposed to the people.

## The international scene

The spectrum is equally grim at the international level. Following the dismantling of the USSR and now with the completion of counter-revolution in China, the world imperialism-capitalism led by the

US imperialists is unbridled in its hegemonist and neo-colonial pursuits. With impunity, the US imperialists and their mates are invading and occupying other sovereign countries, meddling into the internal affairs of others, engineering regime changes in other countries through naked military intervention and installation of puppet governments, flouting international laws and norms, imposing economic blockades and other coercive measures on the socialist Cuba and other independent countries who refuse to capitulate to their dictates. The latest instance has been the illegal occupation of Iraq by US-UK rulers under fraudulent pretext. It was preceded by armed intervention in Afghanistan. Of late, the elected president of Haiti was forcibly removed by the US military. The fall of socialist system in Russia, East European countries and of late China has also caused some setback, though temporary, in the world proletarian revolutionary movement that the imperialist-capitalist camp is trying to take advantage of in denouncing socialism as a failed system and holding that capitalism, re-christened as the doctrine of globalization- liberalization, has no alternative.

## Forewarning of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

It was way back in mid-forties that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh cautioned the countrymen and the international communist movement of this impending catastrophe if the correct base political line enunciated by correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism, the most advanced philosophy and guide to action, is not followed. With deep pain and anguish, Comrade Ghosh perceived that in the absence of a genuine communist party the fruits of independence which was to come about through historic sacrifices of countless martyrs were going to be usurped by the Indian capitalist class and the citizens of politically free India would groan under the yoke of a ruthlessly exploitative capitalist rule that would devastate their life. Unless capitalism is overthrown, there would be no emancipation of the toiling people. Following the Marxist-Leninist methodology of objective analysis,

Comrade Ghosh also came to the conclusion that the then undivided Communist Party of India (subsequently divided into CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) and so many other factions) notwithstanding its "communist" signboard, never grew as a true communist party right from its very birth and was no better than a petty-bourgeois outfit.

Realizing the need of anti-capitalist revolution in India marked by the absence of a real communist party, Comrade Ghosh took upon himself the historic task of building up a genuine communist party of the proletariat on this land. In the course of this arduous, tortuous, conscious, continuous struggle of building up the SUCI as a genuine communist party and in the process of concretising Marxism-Leninism on this soil, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh emerged as a giant communist leader and thinker, a worthy continuator of great Marx-Engels- Lenin- Stalin- Mao Zedong, guarding and defending this noble ideology against all sorts of distortions and deviations, elaborating and enriching Marxism-Leninism and raising its understanding to a new height while handling newer problems that were arising and also making newer contributions to its treasure-house. Comrade Ghosh had, as far back as in 1948 showed that the Indian capitalist class had captured state power through a process of compromise on 15th of August, 1947. Though with that the chapter of Indian national independence struggle came to close, historically the Indian revolution entered into the stage of anti-capitalist socialist revolution. He warned that the Indian national bourgeoisie, as an inalienable part of decadent world imperialism-capitalism, tossed up in the vortex of an intense indissoluble crisis, would make every attempt to shift the burden of the crisis on the common people and with the passage of time, tilt towards fascism in every aspect of life condemning people to sub-human debased livelihood. So it was incumbent on the toiling people of India to recognize the need of anti-capitalist revolution, take up in right earnest the task of building up conducive democratic mass movement on the burning issues of life under correct revolutionary leadership and based

on higher ethics, culture and morality, constantly raise the standard of political consciousness and in the process give rise to alternative political power.

Comrade Ghosh could detect at a very insipient stage that a mechanical thought process was creeping into the international communist movement causing agonizing lowering of the ideological standard. Examining the reasons for such lowering, Comrade Ghosh was brilliant in his analysis that "in spite of many changes and developments in all branches of knowledge and appearance of many new problems before life and the world revolutionary movement, further ideological development of Marxism-Leninism corresponding to the need of the time — to make it adequate — was overlooked and neglected in the post-Lenin period. As a result, the ideological-political-cultural standard became inadequate for conducting correctly the present day class struggles." He was equally alarmed at the insidious growth of revisionism i.e. "continuation of the bourgeois thoughts in the working class movement" in the leadership of international communist movement and showed that the root cause lies in the lowering of communist consciousness and falling ideological standard. Even pernicious effect of economism, slow penetration of ultra-liberal thoughts and a new trend of vulgar individualism in the international working class movement, did not escape his notice. When the Communist Party of China (CPC) under the leadership of Comrade Mao initiated the Great Cultural Revolution involving the whole people, party and cadres to resolve the ideological questions, raise the theoretical standard and forestall recurrence of what happened in the USSR after Comrade Stalin's demise, Comrade Ghosh hailed it as "magnificent". At the same time he was equally alert about the weaknesses during the cultural revolution. He cautioned that the CPC was not yet able to comprehend philosophically and theoretically the reason behind the phenomenon of individualism in a socialist society, which he termed as "Socialist individualism". And if

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# Election bereft of principle and politics — oblivious of burning issues of the country

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Jan Shakti Party takes mafia-don Suraj Bhan and Pappu Yadav into his party. Both have multiple charges, including murder charges, against them. RJD Supremo Laloo Prasad is reportedly at daggers drawn with the incumbents, but forms braces with Ram Vilas. Apparently he has his calculations. At least one of the said three 'M's, the Mafias, may ensure bright prospect of keeping his empire intact. And in the same vein, he patches up with Sahabuddin, the infamous mafia don of Siwan, whom he himself put into prison on several serious charges. There remains some more way to full stop. CPI(M), the leader of the Front holding governmental power of West Bengal for record(!) twenty-six years, chant, pledge to fight for secularism. At the same breath, it holds onto Laloo Prasad for an MP or two from Bihar. It does not matter to the CPI(M) whomsoever Laloo Prasad combines with or breaks apart from. Examples appear

endless. As it stands, all these parliamentary forces and the aspirant individuals have forsaken ideology, even serious political considerations. All that matters to them is to grab power by any means. For that, they combine with anybody whatsoever. All that matters to these individuals is stepping onto a lane to power. For power is not just infatuating, power is also accompanied by pelf.

**Towards dynasty rule in the garb of democracy ?**

The sorry tale of the present debasing parliamentary politics has more in it. Suddenly in the scene of electioneering appear Varun Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, grandsons of Indira Gandhi, great grandsons of Jawaharlal Nehru. Day before they appeared, they had been nowhere near the political arena. They showed no interests, joined no political struggles, had not an inkling of political antecedents. As the reports go, there were even denials that they might join politics.

And then they dart out from nowhere. First Varun for the BJP combine and then as if to counterpose him, Rahul for Congress.

Such instances of family chains pour in not only from Congress. Virtually all the bourgeois parties are now indulging in this practice. Now what does it all mean? Is it just a fun, or a family feud or family bonanza, or an utter insult to countrymen? What do these bourgeois politicians take countrymen for? Are we to conclude that in this new millennium, we revert again to the dynasty rule of the Middle Ages in the garb of democracy? Such political showpieces, novices and upstarts by all measures, may have the glamour. They may even be greeted by a sea of ill-fed, ill-clad, illiterate human beings, mobilized and assembled by courtesy of the said three M's, Money, Mafia and Media. But what kind of leadership will they provide to the country, building up their life and political

career on glamour, baselessness and pretension? Rather they attest to the abysmal depth to which the bourgeois politics has fallen down. It has no ideology to offer to the people; there is no serious political debate or discussion on burning issues of the country; no politics in the content of agenda. It only tries to drag people to such flimsy, shoddy considerations as how glamorous the candidate is, or which family he or she comes of, even if without his or her own struggle. It wants people to forget that: yes, it is true that some of the foreranking leaders of our country did join the freedom struggle at a very early age; Subhaschandra, among many others, set a glaring example in this regard. He set the instance of an uncompromising fight for a cause imbued with a noble ideology. On his way, he cared the least for his bright personal career, affluent family background or the like. There were also instances, in which case

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## Call of 24th April

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this tendency of individualism, he said, continued to gain strength, danger of reappearance of revisionism and restoration of capitalism would not wither away. He showed that in the context of newer complexities in the present day life, a more intense and painstaking "struggle is to be conducted for complete identification of the self interest with the interest of society through unflagging dedication and constant vigil" for attaining the character of a good communist. Unfortunately, these timely warnings and analyses about the unhealthy developments in the international communist movement were glossed over. Hence the inevitable, though painful, did happen. The capitalist roaders captured the leadership of the CPC after Mao's death, degenerated the party, hoodwinked the people and the rank and ultimately brought back hated rejected capitalism.

Hence, Comrade Ghosh laid so much importance on continuously raising ideological standard of both the party as well as the masses

outside the party so that there was a vigil against any kind of aberration and any bourgeois conspiracy to retrograde the onward march of scientific socialism could be foiled. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our beloved General Secretary and a compatriot of Comrade Ghosh right from the initial days of struggle for building up the party, is also stressing on continuous elevation of the ideological standard of both the party and the masses. These historic analyses, teachings and observations of Comrade Ghosh, based on the correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism provide the beacon light even today for a resurgence of the international proletarian revolutionary movement.

**Forge ahead with correct base political line**

In fact, there is resurgence of people's awakening all over the world. People are not succumbing to imperialist-capitalist overlordism and onslaughts nor are they forgiving revisionists for backstabbing the cause of revolution. The patriotic people of

Iraq are resisting the US occupation with exceptional courage, grit and spunk. The toiling people of the world including the USA are coming forward with whole-hearted support for brave Iraqi people. Anti-imperialist movements are sweeping the globe. Heroic resistances are also offered by the people in various parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The people of former Soviet Union have understood what they have lost by acquiescing in the so-called reformist programmes of the revisionist leaders. So, they are regrouping, reorganizing themselves on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, coming out in the open waving red flags and holding aloft the portraits of Lenin-Stalin, to bring back socialism. Revolutionaries and anti-imperialist fighters are recognizing the worth of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts and evincing keen interest in developing class and mass struggles in accordance therewith.

This is the silver lining, the crimson colour on the horizon beyond prevailing darkness. In our country also despite so much of gloom and despair, people are increasingly rallying behind the SUCI, the revolutionary party of the proletariat, actively participating in

the democratic mass movements organized by the party to realize the just demands, joining the various people's committees being formed at the initiative of the party to coordinate and conduct the mass struggles on a sustained basis. This support is also witnessed in the present elections in which the SUCI is participating with a distinct revolutionary line that calls upon the people to shun the bourgeois parties and opportunities of various hues and colours, embrace the path of democratic movement as the right course of struggle for existence with the ultimate objective of anti-capitalist revolution. As against the bourgeois politics of self-aggrandisement and power greed, people find in the SUCI the embodiment of the much yearned, much cherished, real alternative revolutionary politics based on higher proletarian ethics and culture to confront and defeat exploitative moribund capitalism. Let this 24th April be observed with a firmer resolve to forge ahead with the correct base political line for accomplishing anti-capitalist revolution and re-affirm the nobility and invincibility of Marxism-Leninism- Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thoughts.

# Money Accumulated Through Savage Exploitation Reigns Supreme

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members of successive generations of a family took part in political activities, particularly during the national independence struggle. But they were tested and tried on the anvil of the freedom movement. Their attachment to the cause, their sacrifice did build their image in people's mind. People accorded them respect and honour, acclaimed them as their leaders. Nobody took them as enjoying 'family heritage', nor anybody talked of 'dynasty rule' in their instances. The ruling class and their henchmen politicians today want to wipe out these chapters from history or from the memories of people. But that is an insult to people. Those personalities of the freedom struggle still hold dear and near place in people's heart by dint of the glorious example of struggle in their life.

People of the soil can also not forget that it was in this country, there was a time, when leaders like Netaji Subhas and Gandhiji differed strongly in their views on how should the struggle for independence be conducted. We know that Netaji was correct in his views. But be that as it may, at that time or ever afterwards, nobody dared to think of either of them as forsaking his principle to gain leadership or popularity.

Degenerated bourgeois parliamentary electioneering have thus made right-thinking bourgeois personalities sound alarms "real threat is ... that democracy will be emptied of all its content." This is precisely the fate the bourgeois parliamentary democracy and its electioneering process face now. The system or the process were once perceived and given effect to by none other than the bourgeois class itself during the days of democratic revolution through fight against feudalism. No doubt it was a prop to perpetrate the bourgeois class rule, to ensure governance by a bourgeois party, albeit brought to power by people through election. But even then, to begin with and for a long time to come, the process of electioneering entailed scrutiny of agenda of different parties and forces, open debates on them and even some pro-people changes as could have been possible within the framework of bourgeois rule. And so the question naturally arises :

How could the same bourgeois class bring about this degradation and decadence to the system, they founded themselves and for themselves only. In fact, in these days of acute all-out crisis of capitalism, the more the crisis is aggravated, the wider, deeper and filthier are the decadence, corruption and falsehood. So, whatever principle, ethical and moral norms were there in parliamentary democracy, have now vanished into thin air. Parliamentary democracy is now a mockery of its past. It toys with people, their miseries and sentiments. It lives on and fans up people's ignorance, disunity, lack of conscious rational thinking and such others.

## Money and consumerism determine election in USA

This is true not just in our country. In fact capitalist-imperialist countries of the western world that once resounded with the calls of democratic revolution are deeply entrenched in the all-out crisis of their system. Degeneration in electioneering process also has its roots there.

For instance, USA, the self-appointed policeman of democracy for the world, elected its present President not really through ballots. Apparently it was decided by the court. Behind the curtain it was a manipulated verdict monitored by money and power. The present president, Bush the Junior, cried hoarse about Saddam Hosaain's audacity of trying to kill his father, Bush the Senior. Does it not harp the same 'dynasty rule' chord? More information on how electioneering runs in USA are further strikingly revealing.

## Election bereft of principle and politics, oblivious of the burning issues

TV has been a prop for long in electioneering in USA. What it appears now, TV and now computer-based website have assumed control over framing and mobilizing people's opinion (The Statesman, February 17, 2004) The whole process is guided by the rules and methods of capitalist market economy, so much so that some corporate media manager is said to comment, "What is the difference between selling a president and

selling soap? Frankly, the disciplines are basically the same." (Hindusthan Times, March 13, 2004) On TV screen or elsewhere, professional advertising agencies present their respective candidates, no more than a commodity to sell. They adjust the appearance to look the candidate smarter(!), more attractive, more glamorous to be acceptable to the masses fed by waves of consumerist approaches. Reportedly even the beads of perspiration on Nixon's cheek were adjusted during recording. Further, they prescribe not only intonations and modulations of voice to act upon viewers' attention. They even trim down presentations to 'one-liners', short-byte, brief words and sentences to make them more acceptable to the viewers or consumers. Obviously the first victims are ideology and agenda. Serious issues of politics are sidelined. Glamour swamps and thus trivializes the essence.

Even when political or social issues come to the fore, they are fizzled. The present presidential election campaign in USA takes place when the wealthiest American corporates and big business have been granted tax-exemptions. On the other hand, fund-cuts on promised health services for war veterans, acute and rising unemployment and underemployment have created much stir in the American society. Parallel to these, there is the rise in stock exchange values favouring the rich in the 'jobless recovery' of American economy in the last half year. The Iraq war on fictitious allegation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and subsequent continuous arrival of body-bags with dead bodies of American soldiers from that distant soil - stoke up memories of the Vietnam War. All these may go and should have gone against Bush, the sitting President. But, analysts apprehend: 'the savage undercurrent beneath US elections is money, and the incumbent President has amassed more campaign funding than any other candidate in history: \$ 120 million (about Rs 550-600 crores), an amount that grows weekly as the president holds \$ 1000-a-plate dinners all over the country. It is very possible — this is the dirty secret of US politics — to buy

elections, not by paying voters directly, but by mounting a barrage of expensive television ads attacking one's opponent and boosting one's own media-created persona'. (The Statesman, 17 February, 2004)

## Abysmal depth of degeneration

This is no secret of US politics either. In India, too, money and market, consumerism and commoditization have fast made inroad into our political life. Electioneering this year is a shocking example of that. Election expenditure has fast gone out of reach of any party who stands for the poor and depends on their collective support. But even the high ceiling of Rs 25 lakh as campaign expenditure per each parliamentary seat, set by the Election Commission appears too small to and shamelessly surpassed by all the big parliamentary parties. Reportedly they spend several times the amount, covering various heads, such as cash handouts to local musclemen of urban slum areas or their counterparts in rural belts, or food, liquor or clothes to poor, or for hiring people for rallies and public meetings through 'professional crowd organizers', transport bills and others. (Sunday Times, March 21, 2004). The recent tragedy in Lucknow of stampede deaths of 26 poor women and children, centring distribution of sarees by the BJP is a vivid example, at what cost and with what abomination, the poor are lured and purchased to vote for even the charismatic candidate like the Prime Minister. But the process probably finds its height, rather the depth, in the frantic bid of hiring glamour personalities. They include film stars of the Mumbai film world or personalities of sports or other spheres. As the reports go, lakhs, even crores of rupees have changed hands in hooking them up for candidature or for campaigning. Depending on 'popularity', i.e., 'market value', TV stars are offered Rs fifty thousand to one lakh rupees for appearing in a single meeting. Film stars, on the other hand, fetch even upto five lakhs of rupees for the same assignment. These average values are surpassed

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# Pre-Election Scenario in States

## Kerala

Before the coming parliamentary elections, particularly the communal situation is very much worsened in the state especially after the communal killing of 9 persons in Calicut coast. The Sangh Parivar forces took the fullest advantage in spreading fanaticism and hatred while ruling Congress and CPI(M) remained sheer onlookers. All the more, chief minister Antony's stand as well as certain remarks that he made were in the way of helping BJP and Sangh Parivar forces. In return they have given good certificate to Antony. Anyway communal passions are fanned up more than ever and RSS, VHP etc. are making greater inroads in the state today.

UDF and LDF are almost equal forces in Kerala so far as parliamentary politics is taken into consideration. BJP could never make an entry in the State Assembly in spite of their all nefarious

attempts. In reality, both the Congress and CPI (M) are also very much discredited forces in the state. They are internally divided due to extreme group squabbles and bickerings. In Congress, Karunakaran even declared a split and formation of a new party but he has now been lured back by the High Command on the eve of Lok Sabha elections by inducting his son in the state ministry, allotting his daughter a Lok Sabha seat and nominating Karunakaran himself as a Rajya Sabha M.P. The fall out is extreme mudslinging and washing of dirty linen in the public by various Congress leaders. Declaration of list of Congress candidates for the Lok Sabha has become so difficult that it is being delayed.

Whoever is chosen, it is sure that within Congress the different groups will work for each others' defeat, the dissatisfied leaders taking revengeful attitudes.

LDF with all their candidates

declared well in advance and their forces somewhat consolidated, is far ahead in their election campaign. But within the CPI (M) also groupism is in the worst form. Centring round accepting foreign money through NGO's or otherwise and the much trumpeted People's Plan programme adopted by the LDF government, sharp contradictions cropped up within the CPI(M). Achuthananthan and Balachandran, two polit bureau members have criticized the state leadership branding it even as 'Gorbachevite Revisionists'! Their articles were prevented from appearing in CPI(M)'s official organs. Ultimately their Central Committee intervened and censured both the sides. CC categorically declared that there was no harm in accepting foreign money for 'developmental activities' as long as it was brought to the notice of the party and discussed and was concerning People's Plan, it was a novel and progressive step evolved

by the CPI(M) which has nothing to do with World Bank sponsored Participatory Planning and decentralization nor with Panchayathi Raj concepts, whereas the real fact is just the opposite which is clear to all the thinking sections.

Now, most ridiculously some of the candidates put up by CPI (M) have no other credential than being a known representative of the respective community. For example, in Alleppey, which has a long tradition of left movement, CPI (M)'s candidate is the State President of Latin Catholic Youth Organization and a strong man of the Church. This has created deep fissures within the CPI(M) and LDF circles. A statement of this candidate has worsened the situation. Had UDF approached him first, he would have become their candidate, he told the press. CPI (M) campaigning to defeat Congress in Kerala while working for their victory in the adjoining Tamil Nadu and elsewhere has put them in a very awkward position.

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for more well known figures. Reportedly they are offered a modest (!) lump sum of Rs 1 crore or a daily fee of meagre Rs 10 lakhs, enhanced additionally in cases as a more lucrative bait as reward for 'floor-crossing' i.e., for changing allegiance from one party to another. In addition, the list of offers includes a seat in Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha, Padmashree award or even land or property at heavy discount or unlawful relief in tax that may range to staggering amounts. Even in a state like West Bengal, known for its democratic and left movements, big parliamentary parties have started using glamour in electioneering, forsaking politics. Congress or Trinamul Congress fielded and field this time too, film stars in constituencies of and around the metropolis of Calcutta itself. Even CPI(M) has already tried their way taking in a international medal-winning athlete as a election-candidate immediately after she won her prize.

In this bid of market-slave electioneering, these political-career seekers and their managers-cum-traders from the corporate world

care a fig for principle. So they argue : politicians have ' moved from being people-centric to being public relation-centric and in that transition, if a little bit of soul gets lost, who cares!' (Sunday Times, ibid). The point is clear! As a prominent BBC journalist puts it : right now big parties are not 'talking about fundamental problems like health and education because they can't deliver.' In another instance, there was a high-powered gathering of health professionals, voluntary organizations and academics in Delhi. The agenda was to involve the political class on the need to make health care a fundamental right. Both the BJP and Congress had promised to send representatives. No one turned up. (Outlook, March 29, 2004).

Extend all support to the SUCI

The present despicable situation speaks of the unfathomable decadence of the capitalist system, the bourgeois class and its politicians. The motive that drives these politicians in their electioneering is "grab or hold power by any means whatsoever".

But that is one side of the story. Parallel to it, the bourgeois politicians and the ruling bourgeois class frantically attempt to divert people from reality, the gruelling capitalist exploitation with a view to shielding the capitalist system itself.

The only respite for people, the only solace should have come from the leftists, from true leftism, emanating from the revolutionary movement of the soil. And here, how do the big parties like CPI(M) and CPI , who clamour leftist jargons, fare? Do they present any difference from the branded bourgeois parties? Do they present any counter-move, any alternative politics of their own to this demeaning attack of bourgeois parliamentary politics? Do they make any effort to expose and fight out this heinous conspiracy of the ruling class to save people from its devastating effects? No, they don't. On the contrary, they step into the same band-wagon of bourgeois parliamentarianism and dance to the tune of glamourization, commercialization, corruption and falsehood of the prevailing bourgeois parliamentary system. In fact, they do not have a choice. Rather they themselves are in the thick of this parliamentary politics. They have made it their goal to

reach out to parliamentary power and retain it, wherever and howsoever possible. For that they have chosen to combine with any or every bourgeois party that may be necessary, chosen to serve the ruling bourgeois class to earn their blessings, certificate and sponsorship to ensure their way to power.

But even such dismal performance of these parties is not the last word. This dangerous surge of decadence are deliberate attempts to do away with whatever remnant of senses of morality and ethics still persist in social life, attempts to destroy the rational thinking faculty of people pushing them to blind submission to medieval thoughts of fatalism, dynasty rule and such others. Thereby these facilitate fascism to take hold over the country and its masses. SUCI, the revolutionary party of the soil relentlessly fights against the present decadence and all attacks on people's life on the base of the lofty revolutionary ideology and values. We urge upon every right-thinking person to strengthen our efforts extending their whole-hearted support to SUCI in every sphere of social life including the ensuing political battle of election by making SUCI candidates victorious.

# Pre-Election Scenario in States

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## Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha is surely a, if not the number one, favourite of the ruling capitalist class as well as international capital for the zeal with which she has gone about implementing the policies of globalization, liberalization and privatization. They watch with glee as she pushes through anti-people, anti-worker, anti-farmer policies, using the whip-hand and all the naked power of the state administration and police to bring trade unions and employees associations to their knees.

Globalization policies, directives of the international imperialist agencies like the World Bank and the IMF are given free play in the state. There is no section of the society — workers, peasants, the middle-class, students, youths, women — who are not suffering as a result of measures that she has taken since she was brought back to power, displacing the DMK regime which, too, did nothing for the common man but did all it could to implement the ruinous policies of globalization.

Hardly had the AIADMK come to power, there were hikes in bus fares, in prices of milk, electricity charges, PDS rice prices, exclusion of a vast number of poor from the benefits of the PDS.

When the state transport workers went on strike demanding bonus, she handled the strike by promulgating TESMA, based on the draconian ESMA, and threw workers into prison. In the last employees and teachers strike, she amended the TESMA with retrospective effect and at one stroke dismissed nearly three lakh workers. Many were taken back after the directive of the Supreme Court but she adamantly refused to take back those against whom FIRs were foisted till the eve of the election.

The less is said about the abject role of the opposition parties and their trade unions in all these movements is better. The transport workers as well as the government employees — the latter more than once — were betrayed and a fear complex and frustration about movements were created in them.

The government has actively abetted the total commercialisation and privatization of education, even

forcing universities and educational institutions to raise funds and steeply hike fees from the students at all levels, depriving lakhs of poor students of whatever opportunity they had of getting higher education in government institutions and robbing both the teaching and non-teaching staff of their rights as government employees and the benefits they are entitled to.

Deep concern has been voiced at the alacrity with which the police are resorting to violence in order to stamp out the legitimate protests of different sections of people, whose living conditions are being made intolerable by the anti-people policies of the government.

Soon after she came to power, Jayalalitha pushed through an Anti-Conversion Ordinance — the Prohibition of Forcible Conversion of Religious Ordinance, 2002 — as part of several moves to get closer to the BJP government, despite the fact that the DMK was a part of the BJP-led NDA at the Centre. It is, of course, known that, since 1991, she was responsible for giving the BJP a foothold in a state where it was a virtual non-entity. However, both the AIADMK and DMK, the two main contenders in the state had no qualms in joining hands with the BJP and provide entry for the politics of the the BJP and the Sangh Parivar in Tamilnadu.

In June 1991, after becoming chief minister, one of Jayalalitha's first decisions was to launch a temple renovation scheme. She initiated a move to start Vedic colleges to train young men to become temple priests. She brought forward an ordinance that allowed the government to interfere with minority-run educational institutions, but withdrew it under pressure. On November 23, 1992, at the National Integration Council meeting in New Delhi, she came out in support of allowing kar seva in Ayodhya. She was one of the first chief ministers to come out strongly against the dismissal of the BJP governments in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan in the wake of the Babri Masjid demolition. She allowed the Hindu Munnani — essentially a South-based outfit with RSS leanings — to hold its State Convention in Coimbatore, even though the RSS was officially banned. She got the AIADMK cadres to collect 20 lakh signatures in support of the

construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and the BJP to hold in Chennai a "national awakening" meeting in which L. K. Advani participated.

During her second innings as chief minister, Jayalalitha, apart from providing money for temple renovation and pension for temple priests, started an 'Annadanam' scheme to feed poor Hindus in temples and spiritual classes in over 150 Hindu temples. She also arranged a grand marriage ceremony for a number of Hindu couples. Significantly, she refused to condemn Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi for the communal riots post-Godhra and even spoke in favour of the Hindu population.

Apart from taking steps to reach out to the BJP, she also started distancing herself from her so-called allies including the CPI and CPI-M who were ignored and it was not long before they rediscovered that her policies were anti-people and communal and could not be supported.

If the Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu have come together as the Democratic Progressive Alliance (DPA) in the state, the credit must go to the AIADMK, which has been giving them one reason after another to put up a common front. The Congress and the Left parties have no problem with the fact that the DMK, the MDMK and the PMK till yesterday were in the BJP-led NDA at the Centre. The CPI(M) and CPI see nothing wrong that in Tamilnadu they are in the same boat with the Congress which is their major opponent in West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala. The PMK, party of the intermediate caste of Vanniars, is an ally of the DMK. The Dalit Panthers of India which, too, had its grievances against the AIADMK found that the DMK was not willing to accommodate its demands for seats and is with another Dalit Party, another grouping in the election battle.

People have suffered due to the globalization policies taken by the incumbents in the state and in the Centre — the AIADMK and the BJP but then the DMK, the PMK, and the MDMK were, till very recently, part of the same BJP-led NDA combine at the Centre and all have very poor credentials in regard to opposing the Centre's policies or taking a principled stand against the Sangh Parivar's communal agenda

and particularly the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat. The Congress in Tamilnadu has not been taken seriously or favourably for a very long time and is already riven by squabbles. The Left parties have long tagged along with this party and the regard that left politics once enjoyed in the state, when the CPI was a force to be reckoned with up to the 50s, has become diminished. And the brazen opportunism of the CPI(M) and CPI of aligning with the Congress, the most trusted party of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie barring the BJP, is now manifested at its best before this election.

Till date the situation is fluid and it is difficult to say whether this or that combination will manage to wrest a winning verdict from the people, so disgusted are they by all these bourgeois parties. The bourgeois press does its best to polarise the votes between these two combinations as well as to play down the real issues confronting people's lives and instead play up diversionary issues like the foreign origin of Sonia Gandhi.

The point is that there is no other visible alternative before the people today. It is up to the SUCI, the only genuine force of people's movement in the country, and which is so acknowledged by people wherever the Party is working in Tamilnadu, to plunge into the struggle to build up the mass movements throughout the state.

## Delhi

The state of Delhi is the capital city of India ruled by the Congress. In the coming Lok Sabha polls, the main contenders being the BJP and the Congress, they are now engaged in accusing each other for all the maladies people are facing in their day-to-day life stemming from the measures and policies of globalization. Although both the BJP and the Congress are the most trusted outfits of the ruling capitalist class, and are therefore vigorously pursuing the policies of globalization in their respective spheres while in power and in opposition, but faced with the polls, both are vying with each other as to how best they could serve their master, the Indian capitalist class, in their pursuit of devastating anti-people policies. Delhi has 7 parliamentary constituencies. Out of these, the East Delhi constituency is the second largest. Besides some developed colonies comprising

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# Pre-Election Scenario Electricity Workers' Convention at Bangalore amidst great enthusiasm

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middle class and lower-middle class people, this seat has largest number of poorest of the poor population in comparison with other six constituencies comprising of low-paid workers, rickshaw-pullers, slum-dwellers, migrant labours, etc who are deprived of even the minimum facilities essential for a human life like regular employment, living wage, proper supply of drinking water and electricity, cheaper transport, free of cost health-care facilities and education, so on and so forth while on the other hand crores and crores of rupees are spent in the name of beautification of Delhi. Majority of the workers who have lost their jobs due to closure/shifting of thousands of small and medium scale factories a few years back in the name of making Delhi pollution-free also belong to this constituency. In this situation, our party and its mass organisations have been organising mass movements in Delhi especially in East Delhi.

While both the trusted parties of the Indian bourgeoisie — the BJP and the Congress — are out to deceive common people by saying that 'there is no place for any third force' in the country and while the so-called 'lefts' have joined the chorus by appealing to the people to elect the 'lesser evil', the CPI(M) is contesting from one seat at the mercy of the Congress, the party of the Indian proletariat, the SUCI, has chosen to field its own candidate from the East Delhi constituency to advance the cause of the working class on the basis of the mass movements launched by the party and its mass organizations.

## Karnataka

The pre poll scenario in Karnataka is full of unprecedented developments daily and hourly, particularly in view of simultaneous polls being held to both the Lok Sabha and the state Assembly. The happenings are marked mainly by massive defection after defection, announcements of film personalities joining this or that party, protests and rebellions in various districts by 'loyalists' against issue of tickets to the defectors, etc. So also, new parties are sprouting up, while old ones are 'dying' or merging with others, not to speak of splitting into factions — all going on simultaneously. One has to wait for the last date of withdrawal to get a

clear picture of who belongs to which party and what are the alliances coming through finally!

The JD(S) led by former PM Devegowda is moving closely with the Congress at the national level, while positioning itself equidistant from both the Congress and the BJP at the state level for obvious reasons.

As of now, Congress is talking of going alone in the state.

BJP, which could not win more than 40 MLA seats out of 224 Assembly seats so far in the State, is moving heaven and earth in a bid to anyhow grab power in the State. It is engineering defections from all other parties on a massive scale. Recently, BJP has admitted Mr. Bangarappa, ex-CM of the state into the party, notwithstanding the fact that it was BJP which had termed him as the most corrupt CM in the country when Bangarappa was the CM. Subsequently his son, Kumar Bangarappa, a film actor and a minister in the S. M. Krishna cabinet, has been enticed into joining BJP resigning from the cabinet.

CPI and CPI (M) who did not have a single MLA in the dissolved Assembly are bargaining for seats with the JD (S). They are also trying a combination with the Dalit Sangharsha Samithi (DSS) and the Ryot Sangha. Each is claiming to contest from 1 MP seat and 10-12 MLA seats even while talks with JD (S) and others are going on.

While the major contenders are extremely jubilant to parade the new entrants before the media and in programmes day in and day out, there are protests and revolts galore from the 'loyalists'! Already conflicts have come out openly within the BJP in Gulbarga. The ex-State President of BJP and Ex-MP Mr. Basavaraj Patil Sedam has severely criticized the move of the district President and MLA S. K. Namoshi, to issue Gulbarga MP ticket to Jawali, (former MP and leader of Congress) the son-in-law of late ex-CM Veerendra Patil. Such strifes, scuffles are to be found all over the state within other parties viz JD(S) and Congress too.

In addition, there are other breakaway outfits and others, such as Kanada Nadu Party, Janata Party, Urs Samyuktha Party, JD (U) and All India Progressive Janata Dal which have joined the fray, though may not be of serious electoral significance.

## Electricity Workers' Convention at Bangalore amidst great enthusiasm

"The Electricity Act, 2003" enacted by the BJP-led Central government with the support of the political outfits of ruling capitalist class including Congress and others has appeared as a grave menace to the electricity workers and consumers in particular and the common people in general. Before enactment of this Act, many a state government including Karnataka introduced privatization spree by dismantling its State Electricity Board (SEB). United Trade Union Congress-Lenin Sarani (UTUC-LS), for example, has been organizing the electricity workers in Karnataka against this danger for quite long time past. SEB in Karnataka, has already been divided into generation, transmission and distribution agencies and private investors have been entrusted with the entire activities of the SEB and a medieval repression let loose on the workers.

In continuity of its long-drawn struggle, K.P.T.C.L. ESCOM's Contract Workers' Union (affiliated to UTUC-LS) held a massive convention at NGO Bhavan in Bangalore on 12th March, 04, to press the following demands :

- (i) electricity to be declared as an essential service by the government ;
- (ii) electricity to be inserted in the Constitution giving it the status of 'fundamental right' ;
- (iii) to roll back the already divided SEB, Karnataka to its original status ;
- (iv) declaring a halt to privatization and dismantling of SEB, once for all.

It is worth mentioning that the vast number of contract workers are engaged in jobs of perennial nature like ledger-work/bill preparation in distribution segment for a pittance between Rs. 1500 – Rs. 2000 per month without any statutory benefits.

Before the start of the convention, a well-decorated mass rally beginning from Chieklabagh paraded different thoroughfares of the city to converge to the venue. After introductory speech by Comrade Shome Shekhar, Convenor of the union and Secretary, Karnataka State UTUC-LS, Comrade K. Radhakrishna, State Secretary, SUCI in his address called upon the audience to build up sustained movement under the banner of true fighting leadership.

Comrade Samar Sinha, General Secretary of All India Powermen's Federation, in his speech showed how the BJP-led Central government reduced electricity into a commodity by enacting the Act, 2003, only to subserve the interests of the domestic corporate sector as well as foreign MNCs and the various state governments including the CPI(M) government in West Bengal were following suit.

Other speakers who addressed the gathering included renowned senior labour Advocate Sri K. Subbarao and the General Secretary of the AIMSS, Comrade H. G. Jayalakshmi.

## Martyrdom of Bhagat Singh observed

23rd March, the day of Martyrdom of Saheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh was observed throughout India by AIDSO and AIDYO as a part of the cultural movement, being developed following the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. The day was observed in Bhopal, Patna, Sultanpur (UP), Kushahan (Jaunpur, UP), Vadodara (Gujarat), Muzaffarpur by AIDSO and jointly with AIDYO at Badlapur (UP), Erode (Tamil Nadu), Mustafabad Saraiya (UP) and elsewhere.

## Anti-US Imperialism Day

20th March, the first anniversary of the US-UK invasion of Iraq was observed as the anti-US imperialism day throughout India at the call of All India Anti-imperialist forum. News of the programme that reached us earlier were covered in the last issue. Further news have come from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar and Kerala where also successful programmes have been held with tremendous enthusiasm.

## Stampede deaths in Lucknow Gross violation of electoral code of conduct by BJP

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI, expressed deep shock at the tragic incident of stampede in which, as reported till now, 21 persons most of whom are poor women died and several hundreds were injured, while attending the birthday celebration of BJP leader Lalji Tandon in Lucknow today, the 12th of April 2004.

Comrade Mukherjee severely condemned the BJP leaders for organizing, in gross violation of the model code of conduct as stated in the electoral rules, such a programme the real purpose of which was to brighten the poll prospects of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee by distributing sarees to the poor hapless women.

He demanded judicial enquiry into the incident, exemplary punishment of those responsible for the catastrophe and adequate compensation to the families of the victims.

## Comrade Nihar Mukherjee hails the militant freedom struggle by the patriotic Iraqi people

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI, in a statement on 11 April, 2004 hailed the resurgent people of Iraq, who after having rebuffed the heinous attempt of the US imperialists to drive a wedge among them and smashing the encirclement by the US-led occupation force, have come out in thousands throughout Iraq, braving all odds, to drive out the US-led invaders from the soil.

Comrade Mukherjee strongly criticized the brutal atrocities perpetrated by the US-led occupation army to suppress the militant freedom struggle by the patriotic Iraqi people, extended his full support to the fighting Iraqis, demanded immediate release of Saddam Hussein, and called upon the people of the world to firmly stand by the brave Iraqi people.

Comrade Mukherjee also vehemently denounced the US government's latest move to drag Indian troops to Iraq and severely criticized BJP-led Central government's odious failure to spurn it forthwith. He urged upon all the countrymen to remain vigilant about it.

SUCI West Bengal State Committee organized a massive protest rally before the US Information Centre in Calcutta on 12 April hailing the Iraqi freedom fighters and demanding release of Saddam Hussein, immediate withdrawal of US-UK occupation forces from Iraq and condemning BJP-led Indian Government's pro-US policy

## Slum dwellers have no feel of BJP's "Shining India"

While the BJP clamours of a Shining India and Advani rides a petrol-driven air-conditioned fully furnished E-enabled 'chariot' to convince the populace that the sheen is cent per cent free of adulteration, a survey of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) carried out during July-December, 2002 finds the claim unfounded. According to this survey, while the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is expected to grow at 8.1%, the people living below the poverty line in urban slums, defined as "compact settlement with a collection of poorly built tenements mostly of temporary nature, crowded together with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions", have not got any benefit of this "feel good" GDP. Look at the number of the slums where 40% of the urban population reside, that has increased manifold since 1981.

Number of slum dwellers (in Lakhs)

	1981	1991	2001
India	1594.63	2176.11	2909.44
Maharashtra	219.94	305.42	416.16
West Bengal	144.47	187.08	236.62
Tamil Nadu	159.52	190.78	233.08
Delhi	57.68	84.72	122.89
Bihar	87.19	113.53	149.56

The Central government is systematically curtailing grant for slum development. As against 327 crore in 1998-99, the amount of grant in 2002-03 is reduced to Rs.308 crore. Over and above this, the amount released under National Slum Upgradation Scheme has declined by 5.5%. So the gentle breeze of "feel good" has been wafting across the palaces of the rich only.

(Source: The Economic Times dated 29.03.2004)

## What is the real face of the 'Shinning India' of BJP ?

Shining India of BJP is a haven for capitalist-imperialists, whereas almost half of the Indian population does not have access to minimum amount of food, health care, education, water and sanitation (Frontline 27.02.2004). Here are some facts for you to judge :

Boom is for capitalists and their corporates:

2500 companies of the corporate India have increased their profit by 39% ( Economic Times 01.01.2004).

A list of 587 billionaires ( in dollar: 1 billion dollar is nearly five thousand crore of rupees ; 1 trillion dollar is nearly 50 lakh crore rupees) worldwide this year includes nine Indians. Billionaires of the world together have a worth of 1.9 trillion dollar, with an increase of about half a trillion dollars over the last year's worth. The Indian billionaires together are worth 31.9 billion dollars, that is nearly one lakh fifty nine thousand five hundred crore rupees. The richest Indian has a worth of thirty three thousand five hundred crore rupees.



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Edited & Published by Sukomal Dasgupta from 48 Lenin Sarani, Kolkata 700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited, 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Kolkata 700013 Phone : 2244-1828, 22442234 E-mail : suci\_cc@vsnl.net