

# Proletarian Era

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Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA  
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## Call of May Day Party Foundation Day observed throughout the country

First of May, this year marks the 120th historic May Day. It stands for a day when some 120 years ago, armed goons in league with posse of police, employed by the owning class, brutally attacked the striking workers – the first organized protest of workers against tyranny and oppression – assembled at the Hay Market, Chicago in the USA. The workers demanded reduction of working hours to eight hours a day as against the prevailing atrocious 12 to 16 hours a day or even more. The Red Flag which symbolized subsequently, and till to date, the resolve, the courage, the justful audacity of working people all over the world, was born in the flood of blood of the martyr-workers of this Chicago movement, to become the emblem of struggle against all sorts of exploitation and injustice and manifestation of the dignity of the exploited masses, at the same time. The savagery of the incident sparked off waves of protest and condemnation by workers all over the world. The government, however, was compelled to accept the justified demand of the workers, in course of time.

The fact of this historic incident revealed that, in sequel of a gradually intensifying prolonged struggle, workers all over the USA had declared a countrywide general strike on the said demand of national eight-hour working day. The strike was unquestionably successful and with it, came

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The 57th anniversary of our beloved party, SUCI, only genuine communist party of India was observed with great enthusiasm in different states on 24th April. We cover here reports so far received from different parts of the country.

On the day tributes were paid in a most solemn manner to the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder General Secretary of the party, our departed leader, teacher and guide and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era at the Salt Lake commune of the party in Calcutta. Beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee along with Central Committee members Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta and Comrade Sitesh Dasgupta placed wreaths at the portrait of the great leader. Comrades of the commune and others also paid their homage to him by placing flowers at his portrait. The programme started with the songs composed on 24th April and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, and ended with the Internationale. Red Flag was also hoisted at the party's central office at Lenin Sarani, Calcutta and portrait of the great leader garlanded.

### Calcutta

Under the auspices of the West Bengal State Committee a mass meeting was held at the Saheed Minar Maidan in Calcutta. With Central Committee members, Comrade Anil Sen,

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, Comrade Sitesh Dasgupta, Comrade Provash Ghosh and Central Staff Comrade Manik Mukherjee along with members of the West Bengal State Secretariat Comrades Yakub Pailan, Sanat Datta and Gopal Kundu on the dais and Comrade Yakub Pailan presiding over, the meeting was addressed by the Central Committee member and West Bengal State Secretary, Comrade Provash Ghosh.

In course of explaining the significance of observance of the foundation day of our beloved party the Socialist Unity Centre of India, Comrade Provash Ghosh said :

There is a hue and cry for 'development' all around especially when any election is on the cards. All the bourgeois parties including the CPI(M)-CPI, the mass media controlled by the monopoly capital begin harping on the theme of 'development'. But the moot questions boil down to : whose development they mean, in the interest of which class or classes ? In a class divided society like ours there can be no common interest for all — the exploiting ruling capitalist class and the exploited working class — at the same time. Surely development for ruling capitalist class cannot be attributed to the development of the exploited working class of the country. Are all the able-bodied persons in the society given permanent employment on a proper wage throughout the year sustenance? Can the

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Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing the huge gathering at Saheed Minar Maidan in Calcutta on 24 April, 2005 on the occasion of Foundation Day of the Party

# Revitalize the fervour of the historic May Day !

## Workers of the World Unite !

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increased threat and intimidation on workers, with dire consequences to follow. Even those having failed, the police started attacking the strikers and their union leaders. On 3rd May, 1886, 6 striking workers were killed by the police. The following day, on 4th May, the workers assembled in a huge gathering at the Hay Market Square in Chicago to register their indignant protest against the gruesome killings. The peaceful meeting was indiscriminately fired upon killing workers and injuring several hundreds of them. 8 trade union leaders of Chicago and scores of others were arrested. The demand for eight-hour work-day was drenched in a pool of blood at the Hay Market Square. Over and above this, in a name-sake of trial held as 'one of the most injudicious trials in the record of American juridical history', all the arrested leaders were declared guilty, 4 of them executed on November 11, 1887, three others served with life sentence and one Luis Ling found dead in his cell, committing suicide, as per police record!

### Marx, the great teacher of the working class, illumined the path

However, this historic struggle and bloodshed of Chicago, or rather American workers were neither accidental nor isolated an incident. Historically speaking, the international working class movement was bound in deepest gratitude to Karl Marx, the great teacher of the working class and his closest comrade-in-arms Frederick Engels. Roots of workers' movement lay in the revolutionary theory, that had set the aims and objectives of the world proletariat in the epoch-making document of Marx and Engels, the *Communist Manifesto* written in 1848. Herewith started the movement to liberate the society and mankind from the rule of capital and the yoke of wage slavery. And this movement was set in motion in the international plane by Marx himself. In his scientific quest for emancipation of the working class, as well as with a view to providing the correct guidance, he took keen interest in the ever-growing struggles of the workers in all the countries of Europe and America for lowering the working hours. Immediately following the declaration of the

General Congress of Labour at Baltimore, the International Working Men's Association (*the First International*) then led by Marx himself, resolved at its Geneva Congress in September, 1866: "*The legal limitation of the working-day is a preliminary condition without which all further attempts at improvement and emancipation must prove abortive. ... The Congress proposes eight hours as the legal limit of the working day. As this limitation represents the general demand of the workers of the North-American United States, the Congress transforms this demand into the general platform of the workers of the whole world.*" (Marx, Capital Vol.I, Ch-X). Marx, reposing his confidence on the working class in glowing terms called upon thus: "*For protection against the serpent of their agonies, the labourers must put their heads together, and, as a class compel the passing of a law, an all powerful social barrier that shall prevent the very workers from selling, by voluntary contract with capital themselves and their families into slavery and death. In place of the pompous catalogue of the 'inalienable rights of man' comes the modest Magna Carta of a legally limited working day, which shall make clear 'when the time which the worker sells is ended, and when his own begins'....*" (Ibid, p-285-86)

These words of Marx did not go in vain. Workers' movement surged ahead to develop in different countries with this new Magna Carta in their hands. A resolution adopted by the workers of Dunkirk in the New York state is a case in apposition. "*We the workers of Dunkirk, declare that the length of time of labour, required under the present system is too great, and that far from leaving the worker time for rest and education, it plunges him into a condition of servitude, but little better than slavery. That is why we decide that eight-hours are enough for a working day, and ought to be legally recognized as enough; ... .. we shall consider all these that refuse us this help as enemies of the reform of labour and of the rights of the labourers.*" (Capital, Vol.I). Since 1866, workers' organizations came up in this or that part of the USA or

in the countrywide plane, to raise the demand 'The first and great necessity of the present, to free the labour of this country from capitalistic slavery is the passing of a law by which eight-hours shall be the normal working-day in all states of the American Union' (*History of May Day - Alexander Trachtenberg*), in these words or others. Hence, behind the fateful Chicago events which ultimately made First May a Red-Letter day for the working class across the globe, there remained the snowballing effect of surge of working class movement, dreamt, initiated and led by Marx and Engels..

### Paris Commune and its impact

By the 1870s, the working class movement had entered a new phase. Engels wrote in 1878, "*...The working class movement has forced itself more and more into the foreground of every day politics.*" (ibid, p-209) With it was added the historical experience of the Paris Commune, that at once bore out historic conclusion drawn by Marx and Engels in 1848-49. As Engels brought it out while pointing to the historical significance of the Paris Commune in 1871, it had proven that the proletariat would play the decisive part in the revolutionary changes of the human society in future to follow, near and far. It was "a superb example of the great proletarian movement of the nineteenth century"! At the same time, defeat of the Commune, brought to the fore, the necessity of evolving Marxist programme and organizational principle to prevail in the international working class movement to evolve into a settlement of the principal antagonism generated by the capitalist mode of production. Indeed, every class-conscious proletariat in the movement was asking why the organization had been unprepared and ineffective. This led to the appreciation of a key proposition of scientific communism formulated by Marx and Engels that the workers had to have their own independent political party. The final text of the resolution drafted by Marx and Engels spoke: "*...against the collective power of the propertied classes, the working class cannot act as a class except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct from, and*

*opposed to, all old parties formed by the propertied classes.*" And going ahead, "*... the constitution of the working class into a political party is indispensable in order to ensure the triumph of the social revolution and of its ultimate end - the abolition of classes.*" (*The International Working Class Movement : VolII , p.181,183*)

### Engels and the Second International

The historic May Day incident of Chicago took place at a time when Karl Marx was no more; he died in 1883. Also, the First International, which had been built up by Marx and Engels in 1864, lost its revolutionary character. Engels, the worthiest continuator of Marx, did not however fail to immediately realize the significance of the Chicago incident and came forward to highlight it through evolving a new international platform of the working class. Immediately after this incident, when some socialists were criticizing this or that mistake of the American workers, Engels wrote in a letter to F. K. Wischnewetsky (June 3, 1886) "*Whatever the mistakes and the narrow-mindedness of the leaders of the movement and partly of the newly awakening masses too, one thing is certain: the American working class is moving, and no mistake. And after a few false starts, they will get into the right track soon enough. This appearance of the Americans upon the scene, I consider, one of the greatest events of the year. And ... bourgeoisie thought that America stood above class antagonisms and struggles. That delusion has now broken down, the last Bourgeois Paradise on earth is fast changing into a Purgatorio and can only be prevented from becoming, like Europe, inferno by the go-ahead pace at which the development of the newly fledged proletariat of America will take place. ... Six months ago, nobody suspected anything, and now they appear all of a sudden in such organized masses as to strike terror into the whole capitalist class. I only wish Marx could have lived to see it !*" (Selected Correspondence of Marx and Engels)

Being fully aware of the unfolding favourable condition of organizing the working class in an international scale, Engels ruled out any sort of compromise with reformists. He immediately "*flung himself into the fight with the*

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# CPI(M)'s somersault in passing black Patent Bill

In *Proletarian Era*, Vol.38, No.11, dated January 15, 2005, we elaborately dealt with the pernicious consequences of the Patent (Amendment) Ordinance then on the anvil of the parliament for being ratified as a legislation. This ordinance, as we had shown, sought to introduce patent on product, as against prevailing patent on process, in compliance with the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement of World Trade Organization (WTO) and thus establish total control of big MNCs, and giant monopoly houses over various products particularly pharmaceuticals, chemicals and food. We also explained how would this severely affect public healthcare and pose a serious threat to the development of science and technology. However, government of India, both under the Congress and the BJP, have been bent upon translating the dictates of WTO, an organization of global imperialists mounting severe onslaught on the people, in the aggregate interest of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie who as inalienable part of the world imperialism-capitalism is too eager to ensure its share in the booty. Of course, the domestic pharmaceutical industry barons in order to bargain with the WTO, did raise certain objections to the provisions of the ordinance but the class as a whole is in favour of the product patent regime. This is corroborated by Kamal Nath, Union Finance Minister, who said that the content of the ordinance "is not externally driven, it is nationally driven."

But the ordinance was not due for a smooth passage as the BJP, who incidentally authored the ordinance during its rule and introduced the same in the house, announced its opposition to the proposed enactment seemingly not out of any principled stand but to harass the Congress, its bete noir in the parliamentary race, purely from the exigency of vote politics. So the support of the CPI(M) and its allies became crucial for this out and out anti-people ordinance to be passed as a Bill. And the CPI(M) and its associates, who pretended to be so vociferous against the ordinance, did a volta face to bail out the Congress. It may be recalled that it was the same CPI(M) who commented just the other day that the proposed product patent is "disastrous", "unbearable", "by no logic a fair

system, but an imposition by the most powerful" and will "lead to a dramatic rise in the price of medicines", "enable the MNCs to garner higher and higher profits" as well as 'exclude a majority of the people from the benefits of science and technology" (Why one must oppose Patent Ordinance – People's Democracy, January 30, 2005). Even the CPI(M) and its frontal organizations joined other political parties, mass organizations and many health and legal activists to oppose the black Act in a rally held in New Delhi on February 25, 2005, the global of protest against the said ordinance.

Perhaps wisdom (!) then dawned upon the CPI(M) leaders and they suddenly discovered that "the arena of forcing a change in TRIPS and WTO is Geneva and not New Delhi" (People's Democracy, April 3, 2005). So, instead of demanding total repeal of the Act, they decided to offer a safe passage to the Bill after making their Congress friends agree to certain cosmetic changes in the draft purported to play to the gallery. To defend their action, the CPI(M) leaders argued that "If the left had rejected the ordinance and referred it to the Parliamentary Committee, the chances are that the BJP and Congress would have combined. Therefore, the only window of opportunity of extracting concessions from the UPA government was in passing an Amended Patent Act" (People's Democracy, April 3, 2005). So to frustrate a possible (!) alliance of two most trusted political outfits of the ruling bourgeoisie, the CPI(M) does not consider it unethical or treacherous to have to extend support to get an out and out anti-people law to be promulgated. And what about the "concessions" they claim to have extracted from the Congress? The twelve amendments suggested by the CPI(M) and its allies have been, according to the joint press communique issued by them on March 23, 2005, "an attempt to provide for the maximum safeguards in new Act making use of flexibilities available in the TRIPS agreement" and incorporation of 10 out of these 12 amendments in the draft has been a "major advance for those who have been campaigning for the safeguarding of national interests." (Peoples Democracy,

March 21-27, 2005)

What are these "flexibilities" the CPI(M) leadership is so vocal about? Are they of any relevance to the people's interest in thwarting an imperialist design to tighten the economic noose on the neck?

In a ministerial meeting held in Doha, Qatar, in 2001, some of the developing countries tried best to see that the provisions of TRIPS are not so onerous as to effectively outlaw the generic production of new medicines in their countries. In fact, India, Brazil and Argentina tried to form an axis to bargain hard with the imperialist super powers albeit within the ambit of TRIPS and managed to secure some relaxations to forestall immediate exit of the respective domestic companies from the pharmaceutical industry. The initial draft of the Bill prepared by the Congress-led UPA, taking a cue from its predecessor, the BJP-led NDA, is stated to have omitted some of such relaxations. Also the original draft had provided for some measures over and above what was mandated by TRIPS and hence were called 'TRIPS plus measures'. Obviously this irked the indigenous drug manufacturers in India who tried to mount pressure on the government for suitable amendment. It is these flexibilities (!) and removal of TRIPS-plus measures" that the CPI(M) leadership has been referring to "as safeguarding of national interest" with a view to placating the domestic drug lobby for deriving political mileage in the vote-based power politics.

What by the by have been the iconoclastic amendments they boast of having made the Congress accept? Simply replacing the words "discovery" by "mere discovery", some definition changes of certain terms like "inventive step", "new invention" etc. But if the provision reads, "mere discovery of a new form of a known substance which does not result in the enhancement of a known efficacy" does it remove the inherent ambiguity? What is the difference between a "discovery" and a "mere discovery"? Who would determine what is "mere"? Similarly, if it is said that drugs produced and marketed by Indian drug companies before January 1, 2005 can be continued to be so produced by giving "reasonable royalty" to the patent holders, how

does it alter the position? Who will decide "reasonable royalty"? If the royalty claimed is 25%, will not the consumer bear this load in the form of phenomenally increased price. Similar ambiguities lie with terms "inventive step", "economic significance", "pharmaceutical substances" etc. Moreover, many such new definitions are not found in the operative sections of the Act. Then what are these except some phraseological gimmicks? Significantly, two of the proposed amendments, which were found to be contentious from the perspective of TRIPS stipulations, were not accepted by the government. These two issues one relating to patenting of micro-organisms and the other pertaining to grant of patent of "a new entity involving one or more inventive steps or a new chemical entity" have been referred to a 5-member expert committee headed by one Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, a staunch proponent of the new patent regime. So in what way have these amendments been materially alter the intent and purpose of this black Act and lead credence to such claim by the CPI(M) and its allies?

Curiously enough, the CPI(M) leadership is yet to decide on the issue of "flexibility" either. "...The TRIPS agreement itself places severe limitations on our ability to enact national legislations that address public interest ... the ultimate aim should be to overturn the TRIPS agreement and bring it out of WTO" opines the CPI (M) leadership (People's Democracy, March 27, 2005). At the same breadth it says it will "continue to apply pressure on the government through mass mobilization to balance its position on IPRs (Intellectual Property Rights) in favour of the Indian people" (Ibid). So is TRIPS, according to the CPI(M), "flexible" or "inflexible"? How can one balance the monopoly rights and control with the public interest? In what way TRIPS which is an integral part of WTO, be brought out of it? Absurdity par excellence! Do the CPI(M) leaders think that the people are so fool, so ignorant, as to be taken for a ride? Will such verbal acrobatics help them cover the palpable anti-people act of allowing a safe passage to black Patents (Amendment) Act when public opinion demanded the Bill to

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# Party Foundation Day Observed

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minimum daily consumptible articles in people's life be provided within the reach of their purchasing power? Do the common people have free access to education and health-care? Do the students and youths reflect in their daily life any semblance of democratic norm and values? Do the womenfolk in our country feel secure and lead a life with dignity? In the yardstick of appropriate response to all these vital issues in people's life and livelihood, one has to judge the ground reality of the development process going on in the society.

Unmasking the nature and character of much vaunted slogan of development, Comrade Ghosh brought out how hollow and deceptive the clamour for development was. He went on saying: Central government have already retrenched lakhs of workers-employees while another equal number of vacant posts have been abolished. Alongside, under CPI(M)-led front government in West Bengal, thousands of factories have been closed down out of a few more registered during this period. In the process of industrial development – CPI(M) style, about 13 lakh working people were thrown out of employment while merely 43,275 new jobs were created, more than one and a half lakh vacant posts have been abolished and many more of it is in the offing! In 1984-85, landless peasants stood at 29.6 per cent, it rose by 1999 to as high as 49.8%. And a conservative estimate puts it now in 2005 to 60%. As against this dismal picture of part of people's life, 100 domestic big monopoly houses in collaboration with MNCs increased their share of profit by 41%, the IT giant Wipro to 58%.

Thousands of rural destitute people are flocking the cities for a job to eke out anyhow a sub-human life. The UPA government at the Centre led by Congress and backed by CPM-Front government that promised 100 days' work for the jobless village people and that too, in some selected districts left them in the lurch for the rest 265 days of a year! A cruel joke indeed! One can fathom to what a vast extent people of India go to the bed without food from the UNO statistics. It says, 23 crore 30 lakhs people live without food. Alongside, 28 crores of people live below poverty line. And last not the least, being trapped in debt-

burden, thousands and thousands of poor and marginal peasants commit suicide during the last few years. In such a horrible state of affairs, election oriented bourgeois parties like the Congress, BJP or its ilk flaunt the slogan of development of the country in order to hide the real face of the blueprint of development process at work in the country. Regrettably, the CPI(M)-CPI in their bid to outdo the branded bourgeois outfits have joined this bandwagon.

Turning to dismantling of the former socialist camp, Comrade Ghosh pointed out: Citing this reversal, the imperialist-capitalist global media raked up massive offensives to prove that, that reversal itself was a sure proof that Marxism-Leninism had outlived its social utility. This unceasing hate campaign against the nobility of Communism could continue thanks to glaring ideological bankruptcy of the international communist movement. This 'failure' only demonstrates the truth that genuine communists had known since Marx's own time. That is to say, it was quite possible for a genuine Marxist Party to degenerate into a revisionist party. But it is not inevitable. Hence, eclipse of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Camp led by it does not, in any way, confirm 'failure' of Marxism-Leninism. Can any sane person accuse medical science of being degenerated into a speculative subject simply because a patient died of 'failure' of a physician to diagnose true nature of ailment and consequently the treatment meted out properly, asked Comrade Ghosh! The real essence of Marxism does not lie on economic and political doctrine alone, it's a comprehensive world outlook which helps to discover truth in every domain of life, to lead oppressed people to their struggle for real progress and freedom, Comrade Ghosh concluded.

## Assam

The foundation day was observed in Assam through a huge mass meeting in the Vishnu Nirmala Bhawan at Guwahati, with hundreds of party workers, supporters, sympathizers and common people. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Siddheswar Sharma, veteran member of Assam State Committee and was addressed by Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member, Central Committee.



*Comrade Ranjit Dhar addressing at Party Foundation Day Meeting in Jamalpur, Bihar*

In his speech, after elaborating step by step how and in which situation Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat founded the SUCI and built it up as the only genuine communist party in India, he said in reference to the present international situation after the fall of the USSR and the socialist camp as a whole, that the imperialists, particularly the US imperialist have let loose unbridled aggression on and despotic interferences on other country's sovereignty. Countries are now terror stricken by the imperialist threat of the US war-mongers and are meekly surrendering to its neo-colonialism. The developing capitalist countries have lost all their bargaining capacity with the US imperialism which they could exert in presence of the strong socialist states. The Indian ruling monopoly capitalist class with a view to entering world capitalist market is now toeing with the US imperialists and helping them to further their colonial interests in all respects in this country. Same is the case in all relatively weaker capitalist countries. He observed, this hapless world situation has been created due to the renunciation of the revolutionary ideals of Marxism-Leninism, which had once ushered in the objective situation of world proletarian revolution, by the revisionist leadership in the post-Stalin-Mao era. But there is also a ray of hope. In different countries including the USA itself, mass discontent is surging forth. But if genuine communist parties based on the revolutionary kernel of Marxism-Leninism are formed anew in different countries and they give birth to mass upheaval then such

mighty people's upsurge throughout the world would again corner the US imperialism and accomplish revolution in countries after countries.

Coming to the question of the particular political situation in Assam, Comrade Bhattacharyya pointed out that during the freedom struggle the martyrdom of one Kusal Kuor and one Kanaklata created intense mass upsurge throughout the state, but laying down of life more than 5000 youths under the leadership of the ULFA could not rouse the masses at all. Why? This reality has again vindicated the truth that the mass movement, however much there be the sacrifice, if it is not guided by a correct base political line cannot lead the people to their emancipation. Lastly, he appealed to people to build up mighty peoples' movement in the line as taught by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and thus make SUCI stronger.

Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury, Secretary, Assam State Committee of the party, in his speech urged to build up movement against the fanatic, parochialist and communal forces which are out to wreak the struggling unity of the people.

## Bihar

On the occasion of the party foundation day on 24 April, a well decorated procession was taken out at Jamalpur, Munghyr district, Bihar, with a large number of peasants, workers, students, youths and womenfolk enthusiastically participating in it. It was led by Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, Comrade Deepak Kumar and other leaders of state and district. The procession ended in a meeting at

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Arya Bharati Uchcha Vidyalaya, Jamalpur which was presided over by Comrade Shiv Shankar, Secretary, Bihar State Committee, SUCI. Comrade Ranjit Dhar addressed the meeting as the main speaker. The meeting started with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the beloved leader, teacher and the founder General Secretary of the party. Two minute silence was observed in memory of departed comrades, Comrade Bhoju Singh, Comrade Sourav Bose, Comrade Renupada Halder and other comrades who died of illness as well as the comrades who died martyrs' death.

Speaking on the occasion Comrade Ranjit Dhar discussed the painstaking struggle waged by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and a handful of his compatriots at the time of party formation. Comrade Dhar urged upon the leaders, workers and supporters of the party to engage themselves in mass movements, organize every section of working people and acquire a good communist character in order to accomplish the tasks of anti-capitalist socialist revolution in the country. The meeting ended with the *Internationale*.

## Tripura

The 57th anniversary of our beloved party was observed with due solemnity through a mass meeting at Agartala in Tripura on 24 April. Comrade Malin Debverma, who presided over the meeting narrated the present political scenario of the state and revolutionary role played by the SUCI. Comrade Prativa Mukherjee, Central Staff and a distinguished mass leader, in course of her speech said:

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the

departed leader, teacher and an eminent Marxist thinker and philosopher of this epoch, who joined and associated himself with the uncompromising trend of the then anti-British liberation struggle could visualize the fruits of the liberation movement being usurped by the native capitalist class. This could so happen due to absence of a genuine working class leadership. The moment Comrade Ghosh could realize this all-important aspect, he felt the imperative necessity of founding a party of the Indian proletariat for their ultimate emancipation from the yoke of all sorts of exploitation of man by man. Out of this realization emerged the Socialist Unity Centre of India, the only genuine communist party on Indian soil. Since Comrade Ghosh bequeathed his best creation in life, the SUCI under the leadership of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the closest comrade-in-arms of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the organizational influence has spread far and wide. The SUCI has now appeared singlehandedly as the crusher against the anti-people, pro-monopoly policies and measures of the Central and the State governments. As part and parcel of moribund international capital, the Indian ruling class have entered the GATT and WTO, the tools of neo-colonial exploitation. Europe and America today are in the vortex of anti-imperialist movements. Based on revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, anti-imperialist platform was founded in Calcutta convened by our party. Selected works of Comrade Ghosh are also coming out in different languages in Europe, Latin America and elsewhere.

## Gujarat

The Gujarat State Organizing Committee observed the 57th Anniversary of our party through a public meeting held at Vadodara. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Central Staff, addressed the gathering as the main speaker with Comrade Bharat Mehta, member State Organizing Committee presiding over.

Elaborating the

reason behind Comrade Shibdas Ghosh building up the SUCI as the correct revolutionary party on Indian soil and analyzing the present political situation of the country and the role of the SUCI in that context, Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee pointed out that production under capitalist system aims at profit, in utter disregard of the plight of the masses. To maximize profit, the capitalists set up capital intensive industries instead of labour-intensive industries and due to this young boys and girls cannot secure jobs. She added that all the parties, be it the Congress which has ruled the country for forty years or the NDA headed by the BJP are only serving the interest of monopolists like Tata, Birla, Ambani etc. Even the so-called communist parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) which are in reality social democratic parties playing the compromising role between labour and capital, support the UPA government headed by the Congress and its anti-people policies.

She appealed to all the right-thinking people of the state to support the only genuine Communist Party, the SUCI which is making all-out efforts to organize mighty democratic movements against the Central and state governments on the legitimate demands of the people and burning problems in their life. She asserted that it was the only way to emancipation of the people from exploitation, oppression and suppression paving thereby the way to establish socialism.

Comrade Dwarika Nath Rath, Secretary, Gujarat State Organizing Committee, Comrade Tapan Das Gupta, in-charge Vadodara Unit, Comrade Ram Bharat Mehta, in-charge, Surat unit and Comrade Joyesh Patel, President, AIDS and member, State Organizing



Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee addressing at Party Foundation Day Meeting in Gujarat : Comrade Dwarika Nath Rath sitting to her left

Committee were among the other speakers.

## Tamilnadu

The Tamilnadu State Organizing Committee held a public meeting at Tana Street, Purusaiwakkam, in Chennai on April 24 to observe the 57th Anniversary of the Party



Comrade C. K. Lukose addressing at Party Foundation Day Meeting in Tamilnadu

Foundation Day. The meeting was well attended with participants from different districts of the state.

Comrade C K Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee of the Party, was the main speaker. Comrade S Narayanasamy, member, Tamilnadu State Organizing Committee and Secretary, Chennai District Organizing Committee presided over the meeting. Comrade R Jeyapaul, member, Tamilnadu State Organizing Committee, translated Comrade Lukose's speech into Tamil.

Comrade C K Lukose spoke of how the SUCI was founded by the great leader of the proletariat, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, when he found that the then united CPI was not a communist party. Comrade Ghosh had built the SUCI up brick by

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Comrade Prativa Mukherjee addressing at Party Foundation Day Meeting in Agartala, Tripura

# Free workers' movement from revisionism, reformism to set it on Marxism-Leninism

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ardour of youth" (Lenin). He drafted the notice for a Congress which was signed by all the eminent socialist leaders in Europe. It was the most representative assembly of the socialist forces so far in the history of the International Working Class movement, as against a vain attempt of the reformist forces to stage an International Labour Conference.

The Congress, held in 1889, gave birth to the Second International led by Engels, which adopted the historic resolution declaring First May as the International Working Class Solidarity Day and called upon workers and socialists of all countries to observe the Day through holding of strike, demonstration, and its like as it would be feasible for each country, with the immediate demand for eight-hour work per day and ultimate aim of overthrowing bourgeoisdom. This Congress further urged, "Labour and the whole of mankind can only be emancipated by proletariat organized as a class also on an international scale, which must win political power in order to expropriate capital and convert the means of production into public property."

Time by then had ripened; the message of May Day had reached far and wide; it swept across the globe like a 'prairie fire'. Celebration of May Day with all solemnity started, since 1890, not as a mere holiday, but everywhere throughout Europe and America with fighting vigour. In the USA many unions observed the Day with a general strike while in Germany the workers observed the Day defying anti-socialist laws in vogue. Chicago along with New York celebrated the Day parading the streets in demonstration in thousands upon thousands of workers. The French, Hungarian and Austrian leaders observed the Day with resorting to strike struggle on the Day. As per decision, the British Labour Party and the German Social Democratic leaders celebrated the historic event by organizing demonstrations on May 4, in which Engels himself participated in London together with communist leaders from France, Britain, Germany and Russia and others. Along with these leaders, Engels addressed the huge gathering. "As

far as the eye could reach there was an ocean of heads, 250 to 300 thousand people were there, out of whom more than three-quarters were also demonstrating workers. ... What wouldn't I give for Marx to see this awakening." (Letter to Bebel). Drawing conclusion on their compiled articles on Britain, Engels commented on the significance of observing May Day as a single united international programme thus: "The May Day celebration of the proletariat was epoch-making not only in its universal character, which made it the first international action of the militant working class. It also served to register most gratifying advance in various countries." (Articles on Britain - Marx & Engels). Engels summed up the experience of all these spectacular developments in the arena of international working class movement in the following concluding words of the Preface to the Fourth German edition of the Manifesto of the Communist Party, on May 1, 1890: "Workingmen of all countries, unite!" But few voices responded when we proclaimed these words to the workers forty-two years ago. ... But ... today, as I write these lines, the European and American proletariat is reviewing its fighting forces, mobilized for the first time, as one army, under one flag, for one immediate aim: the standard eight-hour working day, to be established by legal enactment. ... And today's spectacle will open the eyes of the capitalists and landlords of all countries to the fact that today the workingmen of all countries are united indeed." And he exclaimed, once more, with a deep sigh: "If only Marx were still by my side to see this with his own eyes!" At the Second Congress in Brussels in 1891 the Second International reiterating the original demand of May Day added further demand for improving working conditions of the workers and ensure peace among nations. In order to provide thrust on the main political objective of the working class, Engels in his anxiety to bring to the fore, in the deepening of the class struggle following the May Day, took another resolution over the original one on May Day in the Zurich Congress in 1893: "The demonstration on May First for

the eight-hour day must serve at the same time as a demonstration of determined will of the working class to destroy class distinctions through social change and thus enter on the road, the only road leading to peace for all peoples, to international peace." (History of May Day).

Subsequent development centring round twists and turns of events in the following years, point out that owing to growth of opportunist trends within the working class movement, the May Day objectives were not carried out seriously by all concerned. The reformist leaders in various countries tried to "devalue" the May Day demonstrations by turning the Day into one of rest and recreation. With Engel's death in 1895, the trend grew stronger and the International Workers movement was in a crying need for the emergence of a new and able leadership to salvage the dignity and importance of the May Day, as also the working class movement in general, from the clutches of reformism and other deviations of Marxism.

## Mission realized in Soviet Union under Lenin and then Stalin

Lenin, the worthy continuator of Marx and Engels, assumed this responsibility. Fighting against the two trends - the opportunist and recreational approach, he called upon workers to realize the significance of the May Day. In an appeal to workers, he added "Let us then prepare with redoubled energy for the decisive battle that is at hand! ... Let the celebration of May Day with thousands of new fighters to our cause and swell our forces in the great struggle for the freedom of all the people, for the liberation of all who toil, from the yoke of capital!" (May Day: Col. Works : Vol.7) His appeal was never a mere verbosity! Following the path charted out by Marx and Engels, the Bolshevik Party, the party of the Russian proletariat, under Lenin's leadership moved further ahead to lead the Russian revolution to success. This great victory of the proletariat founded the world's first socialist state overthrowing capitalism-imperialism there. It thus established the nobility and

invincibility of Marxism-Leninism. At the same time it established concretely before workers of Russia as well as of the world, the significance of the communist party as the invincible weapon to the working class. Necessity of establishing political-ideological leadership of this party over the trade union movement was undeniably confirmed. The Russian revolution thus reiterated the teachings of Marx-Engels that workers' movement for their life and livelihood, their trade union movement hinged on the revolutionary movement for emancipation from class exploitation. But it was far from the end. The new-born state was endangered by the reaction from the routed exploiters inside Russia, as well as the world capitalism-imperialism outside and encircling it. First with Lenin at the helm, and then with Stalin taking up the rein ably and confidently, the Soviet Union withstood all deviations and attacks from within and without. Overcoming barbarous attacks and consequent huge losses of human life and devastation of economy, perpetrated by the fascist Germany acting with overt and covert supports and approvals from all the other big imperialist powers, like England, France or the USA against the Soviet Union, the latter under Stalin emerged victorious in the Second World War. One third of the world was freed of capitalist shackles to emerge as the socialist camp, a mighty opponent of the world capitalist camp. Added to this, was the large number of former colonies and semi-colonies, that earned independence with victory in their long-fought battles against imperialism. All this hastened up the ever-increasing market crisis of capitalism-imperialism further. The decadent system tottered like anything. The world itself, as it appeared, was knocking at the door of revolution. The international situation thus released immense inspiration and initiative to the working class movement of different countries of the world. New dimensions, new potentialities were opened to it. Workers of all the countries of the world were now ebullient to look ahead to have their dreams fulfilled. Working class parties were founded in one country after another; the working class movement gained momentum every day. Vast masses of the toiling people in every capitalist country, big or small, were drawn into

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# Long Live Historic May Day

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militant trade union movement; the owners, the capitalists-imperialists were compelled to give in to the mounting pressure of the workers' movement. Demands were realized; newer and newer rights were earned. Trade unions rose to the status of vital social force, powerful weapon to the workers, their proud possession. May Day no longer was looked upon, as it had become a few years back, as an annual ritual, a holiday in spring. It again assumed its glorious distinction as the red letter day of international solidarity of workers in their struggle against fascism, against capitalism-imperialism.

## Modern revisionism paved way to capitalism-imperialism launch renewed attack on workers' movement

However, after the sudden demise of Stalin, as Khrushchev usurped power in the leadership of Soviet Union and its communist party, modern revisionism raised its ugly head. Noting the ominous signatures right from the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CPSU, in which Khrushchev came to power, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the eminent Marxist thinker of the post- Lenin days and the founder General Secretary of SUCI, the revolutionary party of India, warned communists of the world with the words that if not properly combated, it would 'open the floodgate of revisionism', a warning that was proven correct in the long tragic history of working class movement of the world. Taking advantage of a general lowering of ideological standard and a trend of mechanical process of thinking in the international communist movement, modern revisionism not only challenged the authority of Stalin. By doing so it actually undermined the nobility and dynamism of Marxism-Leninism; it initiated the pernicious trends of reformism –constitutionalism in communist parties of different countries of the world. In absence of a proper ideological struggle that was to be conducted by the international communist leadership, this spate of

revisionism gradually, through years, swamped the revolutionary movement, and with it also the trade union movement in one country after another, corroded their vitality. Rise of reaction that started with this advent and spread of modern revisionism, reached its height with the debacle of the socialist camp. Capitalist counter-revolution swamped Soviet Russia and East European countries and thereafter China. Led by the US imperialism, the imperialists launched fresh and intense attack on the world without socialist camp, the so-called unipolar world of theirs. In the economic field, it ventured to rein the entire global market under its capitalist-imperialist exploitation from behind the smokescreen of the newly hyped slogans of denationalization of economy, slogans of globalization-liberalization. To the workers and the vast masses of toiling people, they only meant rampant closure, lay-off, merger and downsizing, consequent fast rising unemployment – underemployment - wage-freeze, rocketing price-hike, miserable fall in standard and security of life and livelihood, in one and all countries of the world, not excluding so-called affluent powerful imperialist countries. At the same time, to ensure their rule and exploitation and to smash workers' strength and scope to offer resistance to it, capitalists-imperialists of each and every country took up this opportunity to strike at the working class movement, once for all. One after another, the hard-earned rights of workers and the common toiling people, the trade union and democratic rights were snatched away. Through continuous hate-campaign, communists that were still operative in different countries and

the international working class movement itself were pushed to complete disarray and confusion. In cases it even amounted to capitulation to the enemy, capitalism-imperialism. Peace-loving people of the world, even the progressives, fell victim to the imperialist campaign and started to believe that it was the capitalism-imperialism that was going to decide the destiny of mankind, the future of the civilization. May Day, the day of indelible glory to the workers, also tended to lose its importance and fervour in the ambience of frustration, confusion and capitulation to bourgeois opportunism-consumerism.

But the inexorable laws of social contradictions and development were also there. Under the pressure of mounting exploitation, deprivation and insecurity in the moribund capitalist-imperialist world order, yet ripping apart the veil of globalization-liberalization, the latest manoeuvre from a decadent system awaiting its final downfall, working people of the world were again rising, this time more and more cautious and conscious of the pernicious role that the modern revisionism had played to help capitalism-imperialism strike back through counter revolution. Side by side it is being made clear once more that workers' movement, of which the observance of May Day with full dignity and purposiveness forms an inalienable part, depended undeniably on a single, irrepressible truth. It was that, Marxism-Leninism, the revolutionary ideology of the proletariat is the only invincible weapon to the working class, that stands in their stead, that guides them to struggle for truth, peace and progress, that teaches them to live with dignity, honour and lofty ideals

with the carnal of the highest standard of morality, ethics and culture, reached by humanity till this date. Whenever there were attacks on it from within, whenever workers missed that their movement, their trade unions were really the schools of communism to make them steeled with the class struggle to develop as worthy revolutionary fighters, whenever reformism, revisionism, opportunism, adventurism and such other deviations could make inroad into the workers' movement, the latter lost its direction and soul. The inherent contradictions between labour and capital in the capitalist-imperialist society might have brought the movement again on its feet, but only after irreparable damages and losses.

Hence, SUCI, armed with Marxism-Leninism and the invaluable teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, feels it from its proletarian internationalist obligation to reiterate the revolutionary call, that the great leaders of the proletariat have always raised: On the occasion of this 120<sup>th</sup> historic May Day, the workers all over the world must unite to take pledge to revitalize the fighting fervour of the May Day. They must rise up with newer zeal and be equal to the task of building up genuine revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party in each and every country of world to lead even the workers' trade union movements in each respective soil in the correct path to ever-increasing height and intensity. This is the only approach to inflict the mortal blow to the exploitative world system of capitalism-imperialism! This is the only worthy tribute to those workers who laid their valuable lives some 120 years ago for the cause of the community! This is the only worthy way to observe the historic May Day !

### Corrigendum

In the last issue of *Proletarian Era* dt. 15.04.05 in 10th line from the bottom, col. 1 of page 2 please read 'transferred' and 'including' in 6th line from bottom, col. 1 in page 4 respectively as 'transformed' and 'indulging'. We regret for the error.

– Ed. *Proletarian Era*



*A portion of the huge gathering at Party Foundation Day Meeting in Kerala. (News on page 8)*

## A leading organizer of SUCI and Member, Nadia District Committee Comrade Milan Mazumder passes away

Comrade Milan Mazumdar, Member, SUCI, Nadia District Committee and UTUC-Lenin Sarani, West Bengal State Committee, breathed his last on April 17 at Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital after suffering from severe infection of the lungs. He was 66. The news of sudden death of Comrade Mazumdar brought in deep grief among the party activists and supporters, particularly of the Nadia District. The red flag was half-mast and the comrades wore black badges as a mark of respect for the departed comrade. In Calcutta wreathes were placed on his body by the SUCI leaders including Comrade Provash Ghosh, Member, Central Committee and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, Comrade Asit Bhattacharya, Member, Central Committee, Comrade Chhaya Mukerjee, Central Staff and President, All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan, Comrade Shankar Saha, Member, West Bengal State Committee SUCI and State Secretary, UTUC-Lenin Sarani, Comrade Sujit Bhattachali, Member, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI, Comrade

Mahuddin Mannan, Member, Nadia District Committee, SUCI and one of the All India Vice-Presidents of AIDS.

Mortal remains of Comrade Mazumdar were then brought to Bethuadahri of Nadia District which formed one of the most important areas of his organizational activities. From there they were brought to Nadia District Office of Krishnanagar and then to Nawadwip Burning Ghat for the last rites. At every place, thousands of people in addition to the numerous members and supporters of the party rushed to have the last glimpse of their beloved departed leader. Different leaders of the Nadia District Committee and different local committees of the party as well as of the district mass organizations paid tribute to Comrade Mazumdar placing wreathes on his remains. Members of other political parties and their mass organizations also paid respect to late Comrade



Mazumdar.

Born in Kumilla of the present Bangladesh, Comrade Mazumdar migrated first to Tripura and then to Nadia of West Bengal after partition. He was associated with political activities since 1968 as a leading organizer of students' movement in the Beldanga College of Murshidabad district. By way of this association he came in touch with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and utilizing his connections developed through students' movement he took initiative to build up organization of the SUCI in Nakashipara, Tehatta and Kaligunge areas of Nadia. For the purpose, he ran from this end to that of the area, visiting almost every family of the villages and establishing a deep and intimate relation with the common poor people standing by them at their every difficulty and necessity. He had a particular ability to impress upon and attract people to politics of

the party and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Thoughts without going into elaborate theoretical discussions. Thus he could build up party and mass organizations, including trade unions among the poor village folk and unorganized workers of different sectors.

Unbound loyalty to the necessity and the leadership of the party, was virtually inborn to Comrade Mazumdar. Not only did he take up any and every responsibility assigned to him by the party, he took all initiative for utilizing the slightest opportunity of building the organization in situations however difficult they may appear. Thus, himself urging upon the party leadership, he took up the responsibility of building the party organization in Tripura, developing on the very meager connections made during the flood relief campaign in Tripura in 1980. With the premature demise of Comrade Milan Mazumdar, the party loses an honest and sincere organizer dedicated to the party and revolution.

**Red Salute to  
Comrade Milan Mazumdar !**

## Party Foundation Day Observed

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brick as the genuine communist party in the country, concretizing Marxism on Indian soil, showing the correct path for the emancipation of toiling masses. Comrade Ghosh had so enriched and contributed to the treasure house of Marxism that today, even after his death, and, even in this painful juncture, when the socialist camp and socialism had suffered a painful setback, it is Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Thought that could provide the correct line for the struggle of the proletariat of India and the world to emerge from this present impasse and setback. He said that the Party continues the legacy of Comrade Ghosh under the leadership of his compatriot, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, the present General Secretary of the Party.

In Theni, a district level meeting was also held.

### Kerala

"Through the long 57 years of struggle, SUCI has established itself as the only fighting party of the

exploited people throughout the length and breadth of our country", said Comrade C. K. Lukose, the Kerala State Secretary of our party deliberating as the main speaker in the mass meeting held at Press Club Maidan, Kollam on 25th April observing the 57th Foundation Anniversary of our party. "Once the imperative necessity of a genuine working class party in our soil for the emancipation of the toiling millions was clearly felt by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder, teacher and guide of SUCI, he took upon himself that Herculean task with just a handful of his compatriots. Today history has unmistakably vindicated all the basic reasons and analyses upon which SUCI was formed. Comrade Ghosh had shown that the Indian national bourgeoisie who has taken over the reign from foreign imperialists could only intensify crisis in all fields of life. The present picture of the country amply proves this scientific analysis. And he had shown that the party known as communist in this country, the CPI

and later its various fractions are pseudo communists – it being a petty bourgeois party only. Today, nakedly joining with Congress at the Centre and implementing all the globalization policies – policies which are meant for extending the lease of life of capitalism, they – CPI(M), CPI etc. – have proved it beyond any doubt", Comrade Lukose explained. "Concretizing Marxism-Leninism in Indian soil, Comrade Ghosh not only emerged as an outstanding Communist philosopher, but has contributed immensely to the treasure-house of Marxism-Leninism to the extent that the present painful setbacks in the international working class movement can find its real solutions in the thoughts of Comrade Ghosh", Comrade Lukose added.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade. A. Jalaluddin, Kerala State President of UTUC-LS. Comrade V. Venugopal, secretariat member and Comrade Jyothikrishnan Kollam district secretary of the party also spoke.

## Sheer Opportunism is now the mainstay of CPI(M)

*Contd. from page 3*

be opposed and fail in the parliament? From all these camouflages and exercises in deception, can it be ruled out that there had been a tacit understanding between the Congress and the CPI (M) so that while the former could be bailed out, the latter benefited with an escape route?

There is no question of discovering flexibility (!) in TRIPS. The question is to oppose and expose the nefarious design of the world imperialism-capitalism operative through WTO, reject TRIPS lock, stock and barrel. All through our party has been demanding this. Government should be forced to concede to this just demand of the people by pressure of intensified democratic movement throughout the length and breadth of the country.

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