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58th Foundation Anniversary of SUCI

Observance across the country with pledge to strengthen the Party

With the ambience infused with media hype over Assembly elections being held in different states in different ends of the country and, taking place amidst the ever-increasing attack of the ruling capitalists on the toiling people, the 58th Foundation Anniversary of the SUCI, the revolutionary party of the soil was observed in precise befitting manner in all major states of the country. Instead of central programmes, in view of the particular prevailing situations, the anniversary was observed in different cities and towns. Everywhere, the response of the toiling people was marked by unprecedented enthusiasm and determination, with pledges to support this party of theirs, which alone now stands firmly by the people to build up their movements against all onslaughts, as the lone sentinel of people's cause. Below we publish a few reports, so far received by us.

58th Anniversary of Party Foundation was observed in a solemn and dignified manner on the April 24 morning at the Party Central Commune at Salt Lake, Calcutta. General Secretary of the

party, our beloved leader Comrade Nihar Mukherjee garlanded the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat and founder General Secretary of the party. Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta and Comrade Sitesh Dasgupta, Members, Central Committee of the party, and Comrade Mobinul Haider Chowdhury of Bangladesh Samajtrantik Dal paid floral tribute. They were followed by other members of the Commune. The observance was accompanied by rendition of the song composed on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the Internationale and the song on 24th April.

Bhubaneswar

A mass meeting was held at Bhubaneswar on April 25. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Binapani Dash, Member, Orissa State Committee, SUCI. Comrade Tapas Dutta, Member, Central Committee and Secretary, Orissa State Committee was the main speaker. He initiated the meeting by garlanding the portrait of Comrade



Comrade Nihar Mukherjee garlanding the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh at Salt Lake Commune

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CALL OF MAY DAY

May Day, the most glorious and hallowed name in the annals of history of struggle for emancipation from exploitation of man by man, has come back again, demanding of us to renew our pledge to carry forward the struggle to its logical culmination, braving all odds, surmounting all obstacles, arming and steeling ourselves with the invincible weapon of Marxism-Leninism, the noblest of all ideologies. 120 years back, on this very historic day in 1886, valiant workers of Chicago in USA, in course of their movement in demand of restricting daily working hours to 8 hours, confronted a bestial attack of the owning capitalists, laid their lives, shed their blood, held aloft their blood-soaked shirt to symbolize victory of their legitimate struggle. Since then Red Flag became the symbol of working class struggle against the onslaught and tyranny of the ruling bourgeoisie, the source of inspiration of the toiling myriads resolving to overthrow the exploitative rule of capital.

Not that it was an isolated event. Rather it occurred in sequence of the historic struggle that Marx and Engels, the great leaders of the proletariat who gave theoretical foundation and provided guide to action towards successful accomplishment of the noble ideology of Communism, spearheaded in 1866 by organizing working class movement in different countries under the banner of International Working Men's Association to force the capitalists reduce the daily working hours from 12 or 16 hours to 8. In 1886, Marx was no more to witness the historic event. But his compatriot great Engels carried through the spirit and in the first Congress of the Second International in 1889 declared May Day as the International Working Class Solidarity Day. Thus the historic significance of the gallant fight of the Chicago workers at the Hay Market on May 1, 1886, was brought to the fore by the International Communist Movement under great Engel's leadership and this gave a new

dimension to the surging working class movement round the globe. With successful accomplishment of first working class revolution in Russia under great Lenin's leadership, stupendous progress achieved in the process of consolidation of socialism in Soviet Union under the stewardship of great Stalin, and gradual establishment of socialism in one third of the globe including China under great Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh's Vietnam, Cuba, Korea, May Day became completely identified with the bold strides ahead of international communist movement.

But then occurred the setback. Following the conspiracy of the revisionists-reformists-renegades within working class movement, the mighty Socialist camp headed by USSR got dismantled and the overthrown bourgeoisie saddled in state power through counter-revolution. Counter-revolution was also

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AIADMK—DMK duel in Tamilnadu Assembly Poll

One opportunistic alliance to clinch victory — People to lose either way

The players

May 8, 2006 will see the people of Tamilnadu going to the polls to elect the members to the 13th Legislative Assembly in the state. Long before the formal notification of the polls, the cacophony of propaganda had begun. Apart from the mud-slinging, charges and counter-charges of misuse of public funds, the state's populace has been buffeted by alternate deluges of promises, sops and subsidies by the DMK and AIADMK alliances, two main contenders for power.

The ruling AIADMK has allied with the Marumalarchi Dravida Munetra Kazhagam (MDMK), the Dalit Panthers of India (DPI), a faction of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the Forward Block (breakaway Santhanam faction), the Indian National League, the Indian Union Muslim League (Tamilnadu), The Janata Dal (Secular), and the Moovendar Munnetra Kazhagam.

The DMK leads the Democratic Progressive Alliance (DPA) consisting of the Congress, the PMK, the CPI(M), the CPI and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML).

The BJP, the Janata Party and some smaller parties form a third and smaller alliance.

Projecting itself as the alternative to the AIADMK and DMK a new outfit, Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), founded by the film actor, Vijaykanth is also in the fray.

A few other small regional and caste-based parties complete the line-up.

As against all these alliances and combinations of regional outfits, big bourgeois parties, parochial and communal forces as well as pseudo-Marxists and their allies, desperate to secure a space in the corridor of power by hook or by crook, the SUCI, the genuine communist party on the soil founded by Com. Shibdas Ghosh, one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, is also contesting four seats on the basis of its revolutionary political line.

State's political scenario

Right from independence, the parties that ruled the state, have been consistently anti-people, have sought to divide the unity of the working

people on various lines. The AIADMK and the DMK have held power, almost alternately, in the state several times before, right from 1967, either singly or in alliance with the Congress, the CPI or the CPI(M). Parties like the MDMK, which broke away from the DMK, or the PMK, which was formed to represent the interests of a particular backward caste, as well as a number of other parties sprouted along the way to represent various interests. Today, while the AIADMK rules in the state, the so-called opposition at state level — the DMK, the PMK, the Congress and the CPI(M), CPI — are all part of the Congress-led UPA dispensation at the Centre. The MDMK has hitched its wagon to the AIADMK while still being part of the UPA at the Centre. It will be worth recollecting that Karunanidhi and his DMK was a constituent of the erstwhile BJP-led NDA government at the Centre while Jayalalitha and her AIADMK were in the Congress-led camp before the two switched allegiance before last parliamentary elections. The CPI who was once the major opposition in the state as well as the CPI(M) abused the confidence placed in them by the people as representatives of leftism by abandoning the task of building up people's movements and instead opting to attach themselves to either the DMK or AIADMK wagon in pursuit of electoral gains even if that be a few seats as crumbs from these regional bourgeois parties. They find the BJP communal, and support the Congress, at whatever cost to the interest of people and people's demands, forgetting the long and bloody communal trail the Congress has left in its path. The other day they along with the BJP supported V P Singh government at the Centre to keep the Congress out of power. The Congress is progressive to them in Tamilnadu but, anti-people in neighbouring Kerala. On issues between the states, like the Mullaiperiyar Dam between Kerala and Tamilnadu, and the Kaveri river water issue between Karnataka and Tamilnadu, the state organisations of these pseudo-Marxists vividly hold chauvinistic and totally opposite opinions.

This politics of opportunism of CPI(M), CPI did have serious

negative impact on development of left-democratic movement allowing chauvinists-regionalists to take the upper hand. The BJP which could not make a dent in the state's politics for a very long time despite the communal activities of the RSS in several parts of the state against minorities, till Jayalalitha let it in. Similarly, the Congress utterly discredited is now being reinstalled by the DMK-CPI(M)-CPI.

Domination of film personalities

Then, there is the role played by the film world in Tamilnadu politics. All Chief Ministers from Annadurai to Karunanidhi to MG Ramachandran to Jayalalitha were all personalities in Tamil film world. Apart from the film stars who campaign for each side, some of the newer aspirants too are from the film world. The massively popular actor Rajnikanth was expected to make apolitical impact but has decided discretion to be the better part of valour. Another popular actor, Vijaykanth, has floated the DMDK and entered the fray, projecting himself as an alternative to the DMK and AIADMK. The newly appointed president of the Forward Block in Tamilnadu is also a known actor. While they may not get to wield power or even win any seats, they definitely use their charisma to influence the voters. They are projected before the younger generation as role models. So this film world glamour is widely drawn upon by the vote-based parties to keep people's attention away from the pertinent political questions and restrict people's choice among the forces propped up by the ruling bourgeoisie.

Holding out routine promises

The ruling AIADMK and the opposition DMK, if their election manifestos are to be believed, promise to do in the next 5 years, what they or the Congress and other parties which had ruled or shared power in Tamilnadu had not been able to do.

The DMK, if elected, promises to provide PDS rice at Rs. 2 per kg, free colour televisions to those who do not have one, free gas stoves to poor women, Rs1000 a month for six months to pregnant women, two

acres of land to landless peasants (from the 55 lakh acres of wasteland supposed to be there in the state). The DMK manifesto is, so to say, full of incredulity, ridicule and innuendo. Then comes the counter-offer from the AIADMK — PDS (Public Distribution System) card-holders would get the first 10 kg of rice free, the next 10 kg at Rs3.50 per kg. The new pretender to power, the DMDK, promises even more rice that would be delivered at each doorstep! The Congress, the PMK, the CPI and CPI(M) spring to the defence of the DMK, praise its leader, M Karunanidhi's administrative acumen.

The politics about promising sops and freebies to the people expresses the depths of political opportunism of all these parties. Holding out false promises and throwing sops is not only an affront to the people but a well calculated move to make them vulnerable to favour seeking, crumb solicitation and succumb to greed. If the people could be made to degrade themselves to this level, the power brokers feel comfortable in working out their stratagem.

Opportunism is sole unifying factor of power-seekers

All these parties have no other way to as they hardly have any essential difference in policy matters. If they mouth any ideology, it is in name only, to deceive the people in general, or keeping in mind the composition of the constituencies they decide to contest from. And to ride to power, they freely pander to casteist or communal feelings, incite narrow sectarian passion. They are very creative (!) when it comes to labels to describe their opportunistic alliances, or what some prefer to call, 'natural alliances'. Labels of revolutionary, progressive, united, democratic, left, and secular are freely and shamelessly used as prefixes. In the process the original meaning of these concepts are diluted and distorted. Yesterday's enemy becomes today's friend, yesterday's friend today's enemy. The lone and sole consideration is electoral arithmetic, and common characteristic is trampling underfoot

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TAMILNADU ASSEMBLY POLL

Pro-capitalist policies wreak havoc in people's life*Contd. from page 2*

all scruples for grabbing power, for a seat here, a ministry or office there.

The MDMK, which is part of the UPA government at the Centre, is today with the AIADMK in the state, and sees no incongruity in the situation. In the game of shifting allegiance, doublespeak and volte-face, the CPI(M), CPI distinctly score over others. In a single-minded pursuit of a share in power, they have no qualms in the policy of horses for courses. The DMK and AIADMK are alternately dubbed as progressive or reactionary, depending on how big a slice of the electoral pie, if any, is conceded to them by either of these regional-chauvinist parties.

The arithmetic of alliance politics has had repercussions within party circles, with dissension raising its head in almost every party, including the pseudo-Marxists.

Pro-globalization, anti-people

None of these parties are spelling out any definite policies or programmes for alleviation of the burning problems afflicting the life of different sections of the people in the state groaning under the yoke of ruthless capitalist exploitation. Particularly after introduction of globalisation, the latest economic doctrine of the crisis-ridden Imperialism-Capitalism, undeterred in the absence of mighty socialist camp, to provide extra lease of life to its moribund class rule, the situation has worsened further making it impossible for the common people to manage bare subsistence.

As everyone is aware, both the Congress and the BJP, as most trusted representatives of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie, are unapologetic votaries of the policies of capitalist globalization, privatization and liberalization. It was under Narasimha Rao, that the then Finance Minister and present Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, ably assisted by the present Finance Minister P Chidambaram, started implementation of the policies of capitalist globalization in the name of economic liberalization. It was pretended that globalization was a kind of panacea that would remove all penury and misery, take the country on a path of development to shower nothing but prosperity and more prosperity on the people.

Prosperity has indeed come but not to the toiling millions back-broken by sustained savage mounting economic onslaught but the monopolists, business tycoons, MNCs and their servitors. The devastation and wretchedness these policies have wreaked are strewn around the country and the state of Tamilnadu has been no exception. The brazenly anti-people policies of globalization which the ruling Indian bourgeoisie as inalienable part of the crisis-ridden moribund world Imperialism-Capitalism has been vigorously pursuing through its political managers both at the Centre and in the states went full-throttle during the BJP-led NDA regime as well. The AIADMK, DMK, MDMK, PMK as well as the CPI(M), CPI, no matter what slogans they raise or in what colour they paint their flags, have been ardent followers of the very same policies of capitalist globalization both while running governments or donning the colour of opposition in their penchant for currying favour with the ruling class for pelf and power. The people of Tamilnadu have experienced the same during the rules of both DMK and AIADMK. The CPI(M), CPI, who have been alternating between Jayalalitha and Karunanidhi in forging alliance at the state level depending upon the electoral exigencies never made any effective protest against any of these policies of capitalist globalization by the state governments, either of DMK or AIADMK, save and except certain occasional feigning of opposition seemingly to play to the gallery and bolster poll prospect. Everyone is aware that in West Bengal, the CPI (M) is making no qualms in openly advocating and pursuing the policies of capitalist globalization and has already earned fulsome praise and secured total backing from the domestic and foreign monopolists for such a "wonderful job".

The Tamilnadu government, under the AIADMK, has been as high-handed and repressive in crushing people's legitimate movements. Striking transport employees were jailed, and government employees and teachers summarily dismissed when they went on strike to press for their long-standing legitimate demands, and even journalists were roughed up and hauled to courts. This

commitment to the 'advance and development of the state' earned her lavish praise from the corporate houses and the chambers of commerce and provided a handle to the judiciary in imposing a ban on strikes by the employees and workers. There is no reason to even nurture an iota of expectation that if DMK, now having tied knot with the Congress and the CPI (M), is returned to power, there would be any change in the situation as no party or combination subserving bourgeois class interest today can behave otherwise or remain free from the aberrations and maladies spawning from rotten capitalist system.

Limitless corruption devours parties subserving capitalism

Let us take the issue of rampant corruption and soaring malpractices that has been so common with the leaders of these parties. Every possible type of scams and wrong doings, abuse of power and swindling of public funds, from manipulation of stock market to dubious purchases of arms, from questionable land deals to pocketing cut money from realty projects, frauds and forgeries, are all available in their baskets. The people of Tamilnadu are well aware how one after another mega scams involving both AIADMK and DMK top brass unfolded in the state breaching the trust reposed in them by the people during elections. In fact, the current chief minister of the state has already earned the reputation (!) of being the 'corruption queen' of the country. The echelons in the hierarchy of the Congress, the BJP and others, are also not far behind. But what has shaken the confidence of the people in the political system, and more so in the judicial system is the fact that in most of the cases, the main perpetrators of the crimes or kingpins of corruption have gone unpunished or with a token slap on the wrist, at the most. Earlier, the leaders of these bourgeois parties used to nourish criminals and anti-socials to serve their political interest. Now, the criminals and anti-socials have virtually made it to the top rungs of these parties. Based on money, muscle and media power and resorting to all kinds of manipulations, these criminal elements manage to get elected to the legislatures and then exploit

their position as hot seat of power for self-aggrandizement caring a fib for the people rather grinding them under steam roller of oppression and suppression. This is no accident or anything isolated in the state. Ours is a capitalist system and capitalism today has become moribund, decadent and an obstacle before social progress. So in order to survive, it has become despotic, utterly corrupt. Hence, every political party or force serving moribund capitalism or working for preserving this decadent bourgeois system can not but be corrupt to the backbone, consigned to play ducks and drakes with the people.

Unemployment and further unemployment

Turning back to the state of affairs in Tamilnadu, we find that as usual on the eve of the polls, both AIADMK and DMK and their allies are talking of tackling unemployment. AIADMK leader has also promised 5 lakh jobs in the IT field, 2 lakh jobs in manufacture of various organic products in agriculture, and she has led the people to believe that the demand for these products would lead to creation of 32 lakh marketing jobs for youths and women in self-help groups with private participation. The DMK chief has also assured of filling up vacant government posts.

If anyone is naïve enough to believe that government vacancies would be filled up by whoever wins the next election, he will be sadly mistaken. The compulsions of the Indian and foreign capitalists, for whom the whole world is one market, and the World Bank, the agency world imperialism uses to bulldoze its globalisation policies through by forcing governments to stop or drastically cut public expenditure on social welfare and basic needs of people, have set an agenda by which lakhs of government jobs will be cut. So, whichever party comes to power, will have to follow the dictates of the ruling capitalist class, and, while some IT-related high profile and sophisticated jobs might be created here and there for a miniscule specially trained technical persons, the loss of jobs due to closure of 'unviable' factories and small scale and cottage industries will far outstrip in number.

One should not forget that it is

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Foundation Day pledge to strengthen the Party

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Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher and guide.

In his speech Comrade Tapas Dutta highlighted the arduous life struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh which started with his active participation in the revolutionary trend of the freedom movement during his school days. Soon, analysing thoroughly the impacts of different incidents of the freedom movement, he realized that it was being run under the leadership of aspirant Indian national bourgeoisie. So, he understood that the freedom might come but the emancipation would not be achieved. He observed that the party known as Communist Party of India (CPI) was giving only lip service to the working class. By that it maligned the noble ideology of Marxism and Leninism and betrayed the working class of India. Had there been a genuine Communist Party to organise the working class in India then the leadership of the freedom movement would have come to the hands of the working class. But due to the non-Marxist outlook of the CPI, the leadership went to the hands of the capitalist class.

This made Comrade Shibdas Ghosh feel the need to form a genuine Communist Party. He engaged himself in the painstaking ideological-political struggle covering all aspects of life with a handful of compatriots to form SUCI finally in the year 1948. And the Party he founded has now extended its organization to 22 states in India to-day.

Guwahati

In Assam, the State Committee of the party observed the day at Guwahati through a public meeting presided over by Comrade Siddheswar Sharma, veteran member of the State Committee. Comrade Asit Bhattacharya,

Member, Central Committee, SUCI, in his speech as the main speaker made a revealing analysis of the economic, political and cultural crisis prevailing in the country today. He highlighted that over and above this crisis, the ruling class is instigating parochialism, communalism and separatism, leading to divisiveness and disunity among the people, even in family relations. This situation has to be faced politically, if people are to get rid of the all-pervading crisis in their life.

In the 59 years since independence, there have been governments one after another. Yet, people's life has not changed, rather has worsened further. Comrade Bhattacharya pointed out that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had, way



Comrade Asit Bhattacharya addressing at Guwahati

back in 1948 while forming this party, forewarned that such would be the inevitable outcome unless the capitalist class which had usurped the sacrifice of the people in the freedom movement by capturing power was overthrown by revolution.

Comrade Bhattacharya called upon all sections of exploited and oppressed masses to develop mighty mass-movements on the vital problems of life on the base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution. He also said that no other party, save and except SUCI, is engaged in the struggle to uproot



Mass meeting at Bhubaneswar. (Inset) Comrade Tapas Dutta

capitalism. Despite their Marxist verbiage, CPI(M), CPI have now joined the bandwagon of bourgeois parties to serve the capitalists. For sheer parliamentary gains, they are even forming electoral combinations with parochial-separatist forces of Assam, much to the detriment of left movement. He stressed the need to strengthen the SUCI as the sole instrument of struggle of the exploited and oppressed masses.

Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury, Secretary, State Committee also addressed the meeting. Comrade Chandralekha Das, Member, State Committee, Assam expressed solidarity with the valiant struggle of people of Nepal for democracy and overthrow of monarchy.

Delhi

In Delhi, the observance meeting was on April 25. Comrade A. K. Majumdar, member of the Delhi State Organising Committee, presided over and Comrade Pratap Samal, Secretary, Delhi State Organising Committee, Comrade Manager Chourasis of Sawan Park Local Committee, Comrade R. K. Sharma, member of the Delhi State Organising Committee, addressed the gathering.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Central Committee and the main speaker elaborately described

the national situation plagued with acute unemployment, agrarian crisis, attacks on the organised working class in the name of labour reforms, and barbaric police atrocity to crush workers' and people's movements. The instances of Gurgaon and Kalinganagar, were among the ugliest expressions of savage attacks, the former being on workers on strike and the latter on the adivasis protesting their eviction following the Tata's acquiring the land in the name of development. Suicides of peasants under debt-trap are crossing the limits of thousands across the country.

Worst of all perhaps, has been the assault on education and culture. The objective of education to build character, elevate ethics and morality, foster reasoning power is being completely shelved by the ruling class. Vulgarity and obscenity are propagated in order to break the moral backbone of people, especially the youths.

Comrade Chakraborty traced these attacks on the working class and common people to the anti-people policies of capitalist globalization pursued by the ruling bourgeoisie and by the governments serving it. He further showed that these policies far from being a triumph of capitalism, have led the economy to graver crisis and

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Comrade Krishna Chakraborty addressing in Delhi and a section of the gathering

Mumbai High Court decision to annul ban on Dance Bars

Giving licence to spread of obscenity

The Mumbai High Court in a verdict has nullified the ban on the dance bars imposed last year by the Maharashtra government. The said government, it may be recalled, passed legislation in the assembly entitled the Bombay Police (Amendment) Act 2005, forbidding "holding or performance of dance of any kind" at "eating houses, permit rooms or beer bars in order to prevent dances with obscene, vulgar or immoral and derogatory to the dignity of women". As against this, the Maharashtra Bar Owners' Association went to the High Court alleging that they were being discriminated against by the police, given that dancing and consumption of liquor were permitted in most expensive hotels and such prohibition as per section 33B of the amended Act did not apply to holding of dance performance in a drama theatre, cinema theatre, auditorium, sports club or gymkhana or any other establishment having special permission for the purpose of tourism and cultural activities.

The court upheld the prayer and quashed the order holding that the law was void as it imposed "an unreasonable restriction" which was "not in public interest". While the court opined that the ban was not violating the right to freedom of speech and expression (under Article 19) or the right to life (Article 21) guaranteed by the Constitution, its emphasis has been on the "discriminatory" aspect of the order. "If women other than dancers can work in prohibited establishments and this does not amount to exploitation, we do not see why, when women dance to earn livelihood, it becomes exploitation" said the judges.

The verdict has no doubt rattled the well-meaning people of the country who have been feeling increasing concern at the way socio-cultural environment is being vitiated by rapid invasion of rotten decadent capitalist-imperialist culture. Mumbai city is the worst victim of this marked aggression of vulgar Yankee culture of lust and consumerism causing rapid degeneration of the youth in particular. Among many other ploys to plunge the people particularly those belonging to the poorer strata of the society and middle and lower middle class into utter debauchery and raunchiness, mushrooming

growth of the dance bars providing lewd entertainment to the customers at a relatively cheaper rate has been a major one. These dance bars had been catering mostly to the customers from middle and lower class, even the workers from factories and establishments seeking perverted sensuous pleasure. It is also alleged, and that too not without substance, that these dance bars also serve as pick up centers of flourishing flesh trade in the city known as the financial capital of the country. The menace assumed so alarming a position that guardians were gravely apprehensive of the future of their children even the school-going teenagers reportedly flocking at these bars. The wives and mothers were also finding it virtually impossible to hold back their husbands or sons from regularly frequenting these vice dens squandering away the pittance they might have been earning after hard toil. So there was a mounting

discontent against this roaring trade of inciting bestial proclivities in the name of entertainment and there have been occasions when there were instances of outburst of this accumulated rage and ire. Pressure of this seething outrage made the Maharashtra government fearing a backlash in the event of its eerie silence over the issue imposing a ban on these dancing bars. Whatever might have been the compulsion or motive of the government behind taking legislative route to prohibit the trade, it no doubt brought some relief to the people seized with the problem.

It is unfortunate that the learned judges of the high court, while examining the case on merit gave overriding importance to the aspect of 'discrimination' the dance bar owners were supposedly subjected to by the government's proclamation while the all important issue of preserving social interest and promoting social cause did not come

up as the principal point of reckoning. Was it not envisaged in the charter of bourgeois democracy during the days of its advent that social interest, well-being of the people, fostering a healthy mind, a healthy society should have primacy over everything? Were not the mandate such that the executives, legislature and judiciary should all work in tandem to promote and preserve the social interest? From that perspective, how prudent would it be to argue that if one section of anti-socials is not nabbed for wrongdoing for whatsoever a reason, all other criminals, anti-socials, hoodlums ought to be granted an unfettered right to go berserk? The bar owners had argued that thousands of girls, being unable to find any other livelihood, had been fending themselves and their families by embracing this profession and this was no sin. Moreover, they were not doing

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working class movements worldwide against capitalist onslaught are re-grouping and gaining strength. France and Nepal, stand as recent examples where people could earn glorious victories.

Comrade Chakraborty said that genuine people's movements take long to develop. It needs leadership of a revolutionary party. The founding of a revolutionary party is itself the beginning of the process of revolution. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and a handful of compatriots founded the SUCI as a genuine Communist party on Indian soil in 1948. Since then, the party has grown and spread throughout the length and breadth of India. It has the support of lakhs of people.

But mere support is not enough. Our power comes out of consolidating and strengthening the Party. We must mark the observance of this 58th Party Foundation Day by taking a vow to strengthen the Party for our own emancipation.

Mumbai-Thane

Mumbai-Thane unit of SUCI, held a public meeting on April 24, at Janata kendra, Tardeo in Mumbai Central (West). It was presided over by Comrade Kumar Kulashreshtha. Comrade Ranajit Dhar, staff

member, SUCI, addressed the gathering as the main speaker.

In his speech, Comrade Ranajit Dhar pointed out that CPI, CPI(M) and such other pseudo-communist parties have been sufficiently exposed today and their true character can be assessed. But right back in 1948, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was able to evaluate these parties correctly through his deep Marxist understanding, adopting Marxist methodology. As without a revolutionary party there can be no revolution, Comrade Dhar pointed out that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh took upon his shoulder the building up of SUCI on Indian soil as a genuine Marxist party on correct Marxist-Leninist model.

Comrade Dhar in his speech also brought out the hoax of development that centers around benefiting a handful ultra-rich of the country at the cost of the vast millions of toiling people facing all-out crisis in their life, not the least, the crisis of rampant cultural degradation being fomented and perpetrated by the moribund capitalism. He called upon the participants of the meeting to develop proper understanding of Marxism-Leninism and Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts and to follow the line of action of the party, strengthening class and mass

movements.

Comrade A K Tyagi, Secretary, Mumbai-Thane unit also addressed the meeting.

Bangalore

In Bangalore the foundation day was observed at Malleswaram on 24th April, 2006. Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Secretary, SUCI, Karnataka State Committee was the main speaker. He pointed out, the present belligerence of the world imperialists has become possible on account of the collapse of the socialist camp, much to the credit of the heinous politics of modern revisionism. He showed how SUCI is waging struggle all over the country in defence of people's cause. He also reminded the comrades that revitalization and consolidation struggle in the party assumes great relevance and importance at the present juncture. All the workers and supporters of the party should renew their pledge on this day to build up a mighty struggle on the edifice of higher ethics and culture.

Comrade B. R. Manjunath, district secretary, SUCI, presided over.

The foundation anniversary meetings everywhere started with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and ended with the *Internationale*.

TAMILNADU ASSEMBLY POLLS**Accentuated misery — only dole in DMK, AIADMK regimes***Contd. from page 5*

crisis-ridden capitalism that is breeding unemployment. Tamilnadu, as a part of capitalist India, is no exception. Industrial estates dotting the state, even in Chennai and in Coimbatore, look forsaken. More closures of factories are in the offing. Lakhs have lost jobs; more are waiting to be retrenched or laid off or forced to leave. For over two decades, a moratorium on government jobs has been operative and thousands of vacancies are left unfilled. Many existing vacancies have been abolished. Instead of taking any initiative to set up job-generating mainstream under the aegis of the state, efforts are on to hand over state run units to private operators. Permanent employment in the government and other sectors is being made a thing of the past and, increasingly, the Tamilnadu government, when it does do so, sighs on school teachers, lecturers and even doctors on a contract basis. Government pleads of empty coffer as reason for not filling up vacancies in government and teaching jobs. But there is no dearth of money when it is a question of spending thousands of crores on modernising the police force in the state or allowing unscrupulous elements to pilfer public money. Already, the transport, highways and electricity sectors have been largely privatized and backdoor entry to private capitalists is in full swing leading to further curtailment in the job opportunities. The AIADMK, the DMK and the left parties are all partners to this daylight robbery.

The reckless open door policy to investors and MNCs, competing with other states to make Tamilnadu the preferred destination for foreign capital, the utter negligence on the part of successive governments towards sustaining many existing companies, mindless spending of people's money for setting up IT and software parks, flyovers, malls and corridors while caring little for the development of key and basic industries all reflect the criminal negligence of the government to employment. Labour laws are being overhauled through various anti-worker enactments. Special Economic Zones where workers, especially women are mercilessly exploited through low wage and unimaginably long working hours are being set up as per conditions of

globalization.

Pre-election gimmick of rollback

After 3 years of intransigent high-handedness towards government employees, teachers and thousands of contract labourers, summary dismissal of temporary employees and teachers it had hired to replace the striking employees, the AIADMK failed to win a single seat in the last Lok Sabha elections. Compulsions of vote politics and public pressure forced Jayalalitha to concede a few rollbacks. She lowered electricity tariffs a bit, withdrew punitive measures taken against striker government employees and teachers, agreed to absorb the temporary employees and teachers based on a qualifying test. More recently, with the approach of the assembly polls, it revoked the moratorium on government recruitment, regularised the 10,000 road workers thrown out at the beginning of the tenure of the present AIDMK government, calmly overlooking the four years of appalling distress and suffering the families of these workers had undergone. Some had died and some had committed suicide. Needless to mention that a reversal of policies, if not of all these pre-poll measures, is in all probability in store for the people after the polls

The dismal rural scenario

When there are no jobs in the cities and towns in the states, the plight of the rural poor beggars description. There is hardly any work and mass exodus of the rural destitute from district to district, to the cities and even to other states in search of job is galore. Desperation even forces them migrate abroad as virtually bonded labour. In 2004, more than 1,09,000 people from Tamilnadu migrated as labourers abroad. There is galloping increase in the number of landless and jobless labourers. Both the Central and state governments, instead of coming to the aid of the affected peasantry, are taking away what little concessions in power tariff, subsidies for fertiliser and seeds they had been receiving. Following withdrawal of subsidies, prices of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers and pesticides are soaring. The governments refuse to fix a minimum price for all this. On the other hand, peasants are not getting

remunerative prices for their produces. Recently, there was the case of the Sivagangai Central Cooperative Bank which had to be closed down after huge irregularities owing to underhand dealings of party functionaries in collusion with corrupt bank officials were exposed. Thousands of poor peasants became bankrupt. The state AIADMK leaders and the finance minister in the UPA cabinet, who was elected from this constituency, traded charges and as usual perpetrators of fraud went off scot-free. Apart from rural poor, many literates are also forced to accept menial jobs abroad.

Death warrant to small traders

The state government, oblivious to the protest of small traders across the country, is bent upon opening up the retail sector to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which has already been allowed in many other key areas. This will pave the way for big MNCs to take over retail trade that will render lakhs of small job holders, owners and employees of retail shops and cottage industries jobless. If Tamilnadu also like other states introduce Value Added Tax (VAT), a higher tax burden on the end customer, which the opposition parties in the state including the pseudo-Marxists are so keen at, it will be death warrant for the lakhs of small traders.

Money is in education, not for education

Education in the state has been completely commercialised right from the entry level into schools up to the highest level of education. The blueprint for this total commercialisation of education was the National Policy of Education 1986, brought by the Rajiv Gandhi Congress government. This policy, which redefined education as an investment opportunity, among many other anti-education anti-people aspects, was followed and implemented avidly by whichever party came to government at the Centre and in the states. Tamilnadu was one of the first states to enthusiastically embark on the road to commercialization of education. Successive governments, pleading empty exchequer, have not built any new government school or colleges. Existing government schools have been languishing without infrastructure, teachers or

classrooms. Countless expensive private English medium schools have sprouted everywhere. Private engineering colleges have been allowed to mushroom. Private medical and dental colleges have also come up. Donations, hefty fees have become passport to admission. Medical colleges have started collecting donations even as high as Rs20 lakhs. Engineering colleges are not far behind. For some time, the concept of 'free' seats prevailed but now bright students, usually absorbed in such free seats are now asked to mobilise the 'free' fees which come to a few thousands of rupees. Government institutions, too, have started functioning as self-financing colleges and departments. The fact that Tamilnadu has been an education destination for many states as well as for NRIs, has driven up the cost of education. Moreover, with the government of late wanting to abolish the Common Entrance Test (CET) to the professional courses, a huge confusion is prevailing in this regard. Examinations are delayed, and, parents, not wanting to delay their children's education, opt to send their children to the deemed universities despite the exorbitant fees as well as unofficial fees demanded by most of the profit-raking educational factories. Even after paying such exorbitant sums, the recent controversy between the college managements over the roles of the UGC and AICTE have led to apprehensions among many students about the worth of the degrees issued if the institutions they study in run foul of the AICTE and UGC, whose roles, too, have been put on a commercial basis.

Thus as against general liberal education system, the thrust is on career-oriented, job-targeted highly expensive courses depriving common people of having their children educated. Education has become a commodity which only the affluent can buy.

Chennai – medical hub for the world

While people from other parts of the world flock to Chennai to receive medical care and treatment in posh private hospitals, charges are forbidding for domestic patients. In the government hospitals, clinics and public health centres, there is no free bed, no life-saving drugs, no

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Make SUCI candidates victorious in Tamilnadu

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adequate number of doctors, no minimal amenities. The tsunami and the floods caused by the recent monsoons, exposed, how ill-equipped are the public health centres. Despite the touting of treatment in the General Hospitals as free, patients and visitors have to pay not only the officially levied fees for registration, pay for medicines and supplies, but are also forced to part with unofficially levied 'gratuities' to get things done.

More than one way to raise bus fares

The AIADMK leader often claims that cheaper bus fare in the state is testimony of her concern for the people. This is bunkum. At peak hours, ordinary buses are replaced by a variety of special service buses where the passengers need to shell out from 50 paise to Rs2 extra. Another way to milk the passenger's purse is to terminate a long distance bus, so that a passenger is forced to take a change, paying fare twice.

In the name of countering the transport strike in 2001, the government let private operators run mini-buses and so-called share autos — a step rightly apprehended by the people as a prelude to eventual privatisation of the state transport.

Whither culture, values and ethics

In keeping with the capitalist design to wreck the cultural backbone of the people, there is rampant spread of rotten western imperialist culture in the state. Live Fashion shows, live and on TV channels, obscenity and sex purveyed in the print and electronic media and in films and books, night clubs, wide spread of wine shops even to the furthest corner of villages at every 50 meters speak of the reality. Unemployed youth are tempted into unethical activities of all kinds. Not a day passes when there is no incident of murder, some atrocity is not committed against the aged or women or children. Even the so-called guardians of the law have been guilty of such crimes including custodial deaths.

Will a change of government change things for the people?

It is said that at election time, politicians go to the poor for votes and to the rich for money. And he who pays the piper calls the tune. Thus, it does not take much to

realise why these parties, once elected, never do anything for the people. No matter how or in what combination they come to power, people's welfare or interest is the last thing that occupies their minds.

In Tamilnadu, both the AIADMK and DMK, have their own TV and newspaper networks. In fact the latter's communication empire is a contentious issue, even within party circles. The monopoly-media is also with much fanfare projecting only these two camps as the contenders so that the government might change, not the spectacle of deceit, deception, oppression and suppression..

SUCI – force of movement— torchbearer of alternative revolutionary politics

When the political field seems to be dominated by opportunists, liars, cheats, and self-servers, when darkness seems to be everywhere, there is one beacon of light before the people, and the darker it seems around the brighter the light shines. This is the SUCI, the only genuine communist party on Indian soil. The SUCI proudly holds high the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism. It believes that emancipation of the people of India lies in the overthrow of the capitalist class by revolution. To achieve this historical task, there is only one path and that is to build up democratic mass movements on the burning problems of people's lives on the edifice of higher proletarian morality-ethics-culture conducive to the anti-capitalist revolution.

Whether it is hike in bus fares, increase in electricity tariffs, soaring prices of essential commodities, raising of petrol-diesel prices, attacks on education, commercialization of health and medical care, spearheading anti-imperialist movement, standing in solidarity with the fighting people of various countries, extending whole-hearted support to the striking transport workers, teachers and government employees, anti-VAT anti-FDI movement of the small traders and retailers, organising people's struggle committees to fight for the quarry workers of Sivakasi, and the hutment dwellers of Neyveli threatened with eviction, setting up of relief and medical camps for the victims of the tsunami and the floods, the SUCI and its trade union and mass fronts have always been in the forefront, by the

side of the suffering people, building up democratic movements with all its might.

As against the politics of power and rank opportunism, the SUCI represents the force of movement upholding the genuine Marxist-Leninist politics on the soil. SUCI views the election battle as a part of its ongoing attempt to build up democratic mass movements, trying to make people politically conscious to understand the root cause of their all-pervading misery. SUCI is

contesting in four constituencies—Egmore and Park Town in Chennai, and Theni in Theni district, and Kurinjipadi in Cuddalore district. Electing an SUCI candidate will mean sending a tried and tested soldier of democratic movement to reflect the voice of people's struggle inside the legislative forum. Conscious electorates of Tamilnadu ought to decide whether this people's voice needs to be reverberated inside the house to uphold their cause.

Licence to spread of obscenity

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anything tawdry but giving performance to entertain. Queer indeed!

Turning a man into a beast, slave of instinct, is no entertainment. It bears no logic that if a man is thirsty he should be served drain water to quench his thirst and thereby made to see festering sore surfacing all over the body and poison running down the spine. Likewise, it is no tenable an argument that to earn a livelihood, girls should be lured to flesh trade, dirty dancing, vulgar display of body or any such immoral profession. Preventing the girls from becoming object of indecent indecorous is no encroachment on their freedom either as freedom does not mean anarchy or license to do any nonsense but presupposes reasonable restrictions in the society. While everyday, basic civil and democratic rights of the people are being curbed, curtailed or snatched away, it is surprising that permissibility to permissiveness and obscenity has become the focus area to preserve fundamental right. Thus elementary concepts of even bourgeois democracy are sought to be convoluted today in the era of moribund and decadent capitalism by quarters of vested interest. Enmeshed in all out crisis, the ruling bourgeoisie, haunted by the fear of anti-capitalist revolution, is, apart from adopting various anti-people measures, is bent upon destroying the moral backbone of the people so that culturally wrecked and mentally crippled, they are incapacitated to rise against the lurking oppression and suppression thus allowing the despotic bourgeois regime to perpetuate. Hence, there is a concerted effort on the part of the power that be to foster cultural degradation and degeneration in every walk of life. Vulgar exhibition

of female body to incite bestial passion is a part of this all out conspiracy. That is why; obscene and smutty display of female physique is so rampant in films, hoardings, commercial advertisement, TV programmes and so on. Floor dancing in the bars is nothing but another hated form of commercial exploitation of hapless ill-fated girls, victims of this cruel barbaric capitalist social order, for the purpose of emasculating the people from within, sucking out the last vestige of human essence from them and turning them into spineless robotized creatures. This is how the nefarious class design of the ruling bourgeoisie is operative in different spheres to demolish the cultural backbone of the people.

Every well-meaning person, irrespective of where he is located and what his livelihood is, cannot but earnestly solicit remedial measure to this problem and come forward to stall spread of such indecent and obscene performances in the name of entertainment. This is a crying social necessity to save the mankind from an impending catastrophe. The ruling of the Mumbai High Court cannot be viewed estranged from this social reality. It should not happen that any kind of anti-social activity cannot be contained under public pressure as because the perpetrators of such acts would find a leeway through judicial route. In view of the pernicious consequences that might follow after this order, there is a need for building up strong public opinion to rescind the same. We hope that the learned judges of Mumbai High Court will reconsider the verdict taking into account the broader perspective of the whole issue particularly the aspect of social interest involved in it.

CALL OF MAY DAY

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completed in China under the aegis of the Deng clique. International communist movement, the revolutionary struggle of the International Working class, received a big jolt. Even questions were planted by the quarters of vested interest to raise doubt about the very basis of the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism, branding it as utopian, obsolete and so forth.

Taking full advantage of the situation and unbridled in the absence of the Socialist camp, the bulwark of international working class movement, world imperialism-capitalism headed by US imperialists, the hated enemy of the mankind, is on a rampage. Pursuing overlordism and gangsterism with impunity, these imperialists have been forcibly invading and occupying foreign territory under fraudulent pretexts, trampling underfoot all canons of international law and democratic precepts, subverting sovereignty and democracy at will, looting, killing and marauding with a gusto.

Alongside such raving bestiality, a severe economic assault has been let loose on the working class through introduction of capitalist globalization, a doctrine formulated by the decadent imperialism-capitalism, ridden with insoluble market crisis endemic of the system itself, as a last ditch attempt to provide extra lease of life to its moribund state through yet more accentuated savagery, suppression and oppression. Throughout the world, the spectacle is of mounting unemployment, retrenchment, forced retirement, lay-off, closure, denial to minimum wage and rudimentary job security, enforcement of contract and casual labour system, systematic curtailment of hard-earned basic civil, democratic and trade union rights, muzzling the voice of protest, forcibly silencing sprouting of dissent and ruthless crushing of legitimate democratic mass and working class movement. Most significantly, there is, under globalization, unilateral imposition of extended working hours that, at times, is going beyond even 18 hours a day.

It is in this context that May Day assumes tremendous significance today. Working people of the world must close their rank to resist this all-out attack on their life and livelihood

by the ruling imperialism-capitalism, come out of the impasse and revive their struggle for emancipation by bringing back the glorious days of intense working class movement round the world conducive to resurgence of international communist movement. Working class movement must be freed from all shades of economism, revisionism and opportunism that caused the current setback allowing the oppressing imperialists-capitalists to bounce back and take the upper hand. All the neo-revisionists, pseudo-communists and other agents of the bourgeoisie preaching non-confrontationist, class-collaborationist theories have to be isolated so as to blunt their attempt to eat into the very vitals of trade union and working class movement and subserve bourgeois class interest. It is heartening to note that a new awakening is dawning upon the working people and toiling millions in different countries particularly in the advanced imperialist-capitalist countries. Anti-imperialist, particularly anti-US imperialist movements are surging forth in swelling number. The workers and people of France have led a heroic struggle to compel the government bow down before them and concede to their legitimate demands. News of massive protest and resistance movements are pouring in from other countries of Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. In our country also, the workers are gradually becoming aware of the imperativeness of building up such struggles and are coming forward to shoulder the responsibility. The pseudo-Marxists like the CPI(M), CPI, have now totally surrendered to the ruling bourgeoisie for pelf and power, but are fast losing their control over the workers. It has gone to such an extent that the CPI(M) top brass is now openly talking of "practicing capitalism", "harmonious relation between labour and capital", and "socialism" being "not achievable". May Day today calls upon the workers all over the world to take pledge to forge struggling unity with renewed vigour, be imbued with the revolutionary ideology of Marxism-Leninism and revitalize themselves in their struggle to establish their legitimate right and overthrow exploitative imperialist-capitalist rule.

SUCI lamblasts backstabbing of the historic movement of heroic Nepalese people

While hailing the heroic struggle of the Nepalese people for total abolition of the despotic autocratic rule of the Palace and establishment of a full-fledged democratic republic with a new constituent assembly based on a new constitution minus the King even as a titular head, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in a statement issued on 26th April expressed severe indignation at the way US imperialism, Indian expansionism, CPI(M)'s revisionism and the aspirant Nepalese bourgeoisie and its servitors worked in tandem to strike a shameful deal with the Nepal Monarch to backstab the historic movement just when it was poised to achieve total victory. With announcement of formation of a 7-party interim government and retention of the King as the constitutional head, there is, under the pretext of restoration of Parliament, virtually no change in the status of the Monarch who continues to be in command of the army and thus at the helm of state power. This, said Comrade Mukherjee, is a great betrayal to the cause of the toiling Nepalese masses and a clever ploy on the part of the interested quarters to throw a spanner in the struggling unity of Nepalese people. However, it is noteworthy, observed Comrade Mukherjee, that there is still opposition within the 7-party alliance against such backdoor restoration of the monarch as constitutional head and a section prefers to continue the struggle till all demands of the movement are met.

Comrade Mukherjee hoped that the brave patriotic people of Nepal will abhorrently reject this so-called truce worked out by the compromising forces and vested interest and continue their glorious battle till accomplishment of total victory. He called upon the Indian people to stand firmly behind the fighting people of Nepal till the movement reaches its logical culmination.

SUCI denounces naked interference of Indian Government in the internal affairs of Nepal

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in a statement issued on 20th April expressed grave indignation at the way the Congress-led UPA government is indulging in despicable acts of naked interference, one after another, in the internal affairs of Nepal the latest one being to prop up a so-called government to the utter detriment to the cause of the Nepalese people struggling for restoration of democracy. This, said Comrade Mukherjee, glaringly smacks of the nefarious hegemonistic design of the ruling Indian monopolists and this last ditch attempt of theirs to save the tottering condemned despotic Nepal Monarchy the fighting Nepalese people are determined to overthrow, lays bare the level they have stooped to in deceiving people with wanton democratic pretensions. It also exposes the extent of crime and treachery of the CPI(M), CPI, the left-labelled allies of the UPA government are perpetrating against the people of India by acquiescing in such an odious move.

Expressing the hope that such heinous attempt on the part of the Government of India will not distract or disorient the heroic Nepalese people from their struggle for abolition of barbaric Monarchical rule, Comrade Mukherjee called upon all democratic-minded people of the country to realize the gravity of the situation, the great danger it poses before the very foundation of democratic Indian society and rise in protest against such a reprehensible act of blatant interference by the Indian Government in the internal affairs of Nepal. He also exhorted the people of India to firmly stand by the brave patriotic fighting people of Nepal.

Corrigendum

We sincerely regret that in the obituary of our beloved Comrade Sangeeta Mishra in the previous issue, the date of the memorial meeting was inadvertently mentioned as April 10 instead of April 9.

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