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WHITHER CRICKET?

Once the beautiful game of cricket was a source of engrossing enjoyment to sports-loving people spread across different sections of society, though it emerged as a game largely played by aristocrats or elites. It was also called *gentleman's game* for the sportsman's spirit with which it was played. A five day tussle between bowlers and batsmen was not just a pleasure to watch, nor runs to count or wickets taken. What remained beyond and behind those runs and wickets was a commendable weaving of attacks and defences by both the contesting teams, planned and executed carefully on the part of individual players as well as collectively of the team. Trajectories of balls bowled were determined by bowlers' techniques and skills in

turn based upon geometry, concentration- strength- stamina of bowlers as well as their power to read the batsmen's weaknesses and strengths; with batsmen too it was techniques and skills, concentration- strength- stamina- as well as selection and timing of strokes on the basis of judgment of the ball bowled; the man behind the wicket or those around it on the field placed in an innovatively planned way for the bowling side, also needed rapt concentration, reflex, agility and such. Even the two umpires standing continuously for hours for the five consecutive days needed fullest concentration, patience, commitment to the game for every judgment they made. A momentary break in concentration, a lapse of any kind on the part of

anybody of these kingpins of the game, could change the colour of the game and spoil it. In latent, the entire game stood on the science and application of cricket techniques-skills. And above all, the whole game was played with unstinted sportsman's spirit. Any breach — true there were occasional ones — were not spared from public condemnation. In its entirety, it was one of the nicest forms of games that was a treat both for those who played and who witnessed it, and thus won growing popularity. The players played for pleasure of playing yet committed to their team, a club, a county or the country, and not for earning fortunes. People enjoyed the game from the galleries or, if not, waiting eagerly for the account of days'

games and heroics of their favourites to be found in the morning newspapers as otherwise only live radio commentaries were available, that too with a select few.

Commercialism- professionalism eclipsed sports and games

But sports and games in general, and cricket not excluded, suddenly went through a pathetic slump from being a means of entertainment during the last few decades. That was also the period when the entire capitalist world was tottering from acute crisis that has ultimately lead into the present intense recession. All-out crisis went hand in hand with abject decadence. The capitalist world,

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Premeditated attack to destroy spirit of militant student movement in West Bengal

In the past few months, a spate of violent incidents centring student movements particularly during elections to the student unions in the state of West Bengal, once regarded as the citadel of left-democratic movement and progressive thinking, has deeply shocked the right-thinking people throughout the country. Not only that a good number of students fell victim to this outbreak of extensive violence in one after another college and university union elections, even some precious lives were lost during the clashes. When it was expected that all student organizations would try to win the students with their ideology and fight the elections based on definite policies, principles and programmes and a healthy debate and discussions among the rival contestants would enliven the scenario allowing the student voters to freely vote according to their conscience, the spectacle has been a living enactment of the proverbial saying, "Might is right". The entire process is virtually reduced to a farce so much so that a section of the people are getting carried away by the

motivated propaganda of the vested interest that students should not enter into politics and all union elections should be banned. This is a dangerous portent and hence is the need for understanding where does lie the devil and how to combat it.

Incidents worth mentioning

In one of such incidents, one sub-inspector of local police station was openly shot dead in full media glare on 12th February last at the gate of Harimohan Ghosh College of Garden Reach, Kolkata, when Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP), the student wing of Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Chhatra Parishad (CP), the student front of the Congress, aided by their respective party strongmen were locked in a bloody clash on the day of issuing nomination paper for the student union election of that college. The culprit stated to be a TMCP supporter was found instigated by the local TMC municipality councilor to plunge in action. Similar incidents of either countermanding or manipulating election results or capturing students' unions by sheer

application of muscle power mostly by ruling party and its student wing occurred at many other colleges and universities of the state in recent past. At Andul Prabhu Jagadbandhu College of Howrah, a student was killed. In another incident at Ashutosh College of Kolkata, a student lost one of his eyes. Likewise, incidents of manhandling principals and teachers, resorting to vandalism and hooliganism rocked Raiganj College of North Dinajpur and Majhdia College of Nadia. Even to have their own candidates admitted either by hook or crook, the TMCP as well as the CP and SFI (student front of CPI (M)) are mobilizing goons and anti-socials to unleash a reign of terror and scare the opponent. The list is long and additions to that have been taking place every day in increasing number. In all these incidents, the role of the police has been either of a silent spectator or of an indulgent onlooker or of shamelessly backing ruling party organization, which shows the government-administration is an overt or covert abettor of such reprehensible undemocratic activities indicating to

what extent student politics and student movements have been criminalized by the ruling political parties irrespective of hues.

The buck does not stop here. The TMCP and SFI are trading charges against each other for precipitating such campus violence and butchering democracy. But the fact is that both are sailing in the same boat. Three months back, a 23 year old SFI activist was killed on the way to the Presidency Jail in police custody after he courted arrest in a law violation programme. But instead of instituting any impartial probe of this tragic death, the TMC government and leaders were found busy in denying custodial death and instead painting it as a case of accident. In the name of organizing protest demonstration against this, the SFI workers led by their General Secretary Ritabrata Banerjee, in the presence of CPI (M) leaders, physically assaulted the state finance minister and manhandled the state panchayat minister in front of the planning commission office in New Delhi. In retaliation, TMC workers attacked

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IPL: cricket tournament or a stock-market melee for corporate and gamblers to reap harvest

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rather a nexus of the corporates-money bag- advertisement let loose a concerted and cunning hype through its latest brand of media, the electronic version, particularly the TV. A new set of terms were floated in the air; professionalism, sponsorship, infotainment meaning a brand of admixture of information and entertainment etc. On the one hand, a liberal flow of money was made available to the sporting world, supported by a campaign that gone were the days of amateur sports; sports and games must welcome professionalism for excellence and better entertainment. On the other hand, sports and business were punched together in an intimate way. Live coverage of sports on TV were interspersed, often in a vexing way for any sports lover, with all sorts of lurid advertisements totally irrelevant with the sports; the sports arena were flooded with equally lurid billboards; even jerseys and dresses of players and sportsmen were used for advertisement. A complete nexus of capitalists-business-advertisement and sports was evolved. As it was apprehended, the nexus and its doctrine of commercialism-professionalism also gave birth to corruption. Betting, match fixing, bribing, illegally and artificially enhancing performance through doping etc, became rampant in every sports, in this country or that. Soon the situation came to such a pass and its exposure to people caused such adverse opinion among them, that in different international sports and games meet, the organizers were forced at least outwardly to take measures against any attempt towards betting, fixing etc. The menace was particularly evident in football i.e., soccer, an extremely popular form of games. Even at its highest international level, there were reports of fixing results or manipulating performances to affect results.

Though cricket was played in a few countries, it became a favoured hunting ground for the profit hungry sharks, particularly during the last few decades. 5-day tests became the first target and were bulldozed. On the plea of their losing attraction in fast and changing life, the format was sidelined, though its popularity prevented it from being exterminated. In addition, a limited over one-day format was brought in, in the seventies of the last century at the international level. Starting with

65 overs it ultimately settled at 50 overs a match. And on that eventful day of one-dayer match, the fields, the players and all those associated were blessed with the talisman of money by the sponsors-advertisers-corporate organizers. The format affected the romance-charm- grace and sublime combative ambience of the game that it was so long proud of. Excitement at any cost within the short span of the game, became the sole theme. A planned game based on science and art was replaced by a sort of gambling. Cricket laws were changed; even traditional white outfit of the players were given a good-bye and coloured jerseys were introduced. Liberal patronage of money bag and extensive use of media, rather all kinds of propaganda means, could bring the desired result of making the limited over format sell in the cricket market. And once smelling the blood, the profit hunting corporate hounds extended their reach. An even shorter version, the 20-over format under different titles with a host of alluring incentives to players and organizers was thrown in the market arena in and around 2003. So-called championships at the inter-country level were arranged in so quick successions that it even affected interests of serious sports lovers.

And along with this change in format and flowage of money, the virulent virus of betting and fixing spread wide among even front-runners of the game. In 2000, a match-fixing scandal in India involved the then captain of the Indian team. Ban was imposed subsequently on a few Indian players. Again, a captain of South African team was suspended for betting charges; subsequently he died, may be taking his life himself. A few other South African players were also accused of betting. At least two eminent Australian players in the not-far-away past had allegations of match-fixing or betting fixed against them. More recently, several important yet young members of Pakistan team were suspended for spot-fixing and betting while playing in England.

The recently concluded sixth version of the 20-over Indian Premier League, nicknamed IPL6, was the latest dazzling instance in the sequel, a typical example of the ravage brought by the change in cricket in particular, games in general. So before entering into any further discussion, it will be worthwhile to have a few words on

this IPL and what it has brought to cricket in general and Indian cricket in particular, bearing in mind that though IPL-6 has brought some striking and shocking revelations, albeit quite by chance, the symptoms had glimmered in the earlier versions too.

IPL: an instance of how money corrupted and shadowed cricket

Launched in 2008 the IPL lost its launcher Lalit Modi, a multinational-corporate-multi-billionaire in course of a few years when he was thrown out of the IPL and the country, on charges of impropriety, of holding veiled stake himself in three IPL teams and helping family and friends buy stakes in different IPL teams as also of being involved in match fixing and betting. The question loomed large: Could a corrupt founder leave behind him a genuine sports event! The IPL continued to exist with that question on its shoulder, in fact, as designed to assume the character of stock-market or an industry, where profits are more important than the sport and its integrity. It allowed private enterprise to work at their free will. It thus turned automatically into an exercise which could easily lead itself into a breeding ground for match- or spot-fixers, where players could turn into bookies. The recent IPL6 was played under the BCCI President Srinivasan, also an owner of a business empire under whom the IPL existed not just as the same, rather more veritable source of corruption, with its thousand and one tentacles of money laundering, FEMA violations and so on. Caring a fig for all the cannons of fairplay and corporate governance, the Board allowed its President, Srinivasan, rather his company India Cements to own the Chennai Super Kings (CSK), an IPL team.

Such a prospectively corrupt entity IPL was a 'mega-event' in media parlance. It had nine so-called teams, nine conglomerates of Indian and foreign players whom respective sponsors procured from auctions. It was painful to find that even a front-ranking player like Sachin Tendulkar, labelled by media and cricket fraternity as cricket-god or at least god-sent, was being shoved onto the dock of auctions. The bids reached crores of rupees. But the whole exercise brought back the memories of slave market and Roman amphitheatre of the bygone days.

The entire show for over two

months was an extravaganza with free flow of money, a dazzling combination of players- anchors-commentators- jokers- cheerleaders- so-called celebrities from the corporate houses or film world many of whom were the owners of the IPL combatants, liberal media coverage, wild late night parties, parades of women including cheerleader girls all this making it more a vulgar business-cum-entertainment than a cricket-affair, so much so that a new term has been coined on it : CRICKETAINMENT.

True to apprehension the mega-event bogged into a mega-scam. Important Indian players, some of whom had played in test and one-day matches for the country, Vindoo Dara Singh, son of Dara Singh and himself an actor in the Mumbai film-world, Gurunath Meiyappan, the son-in-law of Srinivasan, the BCCI President and himself the Team Principal of the team, CSK, Raj Kundra, another business tycoon and the co-owner of another team Rajasthan Royals (RR) and many others were charged with betting and/ or spot-fixing and were taken into custody. Gradually betting rackets were busted in this or that city; a number of bookies were rounded up. But as it was rightly apprehended these represented small fries, tips of icebergs. Bigger forces were in the dark and afar. Even involvement and control of the infamous Dubai-based mafia-don Dawood Ibrahim and his associates were concluded by the police. But the drama did not end here.

In the face of barrage of demands for his resignation, defiant Srinivasan arrogantly rejected them. Former BCCI officials, and present members including political big wigs of ruling parties like Congress, BJP or NCP, an ally of Congress, associated with Indian cricket and the Board were now baying for Srinivasan's blood and then beating a silent retreat when it demanded to speak out against him. In the crucial meeting of 2 June the compromise was reached. Srinivasan stepped aside and Dalmiya was made the interim working President. What was Dalmiya's antecedent? He was the man who had to be summarily removed (by 29-0 votes) from the chair of BCCI president in 2006 on serious charges of breach of discipline and Pilcom scam. The same disgraced man was reinstated now purely on pragmatic considerations of power struggle among the important BCCI officials.

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Who are bringing down cricket to the present wretched state?

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In summary, even in the face of a disastrous scam, the BCCI ended its duties with a mere shuffling with one set of tainted, disgraced, power-and-pelf hungry members to be replaced by another of the same feather, both oblivious of the interests of cricket of the country. The Board proved itself as a forum to share the earnings of a body which is presently recognized as the richest and fastest earning national cricket institution in the world. CRICKET was shadowed by MONEY!

Befitting was the role of big-wigs of political parties ruling at the Centre or in states! A flock of them are directly involved or associated in shameless manoeuvring, as mentioned. Among others, those belonging to parties with progressive cloaks or signboards with Marxist stamps are sitting nonchalant and tight-lipped, as if nothing serious has happened. Their silence is far from being normal, as it only allows the corporates and their cohorts to carry out their design of running this mega-event smoothly and unopposed, even uncriticized to fetch hundreds of crore of rupees exploiting people's love for this game. And above all there is the comment made by the Prime Minister of the country. The BCCI has amply proved itself to be a nexus of corporates-bureaucrats-players-politicians across the party lines in its brazen, crude form. It has successfully downgraded the game of cricket to a wretched profiteering device. With all these overground, the Prime Minister could only make himself pitifully ridiculous, when he said "I hope that sport doesn't get mixed up with politics". It appears that the message was read clearly by the entire nexus. Soon the media hype was found to lose its tone and tempo and most of the accused cricketers, Vindoo Dara Singh and Meiyappan, all of them were granted bail.

The moot question is how could the situation reach such a wretched state.

A leading section of media including reputed columnists are dishing out catchy why-s and how-s with a view to dousing people's indignation. They suggest such crimes are nothing new; avarice is ingrained in human nature which 'cannot be changed'. In a simply stunning or shocking move they bring in a few thousand years old stories of *Mahabharata* to defend corruption or crime of the best-

times. They cite instances of Krishna and Yudhishthira practising gambling even habitually. But even these tales in the epics showed how gambling by Krishna or Yudhishthira brought devastating effects to people near and dear to them suggesting social disapproval of such crimes. The columnists also suggest that legalizing betting would act as deterrent, there would not be any criminal or black money in gambling if it is legalized. It means nothing but asking crime to prevail as a legalized activity and means indulging gambling with social approval to allure people, stoking up avarice in man to grab money in an unethical way without any respectable labour. Thus even in countries where betting is legalized, internationally front-ranking players (read cricketers) are accused of unethically tampering the game and its result and are socially discredited. So instead of extending these confusing logic, the issue needs to be looked at with a more scrutinizing insight.

Betting-fixing scam, money- mafia- politician-corporate nexus in a capitalist set-up drag gentleman's game into ignominy

The game of cricket evolved at a stage of society, where in a feudal set-up, life was not as fast as it is today. Engaged in largely localized self-sufficient economy of feudalism, people were not tugged in the rat-race for life and livelihood as they are now. In such a particular situation, cricket evolved in some countries of the world as one of the superstructures of society to add pleasure to human life. And as mentioned earlier, cutting across social positions people enjoyed it as a beautiful, disciplined, graceful game, to make it a popular glorious form of entertainment. With the bourgeoisie still playing a progressive role in society, at that time just as patriotic, socially conscious people motivated with social cause used to take up politics as mission of life, sportsmen too, individual or collective, were imbued with the spirit of sportsmanship, patriotism. Sports and games were not considered as means to make money, neither for the players nor for the organizers. In cricket, despite local variations, at the highest level 5-day tests were considered as its icon as those were based on the best and artful application of science of the game. If human civilization has been built upon the edifice of the best-

achieved by the mankind at any and every stage of development, this glorious form of entertainment cannot be destroyed on any pretext of life changing into a faster shape.

But as capitalism consolidated, it slid into decadence. And coupled with it as in other fields of human activities, sports and games were also transformed into means of livelihood. As mentioned earlier, commercial approach was pushed in. From behind the veil of catchy slogan of professionalism, money was pumped in to act as decisive factor. It affected different forms of games. Wherever it did and whatever might have been the garb of arguments or justification, it told upon the very basics of all the affected forms of sports and games and only brought degradation and degeneration. In every case, it proved the claim totally baseless that professionalism would bring excellence. Even the fields of sports activities where this downfall has not yet been apparent, are found to have become vulnerable with overt or covert signs from cases of doping or from unbridled craze for money. As mentioned earlier, in cricket 5-day tests were replaced by one-day formats in this spell.

It may be argued how could it be otherwise with growing demands of life, with crisis of capitalism casting its shadow on personal life of sportsmen too, many of whom had been hailing increasingly from families of modest income. The answer was also there: it was the duty of the state to lend support to sportsmen to help him or her carry on sports activities free of worries for daily life. That it was not an utopia has also been proved by the then socialist states that had not yet been affected by modern revisionism or counter revolution. There sportsmen of all categories needed not worry about their livelihood and even future as sports and games were considered as one important ingredient of building up a healthy nation; patriotism acted as a driving motive for the participants. Sports and games were made universal, free for all, with the state bearing all responsibilities and expenses. They not only involved people *en masse*, at the same time they stressed upon quality and excellence. Fast improving performance of the then socialist countries in global meets like the Olympics amply demonstrated what socialist countries could achieve and how they looked at sports and games.

In capitalist countries also

sports and games could preserve their character only where there were vestiges of struggle still existing. Thus, for instance up to a stage in the USA a major bulk of best performers in different branches of sports and games emerged from the black communities. These were the people who, in addition to the capitalist exploitation that affected irrespective of black or white, had to suffer from discrimination, neglect and added deprivation. That gave and still gives birth to an urge and motivation in them for developing and establishing themselves in life and society which in its turn led them to struggle for that and succeed.

But in the decaying capitalist system as a whole degeneration was inevitable. Capitalism was, rather is, not only exploitative. In the process of its decadence it destroys everything beautiful in the treasure of human civilization. Arts and science, education- research- music- sports and games, films-dramas-literature nothing is spared from the cruel onslaught of capitalism to earn maximum profit at any cost. Thus as the entire capitalist world as well as the erstwhile socialist countries turned capitalist, have got into the present intense economic crisis, when irrecoverable industrial recession are squeezing and preventing any scope of investment, the capitalists are trying frantically to find way out. On one hand, they are taking up service sectors like education, health even potable water supply or the like, as well as sports and games to keep their system of earning maximum profit running. On the other hand, they vigorously promote stock exchanges, speculation market, forward trading and such other means which are nothing short of gambling in wider form. At the same time they keep on creating a social sanction and ambience for accepting this criminal speculative activity as legal and justified means of earning money. Thus capitalism itself is generating, promoting and really thriving upon speculation, gambling in virtually every sphere of life, as if bringing to life the tales on disastrous ends of gambling from the epics like *Mahabharata*.

In this spell of all pervasive degeneration, when big and idle capital are frantically trying to make entry into and swamp even retail trades, certainly they do not spare sports and games from exploring its prospect for profit making. They

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Only people's vigilance can save sports from disaster

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became the hunting ground for the capitalists to earn maximum profit in whatever way available. Side by side all means, evil, unethical were brought in for success and earning money. As mentioned earlier in this write-up betting – fixing etc., became rampant in different sports and games and not in one country or two. They spread to wherever it could. The more money the particular type of sports fetched, greater and more rampant became the invasion of corruption in them.

Indian capitalism had a most significant role to play in the decadence of cricket. Already a popular game in the country, cricket was made a household name through an added fresh media hype that led to the emergence of a huge prospective market for the cricket-business. Greed and avarice knew no bound. The totally degenerated social-political-cultural ambience of the prevailing capitalist system provided just the soil for the viruses of commercialism as well as betting-fixing to thrive and spread themselves. Soon the game of cricket became secondary, albeit packaged under gullible verbiage and eulogy. Behind those sweet mesmerizing words catered by the choicest experts hired at high cost, or players neutralized with the hitherto unbelievable price of their expertise, there existed a rotting skeleton, which survived upon one single staple : MONEY. Money gobbled everybody associated with the game: the sponsors, the organizers, the players, and even the umpires. Ultimately beauty, depth, grace of the game called cricket are robbed off; money became and has become the omnipresent, omnipotent factor. Players are rewarded for the number of sixes they hit, or for how much distance, no matter how with what kind of strokes. Bowlers are judged from the number of wickets they take, no matter the fact being that in a large number of cases, if not most, the wicket is gifted by the batsman taking wild chances to score more and fast. Those who play are duped by money; those who witness miss the best of the games. The whole scenario follows the script set by decaying capitalism; degeneration inevitably swamps cricket world. Speculation becomes the order of the day. But unfortunately for the capitalists and the society as well, it is being found that even engaging players with unbelievably high sums of money, the best performance is not coming from them. On the

contrary they are either distinctly casual or are running after more and more money to end in criminal acts like fixing-betting.

This was what Marx could foresee as he wrote as far back as in 1848: *"The bourgeoisie..... has left no other nexus between man and man than naked self-interest, than callous "cash payment". It has resolved personal worth into exchange value In one word, for exploitation, veiled by religious and political illusions, it has substituted naked, shameless, direct, brutal exploitation. The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage labourers. The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil, and has reduced the family relation into a mere money relation".* (Communist Manifesto)

This was what tormented every sports-loving person. Where it is leading to? Unchecked, this trend of decadence, all-encompassing grip of money, all-pervasive role of speculation would simply rob the possibility of society generating sportsmen, those coming up would be some self-seeking money-making machines. Even the talented ones will be swallowed by the greedy capitalism, luring them with clinkers of money. A decent entertainment would be a far cry; what people would have to remain satisfied with, was a cleverly packaged deal from capitalists, that would stink of excitement, vulgarism and above all rabid commercialism.

Corporates-corruption-criminally casual politicians adorn IPL-6 pushing cricket to brink of disaster !

The question is : For how long will sports-loving people allow themselves to be duped and cheated this way remaining mute and inert? It is expected from them to realize that it is the responsibility of the society to ensure that each and every individual of the society must have the right and scope to find out the means of livelihood as well as the means of recreation of his or her choice from amongst the different available ones including sports and games? It is high time for them to realize that it was the capitalist system and its state, exploitative and decadent that has given way to this situation where money reigns supreme, where games are

degenerated and so with this system in tact, will it not be futile to talk of any substantial and sustaining change?

In the present case in particular, it is glaringly evident that the utterly deplorable incident involves people connected with cricket administration and game from top to bottom levels. The governments, union or state, led by Congress or BJP or any other party look the other way. Were not these incidents known to them? What were they doing when these crimes were going on for years and symptoms were showing up? After all, they have huge machineries running on people's money to keep vigilance and check corruption? What were those doing? Their slumber is not merely callousness; the way the prime minister of the country shrugs off his duty and responsibility completely ignoring what reality is, attests to the fact that the governments, subservient to the capitalists do not really want to put an effective stop to this corporate crime and plunder, the system generates and thrives upon. They would not do anything other than making some deceptive gestures intending to hide their connivance with the perpetrators of crime.

People should also realize that so long as capitalism will survive these trends of degeneration will simply aggravate. Capitalism would never allow to take stringent measures that could have checked these even within this set-up. So cosmetic gestures like setting up a commission for investigation by the Board, itself crime institutionalized run by tainted career seekers, will hardly be a solution. It will at best be 'a most obnoxious subterfuge to avoid any liability' as here in this country the omnipotent, omnipresent money in these days of decadent capitalism is now and then found to be playing havoc with even the men who are supposed to bring justice to people and society luring them with prospect of power and pelf. Besides is it not a fact that already a section of media has started to highlight accused individuals as apologetic and repenting? Have not the cricketers or administrators, even ousted Board President involved in fixing or scams and punished earlier, been found to assume power again at any opportune moment with a broad grin, to make a comeback or to become a member of Parliament the highest legislative body of the country with the blessings of a major party? In fact, in the all-out

decadence of the prevailing capitalist system the situation will fast worsen into still more detestable and dangerous state. Solace can not be sought from the fact that this is not anything unique for India. Corruption including betting- fixing have infested one and every capitalist country. It only proves how vicious is the all pervasive filth- and crime- generating grip of capitalism.

Only massive people's movement can act as a check to the corporate design

There is no way out for people other than their coming out of shell of inertia. No committee, commission or individual will make any dent to the problem; neither will there be any effect by changing the format of the game or by changing form and structure of cricket administration, until and unless these are put under the pressure of powerful sustained democratic movements denouncing the heinous corrupt practices. Demands are to be raised from such movements that bodies like BCCI in cricket or similar ones in other forms of games must be formed through elections at regular intervals from people genuinely connected with the sports world, sports-loving people from different sections of life, players or sportsmen. Not just fame or familiarity, nor social connection, but record of integrity should be the criterion to be looked for. These bodies must be subject to serious and continuous scrutiny to judge their accountability, accompanied by penal measures. People's committee will have to be formed to act as the watchdog to oversee if such boards are failing to perform their duties as expected. But none of these steps will be attained and be effective until and unless people themselves take to streets, come forward with all seriousness and awareness to develop massive people's movement to create pressure to meet these ends. This is the need of the hour. And if we fail to fulfill this need we will not be able to protect even the vestiges of the good and beautiful in society that are left after the virulent attack of the decadent capitalism to destroy them, to turn people into money-making machine bereft of any values-ethics and aesthetics and thus to make society a playground for reaping maximum profit for the capitalists and their cohorts.

IPL6 leaves this omen for every sports-loving people of the country.

Campus violence and hooliganism are precipitated by the dispensations of the ruling bourgeoisie out to rob education of its essence

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the party offices of the CPI (M) at some places in West Bengal and inflicted serious injuries to CPI (M) cadres. Even a group of rowdy miscreants allegedly led by local a TMC leader ransacked the heritage building of the Presidency University (Formerly Presidency College of national fame) and chased away the activists of the rival organizations. In the meantime, making this campus violence a plea, the TMC government has suspended all elections to student unions has been for an indefinite period and trying to impose ban on it permanently. And seizing the opportunity, a powerful section of the monopoly-controlled media is out to turn the gun against student movement and student participation in politics and instead of raising the demand for stringent punishment of the perpetrators and accomplices of such crimes, pleading to deter students from the path of movement as if student politics *per se* is responsible for such sordid state of affairs. Thus, the quarters of vested interest who are mounting an all-out attack on education and are keen to muzzle the voice of student community against this calculated assault, have been pulling the strings from behind to have their ulterior design materialized at this point.

Student politics and elected student union came in the course of freedom movement

The right-thinking people are no doubt visibly upset at these ignoble happenings. Particularly those who are aware of the glorious past of vibrant student movements that swept the soil during freedom movement, produced legendary 'flowers of Bengal' and had its fervour felt in the waves of left-democratic movements during the first two to three decades after independence, wonder how could things come to such a pass. Those who are aware of history know that in every country, at every stage of development of society, students and youths played a distinctive role for bringing about social transformation. They have been the fore-runners of all progressive movements. In the process of participating in social and healthy political activities, they could achieve harmonious development of theirs as future citizens not wary of discharging social responsibilities, capable of distinguishing between

right and wrong from the perspective of social interest and possessing strength and courage to stand firmly against injustice. Thus, they were groomed to come forward and boldly thwart all attacks on people and society. Students' movements complemented this course of learning and self-development of the youth. Recognizing this need, the leaders of our freedom movement viewed student politics instrumental in imbuing the students and youth with patriotic fervour and spur them on to play their due role history demanded of them at that point of time. With this outlook the fore-ranking leaders of the freedom movement organized students and formed student unions. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose himself took initiative to form student union in his Scottish Church College and advocated for student organization which would not only provide cadres with higher values of ethics and culture for the freedom struggle, but also produce capable political leaders in future in independent India. Addressing the delegates of the Lahore Session of the Punjabi Student Conference (19 October, 1929) he said, "There is no ban on participation in politics in any free country – on the contrary, students are encouraged to take part in politics. This encouragement is deliberately given because out of the ranks of the students arise political thinkers and politicians. If in India, students do not take active part in politics, from where are we to recruit our political workers and where are we train to them? Further, it has to be admitted that participation is necessary for the development of character and manhood. Thought, without action, cannot suffice to build character and for this reason, participation in healthy activity – political, social, artistic, etc. – is necessary for developing character. Bookworms, gold-medalists and office-clerks are not what universities should endeavour to produce – but men of character who will become great by achieving greatness for their country in different spheres of life." The students responded to their clarion call and joined the freedom movement. Their undaunted spirit, indomitable courage, unputdownable valour, immense sacrifice and gallant struggle made undivided Bengal the epicenter of left and democratic movement in the country. This great legacy of

student movement was duly carried after independence as well. Series of mass movements against the ruthless oppression of the ruling Indian capitalist class surged forth in the state and the students were always in the forefront of struggle. Disdaining all repression and coercion, the students held high the banner of protest against all onslaughts on people's life, the arena of education included. And when the state was in ferment of movement, students and youth bore character and the possessed spirit of protest. To the crusaders against evil and wrong, Kolkata was the 'city of rallies' while to the exploiting ruling class and its lackeys, it was a 'city of nightmare'.

Degeneration began once CPI (M) was in power

But, the situation took a complete reverse turn once the CPI (M) was saddled in power in 1977 with overwhelming majority. Initially, people tormented by the misrule of the Congress and having the harrowing experience of 'emergency' rule clamped on them for two years, thought that the CPI (M) government would beget the desired relief from the stifling situation, establish rule of justice and carry forward the tradition of struggle and movement. But, in no time, the process of disillusionment set in. Gradually from their own

experience the realization dawned upon them that the CPI (M) regime was no different from the erstwhile autocratic anti-people Congress rule. Rather, it was an extension of the same, if not much worse than that. The field of education was no exception.

Soon after coming into power, the CPI (M) government adopted most devastating education policies. It abolished English and Pass-fail system from the primary level to initiate the process of lowering the standard of education. Then, it went on curbing autonomy of the universities of Calcutta, Burdwan, Kalyani and North Bengal, by one stroke and then went on superseding Rabintra Bharati University and dismantling the elected governing body of Jadavpur University. Thus, it brought all state universities in West Bengal under the administration of nominated councils packed by ruling party representatives or ruling party-appointed administrators. Later on, when the CPI (M) captured majority in the Panchayats, most of the rural school managing committees were reconstituted with ruling party members of the panchayats at the helm. Only persons of choice of the CPI (M) high command were appointed as Vice-Chancellors, Chairman of the Board of Secondary Education, President of the Higher

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Massive protest rally of peasants and agricultural workers organized by AIKMS at Rohtak, Haryana, on 6th May against reduction in agricultural subsidy, price rise of fertilizer and diesel, forcible acquisition of fertile land for setting up SEZ and demand for remunerative price for agricultural produce, freeing the farmers from debt-trap, bonus of Rs 250 per quintal of wheat etc. Comrades Anup Singh and Vijay Kumar Singh, President and Secretary of Haryana state AIKMS respectively led the rally which converged at the Secretariat and then a memorandum addressed to the chief minister incorporating all the demands was handed over to the assistant secretary of Rohtak administration.

Ruling bourgeoisie hatching conspiracy to abort student power in the morass of animal-existence

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Secondary Council, Chairman and members of the College Service Commission and such other higher academic bodies often flouting all norms and selection criteria depriving deserving candidates. Even appointment as a school teacher or college professor was denied if loyalty and servility to the CPI (M) was not established. Thus, the entire arena of education was turned into a den of corruption, nepotism and favouritism. It may be recalled that once, rejecting the offer of the British Government interfering university autonomy, Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, the then Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and a renowned educationist of rare mettle, declared, "Freedom first, freedom second, freedom always." But what we witnessed in West Bengal is completely different. The CPI (M) leaders overran this precept of democratic education with alacrity. They even went to the extent of making life hell for those refusing to yield to its diktats and wishes. One such victim was late Dr. Santosh Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University in the 1980s who refused to bow down before the CPI (M) and hence had to face ceaseless harassment, non-cooperation and even heckling. On the other hand, Pabitra Sarkar, who, in display of sickening sycophancy, supported all the anti-education policies of the CPI (M) government, was made Vice-Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University by faking a doctoral degree. There are many such instances.

And in course of converting the entire field of education into their fiefdom, the leaders of the CPI (M) and SFI also rolled out the process of grabbing the student unions through precipitation of unprecedented violence, threat, intimidation, physical attack, disallowing opponents to file nomination, cornering nomination papers, false-voting, rigging, kidnapping and even murdering opposition candidates. Other student organizations were not allowed to work within the institutional premises. On the day of voting, the SFI mobilized notorious criminals to either prevent common students to enter in the campus or force them to vote SFI candidates. Those who disobeyed them were mercilessly beaten, even maimed for life. The girls' colleges were also not spared. The SFI hooligans physically assaulted, molested and even threatened to rape the girls if the

latter dared to oppose their capture of unions. There was no ideology, no debate over the issues of election, no call for struggle. Bare muscle backed by police-administration was only what counted. On many occasions, the principals, teachers-in-charge, heads of the departments, deans, professors and a section of non-teaching staffs who got appointment only for political affiliation to the ruling block, openly worked to protect SFI-controlled student unions. Sometimes these persons even threatened the students that they would get poor marks in internal assessment if they did not support the SFI. A notion thus gripped the students in general that election means unleashing of terror; students' politics is nothing but a duel of fists and arms. So, they developed an idea of staying away from any involvement in student politics and remain absent on the day of voting out of fear. This helped the SFI to win uncontested or unchallenged. The student union elections were thus reduced to a mockery and the student unions, instead of being the grooming place for developing a good moral character, acquiring mindset to stand firmly against injustice and taking up social responsibilities, became centre of moral degradation and even money laundering. This is how criminalization of student politics and utter degeneration of the student community was fostered during the SFI regime. While all other students' organizations went into their shells, it was only AIDS0, the student front of the SUCI(C), which showed the courage to counter SFI politically and contest against them. Braving life risk and all hurdles the AIDS0 contested in the student union elections wherever it could build up its organizational base braving all odds and standing firmly on the edifice of higher ideology, ethics, culture, morality and principle. In fact, it was only AIDS0 which represented the counter-current of student politics amidst this all-out rot and slide. But, as AIDS0 organizational network could not be spread to all the educational institutions, we could not, despite our best efforts, emerge as an effective deterrent to the ruinous run of the SFI.

TMC is following CPI (M)

So, what the TMCP has been doing today is nothing new. Only the baton has passed on from the SFI to the TMCP once the governmental power has been vested with the TMC. In fact, the

public talk is that the TMC has simply stepped into the shoes of the CPI (M). With government backing, the TMCP is now calling the shots and is on a rampage. On the other hand, ousted from power, the CPI (M) is now tottering on a fragile pivot and hence, all brag and bluster of the SFI has vanished overnight. But, worst casualty is education and the people at large. Under the plea of curbing hooliganism and clashes in the campus, the TMC government has got Bill drafted which is on the anvil. The proposed West Bengal Educational Institution's Elections Bill, 2013, as is learnt, is highly undemocratic and seeks to encroach upon the inalienable right of the students to form union as per their choice. Till the Bill is formally tabled, the TMC government has suspended student union election for six months and is planning to prolong the suspension indefinitely. This is exactly what the ruling capitalist class has been trying for long as part of its class design to rob all sections of the people of their hard-earned democratic rights particularly the right to protest and dissent terming the same as 'disruption of law and order' and 'interruption of normalcy'. It is no surprise that having found a demoralized student community with its fighting spirit blunted during 34 years of CPI (M)'s rule and SFI's thumping regime marked by deep penetration of worst opportunism and fear as well as widespread terror and horror, a bourgeois outfit like the TMC, committed to serve the class interest of the rulers, would, on the pretext of reversing the policies of the previous CPI (M) government, try to impose sanctions on democratic student movement and disarm the students through depoliticization.

Why the CPI (M) regime ushered in this all-pervasive degeneration

But, many people particularly the left-minded persons are clueless as to how could a party like CPI(M) which calls itself Marxist-leftist and waves red flag stoop so low, become so anti-people and lay down the path for fascism to clamp its stranglehold particularly in West Bengal? When this degeneration of the CPI (M) is inexplicable to others, it poses no surprise to us who are students of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C) and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era. Based on Marxist methodology

of analysis, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had shown long back that whether it was a question of building a correct proletarian revolutionary party on the Leninist model or that of deducting the correct base political line or grasping the essence of higher communist ethics and culture, the CPI (M) like undivided CPI never grew as true communist party. On the contrary, notwithstanding all its Marxist-leftist vocabularies and postures, it only developed as a social democratic party which, as against intensifying class struggle to pave way for scientific socialism by overthrowing exploitative capitalist system, plays a compromising role between labour and capital by craftily destroying class struggle so as to prolong the decadent moribund oppressive capitalist rule and thus serves the class interest and class motive of the capitalist rulers. When the known bourgeois political parties stand exposed before the people, it is the social democrats who with a camouflage of radicalism come to the rescue of the capitalist class suffering from the fear complex of anti-capitalist revolution and in return enjoy pelf and power. That is why, great Stalin had remarked that 'it is impossible to put an end to capitalism without putting an end to social democracy.' Elaborating further, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had shown that today social democracy is the last refuge of despotic utterly corrupt and ruthlessly exploitative fascist capitalism. Apart from negating the necessity of class struggle by advocating theory of class collaboration and renunciation of the path of struggle, the social democrats also ensure that as per the wishes of their masters, working class movement is emasculated from within. For that, they try to demolish the moral and ethical base of the toiling people by fomenting all kinds of vices, debased thoughts, rotten culture, blindness, fanaticism, privilege-seeking mind, greed, meekness, cowardice, falsehood, spinelessness, intolerance, indecency, abusiveness, and so forth. In other words, the design of the dispensations of the ruling power is to rob education of its essence, essence that would imbue the students, the youth in general, with the ideal of quest for truth, of fighting for justice, of being true to self-dignity and sacrificing the self at the altar of the cause of the deprived and the downtrodden multitude and instead set up a

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CPI (M) buttressed vile bourgeois agenda of crippling students and youth from within and kill their protesting spirit

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structure which would instill a self-seeking attitude among the students, inculcate in them an attitude of hankering for money, resignation towards life and its problems, addiction and revelry, stoke up basic instincts to lure them off to a world of perverse pursuit, and, in the end, abort student power in the morass of animal-existence.

In true colour of an arch social democratic force, the CPI (M), after being installed in power in 1977, began to buttress that very agenda of the ruling power to cripple people from within, destroying their struggling spirit, diffuse their capacity to protest, dispossess them of all moral power, rob them of political consciousness and push them into blind alley of privilege seeking, social alienation and apathy towards politics. The CPI (M) leaders sought to impress people by saying that since they were in power, there was no need to struggle any more, no need to embrace the path of movement. All their necessities would be fulfilled provided unflinching loyalty and servility to them is ensured. Everything would be hunky dory. Only people have to extend their electoral support to the CPI (M). Even the camouflage of customary slogan of revolution was relegated to the rear and ultimately banished. Gradually, the CPI (M) leaders, in order to stay in power, could not keep their policy of capitulation to and appeasement of the class shielded even. And at the same time, in order to keep their vote bank intact, they indulged in all kinds of illegitimate activities right from making administration completely subservient to their diktats, subverting autonomy of education to bullying people to submission, purchasing various people with lure of money, position and other facilities. Every sphere of life was brought under their control. It was so suffocating a situation that people even feared criticizing the CPI (M) in private lest the news travelled to the CPI (M) mandarins and goons and more trouble invited.

Throwing the students and student politics into the dungeon of degradation and degeneration has been a part of this agenda of dehumanizing the people. The ruling capitalist class is aware that it is the students and youth who are surrogates of social change. They bear the potential to protest and rise against injustice and oppression, all that is evil and wrong. If the students and youth are roused with

revolutionary consciousness through the path of struggle, doom of capitalism would be near. So, it arrays all its arsenal to pollute the students and youth, make them impotent in mind and body, turn them into robots and slave of impulse. Not only for appeasing the ruling bourgeoisie but also to prevent fast penetration of the realization among the people in general and student community in particular that both the CPI (M) and SFI are pseudo-Marxist anti-people forces, the CPI (M) leadership also took up the task of polluting the student community. First of all, it fostered a privilege seeking opportunist mind among the students, encouraged the thought that in order to make a career or decent living, they must enroll themselves as slaves of the power that be, feel no hesitation to deprive or deceive others, no difficulty in resorting to manipulation and even forgery to ensure a self-gain. This is how it purchased a section of the students and created a lobby of its own to work as pawn in its con game. On the other hand, a section of the students who despise the CPI (M) for its anti-people anti-democratic activities, who once were in favour of movement but now turned anti-left, anti-movement and anti-politics after seeing the anti-student anti-education immoral activities of the CPI (M) and SFI, are virtually getting entrapped by the bourgeois propaganda against student movement and student politics and becoming approver of the coercive and undemocratic measures of the government in the field of education including the question of banning election to student union. Secondly, as a part of this design to degrade the students, the CPI (M) leaders through SFI turned the student unions from being weapons of movement to centres of corruption and cultivation of rotten western Yankee culture of 'eat, drink and be merry'. Thirdly, they planted their yes-men at every level of education so that this design is not disturbed. Fourthly, they could successfully create a deep-rooted anti-movement mind among the people of West Bengal including the students and youth and thereby alienate them from the path of struggle. Endowment of 34 years of CPI (M) rule in West Bengal is that protesting spirit of the people, lively debates, discourses and criticisms on various burning problems of life and struggling fervour have all been given a grown burial. Social indifference has come to such an

extent that passers-by pay no heed to the scream of a college professor having one of his legs severed under the wheels of a running train. This is where the class interest of the ruling capitalists and the politics of the CPI (M) coincided and the CPI (M) leaders have earned absolute trust and confidence of the monopoly houses and the corporate sector. Industry barons and the chambers of commerce openly praised the 'commendable performance' of the CPI (M) and expressed gratitude for such an unparalleled service. It is the same very class who is projecting the CPI (M) as official lefts through its propaganda machinery.

Prognosis of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh confirmed

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh could not live to see this post-1977 period. But he could well read from various symptoms and acts of the CPI (M) that such would be the scheme of things to come. Time and again he cautioned people that they ought not to be misled by the gestures and postures of the CPI (M) and consider it as a Marxist party. Even when the CPI (M) was within the ambit of broader left-democratic combination and participated in the democratic movement, Comrade Ghosh had shown that their objective is to prevent the people from being class conscious but keep them wallowing in ignorance so as to win cheap popularity and usurp the credit of movement to brighten election prospects. "From the conduct and activity of the CPI(M) ... lies the clinching evidence that it is a mere petty-bourgeois parliamentary party, though masquerading as communist in the cloak of Marxism", he observed way back in late 1960s. He also showed that the way the CPI (M) was breaking the unions led by other parties was, for all practical purpose digging the grave of revolutionary working class movement by arresting these within worst form of economism and legalism. Even when late Jyoti Basu, the CPI (M) leader boasted that one decisive proof of their successful conduction of the United Front government lies in the fact that this time they have ensured what a big amount of bonus for the workers and that too without resorting to any kind of struggle, Comrade Ghosh pointed out that such was nothing but inculcating an anti-struggle mentality. Similarly, he warned that the CPI (M) was encouraging blindness and fanaticism, the practice of 'either arm-in-arm or at

throats of each other' would pave way for fascism to establish a firm grip. Sounding a note of caution about the state of leftist movement way back in early 1970s, Comrade Ghosh said that the practice of using physical force to increase organizational strength might give dividend to the CPI (M) for the time being because of numerical superiority but their practice of disallowing anybody to express their opinion, paying no heed to any reasoning would have a deadly outcome. "Though it may sound incredible but the reality is that", he pointed out, "those who are speaking against fascism, who are talking of communism, of leftism, of struggle and revolution ... themselves are found to be helping the growth of such an irrational mental make-up through their conduct and activities which, as a consequence, eventually will dig the grave of leftism and lead to the ascent of fascism. Because, when the reasoning faculty dies in the country, then that paves the way for infiltration of reactionary ideas in society..." "But if that party is non-revolutionary, if its path is wrong... still ... (if) you extend support to such a party just because it is a big party; a pseudo-revolutionary, a non-revolutionary party which has been degenerating and become decadent as even a scrutiny of its history embracing all aspects – principles, ideology, culture, ethics, political analysis – would reveal, then that big party will definitely misdirect the movement and the ensuing disaster will be even worse." How prophetic was he in his prognosis.

Bourgeois conspiracy to crush moral backbone of people

Going further deep in his analysis, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had shown that the severest attack of the bourgeoisie is in the realm of culture and morality. The bourgeoisie, he explained, is well aware that just through state oppression, through coercion by the state machine and brutal repression by the police and the military, it would not be able to keep the people subdued. So the bourgeoisie conspires to break the moral backbone of the nation, fosters base instincts and vile traits – greed, propensity for cowardly attacks, indecency, inferiority complex, sycophancy, flattery to satisfy personal need. In the name of freedom of culture, the bourgeoisie spins a web of gilded arguments to cleverly entrap people and help bring

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Strengthen genuine Marxist force to bring student movement back to glory

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about all-round moral degradation of man. So, it wants to break the backbone of the nation, destroy all senses of values and wants to make people self-centered, develop antipathy to political movement and trample in the mud. So was his historic comment while hailing the historic struggle of the brave Vietnam people against the brute military might of US imperialism, "Remember, a nation can stand firm on its feet even as it may be starving; it wages struggle, even as it goes without sustenance, if human essence resides in it.... But if fascism takes root very few will remain in the country worthy to be called man. Because, fascism creates hindrance in the man-making process." True education, as we have stated above, helps acquiring social consciousness, higher human attributes and rational mentality. And if correct consciousness dawns upon the youth, it would thwart fascism and threaten the very existence of this oppressive capitalist society. So is the attack on education. And like known bourgeois outfits, social democrats like the CPI (M) are also working as hand-maidens in implementing this sinister conspiracy of the bourgeois class to crush the moral backbone of the country and kill education. Pointing it out, Comrade Ghosh had observed that "extremely decadent bourgeois culture because of the calculated, conspiratorial move of the bourgeois class has in the meantime sneaked into the leftist movement, the Marxist-Leninist movement itself and is seeking to subvert it from within... eating into the very vitals of leftist movement, thus breaking the backbone of the revolutionary movement."

Marxism-Leninism can only show the way

So, true revolutionaries, genuine communists give maximum

importance to the question of ethics, morality and culture. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had repeatedly emphasized that "the essence, the living soul, the kernel of any great and revolutionary ideology of every age is ingrained in its higher cultural and ethical standard." "Marxism-Leninism is the loftiest ideal, the loftiest ideology of this era. In this ideology are found the highest and the most advanced concepts of morality and ethics of this era. There is no higher ideology than this." He also exhorted that "Nobody can bring about a revolutionary change of society in the present era by going against Marxism, because in this era Marxism alone can show the path to emancipation. All other ideologies are nothing but ideological confusions. Hence that section of the youth and the people who, by observing the severe distortion in the Marxist movement in the country, have turned away from Marxism-Leninismare completely mistaken. Those who are distorting Marxism in this country in the name of Marxism-Leninism are responsible for this, not Marxism-Leninism itself. I would like them to reflect over this. In this situation it is their duty to free Marxism-Leninism from this distortion." The current degeneration of students' movement, which is temporary in nature, needs to be understood in the light of this penetrating analysis of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Task imperative is to bring back militant students' movement to its past glory by isolating the anti-student forces including the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI (M), CPI and strengthening the genuine Marxist party and its various class and mass fronts, both ideologically and organizationally, and embracing the path of struggle on the edifice of higher proletarian culture and morality.

IACC expresses solidarity with the people's movement against the fascist regime of Turkey

Comrade Manik Mukherjee, General Secretary, International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC) issued the following communique on 7th June, 2013:—

The International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee expresses its solidarity with the ongoing people's movement in Turkey with democratic demands. The movement started as a protest demonstration by ordinary citizens of Istanbul to protect a public park in the city centre from being grabbed by capitalist greed. But the police, on orders by the Government, reacted with unmatched brutality using tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets, and truncheons on the peaceful, unarmed protesters. At least two protesters were killed, thousands were injured and many more were arrested. This unprovoked police violence infuriated the Turkish people and the mass movements spread to Ankara, the capital and other cities and engulfed the whole country. Like a true dictator the Prime Minister of Turkey justified the violence and branded the demonstrators as terrorists and anti-nationals. This inflamed the people even more and students, teachers, doctors, lawyers, workers, and people from all walks of life came out on the streets and joined the demonstrations which snowballed into a countrywide movement; the workers called a strike in support. This incident set a spark to the simmering discontent of the Turkish people against the oppression and tyranny of the fascist regime, and the movement was attaining more and more the character of a mass uprising, so much so that the Deputy Prime Minister had to come and talk with the demonstrators and had to apologize to those who were injured. The demonstrators submitted a charter of demands which include dismissal of the governors and heads of security of three cities, Istanbul, Ankara and Hatay, release of the detained protesters, ban on the use of tear gas by the police, and cancellation of the project to destroy a park in Taksim Square, Istanbul. A demand for the resignation of the Prime Minister for his high-handed, undemocratic actions has also been voiced. The IACC extends its support to the demands and its solidarity with the ongoing protest movement. The final victory of the people will be attained only with the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of socialism on the Turkish soil.



A section of the gathering at the convention in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 31st May convened by the SUCI(C) and other left parties against POSCO land grab and eviction



Demonstration and police atrocities on it in Kolkata and other cities of West Bengal on 12th June against the barbaric incident of gang rape and murder of a 20-year old girl in ill-famed Barasat area of North 24 parganas district. Within a week of this gruesome incident, another Class VII student was brutally raped in Nadia district and a 24-year old raped in the New Town area of Kolkata to lend credence to the recent findings of National Crime Records Bureau report that West Bengal tops among all states in crimes against women. More incidents of molestation and rape have taken place subsequently.

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