

Proletarian Era

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Red Salute Frederick Engels



5 December 1820 — 5 August 1895

“It is the essence of bourgeois socialism to want to maintain the basis of all the evils of present-day society and at the same time to want to abolish the evils themselves.

...Whoever declares that the capitalist mode of production, the ‘iron laws’ of present-day bourgeois society, are inviolable, and yet at the same time would like to abolish their unpleasant but necessary consequences, has no other recourse but to deliver moral sermons to the capitalists, moral sermons whose emotional effects immediately evaporate under the influence of private interest and, if necessary, of competition.

...The gospel of harmony between capital and labour has been preached for almost fifty years now, and bourgeois philanthropy has expended large sums of money to prove this harmony by building model institutions; yet, ... we are today exactly where we were fifty years ago.”

— ENGELS [*The Housing Question*]

SUCI(C) denounces Union Budget 2014 as Corporatization of Indian Economy, exhorts the countrymen to reject it

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), has issued the following statement on the Union Budget 2014 on 10 July 2014 :

Studded with surfeit of promises, routine allocations and stunts, the budget presented by Union Finance minister Arun Jaitley is a document of corporatization of Indian economy with liberal entry of FDI in key sectors, allowing private capital in many areas through PPP route, plethora of cuts in sales tax and customs duty to the manufacturers and “revival” of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Privatization spree has been so large an extent that the Finance Minister himself has stated that “India has emerged as the largest PPP market in the world.” By allowing 49% FDI in a crucial sector like defence, the very security of the country has been compromised. Raising the FDI cap in the equity holding of insurance sector to 49 per cent via disinvestment route is actually a policy reversal since in order to remove the vulnerability of the Indian insurers at the hands of the private operators, the LIC was once created by nationalizing all private insurance companies. The very announcement of raising PSU bank capital through retail sale of shares is nothing but disinvestment of the nationalized banks which has long been resisted by the people of the country. The government’s decision to revive the SEZs, ugly underside of which is no more hidden from public cognition, indicates how the government is keen to offer a bountiful waivers and concessions to the big capital, both domestic and foreign. As usual, the most unproductive military budget has been hiked to as high as Rs 2.29 lakh crore from Rs 2.03 lakh crore of last year. Indirect tax has been raised to Rs. 7525 crores which will be borne by the common people. The budget has remained conspicuously silent about employment generation, arresting harrowing price rise, containing inflation

spiral, weeding out the middlemen and ensuring minimum price to the poor peasants—some of the pressing issues concerning common masses. It has also not stated specifically that the benefits of the announced tax and duty cuts should mandatorily be passed on to the end consumers and not ‘absorbed’ by the manufacturers. The very announcement of setting up an Expenditure Management Commission to look at expenditure reforms, we apprehend, is a device to decide and implement subsidy cut and such other anti-people fiscal measures outside Parliament on the lines of the much condemned Railway Tariff Authority vested with the power of revising the fares and surcharges of its own.

So, in the budget, there is no ‘directional step’ as claimed by the Finance minister, for the common people. All the proposals are in the interest of the corporate sector and industrial house euphemized as ‘investors’. We are of the firm opinion that this so-called pro-reform budget neither cure capitalist economy let alone it being brought back on the rails but would devastate the people further since splurge of FDI, feast of privatization, binge of capital market reforms to boost speculation and gambling have landed country after country in the West in complete bankruptcy and collapsing of the giant financial institutions.

While the chambers of commerce, giant monopolists and their servitor economists-columnists might sing paeans for this budget of BJP government, people of the country pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless capitalist economic oppression ought to reject it lock, stock and barrel and compel the government under pressure of movement withdraw fiscal and economic measures inimical to people’s interest.

“I can say without hesitation that Comrade Yakub Pailan was a successful creation of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh”

— Comrade Provash Ghosh at Jaynagar Memorial Meeting

(This is the English translation of the speech delivered in Bengali by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), at the memorial meeting of Comrade Yakub Pailan, veteran member, Central Committee and Secretary, South 24 Parganas district, SUCI(C), held at Jaynagar on 22 June, 2014. The responsibility of translation error as well as inadequate representation, if any, solely lies with the Editorial Board of Proletarian Era.)

Comrade President and comrades,
I have been requested to say something in this memorial meeting. But this indeed is very difficult for

me. (Voice choked with emotion) I have been regularly coming to this district since 1951. Every time I met him, I had discussions with him.

Today is the first day when I can see him no more. I cannot make you understand how immensely painful it is. You all know that our Party is a big family. It is not an organization for merely producing some MLAs, MPs and ministers. This is a revolutionary Party. In our Party, there is a deep affectionate relationship among the leaders-cadres based on the revolutionary

teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. You all are grief-stricken. The weather has been inclement for quite some days. Yet, you have gathered here in thousands from far remote areas. Today thousands are shedding tears for a person whose name did not find place in the newspapers or the TV. People do not shed tears so profusely for those

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Comrade Pailan quietly struggled to develop himself as a true revolutionary

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who get wide publicity in the media. The tear that is wrenched from within at the loss of someone very close to the heart, a very close relative cannot be purchased with money, does not come out so easily. So great a personality, so endearing to all of us was Comrade Yakub Pailan. I heard from him that once he used to sell rice in the village market, on the streets, to the shops of Kolkata. He also worked as a tailor. He came from a semi proletarian family. Totally unknown and unheard of a person who was denied formal education. But how could he win the hearts of thousands and thousands of people? What was his strength? I am of the firm opinion that the question of properly understanding the worth of Comrade Yakub Pailan and paying due respect to him is intimately linked with realizing proper answer to this question.

Based on history and science, Marxism teaches us that no one is born a genius. Genius is no divine an endowment. The development of an individual, flourishing of his character takes place in course of his interactions with his own surroundings. Who will attain what standard, acquire what strength depends on how he conducts his life struggle, which ideology he is guided by and whether he wages a struggle covering all aspects of life. I have come to know from Comrade Pailan himself that in his early life, he had to fight with appalling poverty. And he was deeply moved by the wails and woes of those still poorer. In the initial stage of life, he was a believer in religion. He believed that god is omnipotent, also had faith in fate. At the same time, he wondered if such harrowing poverty, oppression and repression would continue unabated and whether remedy would remain ever eluding. He learnt that the great religious preachers of the yester years had fought against injustice and exploitation at that time. Yet today there is religion but there is no fight. Religion is now only confined to observing rituals. Today no religion is waging any struggle against oppression and injustice, against falsehood. He was seized with this question.

When he was in the midst of such a dilemma, he came in contact with Comrade Jiad Ali Bakshi whom many of you may not know. Comrade Bakshi was a Party worker of this district. Later he built up Party organization in the Birbhum district as

compatriot of Comrade Prativa Mukherjee. Comrade Jiad Ali Bakshi introduced Comrade Pailan to Comrade Sachin Banerjee in 1949. Everyone of Jaynagar town and the elderly people of South 24 Parganas district are acquainted with Comrade Sachin Banerjee's name. Comrade Sachin Banerjee had met Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great Marxist thinker and leader, teacher and guide of proletarian revolution in jail. In those days, Comrade Sachin Banerjee was associated with the Jugantar group, a revolutionary outfit. He set up a good number of clubs in this town. By concretizing Marxism-Leninism in the concrete situation of India, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had then released the most arduous struggle for building up a genuine revolutionary communist party on the soil. Comrade Sachin Banerjee joined Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in that arduous struggle as a close revolutionary compatriot. He brought Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to this town. It was in this Jaynagar town that the SUCI(Communist) was founded as the genuine communist party of the land in 1948. Through Comrade Sachin Banerjee, Comrade Subodh Banerjee was also attracted by the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and joined the Party. Based on the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrades Sachin Banerjee and Subodh Banerjee took initiative to build up movements on the various demands of the poor peasants, share-croppers and agricultural workers along both banks of the rivers of Sunderbans. Comrade Yakub Pailan was one of the bravest soldiers of these movements. Those who joined these struggles were Comrades Yakub Pailan, Rabin Mandal (now seriously ill), Renupada Haldar (now dead), and few days later Comrade Amir Ali Haldar (murdered by the CPI (M) criminals)) and thereafter Comrade Nalini Pramanik as well as many fighting persons belonging to poor families of various localities. While this struggle was on, Comrade Pailan came in direct contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh through Comrade Sachin Banerjee. And that brought a decisive change in his life. He could realize that religion which once called for releasing battle against injustice, oppression, repression and falsehood and thus could carve out a space in the hearts of the people, has now historically exhausted its utility. Need of the day is Marxism-Leninism, the weapon to fight against capitalist oppression and exploitation. Today,

the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism is the creed of the oppressed people. With this teaching before him, he engaged himself in the struggle for developing himself as a communist based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought.

In those days, there was no transport available in this district for going from one village to another. There was no bus, no van rickshaw. I still remember that in 1951, Comrades Sachin Banerjee, Subodh Banerjee, Yakub Pailan and many others used to travel from one place to another on foot, on boats wading through thick mud, to organize the poor peasants, share croppers and agricultural workers, and imbue them with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. At that time no one knew the Party, no one was aware of the name of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. To accept Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as the teacher during that period, dedicate the self in building up the Party forsaking everything else in life, was a very significant and rare struggle, I hold. This struggle of those including Comrade Yakub Pailan who came forward leaving everything behind to develop the Party responding to the call of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, then unknown and unheard of, was exemplary. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh then could not arrange even one square meal a day for himself. Comrade Yakub Pailan and others have also moved from place to place without food. They were chased by the musclemen of the rural kulaks and landed gentry, were attacked by the police, faced physical onslaught. Sometimes Comrades Sachin Banerjee, Subodh Banerjee, Yakub Pailan and others could manage to get a handful of puffed rice. Even that little was also not available on many days. Yet they moved throughout the day for building up Party organization. At that time, those who were in the leadership in this town hailed from middle class families. They could not advance in their struggle because of being entangled in family matters. So, they sought relieve from their responsibilities. Many of the comrades were then either in jail or evicted from home and hearth because of police onslaught. Comrade Sachin Banerjee was going to Odisha to build up Party there. Comrade Subodh Banerjee's was then a powerful voice inside the Assembly. He was busy in that. So, who would take up the leadership of the district? The Party faced that



Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing at Jaynagar

problem. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said that Comrade Yakub Pailan was the best person to shoulder the responsibility. Questions arose that Comrade Pailan though a dedicated soldier but did not have any formal education. Would he be able to discharge such a responsibility? Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said, yes he would. Comrade Ghosh had a lapidary's eye. He could identify the jewel. So, he did not make mistake in correctly identifying Comrade Yakub Pailan. Comrades Sachin Banerjee and Subodh Banerjee took decision in the meeting of the district Party workers that Comrade Yakub Pailan would be the South 24 Parganas District Secretary. Comrade Pailan was hesitant and rushed to Comrade Ghosh and asked how would he discharge such a responsibility? There were so many educated persons in the town. Even many who are residing in villages had some formal education, at least they were literate. Then how would he having no formal education, no experience shoulder such a great responsibility? Comrade Ghosh told him: 'When I initiated my struggle to build up the Party, what did I have? Referring to Vidyasagar, he said: Do not say I cannot. If others can do, you too can. And he said: For revolution, I shall do what others feel they cannot do. I have moved with this determination. You should also do so. I have full confidence in you.' History says, Comrade Yakub Pailan lived up to the confidence Comrade Ghosh reposed on him. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh used to say: Engage yourself in the struggle, change yourself, develop yourself, win over others with your quality. Comrade Pailan took up the responsibility and

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“Carrying the struggle that Jalaluddin conducted still further, in a still higher form, to a still greater level, will be the correct way of paying homage to our beloved comrade.” — Comrade Krishna Chakraborty

(This is the text of the speech delivered by Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Polit bureau, SUCI(C), at the memorial meeting of Comrade A. Jalaluddin, Member, Kerala State Committee, SUCI(C) and Vice-President, Kerala state AIUTUC, held in Quilon on 27 June)

Dear AIUTUC Comrades and friends,

To speak on such a painful occasion is really difficult. The old memories, storm of emotions when we remember days when such comrades, such workers came to the party, started party activities, it takes you back to those days when these comrades in their college days youthful days joined revolutionary party under the leadership of SUCI Communist founded by a great Marxist thinker Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. It was in 1970, when Comrade Jalal came and Jalal and some more comrades joined the party. From the starting of the party, Kerala was known as the land of the left forces particularly Communist Party of India. In 1957 itself, 10 years before West Bengal, the Kerala people voted the Communist Party of India to Power. CPI government was formed in Kerala. CPI was so popular. In 1964, this Communist party of India was split into two parties CPI and CPI (M). Both were very much popular in the country particularly in this state. In 1969, 1st May, a section coming out from CPI (M) formed CPI(ML) – Communist Party of India–Marxist-Leninist. In Kerala also there was a big force, many people joined the CPI(ML). This was the background when our party activities started. And those who started were very young people. Those who came first, many of you may be remembering, were Comrade James Joseph, Verghese, Subhash and some of the teachers from DKM College of Engineering, Comrade Rajagopalan, afterwards Comrade Divakaran, still then Party activities had not started. It was actually the preparatory phase of building up of the party. In 1971, no 70, we organised a discussion. A group of students from DK College of Engineering attended that school. It was a discussion on Marxism Leninism, Shibdas Ghosh thought. After the school of politics, all supported the party but few of them joined the party activities and took up the most difficult task of building the party here. And on what line. For, the old communist party leaders honestly sincerely tried to build a communist party in India, but could not build a communist party. But ours was the process of struggle that changed the lives of the leaders and cadres of the party, that makes one a real

communist, with communist outlook, the Marxist outlook, the dialectical materialist outlook with the culture of proletariat collectivism fighting bourgeois individualism, the struggle to merge with the interest of revolution, with the interest of the proletariat class and party, fighting personal interests, all this most difficult struggle, but most noble struggle that makes a man Karl Marx, Lenin, Frederick Engels, Stalin, Mao, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Such a noble struggle was necessary struggle. So to build up a party here on the Kerala soil it was a difficult struggle to prove that though in sincerity, honesty, dedication, sacrifice nothing lacked in the struggle of the CPI leaders, they were dedicated, they sacrificed, they went to jail, they gave up lives but still could not build up a communist party on this soil. But our party SUCI (Communist) party had to establish in this soil that struggle in the entire country was very much needed. Real revolutionary audacity it needed. It involved an all-out struggle covering all aspects of life; it was to build such a character, such a culture which attracts people in the society, people want it, that we will have to practise and you will have to realise it in your life, your life struggle that your existence itself reflects a new culture, a noble culture which people can see from your behaviour, your very existence. Such a struggle this first batch of comrades conducted. One of them is Comrade Lukose himself and Comrade Natarajan, dedicated group, a very serious group of comrades from DK College of Engineering struggled to build the party. Jalal was known to be a jolly young man in college. Very loving type, social in character, mixing with all, but nobody could believe that such a man though appearing light yet not light, instead jolly, took up such a noble struggle; that along with these comrades, such an arduous struggle, uphill task he took up. As in other states, in Kerala too, we started at the beginning itself a commune though it was not exactly a commune—a commune is a still higher standard in living together. We started a party centre, in 1977 we opened party centre for those who had given up everything, who had whole heartedly dedicated themselves to build up the party, to start a new concept of life. Among

those few comrades Jalal was there. This attracted more and more students. Then came a batch of medical students. Comrade Venugopal, Comrade Subramoni, Comrade Mahesh Babu of Allepy, and there were many other students. Some of them also joined the party, a total submission and process of the struggle. People of other parties would crack jokes on this — some college students, some intellectuals will build up communist movement and a party. Some of them admit now that we used to make jokes; but actually we could not believe that such a serious struggle, such a movement they could build up on this soil. If you look back to those days, you too would think how it could happen. But it happened. It created such an ideological, political, cultural movement on this soil of Kerala; now today this number is nothing. This is a part of the total number of comrades that are present in Kerala. The party is growing. This struggle was a very difficult struggle, a very painstaking struggle, it almost looked impossible. This required deep conviction not mere acceptance of Marxism, Leninism, Comrade Ghosh thought. In Marxism, Leninism, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thoughts, a conviction, belief, faith these are great things; but belief and faith also break. But when conviction comes, then I understand by reason that society changes, changes from quantity to quality and in this process of change from quantity to quality gives rise to a new social structure, new society, new social - economic, cultural, political, ethical, moral, jurisprudence, educational — total change — that we call revolution. Revolution is inevitable as Marx said: it is not just a wish, it is the law of development of society, it brings changes in nature and material world. Marx showed that quantitative changes in a society surely lead to qualitative changes, whereby a new society is born. .

Then what is the necessity to take up this struggle? Marxism answers that also. It is not that changes just take place in nature, in nature changes take place automatically from quantity to quality, but in society there is the role of consciousness — this consciousness plays a determining role sometimes, a leading role; without conscious development of a movement revolution cannot not grow. Though CPI led big struggles, glorious struggles, but today you see to what or where they have gone. Reactionary forces are spreading in

the country, not only BJP; BJP of course in the northern states; in Tamilnadu Jialalitha's AIADMK, in West Bengal TMC, Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh (Seemandhra), Chandrashekar Rao in Telangana, Naveen Patnaik in Orissa; these are all reactionary forces. The whole of India is swayed by reaction. It is our failure, failure of the left movement. People want movement, we could not give that leadership. Leadership is the question. Correct political line is the question, correct ideology is the question, a higher culture is the question. Without a higher culture, a higher movement cannot take place, revolution can never take place without a noble culture which one day will bring in a communist society. Noble culture once gave birth to capitalist society, now it should give way to socialist society. Capitalism has produced this kind of opportunism, ego-centrism, individual freedom in the bourgeois sense wherefrom individualism comes, and today in the dying stage of capitalism it cannot but give birth to polluted individualism. People are suffering, this corruption, these crimes on women, on children — wherefrom these are coming. They are because of total fall in culture; degradation comes from vulgar individualism, the individualism which one day brought revolution against feudalism when individual freedom was not there. So this cultural movement is the most important movement, comrades. These very comrades whom I remembered along with Comrade Jalal, these comrades understood this very thing. That's why everybody doubted, such a small force: Can this force build up a communist party fighting against those big 'so called' communist parties? It was not easy. Other communist parties knew that it was not easy. But they did not waiver. They understood that it is possible, because they had seen party leaders, the culture of our leaders, starting from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, they have given up their personal way of living, personal life, old petty bourgeois dreams, old career. If you say career, revolutionary life is also a career. But that career is totally different. Here career means giving up personal position in life; new revolutionary career means giving up personal and becoming impersonal, that culture. To understand Jalal's movement, his struggle, if you do not understand these things; simply knowing some facts of his life you will not

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Comrade Jalaluddin was among few in Kerala taking up struggle to identify himself with the Party

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understand him. That struggle is still valid and will remain valid until class struggle is over, unless exploitation of man by man is over, unless classes are abolished. That is the movement of the communists, that is the nobility the communist movement establishes. This nobility those comrades established. That nobility you comrades are also establishing in a vigorous way. When we are remembering Jalaluddin we should remember this noble struggle. Comrade Lukose has placed certain things and you comrades also know, so all these details I am not entering into, of emergency 1974, '75, '76. He was detained by the police on false charges. He was teaching in a technical school and the management was very much opposed to him, because of his communist ideas, because of his social movement and all. He suffered in the prison on false charges. But that is nothing for revolutionaries because for revolutionaries to go to jail, to police custody is quite possible and that real communists consider it a prize too. Prize for my struggle. He was beaten by goondas of other parties, he was very bold, very courageous. Nothing could subdue his courage. Those who knew him personally also know, how loving he was. By nature he was a very loving comrade. Coming from a minority community in India. Because of the very many riots in our country because of the communal forces, to have come from the minority community, when you mix with Muslims you will know, they mix well but still some sensitivity remains; quite possible, that's not their mistake, they are not to be blamed for it. We the fanatic Hindus are to be blamed for it. But Jalal was absolutely free from this. Nobody could feel he is from which community, neither did he. That's our culture, the communist culture. We are not Hindus, we are not Muslims. We are not upper caste people, nor lower caste people. We are communists. Communist means a conscious proletariat. His culture means a noble proletariat culture. Conscious proletariat means, he is very sharp in terms of class struggle, class consciousness; by instinct he understands his class position, because he has tried to merge his interest with the interest of the proletariat class. All his work are purposive. Even in gossip he has a purpose and that purpose is in conformity with the revolutionary movement, conducive to growth of revolutionary movement. His struggle is to acquire the highest knowledge of this era. Marxism is based on development of sciences,

correlation of sciences, Marxism itself is a science, dialectical science, the science of all sciences, guides all sciences. To acquire Marxism means to acquire knowledge, knowledge of all things that governs nature, society and thought. That's why communists are great people. That's why in the whole world, with the fall of socialism throughout the world you see reactionary forces, total cultural degradation- fanaticism are growing, Islamic fanaticism, Christian fanaticism, Buddhist fanaticism are growing, no reason, no logic, no science. Science is taught technically, mechanically—to know certain processes, to work as a doctor, an engineer and that too a doctor who is going to the operation—first offers a namaste to the instrument and then starts; he may be an honest man but belief is like this; this occurs throughout the world. When revolution developed, when proletarian revolution developed and assumed its victorious shape in the glorious proletarian revolution of Russia under the leadership of the great Lenin, then onwards a progressive movement started throughout the world. It was advanced by Comrade Stalin, he established socialism and showed its strength. Without any support from any other country, he built Russia which was in a condition that it was considered the sickest nation in Europe; he developed it into a great civilization with the unity of the people. That unity of people of a socialist state could militarily defeat the fascist forces Germany, Japan — the fascist Axis, which France, England could not defeat, but Soviet Russia defeated; under the leadership of great Stalin it showed the strength of a proletarian state. Soviet Russia - it developed in such a way economically that it fed the world and today, after the growth of revisionism under the leadership of renegade Khrushchev and upto Brezhnev, and Gorbachev now with counter-revolution you see in Russia . Go to Russia, you see people starving. Old people, retired people, those who led comfortable life under socialism are today paying the price for their wrong acts and mistakes. It was to be; socialism is so great, it frees man from exploitation, it frees economy from the control of few powerful individuals -capitalists, establishes social ownership over social means of production. It produces not for profit as in capitalism, it produces to meet the growing need of the society, of people in socialism. What need — both material and cultural. It creates a new culture, new society, new

civilization. Those people who have butchered that very civilization-- Khrushchev, Brezhnev or Gorbachev are the worst criminals. For killing a man there is capital punishment given to a criminal; but killing a civilization, what a crime it is! Whole masses are suffering. We are suffering; the whole mankind is suffering because of this betrayal of the renegades. So Comrades, when I remember comrades who have conducted this struggle to build not just a party but a communist party like ours, it is building an economic, political, social, cultural, ethical, all out movement. It is a struggle to build up a new concept of life with new culture, new values, new ethics, new civilisation, much much higher than the old one, making life great. Freeing man from degradation, freeing man from exploitation of man by man. When conviction comes, one single man starts a movement, so was it with Lenin, Mao Zedong and Comrade Ghosh. Many told him that in a vast country like India, you alone with a few comrades in arms of yours, can you build a communist party, communist movement and revolution ultimately? Old CPI and so many parties, RSP was not as small as you see today, came out from the Anushilan Samiti in which Comrade Ghosh was also there, he was also in RSP, he came out to build a genuine communist party and a communist movement. Those people also were honest but process is most important. If the struggle is not correctly appreciated and taken in life particularly, if the leaders do not lead the life of communists truly, if they do not struggle to identify their personal interest with the interest of the proletariat class, with revolution, with the emancipation of the proletariat, and finally to identify personal interest with the interest of the party, you cannot become a communist how much ever you struggle, how much you study, still you can't. So comrades, on this occasion I tell you again and again, the country needs not only, the whole world needs, the world proletariat needs revolution and that revolution won't come without a revolutionary party of the proletariat. Lenin showed it, proved it by conducting revolution in Russian soil and when counter revolution came, it further established the superiority of the revolutionary party, the revolutionary line; if deviation from Marxism Leninism happens then counter-revolution is inevitable. It does not prove Marxism is wrong. It further proves Marxism is the only philosophy that can guide man and make human society change and

develop from lower to higher, higher to higher, still higher. The belief in Marxism should develop into conviction; with conviction you can carry forward the struggle still more vigorously. The struggle that Jalaluddin carried, that struggle has to be carried still further, in a still higher form, to a still greater level, attracting youths of this country, working class of the country, vast masses of exploited people of this country, towards revolution and communist movement. As comrades in the initial stages carried forward this struggle, have created such a condition in which today the country accepts that SUCI (C) is a serious political party, you can make it much bigger and I believe you can do it. If a few comrades could take up this challenge, today we are not few though we understand in relation to the necessity of revolution we are few, and strength is required; oppression, exploitation all exists because of its physical strength-- the army, police, judiciary, the state. Economically, politically the capitalists are strong, we the proletariat have only one weapon in our hands, that is the revolutionary party. If the party becomes strong all this state power is nothing. All revolutions, carried out in Russia, China, Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea have all proved that state becomes nothing when revolutionary masses become armed with Marxism, Leninism, most powerful weapon. That's the need of the hour. Such big movement like Occupy Wall Street which culminated in America immediately after Middle East countries from Tunisia to Egypt all young countries, countries burst out in powerful mass movement but could not achieve what could have been achieved by such a powerful movement. Some achievement will be there but what could be achieved by such an upheaval could not be achieved. Again we will have to go back to Lenin—without a revolutionary party there cannot be any revolution. As without a revolutionary theory there cannot be a revolution, so also without a revolutionary party there will be no revolution. Because there was no revolutionary party in those movements, those could not achieve what it could have. We have to draw lessons from it and build up the Party. I believe you all will carry forward this struggle. That will be the correct way of paying homage to our beloved comrade, Comrade Jalaluddin. Paying my respects, homage to Jalaluddin, my beloved comrade, and red salute to the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, I conclude.

Soccer World Cup 2014

Demeaning saga of money-media-corruption-vulgarity

In the present days of acute recession and market crisis in the capitalist world we will come across thousand and one instances; those will show that corporates, more so the MNCs, are at their most desperate demeanour. They just keep on exploring ever newer areas of human activities for investing their capital that lies idle, yet restless to hunt maximum profit by any means. Since long back they had targeted the arena of sports and games. Today they have come to engulf the latter in their entirety. This is glaringly evident through the recent international mega-sports events like very recently completed World Cup 2014 football (henceforth referred as WC2014) or the IPL (seventh season) cricket held sometime earlier.

The country hosting the WC2014 has been Brazil, considered an upcoming capitalist economy. Incidentally Brazil, like any and all other capitalist countries, has since long been facing intense economic crisis that doomed the teeming million there into utter misery and penury. Mounting unemployment, retrenchment followed; there was lack of educational and medical facilities; subsidies were withdrawn from essential items and services like food and transport; corruption engulfed government officials. It is no wonder then that when Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff ventured to host the World Cup in the country— effecting large scale overhauling incurring huge expenses for building stadiums, flyovers, highways and in the process evacuating thousands of impoverished destitutes and street-dwellers who were forcibly driven out of the cities— people from all sections of life erupted in vehement protest and took to the streets. The situation was further aggravated with the Brazil government hiking taxes, transport fares and imposing special World Cup cess, etc. The people cried hoarse “No world cup—we want food!” It would be necessary to recall that Brazil is a football-loving country (with even a small child dreaming to become a *Pele* or a *Garrincha*). Yet between football and question of survival they opted for the latter.

The question now arises, with such simmering public discontent over ever-worsening economic situation, how could the Brazil government venture to host an affair involving a staggering expenditure? The obvious answer is: it did so with assurance from the corporates, which really amounted

to its compulsion under the dictates of its masters. The Brazil government had the FIFA, the leading world body of football, and its partners- the German MNC Adidas and the US MNC Nike share the cost of holding the mega event totaling to some 14 billion US dollars (as against the 15 billion totally expended on three earlier World Cup games). It is not difficult to infer that the corporates having invested such a fabulous amount, would stop at nothing less than reaping a super-profit. Thus along with the ‘beautiful game’ of football being played on the grounds of Brazil, the all-encompassing game being played in and around them was that of M-O-N-E-Y— the FIFA World Cup 2014 has been a game of fabulous spending of money, rampant corruption and unethical happenings. But before scaling the depth the issue has reached down to, we may need to look through why we should be so critical of money entering the sports arena.

Despite all aberrations, games and sports evolved in human society to provide man with a kind of relief from drudgery of daily life, that is a kind of creative entertainment, that would not only stimulate creative senses of values and ethics, at the same time contribute to developing a healthy mind in a healthy body. Among the games, football is immensely popular throughout the world. Not only would the participants but the beholders, the spectators too would be entertained with this beautiful ball-game of speed and skill, emotion and excitement, all coming up within a brief spell of time, hardly one and a half hour or two. However with the corporates taking over, sports in general and football and cricket in particular have gradually been robbed of the essence therein. Instead, such sports have rather turned into money-making ‘show business’ or ‘entertainment packages’. This unwarranted change is amply evident from the World Cup 2014, as it has also been from the cricket mega-event IPL Cricket Tournament played earlier in India. Here the participants earn money as much as they can by dint of their performance which always do not remain within ethical limits; the organizers fetch the maximum from the events they organize; the media, an essential part of any modern event also avail of this opportunity to enhance their assets, and besides these components of the events in the open, those underground make merry from fixing results, black

marketeeing of tickets and so on. It was no different with the World Cup 2014. Let us see.

To begin with, let us check the grossly evident instances. The expenses incurred and the sources investing have already been mentioned. To add to these, with their coffers full of idle money, the corporates availed advanced technology to create fabulous propaganda hype over the mega sports events. Hoardings and banners displayed smiling icons of the field as well as the celluloid with much razzle-dazzle. Media ran amok. For nearly one month, almost the entire print and electronic media were geared and steered to chant on and on the catchy slogans of the events devoting a lion’s share of their space-time assets to cater the World Cup 2014 to their readers-cum-viewers. It was not just because of the popularity of the game, by no means in keeping with the spirit of genuine sports. It was more to create the adequate hype commensurate with the investment so that the market generated would fetch enough money to reap the harvest. Thus parallel to the schedule of matches of the tournament, there were accounts and analysis of which team and which encounter would draw how much spectators with how many tickets sold. And as has been the case in the recent days, keen eyes were set to see that with gradual weeding out of teams in the knockout stage, the crowd-pulling teams remained in the fray. The media thus regulated the campaign for or subtly against this or that team. The Fifa appeared to be equally vigilant. As soon as a team defeated two favourite teams quite unexpectedly (though later the winning team proved its mettle by winning a rank in the last 8, that is quarter-final stage), the FIFA for unexplained reasons, and going beyond its rules of dope testing a few players of a contending team, summoned as many as seven players of that minnow, as they call upcoming non-favourite teams in the media, for dope test.

In any case these were all in the open. There were cases sprouting out from underground. May be, they had many such equivalents not yet brought out, or may not be. But there was at least one serious case of match fixing that came out, implicating an African team to have deliberately surrendered for a clean defeat, and one of its important players getting himself sent off the game for a bad foul on an opponent. People cannot

rule out if there were not more cases.

In regard to tickets, black-marketeters, called the scalpers, knew no nation-boundaries. The Reliance Industries of India had to issue order for a probe on how and in what way could a bunch of much-coveted and expensive tickets (worth a total sum of US\$ 1.2 million) bought by them through a company that works with the FIFA end up in the Brazilian black market of tickets. Reports were also there as to the Brazilian administration investigating whether football federations of three countries including the host, were involved in the illegal sale of world cup tickets. So money was flowing wildly, both above and below the ground. And why should it not? Before the grand gala of WC2014 started there were allegations already rending the air that the FIFA choice of Qatar as the next venue of the WC 2018 has been effected in exchange of a huge sum of money from the oil barons of that country. So from the organizers to the scalpers all seemed to be involved in making money underhand.

Now about the players and the money. It is now a well-known fact that the best players of different countries scatter around the world in search of CLUBS to earn money. Sponsors, business magnates, corporates prowl about in the players market for fishing their chosen players. Those should be talented, icons in the public eye and hence crowd-pullers. Fabulous offers are made. So many kinds of fees are in vogue, for transfer, for releasing from a club, for lien etc. etc. The amounts are staggering; media enthusiastically report the auctioning; the clubs engaging players assert themselves as and when required. And even that may be at the cost of their not releasing players to play for their countries. The players go on playing throughout the season till they are exhausted. And the effect was apparent in the WC 2014 too. Particularly with some traditionally powerful countries, players seemed to be out of tune. It was thought, perhaps not too wildly, that long seasons were telling upon them; besides, different players of one country had been playing for different clubs and their tight schedules prevented them from practicing together for the World Cup and their country. So they lacked cohesion and integration. But after all, the clubs provided the money, which the World Cup or the

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Down with corporate money vitiating sports and games ! Revive beautiful football !

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football federations of different countries could not. So players were duty bound, rather money-bound to their clubs and not to the games first and foremost.

Also it is our experience that to whatever sphere the corporates cast their avaricious eyes, corruption and vulgarization follow hand-in-hand. The corporates in their bid to attract a larger number of spectators commodify sports and games. The players are dressed in bright and gaudy garments with logos of this brand or that hailing the respective corporate-sponsors. Cheerleaders, reportedly recruited against hefty fees from different college and university gymnastic groups are trained and groomed to perform their antics supposedly to entertain the spectators and boost up the players and thus add to the glamour quotient of different mega sports events. World Cup 2014 did not have cheerleaders, but the Fifa and its associates found much more commercially viable, that is crowd-pulling alluring means of engaging model celebrities to perform freely and wildly to inaugurate or to draw curtain over the games. The entire media and ad campaigns, sparing neither electronic, nor print, nor open air displays, were thickly interspersed with extremely obnoxious images of scantily covered women bodies in filthy gestures-postures- advances often in the name of performing arts, that could only repulse any normally thinking person with a minimum sense of taste and ethics vehemently.

On this background, questions are being asked with eyebrows raised on the Fifa talking of fair play and ethics that has become a sort of jokes or on the standard and neutrality of referees appointed by the Fifa itself. The case of Qatar winning the bid for the next venue has been mentioned above. A few more instances may not be irrelevant.

The Fifa had no option to banning a well-known player from the rest of the games, after he had been found clearly to be biting an opponent player. But neither the Fifa nor any referee could take another renowned player to task. He was found with an ever smiling face and seen patting on the shoulder of the referee, but was also found to be taking fake dives one after another to wrench a penalty or a free-kick, admitting at the same breath that he was an honest player and had taken one dive, but it did not affect the game. Really however, he had

taken so many other dives some of which might have affected the games; yet he was never booked (incidentally in an earlier World Cup even a player of Maradona's stature was booked for the same offence).

Then again it was wondered how could a goalkeeper take to totally illegal movements and sledging when a shot is being taken during a penalty shoot-out (thus unlawfully maximizing his chances of successfully saving the shot) in an as important game as of the quarter-final without being cautioned by the referee ; how could a referee allow 58 fouls to take place in another important quarter final match before he drew a card for one offender; how could an offender do a foul in the same match that turned out to have smashed a vertebral bone of the victim and yet could go scot free. In fact as presently all data are stored in computers, one wonders if the Fifa should look up for any record of more fouls in any earlier world cups

than the number of fouls made in this WC2014, or uglier and more continuous use of brute physical force to thwart skill undertaken.

Such was the skeleton of the WC2014 below the skin of glitz and glamour. Conspicuously missing were the flesh and blood: the excellence, beauty and spirit of the beautiful game of football. What was once a good healthy entertainment has been shamelessly commoditized, has been made a money-making, money-flaunting extravaganza. To make its inroad into people smooth, the media created an ambience releasing their thousand and one means to dupe people with a artificial hype. Hence after the curtains are drawn, the real football-lovers should throw a question : Were they really satisfied with this vulgarly dazzling show devoid of life, a caricature of football. The Brazilians or for that matter people of any country may think out loudly again: How are people, other than a few corporates

and their associates, being benefitted with such obnoxious shows of money, particularly when for so-called want of funds millions languish from lack of food, shelter, health facilities, education even clean potable drinking water and pollution free air and such other basic amenities of life and livelihood ! They can ask why in the land of Brazil where football is a passion for people of all ages, men or women, and where a world cup was being held with so much grandeur, marginalized people, youth and children aspiring to be football players, *Peles* or *Tostaos*, are rebounded from the gates of the arena. It is so expensive, in its literal terms, that they have to remain satisfied with their own miniature world cups organized by different NGOs or benevolent individuals with vision. So, along with the demand of reviving the spirit of football, people may firmly shout the slogan: Down with corporate money thus vitiating sports and games!

Significant achievements of ASHA workers in Karnataka

ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers in the state of Karnataka have gained several benefits recently by their protracted movement. The state government has declared last year, matching incentive on par with the central government in its first budget owing to the relentless struggle by the ASHA union. ASHA workers union affiliated to All India UTUC has been continuously organizing series of successful movements for last 5-6yrs in Karnataka. Also this movement was supported by many eminent people belonging to different walks of life and thereby earned importance.

Nearly 30,000 ASHA have been trained & appointed by state health department. They are working in rural areas of all the districts in Karnataka for the last 6-7 years under the central government programme of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The CM of Karnataka, in the 2013-14 Budget said that the ASHA workers doing yeoman service in the health sector would be provided with incentive by the state government in addition to what they receive from the central government. But after order was issued, matching grant was not given to ASHA workers for 4-5 months. Then perusing the same, state leadership of the ASHA

Union took along several delegations and ultimately government has released the matching incentive. In this regard when state leaders of the Union met state health minister Sri U T Khader on June 18, 2014, long pending issues regarding providing mobiles and SIM cards, matching grant balance were settled. The state government has released a sum of Rs. 2900/- matching incentive to each ASHA workers. The minister also assured the release of matching incentive balance amount very soon. He also told that mobiles and SIM will be distributed on world population day

in July. The state government has also appealed to the central government for hiking the matching grant which the state government shall follow suit. If this is implemented, every ASHA will get Rs.2200/- (Monthly) regular incentive plus the added incentives based on work (from central government) and the state governments matching incentive on par with the central government. State Secretary of ASHA workers union D Nagalakshmi and vice President of AIUTUC M N Sriram and other representatives from the districts were in the delegation.



Delegation of ASHA workers union meeting the Karnataka health minister

SUCI(C) carries on people's movements across the country

Our Party SUCI (C), its different frontal organizations, as also unions affiliated to the AIUTUC have been sustaining movements across the country on people's demands in regard to their life and livelihood. The following is a summary of reports made available in the recent times.

AIMSS

The All India Committee of AIMSS in two statements made recently on 1 July and 3 July respectively condemned the statement of Trinamool Congress MP Tapas Paul as reported in the media and expressed its reservation over the Supreme Court judgement that the accused in dowry harassment incidents should not be arrested immediately as soon as the case is registered, as practiced under the Section 498 A at present, failing which would lead to contempt of Court.

The AIMSS observed that the threat expressed by Tapas Paul to shoot down his political opponents also calling upon his boys to rape the CPI(M) workers, if anything happens to his mothers or sisters or his political workers by his political opponents, the CPI(M) party, was not only anti-women but anti-civilization itself. Whereas political differences notwithstanding, decent politics calls upon for a serious political debate, politics which defends the injustice cannot but produce such elements who can stoop to such low for the sake of power and pelf. The AIMSS called upon all sections of people, particularly women to come out in strong protest against this statement of Tapas Paul and demands that he is severely punished.

The AIMSS, in the second statement, submitted that as admitted by the Supreme Court itself, 1,97,762 persons were arrested in 2012 under Section 498A, among which charge sheet was filed in 93.6% cases and the accused were punished only in 15% cases. In the present patriarchal set up of our country, where crimes on women including domestic violence are growing at an alarming rate, any changes in laws require a serious debate and consensus involving legal experts, eminent personalities of our society, women's organizations, social activists. The AIMSS urged upon the governments, both Union and state, to initiate this process and protect the interests of women and uphold justice.

North Bengal Tea Plantation Employees' Union

At the tragic death of 6 starving tea-garden workers of the Raipur tea garden near Jalpaiguri in northern part of West Bengal, closed

since 2002, Comrade Tapan Bhowmik, president of North Bengal Tea Plantation Employees Union, affiliated to the AIUTUC, pointed out in a statement on 27 June last, that over and above evoking sorrow the tragic deaths created irrepressible wrath in the minds of working people of the tea plantations as well as at large. Not only the administration and the plantation authorities remained criminally mute over a decade, despite repeated demands to the past as well as the present state governments for cancelling the lease of the closed plantation, and taking it over by the government, nothing was done. Instead the government was not even paying the minimum wage for 100 day work. Rather, they, as usual, are trying frantically to establish that the deaths are not due to starvation. Comrade Bhowmik humbly raised the question: Does the photograph of the decimated body of a dead worker coming out in the media, depict in any way that he had enough to eat. Hence the deaths were natural outcome of criminal negligence and silence of the administration including the governments. Comrade Bhowmik reiterated the demands of paying all the due wages and continuing to pay the daily wage right on the day of work, of supplying essential food items to each family of the closed gardens under the Antyodaya Yojana and arranging for regular medical treatment of the sick workers, and of taking over all closed tea plantations scrapping their leases.

AIDSO

In a statement issued on 28 June 2014, the General Secretary of AIDSO, Comrade Ashok Mishra, congratulated the students, teachers and non-teaching staff of Delhi University in particular and common people in general for the victory of their sustained movement for over two years against the introduction of the Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) by the University of Delhi ultimately effecting roll back of the FYUP. He made it clear that despite all efforts from different quarters, there should be no confusion that it was not due to administrative measures but the pressure of movement which created such a condition that FYUP had to be rolled back. The movement included a long series of

public meetings, campaigns at metro stations and public places, interaction with the parents and students coming to DU to take admission, meetings with trade union leaders, women's organizations, leaders of different political parties and submission of memoranda to the Prime Minister and the President of India, etc. Initiated by left and democratic forces of the university which included DUTA (Delhi University Teachers' Association) led by its president Nandita Narayana, Democratic Teachers Front (DTF) and students and youth organizations like AIDSO, AISA, KYS, SFI, and later the PACHHAS, the rationality of the demands and the logical opposition to the FYUP attracted eminent personalities and education loving people cutting across their political and ideological affiliation. The all embracing popularity of the movement and growing resentment within people even compelled the ABVP, the NSUI and the INSO to line up against the FYUP.

The statement also condemned the autocratic atmosphere in DU that crushes the autonomy of university by the university administration itself, as it takes decision trampling underfoot the autonomy and rights of stake holders of university and statutory bodies. Also undesirable and unfortunate was the directive of the UGC to get rid of this anti education, anti-student FYUP. Though the students and teachers accepted it warmly, they must also be aware that direct Government intervention or UGC directive cannot be appreciated because those also ruin autonomy of the university. The AIDSO further drew attention of the students, teachers, the academic community and the society at large to the greater battle that lies ahead against the onslaughts of both the earlier Congress led UPA government and the present BJP government on the autonomy of educational institutions as well as people's right to education through the policy of privatization and commercialization of education of which the FYUP was one of the fall-outs.

Mumbai

Along with other parts of the country, Mumbai saw people's movement. As a part of the countrywide protest movement against rail fare and freight hike and also against 30% compulsory disinvestment and privatization of railways and PSU's as well as rampant price hike, hike in fuel

prices, and other issues, demonstration was held on June 23, at Dadar East, Mumbai, by the Mumbai Organizing Committee of SUCI(C). Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, member Central Committee SUCI(C), in her address to the demonstrators as well as the common people appealed to organize themselves for future sustained movement on these issues. Comrade Anil Tyagi and Comrade Jairam Vishwakarma were among the others who addressed the gathering.

Mumbai also saw the observance of the AIDYO foundation day with great enthusiasm from the youth and people of the megapolis held on June 29, at Thane in Mumbai at Sangharsh Nagar, Chandivali, Andheri (East). With Comrade Kumar Kulashreshtha, member Thane Organizing Committee, SUCI(C) paying homage at the column of martyrs of class and mass struggles, Comrade Manoj Singh, AIDYO president presiding over the occasion and Comrade Jairam Vishwakarma, organizer, AIDYO Maharashtra delivering the address as the main speaker, the programme was graced by the eminent archaeologist, historian and philosopher as the Chief Guest. The meeting was addressed by other leaders too.

Moradabad, UP

Protest movements against railway fare hike, fuel price hike and other issues were held also at Moradabad UP, Seemapuri Chawk in Delhi and elsewhere.

Uttarakhand

At Rudrapur, one year of the Uttarakhand disaster was observed in a meeting in memory of the victims on June 16, at the initiative of Medical Service Centre with the Councillor Rajesh Nath speaking on the occasion. Also present were Dr. Anup Maity, Dr. Anshuman Mitra, Comrade Tapan Dasgupta and others. Mukesh Semwel was in conduction. On June 17, a similar programme was held at Banshra-Viri area.

Haryana

On July 9, at the initiative of Mid Day Meal Karta Union affiliated to AIUTUC, mid-day meal workers held a demonstration at Bhiwani, Haryana and submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister of the state through the District Magistrate, demanding increase of their honourarium and against cutting of the same during summer holidays etc.

Corporates making money in treasury operation

Would you believe it? Country's top ten corporates have outdone the top ten banks in treasury income. Incredible indeed! Treasury income refers to the earnings generated by deploying surplus cash in bonds and other money market instruments in order to maximize returns from idle funds. Although the mainstay of corporate earning is sales income, for many companies a large chunk of profits comes from treasury profits. For banks, the key earning is net interest income — the spread between loans and deposits. In the case of a cash-rich corporate like Reliance Industries, the treasury income at over Rs 8,000 crore is more than a third of the total profit. "An analysis indicates a trend of an increasing share of 'other income' of non-financial companies (NFCs), which is observed across sectors ranging from information technology (IT) to heavy machineries. These NFCs, aiming to use the huge cash balances to improve their returns on assets, engage aggressively in 'financial' activities (commonly referred to as 'treasury operations'), and the 'interest income' of some NFCs exceeds the overall net profit of some banks," said RBI in its Financial Stability Report released on Thursday. Bankers said that multinational corporations can

deploy funds not only across different asset classes, they can move their money across the globe depending on where their operations are. Some of them also take positions in two different markets to tap arbitrage opportunities. The RBI has also expressed concern over the new trends of peer-to-peer financing (means lending money to unrelated individuals, or "peers", without going through a traditional financial intermediary such as a bank or other traditional financial institution. This lending normally takes place online) and crowd funding (means collection of finance from backers—the "crowd"—to fund an initiative which could be a nonprofit e.g. to raise funds for a school or social service organization, political i.e. to support a candidate or political party, charitable e.g. funding a critical operation, commercial e.g. creating a new product or financing campaign for a startup company.)

What does it mean? It means that with the purchasing power of the people on a steady dwindle; the big corporates having surplus capital are diverting funds to speculation and financial operation to maximize return. Hitherto, the corporate funds were making forays in speculative capital market through intermediation of Foreign

Institutional Investors (FIIs), Participatory Notes (PNs) and so forth. Now, with increasing participation in treasury operations, these corporates are virtually dabbling into the area of banking and even outperforming the latter. Besides, they are also taking part in various kinds of online financing activities which are now unfolding to make passage for idle capital to maximize return. In other corporates which are starved of market and find no avenue for productive

investment are switching to financial activities and taking over the role of the banks and financial institutions. And it is happening so fast that even RBI could not but sound a word of caution as the banks might well be in a quandary if such things continue unabated. It is another façade of capitalist crisis as capital finding no scope for productive investment is trying to find a shelter in most unrelated and mostly speculative arenas. (Source:— Times of India 27-06-14)

Odisha AIMSS protests Badaun rape case

AIMSS, Odisha State committee organized a protest demonstration at Bhubaneswar on 6th June 2014 against the brutal gang rape and murder of two teen aged girls at Badaun of Uttar Pradesh as well as growing atrocities on the women throughout the country. A protest meeting presided over by Comrade Binapani Das, Odisha state AIMSS president, was held

there. Among the speakers were Comrades Swayanprava Nayak, AIMSS State Secretary, Chhabi Mohanty, Vice President and others. All the speakers strongly condemned the callous attitude of the U.P government and its Police toward the ghastly incident and demanded immediate arrest of all culprits and exemplary punishment to them.

Students' demonstration in Kolkata

AIDSO organized a massive well-decorated protest rally in Kolkata on 18 June in demand for solution of admission problem, restoration of the abandoned seats in medical course, reintroduction of pass-fail system upto Class VIII and

stopping of atrocities on women. The rally was led by Comrades Kamal Sai, President and Ashok Misra, General Secretary of AIDSO. Also present were Comrades Sujit Ghosh, President and Anshuman Roy, Secretary of West Bengal State AIDSO.

Sugar and onion prices soaring on the eve of Maharashtra elections

What would one call it? Strange coincidence or handiwork of vested interest? Every time the state of Maharashtra goes to poll, the countrymen find prices of sugar and onion soaring. It had happened on earlier occasions. This time also, with the assembly election to the state slated to take place in October next, the people have begun feeling the pinch. Sugar prices have already been officially raised by Rs 3 per kg. It is anybody's guess how much would be the subsequent increases. Apart from the official increase, retail price at which the common people purchase sugar in the market soars much more by factoring in middlemen cost, transport cost, state to state entry tax and so forth. Similar is the case with onion. Already the upswing in the price is visible. Even the government is apprehending that the price may go up to as high as Rs 100 per kg in the next three months. There is already the usual drill on the part of the government to, what it claims, resist the impending price rise by fixing export price and imposing restriction on import. But the people know that all these measures are hollow,

simply playing to the gallery to befool the masses. Prices will be jacked up by the sugar and onion barons at their sweet will to make quick bucks because they would need to fund the parties and politicians whom they intend to back in the assembly elections. It is an open secret that the sugar and onion lobbies have their political agents in the ruling parties. These agents ensure that the vested class interest of these sugar and onion barons is protected and subserved. So, while these barons trigger price rise by creating artificial scarcity or raising bogey of insufficient monsoon, fall in crop production etc., the political agents of theirs in the government see to it that they get away with it with impunity. Thus while the producer barons swell their coffers, their political agents in the Congress, NCP and BJP guarantee their pelf and power by squeezing the pockets of the common masses reeling under ruthless capitalist exploitation. What would the apologists of market economy, reforms and globalization call this fleecing of the common people, sugaronomics or onionomics?

IACC demands immediate stoppage of Israeli attack on the people of Gaza

Comrade Manik Mukherjee, General Secretary, International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC) issued the following statement on 15 July, 2014:

IACC condemns in strongest terms Israel's murderous air attacks on defenseless Palestinian people of Gaza for over a week. Hundreds of people, mostly women and children, have been killed and thousands are injured. Israel has been able to indulge in such vicious attacks on the Palestinian people for more than 60 years because of the continued support by the imperialist powers, notably USA. All along they have been helping Israel with military and financial aids and diplomatic support. The roots of the conflict lie in Israel's illegal occupation of the Palestinian land, their rejection of the demand of a sovereign, independent Palestine state and their intransigence in the peace talks. The recent Egypt-brokered cease-fire proposal is a clever ruse to pave the way for continued attack by Israel. The cease-fire proposal was prepared without any consultation with Hamas. Hamas has justifiably rejected the proposal and demanded a more comprehensive solution which would put an end to the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people. The brutal air attacks by Israel are continuing. IACC demands that the barbaric Israeli attacks be halted and Israel be appropriately punished for its criminal acts. IACC echoes the Palestinian people's demand for sanctions against Israel for its decades-long illegal occupation, flouting of international law, and construction of an apartheid regime. It calls for international boycott of Israeli goods. IACC asserts its solidarity with the Palestinian people in their heroic battle against Israel and for their struggle for peace, justice and equality.

Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Wherever were poor people with their wail and woe, Comrade Yakub Pailan was by their side

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waged the struggle: a relentless struggle round the clock. Inspired by the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, an ordinary person like Comrade Pailan who used to sell rice in the market, worked as a tailor to earn a livelihood, conducted such a great struggle silently to develop himself as an able communist revolutionary. I am a witness to that. So is Comrade Ranjit Dhar sitting by my side.

Now we have a good number of educated comrades. Comrade Pailan is an example to them as well. They have many things to learn from him. Comrade Pailan had an immense quest for knowledge. Not that he only laboured hard to learn reading Party literature, he also struggled to assimilate the essence of the teachings enshrined there. What was the level of his formal education? May be upto Class III or IV or even less than that, I do not know exactly. But he would not give up if he could not pick up or grasp anything. His was a tireless endeavour to seek clarifications, answer to his questions from whomever he could approach. He even read English papers. He would approach an English-knowing comrade and ask him to translate in Bengali. Many of you do not know how Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar, President of this meeting, was initiated into the Party. Everyone in Comrade Sarkar's family is connected with the Party. Many of them are Party workers. Comrade Sarkar was a school teacher. He was a supporter of the Party. Comrade Yakub Pailan used to regularly go to Comrade Sarkar for translation of our the then English organ, Socialist Unity. In course of that close association with Comrade Pailan, Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar was drawn into the Party fold and is today placed in the high rung of leadership. Comrade Sarkar respectfully acknowledges that even today. There is not a single Party literature containing Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought which Comrade Pailan has not read repeatedly or not struggled to grasp the contents thereof. Marxism, Dialectical Materialism is a scientific philosophy. His grasp of the essence of this philosophy had been so high as to make any of our educated comrades bend head in shame. He had many discussions with us. Whenever he met us, he wanted to know a wide range of things. From philosophy to political ideology, national situation,

international situation, crisis of international communist movement, danger of fascist attack, danger of fascism — his was a very high understanding about each of these subjects. He used to learn meticulously. That is why I say that I have seen the immense quest of knowledge in him. In fact, he knew from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teachings that the power of knowledge is the real power in proletarian revolution. He used to read any literature, Party organs like Ganadabi and Proletarian Era immediately on publication. He used to struggle to understand national and international situations from Marxist outlook. Whenever he met me or any other leader, he used to ask question after question. Comrade Manik Mukherjee has told me that Comrade Pailan had many discussions with him on art-literature. He was well acquainted with the works of Saratchandra, Nazrul, Bankimchandra and Rabindranath. I would urge upon you to note this struggle that he waged as a person coming from a very poor family and having no formal education to go through the works of such great litterateurs, and to develop himself as a true communist leader. You are aware that in this district he built up a movement against installation of a nuclear power unit and succeeded in stalling the same. At that time, he used to hold discussion with the scientists connected with the Party and learnt the minutest details in regard to nuclear power. The scientist comrades have told me that. Alongside undertaking so many activities, he toiled day and night to build up, safeguard and expand Party organization. But he never questioned when was he to find time to read and study after attending to so many tasks. Work and study were entwined in him. I particularly like to highlight this very aspect of relentless cultivation of knowledge before the comrades of today. Whenever he was assigned a job, whenever he took upon himself any task, he tried to discharge his responsibility with a firm determination and dream. He used to work excessively hard. In fact, he was engrossed in work. He never backtracked by saying that there were difficulties, problems and obstacles. In the interest of revolution, one has to surmount all difficulties, overcome all obstacles—such was the education he received from the Party. So 'impossible' was a word unknown to him.

Memorial meeting of Comrade Yakub Pailan



A memorial meeting of Comrade Yakub Pailan, veteran member, Central Committee and Secretary South 24 Parganas district, SUCI(C), was held at Sarat Sadan, Howrah, on 7 July. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Member, Polit Bureau, presided over. At the outset, wreaths were placed at the portrait of Comrade Pailan on behalf of the various state committees and mass organizations. Then Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, Comrades Ranjit Dhar, Manik Mukherjee and Krishna Chakraborty, all Polit Bureau members, Comrades Debaprasad Sarkar, C. K. Lukose, K. Radhakrishna, Gopal Kundu, Saumen Basu, Satyawan, Sankar Saha and Chhaya Mukherjee, all Central committee members paid floral tribute. Thereafter, Comrades Provash Ghosh and Comrade Krishna Chakraborty delivered their speeches. Presidential address was delivered by Comrade Ranjit Dhar.

He landed in many dangers many a times. One elderly comrade who might not have been able to come today because of ailment, has written to me that once in a courthouse of the jotedar (rural kulak) of Kankandighi, Comrade Pailan was tied to a poll and beaten mercilessly. Thereafter, he was pushed by the shoulder and forced to cross the river. But he again went there, was again beaten severely and chased away. And the manager of the zamindar's estate who led the attack on him was one Keshto Gantait. Comrade Pailan had spoken to Keshto Gantait about Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teaching, teachings of the Party even when he was being physically assaulted. The same Keshto Gantait later became a pillar of strength of the Party at Raidighi-Kankandighi area. I have seen Comrade Keshto Gantait. Comrade Subol Sardar who once was the muscleman of the jotedars

(rich peasants) became a Party organizer after coming in contact with Comrade Yakub Pailan. Comrades are reminiscing about all these incidents with tears. You will come to know about many such incidents in the district of South 24 Parganas. He always tried to establish a relationship with the poor people who were provoked by the vested interest to attack him. He made them understand that this was a movement of the poor and for the poor. Why should they try to break such a movement as agents of the zamindar-jotedar? Thus he won them over.

Comrade Sachin Banerjee and Comrade Subodh Banerjee gave foundation to Party organization in this district. Comrades Rabin Mandal, Renupada Haldar, Amir Ali Haldar and Nalini Pramanik had provided leadership covering a vast area, built up Party organization. But

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Remarkable was Comrade Pailan's quest for knowledge

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Comrade Yakub Pailan played a historic role in integrating the various Party units so developed into the form of a well-knit district organization. He was the livewire of the district organization. Many of you know that in the big meetings, he never gave any long speech. In the workers' meetings also, he used to place the gist of the matter in few words. He never delivered any fiery speech. He used to convey the essence in a very precise and effective manner that touched everyone's heart, inspired all. Because, his words came from the innermost recess of his heart. The words which come from the bottom of the heart do penetrate deep into one's mind. Teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, emancipation struggle of the downtrodden, revolutionary movement, the task of building up and organizing SUCI (Communist), the genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat — all these were, so to say, absorbed in his flesh and blood so much so that his words came alive and could touch people's mind. He grasped proletarian class outlook so intensively that he could examine any issue, any question, any movement, any aspect of life with ease and effortlessly on the anvil of that class outlook. This grew as an instinct in him. Very few of the revolutionary leaders could grasp revolutionary politics and outlook so profoundly.

Comrade Yakub Pailan was in the truest sense a fighter for the cause of the poor and downtrodden. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh used to say that 'nobler is the spirit that spurs on to revolutionary politics'. This politics is born out of genuine love and heart-felt affection of the highest level for the oppressed poor. The very source of revolutionary politics is the tender heart for the poor that is born out of the transformation in the realm of values a revolutionary undergoes with the imprint in his mind of the pain and sorrow of the oppressed millions. Comrade Yakub Pailan had this tender heart. He might have gone to a village, visited someone's house, spent some time under a tree, sat in a village market, accepted lunch invitation of any mother or sister—everywhere and in everyone he left a mark of this tender heart. A huge number of poor people of this district, who might not be Party workers, not even sympathizers but general toiling people knew him intimately. Whenever in trouble, they used to rush to him. They knew that here was a person who would stand

by them at the hour of need, give them good advice. There has been instance that husband and wife whose relation was almost at the point of breaking had come to Comrade Pailan with tears rolling down their eyes. Many conflicts between brothers, between father and son were resolved by him. Many people acknowledge it even today. The affection and guidance they received from Comrade Pailan restored their relation, brought back the lost sweetness of life. General supporters also came to him with a mind that whatever he would say would be accepted. How could he earn so much of faith and confidence of people? He earned it by virtue of his higher knowledge, character and tender feeling of heart.

Once, after being released from hospital, he came to stay for some time at the Tollygunge Party Centre in Kolkata where I was staying then. He was not keeping well. Doctors advised him to go for a stroll in the afternoon. I found after some days that some ladies who work as domestic maids in the locality were coming to him. He used to listen to their tales of woe when he met them during his stroll. They also understood in no time that here was a man they could trust, have exchanges and seek guidance. He began visiting the adjacent slum areas and tried to build up organization there. Did any leader tell him to do this? He never waited for any formal instruction from the leadership. Wherever were the poor people with their wails and woes, they found Comrade Pailan by their side. How many of such leaders do you find? I can say without any hesitation that Comrade Yakub Pailan was a successful product of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Yakub Pailan did not have any personal property. Nor did he have any personal wants or desires. His only dream, only mission in life was to free the poor people from the yoke of exploitation, to make proletarian revolution victorious, to develop and strengthen SUCI (Communist) based on Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. He was tuned to this, bodily and mentally. His has been an unforgettable character.

This district gave us two great revolutionaries, two great personalities in Comrades Sachin Banerjee and Subodh Banerjee. After them, there was Comrade Yakub Pailan, a rare struggling character. We are highly indebted to the people's movement of this

district, to the district Party for this.

I want to make another point. He was secretary of such a big district. He had thousands of his followers who could go to jail, face bullets and batons at his words. Such was his influence and command over the comrades. But the person who wielded so much of influence had not even an iota of pride. In him, there was not a trace of self-projection, egotism, immodesty which holds back a person from attaining high standard of character. Yes, his sense of prestige was very high. He used to be upset if anyone disobeyed the Party, disgraced the Party's ideology. He faced physical assault, harassment even humiliation while doing Party work. He never felt that his prestige is harmed. But he could not tolerate any dishonour to the Party, any anti-Party activity. It was no trivial a matter. Some of the leaders, whatever they might have been earlier, lose composure after having name, fame and wider acquaintance. In our Party, there is a relentless struggle based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought against such tendencies. There is a cult in the Party to elevate the self, attain high standard of character. No one can elevate himself by indulging in falsehood, evading responsibility, undermining others and projecting oneself. Such people do not stand out in history. There is a certain kind of people who possess enormous wealth in the form of house, car, bank balance and hard cash. They are known as rich persons. But there is another kind of people who too are rich—not in terms of money but in terms of human essence. They might have been poor for ages having no shelter, no food and died on the street. Yet they are persons of worth. Their greatness lies in their ideological base. Comrade Yakub Pailan belonged to that genre. One has to learn this from his character.

The word fearless is now not in that much of use. Fearless means not being afraid of anything. Comrade Yakub Pailan was a fearless leader. For the sake of revolution, emancipation struggle of the downtrodden and SUCI (Communist), the revolutionary party of the proletariat, he boldly faced all attacks and assaults, overcame all obstacles. Such was his revolutionary audacity.

He had no craving for name, fame, pride or greed for personal property. Now that he is no more, you can only find a couple of shirts and dhoti that he wore. Even those were given by the comrades. Yes he had something of his own which he has left behind. He has left behind

the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh with which he fought during his entire lifetime. He went far ahead in identifying himself with the interest of the poor people, revolution and SUCI (C), the revolutionary party. He attained a very high standard in this respect which many of our leaders are yet to achieve. It is not enough if one has a teacher and guidance. It is important to ascertain how the student is conducting struggle based on the teachings of the teacher; how is he applying the teachings in every walk of his life. That is of prime importance in so far as his development is concerned. The way a blacksmith melts iron in his shop to manufacture sword, Comrade Pailan had moulded himself in the fire of revolutionary struggle and completely changed himself based on the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. His entire soul was dedicated to the Party. Except the interest of the poor and revolution, he had nothing else in his life. I have not seen many characters like this in the Party. I am immensely inspired by him.

Comrade Yakub Pailan joined the party in 1949. I joined in 1950. He was 5-6 year older than me. In 1951, I came to this district to develop students' organization. He used to love me very much. We had many discussions. In course of time, I became the State Secretary of the Party. Now I am the General Secretary. The Party has given me these responsibilities. But the sweet relationship we cherished remained ever intact. There was so much of love-affection-tender feeling-respect-compassion in this relationship of ours. All these reminiscences are crowding my mind. So, I was feeling disturbed at the outset in saying something about him. So much of memory, so many incidents, so many discussions are surfacing in my mind.

If the higher leadership issued some instruction or rejected any of his suggestions, he himself first tried to understand the reason. If he had any question, he got it resolved by discussing it with the leadership. But he never used to discuss those things here and there. If he had any difference of opinion with the higher leadership or higher body, he resolved it through discussion at the appropriate level. Never did he allow anyone to know about such differences. Never did he discuss issues anywhere other than at an appropriate forum. He first tried to understand the instructions and then engaged himself in implementing the

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Entire struggle Comrade Yakub Pailan conducted was for building up and strengthening SUCI (Communist)

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decisions. If he failed to implement once, he used to try again and again. His allegiance to the leadership was beyond question. He used to firmly observe Party discipline and revolutionary code of conduct. On the one hand, he was very serious during work. On the other hand, he used to chat with the comrades, make jokes. But there was nothing trivial. Everywhere he reflected a high cultural tone and had a revolutionary purposiveness. This was possible because he possessed a very high cultural standard. If any worker was found to be lagging behind, falling victim to weakness or committing mistakes, he strove very hard to rectify him with patience and affection.

He received so many shocks, was profusely pained at so many things. During the Congress regime, so many of his close comrades were murdered. Under CPI (M)'s rule, 151 Party workers including a leader like Amir Ali Haldar were killed. Even a young comrade like Ashok Haldar was brutally murdered. He withstood all these pains and was never perturbed, never became shaky. These deaths were severe blows to him but an electoral defeat never hurt him that much. He was an ardent student of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He knew that ours is not a vote-based party. Our Party emphasizes on struggle, movement, revolution. When elections are held, we participate out of the compulsion of freeing people from parliamentary illusion. Ours is not a Party of MLAs, MPs and ministers. People of this country have seen a lot of MLAs, MPs and ministers. Even today, they have been seeing so many. Both our Party and the CPI (M) have lost in the last Lok Sabha election. But has this defeat caused a split in our Party? Have any of our leaders left the Party? Have any of our Party committees been dismantled? Have any of our Party workers deserted the Party? But if you look at the media, you would find that the CPI (M), the vote-based pseudo-Marxists who ruled West Bengal for 34 long years is disintegrating. Our Party is not like that. Based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teachings, Comrade Yakub Pailan knew that socialism was established in Russia because of the revolutionary ideology and activities under the leadership of Lenin-Stalin. Socialism was not achieved based on the number of MLAs and MPs. The Chinese revolution was accomplished through prolonged

painstaking struggle under the leadership of great Mao Zedong, not on the strength of MLAs and MPs. Vietnam was not freed based on the number of MLAs and MPs. The struggling revolutionary battalions, the volunteer corps of emancipation organized on the basis revolutionary character, revolutionary consciousness of the poor oppressed people have brought about revolution in these countries. Our Party is steeled in this education. So, Comrade Pailan was not hurt at the electoral defeat. He was repeatedly pained when so many leaders and workers reared and steered with so much of efforts and diligence, were murdered. When the mothers and wives of those murdered burst into tears before one, how does one feel? Comrade Pailan had withstood that wrenching pain with an unswerving spirit of a revolutionary. He was immensely stirred with pain but never gave vent to that. This is not so easy! In his struggle to attain a remarkable revolutionary character, revolutionary ethics-culture-morality, he had advanced much ahead. All personal necessities were left behind. It was an all-embracing struggle. There was no compromise, evasion or shortcoming.

He was not just a leader of the Party, he was a mass leader. I am a mass leader delivering speeches in big meetings, rousing the masses, developing movements. People are aware of that. They know me. This is one task. But the task of building up party organization is much more difficult. Imbuing each and every individual with revolutionary theory, freeing them from self-centeredness, completely remoulding them, turning them into soldiers of revolution and alongside building up committees, conducting those committees, implementing the programmes of the Party—these are the responsibilities of an organizational leader. This is much more tough and arduous. Many times there are mass leaders as well as organizational leaders in a revolutionary party. And though very rare, there are mass leaders who are organizational leaders as well. Comrade Pailan belonged to this rare category.

In 1993, the criminals of the CPI (M) ran amuck in Maipith, killed people, threw the dead bodies into the river, set houses on fire and raped the women. Hundreds of our supporter families fled the area. Comrade Yakub Pailan rushed to the spot disregarding his old age. He reached the place of occurrence. It

was 21 years back. But he was quite aged at that time. The criminals of the CPI (M) attacked him with bamboo sticks, mercilessly beat him. He would have been killed that day had not some of our workers embraced him from all the sides and took the beating on them. Why did he rush there? Because, he could not stay back when the comrades were under fierce attack. His health broke after that incident. Once he was in a good health. You just cannot imagine how hard he could toil, tolerate any amount of pain. I am a witness to that. He was so big a leader but had no wants at all. Comrade Sudhir Banerjee had given him a small room to stay in Jaynagar. Prior to that, he used to stay in Durgapur. Before that, his dwelling place was a mud house. He used to cook in an earthen pot. Four assembled pieces of brick constituted his cooking stove. He used to sleep on a small cot made of ropes. So long he could, he washed his clothes himself, did not allow others to do so. Till the time his health permitted, he cleaned his room himself with broom and wet cloth; never let others to do that for him. I have seen all these with my own eyes. Not many days have rolled by since then. He used to do every job as perfectly as possible. His shirt might have been torn at places but was neat and clean. He was very meticulous in everything.

He had immense love for the younger people. His cousin, Safi, who is associated with the Party, addressed him as elder uncle. He became universal elder uncle to all the young folks of the district. Whenever the elder uncle was available, he was surrounded by the young ones. He used to mix with them very openly, without any inhibition whatsoever. He used to awaken their conscience, roused human essence in them by the regale touch of his profound affection. They could not say 'no' to him. Initially, he had doubt whether he would be acceptable to the educated people of Jaynagar town. But in course of his struggle, the educated people of this very Jaynagar town, who were not connected with our Party or even belonged to other parties, could not but show deep respect to him. He had imbibed the teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that one has to win others by completely remoulding oneself. The entire struggle Comrade Yakub Pailan conducted was for building up and strengthening SUCI (Communist).

He continued that till he breathed his last.

Once I had told him incidentally that we had started a small hospital in Medinipur. Why cannot he think of such a venture in this district? He took a big initiative. He dreamt of a big hospital to treat the poor at least of cost. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee asked him: When the government was unable to run a hospital, how would you? Later through his efforts, the 'Swastha Sadan' was set up as a small centre of medical treatment. It was his creation. He kept himself regularly informed about the functioning of this small hospital. He used to feel anxious if any leader or cadre fell sick. He regularly enquired how were they, where were they being treated, what treatment were they getting and so forth.

He emerged as the guardian not only of the Party but also of the poor and general masses. I know of an incident when there was dispute between one of our Party worker and a worker of another party centring on land. Comrade Pailan went there. It was found that our party worker had committed wrong. Comrade Pailan ruled in favour of the worker of the other party. It was not that he supported our Party worker. He never entertained falsehood, had no compromise with untruthfulness. So many women used to come to him, narrated their tales of woe, reported to him the unrest they were facing in the family. They felt relieved after they were lent an affectionate ear. How many such leaders could one have?

So I was saying that all of us are fighting with the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. We have to prove till death how far we have been able to protect ourselves against any slack, any deviation. But Comrade Yakub Pailan has passed that test. He was a lifelong revolutionary. I never thought that we would be losing him this time. He fell seriously ill earlier also on several occasions. His breathing trouble was so much that he was put in ventilation. But he came out of that. However, this time he could not. Of late, he was staying on the second floor of our district office. Whenever we had come, he used to come down to the first floor. He used to give us red salute, we also reciprocated. So long we did not take a seat, he never sat. This was not just a respect to me, it was respect for the Party. But this time when I came for a meeting at Jaynagar Santi

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Real value of our tears, our heart-felt respect will be realized if we develop the Party he strengthened with flesh and blood

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Sangha ground after a long period, Comrade Pailan came to ground floor. He greeted me with red salute. I asked him why did he come down with a such an ailing health. Then he again came to the meeting at Krishnachandrapur of Mathurapur. It was raining. I asked Comrade Nanda Kundu why did they allow Comrade Pailan to come there. Comrade Kundu told me that he was bent upon coming. Then, I found him attending the meeting at Sikirhat of Kultali. I was wondering why was he taking so much of risk? Now after his demise, I could realize that he knew his days were numbered. (voice choked in emotion) His very coming down to the ground floor to offer me red salute and attending the three workers' meetings was for being with the comrades for the last time. (Voice once again got choked, he paused a bit) I would not say much more today. The real value of our tears, our heart-felt respect will be realized if we protect and strengthen the great revolutionary ideology he upheld, the Party he built up with struggle.

We are passing through a very bad time. Such a bad time had not come earlier. This country has produced stalwarts like Vidyasagar-Vivekanada-Rabindranath-Saratchandra-Deshbandhu Chittaranjan-Subhaschandra-Nazrul. They had not seen so much of deterioration of India. There are millions of unemployed. Millions are dying of starvation, without any medical care. Unable to bear with hunger and being enmeshed in debt burden, thousands are committing suicide. The girls and housewives of poor families are initiated into flesh trade. Thousands and thousands of women and children are being trafficked. All these are coming in the media. You

are aware of that. On the one hand there is so harrowing a crisis, while on the other hand, the BJP and the Congress are vending deception of development. By one stroke of development, the railway fare and the prices of diesel-petrol-kerosene have been substantially hiked by BJP led government. On the other hand, there is drastic reduction in the taxes and duties payable by the Tatas-Ambanis. Arrangements are made to ensure that the can draw any amount from the bank at minimum interest. The crores of rupees they have taken from the banks as loans are being waived. And there is one after another attack on the poor. You have seen the 34 years of CPI (M) rule in the state. You have witnessed how the poor was oppressed, repressed and terrorized. The TMC came to power by talking of ushering in change. Now you are experiencing what a change(!) has been brought about by it. Oppression-repression-terror is continuing as before. And gravest of the crises is that of human essence, human quality. The rulers of the country are striking at the very roots of human essence, turning human beings inhuman. They are pushing the youth to drinking, gambling, talking indecently about woman physique and all such other wrongdoings and perverse proclivities. They are delinking them from the glorious legacy of Vidyasagar, Nazrul-Saratchandra-Subhaschandra, alienating them from the past. The impact is felt in the villages also. Whole and sole concentration is on money, securing money at any cost, from any source. Grab money from wherever you can and then eat, drink and be merry. Old parents are driven out of home. Husband is murdering wife. Brother is selling sister. Where is the binding of religion? Which religion is fighting

against all these malaises? Which temple, which mosque, which church is raising voice of protest? But, those who once preached religion, valiantly fought against oppression-injustice during that time. Comrade Pailan understood that it is only Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought which can guide us in waging this struggle. So, if we are to pay respect to Comrade Pailan, we have to honour this struggle of his, the struggle in the midst of which he spent his entire life, exhausted himself. Try to know this Comrade Yakub Pailan, get acquainted with his struggling life, remember him with reverence. An 85 year old person from Gopalgunge of Kultali, an old friend of Comrade Pailan, who could not come here has written a letter to me. In that letter he has urged upon me to see that the boys and girls of his family are associated with the Party. This is how the old comrades are thinking to save their children.

I want that greater number of Comrade Yakub Pailans, Comrade Amir Ali Haldars and valiant fighters like them are born in each of your

families. Develop yourselves accordingly. Develop the Party, save the Party, strengthen the Party. Comrade Yakub Pailan had a dream of working in a new place. Repeatedly, he requested the Party to allow him to do so. During the first Party congress, he sent this request to Comrade Nihar Mukherjee through me. He said that the district of South 24 Parganas could function without him. He wanted to go to some place where Party activities had not started. But Comrade Nihar Mukherjee told him: This district needs you more. We want comrades like this who are ready to venture in unexplored areas. Conveying heart-felt respect to him, remembering him with reverence presuppose that we try to acquire these qualities of Comrade Pailan. It means that one ought to fight lifelong to become a true student of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as did Comrade Pailan. I hope all of you will come forward and take pledge to pay due respect to him by emulating the example he has set before you. With this, I conclude.

SUCI(C) calls the Railway budget a blueprint of privatization, calls for resisting it

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 09-07-2014 :

After imposing a steep hike in passenger fare and freight charges by issuing administrative fiat bypassing Parliament, the BJP government has now presented a railway budget which is a blueprint of total privatization of an all-important essential public service like the Railways. Not a single problem faced by the passengers issues like punctuality, proper maintenance of tracks, bogies and the stations, adequate safety from theft, burglary, prevention of frequent accidents as well as large scale malpractices, nepotism, misappropriation and theft, has been addressed. No reference has been made to leash corruption which is making the Railways sick and starved of resources. Instead, there has been hollow boasting of so-called modernization, introduction of high speed even bullet trains and so forth. And for bringing about this much trumpeted modernization, what has been prescribed is liberal inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and wide adoption of PPP (Public private partnership) route. Opening the floodgate of privatization will trigger further shrinkage of job opportunity, massive retrenchment, more contractualisation of regular jobs at lower wage and above all, hefty rise in fare and freight charges at regular interval. Thus, under the camouflage of so-called modernization, the deck is cleared for extensive loot and fleecing of the passengers. This budget is also discriminatory in so far as granting new trains and projects is concerned. Whereas Gujarat and Karnataka have received the lion's share, other states particularly the Eastern Zone have virtually drawn blank.

While condemning this most pernicious railway budget studded with false promises of modernization which is a camouflage to hand over the Railways to private operators to be run on commercial basis, we call upon the countrymen to resist such out and out anti-people moves by asserting their power in the form of development of a countrywide powerful movement.



Demonstration by the SUCI(C) at Joint Labour Commissioner Office, Siliguri on 4 July against starvation death and plight of tea plantation workers (News on Page 7)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH