

Proletarian Era

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Yashpal Committee — HRD Minister on education reform

Cunning design to destroy people's education for unfettered trade in education

Outcry for a reform of education system in the country has once more taken the centre-stage. On 24 June 2009 the Yashpal Committee or the 'Committee to Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education' (hereafter to be referred as the Committee), formed by the HRD ministry of the Union government, submitted its final report. Immediately following it, Kapil Sibal, the HRD Minister (hereafter to be referred as the minister) announced a 'do-it-in 100 days' agenda for reform of higher education. The very next day, 25 June, Sibal added that, not just higher education, he would include school education too, in his 100 day package. In face of immediate stringent criticisms, the minister had to retreat, denying his 'doing it in 100 days' commitment and assuring wider discussions. But the proposals have not been withdrawn. In fact, with a view to garnering support in favour of his proposals, the minister is already dashing across the country, holding 'interactive sessions' with selective audience of 'stakeholders', teachers, students, guardians etc., with a section of media highlighting it. He is also announcing newer and newer measures one after another. Educating its people is a vital task before the state and its government and how they rise up to that task is a matter of great concern to people themselves. The Committee report and the minister's package have already caused grave concern among people of all sections about where these will lead education of the country to. So, education-loving persons cannot avoid the

responsibility of judging these new proposals and measures threadbare. In a class-divided society as ours, no policy of a government can be judged properly without considering how it stands vis-a-vis the class division and class alignment in the society, economic-political-social conditions prevailing and contradictions operating within it. In this case too, the report and the package must be judged from that class angularity.

Brief retrospection

Now, if we look back at the Indian society in its present form, we would find that the Indian capitalist state and society were established firmly when the Indian capitalist class assumed power with independence from the rule of the British imperialists. Right from that time, the ruling class took it upon itself to remould the existing education system according to their own class interest. History had made them aware of the fact that education creates consciousness among people, which in turn guides them to identify the root cause of the plight in their life, to recognize that it is the class rule and class exploitation that stands as the stumbling block to the progress and well being of the society and its people. And this is the very consciousness that also leads people to take up revolutionary struggle to overthrow the exploitative class rule and do away with class exploitation. Soviet Union accomplishing socialist revolution under the leadership of the communist party provided the latest glaring instance before the world and the ruling class of different

countries. Mortally afraid of revolution and the revolutionary class consciousness of people, the exploitative ruling class thus always wanted to keep people deprived of education and knowledge. The Indian capitalists also did not fail to follow this same path. Right from the beginning of their own class rule, they took up such a policy on education which was driven by this class motive that effectively curtailed education from common poorer section of the masses, the exploited people and gradually made education a concern of only the rich.

Their policy turned out to be curtailment of education, which came out clearly, for instance, from the pronouncements of the first chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) when he declared "*We want to restrict higher education in order to minimize the number of educated unemployed*".

As an inalienable part of the crisis-ridden world capitalist-imperialist system, which had brought about even two world wars, the Indian capitalism, too, was

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SUCI declares 3rd September, 2009 as All-India Protest Day to oppose holding of WTO ministerial conference in New Delhi

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 29 August, 2009 vehemently protested against reported hosting of ministerial conference of WTO in New Delhi on 3rd and 4 September, 2009. WTO, said Comrade Mukherjee, is a forum of the imperialists-capitalists to decide upon the brazenly anti-people economic policies in keeping with the ulterior prescripts of capitalist globalization which is wreaking havoc in people's life throughout the world. To the toiling people round the globe, WTO as the wicked face of wrecking globalization symbolizes increasing poverty, hunger, rising price, retrenchment, closure of industries — in a word, a breeding centre of all-round devastation. Hence, there is surging protest of the oppressed people against the imperialist machination operative through WTO and angry demonstrations marked every venue of WTO conferences, added Comrade Mukherjee. Perhaps for that reason, the Government of India serving the class interest of the ruling Indian monopolists who are part and parcel of global imperialism-capitalism and of late are frantically striving for fulfilling their aspiration to emerge as a regional superpower with the backing of US imperialism, has been so secretive in arranging the proposed ministerial conference of WTO in the Indian capital so that the entire initiative could be hidden from the seething toiling people of India, observed Comrade Mukherjee. Comrade Mukherjee called upon the people to observe 3 September, 2009 as "All India Protest Day" through organization of massive demonstrations round the country demanding immediate calling off the proposed meet and quitting of WTO by India.

Yashpal Committee — HRD Minister on education reform

Curtailement of education for masses — basic design of capitalists

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enmeshed in insurmountable crisis. Capitalist exploitation was leading to increasing impoverishment of vast masses of common people and to market crisis; crisis of market was bringing about industrial recession; recession giving way to lock-out, closure of industries, retrenchment of workers, adding threateningly to already mounting unemployment. This was also generating tremendous social unrest, dissension among people. Hence was the policy of curtailment of education for the masses, the policy of restriction of higher education to limit the number of educated unemployed. There was no dearth of pleas. Making use of peoples' genuine concern about fast-falling standard of education and its other problems, there were slogans raised like "Our educational system is a pyramid turned upside down; here higher education gets undue emphasis with primary education of vast poorer masses left neglected", "Standard of education is going down" "so, only the best should go for the higher education" and so on. Seats were curtailed in colleges and universities; cost of education was gradually increased with fee hike etc.; secondary course in schools was remodeled with introduction of higher secondary stage, thus extending tenure of school education from 10 years to 11 and later 12. This was at the cost of intermediate courses in colleges, effectively snatching away years from the college, that is higher, education. Budget allocation for education was reduced gradually. Whereas in the newly independent country, it was necessary to build new schools and colleges to meet the increasing demand for them, to satisfy rising urge in people for education, the ruling class did not go for that. Rather, years after they virtually issued moratorium upon founding new schools and colleges. Along with that, instead of introducing a truly scientific, secular education, obscurantist, superstitious thoughts were allowed to creep into the curriculum. The education system that the doyens of Indian renaissance dreamt for not only remained unattained. It receded further and further from the reach of common poorer section of people. Neither the higher education, nor the primary education for them showed any prospect. Education and the

educated personnel for which the country could boast of, gradually became matters of the rich.

With crisis of the capitalist-imperialist system still mounting all over the world, the capitalists-imperialists tried to pounce upon newer and newer measures. Debacle of the socialist camp in the eighties of the last century handed over to them an added advantage and made them more aggressive. There came the panacea of globalization-privatization-liberalization, with a view to establishing a total grip of the capitalists-imperialists and their corporates over the entire global market. But even this could not help them avert industrial recession and market crisis. They looked for further escape routes and searched it out in bringing the service sectors into the firm grip of their profit-hunting spree. There came the GATS or the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

NPE '86 sets in privatization

In India the National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 was introduced at this stage under the rule of Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress government at the Centre. It marked a major break in the approach towards education in our country, basically remaining within the same class design of 'curtailment of education for the masses', that is, of making education freely available to the affluent and restricting it from the poorer common section of the student population. The NPE '86 categorized education as a 'unique investment', which was sure to fetch back desired profit, as people would have to spend to their limits for decent and effective upbringing of their children. So investment in education was a respite for the capitalists-imperialists who had been facing globally intense industrial recession. On the other hand, it further robbed education of its social prestige-earning, noble role as a 'man-making, character-building process', bringing in, instead, a vulgar commercial approach of the business and corporate world. Ideas were carefully floated and campaigned that 'government must be relieved of its responsibility of providing education to its people'; 'instead there should be public private partnership'; 'it is the duty and

responsibility of parents to provide for education of their children'; 'students should pay for the education they seek for'; education should be 'job-oriented' with close link with the market demand, vast masses of common students may be provided with vocational education to train them up for market or job, and so on. All the commissions and committees set up by the union or different state governments in the following years worked upon this central theme of privatizing and commercializing education. In result, floodgates were opened for unbridled fee-hike at all stages of formal education, for introduction of self-financing courses and institutions, thus making a smooth way to private capitals. Parallel to them, government participation and grants were reduced which, in turn, led to closure of many institutions from resource-crunch, or to handing over of the sick educational institutions to private investors. Reform was thus equated with all-out privatisation-commercialisation of education. In fact, this was the agenda of globalization, as the GATS dictated for unbridled open, that is, privatized global trade in service sectors including education, to fetch maximum profit. In effect, it drove education increasingly out of reach of poorer section of students and made it available to the rich in the main.

Committee and minister faithfully tread the path of privatization

Both the Yashpal Committee report and the HRD Minister's package faithfully follow the design. The minister made it clear that he was set to implement recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (2006) and the Yashpal Committee (2009), also incorporating recommendations of the NCERT (2005) on restructuring of school education. The Yashpal Committee report admits having taken the cue from the NPE '86 and later policy formulations, as it highlights "...the need for different layers of institutions in the field of higher education, including state-run, private and those established through public-private partnerships." (p.34) The Committee report also takes the NKC recommendations into account, the NKC itself being a

comprehensive design to facilitate implementation of the GATS directives in higher education. Thus all these attempts at educational reforms follow the same game-plan, being promulgated and promoted by the GATS.

Both the Committee and the minister offer a number of pledges, like setting up of National Literacy Mission for female literacy, enactment of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, Broadband connectivity for 5000 colleges and university departments; government assistance to found polytechnics and new NITs; hostels for girl students of 'weaker sections' and 'minorities' and direct crediting of scholarships to the bank account of 41000 boys and 41000 girls every year (without any indication what meager percentages of total needy student populations will these figures make) etc.,. But the real intents lie elsewhere and need be read critically and carefully. Along with these, the Yashpal Committee punctuates its report with strong criticisms of the prevailing situation, with a view to generating the argument and opinion that a total reform is essential and unavoidable. For instance, it characterizes the situation as beset with *Loss of primacy of the universities... erosion of their autonomy, the isolation of universities from the real world outside and crass commercialization.*" So, it suggests that to overcome this situation, knowledge must be seen in a holistic manner (vide. p12-3). The report also laments: "*The regulatory agencies have been unable to come to grips with the problems of capitation fee and unauthorized annual fees mainly due to deficiencies in enforcement instruments, and partly due to high-level reluctance to sort out this problem. the quantum of fees charged has no rational basis.*" (p.39) Thus "*Changes in regulatory systems are required.*" (p.41)

Regulatory body on the plea of corrective measure

Thus setting up a ground for placing the deceitful proposals, both the Yashpal Committee and the HRD minister opine that there is ample scope left for private investors. "During the past two

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day in States

Fight individualism and acquire true communist values based on the invaluable teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to discharge the responsibility history has adjured us

[As mentioned in the last issue of Proletarian era, we publish here in an abridged form the speech delivered by Comrade Provash Ghosh, Member, Central Committee and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI, in the meeting organized by the West Bengal State Committee, in Calcutta on 5 August to observe 33rd Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, along with news from other states.]

You all know that the Central Committee under the leadership of our beloved general secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, is going to hold the Second Party Congress in Delhi in November this year. Both in the national and international spheres, capitalism is in the grip of an unprecedented crisis, which is being shifted on to the toiling masses. Against this, mass discontent is bursting out everywhere including the Western countries. But they are unable to find the way out which can be provided only by the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Revolutionary organizations of many a country, desirous of learning about the revolutionary teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, are contacting us. A historic responsibility, therefore, rests on our party. It is to make us capable of discharging the responsibilities that Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our present beloved general secretary and able revolutionary comrade-in-arms of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, gave the call for two-fold internal struggles inside the party, at first for rectification and elevation and subsequently for revitalization and consolidation of the party. Comrade Mukherjee has given a call to us to become worthy disciples of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Party Congress is being held with that objective. On the occasion of 5 August in such situation, I wish to place before you some important educational aspects of Comrade Ghosh's life struggle and invaluable teachings which will help our present struggle to succeed correctly.

Comrade Ghosh has taught that honesty, dedication and emotion are of course needed but along with these, what is indispensable is constant all-out struggle covering all aspects of life along the correct path, in the correct process to

achieve revolutionary objective. When Comrade Ghosh understood what was necessary to be done for revolution, for freeing the country from exploitation, he plunged at once into the all-out struggle along with a handful of revolutionary compatriots to build up a genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat in this vast country of ours without any recognition, connections or contacts, money or strength of numbers determined to die on the street if



Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing

need be, rather than leading the life of a slave by selling his conscience, forsaking what he had realized as truth for the cause of revolution. Braving all odds and overcoming all hurdles, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh built up the party with irrepressible courage. Comrade Ghosh used to say that we have taken up the revolutionary life not just because we are hungry or unemployed but to lead a loftier ethical life of higher culture and sense of values, to lead a dignified, honourable life without which living becomes meaningless. It is because of this pinning for leading such an honourable life that he joined the revolutionary organization *Anushilan Samity* during the fiery days of freedom struggle. An important phase of his life struggle had been the time he was in jail in 1942 when he acquired higher revolutionary consciousness and embraced

Marxism-Leninism as guiding life philosophy. His experience during jail life was that those who preached Marxism, did not practise it in life. It struck Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that the leaders of the undivided CPI and the RSP, even a highly learned man like M.N. Ray, failed despite all their learning, sufferings and sacrifices. Why did they fail? In searching for the answer to this question, Comrade Ghosh arrived at the truth. They failed because they viewed Marxism as a political theory only, not as a comprehensive philosophy of life covering all the aspects – economic, political, social, cultural, philosophical, ideological and taste and liking and so could not conduct the struggle for identification with

the party, revolution and the proletariat by examining whether their conduct, habits, tastes and culture were in consonance with Marxism-Leninism, conducive to revolutionary movement. Without this, is it possible to become worthy disciples of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and carry forward revolutionary movement? As worthy continuator of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on the basis of the new scientific discoveries in the post-Lenin period applied Marxist science and methodology to analyze all emerging phenomena and problems of the contemporary world and in the process developed, elaborated and enriched Marxism-Leninism. This is what we call Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Comrade Ghosh said that unless the leaders and bulk of our party workers can grasp this Marxist outlook and method of analysis, there will be no progress in our work – blindness and mechanical thinking are bound to arise. He taught us to integrate theory and practice dialectically. In applying theory, a contradiction arises between the theory and its practice. It is only through resolving this contradiction that correct realization of theory comes about. That one has achieved correct realization is proved by the fact that

his character has changed, he has attained a higher culture. Comrade Ghosh said that starting from the culture of the highest level of humanism reflected in the renaissance and the *swadeshi* movements, we gradually attained proletarian culture, while conducting the struggles of grasping the proletarian revolutionary theory and applying it in practice, dialectically integrating the two. He used to say that one cannot become a proletarian revolutionary unless one assimilates and exhausts the highest level of humanist values. So he emphasized on assiduous cultivation of the life struggle and characters of the respected leaders of our freedom movement, meticulously read and imbibe the secular humanist values enshrined in the literature of Saratchandra. Without attaining proletarian culture, one cannot achieve correct Marxist realization.

Pointing at another serious aspect, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said that bourgeois individualism has appeared as a terrible danger not only in the advanced capitalist countries but also in post-revolution socialist Russia and China which, unless correctly thought out, would eat into the vitals of revolutionary movement from country to country and destroy it. Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong did not have to face this danger while organizing revolution. They did not have to fight reactionary individualism. So, Comrade Ghosh taught that today, to attain true communist character, those of higher rank, the leaders, would have to free themselves totally from not only from personal property but from the sense and mentality of individual interest as well and identify themselves with revolution and the party. Otherwise, it is not possible to lead the revolution. This is an invaluable teaching of Comrade Ghosh. This is an important struggle in the life of all of us. We must remain alert and conscious as to whether our relationships with our family members, near relatives and children are guided by conventional thinking or as per the teachings of

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day

Strengthen SUCI, ideologically, culturally, organizationally

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our great leader. Even inside the party, one should respect as comrade the person in whom one finds fine higher culture and ethics, revolutionary ideology reflecting, not because he or she is one's husband, wife, son, daughter, father or mother. Any assessment about any other comrade must not be based on subjective reading but based on objective assessment by the party. Otherwise one would slip into bourgeois individualism.

A big problem within our party is that our ideology is correct and noble, examples of proletarian culture are there before us but decadent bourgeois culture from outside is attacking the leaders and workers with great force. We are passing through a time when ugly individualism has spread in the social environment, it is leaving its scars on our body and mind every moment, its influence is on the rise. In such a situation, Comrade Ghosh cautioned, unless you fight incessantly, your downfall will begin. How, unknown to you, decadent rotten bourgeois culture is entering into you, sometimes in the form of despondency, sometimes in the form of agitation, grievance or confusion, sometimes through tears, sighs, sentimental tiff of a beloved person – you may not even be aware of it. Your entity, behaviour, emotion, joy or sorrow, grievance or sentiment – all have a class character. It is based on either bourgeois culture or on proletarian culture. Unless the former are constantly fought out with vigil, our strength may grow quantitatively but not qualitatively.

Comrade Ghosh conducted life-long struggle inside the party to bring this about. He showed that in order to fight individualistic tendency one has to stay within the collective, within the committee and understand through struggle and contradiction-conflict within the collective what constitutes one's individualistic thinking and conduct. Mere studying of books will not do. A collective develops through dialectically integrating individual initiative and again, individual initiative develops under the leadership of the collective. He exhorted the leaders and workers to stay among the masses with deep love and affection for them, try to understand their problems, their pain and anguish, establish heart to heart

relationship and through everything carry revolutionary politics and culture to the masses.

The society is plagued with all-out crisis — economic, political, social, ethical and cultural. The problems cannot be solved by any change of ministers, governments. The whole system has become rotten to the core, it has to be radically changed. The society is restless, pinning for emancipation. As Comrade Ghosh said, revolution is trying to advance in surges centring round the discontent of workers, peasants and exploiting masses again and again appealing to conscience of the people, to us, to bring about a change. Should we not respond? The coming days are of decisive importance. Revolution is needed for putting an end to capitalism. The ground for revolution, its ammunitions are ready. What is lacking is a party ideologically, ethically-culturally and organizationally adequate for the purpose. Correct ideology-ethics-morality is there before the leaders and workers. What is needed is leaders-workers struggling on its basis in greater numbers, in well-consolidated, well-disciplined, powerful organizations. Comrade Ghosh gave the clarion call to us to plunge into all-out activities, to exercise our brains, to create work for ourselves on own initiative whether the party assigns responsibility or not, and to build up the organization. Carry our politics and culture to the people so that we can rapidly change this situation. Today standing at this memorial meeting of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh we all have to take the pledge that we will struggle on. Responding to the call Comrade Nihar Mukherjee has given to us, as representative of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, from his sick bed we must see that this new struggle of ours begins tomorrow.

Long Live Revolution!

Long Live SUCI!

Red Salute

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh!

Agartala, Tripura

Presided over by Comrade Arun Bhowmik the Secretary, State Organizing Committee of Tripura, a memorial meeting was held on 5 August at Rabindra Bhavan of Agartala. Comrade Prativa Mukherjee, Member, West Bengal State Secretariat was the main

speaker. In her address, Comrade Mukherjee said that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh joined the militant freedom movement from his early teens. Later it came to his perception that despite the country going to win freedom politically, the people's emancipation from exploitation remained to be achieved. He realized that this emancipation could come about only on accomplishing anti-capitalist socialist revolution, which was impossible without a genuine communist party in the country. He showed that the CPI in spite of its nomenclature, failed to develop as a genuine communist party. This impelled Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to take up the historical task of building up a real communist party on this soil by braving an unheard of painstaking struggle with a handful of revolutionary comrades-in-arm. From the very beginning, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh while concretizing Marxism-Leninism on this soil led along with his few compatriots a relentless struggle covering all aspects of life and in the process developed a vast treasurehouse of knowledge. Through this struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, there emerged a band of professional revolutionary leaders and cadres who could acquire a good communist character. After his untimely demise in 1976, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, his revolutionary compatriot, our present beloved General Secretary took up the baton to lead the party. Our party has now spread over 22 states of the country and is striving to develop mass movements on the burning problems in the people's life. It is our party, the SUCI, which initiated the historic peasants' movements at Singur and Nandigram by way of forming people's struggle committees. Comrade Prativa Mukherjee also explained how in the process and interest of movement, there has been an alliance of our party with the Trinamool Congress.

She said, our party led by Comrade Nihar Mukherjee called upon to unite the communist parties and anti-Imperialist forces of different countries to fend off the war situation created by the US-led imperialists in the world. It was on this call that an International Anti-imperialist Committee has been formed. She also dwelt on the present critical national and

international situations in which our party is going to hold its Second Congress in November next and explained the significance of the call for revitalization and consolidation given by Comrade Nihar Mukherjee in this connection. She called upon all to take pledge to respond to the call by warding off all shortcomings, faults, flaws and weaknesses and carry forward the movement for overthrowing capitalism by revolution.

Patna, Bihar

Under the auspices of the Bihar State Committee of the party the 33rd memorial day was observed on 5 August in Bihar at the IMA Hall, Patna. In the afternoon, with Comrade Shivsankar, State Secretary of the party on the chair, the memorial meeting was held with Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Central Staff of the party as the main speaker. She said, realizing that even after the independence there was no genuine communist party in the country, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh through a painstaking and arduous struggle with a few revolutionary compatriots established the SUCI as a revolutionary communist party worth the name in India. Through this struggle he enriched and concretized Marxism-Leninism in this soil and bequeathed us both a concrete revolutionary theory and a revolutionary party in the concrete situation in Indian soil. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee said that country is now running through a grim situation. Prices of daily necessities are spiralling. Faced with widespread unemployment thousands of people are committing suicide. Both the central and state governments instead of solving the basic problems of the people's life are conspiring to divert the sufferers' attention to their own created problems like 'terrorism' and the ilk. People have to see through this game and tear assunder the smokescreen. They have to build up people's movements under the leadership of a genuine revolutionary party built up with concrete revolutionary ideas so that there can be developed an anti-capitalist socialist revolution. Then and then only this can bring about emancipation of the people from all sorts of oppression and exploitation.

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day

SUCI has emerged as torch-bearer of people's movement

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Three resolutions demanding declaration of Bihar as drought-flood and famine affected state, condemning the central budget and calling upon people to build up mass movement against the anti-people policies of the central and state governments were unanimously adopted in the meeting. The government announcement of evicting the poor toiling inhabitants of Bahadurpur Housing Colony was also strongly deplored.

Rohtak, Haryana

On 5 August memorial day was centrally observed in Haryana at the Chhaturam Hall of Rohtak. The main Speaker of the meeting was Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Central Staff of the party. Comrade Satyawar, Secretary, Haryana State Committee, took the chair.

Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

A public meeting was held on 9 August 2009 at Potti Sriramulu Telugu University Auditorium hall, Hyderabad. It was presided over by Comrade Ch. Murahari, member, Hyderabad District Organizing Committee

Addressing the gathering Comrade K Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka State Committee, said when communist movement was plagued serious limitations, weaknesses and very much confusion, the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh worked as beacon light and illuminated the path of revolutionary movement in India and also the world communist movement. At every critical juncture of history of mankind, it is great thoughts of great men like Buddha, Jesus, and Mohammad, which had changed the society radically. It is the thought, which matters most in social revolutions based on higher ethics and morals. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh made some new and definite contributions which were not there before to the treasurehouse of Marxism-Leninism. These new contributions are known as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thought. His contributions are particularly in the field of communist ethics and morality and the concept of identification with party to defeat individualism which is the root cause of different varieties of revisionism. Comrade Radhakrishna also dwelt on the many important and educating aspects of the unprecedented

revolutionary life struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade K Sridhar, Secretary, State Organizing Committee, in his address touched upon the various anti people policies pursued by state and central governments. He demanded the governments to take measures to bring down the prices of essential commodities.

Bangalore, Karnataka

Bangalore District Committee SUCI organized a Memorial Day meeting on 5 August at Gandhi Sahitya Sangha Hall, Malleswaram. Activists, supporters, sympathizers of the party and general public attended the meeting. Comrade. K. Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka State committee, SUCI was the main speaker. In his address, he said, "Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had been one of the foremost Marxist thinkers in the world. Realizing that the undivided CPI could not grow as a genuine communist party, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh at a very young age way back in early forties, took up alongwith a handful of revolutionary compatriots the herculean task of building up SUCI as the only genuine communist party of India on the Leninist model in order to accomplishing the task of bringing about anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our country Today, SUCI has emerged as the torchbearer of peoples' movements across the nation based on the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had emphasized that the leaders of a genuine communist party should be completely free from not only private property but from private

property mental complex too. In today's world situation when individualism has assumed an alarming proportion, this ought to be the hallmark of true revolutionaries wedded to the task of leading anti-capitalist revolution. Comrade Ghosh had further emphasized that communist culture, which is based on collectivism, is much higher and nobler than humanism, which emerged centring round the call of individual liberty, during the advent of capitalism. Today, when capitalism has reached its moribund stage, is utterly crisis-ridden, humanism as a philosophy can no more guide people to identify truth of life or lead him to achieve desired emancipation. Only communism, the loftiest ideology based on science, can provide the correct guide to action, bring about desired social progress. As Comrade Ghosh had said, "Communism is humanism minus private property". Revolutionaries today in order to attain true communist character must free themselves from the private property mental complex by conducting painstaking struggle covering all aspects of life in order to successfully lead the masses in their struggle for emancipation.. Several leaders in the history of communist movement who could not free themselves from humanist values became revisionists at a later stage. Neither CPI nor CPI (M) could shape up as genuine communist parties as they failed to grasp the essence of Marxism-Leninism as could Comrade Ghosh in course of conducting a correct revolutionary life struggle. So these pseudo-Marxists are equally

enthusiastic like the BJP and Congress, in protecting the class interest of the ruling capitalists by misleading working class movement in the country. Both 'Left Buddhadeb' and 'Right Modi' are equally anti-people as both are serving the interests of Tatas and other monopolists.

Those calling themselves as Maoists have without taking into cognizance the objective reality obtaining in our country today have, instead of developing united mass movements on the burning problems of life are in fact hindering the process of developing real class and mass struggles by taking recourse to the adventurist path of arms and individual killings which are alien to Marxism and contrary to the teachings of great Mao Zedong. Rather they are providing handle to the power that be to crush legitimate democratic mass movement on the pretext of combating terrorism as is being, of late, seen in Lalgarh in West Bengal.

Comrade Ghosh's thoughts are also rousing the true communists round the world. The works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh are translated to many languages such as Spanish, Russian and German drawing deep appreciation and attraction to these noble ideas. The World Anti-Imperialist and People's Solidarity Forum, founded in 2007, with a very key role played by SUCI, is drawing resistance groups and fighters from around the world with an estimated 65 countries participating in the last Anti-Imperialist convention, was held at Beirut." SUCI is also actively establishing relations with various communist parties and revolutionary groups throughout the globe.

Comrade M.N. Sriram, Member, Karnataka State Committee, presided over the meeting and Comrades B. R. Manjunath and H. G. Jayalakshmi, both Members, Karnataka State Committee, were present on the dias. The meeting began with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and concluded with rendering of the *Internationale*.

Kollam, Kerala

Kerala state committee of our party organized Comrade Shibdas Ghosh memorial meeting on 5th August at Public Library hall, Kollam town. Comrade C. K. Lukose, State secretary, was the

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Study class in Sikkim

On the occasion of 33rd Memorial Day of the Great Leader of the Proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, a study class was also organized on 16 August, Lingee-Payong, South Sikkim. The discussion of the Study Class was held on the book "Marxism and Development of Human Society" of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Sadananda Bagal, member, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI conducted the study class. At the beginning of the class Comrade Sandananda Bagal, Comrade Sourav Mukherjee, General Secretary, AIDS0, Comrade Ramesh Sharma, Comrade Hemant Dawarhi and others paid floral tributes to the photograph of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

On the basis of the questions from the delegates the discussion started. Many of the delegates enthusiastically participated in the discussion. Comrade Sourav Mukherjee discussed some of the questions and finally Comrade Sadananda Bagal concluded the discussion. He also discussed the significance of the historic 2nd Congress of SUCI, to be held in Delhi in the month of November this year. At the end of the study class a 12-member Lingee-Payong People's Action Committee was formed.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day

Intensify people's movement based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought

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main speaker. Comrade A. Jalaluddin, State secretariat member, In his introductory speech, Comrade V. Venugopal, State secretariat member, pointed out that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thought has equipped us with the power of analyzing any complicated situation correctly and scientifically. This has enabled us to advance the cause of the proletariat nationally and internationally even in the period of setback of world communist movement.

Comrade Lukose threw light upon different aspects of the revolutionary life-struggle of Comrade Ghosh. He described the challenges faced by the proletariat and other down-trodden people at the present stage of capitalist globalization. The inherent contradiction of capitalism is once again exposed by the recent unprecedented global economic crisis. On the other hand, toiling people are rising in protest all over the world. 'Nandigram' has opened a new era of people's struggle in our country too. In Kerala also our party is actively engaged in organizing successful people's movements based on the illuminating thoughts of Comrade Ghosh. Comrade Lukose concluded his speech calling upon all comrades to come forward wholeheartedly to make the historic Second Congress of our beloved party a grand success.

UP

In UP this year, the Memorial Day was observed at different district head quarters.

At Jaunpur the Day was observed on 9 August at the Badlapur Norsingh Savaghar, Comrade V. N. Singh, State Secretary of UP addressed the gathering as the main speaker and Jaunpur District Secretary of the party, Comrade Jagdish Chandra Asthana took the chair. Comrade Surendranath Mourya conducted the meeting. Under the presidentship of Comrade Bhechan Ali, Pratapgarh district secretary, a memorial meeting was held at the party office

at Pratapgarh on 7 August. Comrade V. N. Singh addressed here also as the main speaker. Comrade Pushpendra conducted the meeting.

On 8 August a memorial meeting was held at the party office at Kanpur under the presidentship of Comrade Rajbali, secretary, Kanpur district Organizing Committee where Comrade Swapan Chatterjee, member, UP State Organizing Committee addressed as the main speaker. The meeting was conducted by Comrade Balendra Katiar, member, district organizing committee of the party.

At Allahabad, the memorial meeting was held on 9 August under the presidentship of Comrade S. K. Mallabya. Comrade Swapan Chatterjee was the main speaker.

In Sultanpur district Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day was observed on 5 August at Kalikaganj with Comrade Jagannath Verma, Sultanpur district secretary as the President. Comrades Jayprakash Mourya, member, Sultanpur district committee conducted the meeting. Comrade V.N. Singh was the main Speaker. He also conducted a study class there in the evening.

In J. P. Nagar also a memorial meeting was held on 9 August at Kishangarh under the presidentship of the J. P. Nagar district secretary Comrade Vijay Pal Singh. Comrade Gambhira Singh conducted the meeting and Comrade Jagannath Verma addressed as the main speaker.

At Moradabad the memorial meeting was held on 8 August presided over by labour leader Comrade Islam Ali. Comrade Vijoy Pal Singh conducted the meeting and here also Comrade Jagannath Verma was the main speaker.

Madhya Pradesh

Jabalpur

Memorial Day was observed at Jabalpur on 5 August. In the morning Comrade Bhabani Ghosh hoisted the red flag on the party office at Kanchghar and veteran

Seminar in Bangladesh in memory of Comrades Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh

5 August this year was the 114th and 33rd death anniversary of Comrades Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh respectively, the great leaders of the proletariat. On this occasion a seminar under the auspices of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh (BASAD) was held at the central office of BASAD in Dhaka. Main speaker of the seminar Khalequzzaman, Convenor, BASAD said, *inter alia*, on this occasion, "Autocracy and despotism of the ruling bourgeois class, deepening crisis of capitalism will go on creating deeper crisis in people's life. Forced to bear the brunt of the crisis of capitalism people will frantically search for emancipation but until and unless they acquire correct class consciousness and correct and genuine revolutionary power of the people capable of leading the class struggle in a right path is developed, people would again and again fall prey to the deception of the bourgeoisie. To get rid of it we have to carry the lessons of the great leaders of the proletariat Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh among into the working class." He further said, the history of 38 years of bourgeois rule in Bangladesh proves it amply clear that without socialism neither emancipation of the exploited people of Bangladesh nor any national development or progress is possible.

He urged upon the toiling people of the country to take active part in anti-capitalist revolutionary struggle and anti-imperialist struggle against imperialist aggression, loot, plunder and conspiracy, taking lessons from the life struggles of the great leaders like Comrades Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh

Comrade R.N. Verma garlanded the portrait of the great departed leader. In the afternoon memorial meeting was held under the presidentship of Comrade Bhabani Ghosh. Comrade Jagdish Barai, member, M.P. State Organizing Committee discussed the significance of observing the memorial day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Bhopal

Memorial meeting was held on 8 August at Rajdhani Shadi hall in Bhopal. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Uma Prasad, state coordinator. Before the meeting, a well-decorated procession started from the party office and reached the venue of the meeting. While Comrade Arun Singh, member, Bihar state committee, was the main speaker. In his address Comrade Arun Singh, at the outset, focussed on the exemplary life struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in building up SUCI as the genuine Communist party on the soil. In the light of the Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, Comrade Singh showed how the ruling bourgeoisie, is inciting and precipitating various divisive mentalities among the toiling people to keep them disunited and fostering all kinds of vulgar imperialist culture to break the moral backbone of the youth so as prevent genuine revolutionary movement to surge forth. He also said that realization of

Marxist philosophy can take place only if one engages oneself in applying the same in one's life covering every aspect of it.

Sagar

Under the auspices of the Sagar District Organizing Committee memorial meeting was observed at the Chetna Adyan Kendra, Sagar on 5 August. MP State Co-ordinator Comrade Uma Prasad addressed the gathering as the main speaker and Comrade Ramavatar Sharma, Secretary, Sagar District Organizing Committee presided over. Comrade Ashoke Kushrawa conducted the meeting.

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Death Anniversary of Comrade Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh was observed in Mumbai and on this occasion a mass meeting was held at Tardeo Janata Centre of Mumbai Central (West) on 7 August. Comrade Kumar Kulashrastha took the chair and Comrade Umasankar Mourya conducted the meeting. Along with the main speaker, Dipankar Roy, member, West Bengal State Committee of the party Comrades Anil Kumar Tyagi, In-Charge, Mumbai and Jayaram Vishwakarma, in-charge, Kanchivili addressed the meeting. Party workers and supporters from Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan and Viwandi joined the meeting.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day observed in Alipore and Dum Dum Central Jails

33rd death anniversary of the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was solemnly observed in Alipore and Dum Dum Central Jails in Calcutta on 5 August. In both the cases, inmates joined the memorial meetings organized by incarcerated SUCI leaders and activists with great enthusiasm.

Yashpal Committee-HRD minister join the bandwagon of privatization

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decades,....there has been a rapid expansion of the higher education system,.... mainly through private investments,.... governments started reducing their investments.”(p.29) “... absence of any significant expansion in higher education by the State has created a space for the growth of private providers.”(p.32) However, the Committee feels “... investors and philanthropists... have been deterred by the rules and regulations imposed on them by regulatory bodies” (p.32-3) There “is too much inspection, interference and delay in their dealings with State and Central Governments”. At the same time, the Committee admits “Mushrooming engineering and management colleges, ... have largely become mere business entities dispensing very poor quality education. (p.35) So it adds “It is also important that private initiatives in the field of higher education are not driven by the sole motive of profit.” (p.35) In the prevailing situation, the Committee holds that “Purely private initiatives require a credible corrective mechanism.”(p.34) and the remedial measure, it seeks in a ‘bar-less single window’ process for both domestic and foreign investors, ‘modification in the legal

framework’ (p.35), including relaxation of regulatory measures, even taxation laws and so on.

From here, the Yashpal Committee evolves the idea of a single regulatory body, National Council for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), at the same time justifying its idea with the admission that “The National Policy of Education (1986) and the Plan of Action, 1992 envisaged the establishment of a national apex body... in the planning and development of higher education system.”(p.54) It is also in line with the NKC recommendation for an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE). The proposed ‘apex regulatory body’ will subsume ‘the present regulating bodies (for example: many statutory agencies such as the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Bar Council of India (BCI), University Grants Commission (UGC) and others) as well as Central and State universities and the Directorates of College and Technical Education of each State taking over the powers vested with them. If required this Council, NCHER, is to “be established through a Constitutional amendment and be given a Constitutional status” being ‘fully accountable’ and

‘reporting to the Parliament’ (p.56), as a ‘single body’ ‘which treats all knowledge areas in an integrated manner’ (p.52-53)

“This body” will have a wide span of its jurisdiction. It “will serve as a think tank on higher education policy in the country, will provide a ‘vision’ to be reflected in a curriculum framework, will benchmark universities, will compare with institutions globally, and will evaluate the costs and price of education;” it will “create appropriate norms, processes and structures for ensuring quality and accrediting universities”, “will look after the fitness of the people who wish to practice in their respective fields...conducting qualifying exams for professionals in their respective field”, thus controlling also “the flows of professional in job market” and acting “a regulator for educated unemployed”. In summary, it will do, regulate and control everything related to education and educational institutions. Conscious of the tremendous power vested with this apex regulatory body may invite criticism, the report adds “NCHER has not been visualised as a Czar”. Posing democratic, it adds that the NCHER “should move away from the current tendencies

of the existing regulatory bodies to control and impose bureaucratic interferences in the functioning of universities and colleges. (p.56) Its “structure” “would not be top heavy and its role would be free of excessive centralization of regulation of universities and colleges”. However, “The status of the Chairperson of the commission should be analogous to” the status of none other than some of the top bureaucrats of the country like “the Chief Election Commissioner and that of the members should be comparable to the Election Commissioners.”(p.69) Are the Committee and the minister sure that such high-powered body as NCHER will be immune to the ‘deficiencies’ as ‘enforcement instrument’ or to ‘reluctance to sort out problems’ which they already identify as the cause of maladies? Rather, it is clear from all these apparently contradictory propositions that the real motive of the move is to bring higher education under a highly powerful bureaucratic body with close links, if not directly under, the Union government. Its purpose could only be to control education absolutely, so that the design of the ruling class may be given effect smoothly.

[To be continued]

PTTI students’ movement on the path of victory

Of the heinous crimes committed by a state government against the student community in this country of India, that perpetrated by the CPI (M)-led Front Government of West Bengal against seventy six thousand hapless students of the Primary Teachers’ Training Institutes (PTTI), may surely claim distinction from its enormity and cruelty.

These PTTIs began to be set up by the CPI (M) leaders, their underlings, friends and kith and kin including near relatives of the ministers in the mid 1990s. These institutes were approved by the state government. Then this enormous number of students desperately seeking a job to somehow make both ends meet was first induced to take admission and undergo a teachers’ training course in these institutes alluring them with a series of advertisements indulged in by the state government. The owners of these institutes charged around a

lakh of rupees for imparting the training. The parents and guardians of middle class and poor families did not care for meeting the demanded amount, even if it required borrowing at hefty interest or selling off their scanty belongings, ornaments, lands and properties. They took such risk with the only hope that after obtaining a certificate from these institutes their children would be able to secure jobs of primary school teachers and at least have a means of earning. In 2002, the state government announced in the state assembly that candidates having training at and certificate of an approved Primary Teachers’ Training Institute would get preference in appointment as primary teachers. Soon private-run and state government-approved PTTI Institutes started springing up in the state like mushrooms. In fact, out of 76,000 PTTI students, around 42,000 were also appointed as primary teachers. But behind the scene a heinous

conspiracy, a despicable deception brewed, the fact the naive students and their guardians were ignorant of. This was unraveled in 2005 when NCTE (National Council of Teachers’ Education), a central government organization whose approval is mandatory for setting up such institutes refused to recognize 142 such Institutes of West Bengal on the ground of non-fulfillment of conditions regarding infrastructure, facilities and other essential requirements. As a result, all the certificates issued by these institutes so far were rendered invalid and the students who forked out huge money by almost becoming insolvent are now absolutely in dire straits. This landed this huge number of students into utter bewilderment and despair. While the future of around 42,000 pass-outs who got their certificates and appointments has become uncertain, 34,000 students who are yet to complete their courses and receive

certificates are straightaway out of reckoning for securing job in primary schools. But the government is unfazed. After fleecing the 76, 000 students to the skin and helping their cohorts plunder millions of rupees, the CPI(M) government is now washing off their hands pleading ignorance. This way an ever-heard dark injustice befell on these students from whom the CPI(M) leaders have recovered around Rs 750 crores in the process. The PTTI students launched a prolonged movement against this by forming West Bengal PTTI Students’ Union using every accepted means of democratic movement and knocked at every door. But there was no response from either state or central governments who, if they so wanted, could easily sort out the issue by undertaking suitable mitigating measures.

The CPI(M) leaders have not ended at that. The state Primary

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PTTI students' movement

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Education minister announced in the State Assembly on 29th June, 2009, to everyone's amazement, that the state government was going to recruit 58,000 primary teachers for the state's primary schools and the PTTI students were not going to get any priority in this recruitment schedule. The students could not accept this lying down, could not allow the conspirators and their abettors go unchallenged. Left with no alternative but to intensify the struggle, which they vowed to carry out to the last, they resolved to go in for hunger strike unto death. Begun since 5th July, 2009, at College Square, opposite Calcutta University, about 300 youths took part in this strike. All the well-meaning people of the state irrespective of their political belief, many political parties, students' organizations, volunteer organizations, doctors' organizations, many intellectuals and even the Governor of the state stood by them expressing sympathy and solidarity to their cause. AIDSOS has been with the fighting PTTI students right from day one and threw its gauntlet behind the movement. The doctors of Medical Service Centre, extended their hands to this movement. On 13th July, eminent members of the 'Forum for Cultural Activists and Intellectuals' held a symbolic hunger strike for 12 hours at the same camp at College Square in support of the striking students. An appeal signed by the distinguished members of the 'Forum for Cultural Activists and Intellectuals' was also sent out to the Union HRD Minister with copies endorsed to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister,

Railways Minister, State Chief Minister, state Primary Education minister and the state Governor seeking their immediate intervention and resolve the issue amicably. On this positive and arduous note of the Governor coupled with the sincere request of the intellectuals, the participants ended their 14 days hunger strike on 18th July in the afternoon on taking vow to continue the movement till victory is achieved.

Comrade Tarun Mandal, SUCI MP raised the issue in the parliament and personally met HRD Minister and Finance Minister with a request to take humanitarian approach and settle the matter in favour of the suffering PTTI students. He also held a round of discussions with Union Railway Minister who has been sympathizing with the cause of the PTTI students and solicited her initiative to save 76,000 innocent lives. Comrade Debaprosad Sarkar, leader of the SUCI in the State Assembly, also drew the attention of the government to this serious issue. But, the devil would not listen to the scriptures. A massive procession of the PTTI students led by the eminent intellectuals and cultural activists was taken out in Calcutta on 21 August last. Under pressure of movement, the state government could not release the advertisement notifying recruitment of primary teachers as planned. It is now understood that the central government is actively examining an actionable proposal to accede to the legitimate demand of the suffering PTTI students. If that materializes, it will be significant victory of a just struggle for a right cause.

SUCI demands Haryana be declared draught-affected

SUCI Haryana held a protest demonstration in Rohtak on 25 August, protesting steep rise in prices of essential commodities and on statewide draught. Peasants and workers marched from Choturam Park to Deputy Commissioner's office and sat in a dharna. A memorandum addressed to the Governor was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner by a

delegation led by Comrade Satyawani, Secretary, Haryana State Committee. In a meeting the state party leaders condemned Congress-led central and state governments for inaction and demanded all-out state-trading and adequate supply of all essential commodities at fair price, declaring Haryana draught-affected.

SUCI demands stay of proposed Tipaimukh Dam on the Barak River in Manipur till resolution of all pertinent issues raised by various quarters and complete agreement between India and Bangladesh

Opining on the reported move on the part of the Government of India to construct at Tipaimukh in Manipur a big dam on the Barak river on the ostensible reason of setting up a 1500MW Hydro-electrical project and controlling flood, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 29 August, 2009 said that serious objections have been raised to the venture by the people of Manipur who fear deluge of vast area adjoining upper stream resulting in eviction of a large number of people as well as colossal loss of property and livelihood. Objection is also being raised from members of the scientist community in regard to scientific viability of installation of such big dams which, they fear, may cause serious devastation in case of an earthquake above 8 on the Richter scale. Serious objections are also being raised by the right thinking people of Bangladesh. Apart from vulnerability to earthquake that may devastate the areas including territories within Bangladesh, they also, in the backdrop of their horrid experience of serious damage having been caused to bio-diversity and scarcity of irrigation water due to building of the Farakka Barrage, have expressed serious apprehension about the construction of the Tipaimukh Dam as it too will cause decline in the flow of water supply in rivers Surma and Kushiara, two branches of river Barak flowing within Bangladesh, leading to similar disastrous consequence like scarcity of water and thereby bringing about catastrophe in the life of the Bangladesh people.

Under the circumstances our Party, emphasized Comrade Mukherjee, is of the strong opinion that the Government of India should not go ahead with the project without addressing all the objections coming from responsible quarters both within the country and outside. As the Surma and Kushiara, the two branches of Barak are flowing through Bangladesh and so falling in the category of international river, any decision to construct dam or undertake such other activities centring around the river Barak, we are of firm opinion, ought to be governed by the accepted international norms and conventions which stipulate that in undertaking such a project, due respect must be shown to the rights and vital interest of the riparian countries and as such no unilateral move should be taken on the part of any of these countries. Since international norms thus make it obligatory to obtain concurrence of the governments of all riparian countries, we strongly urge upon the Government of India not to proceed further with the project and immediately suspend any operation, if already started, and not to resume any activity till all just and legitimate apprehensions of the people of Bangladesh are dispelled, a just agreement with the Government of Bangladesh is arrived at and all the issues raised by the various quarters in the country are duly resolved.

**Observe
3rd September, 2009
All-India Protest Day
to oppose holding of
WTO ministerial conference
in New Delhi**

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