

# Proletarian Era

Volume 48 No. 3 Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)  
September 15, 2014 Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Price : Rs. 2.00



26 December 1893 – 9 September 1976

## Red Salute Comrade Mao Zedong

People may ask, since Marxism is accepted as the guiding ideology by the majority of the people in our country, can it be criticized? Certainly it can. Marxism is scientific truth and fears no criticism. If it did, and if it could be overthrown by criticism, it would be worthless. In fact, aren't the idealists criticizing Marxism every day and in every way? And those who harbour bourgeois and petty-bourgeois ideas and do not wish to change — aren't they also criticizing Marxism in every way? Marxists should not be afraid of criticism from any quarter. Quite the contrary, they need to temper and develop themselves and win new positions in the teeth of criticism and in the storm and stress of struggle. Fighting against wrong ideas is like being vaccinated — a man develops greater immunity from disease as a result of vaccination. Plants raised in hothouses are unlikely to be hardy. Carrying out the policy of letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend will not weaken, but strengthen, the leading position of Marxism in the ideological field.

— Mao Zedong

“On the correct handling of contradictions among the people” (SW, Vol. V, p 411)

## Appointment in higher judiciary Executive overreach casts omen of fresh moves towards administrative fascism

India is recently embroiled in a debate on the appointment of judges in the higher judiciary, that is the Supreme Court (SC) and High Courts (HC). For over a decade SC and HC judges were being appointed here by a collegium system. Popularly called appointment of *judges by judges*, in this system SC appointments were cleared by a 5-member collegium and the HC appointments by a 3-member SC collegium, in both cases headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and having judges as members.

### Collegium or NJAC ?

A deviation sprang up of late. In view of the retirement of the present CJI, Justice RM Lodha in September 2014, the SC collegium had recommended a panel of four names in May 2014. Out of that panel, the Union Ministry of Law and Justice unilaterally segregated the name of former solicitor general Gopal Subramaniam and summarily rejected it, agreeing with the three other names to send those to the President for approval. The Union law ministry also made it clear that to purportedly bring transparency and end with corruption in the process of appointing judges, it was going to scrap the collegium system and introduce a new method of appointing judges by a National

Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). In a hectic move and with the support of all major political parties, national or regional, BJP, the ruling party, managed to get two bills passed in the two houses of Parliament. The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill, 2014 rang the death knell of the collegium system and the 121 Constitution Amendment Bill, brought the Constitution in harmony with the abolition of the collegium system and introduction of the NJAC. The NJAC is set to comprise the CJI (Chairperson), two other senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, the Union Law Minister and two eminent persons, of them one from amongst the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities or women nominated by the PM, the CJI and the Leader of Opposition or the leader of the largest party in opposition of the Lok Sabha. It means appointment of SC and HC judges will no longer remain an exclusively 'judges by judges' method, but will involve persons beyond the judiciary, namely from the executive-legislative-politicians.

Naturally the incident gave birth to cascading effects. Was the executive-legislative curbing the independence of the judiciary? Was it justified? The debate was not really novel to the country. Only it

brought the issue to the surface once more. In an interview to the media, Gopal Subramaniam the appointee in question in the recent case, feared the government, rather executive-legislative, intervention. He indicated that his role as *amicus curie* in the Sohrabuddin and Israt Jahan fake encounter cases might have come in the way of his becoming a judge of the Supreme Court. It may be recalled that in the Sohrabuddin case of Gujarat, Amit Shah, the present BJP president and a close confidant of Narendra Modi, the then Gujarat chief minister, and now prime minister, was pinned down and taken into custody. Modi himself was also under scrutiny of the CBI in that case. Cast aside, Subramaniam refused to remain in the fray. On the collegium system opinions were divided. While the present CJI, some former CJI and a section of judges and other knowledgeable quarters in the country stood for the collegium system and were critical of the particularly hectic government moves charging those for impinging upon the independence of judiciary, almost all the political parties in Parliament as also a section of judicial persons like Justice Markandey Katju, a former judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Ruma Pal, a former member of the Supreme Court collegium and

others held the system as flawed that failed to screen cleanly. It thus has become susceptible to appointment of corrupt or inefficient judges, as also unaccountable for its acts, namely rejection of suggestions by lower courts. Men like Justice Katju or Justice Pal held the system unable to keep itself above political or executive pressure to act effectively and cleanly.

The issue did not remain within the confines of Parliament or the secretariats or the courts. It carried deeper omen and called for serious scrutiny. Facing criticism across the country and society, the government reiterated its "highest regard" for the judiciary. But the questions remained: Why was the government so hectic in getting its moves passed to put leash on the judiciary? Will these moves work in the declared direction of doing away with corruption in the judiciary and bringing transparency to the process of appointment of the judges? And above all, were not the critics or proponents of the collegium system, both missing or evading some vital aspects of the issue?

To form a correct objective understanding about the issue, it is essential that we view things in the context, in the given socio-political scenario and its accompanying fads and aberrations. So, it is imperative

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## Appointment in higher judiciary

# All organs of capitalist state infested with corruption, judiciary no exception

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to have a brief discussion on that at the outset and then see how the issue is linked with that.

### Capitalism of the past and 'separation of power'

First, is it not a fact that this whole incident, this entire process of appointment of judges is taking place in a state framework which is capitalist in character? And the state denotes a system, a concept of law and order, of principles, of some fundamental rights, and on this base a structure made of three pillars namely judiciary, military and police-bureaucracy-administration, rather executive along with legislature, to protect all these edifice and to ultimately serve the interests of the rulers, the ruling class, in a capitalist state the ruling capitalist class. Pages of history record it in unambiguous terms that when capitalist state emerged, it thrived upon the concepts of democracy, the bourgeois democracy, promoted democratic institutions, cherished democratic values and norms and fitting with these it advocated for relative independence of its three permanent organs : executive-legislative, judiciary and military. These organs were distinct by themselves, given distinct domains of power, definite responsibilities and accountabilities. They worked on a principle of 'separation of power' as the founding fathers of bourgeois democracy termed it and upheld.

Such separation was visualized so that power was not concentrated with any of the wings or the organs and there was no disharmony in and overlapping or interference of their functions. The responsibility vested with the judiciary was to check and safeguard whether the laws promulgated by the legislature and being enacted or executed by the bureaucracy are compatible with the expressed provisions of the Constitution; the process of checking being termed as the judicial review. The bourgeoisie at the time of their rise as a social power and time of emergence of bourgeois democracy meticulously held that as far as the last word of justice was concerned, people's opinion was of supreme importance. And of all the three organs, it is the legislature which is directly formed by the people through elections in a parliamentary democracy. So whoever believed in democracy must also believe in the ultimate

triumph of public opinion, if it were strong, united and fearless. If it were the people who had to govern the country, the will of the people could only be manifested through public opinion. That is why, a conscious continuous vigil on the part of the people was viewed to be the best safeguard of democracy. At the same time the three organs of bourgeois democracy were also guided by a 'check and balance system' so that none becomes absolutely powerful or abuses its power.

### Capitalism today, its all-out crisis and all pervading degeneration

But those were the days of capitalism when it was a progressive force for the society fighting against feudalism. Based on exploitation the same capitalism gave birth to monopoly and then imperialism and has now turned into a totally decadent world system. Today the capitalist-imperialist rulers of each and every capitalist country are frantically in search of a way out from their all-out crisis, albeit in vain, as despite all efforts it shows no signs of waning. Rather intense all-out crisis, abject decadence and degeneration pervades all the spheres of life, economic, political, social, cultural, etc., in each and every capitalist country. Uncertainty and insecurity mar economy, politics and society. Total moral degeneration, absence of values, corruption, fraudulence, and all such filthy vices, once abhorred by the civilized world, have rather become order of the day. And the more the crisis deepens, the deeper decadence drives its roots, the more frantic the ruling capitalist class becomes to anyhow continue its rule, to anyhow reap the maximum harvest, the maximum profit from their dying system. Their desperation is reflected in their frantic bid to consolidate and concentrate power. Thus keeping the façade of democracy intact in two-party or multi-party parliamentary system, the ruling capitalist class is hell-bent upon establishing administrative fascism, a trend that has continuously gathered momentum in all capitalist countries, to a greater or lesser extent, since the days following the world wars.

Indian capitalism and its state emerged and grew up and consolidated itself only in this age of decadent capitalism. So it took to parliamentary democracy, but was

fraught with all the thousand and one vices the decadent capitalism contained. And with crisis intensified, the vices and maladies were rampant and manifest everywhere. Industrial recession, stagnation of growth, unbridled inflation, soaring unemployment and such others mark the economic scene. Parliamentary political field is miserably infested with unstinted subservience of parliamentary political parties and their leaders to the ruling capitalists and with power-mongering, shameless greed and corruption, reckless criminalization, totally valueless self-seeking attitude of politicians, and such others. Parliamentary elections have become a medley of money-media-mafia. Social accountability, sense of social obligation are becoming rarities everywhere. People's life is cruelly mauled with unchecked unemployment, abject poverty, unbearable price rise, uncertainty and insecurity of livelihood, brute atrocities on women and children in particular, fanning up of every possible divisive traits and fear psychosis. As a sequel to decadence of capitalism, there is spurt in crime in almost every sphere of the society.

Naturally such an all-out degeneration and crisis has perceptibly affected all the organs of the state. The fact that politics and politicians of all major parties, national or regional, have become corrupt and degenerated needs no reiteration; people learn it daily, every moment from the media, from their own experience. Bureaucracy supposed to practise neutrality has also become tainted and has been acting partisan. Corruption, bribery and cut-out money have come to be known as order of the day in the administration. Leading monopolists and industrialists are often occupying the headlines for corruption, nepotism and illegal transactions and what not; of course moments later they earn reprieve in ways right or wrong. Even the military is hardly spared; numerous shoddy deals covering huge sums of money have recently been unearthed involving officials of the topmost echelon.

Under such circumstances and allured by the bourgeois propaganda on the rule of law, people tend to lay their confidence upon the judiciary. They still tend to believe that it is their only solace, only place to find redress. The rulers, too, take note of it and indulge people to believe in

this halo. Yet, an organ of a decadent system, the judiciary can hardly keep it off from degeneration.

### 'Sacrosanct' judiciary hardly saved from degeneration

Since long the judiciary is proverbially known for bribery at all levels, it being a part and parcel of any proceedings in courts. That may even tend to affect verdicts. With time and vitiation of social ambience, the malady has only deepened. With it has been added in recent times, blatant interference of politicians-government and executive in processes inside the courts, including appointment of judges. The allegation of Justice Katju shocked the country as he revealed that a major political party of Tamilnadu threatened the then UPA government of withdrawing its vital support to the government if a judge of Madras High Court was not given appointment to the Supreme Court. The UPA government as well as the SC collegium preferred to succumb to the pressure. People of the country have not yet forgotten how a CJI was appointed in 1973 during the Indira Gandhi-led Congress (I) regime. It was only a few years before clamping emergency on the country by Mrs Gandhi and the incumbent CJI had, by that time, stood in good stead for all-powerful Mrs Gandhi. Thus the choice and the manner of appointment were definitely striking enough to create a turmoil at the great cost to the judiciary and the nation.

Then there were other instances, the glaring ones among many being as follows. A Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court wrote a letter to the President and Prime Minister stating that he was overlooked primarily because he had opposed the elevation of Justice Altamas Kabir, former CJI's sister as a High Court Judge when he was in the Calcutta High Court. Justice Katju also wrote in his blog that attempts to appoint a tainted judge of Madras High Court to the SC by the collegium led by Chief Justice KG Balkrishnan, was virtually through but for Justice Katju's own intervention. Justice Balkrishnan was the man whom Justice Gokhale of the SC had also written to about the corruption perpetrated by D Raja, the then Telecom minister of the UPA government accused in allotting the 2G spectrum illegally.

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## Communal teeth of RSS-BJP bared in UP and other states

# Hindutva zealots must be defeated, both ideologically and organisationally

While addressing the country from the rostrum on the independence day, prime minister Modi who dangled the carrot of *acche din* (happy days) before riding to power announced that there ought to be a 10-year moratorium on communal and caste strife. It would appear as if Modi who showed no remorse for the worst anti-Muslim Gujarat pogrom, had no qualm in calling the minorities as *kutte ki baccha* (puppies) and exercised little restraint in stoking the communal impulses of the electorates suddenly metamorphosed into a sensible statesman. But one finds his exhortation a big hoax when one sees that there is spurt in communal clashes and riots in the country and forces accused of instigating and engineering such fratricidal bloodbaths are no one else but the arch Hindu communal Sangh Parivar which includes the BJP, Modi's party in power, and its mentor RSS. Modi is, of course, silent on this agonizing rise in communal strifes which only indicates his rank irresponsibility, if not a deliberate dereliction of his moral duty as the country's prime minister and worse, it suggests, his complicity. What is evident is that these communal passions are being stirred precisely in those states and constituencies that would go to polls in the coming days. In the three months since Narendra Modi's spectacular electoral triumph, many corners of the country have begun to smoulder in slow fires of orchestrated hate and distrust against the Muslim minorities. Raised on a staple diet of anti-Muslim propaganda, and encouraged further by the open deployment of these sentiments to reap a polarized vote in states like UP and Bihar, and even Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, high-pitched communal tempers are being released with alacrity so that communal polarization gives electoral benefit to the BJP which has nothing to offer except this worst divisive politics. Facts would corroborate.

### Riots in areas of UP where by polls were due on 13 September

Uttar Pradesh has been turned into a communal cauldron. Communal violence, polarizing communities, have overtaken the state so much so that it has turned into a tinderbox which can explode at any point in time at slightest of provocation. The state has

witnessed at least 24 riots since May 16, the day the Lok Sabha election results were announced. It's no coincidence that most of these riots took place in west UP, which is home to half of the total assembly constituencies where by-elections are slated to be held. Of the 12 constituencies that fell vacant after BJP MLAs were elected MPs, six have seen communal clashes in the past two-and-a-half-month. Of these six, the assembly segment-wise Lok Sabha results show, four seats are such where BJP's performance was not so good compared to other parts of UP.

The pattern of precipitating communal trouble is a well-nigh thought out ploy. A multitude of Sangh Parivar organisations – some mainstream, some fringe – deploy and refashion small local disputes to spur rage and suspicion against the Muslim people, each time reviving and fuelling old stereotypes. The manufactured flashpoints are also familiar: disputes over land for shrines and graveyards, an offending loudspeaker in a place of worship, fire crackers in processions, charges of young Muslim men sexually harassing hapless Hindu women in a sinister campaign of what has been coined as 'love jihad', sometimes with the added twist of forced conversions, or cow slaughter. It is as though the Sangh Parivar ring leaders are hunting for any dispute which can be twisted and morphed to heighten communal tempers. Then there is enough grist being brought to the rumour mill; falsehoods and highly exaggerated reports feed into the fires leading to further tensions. The people have been virtually left on their own to be swamped with lies and falsehoods that then make them, caught up in frenzy, react to shadows far removed from reality.

For over two months since the Modi government was sworn in, Uttar Pradesh witnessed unrelenting crime and disorder. There have been literally hundreds of communally charged incidents. In Muzaffarnagar, a murderous hot-headed clash following a motorcycle accident is converted into a story of stalking for so called 'love jihad'. While clashes took place in Shamli on June 5, Muzaffarnagar witnessed communal tension on July 11 and 13. In Moradabad, dalit people in a Muslim majority town were instigated to install a loudspeaker on their shrine. In Saharanpur, an old and almost settled land dispute over

the site of a gurudwara acquired a communal colour and three people were killed in communal clashes on July 26. While Bahraich saw communal violence on May 25, Gautam Budh Nagar witnessed clashes on June 30. Both Balha in Bahraich and Noida in Gautam Budh Nagar were slated for by poll. In Meerut, an unfortunate young Hindu woman teacher in a madrasa who underwent a late and unsafe abortion became the centre of murky charges of gang-rape and forced conversion. After the rioting between Muslims and members of the Jat community, there have later occurred riots between Muslims and members of the Sikh community. The Modi government does not seem to have a clue about its responsibilities. There is no rule of law or accountability. As if, no one is bothered at the rapid spread of communalism throughout the state. It appears communalism is becoming institutionalized in the face of virtually no opposition to the communal forces seeking to expand through divisive and hate-filled politics. The venom is being felt by the hapless people on the ground whose insecurity has grown following the realization that they do not have a government either in the state or at the centre which is willing or able to secure peace and amity in the districts of the state. While the BJP is turning guns at the Samajwadi Party-led UP state government for failing to maintain law and order, the Samajwadi Party in turn is accusing the BJP of precipitating trouble through its communal brigade. In fact, both are responsible for not protecting the people from falling victims of orchestrated violence as well as for remaining mute spectators to the orgy of bloodbath.

### Riots orchestrated even in other states

Besides UP, the Hindu communal forces are active with their sinister design in other states also. In Mewat in Haryana, clashes broke out after a truck driven by a Muslim ran over a motor-cycle killing two Hindu men. In Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh, a communal clash erupted from a dispute over a children's cricket match. The internet has become a handy tool for communal mobilization. All across Maharashtra, from Pune to Nagpur, Aurangabad to Dhule, violence between communities broke out after pictures insulting religious and

political icons were posted on social networks, and rarely did enraged street warriors know or bother to know who actually posted the offending pictures. The attacks in Pune during the last week of May were particularly tragic. Activists of the Hindu Rashtra Sena armed with cricket bats, iron rods and daggers, ran amok, damaging 250 buses, two madrasas (where children were studying at that time), two mosques, a graveyard, and a string of bakeries, hotels and shops owned by the Muslims. Their rampage climaxes in the bludgeoning to death of a young man returning from his evening prayers, marked out as a Muslim by his beard and skull cap. The culpability for each of these clashes lay with the hardcore Hindu communal organisations bent on fomenting animosities. Not a single incident of violence was spontaneous. They all were cunningly orchestrated by the communal rogues basking under the shelter of the RSS-BJP and other Sangh Parivar constituents.

### Bogey of 'love jihad'

It is said that the wicked is not starved of subterfuge. Aptly the phrase fits the BJP-RSS leaders who are now desperate to fan Hindu communalism under the garb of Hindutva, unleash a hate campaign against the Muslim minorities and thereby precipitate a communal polarization with a view to securing votes based on the warped mindset of two religious communities living together amicably. The latest bogey the arch communal RSS-BJP are raising is that of 'love jihad' which we mentioned above. This term has been coined by the RSS-BJP alongwith their Sangh Parivar constituents to denote that young Muslim boys are targeting Hindu girls, entrapping them in a love relationship and then converting them into Islam for marriage. 'Love jihad' envisages a plot where legions of men are recruited and trained in the art of seduction and deception. The idea defies common sense. If there is a plot, who are its leaders? Where are these camps held? Has any meeting been documented? Have our Intelligence agencies or police ever stumbled upon this sinister design? Where is the proof? There is none. But so seductive is this idea, that investigations were launched under court instructions in 2009 in Kerala and Karnataka. Karnataka CID found no evidence,

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## Communal teeth of RSS-BJP bared in UP and other states

# Small local disputes are refashioned by the Sangh Parivar to spur rage and suspicion against the Muslim people

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while the Kerala Police ended up registering a case against the website, Hindu Jagruti for spreading hatred and false propaganda. Ironically, those who are motivatedly propagating the theory of 'love jihad' are hardly champions of women's rights. They are not promoting freedom of choice or propagating inter-faith, inter-caste or inter-community marriage. They are, in fact, saying that Hindu women are so devoid of judgment that they need protection lest they get ensnared by unscrupulous Muslim men. 'Love jihad' propaganda inflames communal passions and leads to hardening stands in an already polarized environment, made more fragile by social media and viral rumours.

### **RSS-BJP's calculated ploy to exacerbate communal divide**

In a year, this 'love jihad' theory has become an official element of the BJP's campaign in UP. It has spread far and wide, to the extent that journalists and civil society leaders in towns like riot-hit Muzaffarnagar repeat it as the root of all communal flares and conflagration that has plagued the area menacingly. The campaign has been fomented by the Hindutva zealots so ferociously that this issue of 'love jihad' strikes deep in every home, introduces a toxic element in inter community relationship in the neighbourhood and the village, and allows fundamentalists to deny women their freedom to love and decide life partner as per their choice. "We are shocked to see a large number of cases in which the victim is a Hindu and the tormentor is a Muslim. It is our responsibility to analyze it and act accordingly", said BJP's UP spokesperson, Vijay Bahadur Pathak. Pathak further added that the BJP is trying to find out whether it is a "conspiracy". Earlier, prior to the BJP's proposed executive meeting in Mathura last month, BJP state president Laxmi Kant Bajpai had said, "We believe that a particular community is doing 'Love Jihad'. So it is certainly an issue that we need to discuss extensively in Mathura." He did not stop at this but went on adding: "Have they got the certificate to rape girls because they belong to a particular religion?...Youngsters should be vigilant against love jihad. Why is the government lenient to those who indulge in such practice? Have they got licence to convert the

girls of majority community? ..99.99% of the accused are Muslims..." One can see how the BJP president who, incidentally, has been named as the BJP's chief campaigner in the by polls, has been spouting venom against the minority Muslims.

A step further has gone Yogi Adityanath, the BJP MP from Gorakhpur and the torch bearer of Hindutva, especially in the eastern UP region, who has been named the star campaigner for BJP in the recently concluded assembly by elections and has been in the thick of controversy on such issue on several occasions in the past. Earlier, he has been leading campaigns against illegal cow slaughter, illegal infiltration by Bangladesh immigrants and forced conversion. Yogi openly declared that "The issue of 'love jihad' would certainly be an issue in this bypoll... I have been raising this issue for the past four to five years. The menace first began in Kerala and has now spread to Western UP," Yogi's also warned that Muslims in Gorakhpur will be denied permission to take out 'tazia' processions during Moharram. He further claims that 100 Muslim girls would be converted forcibly to Hinduism for every Hindu girl asked to embrace Islam. In another video, Yogi also said that the Hindus will avenge every innocent death by attacking those responsible for it and he would not 'tolerate what was happening to Hindu women in the name of love jihad'. That the BJP-RSS are hell bent to exploit the so called bogey of 'love jihad' for buttressing its rabid communal agenda is evident from its "political resolution" passed on its 24th August Mathura meeting which highlighted that "rape of women of a particular community and involvement of people from another particular community in these incidents in the state, is either a coincidence or it is being done in a planned manner; that is an issue of concern". Although there is hardly any evidence of so called 'love jihad' other than in the concoctions of the RSS-BJP, the very accusation of something being "planned" to exacerbate the matter can very well be attributed to the Saffron Brigade known for manufacturing issues to engineer fratricidal feuds and communal bloodbath. It only reminds one of the Goebbelsian campaigns of telling a big lie thousand times to make people ultimately believe in it.

To whip communal passion and

add fuel to the motivated tirade against the minority Muslim community, the RSS has instructed the BJP to extend legal support to Hindu women who were allegedly lured by members of a minority community and allegedly raped. To take anti-Muslim diatribe to the peak, the saffron brigade has even gone to the extent of claiming that like in Kashmir, Muslims want to take over the state of UP. They want to take over Hindu property, and Hindu women through love jihad. Pamphlets purportedly by Viswa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a Sangh Parivar constituent, asking Hindu parents to be wary of youths from the minority community had started circulating on messaging applications in Vadhodhara. Similar pamphlets were being shoved in the hands of the people in Mainpuri in UP. Both Vadodhara and Mainpuri went for Lok Sabha by polls. Clearly, the RSS—BJP and the Sangh Parivar leaders have seized upon 'love jihad' in communally-charged Uttar Pradesh as well as other communally sensitive areas to corner votes based on artificially created communal polarization. Thus, a sense of dread slowly therefore mounts almost invisibly over the country as communal tempers are cynically and perilously being overheated for a series of electoral harvests, and for drawing larger and larger sections of low-caste Hindus to stand with their upper-caste oppressors against the Muslim 'other', who is portrayed as their common enemy. Rightly allege the right-minded people that the likes of Yogi Adityanath are seeking to replace the rule of law and constitutional governance by vigilantism, abduction and retributive violence solely to reap electoral mileage by dividing people.

### **Bourgeois class motive behind spread of communalism**

While the blood-curdling fratricidal clash is a motivated orchestration by the communal RSS-BJP, other bourgeois parties like the Congress, Samajwadi Party, BSP and others making political career riding on people's destitution, misery, mutual distrust, disaffection and disunity, are no clean either. It was seen during the worst Muzaffarnagar riot that broke out last year following instigation by the RSS-BJP, the Samajwadi Party has long been playing the minority and lower caste card to create and appropriate its vote bank and

cannot operate outside the tight arithmetic of communities, was equally eager to reap electoral fortune in erupting communal riots. So, the moment the soil was inflamed by the RSS-BJP rogues, the Samajwadi Party leadership instigated rowdy elements and criminals among the religious minority to add fuel to the fire and at the same time, held back the administration from taking any action so that the riots continued, innocent blood splattered the soil, distress of the people accentuated and the party could woo minority vote. Tacitly, counter-communalism was fomented by not only the Samajwadi Party but even Mayawati's BSP from the sectarian electoral interest. The Congress too was equally guilty of turning the situation worst. The then Congress-led central government held back its administration from taking any effective step to stop the riot obviously from the same sectarian interest of harvesting electoral benefits in communal polarization. So, it is as clear as daylight that what had happened was nothing but an orchestrated game of high sophistication by the political parties basking in the limelight of nasty bourgeois parliamentary politics — the game of mopping up votes by staining hands in communal bloodbath and all these political 'who is who' are shrewd playmakers. However, it is the RSS-BJP and its saffron brigade who are the main culprits to whip up communal passion and spew anti-Muslim venom to keep the atmosphere communally surcharged. With the BJP in power and known communal figures like Modi, his trusted aide Amit Shah and others like Yogi Adityanath at the helm of affairs, the country is faced with grave danger. It is pertinent to add that the RSS has all along been an advocate of so called Hindu Rashtra and held that those professing other religions or ethnicity must hold in reverence Hindu religion, must entertain no idea but those of the glorification of the Hindu race and culture and must lose their separate existence to merge in the Hindu race. They must stay in this country wholly subordinated to the Hindu Nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment not even citizen's rights. In keeping with this doctrine of arch communal Hindutva, the RSS

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## Communal teeth of RSS-BJP bared in UP and other states

# Minority bashing has been one of the prime agendas of RSS-BJP

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took up Muslim-bashing as one of its prime agendas. With BJP, the political outfit of RSS, in power, we have been seeing worst articulation of that vile doctrine. It goes without saying that this very doctrine totally ignores history, subverts logic and rides only on blind fanaticism and doctored notions. Our freedom fighters or the exponents of Hindu religion never endorsed such venomous thoughts or hatred against other religions. The brand of Hindutva that the RSS-BJP champion is the product of some fancied ideas of a few self-styled ideologues who expertized in fabling theories of division, mistrust and disharmony among the toiling people much to the glee of the ruling bourgeoisie who, in order to prolong its decadent moribund oppressive class rule, grabs any thought that drives a wedge among the people. If people remain disunited, pitted against each other and embroiled in internecine fights, the exploitative bourgeoisie remains secured against possible upsurge

against its misrule. So, the ruling Indian bourgeoisie tacitly backs the RSS-BJP in spreading communalism-fundamentalism.

Equally responsible for spread of communal virus is the calculated silence of the so-called pseudo-Marxists like the CPI (M), CPI who long deserted the path of democratic movement for pelf and power and currying favour with the ruling class. Because of their abandonment of the path of movement, desired surge of united organized left-democratic movement eluded the country. As a result, the right reaction including the arch communal RSS-BJP could raise their ugly head so menacingly and propagate incendiary thoughts so aggressively with the objective of keeping the people disunited. Whereas it was necessary to courageously fight the ideological tenets and pernicious ideas of communalism of RSS-BJP as well as the counter-communalists thereby expose the vendors of communalism and help people form a right idea against it, these 'big' lefts took no initiative towards that end save and

except occasional thunder against communalism which too is for playing to the gallery and the vote bank. This has only helped the communal forces to gain further ground.

### People do not want disharmony and unrest

Clearly, this nuisance of communalism has no place in a modern society. It needs an emphatic mention in this connection that though the branded bourgeois parties from their ulterior electoral interest want to divide people on communal-casteist-ethnic line, orchestrate communal-casteist-ethnic riots to exacerbate feelings of mutual hatred and disaffection, the overwhelming section of the common toiling masses, irrespective of caste, religion or ethnicity, do never harbour any kind of mutual hatred, mistrust and intolerance, are never involved in these internecine clashes, never want the amity and fraternity among them to be not only disrupted but even a wee bit disturbed. It is the canine teeth of the communal beasts which

seek to feast on the flesh and blood of hapless impoverished downtrodden masses. These communal fiends not only seek to precipitate bad blood among the peacefully living neighbours but take the fuelled paranoia to such a peak as to make the people dread staying in their hitherto amiable neighbourhood any more. So, a united voice ought to be raised against this arch communal agenda of the RSS-BJP which poses serious threat to the very unity of the country and allows inflamed passion to rule over human sense and civility. The Hindutva zealots must be isolated from the people. Alongside combining all anti-communal democratic forces against this sinister communal design of the RSS-BJP and develop a countrywide united organized powerful anti-communalism movement, it is imperative that a fierce ideological struggle be released to inflict a crushing defeat on the vile doctrine of Hindutva, Hindu Rashtra and anti-Muslim tirade. Let not the vultures dictate the destiny of mankind.

## Bank Employees' hold massive stay-in demonstration

Bank Employees Unity Forum (BEUF) organized a whole-day long stay-in demonstration at B.B.D.Bag, Kolkata in front of Bengal Chamber of Commerce Office on August 26 on demands of introducing need-based minimum wage scheme, turning all contractual employees, casual and part-time workers into full-time employees, stopping outsourcing and appointing permanent employees in permanent

posts and filling up all vacancies as well as against steps for privatization and merger.

The huge gathering of bank employees from all over West Bengal was addressed among others by Comrades Shanti Ghosh, Member, AIUTUC State Secretariat, Bankim Bera, Secretary, West Bengal BEUF, Jagannath Roy Mondal, General Secretary, BEUF and others.

## Students rally in Patna

Bihar State Committee of AIDS0 organized a massive students demonstration on 10 September in Patna with students from almost all the universities of the state and different districts. In spite of rain the well decorated, disciplined and huse procession and the militant slogan of the students caught the attention of the commuters. Addressing the gathering at R-Block, Ashok Mishra, General Secretary, AIDS0, pointed out that the promise by PM Narendra Modi to bring good days through strengthening the quality of education is totally in vain. More

than 9 lakhs teacher posts at primary and more than 60 per cent teacher posts at higher education are lying vacant since long. The most unscientific, obscurantist, communal and outdated discourse of Dinanath Batra, a RSS ideologue is being implemented in Gujarat to be introduced in the whole country. At the same time fascistic attack is intensified on the students and teaching communities. However, braving the attacks the students of the entire country are bursting forth in militant movements, Comrade Mishra asserted.

## At Rohtak, Haryana Party organizes a massive gathering



After a huge protest demonstration of peasants-workers led by the AIKKMS in Bhiwani on 18 August, a massive gathering was organized at Rohtak, Haryana by our party SUCI (C) on August 31. The gathering demanded that Haryana should be declared a drought affected state by the Central Government. Protest was also registered against rampant

price-hike, unemployment, corruption, land-acquisition, commercialization of education and health, atrocities on women, racism-communalism - regionalism and other anti-people policies of the Congress and the BJP. Comrade Satyavan, Member, Central Committee and Secretary, Haryana State Committee of our Party addressed the gathering.

## Massive Demonstration by ABECA in Kolkata

Led by ABECA and demanding immediate fulfilment of the commitments made by Chief Minister of the State prior to the Parliament Election with regard to reducing power tariff, about 5000 electricity consumers from different districts of West Bengal held a rally on September 2, to the New Secretariat Building in Kolkata to meet the Power Minister.

A ten-member delegation led by Sanjit Biswas, President and other leaders met the Power

Minister. The Minister conceded to solve the pending problems of BPL consumers and the issue of arrears as demanded by ABECA though declining to reduce power tariff as promised by the Chief Minister. A sit-in demonstration was then held inside the Minister's Office which had to confront lathicharge by the police. Both the President and the Secretary, ABECA asserted continuation of movement including a March to "Nabanna" in October.

## Appointment in higher judiciary

# Scrapping collegium system will do away with last vestiges of judicial independence

*Contd. from page 2*

But Justice Balkrishnan left Raja unmentioned in his reply to Justice Gokhale. Once Kerala politics was rocked by the allegation about Justice Balkrishnan's daughter and son-in-law amassing huge properties using his name and office. Shanti Bhusan, a senior and well-known SC judge and the law minister in Morarji Desai-led government filed an affidavit in 2010 stating that half of the 16 former CJIs were corrupt. Supreme Court judges themselves claimed that the Allahabad High Court had been affected by a total rot. A division bench of Justice Katju and Gnanasudha Mishra concluded at that time that relatives of the judges of that HC acted as lawyers, got favourable verdicts and were earning fabulously on the strength of those verdicts. The deplorable situation created by these instances thus prompted Justice Singhvi to comment: once we used to say that politics is corrupt, bureaucracy is corrupt; now we have to say that judiciary is corrupt too.

Yet degeneration and corruption knew no end. The legislators themselves are often the worst examples, even branded criminals, entangled in fathomless scams, debauchery and what not. They even go to the extent of disregarding even violating important court verdicts making the avowed rule of law a virtual mockery. The tormenting question that comes up: Who will then keep even the so-called rule of law alive, who will judge the legislators or other high-ups? When the situation may come to a pass, particularly when people's opinion against corruption threatens to snowball into possible movements, on occasions the judiciary may become hyperactive and overreaching upon the legislative-executive. When with such moves the judiciary tends to assume the role of executive-bureaucracy, even legislature, that is surely misappropriation of power telling upon the basic structural frame of democracy. But, if there are judicial pronouncements which while remaining within the jurisdiction of the judiciary are truly in public interest, people would surely welcome them. However, when again such judicial pronouncements or initiative of any judge against corruption are mistaken as evidences of how balance of power is being maintained in the capitalist state of ours, then one would

harbour illusion about the obtaining bourgeois democracy rotten to the core. What is really maintained is the capitalist state itself with all its vices including corruption alive as it is.

### **Collegium system of appointment of judges: a check on executive-legislative interference**

It is in the background of all these that the collegium system of appointing judges in the higher judiciary was born. Its origin can be traced in three judgments of the Supreme Court that are collectively called the 'Three Judges Cases'. In the *First Judges* case of 1981, the Supreme Court, came down in favour of the executive including the legislature, with the power of appointment residing "solely and exclusively in the Central Government" which, if they may deem it necessary, may consult the CJI, the SC and others as "merely constitutional functionaries". On the face of such strong executive influence, in 1993 in the *Second Judges* case, the Supreme Court overruled the *First Judges* case and attached primacy to the role of the CJI in the matter of appointments to the superior judiciary with the executive having the power to act as a mere check to achieve the constitutional purpose. This decision led to the birth of the collegium system of appointing judges to the higher judiciary, the working of which was set out in the *Third Judges* case in 1998. The executive was completely frozen out of the process of judicial appointments, and the CJI was made "the surest and safest bet for preservation of the independence of the judiciary". It was viewed as a check against unwarranted infringement of the executive upon the judiciary. Thus with it though the legislature had the power of impeaching any judge (could be viewed as a kind of check and balance), formally there remained no scope of interference by the executive in appointment of judges.

But the matter did never end with setting up of the collegium system. As it has already been mentioned there has been a series of serious allegations against the neutrality, efficiency and transparency of the collegium system. In the context of virulent corruption in the judiciary upon which people tended to rely a lot,

questions about the collegium system stoked up the debate afresh on the relative power of legislative- executive and judiciary.

### **Crisis-ridden capitalism needs unbridled power, tends towards fascism**

Here we cannot miss that in the present days of intense crisis of capitalism, like all other capitalist countries, in the Indian capitalist state too the ruling monopolists and massively powerful multinational corporate sharks desire to have the country entirely in their grip. They wish political parties to be nothing but subservient ancillaries to their designs and interests. They wish the governance to be run primarily and heavily to make room for them to reap their profit-harvest. So they want more power; they want their political managers, the governments and the bourgeois political leaders, even the legislative- executive to get equipped with more and more lethal powers to curb any opposition and resistance. Independent judiciary is a blot in the way of the monopolists and their subservient power-greedy bourgeois politicians. They thus look for pliant and at least 'harmless' judges, a committed judiciary so that they could get away with all their wrong deeds, autocracy and despondency without being subject to any judicial scrutiny. Increasing instances of corruption in the judiciary come handy for them to prune, even do away with its relative independence and bring it under the executive without inviting much wrath of people.

With all its flaws and shortcomings, the autonomy of the judiciary, even in the relative sense of the term, that the collegium system of appointment of judges had maintained was coming in the way. And so is this attempt to scrap it in favour of a commission with full control of the executive. With the BJP in power with absolute majority, the ruling class, the monopolists and the corporate are provided with a fine opportunity to carry through their design. Narendra Modi, the BJP prime minister is regarded by the ruling class as a strong administrator to serve their class interest, fit to curb any opposition, any resistance to their designs of plundering the country at their sweet will, cunning enough to drive deadly wedges into the unity of people on filthy and

flimsy grounds. Riding on the government led by such a helmsman a fresh determined and cleverly planned move is mooted to curb the judiciary and vest some absolute power with the executive militating the very concept of "separation of power". The whole sequence of events attests to this. Rejection of the name of Gopal Subramaniam from the list submitted by the SC collegium is apparently guided by his antecedents in which, as mentioned earlier in this write up, he certainly did not prove himself as a pliant candidate. And then follows the move to get the relevant bills passed, hectically garnering support in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Even that move did not face any serious obstacle, as all the major parliamentary parties enmeshed in corruption and hankering for power and pelf, and for that eagerly and enthusiastically playing subservient to the ruling monopolists, lent support to enhancing executive control. No debate on the national plane was invited; no serious discourse was released. The entire game was planned on the strength of the brute parliamentary power, which itself has been attained through elections that were formatted, controlled and monitored by none other than the monopolists- corporate houses. Thus, the fundamental tenet of bourgeois democracy which once held people's opinion as supreme and determining was alarmingly flouted.

The pattern that is likely to take hold tomorrow was further clear from the case of post-retirement appointment of former CJI Sathasivam as the governor of Kerala. Here again the most important aspect was the way the government acted. It does not matter if the incumbent is upright and deserving or if Justice Sathasivam was perfectly on the legal track when he as a member of the Supreme Court bench had scrapped a second FIR against Amit Shah, obviously to his relief. This phenomenon of appointing court judges to lucrative post - retirement jobs, even if it be lower in rank, itself bears a tendency to undermine the independence of the judiciary, as it creates incentives for sitting judges to curry favour with the government of the day and play 'pliant' at least 'harmless' for the government, with a view to

*Contd. on page 7*

## Appointment in higher judiciary

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getting a post-retirement job.

### Only conscious organized people's movement can put a check on corruption degeneration

The so-called democratic state of India now faces the debacle of its judiciary losing its minimum relative independence that was still present as vestiges of the past. Corruption and degeneration in judiciary does not justify its being subjected to the power of executive. It can only militate against the already fading concept of bourgeois democracy, sending out the omen of administrative fascism in its wake. It needs to be reiterated that corruption and degeneration are bred by the decadent capitalist society itself; as the revolutionary force of the country set to bringing an end to the exploitative capitalist rule, our Party, the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) has been pointing out and repeatedly stressing that the real check on the menacingly spreading corruption and degeneration lies in the concerted pressure of organized sustained mass action. It has been proved repeatedly that whenever there is a strong pressure of people's vigilance and assertion of power in the form of united organized mass movement on the edifice of higher values, the systemic corruption, curtailment of rights, dismantling of democratic practices and procedures are restrained to a more or less extent. It requires to step up such movements, particularly at the renewed vigorous move towards curtailing relative independence of the judiciary and virtually making it an appendage of the ruling monopolists. In absence of such a movement, the power that be is left unbridled in its wantonness. It will only invite pernicious attempts to become successful in turning the judiciary into a committed organ unchallenged. This is the incendiary potential contained in the establishment of a Judicial Appointments Commission.

## Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Meetings in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

### Guna, Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh, the memorial meeting of the Great Leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was held on 7 August at Guna, where workers, supporters and sympathizers of the party assembled from Guna and other districts like Gwalior, Ashoknagar, Indore, Shibpur, etc. The main speaker at the meeting was Comrade Pratap Samal, Secretary, Delhi State Organizing Committee and Comrade Sunil Gopal, Secretary, Gwalior District Committee presided over. Among the other leaders speaking were Comrades Pradip RB, Guna District Secretary and Lokesh Sharma, member of the district committee.

### Durg, Chhattisgarh

On August 5, in Durg, Chhattisgarh, the 38<sup>th</sup> memorial day was observed through a meeting addressed by Comrade Dwarikanath Rath, Secretary, Gujarat State Organizing Committee, as the main speaker. Comrades Biswajit Harore, Secretary, Durg District Committee, Atmaram Sahu, member of the district committee and others also spoke.

## Veteran leader Comrade Shubhashis Sen (Badsha Khan) passes away

Comrade Shubhashis Sen (Badsha Khan)-veteran leader of our party, former secretary of Burdwan District Committee and former member of West Bengal State Committee as well as Madhya Pradesh Coordinating Committee, and leader of left movements and workers' movements, breathed his last in his sleep at the age of 87 years, having succumbed to incurable cancer along with some other afflictions.

Almost immediately after the formation of our party in 1948, i.e. as early as in 1950-51, Comrade Badsha Khan came into contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the Party, the great leader of the proletariat, and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, through Comrade Manoranjan Banerjee — a party leader of that time, and imbued with the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh he associated himself with the Party. Shubhashis Sen was his family name, however, in course of time he became popularly known as Badsha Khan in the Party.

He was born in an affluent family and was reared in luxury in his early years. But inspired by a particular teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh he left behind all comforts to embrace an apparently difficult life of a communist revolutionary happily. The teaching is: "The wants and privations, thousands of sufferings and oppressions which the revolutionaries have to put up with may seem very painful to common people, but the peace and happiness which the revolutionaries enjoy, even being in the midst of an apparently painful and constantly struggling life, cannot be fathomed by those who live in comfort and security." He had accepted this revolutionary life wholeheartedly and was involved in this struggle till his last breath.

In those early years with the Party, he started working in Khidderpur area of Kolkata, among the common people, particularly among the working people. He set out to work with the Khidderpur Bard Company union, affiliated to the Central Trade Union of our Party as the assistant secretary. Later he was elected the Secretary of this union. After Khidderpur, the Party leadership assigned him the responsibility of developing organization in Belegata area in Kolkata. There too he developed party organization as well as quite a few trade unions overcoming many an odd.

In 1965 Comrade Shibdas Ghosh sent him to Durgapur in Burdwan district to develop party organization there. Durgapur was then a stronghold of the CPI(M). Disdaining the risk of physical assault and continuous threat to life and braving all adversities, Comrade Badsha Khan succeeded in influencing the steel workers in particular through firmness of his character, great moral courage and a charming personality. He led discussions and study classes to attract workers in numbers towards Marxism-Leninism and the communist revolutionary politics as taught by Comrade

Shibdas Ghosh. Many of those workers dedicated themselves to being whole-time workers of the Party. In the process, Comrade Badsha developed party organization in Burdwan district and was chosen the Secretary of the District Committee.



Later on he became a member of West Bengal State Committee as well. Besides Burdwan, he also built up Party organization in the adjacent Bankura district.

Under instruction from the Party, Comrade Badsha Khan went to Delhi in 1983 to build up Party as well as trade union organizations. In Delhi he organized workers at Okhla Industrial Area, developing unions there and led several important movements based on workers' demands. In 1989, the Central Committee of our Party sent him to Madhya Pradesh to spread Party work there. At Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, he organized the worker-employees of four Ordinance Factories and built up unions there. He was also a member of the Madhya Pradesh State Coordinating Committee of our Party. In 1998, he was entrusted with the responsibility of developing Party organization in Chhattisgarh. At such an age of seventies he set out to develop Party organization in a new state devoid of any connections.

Comrade Badsha Khan was honoured with staff-membership of the party at the First Party Congress in 1988.

Thus whenever and wherever the Party had sent him to develop organization, he had unquestioningly and happily, with a smiling face, discharged his responsibility. Through arduous labour, revolutionary purposiveness and charming personality, he overcame all adversities. Unquestionable was his loyalty to the Party.

Comrade Badsha Khan was a man of simple, sensitive and sympathetic demeanour. Immensely affectionate, he had endless love for party workers. He took utmost care to develop each and every worker. He also loved the poor people from the core of his heart. Not only would he easily mix with everyone starting with the slum-dweller to the highly educated persons, he could also through the impact of his qualities create in them an attraction for the Party and made them supporters, sympathizers and workers.

In 2000, he was diagnosed with incurable cancer. While under treatment he was afflicted with some other complex diseases and became virtually bed-ridden. However, despite his ailments, he would keep himself informed about the whereabouts of the Party. He would suffer mental agony for his failure to join party work. Gradually his condition deteriorated. On August 30, he breathed his last. On his demise our Party has lost a revolutionary leader.

**Red Salute Comrade Shubhashis Sen**

## Massive Rally in Rangpur, Bangladesh



In Bangladesh, on 24 August, the Day to Resist Atrocities on Women, at a gathering of women, Comrade Mubinal Chowdhury – Convenor, BASAD Central Preparatory Committee, gave a call to develop women's movement with an objective of freedom from exploitation. This gathering as also a massive rally were organized by the *Bangladesh Narimukti Kendra* (Bangladesh Centre for Emancipation of Women) Rangpur and Rajshahi branches. As a part of the programme to resist obscenity, drug and gambling, atrocities on women, trafficking of women and children, the huge rally taken out from the Public Library ground, traversed different streets of the city. Among those who spoke were Comrade Shubhrangshu Chakrabarty, Member BASAD Central Preparatory Committee, Seema Dutta, President of Narimukti Kendra, Jannatul Ferdousi Popy, Joint General Secretary and others.

## SUCI(C) takes part in massive anti-imperialist rally in Kolkata jointly with other left parties



On September 1, a massive rally was organized in Kolkata, West-Bengal, at the joint initiative of 15 left parties with our party the SUCI(C) taking part as a major force in it. Thousands of demonstrators assembled at the venue and braved autumn rains to protest against brutal aggression by Zionist Israel aided and abetted by the war-monger US imperialism at Gaza and marched a long way across the city. At the meeting held after the rally, presided over by CPI(M) State Secretary Comrade Biman Bose, leaders of different parties spoke, including Comrade Soumen Basu, State Secretary, SUCI(C), Comrade Suryakanta Misra of CPI(M), Comrade Manju Kumar Majumder, State Secretary, CPI, Comrade Manoj Bhattacharya RSP, Comrade Hafiz Ali Sairani, Forward Bloc as also Comrades Prabodh Sinha, Santosh Rana, Ashim Chatterjee and others.

### Corrigendum

On page 11 of P Era dated 01-09-14, the reference at sl.4 under the heading 'Source of Quotations' should be 'Letter to Lord Amherst dated 11.12.1883, Letters of Raja Rammohan' and not what was mentioned erroneously. Mistake sincerely regretted.

## Extend relief and help to the flood-ravaged people of Jammu and Kashmir

### Appeal of the Central Committee of the SUCI (Communist)

You have come to know from the media that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is ravaged by a devastating flood. After independence, Kashmir never faced such a big natural calamity. Hundreds have lost life, thousands are marooned. The loss is immense. There is grievance and discontent among the people over rescue measures as well as distribution of relief. At this hour of grave misery, it is incumbent on all sensitive person to extend a helping hand to the flood-affected people of Kashmir. We have decided to collect money and medicines from the people of various states and make arrangements for distributing the same among the suffering Kashmir people.

We appeal to you to realize the plight of the Kashmir people and extend maximum help to them.

12 September, 2014  
48, Lenin Sarani  
Kolkata-700013

With Greetings  
**Provash Ghosh**  
General Secretary  
SUCI(Communist)

## Zionist Israeli government cuts budget to finance despotic Gaza War

Under pressure of world opinion the Zionist regime has ultimately stopped pounding the Gaza strip, bombing civilian installations and killing innocent civilians including women, children and even patients in order to buttress its brigandish agenda and overlordism in West Asia and continue denying the Palestinians their just claim of motherland. Israel's latest offensive on the Gaza Strip left some 2,147 Gazans dead and 11,000 others injured – many critically – while partially or completely destroying thousands of buildings across the coastal enclave. But who is to foot the bill of this war of aggression? No one else but the common Israeli citizens. The Israeli cabinet on 31 August, 2014, approved a plan to pay for Gaza war by cutting NIS 1.9 billion from the 2014 budget by across-the board reductions to ministry budgets – with the exception of defence. The plan would cut NIS 481 million from the Education Ministry, NIS 175.5m. from higher education, NIS 244m. from transportation, NIS 62.6m. from welfare, and NIS 43m. from health, while transferring NIS 1.5b. to the Defence Ministry. Environmental Protection Minister Amir Peretz (Hatnua) and Housing and Construction Minister Uri Ariel (Bayit Yehudi) opposed the cuts, with Peretz saying taxes should be raised

instead, and Ariel saying that he opposes the 2% across the board cuts on all the ministries to cover the shortfall, because it was not defined as a one-time cut. Even Welfare Minister Meir Cohen, from Lapid's own Yesh Atid Party, had threatened to oppose cuts to his ministry's budget. Opposing the proposal to cut budget for nourishing defence portfolio, Welfare Minister Meir Cohen had protested, saying there was no more fat on his budget to trim. "From whom will we take? From those who have nothing to put in their children's sandwiches for school?" he said on Israeli army radio. With budget cuts, there will be more squeezing of people's pocket. While war-monger Israeli rulers are rejoicing barbaric assault on Gaza and other Palestinian lands, one-fourth of the Israeli people who live below poverty line will have to pay the price dearly. Even the middle class will not be spared. That this cut is taken with a pinch of salt is clear from the statement of the welfare minister. There ought to be mounting discontent among the common Israeli people against this attack on their life and livelihood. Already, there have been big demonstrations inside Israel against the Gaza war. Now, there will be more resentment against the action of the Zionist rulers.

## AIDYO Demonstration in Kolkata

On demand to provide all unemployed youth with jobs and unemployment allowance in lieu of it, protesting against atrocities on women as also for stopping the spread of liquor etc., several thousands of young men and women participated in a state-level protest rally in Kolkata on September 4, at the call of AIDYO. All India Vice President of the organization Comrade Mahiuddin Mannan along with other state leaders spoke at the gathering held on the occasion at College Square and thereafter a delegation met the Labour Minister of the State.

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