

Proletarian Era

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To defeat communalism, struggle must be conducted just not against Congress, BJP but against ruling capitalism

On 6th December, 1992, BJP and Sangh Parivar had sullied history by orchestrating a demolition act with medieval barbarity. Babri Masjid was not just a religious shrine of the Muslims but a valuable historic monument. Much before the Talibanis committed the heinous crime of destroying the giant Buddha statue of the 5th century at Bamiyan in Afghanistan, the RSS-BJP had committed similar crime by razing this historic monument into rubbles. Not only the Muslims, even all the

well-meaning rational-minded people of the country vehemently condemned that ghastly act. It is clear that the BJP-Sangh Parivar had not indulged in such a savagery out of any emotion or devotion to Hindu religion, but to buttress a sinister political motive. Those considered to be the most revered preachers of Hindu religion like Chaitanya, Ramakrishna or Vivekananda possessed deep respect for and tolerance of all other religions including Islam. None of

them went on searching the birthplace of Rama which, as expressed in poetic verse by Rabindranath Tagore, 'lies in the realm of mind of the poet' or ever thought of destroying historic Babri Masjid even in the wildest of their dreams.

With a view to creating Hindu vote bank for satiating the reprehensible lust for riding to power, the issue of setting up Rama Mandir had been loudly proclaimed, a chariot journey round

the country was arranged, ghastly communal riots were perpetrated and worst anti-minority carnage orchestrated in the various states along the journey path of the chariot, lakhs of children were made orphan, dignity of thousands of women was outraged, loot and plunder were undertaken aplenty. The way worst anti-minority pogrom, mass rape and destruction of property were engineered a few years back in Gujarat with the

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Grisly price rise tearing people apart

Defenders of capitalism are parading in deceptive pedagogy to shield capitalism, the root

There is literally a fire in the market. Price of every essential food item including basic stuff like onion, pulses, potato and even salt is not just climbing but rising with rocket speed. Leave alone the poor and impoverished, even a little better-off middle class is finding it beyond affordability to buy even the minimum requirement for two square meals a day. To add dimension to the woes of the suffering countrymen, there is, of late, a new phenomenon. Suddenly, a particular item vanishes

from the market causing panic among the consumers. The government and its administration express customary surprise and come out with routine assurance of 'looking into the matter' and 'take suitable action' to remedy the problem. This is followed by usual sarcasm of 'taking stern action against the hoarders', banning export, imposing restriction on import and parroting scripted lines like 'improving supply line' to bring down the prices. Sometimes, the prices are

indeed 'brought down', but not to the level those were before the sudden disappearance of the relative items from the market. If onion was selling at Rs 15 per kg in the retail market, the price shots up to as high as Rs 80 to Rs100 per kg overnight. After absence for a day or two, the same items return to the stalls but with the inflated price tag. Then, the government 'interferes' with all fanfare, customary warnings sounded against the hoarders to play to the gallery, some

token raids orchestrated in a few markets, the economists-columnists' on the pay roll of the ruling dispensation suggest a slew of 'corrective steps' as 'expert advices' and then the price 'slides' to Rs 60 per kg. Immediately the mainstream media controlled by the big monopoly houses raise pitch to highlight how the government has intervened to stem the rot. After all these zilch and gymnastics, the onion price finally 'stabilizes' at Rs

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Huge rally in Ranchi against price rise, atrocities on women



Huge rally held Ranchi, Jharkhand on 18 November against price rise, atrocities on women and other burning problems of life.
Comrades Rabin Samajpati, Jharkhand State Secretary and Tarun Mandal, SUCI (C) MP led the rally

Bourgeois economists-columnists providing a theoretical cover to monstrous anti-people prescripts of globalization

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50 per kg and the hapless people heave a sigh of relief as if price has fallen. But, fact is that in a sleight of hand, the manipulators and con game players jacked up onion price over three times, from Rs 15 to Rs 50 per kg. Similarly, potato price scaled from Rs 7 to 8 per kg to Rs 40 per kg in various states and then when the governments credited themselves with 'intervention' which included appeal in piteous tone to the unscrupulous big traders to have mercy, price fell to Rs 22 per kg. Incredible indeed!

Gymnastics of scholasticism, verbal jugglery and spruced up ruses

What is most disquieting is that when the oppressed millions are being bled white, the 'high profile' ministers and a bunch of 'scholars' perching atop the towers of policy making bodies or busking in the glory of self-attributed title of economists are busy dishing out trashes in the name of providing theoretical explanations or remedial actions. Certain facts would be glaring. Take for example, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission. Neither does he lack in his stock of 'economic excuses' in explaining this monstrous price rise nor is he tired of parroting the same sentence that "food inflation would come down soon". In January, 2011, he said that "food inflation would come down by the end of this fiscal." In September, 2013, he exuded confidence that "the price situation would improve further in the coming months." On 14th October, 2013, he said that "inflation (which, in simple terms, means rise in prices) will soften in a month... Inflation in food items is mainly driven by higher prices of cereals and onions. The high price of onions is a short term problem and it is already cooling off in October. The price data for October will be significantly better." On 14th of November, he held that "the price situation will get corrected soon as it is seasonal ...the supply situation will improve due to the decision to offload certain stock taken earlier (by the government). Some seasonal spikes in few items will get corrected." What would one say of such gospels? Trademark annotations from the stable of unadulterated erudition? The same gentleman is also not tired of giving 'learned' observations about the cause of price spiral. "Yes it is true that milk and vegetable prices are

high. You know some of this is a reflection of economic prosperity and purchasing power," he told reporters in New Delhi on 11th January, 2011. He then added that "The solution does not lie in imposing price control or monetary restriction. It lies in modernizing agriculture marketing." What did he mean by that? As a staunch protagonist of capitalist globalization wreaking havoc in people's life, he advocates lifting of whatever little government control is there on procuring agricultural produces from the peasants and in the name of "protecting the interest of the majority of the Indian farmers who are very small /marginal", to help them have access to "direct and free markets, organized retailing", to make them benefit from "smooth raw material supplies to agro-processing units, information exchange and adoption of innovative marketing systems", fully open this sector to private monopolists, both domestic and foreign. Already both the peasants and consumers are feeling the pinch of partial decontrol of the market of agricultural produces—the peasants are denied remunerative prices while the consumers are forced to shell out four to five times of the procurement cost for buying the same produces.

Hold your breath! Similar 'iconoclastic' propositions are not in short supply. When even a child understands that if fuel prices soar, there is a snowballing effect on the retail tariff of all items including food articles as the traders and wholesalers including the government straightaway loads the concomitant additional transport cost on the prices and recover the same from the end consumers. But, Shri Swaminathan Ankleshwar Aiyer, former editor, *The Economic Times*, having considerable halo in the ruling circle as a 'noted economist' has other views. He is of the opinion that the belief of "a higher diesel price is vastly exaggerated." Price controls on diesel fail to curb inflation because, according to him, "the implicit diesel subsidy is financed by higher government borrowing, and leads directly to a higher fiscal deficit... fiscal deficit raises broad money (M3) ... a rise in M3 is inflationary, since more money chases the same goods and services." He then talks of a 'complex economic model' which is stated to have shown that "a one shot rise in diesel price raises inflation because it affects transport and farming costs. However, within

five quarters, raising diesel prices becomes less inflationary than keeping them static." So, his prescription is, "the government should go ahead and increase the price of diesel by Rs 1 a month till under-recoveries are eliminated." We had in our earlier articles clarified that under-recovery is a notional term and broadly denotes the difference between the domestic fuel tariff and selling price of the same fuel in international market or in other words 'possible extra cash the oil companies could generate if they had sold their produces overseas than in the country'. Elimination of under-recovery means that the oil companies will be allowed to jack up the domestic price to such a level as to match the international selling price. M3 or broad money denotes total money in circulation. It is indeed fascinating to find that when people are reeling under galloping price rise and virtually struggling to eke out a bare existence, 'economist' Aiyer is providing an indeed 'simple solution' to rising inflation with his 'complex' model sermonizing continuous hike in petrol-diesel prices so that the oil marketing companies are not denied the scope of booking hefty profit by squeezing people further. Hats off to him and his 'complex' economics!

Of course, Shri Aiyer cannot claim originality of his proposition. Shri Kaushik Basu, hitherto chief economic advisor of the central government and now occupying the chair of chief economist in World Bank also hold similar views and like Shri Montek Singh, has been not tired in periodically airing expectation of a lowered inflation. "Food inflation may also show a decline by mid-December", he said in November 2011. But in no time, he admitted, "About a year ago we thought inflation will come down in a year. We were wrong." But how could they go wrong? So, he had to find out some academic explanation to renew his wisdom of economics. "Whenever crude prices go up, inflationary pressures go up. If global pricing is more and you hold it low for Indian consumers you will have to generate money in form of subsidy. That injected money will cause other prices to rise", he discovered. So, like Shri Aiyer, he strongly pleaded for withdrawal of subsidy and decontrolling fuel prices. But that is not all. To uncover the reasons for India's persistently high food prices, he floated a new concept of "skewflation" which first appeared in print in the Economic Survey

2009-10. What this bizarre animal inducted in the circus show of bourgeois economics is? Basu provides the clarification: 'Represented on a graph, India's food inflation over the past six months looks as if it has scaled a mighty peak.... Onions alone rose 322%. While prices are bad enough to make consumers fret, the clue to pricey food could lie in their own wallets. When weighed against manufactured products, whose prices are falling or aren't rising as fast, food prices look fairly entrenched in a clutch of items, such as proteins, vegetables and fruit. Cereals too are trending up, despite plentiful stocks. In other words, skewflation is used to denote inflation in some items and deflation in others.' "Skewed" divergence in prices, and hence a curious name: "skewflation". We are aware that unable to provide any plausible explanation of rising inflation coupled with stagnation (means prices are rising but unsold goods are piling up—a condition which counters the classical proposition of increased demand and less supply pushing up prices or stoking inflation), the immediate predecessors of Shri Basu and the ilk coined a term "stagflation". And now is born a new baby, skewflation. The fertile brains behind these new theories, of course, could not provide any semblance of rational explanation save and except parading in some certain incomprehensible pedagogic utterances and rigmarole. So, the spurt in food prices is attributed to "bad monsoon", "drought and flood", "supply constraints", "higher farming costs" and "raising MSPs (Minimum Support Prices or the assured floor prices at which government buys agricultural produces from the peasants)" and most audaciously to "increasing demand driven by rising income" and that too of the rural poor because of runaway success of 'Rural employment Generation Scheme.' But when even all these adduced reasons proved to be bluntly cooked up once figures of crop production come to light and news of foodgrains rotting in government godowns or huge quantity of pulses and vegetables illegally stockpiled in private warehouses leak out to public domain, those moored in the doctrine of capitalist globalization came out with another readymade research finding that prices are not shooting up in India because of

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All-out state trading in foodgrains can only stem the rot

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drought or production shortfalls but because world prices have skyrocketed. These neo-protagonists of market-economy contend that as “we live in an era of internet-savvy farmers who know exactly what food prices are in Chicago and London, and adjust their own actions accordingly...wheat farmers know well that world prices are 40% higher than in India. So many farmers, especially the bigger ones, will hold back their crop during the coming procurement season, hoping to sell at much higher prices in later months. That in turn will mean lower wheat arrivals in the procurement season...and shortfall will further spur inflationary expectations”. So they oppose any ban of export of any item even if that is wheat or onion and the domestic market is dried up of those food items. They go on adding that “curbing exports is a form of national hoarding. If every country tries to hoard food, food prices will naturally rise. Governments would like to believe that hoarding by traders is terrible, whereas hoarding by governments promotes the public interest. But the impact on prices is exactly the same in both cases. Indeed, when governments start to hoard food out of panic, the panic itself stokes further inflationary fears.” This is novelty par excellence!

Subterfuge of ‘economics’ to hide death blows to people

Unfortunately, all these theories are tad archaic of cunning deception, manifestation of pallor and emaciation of an economic system slipping down to a chute. It needs only a modicum of grey matter in the head to understand what is shooting up the price line and snatching the morsel of the toiling multitudes. Even without detailed discussion, is it too difficult to understand that this onward spurt in the prices of essential items is triggered by a section of the unscrupulous hoarders, black marketeers, speculators and manipulators who are no strangers, no hidden faces but integral part of the capitalist system. When Montek Singh, Swaminathan Aiyer, Kaushik Basu and their peers speak on economics, they speak to build up defence in favour of the ongoing unlimited loot and plunder by these ‘sagacious’ partners, if not drivers, of capitalist economy. No exceptions are the governments, ministers and the leaders of the vote-based political parties irrespective of hues subsisting on

the backing and finance of the ruling capitalist class. When asked to comment on abnormal rise in onion prices, union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar evaded responsibility by saying, “I’m not dealing with this.” Going a step ahead, another heavyweight minister Kapil Sibal said the prices have nothing to do with the government. “Why don’t you ask the traders this? The government is not the one selling onions.” Then what is the government doing? Singing holy sonnets with cymbals? All these self-aggrandizing rotten bourgeois politicians bang on the economists assorted on the shelf of capitalism for being picked up and used on requirement.

Experience brings out without any ambiguity that in capitalism, the purchasing power of the people continues to dip because of falling income, mounting unemployment and job loss. This dipping income or growing pauperization is not due to any ‘policy paralysis’ or vagary of nature but inevitable outcome of capitalist economy where objective of production is not meeting the needs of the people at large but generating maximum profit for the capitalist owners of the means of production, whether a factory or arable land. What the likes of Singh-Aiyer-Basu do not divulge, not out of ignorance but deliberately, is that profit cannot accrue to the handful of capitalists unless the labour is denied its dues. Profit is, as great Marx had shown based on impeccable reason and scientific analysis, is nothing but usurped surplus value of labour. Even when deciding the prices of the goods, the capitalist owners are guided by the objective of profit-maximization. So, real income of the people falls, purchasing power depletes causing production to stagnate. As a result, the capitalist owners face market crisis, close factories entailing more job loss and unemployment. This in turn trigger further fall in people’s buying power. This is the vicious cycle of exploitative capitalism.

As market-crisis accentuates, more ruthless and heartless is the ruling capitalist class in swelling its coffer sucking out even the last drop of blood of the oppressed people by adopting newer techniques and finding newer avenues of economic exploitation. Having turned utterly reactionary, the ruling class has nothing but utter corruption, crime, fraud, theft, burglary, pilferage and all such malevolence to fall back upon. So, besides indulging in worst fiscal savagery, the ruling capitalist class, with the help of its pliant

government, corrupt administration and unholy nexus of traders-hoarders-black marketeers-speculators-middlemen, creates artificial scarcity of goods including basic food articles, manipulates prices at will to make virtually a kill of the common people. And to cover up this sinister design and machination, a band of high-up economists and columnists who peddle in intellectual slavery and feel ‘honoured’ to live on the crumbs of the rulers, are hired to vend and hawk trashes like stagflation, skewflation, under-recovery and so forth. These are the people who discover with their magic wand that rural poor is prospering because of 100-days work in exchange of not even a pittance, internet-savvy farmers fondling with price based on international market movement, 10% increase in Minimum Support Price fostering 300% upswing in retail price of core vegetables and pulses, alleviation of poverty at reasonable pace and such other economic ‘miracles’ to pen the growth story of capitalist India. It is these masked academicians who, on order from their masters, compose fables to narrate how increasing price indicates prosperity, how ‘hard measures’ like withdrawal of subsidies, full decontrol of fuel prices, dismantling of Public Distribution System or selling essential items at affordable price through government network of fair price shops, overdose of privatization of both procurement and distribution mechanism and allowing widespread speculation in food articles through forward trading, future trading, etc., will open floodgate of economic growth. What is most disquieting is that a section of the educated people, instead of taking the sheen off this servile intellectualism, is getting carried by such rubbish and thereby doing disservice to the bare-skeleton have-nots, hungry and starving countrymen. Even the empanelled economists of the pseudo-Marxist parties in their regular columns in the party organs and other publications do not dare to expose this vile skull-drugger of the book-keepers of ruling capitalism. Rather, these economists-columnists in the roaster of the pseudo-Marxists, now busy in appeasing ruling capitalism to stay afloat in the corridor of power and enjoy pelf, also parade in hollow academic discourses and virtually act as advisers to the ruling class. And to feign a left orientation, they only fire cordite salvos at ‘neo-liberal’ economic policies of the government solely from electoral

angle and never direct attack against ruling capitalism. So, their commentaries on economics invariably end on a vague or confusing note or at best with a mild reprimand of the government. For example, after commenting that “revival of India’s high growth trajectory within a neo-liberal framework, seems out of the question,” Shri Prabhat Patnaik, known as ‘leftist ideologue’, concludes that “This should...provide the basis for changing the class orientation of the State, and thereby essaying an alternative, more egalitarian and more humane trajectory of development than the current neo-liberal one.” (People’s Democracy, 16-09-12) Similarly, Shri Patnaik concludes another article by observing that “a de-linking from globalisation, a withdrawal from neo-liberal policies, a recapturing of the policy space by the State, through judicious controls over capital and trade flows, such that the minimal requirement of a democratic State, viz. that the State must not exclusively promote the “private rationality” of a particular group, can continue to be met. Any government that thinks such undermining of democracy to be unavoidable in the present “era of globalisation” is implicitly rejecting the constitution it has sworn to serve; it has no business to continue at the helm of affairs.” (People’s Democracy, 07-10-12)

Where lies the solution

Obvious question would now be what is the way out? How to at least loosen the strangulating knot of harrowing price rise? The answer lies in the economics of the people which is plain and simple, bereft of any pedagogic overloads. As we have shown above and have been relentlessly pointing out, the root of this skyrocketing of prices lies in the capitalist economic system. Naturally, unless the root is extradited, there cannot be total escape from this menace. So, permanent solution lies in revolutionary overthrow of capitalism in culmination of the determined socio-historic process. But, till the time the desired emancipation from the clutches of capitalism come by, suffering people whom the aforesaid self-styled economists-columnists of the ruling camp presume to be fool and blunt, can always wrest some relief by asserting their power through concerted organized mass action. If there is a surge of united sustained powerful democratic movement

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Impersonal pain does not make man helpless but inspires to carry forward revolutionary struggle that produces a revolutionary character worth emulating

— Comrade Krishna Chakraborty at the Memorial meeting of Comrade Prathibhakumari in Bangalore on 7 November

Comrade President, leaders of the fraternal parties and organisations on the dais, state and district committee members of our Party, comrades and friends,

Death is nothing new in human society. From the beginning of the society as there have been births so also deaths. Every death creates a void in the society; but every new birth fills that void. But sometimes such deaths take place and create such a void which the society takes a long time to fill. Such a death occurred on the 2nd of November — like a bolt from the blue. It was the demise of Comrade Prathibhakumari, member of the Bangalore district Committee of the Party and President of the AIMSS, Karnataka State Committee. What is meant by the phrase — bolt from the blue — became clear to them who witnessed the death that day or even to those who heard about it — so sudden, so unexpected and so unbelievable.

We are living in a dying civilization. Here all lofty, all great, all noble things are dying; human values are dying. In that society to create such a great character, imbibed with proletarian revolutionary values, is a very painstaking and a difficult struggle. Comrade Prathibhakumari was the product of such a struggle. She came to the organization as an ordinary girl but with an honest, sincere and searching mind. Coming in touch with Marxism–Leninism–Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought — the highest thought of mankind, which helps man to acquire highest knowledge of this era, she was acquainted with and could acquire through struggle higher values — the proletarian revolutionary values that make man noble.

Her death is just not a loss to the Party alone; yes, it is a great loss for our Party, but it is a great loss for the society as well. Today society is crying for revolution; but who will create that condition for revolution? Where are those revolutionaries? We can count them on our fingers. In relation to the whole social necessity of revolution, we the revolutionaries are very few in number. Though it is very hopeful that such revolutionaries are getting created coming in touch with our Party, involving in revolutionary movements, submitting to the process of the Party which creates revolutionary characters, but still it is not enough for such a gigantic task.

And from amongst them when one dies, it's a great loss. Those who knew her and, many of them are present here, know that she came at a very young age to the party. Almost from a village background, from Mangalore, not highly qualified, probably she did her polytechnic before joining the party. She came not with much education but with a sense of values which she had picked up from the society. Since she already had some values, she got attracted to still higher values, values of proletarian revolutionary life.

Giving up all personal things and career, she joined the Party and once she joined, she never looked back. Her family felt that she had no love or affection for them because often she did not visit them. But we should know that it is the deep love and feelings for the parents and other members of the family that helps one to see the pain and sufferings of all parents of the society. And this actually brings one in the vortex of social movement for a radical change in the society to build a new civilization where present day sufferings of man will end. Actually he who loves all parents and the people truly loves his own parents and other beloved. Comrade Prathibhakumari was a revolutionary of that mettle.

Lenin showed hundred years back that reaching its highest stage, capitalism has become reactionary and moribund. At the same time he showed that before going out of being, a system gives birth to a new one within its own womb. That's why he not only said it is the era of imperialism but showed simultaneously that it is also the era of proletarian revolution.

By accomplishing proletarian revolution in Russia he proved to the world that socialist revolution is not a utopia but a reality. Lenin also showed that while in nature qualitative change takes place automatically, it is not so in the society. Here consciousness plays a leading role. Without conscious act, without conscious struggle, revolution does not come in society. For that we require revolutionaries. But simply by theoretically understanding this, we cannot bring about revolution. We are to brave that life. In all the countries where revolutions took place, be it, Russia, China, Vietnam or Cuba or anywhere, revolutionaries have played their role in following this



Comrade Prathibhakumari

concept of life and values. In our society, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh built up that very struggle. Party does not mean a conglomeration of some individuals; it is a process, a process of thinking as well as a process of working, that is, dialectical process of thinking and collective process of working. Only by submitting happily, voluntarily and totally to this process we can become its fine products. Today only by acquiring higher values, values of proletarian revolution, one acquires higher character.

Prathibhakumari struggled in this process. Her struggle was so determined that soon she acquired this culture and reached such a high standard that in the last state conference she was elected as the President of the All India Mahila Samskruthika Sanghathan, Karnataka State Committee. She was also a member of the party's Bangalore district committee. Those who knew her, know how soft, sweet but at the same time how determined and firm she was. Whatever she understood and decided under the guidance of the Party she was very firm on that. All through, she was above all petty things and used to be in the forefront of people's movements. Under the guidance of the party though she completed the highest degree of the university but at the same time organized students for education and social movement. Such a character is very rare in our society, more so a woman in a society like ours, in a backward country like ours, where vast majority of our women are so submissive with no independence. It is a country where feudal ideas

have not been fought out during the course of our freedom movement. Those feudal ideas, feudal practices, feudal culture, more so feudal approach and attitude towards women are still prevailing. See what is going on — casteism, communalism, provincialism, regional fanaticism, linguistic fanaticism are all growing. In this society, to fight these feudal hangovers is not so easy. In such a society to make a woman a revolutionary is not just a big task but a difficult one too. Only with the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh women in our country can acquire such revolutionary character and sense of dignity. And this is why only in our Party people find so many women revolutionaries.

After her death when the news came in the press, so many people who knew her expressed their grief, they understood it is a great loss for them; it is a loss for the whole society. Struggle of all people will change the society but in a backward country when women come into revolutionary movement, their impact is more. In this very Karnataka, the changes which are taking place are surely our creation, a result of our struggle. Surely in that, our lady comrades have played a very distinct role, a very important role, a significant role. In this very Bangalore, I first came in 1965-66. Today you can't imagine how apolitical it was then. If you compare the pictures of Bangalore of that day and today, you would see the difference. Today in Bangalore, movements are developing on many issues of people's life. It's because of our struggle. One day history will give recognition to this fact and to the distinct role played by our lady comrades. And Prathibhakumari was one of them.

I tell comrades that in life what is very certain is death. Death is the only certain thing that all of us will experience. Man with his power of thinking if he struggles on the correct line and correct process, with a historically determined aim, can develop the great mind with a great power of thinking as that of Marx. It is possible, it's true. But simply by our liking and in any way struggling can I become Marx? No, only by following the struggle that Marx conducted, the process of struggle that he followed with a correct dialectical materialistic

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Memorial meeting of Comrade Prathibhakumari

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outlook, and dedicating fully to the cause of revolution, one can definitely become like Marx. Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Shibdas Ghosh all were products of this process of struggle.

Comrades, Man is the product of a process. He does not live in a vacuum. The Party has developed a process, the process of thinking and working, that makes a man communist. If we do not submit to the party process happily, voluntarily and totally then surely we are bound to follow some other process outside the party, the bourgeois process of thinking and working. That cannot make a man perfectly a communist. Prathibhakumari understood this and conducted her struggle happily submitting to the party process and was developing with great possibilities. We have lost her. How soon you work to fill the void created by her demise, it depends on you comrades. How fast you can bring young people — boys and girls in this process of struggle and how quickly you develop yourself — on both these struggles depends our upliftment, our elevation and expansion of the revolutionary movement.

Her demise has created this necessity. Many young boys and girls are coming to the Party, surely getting attracted towards the noble ideology and higher culture of the Party and are conducting struggles. If this struggle continues, many more revolutionaries like Prathibhakumari will surely be created. When struggle is on, it will surely happen. If we give up this struggle, it will not. It is the struggle that determines what one will become. If you have to learn anything from Prathibhakumari, you have to learn from her struggle. Since she was in struggle, she had high potentialities, possibilities; she could become a very fine comrade. Suddenly, death snatched her from struggle. Such painful cases have happened in our Party earlier also. Comrade Ratan Mukherjee, a highly developed comrade who was accorded staff membership posthumously in recognition of his struggle, also died the same way very recently. He just fell down and all was over. Some years back, Comrade Sourav Bose, whom many of you knew, who worked in Tamil Nadu for a long time, just fell down after suffering from a massive stroke and passed away. So sudden, so painful both the cases had been. All these caused immeasurable loss to the Party and revolution. In bourgeois society, science cannot grow freely for two reasons. First of all, the bourgeoisie controls it for buttressing its motive

of profit maximization. The industrialists determine in which course research should continue; there is no freedom for the scientists and researchers. Secondly, the education which is being imparted in the bourgeois society does not develop any scientific bent of mind. Neither does it free the students from the prejudices and superstitions which they carry from the existing social environment. Naturally most of the doctors and scientists are not free from such prejudices. Engels pointed out long back that very few scientists have dialectical approach towards the material world and follow dialectical method of study, which alone can find out the truth of this material world. When the society will be free from the exploitative capitalist system, when socialism will come, when science will be free from the shackles of prejudices and superstitions, when there will be unrestricted development of sciences, such deaths will not occur. When socialism comes, science will grow to such a level which will help man to live long. But that, too, demands a revolution. Many think that only poor people fight for revolution. That is not a correct understanding. Revolution takes place because of the objective law of the society. Whoever is conscious of it becomes a revolutionary. Marx was not a poor man, Marx came from an upper middle class family, Engels came from an Industrial house, Lenin also came from upper middle class family. Today's revolution historically is proletarian revolution which can be achieved only under the leadership of the proletariat. Then those who tell that revolution is the business of the poor people only, they vulgarize the concept of revolution. Those who are concerned about social change and progress, those who are fighting for truth and justice, those who love higher values — they come for revolution. Communist path of struggle is a noble struggle. Those who love science must also understand that development of science cannot take place unless science is freed from the capitalist motive force of profit. Once science is freed from the greed of the exploiters, from that day onward such painful deaths will not occur.

So it's a noble struggle for which Prathibhakumari dedicated her life and died. We are to carry forward the tasks she has left behind. Comrades will have to carry forward the struggle. You will have to advance, advance still further this struggle; to create hundreds and thousands of Prathibhakumaris to make the

revolution real, to make it victorious. If we take up that struggle, then only we can truly pay our revolutionary homage to her. We pay homage to a comrade who passes away by carrying forward the struggle of hers or his. It's a noble life, communist life.

Prathibhakumari has left behind a child, Meghna. Many of our supporters and well-wishers expressed their deep feeling and worries — what would happen to her. This concern of theirs shows their deep love and concern for both - Pratibha and her child. But those who know us closely, particularly the comrades who stay in our centres know that in ordinary families when a mother dies it is a very big loss for a child; that cannot be filled up so easily. But in our centres, in our Party life when a mother dies, it is a very big loss no doubt, but there are many mothers in the Party for the child; this pain will remain but still then it can be filled up. So many mothers, true mothers, ethical mothers are great creations of this communist movement. I love my child but I love other's children no less. This concept of life is there in all ethical relations. Bourgeois humanism has also brought this ethical concept of relation. In bourgeois humanism also mutual appreciation of values is the basis of ethical relations. But since it is based on individualism and individual freedom, two individuals are free to have two different philosophical outlooks, still they can have intimacy. In reality they cannot go together in life; with two different outlooks they are bound to reach two different ends. On the other hand, communist relationship is highly ethical; it is based on still higher ethical values. So these relations grow and develop with the same philosophical approach, same ideology and same aim in life. So we all can go up to the end together. This is the communist concept of relation. The highest form of that relation you see in the relation between Marx and Engels. If there were no Engels, Marx would have died of starvation. Only to save Marx and his family, Engels had taken up a job though he came from a wealthy family. He maintained and protected all works of Marx, keeping it close to his heart. After the death of Marx, he edited, improved and published them. We cannot view Marx without Engels. Such is the communist relation. Here we get in touch with a higher form of love, impersonal form of love, free from private property mental complex, greater than the bourgeois sense of love and relations. This is the noble concept

of life totally different from the old concept in thinking, behaviour, habits and practices. This is the struggle of all communist parties of the world, of all revolutionaries in different countries. When we establish socialism in different countries and when socialism in different countries, creates condition for abolition of classes, then communism will come. Then revolutionary life will become so common, so natural. This is our struggle, a noble struggle.

Prathibhakumari's death has created deep pain in comrades. From this pain, comrades will have to understand a deeper thing. When Comrade Shibdas Ghosh died, that too, all of a sudden, it caused unthinkable pain to the entire Party. I could not control tears for months; even today if I remember his life and struggle, I get tears. But I know that pain, a very deep pain, how deep I can't explain today comrades, I felt physical pain in heart, it happened. But it never made me helpless. It inspired me to dedicate more to the cause of the party and revolution. Pain can inspire comrades, that day I realized. After his death I realized all the more, what I learnt from him, my teacher, I am to take to the people. Every moment I am to carry forward his thoughts. That day I learnt a new thing that pain can also inspire even though it makes one weep. But that is only when pain is taken impersonally. Helplessness comes from personal form of love and personal form of taking pain. Impersonal pain does not make man helpless. It inspires. Prathibhakumari made all the comrades weep, but no comrade felt helpless, I saw. Rather they are taking greater resolves to carry forward the struggle, to dedicate more to the cause of revolution. She brought many supporters and sympathizers closer to the party by her death. It is just not a death; death of a revolutionary also creates an atmosphere helping revolution.

In this moment of grief and pain, I request comrades to deeply understand the Party and I am sure the comrades will all take pledge to dedicate themselves more to the cause of revolution, carry forward the struggle that she has left behind and move forward in the path of revolution that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has shown. With this, I pay my revolutionary homage and my revolutionary respects to Comrade Prathibhakumari.

Red salute to
Comrade Prathibhakumari !

Red salute to
he great leader of the proletariat
Comrade Shibdas Ghosh !!

Discussion session on Politics and cultural issues in Uttarakhand creates stir and enthusiasm

Under the auspices of SUCI (C), a 3-day long discussion session on politics and cultural issues was organized from 9 to 11 November at Srinagar- Garhwal of Uttarakhand. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Polit Bureau member of the Party conducted the session and was the main discussant. He dwelt elaborately upon the nobility of Marxism and the base political line of the SUCI (C) as the revolutionary party of India as well as upon contemporary political and social problems and developments. Those who attended the session included local people from all sections of the society, professors of Garhwal University, teachers, students, and commoners who had extended their help and cooperation during the relief work at Uttarakhand following the deluge in

the summer there. The entire discourse and particularly the lucid and lively discussions by Comrade Chakraborty created among the participants deep emotion and attraction towards the noble philosophy of Marxism-Leninism, the guideline it provides in conducting life struggle covering all aspects and based on higher proletarian culture and ideology and how the Party has been continuously upholding and practising the same as against the all-out degeneration, degradation and immorality that has devoured our socio-political life in capitalist India. The discussion session is expected to play a landmark and significant role in building up the Party organization in this state of Uttarakhand. Comrade Pratap Samal, Delhi State Secretary, was also present in the session.



Demonstration at Lal Darwaja in Ahmedabad by AIMSS, AIDSO, AIDYO against rise of sexual assault of women throughout the country including Gujarat on 27 November



Massive protest demonstration by AIDSO, AIDYO and AIMSS before the district collector's office in Lakhimpur, Assam on 15 November on the burning demands of life. The demonstration was addressed by Comrade Chandralekha Das, Assam State Secretary, SUCI(C) as also by Comrades Projjal Deb, AIDSO State Secretary and Anup Chutia, AIDSO Lakhimpur District Secretary

Delhi election

Do they represent people?

“... in the past five years ... our (Delhi) MLAs have seen their fortunes multiply several times over. There are 66 MLAs who are re-contesting the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections and their average worth has risen from Rs 2.90 crore in 2008 to a massive Rs 10.43 crore this year. BJP's Sat Prakash Rana saw the biggest windfall... from Rs 6.38 crore in 2008 to an astounding Rs 111.89 crore in 2013 ...Rana said that the difference was a result of a mistake he made while filing his nominations in 2008. ...Congress candidates are the richest ... with 611 of their 70 candidates declaring themselves crorepatris (millionaires). The average worth ... is Rs 14.25 crore. BJP is next with 58 crorepatris and an average worth of Rs 8.16 crore. The Aam Aadmi Party, ...too has 33 crorepatris. The average worth ...Rs 2.51 crore, despite one of its candidates... lowest declared worth of Rs 20,800. Manjinder Singh Sirsa of SAD is the richest ... with declared assets of Rs 235.51 crore.

“... out of the 796 candidates analysed, 129 were found to have criminal cases against them. 93 candidates had serious criminal charges against them, including attempt to murder, robbery, dacoity and crime against women.”BJP has the highest proportion of candidates with criminal cases against them at 46% while Congress has 21% candidates with criminal cases against them. AAP too has five such candidates.” (Times of India 27-11-13)

Banks write off Rs 1 trillion bad corporate loans ! Whose money it is indeed ?

When the government is drastically cutting subsidies and raising tax burden on common people on the plea of being cash-starved, when the echelons in the hierarchy of policy framing and regulatory bodies are persistently pleading for lowering interest rate to make bank loan cheaper for the corporate sector even if that depletes return on bank savings by the common people, when the banks show extra-ordinary initiative to confiscate the hypothecated house, household items or vehicles if any small creditor defaults in payment of two or three monthly instalments and do not even hesitate to send musclemen to haul up the defaulter, rich corporates enjoy amnesty and waiver for any such defaults and get away with embezzlement of public fund with impunity. It is revealed that between March 2011 and December 2012 NPAs or Non-Performing Assets, a technical coinage to glorify the problem of bad loans in banks, have more than doubled. (The Times of India, 13.3.13) According to another report published in the same newspaper on November 17, not only are NPAs growing but the banks have written off a staggering Rs 1 lakh crore (Rs 1 trillion) of NPAs. RBI deputy governor K C Chakrabarty has called this write-off a 'sacrifice' by the banks and hastened to add that 95% of these are large loans to corporates. In view of credit to 10 large corporate groups having been doubled between 2007 and 2013, it shows that wherever credit growth has been higher, NPAs are also higher, commented he. He confessed there is no one accountable for monitoring the loans and so no one knows what happens to these loans, or part of the loans, purportedly taken for investment in industry. Absurdity par excellence! What is then about fiduciary responsibility of the bankers? It means that the banking industry as well the industry regulator and the government are deliberately doling out sizeable chunk of public money to the monopoly houses as grants or charity albeit under the cloak of advancing loan for industrialization. The fact RBI deputy governor has suppressed is that to rescue the banks from sickness, the government has been recapitalizing the nationalized banks i.e. infusing fresh capital by drawing from the public exchequer. It is therefore the common citizens who are hit from all sides—there is regular slashing of interest from their hard earned savings, a part of their tax contributions is going to give subvention to the banks being plundered by the corporates while the government by withdrawing subsidies from essential sectors is forcing them to shell out more money for buying essential items whose prices are going up. This is then no less than a mega-scam involving corporate bigwigs, top bank officials, acquiescing regulatory bosses and the fraudster government. Once again is reiterated the fact that ours is a system run by the capitalists for the capitalists. People are only to suffer wear and tear for ensuring “growth and prosperity” of the capitalists and their lackeys!

United mass struggle on burning problems of life integrated with fierce ideological struggle — only deterrent to communal poisoning

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same ulterior objective of reaping electoral benefits is unthinkable in any civilized country. The list of the barbaric acts organized by the so-called flag-bearers of Hinduism includes burning of a Christian missionary and raping of a nun. The savagery, cruelty and inhuman insanity of these Hindutva fanatics can be compared only with that of fascist Germany under Hitler. But, they have not been tried in any court for committing these horrendous crimes, nor would they ever face any trial. They are the worst enemies of democracy and civilization. But, they are ruling the country today.

On the other hand, the Congress, which is certified by the CPI (M) leaders as secular, has also not committed any less a crime. The Congress too, over a long period of time, organized communal riots in various states and then pretended to be the saviours of the victim Muslims and used them as vote banks. It was the Congress which unlocked the door of Babri Masjid and organized Hindu religious puja and *Ramshila yagna* there to incite religious passion. Later, the BJP scored over the Congress in whipping up this passion further. The Congress organized the anti-Sikh massacre in Delhi. In the Congress rule also, there had been barbaric attack on and bestial torture on the dalits and tribals.

It has to be borne in mind that opposing the BJP in elections does not, *ipso facto*, indicate upholding of secularism. Secularism means politics, economy, education, judiciary, administration, social manners and customs would be free from any religious influence and guided by democratic and humanist values and outlook. The state will neither oppose nor encourage any religion. Pursuit of religion will be a private affair of the believers. The state, its governance and social relationships will be independent of religion. During the advent of capitalism and modern democratic system by overthrowing obsolete feudal system based on religious backwardness, as a historic necessity arose the concept of parliamentary democracy, rational thought process, thoughts of individual freedom, women liberation, etc. Concept of secularism also arose in Europe during this rising period of capitalism. But today when capitalism has reached the stage of imperialism and has become utterly

reactionary, capitalism in Europe no longer bears that progressive character. During the Indian freedom movement, the rightist bourgeois leadership of the Congress, suffering from the fear complex of anti-capitalist revolution, opposed the line of uncompromising militant armed struggle of Subhaschandra-Bhagat Singh against imperialism and cultivated bourgeois reformism in the field of politics. Similarly, in the realm of culture, it compromised with the age-old obsolete feudal creeds and religious bigotry and abandoned the path of renaissance upheld by Rammohan and Vidyasagar. Spurning response to the repeated calls by Saratchandra-Subhaschandra-Nazrul-Bhagat Singh to pursue true secularism free from religious influence, the Congress leadership in the name of encouraging co-existence of all religions was viewed as being dominated by the upper-caste Hindus. So, not only the large section of the Muslim population, even the bulk of the dalits and tribals stayed out of the ambit of the freedom struggle. Taking full advantage of that, the foreign rulers stoked the fire of communal conflagration and disrupted the unity of the people and ultimately succeeded in partitioning the country. We are still paying the price for that.

On the other hand, the undivided CPI (within which were then the leaders of the CPI (M) also) had never released any philosophical-cultural struggle based on secularism. Rather, it time and again used religion for making opportunist gains. Even, it supported partition of the country by endorsing the most atrocious two-nation theory. Similarly, even today, the CPI (M) raising bogey of secularism is entering into a covert understanding with the Congress in narrow sectarian electoral interest; forging opportunist alliance with the casteist-regionalist parties and not hesitating to help the communal forces either if that proves beneficial for netting electoral gains. This is nothing but worst opportunism in the name of leftism.

At the same time, it has to be kept in mind that the bourgeois parties like the Congress and BJP are backed and financed by the ruling capitalist class. The ruling class makes them ride to power and carry out its orders. Today, the ruling capitalist class needs religious bigotry to increasingly pervade the

country so that scientific thinking eludes people and fascistic thoughts take a firm root. It is the sinister class necessity of the ruling capitalists to frequently stoke the fire of communal conflagration so that mutual hatred, disaffection and animosity devour the various sections of the toiling masses and the desired people's unity for developing anti-capitalist movement is disrupted. So long capitalism will exist, the danger of communalism-fundamentalism will also remain in the society. So, in order to fight the menace of communalism, it is not enough to fight the insidious policies of the Congress and BJP but it is imperative to build up fierce struggle against capitalism.

It is also necessary to understand that though majority communalism-fundamentalism is the main danger in the country, minority communalism-fundamentalism poses no less endangerment. More fanned up is Hindu communalism, more will a section emphasize on Muslim unity, cry for Muslim unity will gather momentum and thereby provide handle to the protagonists of Hindutva to unite the Hindus on communal basis. That is why, the Hindutva groups of India want persecution of the minority Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh to rise while the Muslim communal forces in Pakistan and Bangladesh desire attack and torture on the Muslims in India to escalate.

It ought not to be forgotten that

communal conflagration is not only taking a heavy toll of innocent lives, disgracing dignity of women and destroying properties on a massive scale, but also marring the initiative to build up widespread powerful united democratic mass movements on the burning demands of life. So, it is imperative to be free from the poisonous influence of communalism-fundamentalism. The believers will pursue their respective religious beliefs in their private life but in the society, no one should have his religious belief to denote his social identity. The only identity will be of a member of the broader family of the oppressed and repressed, as a fighting worker, peasant, middle class person, student, youth or woman, as struggling compatriots of each other.

So the SUCI(C), founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, is of the firm opinion that task imperative today is to develop mighty united sustained organized class and mass struggles on the burning demands of life. And these struggles must be integrated with a fierce ideological-cultural battle against the venom of communalism through various conventions, seminars, symposiums and extensive literary campaigns. If there is any communal flare-up, it has to be fought and diffused with the united strength of conscious democratic mass movement.

Grisly price rise

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against rampant hoarding, black marketing and other manipulative exercises by the unscrupulous traders' lobby receiving all necessary support, protection and even aid from the governments, both at the Centre and in the states, pressure will be exerted on the government-administration to take some steps and give some breathing space to the suffocating citizens. And to slap on the faces of the self-propped up erudite blurring people's vision with hogwash of bourgeois economics, people need to raise the demand of all-out state trading in food articles and other essential items. Our Party has been demanding this since 1950s. While the apologists of capitalism and its newly-fangled globalization are crying hoarse for all-out privatization, people's demand should be for banning private trade in food stuff. Not only wholesale, even retail trade

has to be completely free from the shackles of private control. It is the government who should procure grains and pulses from the peasants at remunerative prices and sell the same through fair price shops at affordable prices. This is what is known as all-out state trading. Detailed modalities can be worked out once this is agreed in principle. Montek-Aiyer-Basu sells economics of the rich. SUCI(C), founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, upholds the economics of the poor and downtrodden. We appeal to the oppressed people back-broken by this draconian rise in prices to come forward and join the democratic movement built up by our Party on the edifice of higher proletarian culture and ethics in demand for immediate action by the government to arrest this artificially created price spiral and introduce all-out state trading in food items.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty calls for electing real representative of people to Delhi assembly

The Delhi State SUCI(C) organized a public meeting today at Buradi, in support of Comrade Manager Chaurasia. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Polit Bureau Member of the Party, was the main speaker.

In his speech, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, said: Elections are being held in Delhi at a critical time when an all-out crisis has engulfed all the spheres of life of the people—social, political, economic and cultural. Going deep into the problem, we find, whether we like it or not, that the root-cause of all the problems faced by the people is the present moribund capitalist system. The term 'moribund' means that it has reached its highest stage of development—the stage of Imperialism—long back, outlived its utility, is dying and stands as an obstacle to further development of the society. Capitalism which once opened floodgate of social progress by defeating outmoded feudalism is now mired in perpetual recession, unemployment, price-rise, closures, lock-outs and fostering degeneration in cultural, ethical and moral values

leading to corruption at highest levels, crimes on women and children. The policy of 'Globalization, opening up of the economy and privatization' introduced since 1991 has led to an all-out capitalist onslaught on the people through privatization—commercialization of basic necessities like water, electricity, education, health-care, dismantling of the Public Distribution System, public transport system etc. None of these issues, which have a direct bearing on the lives of the people, is being referred to, let alone be addressed to, by the dependable parties of the Indian capitalist class—the BJP, the Congress. The break-away group of the Anna movement, the AAP, like the Congress, BJP and other parties of the ruling class is also making false promises like reduction of rates of water and electricity, fighting the malaise of corruption etc. One wonders how all these parties can reduce the rates of water and electricity without reversing the policies of privatization—commercialization. Corruption cannot be wiped out in a capitalist

system which is based on the right of ownership of private property and generates greed for accumulation of wealth; more so in a situation where the economic future of the people is uncertain.

Under these circumstances, it was incumbent upon the left and democratic parties to come forward and put up a left and democratic front to resist the policies of globalization, privatization and compel the governments to withdraw them. This could have also paved the way for setting up a left and democratic front to contest the elections which would have created a left and democratic alternative. However, both the major parties, the CPI (M) and CPI, who call themselves leftists, are joining hands with regional and parochial parties and forces to reap opportunistic electoral benefits.

The only way the onslaughts on people can be resisted is by developing a strong democratic and secular people's movement against the conspiracy of the ruling class to foist on the people the policies of globalization—privatization and further open up the economy. This movement should also be directed simultaneously to defeat all the casteist, communal, parochial, regional and divisive forces and compel the ruling class, under pressure of movement, to accede to the genuine demands of the people. Our party, SUCI(C), founded and

reared by the great Marxist thinker, teacher and guide, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, organizes people all over the country on these lines, contests elections with the sole aim of strengthening and spreading the movement all over the country. The present election should be taken with all the seriousness as part of this great country-wide movement unleashed by our Party. No party wins elections merely based on the votes of its members only. It is the people, in the present case, the people of Buradi Assembly Constituency, who will have to decide as to whether they will continue to elect the representatives of the ruling capitalist class to the Assembly, maintaining the status-quo, or elect Comrade Manager Chaurasia, the real representative of the people who, all through, has been in the midst of their struggle for developing peoples movement against all the problems faced by the people in the constituency. We are sure people will choose the later course and strengthen the line of movement.

Also addressing the meeting were Comrade Pratap Samal, Delhi State Secretary, SUCI(C), SUCI(C) candidate Comrade Manager Chaurasia and Shri Prakash Rao from the fraternal Communist Ghaddar Party of India (CGPI). Comrade RK Sharma, Secretariat Member of the Delhi State Secretariat, presided over.



Massive rally on 28 November at Rohtak, Haryana by the ASHA workers affiliated to AIUTUC against government discrimination and indifference towards them

AIMSS condemns CBI chief's statement

Comrade H. G. Jayalakshmi, General Secretary of All India Mahila Sanskrithik Sangathan (AIMSS) issued the following statement on 15-11-2013:—

It is highly shocking to see the statement of the CBI Director Ranjit Sinha on a serious issue like rape which is of paramount concern not only for the women but for any civilized society. At a time when our country is witnessing such ghastly incidents of rapes and gang rapes, it demands of one and all to seriously ponder over the ways to stall them. At such a point of time, the irrelevant remarks and the diluting comments on such a serious issue by a person occupying such a high public office is highly condemnable.

AIMSS with all forces under its command severely condemns the light remarks of the CBI chief and demands of the Government to punish the Chief. AIMSS calls upon all sections of the women to remain alert and protest against any such undignified remarks on the women community.

On a year of brutal gang-rape and murder of 'Nirbhaya Damini'

Processions of students-youth-women against atrocities on women in state capitals on 16 December

National Convention at Mavlankar Hall, Delhi on 29 December

Parliament March on 30 December

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