

# Proletarian Era

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## One year from cruel death of Nirbhaya Damini

# Time for drawing correct lessons, traversing correct remedial course

The cruel death of the brave girl 'Nirbhaya' (Fearless) or 'Damini' (flash of lightning), brutally raped and tortured by a gang of six pervert miscreants in a speeding bus on the ill-fated night of 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2012, in the heartland of the country's political capital Delhi shook the entire country. Spontaneously people particularly young boys and girls in thousands swarmed into the streets, disdaining batons, water-cans and other coercive steps by the government — in demand for stringent punishment of the culprits and adoption of appropriate remedial measures to stall rising sexual crime and violence on women. The valour and gallantry of Delhi people shook the entire country out of stupor and spurred them on to burst into protest. When all brutality, red eyes or arrogance, even cunning ploys to deflect attention from the real issue proved abortive, the despotic government had to bow down, promise arrest of the guilty and announce formation of a high-powered judicial commission to recommend suitable changes in law to mete out stringent punishments to the rapists and rapist-killers and suggest measures for improving the safety of women. An impression was sought to be

created that in absence of a stringent law to deal with crimes of this nature, the government is constrained to take appropriate penal measure. So, a commission headed by Justice J.S. Verma, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was constituted to recommend amendments to the Criminal Law so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals accused of committing sexual assault against women. Following all these, the spontaneous outburst of the enraged people subsided and the agitation gradually petered out.

### Guilty punished, Law framed but problem stays

The Verma Committee had submitted its report, commendably much before scheduled time with valuable recommendations. Accepting some of the recommendations, the law was made stricter through enactment of The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 which provided for life term and even death sentence for rape convicts besides stringent punishment for offences like acid attacks, stalking and voyeurism and amended various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Evidence Act and the

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. In the mean time, the government made another overture for public consumption by announcing with much fanfare a Rs 1000 crore 'Nirbhaya Fund' for curbing atrocities on women by way of modernizing the preventive machinery with latest technology. Later, four convicts in the gang-rape case were awarded death penalty by a Delhi court. The fifth accused, the driver of the bus on which the assault

occurred, committed suicide in jail in March last while the youngest of the six culprits though stated to be the cruelest of the offenders was sentenced to just three years of juvenile imprisonment as he was then underage. Though the people have been happy at the pronouncement of capital punishment for the guilty four, the question which is more relevant is whether there is an iota of abatement in the crime on women in

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## SUCI(C) vehemently condemn the dastardly act of destroying statue of great Lenin by the ultra-nationalist reactionary forces in Ukraine

*Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 10 December, 2013: —*

We vehemently condemn the most dastardly act of destroying the statue of great Lenin in Kiev, Ukraine by the ultra-nationalist reactionary forces mortally afraid of the renewed surge of attraction of the working people of this erstwhile province of USSR towards the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism. Lenin was not only the architect of the first anti-capitalist socialist revolution in the world, revered leader and guide of the struggle for emancipation of the oppressed toiling masses of the world but also a great human being of outstanding stature. This demolition of his statue in barbaric frenzy is nothing but a savage attack on the humanity and civilization. We call upon all right-thinking conscientious people of the world to rise in protest against such a ghastly act and demand stringent punishment of the culprits who have dared to indulge in such a savagery.

## SUCI (C) calls for developing powerful socio-cultural movements based on higher ethics and morality to stop proliferation of depraved thoughts like homosexuality

*Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), has issued the following statement on 15 December, 2013 :*

Homosexuality is an abnormal, diseased and perverted way of life. In the past, though there were stray instances of such depravity in the mercenary armies deprived of normal sex-relation between man and woman for long, such other organizations and places, such a practice which is manifestation of mental deformity and morbidity never gained social acceptance. Even those indulging in such acts suffered from ignominy. Those who are supporting homosexuality in the name of protecting individual and democratic rights are forgetting that the bourgeois democratic movement which was accomplished in the west under the leadership of the then progressive bourgeoisie, dawned upon by the progressive thoughts of renaissance, against the obsolete obscurantist conservative religion-based feudal system and ushered in new era by upholding lofty ideas of modern democracy, secular principles, concept of individual freedom and women's liberty, had also fought for establishment of freedom of love between men and women rising above caste, creed, nationality and religion, but there was no demand for homosexual rights.

But afterwards, when the all-pervading social degeneration in the exploitative regime of reactionary bourgeoisie has turned the concept of individual freedom into a privilege, bereft of any sense of social obligation and human values and cloistered in unethical self-centredness and crude consumerist thoughts, and the question of human right and entertainment is sought to be equated with untrammelled pursuit of licentiousness, wanton and immoral livelihood, infidelity and adultery, tilt towards homosexuality is growing among a section of people under the vicious influence of this rotten, poisonous environment. It ought to be borne in mind that no immoral, unethical, socially harmful, reactionary activity or livelihood can be supported raising the bogey of change in time.

We are of the firm opinion that such unethical living is immensely detrimental to the cause of the society and hence liable for being punished. That does not mean that we are supporting stringent punishment like life-term for the wrong doers. But, mere legal route would not abolish the menace. It is only surge of a powerful social and cultural movement based on higher values which can only create necessary public opinion against such decadence and work as deterrent to proliferation of such debased thoughts.

# Mere stringency of law would bring no succour

*Contd. from page 1*

the country or even in Delhi?

## Crime against women is soaring by leaps and bounds

The obvious answer is, no, by no means. Rather there is galloping rise in rape, gang rape, child rape and sexual violence on women. Reports of gruelling rape and murder are pouring in rising number from every part of the country. A local survey revealed that in India, through the past 25 years, approximately 1 to 4 percent of Indian women acknowledged having been raped—which brings the rate of rape in India to between 50 and 200 times greater than reported by the Indian government. (The Guardian-Express-September 2, 2013) Even after the mass upheaval last December, the women are no better, if not worse, in Delhi. The country's capital city recorded 1,330 rape incidents till October 15 this year as against 706 in 2012, almost double in number compared to last year. Molestation cases have gone up from 727 in 2012 to 2,844 this year, nearly four times. Eve-teasing cases have gone up from 238 in 2009 to 793 this year while kidnapping and abduction of women has risen from 1,655 in 2009 to 2,906 this year. These stark facts were revealed to the Supreme Court by the Additional Solicitor General in the last week of October. Taking note of the statistics, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court wondered how come after so much of commotion over the December 16 infamy, girls travelling in buses are subjected to molestation every day? Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore—no city is safe for the girls let alone the suburbs, outskirts, smaller towns and villages. And no one—from a 2-year old child to 70-year old woman—is spared by the flesh-hunters. Obviously, the common people particularly those who thought that a stricter law would, *ipso facto*, arrest the depravity, are not only gravely concerned but crestfallen. Does not the government owe an answer to the people? Where are those high-profile political leaders, power-studded ministers, observers and columnists who hoodwinked people with false promises? But the fact is that such an outcome of a mere legislation with all other factors having primacy remaining the same, was not unexpected but only inevitable for definite reasons which the suffering people, the terrified fathers, anxious brothers and worried husbands need to take into cognizance and appreciate. Then only they would be able to know what is needed to be done to effectively stem the rot.

## Our Party's suggestions to Verma committee

To make the point clear, we need to date back to the formative days of Verma Committee. Since the Committee sought views of all political parties, mass organizations and democratic bodies, our Party also submitted our concrete suggestions. When everyone was giving emphasis on a stringent legislation, we categorically pointed out that there are many laws in the country to prosecute and punish various criminals, offenders, money-swindlers, tax evaders and so forth. Yet, most of the persons indulging in such wrongdoings and crimes go away unscathed and there is no abatement rather aggravation of all such crimes because the very investigation and prosecution processes are not free from encumbrances or manoeuvring and the connivance of the investigating personnel with the actual culprits is often vivid. So, it needs to be ensured, through promulgation of appropriate law, that there is no scope for manipulating or scuttling the due process of investigation. If anyone within the system or penal machinery is found to be indulging in any of such unlawful activities to help the rapists or rapists-cum-murderers dodge the law of the land, the said person should also be meted out stringent punishment. In other words, not only there should be a stringent law for punishing the rapists and rapists-cum-murderers, the legal provisions are also to be suitably modified to ensure that the investigating process and procedure does not have any loophole and there is an appropriate mechanism of checking and rechecking of strictest compliance with the prescribed stipulations.

We also added that alongside the aforesaid demands for bringing stringency in law and toning up the investigating machinery, there is an imperative need to go into the very root of the problem of rising crime against women and try to extricate the same. If the very cause of maladies and malaise, aberrations and deformities, malevolence and barbarity remains intact, only strengthening legal provisions would not beget the desired mitigation, if not proved visibly short of requirement. Despising the 'go as you like' attitude of the governments of all hues whether at the Centre or in the states towards this rapid propagation of sex-perversion and consequent rapid pervasion of permissiveness throughout the society and absence of any serious concern or anxiety on the part of the established parliamentary parties, we proposed immediate formation of empowered

Citizens' Committees with involvement of eminent citizens, voluntary organizations particularly women's organization and representatives from all political parties to give suggestions and recommendations to the government as also guide and monitor government's action in containing the heinous crime of ruining the moral fabric of the society and allowing savage acts like sexual crimes, rapes and gang-rapes to proliferate menacingly.

## Verma Committee recommendations

Unlike most of the previous commissions, Verma Committee submitted its detailed report in less than a month. It could be seen that the Committee, too, took note of our views and made some indirect references to some of our points. Observing that many perfect laws in the past remained ineffective because of non-implementation, the Committee made a slew of recommendations including incorporation of stringent provisions in Indian Penal Code to deal with the rape and other culprits accused of outraging the modesty of women. It correctly held that the equality of women, being integral to the Constitution, being denied is a sacrilege and a constitutional violation. Sustained constitutional violations mean that governance is not in accordance with the Constitution. *A fortiori*, all limbs of the State — the executive, the legislature as well as the judiciary — must respect women's rights and must treat them in a non-discriminatory manner. The manner in which the rights of women can be recognized can only be manifested when they have full access to justice and when the rule of law can be upheld in their favour. Any officer, who fails to register a case of rape reported to him, or attempts to abort its investigation, commits an offence which shall be punishable. Any political interference or extraneous influence in the performance of the statutory duty by a policeman cannot be condoned. This principle has to be clearly understood by every member of the police force — their accountability is only to the law and to none else in the discharge of their duty. Dereliction of this duty has to be punished according to the service rules and applicable law. The proposed Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2012, should be modified in the suggested manner.

But, when the government framed the new Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 incorporating a few stricter provisions, it did not

include any definite penal provision for the police or any other enforcement official or authority guilty of dereliction of duty or added any clause to book those deliberately promoting or inciting obscenity, vulgarity or sex-perversion and that too on widest possible scale. Nor does the new legislation contain any section to declare undue intervention, influence or manipulation on the part of anyone—be it the ministers, political satraps, business houses or bureaucratic high-ups—as a cognizable offence liable for stringent punishment. In other words, the law, howsoever strong it might look like, is virtually bereft of the biting ability in absence of any stricture on either the implementation machinery or the interfering groups.

## Corrupt mindset of the enforcement machinery

Next point is about the very mindset of those assigned the responsibility of either framing or enforcing law. As we had indicated in our submissions to the Verma Committee, if the root is not extricated, one cannot expect the problem to perish. Root of this growing atrocities against women lies in the prevailing capitalist system which, having outlived its utility following inexorable course of history, is now akin to a stinking corpse vitiating the air with miasma and effluvium. Anyone who is not aware of this is bound to be affected by this emitted poison. And those who deliberately defend or protect this obsolete capitalist system are the carrier serpents of the poison. One would recall that when the government and the police were thrashing the valiant protesters against Delhi gang-rape—much to the glee of the criminals and rapists who found that the governing machinery by pounding the demonstrators were virtually acting as abettors to the crimes—some officials and ministers quipped: "Does it mean that women should roam at night just because we got independence in the middle of the night?" Some others wearing cloak of expertise in social psychology went to the extent of remarking that "the way women are dressing is responsible for rapes". We at that time retorted by asking why then the rural women who dress in a traditional way are raped, why infants and children are raped, why girls in decent school uniforms are raped, why housewives are abducted from home and raped, why the protesting women of Singur-Nandigram movements were gang-raped, why old women are raped, why hospital

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# People's organized movement based on higher ideology and culture can only constitute the bulwark

Contd. from page 2

patients are raped? Is it because of their dress, or because of their roaming at night? Look at the mindset of the political bigwigs. During the days of people's historic stir against Delhi gang-rape, Narendra Modi, the BJP chief minister of Gujarat and now projected as the country's next prime minister by the ruling monopolists' circle, chose to banter one of his political rivals by saying: "he has a 500-million-worth girlfriend". Ridiculing the surging outrage of Delhi people, a Congress MP commented: "Those who are coming in the name of students in the rallies, are fashionable women, highly dented and painted". Short of calling the Kolkata's Park Street rape victim a prostitute, a woman Trinamool Congress MP commented that "it was not a rape case but a deal going sour between a lady and her client." From the rostrum of a public meeting, a former minister and now deputy leader of the CPI (M) in West Bengal assembly threw a question to the lady chief minister of West Bengal, "If you are raped, what will be the compensation you would charge?" All of them are leaders of their respective parties. They might belong to different political parties but share the same misogynist and degraded culture bred by the decadent moribund capitalist system.

Apart from the political class wedded to bourgeois vote politics, such pervert mindset, an attitude to look down upon women as merely a sex-object, an attempt to humiliate women, debase and defile them to establish male supremacy—are rampant among the bureaucracy, police-military and even judiciary, stated to be the pillars of the capitalist state and bourgeois democracy. The present director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) remarked a few days back, "if you can't prevent rape, enjoy it". A reputed advocate in a criminal writ petition to refute charge of rape by a girl against a retired judge mentioned that a lady never speaks the truth and can go upto any extent for a short benefit or for revenge for denial of her demand. A woman Army officer filed a case of sexual harassment against a Lieutenant Colonel. Wife of a military naval officer alleged that her husband forced her to have sex with his fellow officers. Wife of a navy marine commando charged her husband of extra-marital affair with the wife of his senior officer. A woman police constable in Lucknow has alleged that she was sexually harassed by a senior inspector while she held the position of a clerk under

him at the Reserve Police Line. A senior IAS officer has been charged for rape, sexual harassment and blackmailing a girl. Of late, a lady journalist has accused a very senior journalist of forced sex. Even fingers are pointed against top judicial personalities for sexual offence. Using seats of power for eliciting sexual favour, unusual sexual advances, stalking (unwanted or obsessive attention by one person toward another person with a view to harassing, including sexual harassing or intimidating), voyeurism (deriving sexual gratification from observing the naked bodies or sexual acts of others, especially from a secret vantage point) is almost going to take an institutionalized character in workplaces, public transport, roads, educational institutions, hospitals and other places. The list is unending. If police officers, army officials, bureaucrats and judicial personalities nurture such pervert and patriarch mentality, how can one expect them to deliver justice to the rape and sexual assault victims? Hypocrisy of the government authorities is nakedly manifest once again when it is found that not a single paisa has been spent from the much-touted "Nirbhaya Fund" to sophisticate the penal machinery.

## Rampant spread of vulgarity and sex-perversion adding fuel to fire

Over and above this rotten culture and putrid mindset of the law enforcement personnel, there is, a careful observation would unfold, a meticulously crafted design to wipe out whatever little of human elements remain in the society and human beings turn into ferocious animals sustaining on bestial instincts dispossessed of the ethical-moral power to burst into protest and rebellion against the oppressive system. So is promoted the vulgar materialistic culture of 'eat, drink and be merry' or rabid consumerism vigorously through a flood of obscene advertisements, erotic films, ugly TV programmes, pornographic literature. Of late, internet and mobile telephones have emerged as more effective media to rapidly spread lewd messages and photographs. The quarters of vested interest have been unleashing propaganda that frequenting pubs, taverns, night clubs, discotheques and even drinking, drug-consumption and enjoying vulgar sex exhibitionism are kinds of recreation, sources of seeking pleasure. The whole attempt is to make prurient sex the sole and whole entertainment and thereby turn human beings into slaves of base

instinct. The mind is so polluted and corrupted, turned into blind ally of biological impulse that woman is made to be viewed just as a sex object meant for satiating lasciviousness and swooping on any woman anywhere just like the way a jungle beast jumps on its prey is gaining currency. Despite growing discontent among the right-thinking conscientious people against this deadly attack on culture and morality, the authorities, the ruling dispensation are not just playing the role of a silent bystander but of an indulgent activist. It could not be otherwise because they are not for upholding people's interest but for serving this outmoded utterly corrupt capitalist system which thrive on the animalism and animalization of the human beings. If the system itself is criminalized and depraved, breeding ground of all maladies and aberrations, how far prudent it is to expect its protectors to enforce a stricter law, *suo motu*, for protecting the assaulted and persecuted women?

## People need to adopt correct remedial course

This is the backdrop, the objective reality in which galloping rise in the number of rapes, besides other forms of crimes on women ranging from womb to tomb is bringing disgrace to any civilized society and putting the entire capitalist-imperialist world in the dock. This would also explain why the governments, civil administration, police and even judiciary more often than not reflect patriarchal bias and insensitivity in their handling of the issues concerning women. It would further clarify why anybody engaged in defending or subserving the decrepit capitalist society and system, cannot remain free from the vices bred by the system itself. That is why, one would find that in many of the rape and other cases of atrocities on women, the accused are either privilege-seeking political figures, village touts, mafia dons enjoying political backing or army personnel, police officials, close relatives of industrialists and persons in proximity of the power-wielders.

Those who feel the urge to free the society of this rapid degeneration, protect the honour and dignity of women, seal recurrence of rape, gang-rape and killing of rape victims, must recognize that mere asking for a stricter law would not redress the problem. Eradication of the malady lies in strengthening and intensifying the revolutionary struggle to overthrow capitalism and the ideological-cultural movement

conducive to the same. As we have been repeatedly saying and appealing to all to take due cognition of, onslaught of rotten reactionary thoughts are to be fought and defeated by acquiring, nurturing, cultivating and unleashing progressive higher thoughts. If people's movement is based on higher proletarian culture, ethics and morality, organized right from the grassroots level through formation of people's committees and assume a sustained powerful character throughout the country, it will exert necessary pressure on the despotic government-administration to bend and yield to certain legitimate demands. Even the law enforcement machinery could be forced under pressure of movement to take some action against the culprits and to that extent beget some respite to the problem. At the same time, the cultural milieu of this surging people's movement, not spontaneous, sporadic but well-knit, prolonged and powerful under correct revolutionary leadership will create congenial environment for cultivation of higher thoughts and if, alongside, a fierce all-embracing ideological-cultural movement based on Marxism-Leninism, the loftiest ideal of the era, is conducted right from the grassroots level, all such vile bourgeois ideas, decadent cultural thoughts can be effectively combated and ultimately overpowered. Only then the desired equality, honour and dignity of women can be established. It is pertinent to mention here that just a year back, when people of Egypt burst forth in the "Arab Spring" movement against autocratic rule of Hosni Mubarak, many young boys and girls stayed together in makeshift camps days after days, nights after nights. But, there was no report of any sexual misconduct or indecent behaviour to any woman. "Arab Spring" was no anti-capitalist revolutionary movement but a humanist struggle for a social cause. But, the very ambience of the movement worked as a deterrent to penetration of any deformed thought or malformed conduct. We saw the same thing during the legendary Singur-Nandigram struggles. When people are in the vortex of a militant struggle for social justice, that acts as a strong moral force. And if that struggle is guided by the highest ideology of the era, it virtually works like a bulwark against ingress of any rotten thought to pollute mind. So, remedy lies in unleashing surge of people's movement along the right track. On the one year of *Nirbhaya Damini's* death, it is incumbent on all of us to imbibe this truth and act accordingly.



## Peace move on Iran and Syria

# Conceals imperialist design of tightening noose on smaller countries

Of late, the US president Barack Obama is being credited for striking two historic deals with Iran and Syria which, it is asserted, 'have the potential to dramatically alter the geopolitical landscape of the Middle-East, Gulf, and South Asia'. He is being hailed as the chief architect of the nuclear deal between Iran and the band of powerful P5+1 (the United States, Russia, France, China, Britain, and Germany) countries and the second, the 15-nation UN Security Council's unanimous resolution to destroy Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, working out on a deal struck between Russia and the USA. The US president has claimed that "diplomacy opened up a new path toward a world that is more secure — a future in which we can verify that Iran's nuclear programme is peaceful and that it cannot build a nuclear weapon." "We are declaring together, for the first time, that the use of chemical weapons, which the world long ago determined beyond the bounds of acceptable human behaviour, are also a threat to international peace and security anywhere they might be used, anytime they might be used, under any circumstances," observed US Secretary of State John Kerry, a close aide of Obama. This saintly posture of the US war mongers with peace-candles in hand might well make the bourgeois propaganda machine burst into eulogy but how far secure the world will be with Iran's nuclear programme put on leash and Syria's chemical weapons put on elimination trail remains a big question to scan.

### **'Enviably' track-record of sponsoring war and destruction by the US imperialists**

If one has a quick recap of the latest peace initiatives by the US president, the principal political face of US imperialism, one would find him 'enviable'. He escalated military hostilities in Afghanistan; he prolonged *de facto* occupation of Iraq with large number of heavily armed US troops stationed there; he continued inhuman sanction on Iran, initiated by his predecessor; he swooped down on Libya under the pretense of a "humanitarian" mission to protect civilian lives and establish democracy, and wearing the cloak of NATO, after as usual managing to secure a rubber stamp of UNO in support of such a direct military intervention; he issued continuous threats to Syria to comply with or perish, and he militarily encircled socialist North Korea. For all these 'peace initiatives' that have made peace the first casualty, he has been conferred the Nobel Peace Prize. The media, a large chunk of which is sponsored, monitored and designed to serve the interests of the imperialists, are frantically trying to whip up a gala applause for the so-called historic peace moves, and posing the US president as the peace-maker. But notwithstanding their best efforts the tenor does not reach the mark. The world does not seem amused to welcome these peace manoeuvres.

### **The Iran Deal**

We first take up the Iran Deal. Under this deal, described as an "initial, six-month" deal, Iran has agreed to give better access to inspectors, to halt some of its work

on uranium enrichment beyond 5 per cent, the level at which it can be used for weapons research, and to reduce its stockpile of uranium enriched beyond this point. It will reduce the number and potential of its centrifuges and its ability to produce weapons-grade plutonium using the Arak reactor. Even with such a deal, the Iranian negotiators insisted they still had a right to nuclear power. In return, there will be no new nuclear-related sanctions on Iran for six months, rather Iran will receive sanctions relief worth about \$7 billion.

People of the world cannot afford to forget that only a few days back, and since long, it was this same US imperialists who have been on the offensive and, who, on the plea of Iran's not succumbing to their pressure to abandon their nuclear programme, included Iran in their so-called 3-nation axis of evil (along with Cuba and North Korea) and branded it as potential danger to the world and the Middle East. It was the same US imperialists that engineered strangulating noose of economic sanction upon Iran. This sanction brought added suffering to the Iranian people over and above the sufferings caused by their own capitalist state and economy. This state is being ruled since 1979 by the fanatic religious fundamentalist Shiaite forces who have hoodwinked the Iranian people with the opium of religious fundamentalism only to press upon them a suffocating rule in which the ruling capitalists are continually thrusting the burden of their crisis-ridden exploitative system upon people. At the same time they keep the leash tight on people with strong repressive

measures to curb opposition even fundamental democratic rights. Added to these, the US-engineered sanction could only present the Iranian people with painful and nagging scarcity of daily necessities, double-digit unemployment, and unutilised natural resources, particularly the rich oil and natural gas reserves due to lack of development funds. It has become amply clear to them that the US design is nothing short of destroying the economic base of the country and bringing their country to the knees to accept the US dictation. Even the fundamentalist Iranian rulers, apart from their own interest for power and pelf, could not ignore the tremendous pressure of this people's opinion and hence stubbornly resisted the imperialist pressure. However, the crisis they faced, were pushing them to find the way out and as in other capitalist countries in these days of globalization, they preferred to take to the path of liberalization. The new president elected in June last, though himself a cleric, vouched for more liberalization to allure people towards a better prospect and to assure the ruling class a smooth road to their profit hunt, all obviously with the consent and approval of the reigning religious supreme leader. It was on this background that the Iranian rulers entered into the nuclear deal. As it stands now, is it then not a deal between a weaker country, frantically groping for survival and a group of powerful counterparts, their chieftain all along brandishing lethal sticks to make the weaker country comply or perish?

### **US—the largest stockist and user of nuclear weapons**

Is it not a deal where the US replaces the sticks with carrots for the economically squeezed Iran, to pose that it is forsaking war-maoeuving in favour of peace-maoeuving? How far secure the

world will be with such a deal? What does the record show in regard to positions of the powerful countries writing the deals, particularly the USA, in regard to nuclear danger? If Iran poses danger with its nuclear arsenals at hand, do not the imperialist powers, led by the US imperialism pose greater danger with their much bigger stockpiles and accessories, much greater resources to conduct continuous and thorough research-development to find out newer and newer methods and materials for nuclear armament, even if under pressure of people's opinion they are forced to do away with their present nuclear materials and technology? The following is a brief account of who stands where on the question of nuclear strength.

Fitting with the Obama administration's "roadmap" for maintaining US nuclear supremacy, the USA has about 8,000 nuclear warheads of which about 2,150 are deployed, that is, ready to launch using missiles and bombers, and the rest that can be activated quickly or even when withdrawn are not dismantled and can be reactivated. Next to the USA, Russia in its comparable total strength, has only about 1,800 ready to launch. The new START treaty between the U.S. and Russia does not restrict the number of operational nuclear warheads in the two arsenals. Rather, it leaves open the possibility of improving the quality of nuclear forces. As a part of that programme, the US is installing an anti-missile "shield" in Europe, ostensibly to neutralize an Iranian attack (something impossible at present), in reality in order to achieve a strategic advantage over Russia, which is taking countermeasures. The NATO, the imperialist military consolidation headed by the US imperialists, has about 300 French

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### **AIDSO wins in Jaunpur college election**

In the Tilakdhari College, a leading institution in the Jaunpur district of UP affiliated to Purbachal University, AIDSO candidate Bishal Kumar Shourya achieved a significant victory by a huge margin of 1034 votes to the post of Library secretary in the student union election; another AIDSO candidate Purnajit Gupta contesting for Arts representative was defeated by a narrow margin. It is worth mention that this college is considered as a stronghold for the BJP and its student wing ABVP, where the administration, including the Principal takes initiative in the drive for membership to ABVP. In such an institution, against all odds of money-muscle and filthy politics based on casteism-communalism, the victory of AIDSO candidate on the strength of a value-based, secular and uncompromising ideals, has created a stir among students giving vent to elation among general students and marked encouragement to AIDSO activists.

## US imperialists the largest owner of nuclear and chemical weapons

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and 225 British nuclear warheads, almost all ready to launch. Zionist Israel, the closest US ally which is the only nuclear power in the Middle East and, unlike Iran, does not adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty — has an estimated 100 to 300 warheads and produces enough plutonium to manufacture 10 to 15 bombs each year like the one the US dropped on Nagasaki in 1945. China has a nuclear arsenal estimated at about 250 warheads and about 60 intercontinental ballistic missiles. India has about 110 nuclear warheads, Pakistan 120, North Korea probably a few warheads. It is estimated that the world has accumulated enough of highly enriched uranium and plutonium materials to produce more than 100,000 nuclear weapons, and it continues to produce these materials in increasing amounts. There are over 130 “civilian” nuclear reactors that produce highly enriched uranium, suitable for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Are these figures not enough to show how safe the world would be, with Iran stalling its nuclear programme and all these nuclear armaments kept alive on the globe? Of course, there will be no sure outcome. With Iran stalling its nuclear programme, it will lose its sting as one of the few countries in the Middle East that still stand firmly against the US brigandage and against the constant threat from the Zionist Israel against the Arab world. Is that what the US views as secure and safe?

### The Syrian Deal

So, if one shrewd move of the war monger US imperialism has helped it rob Iran of its sting, let us see, what does the second peace move concerning Syria has to do with. There, the Syrian Army under the present Bashar al-Assad Government has since 2011 been locked in a fierce armed confrontation with so-called rebels or Free Syrian Army (FSA). The FSA is liberally patronized with money, deadly arms and weapons as well as training from the US imperialism and the pro-west reactionary regimes of the Middle East like Saudi Arabia and even the arch-fundamentalist Al Qaida forces. It also echoes the voice of its mentor-sponsor, the US imperialism, in its demand for ouster of the Assad government. Though the latter is carrying on capitalist rule in

Syria, intrinsically exploitative, discriminatory and oppressive, it also continues to be an eye-sore to the US imperialism for its firm stand against it and the Zionist Israel who are relentlessly trying to dominate over the Middle East. Though in the immediate interest of the Syrian capital, this stand is also in keeping with the strong anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist fervour of the Syrian people. It was the Syrian people, and never the US imperialists who then have the prerogative to decide the fate of the Assad government. In any case, the armed conflict took a worse turn when it was revealed in last August that there might have been use of chemical weapon to kill hundreds of Syrian people, including women and children. Though there was strong controversy as to who perpetrated the crime and though there was enough indication that the amply reinforced FSA could have been the culprit, an orchestrated and virulent campaign was let loose by the media, sponsored and monitored by the imperialists, particularly their chieftain, the US imperialism holding the Syrian Government responsible. The US president even issued a threat of attacking Syria making this alleged use of chemical weapons as pretext just like the way his predecessor arrogated to himself the sanction to launch full-fledged military assault on Iraq on the false plea of Saddam Hussein possessing weapons of mass destruction.

However, the brag and bluster of war were not taken forward but replaced by peace-hymns, not because the blood-hounds were suddenly absorbed in devout pursuit but due to definite objective reasons. Throughout the world including even the USA, people’s opinion against war particularly the war of aggression launched by US imperialists and their allies has become perceptibly strong. They are questioning why should the US army invade other sovereign countries flaunting military might, kill, maim and cripple thousands of innocent citizens and raze cities and villages into rubbles by carpet bombing with latest lethal weapons not excluding chemical, even radioactive material containing weapons. Even many allies of US war-mongers do not dare to ignore this rising public opinion and the USA is at times failing to rally those countries behind its design. This was manifest even at the G-20 summit of leading capitalist-imperialist

### School of Politics at Sultanpur in UP



*Comrade Ranjit Dhar, member Polit Bureau of SUCI (C) is conducting a school of politics at Kalikaganj of Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh organized by the UP State Organizing Committee on 8-9 November. Comrade Dhar discussed on the questions and queries submitted by the Party workers on the basis of the two books, namely, Communist Code of Conduct and Party — a Product of Dialectical Processes.*

countries, where, in addition to Russia and China stiffly opposing the US design of attacking Syria, there was a ‘no’ from other countries as well, including familiar war-partners of the USA like UK and European NATO allies. Albeit primarily from their own market interests in Syria and its oil, these powerful imperialist-capitalist countries could not also ignore the world opinion and dared not rally outright behind the USA and its president. So, the US president, obviously at the beckoning of his masters, the ruling monopolists, beat a temporary retreat and switched over to peace overtures. The US imperialists did not find it advisable to pound Syria full-fledgedly right at this moment. Rather, they activated diplomatic channel. In course of that, rulers of capitalist Russia, who also nurture hegemonic aspirations and look forward to reaping benefits out of the contradiction of the US imperialists with other countries and powers, changed its stand and came into a deal with the USA. And, finally, based on that deal, the UN Security Council adopted resolution on destroying the Syrian chemical weapons. The UNSC called for elimination of removal and destruction by the first half of 2014 of Syria’s all categories of chemical weapons (CW) as well as CW related materials and equipment including the facilities for the development and production of these weapons, while endorsing a plan for Syrian-led negotiations towards peace. The process was to follow procedures drawn up by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and agreed upon by the USA and the Russian Federation. It also held threats that in the event of non-compliance, including unauthorized transfer, or any use of chemical weapons by anyone in Syria, the UNSC should impose strict measures in accordance with the UN

Charter.

### Hidden agenda of the US

As in the case of the Iran deal, the UNSC resolution on Syria also poses some vital questions. What does it really aim at? Is it, as professed, the destruction of Syrian chemical weapon and thereby reducing the chance of humanity having to face the fury of deadly weapons of mass destruction? Does Syria stand as the principal danger of triggering large scale war with its chemical weapons? Or, is it a cunning yet coercive move from the big powers to emasculate a relatively weaker state and bend it down to act as a pawn of superpowers? By this time, the world is well aware of the murder of Saddam Hussein and devastation of Iraq, a country economically fairly stable and culturally adequately secular among the generally fundamentalist Arab countries, was a calculated move by the overlord US imperialism on the plea of Saddam violating human rights and Iraq thriving upon WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) which its rulers were said to have used on its own non-conformist people and enemy countries in the neighbourhood. Subsequently it has been proved that the allegations of Iraq holding WMD were baseless, cooked up in the closed chambers of Pentagon to hoodwink the entire world. And the devastation Iraq had to undergo with the brute US aggression could only be included as one of the worst chapters of human history in regard to transgression of national sovereignty and violation of all sorts of human rights. Questions of chemical weapons of Syria and their government using them, must be judged on the anvil of the past record of the USA. The US accuses the Syrian government for killing its own people. May the

*Contd. on page 6*

# Anti-imperialist militant peace movement the only guarantee of peace

*Contd. from page 5*

world ask : What made the Syrian government carry on the present war? Was it not because the so-called rebels, the mercenaries hatched- sponsored- lethally armed and engineered by the US imperialists- its allies and fundamentalists launched the war in the name of fighting and overthrowing the autocratic rule of Assad for democracy? It is the sole prerogative of the Syrian people to decide if Assad remains in power or there is a regime change or if they would beget a revolutionary overthrow of capitalism there. How could the US imperialist be concerned with that? Why are the US imperialists and their allies nurturing 'death squads' inside Syria and sustaining the killing spree there? Now they are seeing people being killed in Syria. How many people of the world, including innocent children, women, elderly people or patients in hospital beds, not just in one country but in one after another country, have the US imperialist rulers killed, maimed, made homeless in the post-Second World War period to buttress their hegemonic design and brigandish agenda? The answer is : Countless precious human life. Who, in one of the most brutal instances in the human history, dropped atom bombs on two cities of Japan and made over one lakh and a half of common citizens to perish in seconds and leave the survivors devastatingly poisoned for generations? The answer: None but the US rulers. Just like the hoaxed 'WMD' story of Iraq, the US rulers are now dishing out an argument, raw and frivolous by any count, that had they not dropped atom bombs, Japan would have attacked US while everyone knew that battered and ravaged, Japan was almost ready to surrender? How many wars these US rulers have carried out since the Second World War? At least 70 during the period.

## Labour-room of chemical weapons

Come to the question of chemical weapons. Who are the inventors- developers-keepers-users of chemical weapons? Were these weapons germinated in the workshop of any weaker country or born in the labour rooms of the capitalist-imperialist sharks? Use of commercial chemicals in warfare began with the First World War, when on 22 April 1915, the German army used liquid chlorine near the strategic town of Ypres in Belgium, killing 5,000 Allied troops.

Subsequently, Germany used mustard gas in 1917 that caused blisters on skins. Worldwide people's opinion after the First World War resulted in the Geneva Protocol signed in 1925. Although the protocol prohibited the use of chemical weapons, it did not prohibit their development, production and stockpiling. In response to Germany, Britain and France also produced the deadly mustard gas. During the Second World War the Nazi Germany used the nerve gas Tabun, in 1936 and ZyclonB in gas chambers to exterminate hundreds of thousands of innocent Jews in concentration camps. Fascist Italy, too, used chemical weapons in Libya in 1930 and in Ethiopia in 1936. Winston Churchill, the then British prime minister, reportedly held that criticism on chemical weapons was 'squeamishness about poison gas' and was in favour of use of gas ("They are really troublesome, let's gas them") against rebellious tribes of the North West frontier regions of the then India. Sanctioning the "most devastating chemical weapon ever devised" against the Russian Bolsheviks, he sent a special plane-loaded huge cache of a dangerous poisonous gas called 'M devise' that had been developed in a British laboratory by British scientists short time back. This was intended to bring about massive devastating effects on the Red Army, as it has been revealed in a note of a British scientist who had been sent with the weapon to note the effects. The note is recovered from the British National Archive. Unfortunately for Churchill, the effect was not as contemplated.

And after the Second World War, the US imperialism, by far took the lead and made the most prolific use of chemical weapons repeatedly and without any remorse during its war-adventures to reign over the world. Of them one of the most deplorable instances came in the Vietnam War. Confronted with stubborn resistance of the heroic fighters of the small country of Vietnam and unable to tackle the invincible Vietnamese guerrillas fighting under the leadership of their beloved leader Ho Chi Minh, the US imperialism shocked the world with using terrible Napalm bombs that burnt everything hit at with human victims inflicting ghastly burns on their body. They also resorted to rampant spraying of thousands of litres of Agent Orange gas in the Vietnam forests. Within the span of

even less than a decade, 1962 to 1971, they used this herbicide to defoliate the forest and rural areas so that the Vietnamese guerrillas would be deprived of cover. In this noble mission of theirs for 'saving the world from communism,' they cold-bloodedly murdered about 4,00,000 people and caused birth defects in 5,00,000 children only in the singular case of Vietnam war.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), a disarmament agreement convened subsequently in 1992 prohibits the use of these weapons. Yet the US imperialists who are so vociferous against possession or even attempt to develop such weapons by others, had themselves repeatedly used chemical weapons in their wars against different countries in the last decades of the last century. Apart from using the conventional chemical weapons they are reported to have used ammunitions made of depleted uranium in Iraq and Kosovo, which itself is highly radioactive. Right now babies are being born in Fallujah, Iraq, with staggering rates of birth defects because of exposure to depleted uranium used by the US military. This has not only mortally and severely affected people of the attacked country; even scores of US soldiers and pilots in charge of dealing with these ammunitions have been found to be affected by radioactive emission. Also, as per a report in the Foreign Policy magazine, based on a 1983 CIA document, advanced research on chemical weapons have been conducted in Zionist Israel, known as the front office of international gangsterism of the US imperialists in west Asia, at the Israeli Centre for Biological Research and weapons were produced and stored in the Negev Desert, at Dimona, where Israel also produces its own nuclear weapons. What propriety then the US imperialists have in crying hoarse about chemical weapons of Syria and tags the UNSC behind its scheme to adopt resolution against that country? If Syria is made to destroy its arsenal of chemical weapons or Iran is debarred from developing nuclear armoury, why should the US be allowed to sit on heaps of sophisticated military hardware that includes nuclear, chemical and such other weapons of mass destruction? Why should the US war mongers be licensed to kill people in other countries with unmanned drones? As per media report, while Syria is stated to be having 1000 tons of

chemical weapons, the stock of the US imperialists are as high as 25,000 metric tons. Who is then the bigger merchant of death? Who then poses greater danger to peace? Should not the UNSC have to answer this? Is it not then a clear fact that with this resolution, Syria, an oil-rich country and staunch opponent of US overlordism and Zionist Israel in the Middle East, is ceremoniously emasculated?

## Foil sinister design of the US imperialists

Hence both the deals struck at this present hour speak plainly of a fresh US imperialist design. With Iran, the US imperialism presses hard upon that country, already put to the corner through prolonged sanction imposed by none other than the USA. With Syria, it takes advantage of the use of chemical weapons there in August, puts a UN stamp on the government holding it responsible and then imposes the condition of destruction of its chemical weapon. In both the cases, the US imperialists were facing strong adverse opinion from people of the world and more particularly of their own country. So, they took recourse to cunning manipulations, turned the situation in their favour and changed their tactics from war-manoeuving to peace- manoeuvring. The ultimate aim remained the same: to pursue overlordism further in the Middle East, the oil-rich, strategically important region of the world by taming the two hitherto opposing countries. But, how is that they are getting away with such offences with impunity? This is the question that must stir the minds of all anti-war peace-loving people of the world. We have already stated above that under pressure of the growing voice of people against the ulterior move to precipitate war and war tension, the warlords of Pentagon and their associates did not dare to launch any direct military attack on either Iran or Syria. Here lies the bulwark. More organized, intense and powerful is the anti-imperialist militant peace movement round the world, more the war cries and war initiatives of the imperialist camp headed by the US imperialists would be under check, if not blunted. So, it is incumbent on the anti-war peace-loving people of the world to close their rank and firm up their unity by coordinating the surging anti-imperialist movements of various countries to give rise to the desired world anti-imperialist movement.



# ASHA and Anganwari workers movement

In different states of the country ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers and Anganwari *Sevika/ Karyakatri* and *Sahayika* (Anganwari social workers and assistants), toil day and night albeit with a nominal allowance, not to speak of adequate monthly salary, or monthly minimum living wages and without any social security measures. They have been continuing sustained movement separately for years together organized under the banners of their respective unions affiliated to the AIUTUC. We have published a few reports in *Proletarian Era*. Here we include summary-report for the ASHA workers in words and the Anganwadi workers in photos.

ASHA and Anganwari workers have long-standing legitimate grievances and demands arising out of them. Though several demands of timely distribution of incentive, uniform, transport fare and others could be achieved through prolonged struggles, many vital ones remain unfulfilled. Working in schemes under the much-hyped NRHM programme, they often have to work under the mercy of corrupt panchayat leaders for pittance of an incentive that is cut arbitrarily. Governments, central or state, do not even recognize them as workers. For that, they are deprived of salaries, life insurance, provident fund and other facilities. It is a cruel joke that the governments which can enhance salaries and perks of MPs and MLAs by thousands of rupees, care two hoots to pay these workers who are rendering commendable service to people in rural areas.

In their turn, the ASHA and Anganwari workers have held a number of conventions and demonstrations at different places in the country for at least the last 3 or 4 years in which they have pledged to continue their struggles. In a sort of culmination of this phase of movements, on 29 August, 2013 last a delegation from the all India Committee of AIUTUC led by Comrade K Radhakrishna, Vice

President of AIUTUC and including leaders from different states like Karnataka, West Bengal, UP, Delhi, Haryana and elsewhere staged a deputation to the Union Minister of State for Health & Family Planning in Delhi on various demands of the ASHA workers, like recognition of the ASHA workers as government employees, fixation, thereupon, of minimum wages and all other benefits, pending that revision of the incentive amount which remains static for the last 7 years, introduction of a simplified, transparent procedure for payment of incentives and social security net coverage for the ASHAs, etc. In absence of the minister, the Officer on Special Duty received the memorandum on behalf of him. The movement of the ASHA and Anganwadi workers continue.

The miserable condition these sections of working people face may be partially evident from the two incidents cited below. On 11 July 2012, the wall of an Anganwadi centre collapsed in Nayagarh district of Odisha killing 7 school children and injuring several others, speaking of the miserable condition of infrastructure and safety of Anganwadi centres. Of late on 6 November rural health worker of UP Tara Devi, was gangraped and killed in her village Manopur Dera village of Rajpur block in UP. A mother of 4 children, Tara Devi came of an abjectly poor family living in a shanty. In both cases the respective sections of people launched movement.

As an emergent issue, the ASHA workers lead by their Union leaders rushed to the village of Tara Devi, the above-mentioned victim of gangrape and murder and on 16 November staged demonstration and lead a deputation to the district collector demanding arrest and death sentence of all the miscreants associated with this crime, immediate compensation of 10 lakh

rupees for the victim's family and employment for the helpless family members and ensuring security for all ASHA workers and finally observed an all India protest day on 19 November on the above demands wearing black badges, observing silence in memory of

Tara Devi, the victim while elicited spontaneous support in UP from doctors, nurses and different sections of government employees, attesting to the fact that movement of these sections of working people are drawing support from other sections of toiling masses.



ANGANWARI workers movement

Clockwise from top 1. Jamshedpur 18 May 2012; 2. Kanpur convention 7 October 2012; 3. Haryana 26 August 2012; 4. Bangalore convention 1 July 2010; 5. Jamshedpur 8 September 2012.



## SUCI(C) supports resistance movement of Bangladesh people to foil the sinister move of Indian and Bangladesh governments to set up hazardous power plant at Rampal by grabbing arable land and evicting peasants

### SUCI(C) expresses profound grief at the demise of Nelson Mandela

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), in a statement issued on 6 December expressed profound grief at the demise of the legendary anti-apartheid anti-imperialist fighter Nelson Mandela.

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 3 December, 2013 :

It is a matter of grave concern that totally ignoring the opinion of the environmentalists, geologists, subject experts and common people of Bangladesh, the governments of India and Bangladesh are grabbing 1834 acres of land at Rampal adjacent to the Sunderban area in Khulna district of Bangladesh evicting around 8,000 peasant families with a view to installing a thermal power plant. As a result of this, apart from consigning this large number of displaced families to virtual doom, the sludge of spent fuel and other chemicals would cause immense harm to the rivers, connecting canals and agriculture.

Also, air pollution, environmental pollution caused by solid and liquid wastes as well as piled up effluents would cause serious harm to the ecosystem and bio-diversity and have poisonous effect on human health. Above all, this notorious venture would gravely endanger the Sunderbans, world's largest estuarine forest and delta and an UNESCO World Heritage Site spread over the territories of both India and Bangladesh, and gradually push its natural marvel of fauna and flora towards extinction.

In spite of having due knowledge of all these serious consequences, the governments of India and Bangladesh, solely in the sinister class interest of the ruling capitalists of both the countries, are going to implement this out-and-out anti-

people disastrous scheme destined to pose serious threat to the environment and ecological balance. At the initiative of the eminent intellectuals, scientists, environmentalists and the left and democratic parties and forces of Bangladesh, people there have been conducting a powerful movement to resist the scheme.

It is pertinent to recall that the government of India in collaboration with the then CPI (M)-led West Bengal state government had once decided to set up a nuclear power plant in the Sunderban area of West Bengal. There was also a state government approved move by the multinational groups to build up a tourist spot and a floating hotel there by cutting the stretches of mangroves, destroying vegetation and contaminating the rivers and

tributaries. Under the leadership of our party, the SUCI(C), people built up sustained movement to ultimately foil the ulterior move and heinous conspiracy.

We strongly believe that the democratic-minded people of India will consider the resistance movement unleashed by the people of Bangladesh as their own and the combined struggle of the toiling people of both the countries would force the governments of India and Bangladesh to withdraw this ruinous scheme.

## Massive demonstration in Bhubaneswar, Odisha



Massive demonstration of more than ten thousand people carrying a model of octopus to symbolize the all-out attack of both Congress-led central government and BJD government of the Odisha state was staged on 9 December in front of Odisha Vidhansabha in Bhubaneswar. It marked a phase in the struggle on a 13 point charter of demand concerning burning problems of people's life and livelihood that SUCI(C) Odisha State Committee had been continuing for several months. Comrade Dhurjati Das, Odisha state secretary of the Party addressed, among others, a brief meeting at the venue, called for continuing and strengthening of the movement and led a delegation to hand over the memorandum supported by more than 8 lakhs of signatures to the Chief Minister.

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

on 16 December

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

on 29 December

National Convention at Mavlankar Hall, Delhi

on 30 December

Parliament March

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