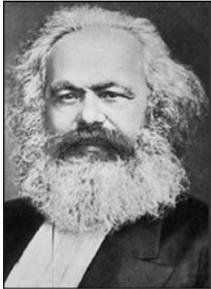


Proletarian Era

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5 May, 1818 - 14 March, 1883

“In all countries of Europe, it has now become a truth demonstrable to every unprejudiced mind, and only denied by those whose interest it is to hedge other people in a fool’s paradise, that no improvement of machinery, no appliance of science to production, no contrivances of communication, no new colonies, no emigration, no opening of markets, no free trade, nor all these things put together, will do away the miseries of the industrious masses; but that on the present false base, every fresh development of the productive powers of labour must tend to deepen social contrasts and point social antagonism...to conquer political powers has therefore become the great duty of the working class (Address and Provisional rules of Working Men’s International association—28 September, 1864)

— KARL MARX



21 December, 1879 - 5 March, 1953

...the bourgeoisie the chief enemy of the emancipation movement — has itself become different, has changed substantially, has become more reactionary, has lost its ties with the people, and has thereby weakened itself. Formerly, the bourgeoisie could afford to play the liberal, to uphold the bourgeois-democratic liberties, and thus gain popularity with the people. Now not a trace remains of this liberalism. The so-called “liberty of the individual” no longer exists — the rights of the individual are now extended only to those who possess capital, while all other citizens are regarded as human raw material, fit only to be exploited. The principle of equal rights for men and nations has been trampled in the mud; it has been replaced by the principle of full rights for the exploiting minority and no rights for the exploited majority. The banner of bourgeois-democratic liberties has been thrown overboard....Formerly, the bourgeoisie was regarded as the head of the nation; it upheld the rights and independence of the nation and placed them “above all else.” Now not a trace remains of the “national principle.” Now the bourgeoisie sells the rights and independence of the nation for dollars. The banner of national independence and national sovereignty has been thrown overboard. (Speech at the Nineteenth Party Congress, Selected Works, Vol.14, p. 12)

— J. V. STALIN

Jingoism over JNU incident

Right-thinking democratic-minded education-loving people of the country are gravely concerned at the way the BJP-led government, its administration and ABVP, BJP’s student wing worked in tandem to take not only organizational but ideological control over Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), one of the highly reputed institutions known for its remarkably high academic standard, by sheer force and riding on fakery (false tweets, doctored videos and so on), cooked up charges and fabrication of facts. Earlier also, the government and ruling party’s intention to nakedly infringe on academic autonomy and impose communal-fundamentalist-obscurantist ideology-philosophy of the ruling dispensation on the educational institutions was glaringly manifest in the immediately preceding incidents of banning Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle in IIT Madras, political intervention in FTII, Pune and Film Censor Board, disbanding the advisory committee of the journal of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). There-after occurred the incidents first at Hyderabad Central University and then at JNU which unfolded a definite plan. Before we proceed to analyze the whole episode on the anvil of logic, reason and fact, let us briefly recapitulate the two major incidents that have rocked the nation.

Recapitulation of essential facts

Rohith Vemula, a bright young research scholar holding a UGC fellowship was virtually led to commit suicide in the hostel of the Hyderabad Central University on 17 January night last because of handiwork of the ABVP, student wing of BJP and RSS elements and clear partisan casteist attitude and action of two important union ministers. Rohith would not have died had he not been sucked into the cesspool of nasty caste politics, had not the HRD ministry sent a letter to the university for stopping stipend to Rohit and others following a letter from union minister of labour which, *inter alia*, stated that Hyderabad University, has in the recent past become a den of casteist, extremist and anti-national politics, had not five Dalit scholars including Rohit, been singled out subsequently as ‘anti-nationals’ and faced enquiries, threats and persecution that led them to be ‘expelled’ from the hostel, without access to the university facilities except basic classes and had the Hyderabad Central University authorities not pushed him to take the extreme step. Sources said that the emboldened ABVP made them a target since they have despaired of getting justice in the University. The conscientious people including noted academicians-intellectuals vehemently condemned this action of the central government and its important ministers to abet the tragic

suicide of Rohith. But BJP-RSS was unfazed. At their instance and in connivance with the Vice-Chancellor, police entered the university premises, took into custody many students protesting against Rohit’s death and opposed to RSS-BJP-ABVP and subsequently meted out punishment to five of them.

In the immediate aftermath of Hyderabad tragedy occurred the incident in JNU, Delhi. A group of students on 9 February held an event on the JNU campus to “stand in solidarity with the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their democratic right to self-determination”. During the programme, some fringe elements for reasons best known to them were reported to have raised separatist slogans which are surely objectionable. Soon accusing Leftist students’ organizations of being involved in anti-national activities, ABVP activists from inside and outside university pounced upon them and a scuffle ensued. On the plea of containing anti-national activities, police entered the university premises created reign of terror and arrested Kanhaiya, President of the JNU’s student union and member of CPI’s students’ wing AISF, on charges of sedition invoking Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) without any warrant and issued look-out notice against two more. This was done despite the fact that the JNU Students’ Union, as well as

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JNU incident**Events point not to sponteneity but a planned design***Contd. from page 1*

a number of Leftist campus outfits, had condemned the allegedly divisive slogans chanted at that event and dissociated themselves from any such attempt. Naturally, the upright student community of the country was infuriated at such undemocratic, if not fascistic, act. They saw in this incident a definite motive of the RSS-BJP-ABVP to curb freedom of speech, gag voice of dissent and brand all and sundry opposing them as anti-national. On 14 February, when Kanhaiya was brought to the Patiala House Court, Delhi, for being produced before the metropolitan magistrate, a violent mob, wearing lawyer's robes and clearly showing allegiance to RSS-BJP, slapped and kicked Kanhaiya Kumar and JNU teachers and students accompanying him. Even O P Sharma, a BJP MLA was found to thrash Kanhaiya and his associates. They also pounced upon the journalists present there. And the police remained a passive bystander allowing such overlordism to go on unabated. On the other hand, the BJP government and the ABVP justified the entire attack episode as rightful dealing with anti-national elements. Both the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh as well as Human Resources Minister Smriti Irani have gone on record to say that any disrespect to mother India will not be tolerated. Rajnath Singh even went to the extent of alleging that JNU students had the backing of terrorist Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, suspected mastermind of 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai. Hafiz himself however denied any such backing by him.

A definite design does emerge

This, in fine, is the fact of the case. The way RSS-BJP-ABVP sought to arrogate to themselves all credential of nationalism and patriotism and straightway branded atheists and leftists-communists as anti-national and terrorist does smack of a clear ulterior political agenda of the ruling dispensation. Union HRD Minister, of late, was caught in the act of distorting facts and making incorrect statement about Rohit's suicide in the parliament which was rightly criticized and challenged by Rohit's mother with much pain. Similarly, Delhi police could not furnish any concrete evidence that Kanhaiya Kumar had raised objectionable slogans. On the contrary, a security guard and a policeman who were at the scene of the incident confirmed that he was not involved in sloganeering. It is still not clear

whether those who chanted objectionable slogans were some motivated elements or agent provocateurs planted by vested interest to precipitate trouble and then fish in troubled waters.

From all available details and sequence of events, it can be made out that the JNU incident was not spontaneous but well-planned in advance. Now it has come to light that a video showing Kanhaiya Kumar raising incendiary slogans that went viral in the social network as well as in some leading TV channels was doctored to implicate him as a false charge. Protesting against that and alleging every newsroom in the country to have been visibly communalized after Modi's ascent to power, Vishwa Deepak, a young journalist of Z News quit his job. He also revealed that a video which never had a slogan of 'Pakistan Zindabad' was run again and again in the media to stoke passions. Blinded by prejudice, 'Bharatiya court zindabad' was fabricated as 'Pakistan zindabad'. In his open letter of resignation, he also stated that as a media house, they were instructed to dilute the role of ABVP leaders and Union BJP minister Bandaru Dattatreya in inexorably pushing Rohith Vemula towards suicide and provide a

defence for the accused individuals in question. He further disclosed that the sister of Umar Khalid, another JNU student branded as traitor by RSS-BJP, has been threatened with rape and acid attacks. "Is JNU a criminal base or is the real criminal that BJP legislator who barged into the court premises and assaulted Left activists", he asked. Besides Vishwa's revelations, the full speech of Kanhaiya at JNU campus on the day of the incident is now published in the mainstream media. Nowhere is he found to have said anything that can attract sedition charge. The linking of JNU students with the terrorist Jamaat-ud-Dawah by Rajnath Singh has also been found to have been based on a "fake tweet" from an unverified Twitter account which is no more in use. Exasperated at Rajnath Singh's attempt to build a false case against JNU students and obstinate refusal of the city's police force under his charge to arrest "nationalist" lawyers and a party MLA who beat up students on and around court premises, a veteran columnist commented that he is reminded of how late Indira Gandhi also in the similar fashion ascribed all her difficulties to the ubiquitous 'foreign hand' in justifying promulgation of emergency. Unable to implicate

Kanhaiya and others in false case, Delhi Police Commission B S Bassi, already under severe public criticism for his kowtowing to ruling BJP, said that it is upto the accused students to prove their innocence with evidence. This is ridiculous par excellence! The fact is that under the law, the onus of proving the accused guilty lies with the prosecutor and any attempt by the prosecution to place the onus of proving innocence on the accused is tantamount to violation of the Fundamental Right granted under Article 21 (Protection of Life and Personal Liberty). The nakedly deliberate apathy of the Delhi Police once again showed how the police in India is in shameless servitude to whoever is in power even if that meant gross negligence, if not subversion, of their basic duty.

Laudable role of conscientious intelligentsia

It is heartening to note that conscientious intelligentsia of the country which has courageously come out and even returned academy awards to register vehement protest against every attack on democracy and humanity like the Dadri killing, murder of rationalists, growing intolerance, subversion of academic autonomy, communal-fundamentalist howling even from the seat of governance and the tragic suicide of Rohit did not remain silent on JNU incident as well. Large number of teachers, educationists, intellectuals, scientists, lawyers, journalists, artistes, film and theatre personalities and students' committees of India have severely condemned the BJP government, its ministers and police for such act and demanded immediate unconditional release of Kanhaiya and others, withdrawal of all false cases against them and a thorough impartial enquiry to identify the real culprits. This is highly praiseworthy. This bears out the fact that despite every effort to blunt rational thinking and shatter moral backbone, the ruling class and its servitors have not been able to kill human faculty and human essence. Conscience of the country has not died down. That is the silver lining. Even a host of internationally acclaimed intellectuals including Noam Chomsky issued a statement condemning the "nature of authoritarian menace". The statement, inter alia, read: "We have learnt of the shameful act of the Indian government which, invoking sedition laws formulated by India's colonial rulers, ordered the police to enter the Jawaharlal

*Contd. on page 6***SUCI(C) condemns cowardly attacks on JNU students**

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 18 February, 2016 on the incident in JNU and its aftermath :—

Let me first express our Party's unequivocal condemnation of the cowardly attack upon the students of JNU by the goons of BJP and its outfits of theirs. It is now quite clear that the ruling BJP was frantically trying to find out a pretext to make a case against the democratic atmosphere inside JNU with a view to getting a plea to crack down on it. The 9th February incident where some objectionable slogans were raised by some fringe student group gave the sought-after pretext to BJP to bare its fascist fangs.

The way JNU students' union president was summarily arrested, the extraordinary haste in filing a case against him on the charge of sedition, the anti-national tag thrust upon the students and the critics, the ugly behaviour of some BJP lawyers who went to the extreme of beating the journalists outside the Patiala court and the student leader inside the court, all these point to a definite conspiracy hatched by the top echelons of RSS and BJP.

It is heartening and encouraging to see that the intelligentsia of the country and a broad section of the right thinking and democratic minded people of our country are raising their voices against the nefarious design of the Sangh Parivar and standing firmly by the side of the students. The fascist nature of the conspiracy and BJP's hate campaign against all the left student organizations calls for an united movement by the six left party combine.

It is to be noted that the record of Congress clearly shows that it is neither a secular nor a democratic party, and has now jumped into the fray only to gain some electoral mileage. Its involvement in the movement would naturally harm the cause. We firmly hold that this movement is to be organized and led by the six left parties only.

DPRK or North Korea

Exposes unrelenting imperialist design against a socialist country

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea) has claimed that it successfully tested a "hydrogen bomb" on 5 January 2016. In a month's time, on 6 February 2016 (morning 7 February 2016 in North Korea), it launched an earth observation satellite aboard a rocket to orbit. Both these incidents sparked off a furore in the capitalist world, particularly in the rulers of its chieftain, the USA and its surrogate ally and North Korea's immediate neighbour South Korea. With a mouthful campaign, they tried to make the world believe that these acts of North Korea were endangering security of the world, condemning these as attempts to further develop prohibited capabilities such as that of long-range missile capability. (see Space.com)

With powerful media machinery at hand the capitalist-imperialist world could whip up this virulent campaign naturally to draw attention of at least a section of unattached people, even to confuse them. North Korea or DPRK, being among the few standing steadfast for socialism and facing this hostility of the war-monger imperialists and their appendages, it rests with the handful, yet firm flag-bearers of revolutionary ideology to speak out a few truths.

Who endangers security?

First what is the whole furore about? Since its first nuclear test in October 2006 and after its relations soured afresh with the US and South Korea, North Korea came out with the second and third in 2009 and 2013, respectively; the present one is the fourth underground nuclear test conducted by that country. Whereas, the US conducted around 1,054 nuclear tests by official count, including 216 atmospheric, underwater, and space tests. But this official count does not include instances like 'the most-recent explosion' at the Nevada Test Site conducted on 7 December, 2012. In fact the USA continue to conduct subcritical nuclear tests and to test nuclear-capable missiles. It has not signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and is spending \$1 trillion on modernising its nuclear arsenal. If nuclear tests endanger the world security, who is endangering it more? North Korea or the USA? Besides there are

other countries that also have nuclear weapons and are busy upgrading their arsenals—among them are India, Pakistan and Israel. The nine nuclear-armed states and the 29 countries under the US nuclear umbrella continue to believe that nuclear weapons are essential for their security. And so, a statement from the North Korean government after the latest nuclear test said: "We have banned biological and chemical weapons, landmines and cluster munitions because of their inhumane impacts, but the biggest bomb of them all is yet not prohibited."

Who is the *rogue*

Second, after the debacle of the socialist camp, the USA became the self-appointed guardian of the world and came out in a witch-hunt for *rogue* states, meaning states not falling in line with them or bowing to their dictates. They also cry hoarse that nuclear arsenal at the hands of *rogue* states is a threat for the world. Now what could be a *rogue* state? Obviously, the one which carries out aggression upon others, uses military power, violates all norms of civility and legality. Since its formation North Korea had to face bitter hostilities from the USA and South Korea. Leave aside the USA, has North Korea ever attacked its southern counterpart? On the contrary, not to speak of the unending long list of aggression, conspiracy, monitoring military coups and such others during the cold war period after the second world war, what is the record the USA have presented to this new world without socialist camp? How many countries have they devastated brutally without being attacked for once by any one? And barring Cuba, all the major victims of its belligerent war-monger policies are located thousands of kilometers away from and are much weaker to the USA militarily and economically? Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and many more: if we don't want to put the list in full. Which state and its brigand of rulers have used atom bombs for the first and so far the only time in the world to cause death, maiming and disability of millions of innocent people? Is it North Korea or isn't it the USA? Then which of the two, the USA or North Korea, has acted like a *rogue* state?

How war threat from imperialists may be faced

Third, reportedly a university student of North Korea, Ri Sol Yong, 22, said, "If we didn't have powerful nuclear weapons, we would already have been turned into the slaves of the US" Was he wrong? But before coming to this question, we may digress to a brief history of the country. It is known to the world, yet often forgotten or painted contrarily by the imperialists and their lackeys.

The US hostility towards North Korea has continued for more than six decades. As far back as in 1945 when Japanese imperialism was crumbling towards the end of world war II, the USA rushed troops to Korea then under the Japanese imperialists and occupied the south, with ambitions to soon take over the north. However, in the north, people had been carrying on guerrilla warfare in their mountainous homeland successfully for liberation from the Japanese imperialism, led by Kim Il Sung, and supported and aided by the then Soviet socialist leadership under Stalin. Comrade Kim Il Sung was what Comrade Ho Chi Minh had been to Vietnam. Kim's revolutionary guerrilla army helped the workers and farmers set up their own councils, which took the power away from the Japanese and their collaborators among the bourgeoisie and the landlords. It was a people's revolution in the north and the USA could not make any inroad there. With the Japanese imperialists removed, both the US and Soviet troops were supposed to withdraw within three years so Korea could be reunified. The Soviet Union withdrew its troops from the north in 1948, as scheduled. But the US did not do it ever. Not only was that an utter betrayal, but they sabotaged the reunification of Korea and set up a stooge government of Syngman Rhee in newly created South Korea. Only after that betrayal by the USA the revolutionary leadership in the north declared the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), known as North Korea. Two years later (1950), the US invaded the DPRK in an all-out war, with hundreds of thousand strong ground troop and aerial bombing of the north. Millions of Koreans died. The war never officially ended; it was halted on the basis of a ceasefire. But it was a

war, in which for the first and the last time in the US history, all they got was a stalemate. It was a war in which a US Army General — Gen. William Dean was captured and the Koreans forced the US troops to make their longest strategic withdrawal in history — some 78 miles, from deep inside the north to below the military demarcation line, "not retreating — we are just advancing in a different direction" as they had to justify it. Ever since, the US has kept up to 40,000 troops just below the line that divides north from south, refused to sign a peace treaty and tried in every way to inflict damage and pain on the DPRK. The USA is now putting pressure on South Korea to install Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAD) Batteries on the peninsula. It conducts military exercise, jointly with South Korea, the latest of which (OPLAN 5015 in 2015) includes plans of "pre-emptive strikes" against military targets in the North and "decapitation strikes" against the Pyongyang leadership. The US President Obama had ordered the U.S. military to "come up with a range of offensive options that could be directed at North Korea". One of the options mentioned was "a demonstration strike" in cyberspace targeting North Korean military facilities, computer network servers and communications networks. All these are nowhere near defensive security measures; they are bluntly aggressive and provocative. In face of such brazen war preparations of the USA against the DPRK and with the "axis of evil" speech of Bush in 2002 still standing, announcing the "right" of the United States to unilaterally and preemptively attack Iraq, Iran and the DPRK — at any time, for any reason, the DPRK announced in last March 2015 its right to launch a preemptive strike against the United States. Now if the DPRK decides to show that it not only has the right, but also the ability to defend itself from these open war preparations, will the world do justice to the Korean student Ri Sol Yong, if they call him wrong? Does not the world have the instances of Iraq and Libya, who wanted to convince the USA and its imperialist allies that they had no "weapons of mass destruction", subsequently

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North Korea

Socialist DPRK withstood imperialist belligerence, natural disasters and setback in international communist movement

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substantiated, but by that time and in return, were invaded, viciously attacked with air strikes, their country ruined and their governments destroyed.

Violation of human rights and sufferings of people: allegations versus reality

One of the favourite tunes of the US imperialism to harp upon as a prelude to any intervention-cum-aggression is the alleged violation of human rights in the target country and abject sufferings of its people. They did it with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi (or for that matter Bashar al-Assad of Syria) for decades. The campaign, that can at best be called slanderous, does not lack this element also against North Korea. A recent UN report said religious minorities and political dissidents suffer the most, with up to 120,000 living in town-sized prison camps. In line the US added that the report provides “compelling evidence of widespread, systematic, and grave human rights violations,” which reflect “the international community’s consensus view” that the human rights situation in the North is among the world’s worst. Naturally the South Korean government “welcomed” the report. And North Korea protested it.

Without going into challenging the veracity of these allegations, it may be asked what kind of human rights hundreds of thousands of US military personnel upheld with the terrible war crimes they committed against the people of Korea in their war against the DPRK? What kind of human rights the USA uphold in their own land with the highest incarceration rate in the world with 2 million people in prisons and another 5 million on probation on parole? Has the UN submitted any report on these? In South Korea, another country particularly critical of North Korea, the military dictator Park Chung-hee, “ruled the country with an iron fist from 1961 to 1979.” (Vide New York Times) and became so hated that he was assassinated. During the tenure of another succeeding general, Chun Doo-hwan, in 1980 there was a massacre of some 2,000 people, most of them students in the southern city of Gwangju after an uprising for democracy. The US complicity in militarily quashing the

rebellion was also revealed. That was, however, quite natural as ever since the Korean War, the US has supreme authority over the armed forces of South Korea. But not only in the past, even today, investigation like those by the UN are based largely on testimony in South Korea, where it’s a crime, under the National Security Act, to say anything good about the north and people are arrested for resending Twitter posts from the DPRK. (NY Times, Dec. 19). It deported a Korean-American woman, Shin Eun-mi, because she dared to say something nice in public about the north.

The media under imperialist control decry the socialist government in DPRK for any hardships faced by its people. They don’t deem it necessary to mention that the socialist DPRK guarantees all its people an education (literacy 99 percent as per the CIA World Factbook), health care and housing (universal housing a priority), as well as a job.

Socialist economy dares natural disasters and imperialist sanctions, awaits world people’s support

Before Korea was divided, much of the food consumed in the mountainous north came from the south. But the US has created a dead zone of razor wire and land mines between the two halves of Korea, preventing the exchange of goods. It has imposed sanctions on Korea and forced other countries to obey a host of UN sanctions that the US pushed through the Security Council. Even as late as in April 2011 the US President Obama approved a new executive order that declares “the importation into the United States, directly or indirectly, of any goods, services, or technology from North Korea is prohibited.”

However, certain facts need to be revealed. Today North Korea is marked as one of the world’s poorest and least developed countries when measured solely by GDP. But it had a similar GDP per capita to its neighbour South Korea until the mid-1970s. Over the three years succeeding the US war of Korea, in the Three-Year Plan of 1954-1956, the industrial growth rate of North Korea was at least 30 percent, even according to hostile US sources. Between 1953 and

1956, the DPRK tripled its gross domestic product. Huge steel plants were erected. Electric power plants were also constructed. The country became industrialized at a pace that astounded economists all over the world. The socialization process was completed by 1958 in all sectors of the economy and until the 1960s, North Korea’s economy grew much faster than South Korea’s. But the mounting hostility from the USA and the military rulers of South Korea, widening Sino-Soviet split and concomitant confusion in international communist movement told upon North Korea. Finally and later, counter revolution in the former USSR and People’s Republic of China affected economic assistance from the two countries thereby slowing down economic growth of North Korea. Its industrial output began to decline in 1990s. Deprived of industrial inputs, including fertilizers, pesticides, and electricity for irrigation, agricultural output also started to decrease. Adding fuel to the fire, a series of worst natural disasters including three flood and drought years between 1994 and 1996 only served to complete the collapse of the agriculture sector.

Imperialist controlled media highlight these, but do not mention the next part. They suppress the undeniable fact that the planned socialist economy of North Korea is bringing the country back to the wheels. Since 1998 there has been a gradual recovery in agriculture production, which by 2013 has brought North Korea back close to self-sufficiency in staple foods. In 2014 North Korea had an exceptionally good harvest, almost sufficient to feed the entire population. Besides, through modernization and “scientification” meaning adoption of up-to-date production and management techniques, North Korea increased mechanization and automation in all sectors of the economy. From 1998 to 2003, the government implemented a plan for scientific and technical development, which focused on the nation’s IT and electronic industry. And what they have achieved by this time? A successful H-bomb test is a big new step for the North. Fusion is the main principle behind the hydrogen bomb, which can be hundreds of times more powerful than atomic bombs that use fission. But here, the

story has still other facets. North Korea had agreed to halt its nuclear programme in exchange for guarantees that the economic sanctions it was subjected to would be lifted and a peace treaty would be signed, way back in the 90s. In 1994, it signed “a denuclearisation” agreement with the U.S. For many years, as relations with the South improved, North Korea halted its nuclear programme. But with renewed hostility from the US and South Korea, it resumed its effort, planned, precise and fast. Former US President Jimmy Carter could not but write: “Pyongyang has sent a consistent message during direct talks with the United States that it is ready to conclude an agreement to end its nuclear programmes, put them all under IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspection and conclude a permanent peace treaty to replace the ‘temporary’ ceasefire of 1953. We should consider responding to this offer. The unfortunate alternative is for the North Koreans to take whatever actions they consider necessary to defend themselves from what they claim to fear most: a military attack supported by the United States, along with efforts to change the political regime”. And this is the reality behind the nuclear tests. Added to this, the recent launch of a satellite into orbit is only another of the latest of many achievements of the DPRK.

North Korea has achieved these goals surviving more than six decades of unrelenting imperialist hostility. And that too, during a time in world history when the imperialists succeeded in pushing back so many gains made by the workers and oppressed. That this small country has progressed so far all on its own despite all the threats and sanctions imposed on it, all the efforts to cut it off from the rest of the world, all the attempts to starve its economy, is a testimony to the ingenuity, creativity and unity of its people, as well as the strength and efficiency of their socialist socio-economic-political system. What they may expect is the rational, truthful and truth-seeking support from the right-thinking freedom-loving people of the rest of the world without being misguided by the slanderous vilification campaign of the imperialists, particularly their chieftain, the damned liar, US imperialists.

Strange proposal from Union Minister to lift ban on pre-natal test when female foeticide is rampant

That the Indian society is far from ideal in so far as delegating the woman the honour and rights she deserves is a fact glaring enough. Dowry-deaths, bride-burning and all sorts of crime against women are rampant to say the least. The mind-set which prevails is basically biased in favour of the boy child who is looked upon as the future bread-winner and inheritor whereas the girl child who, more often than not needs exorbitant dowry to be paid on marriage, is considered rather a liability.

This is why, though we are well into the twenty first century, yet among a host of serious problems we have to address, that of female foeticide is a really formidable one. Indeed this problem has assumed such a dimension as to warrant a serious probe and redress. Female foeticide seems to be one of the contributory factors leading to a skewed male-female ratio (780 girls to 1000 boys in a number of places) in many of the states in the country and this constitutes an issue grave enough to be attended to.

Knowing the gender of the unborn child has so long been barred by the law of the land. Yet the practice of unlawfully knowing the gender of foetus through corrupt route followed by foeticide in case of a girl child to be born shows no signs of abating. Now, Smt. Maneka Gandhi Union Minister for Women and Child Development has proposed that the ban be lifted as, according to her, revealing a child's gender during routine sonography could end the scourge of female foeticide. She said this in a recent Jaipur conference while talking of tracking the mother till child birth.

While despite the law to deter sex-determination of the foetus as a way to curb it the foul practice goes on how then can the Minister be so sure of success of the ban? The situation will in all possibility simply worsen!

Joint movement against fascistic policy of state government in MP

Gwalior District Administration with approval of the Madhya Pradesh State BJP Government permanently imposed Articles 144 and 133 in Gwalior District to thwart people's movements. Against this fascistic and autocratic policy of the State Government, left and democratic parties like SUCI(C), CPI(M), CPI,

To end, we recapitulate that the sooner it is accepted that female foeticide, which is a palpable crime and nothing less than a stigma in a civilized society, can be tackled only when the target is set for changing the very discriminative and prejudiced outlook prevailing in our society.

It is however too much to expect that the present ruling dispensation, i.e. the BJP or other Sangh Parivar outfits would acknowledge this urgent need to change the patriarchal mentality which not only delegates a secondary status to the girl child but is even threatening her right to life! On the contrary it is our experience in recent years, how insensitive, biased and even voyeuristic had leaders of BJP and Sangh Parivar been; say when they were either observing that Nirbhaya - the brutal rape-victim of Delhi should not have been out of doors so late in the evening or that she should have desisted from putting up a resistance! Comments made by Sadhvi Ritambhara or by Mohan Bhagat to name a few, showed no less than abject retrogression and bias as they spoke on various occasions proving them to be grossly detrimental to instead of upholding the cause of women.

So, however vociferous the BJP leaders may be in flaunting the Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao (Save the girl child and Educate the girl child) scheme propounded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, theirs are nothing but hollow phrases and they can never gauge the pathos involved in losing a large number of those innocent lives who are deprived of the right to see the light of day because of the mind-set which is, to say the least, to be fought tooth and nail if the interest of the girl child is to be protected. Along with appropriate laws to stop foeticide — laws that are really enforced — a social movement to uproot the prejudices and patriarchal mentality is the need of the hour.

SUCI(C) flays Railway Budget as a heinous move to hide the hideous underbelly of corruption-stricken deteriorating train service under a pack of customary promises

Comrade Provas Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 26-02-2016:

The Railway Budget presented by the Union BJP Railway Minister has surreptitiously bypassed reference to all the serious problems and plights that common passengers have been experiencing. He has talked of curtailing expenditure without mentioning the mountain-high corruption, unthinkable wastage and rampant pilferage which are causing rise in expenses. He has estimated an earning of Rs 1.85 lakh crores without spelling out the sources. There is no scope for deriving comfort from non-announcement of any hike in passenger fare or freight charges as it has now become a practice to raise tariff at any point of time out of budget and bypassing parliament through issue of administrative fiat. Besides straightaway increase in prices, there is a backdoor recovery of additional fare in the form of superfast surcharge, raising tatkal quota, introducing variable cost of tickets based on demand, doubling rate of platform ticket or minimum fare in passenger trains etc. The Railway Minister has not said that such would not be done in the coming year as well. While punctuality is a word that has vanished from the logbook of railways, the minister cunningly dodged that aspect by talking of ensuring 95% running on time by 2020. There is no concrete blueprint of ensuring safety of passengers against theft and burglary as also of women passengers against rising incidents of molestation. Similarly, the question of proper maintenance of tracks and bridges to avert accidents has not been addressed to with due importance. Only there have been some casual passing remarks on the security question. Likewise, experience of the passengers is that more the government talks of cleanliness more dirty and filthy are the rakes and the stations no matter howsoever bragging is there about introducing bio-disposal mechanisms, sweeper on call and so forth. This hideous underbelly of corruption-stricken fast deteriorating train service has been sought to be suppressed under the pack of some customary promises and hi-tech dream-vending which every passenger knows from experience are only cosmetic in nature and meant to be showcased only. The development schemes that the government announces with much fanfare are mostly found to be either abandoned or kept in suspended animation. Covert indication of phased privatization of railways is also evident in the announcement of adoption of the PPP route as well as the launch of marquee service *Tejas* out of subsidy with the help of special service provider. Such widespread privatization would also drastically curtail the employment potential of the Railways.

We strongly deplore such a highly deceptive budget and call upon people at large to rise in concerted protest against such repeated bouts of trickeries to hoodwink them.

AIUTUC condemns Union Budget for undermining dignity of the workers

In a statement issued on Union budget on 29-02-2016, Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, AIUTUC, expressed concern to find that the Finance minister did not respond to the concerns and demands jointly voiced by all the Central Trade Unions including AIUTUC in his pre-budget consultation meeting held on 4th January, 2016. There is no concrete measure for employment generation, containing price-rise, recovery of

lakhs of crores of NPA and Black Money in the Budget. Indirect Tax has been increased alarmingly, he added. Area for private sector operation and PPP has been enlarged and social security for unorganized sector workers has remained unaddressed. He demanded withdrawal of the retrograde proposal and acceptance of legitimate demands of the entire trade union movement of the country

JNU incident

No sane person supports any anti-national and separatist-secessionist slogan or viewpoint

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Nehru University campus and unlawfully arrest a student leader, Mr Kanhaiya Kumar, on charges of inciting violence — without any proof whatever of such wrongdoing on his part.” The statement also flayed the Modi government policies and questioned the ground of arrest for Kumar.

Muzzling dissent—militates against democracy

In fact, questions have also been raised whether Section 124-A of the IPC, an abhorrent relic of our colonial past which negates the right to dissent and hence opposed to the idea of a legitimate, liberal democratic state, should be invoked even if one, for argument’s sake, raises some allegedly ‘anti-national’ slogan. Laying down the basic principle of how free speech should work, John Stuart Mill, one of the founding fathers of bourgeois parliamentary democracy, said in his famous philosophical work *On Liberty*: “If the arguments of the present chapter are of any validity, there ought to exist the fullest liberty of professing and discussing, as a matter of ethical conviction, any doctrine, however immoral it may be considered. If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind.” But the present rulers seem to be in no mood to honour this fundamental guiding prescript of democracy. The brazenly undemocratic act of the government had been so glaring that even three ABVP leaders and office-bearers of JNU union had announced their resignation from ABVP citing “difference of opinion” on the “current JNU incident” among other issues. Criticizing the Centre for “unleashing oppression on the student community”, they said they cannot be the “mouthpiece of such a government”.

Hue of ‘national jingoism’

It goes without saying that no sane person can support any anti-national and separatist-secessionist slogan or viewpoint. Any attempt to disintegrate the country is condemnable as it only disrupts unity and solidarity of the oppressed people and thereby enfeebles the desired conscious people’s movement against ruling capitalism. Our Party as genuine communist

party on the soil is staunchly opposed to any divisive-separatist-secessionist force, trend and tendency. But at the same time, we are equally opposed to any move of the power that be to raise hysteria centered on pseudo-nationalism or jingoism that is purported to surreptitiously exploit people’s patriotic feelings, obscure their mind, shift their attention from the real issues and rally them blindfolded behind the forces of reaction.

BJP leaders are claiming that as they are true champions of nationalism, they are facing challenge from anti-national *jihadis*. But if one turns the pages of history, it would be evident that RSS-BJP never stood for Indian nationalism. In fact, they opposed India’s people’s glorious struggle for winning independence from British imperialist rule and even are on record to indicate sharing common interest with British imperialist rulers. When hundreds of patriotic youths, students and freedom fighters were courting arrest, sacrificing their lives by embracing gallows, V D Savarkar, the then leader of Hindu Mahasabha, proponent of ‘Hindu Rashtra’ and one of the founding fathers of RSS, got himself released from jail by signing a bond before Linlithgow, the then British viceroy, in 1939 and offered to collaborate with the British imperial rulers. Linlithgow responded warmly by writing: “Our interests were now the same and we must work together. Even though now the most moderate of men, he had himself been in the past the adherent of a revolutionary party ... But now that our interests were so closely bound together the essential thing was for Hinduism and Great Britain to be friends, and the old antagonism was no longer necessary.”(A.G. Noorani’s article in *Hindustan Times*, March 3, 2003) Making their standpoint and ideology clearer, M S Golwalkar, another leading ideologue of RSS, wrote: “The theories of territorial nationalism and of common danger, which formed the basis for our concept of nation, had deprived us of the positive and inspiring content of our real Hindu Nationhood and made many of the ‘freedom movements’ virtually anti-British movements. Anti-Britishism was equated with patriotism and nationalism. This reactionary view has had disastrous effects upon the entire course of the freedom struggle, its leaders and the common people. (*We or Our Nationhood*) There are many other instances of

how RSS-Hindu Mahasabha had betrayed the cause of national independence struggle and made anti-Muslim hatred and bias as the sole plank of their politics. What is then the propriety of their descendants pursuing the same doctrine of Hindutva to call themselves defenders of nationalism and take the field to teach patriotism to the countrymen?

Without conducting any impartial enquiry as to who raised anti-national slogans and whether outsiders entered the premises to precipitate trouble and throwing all democratic practices to the wind, the RSS-BJP-ABVP have been shouting that ‘JNU students are anti-national’, ‘shutdown JNU’, ‘tax payers’ money used for treason’ etc. Rebutting the very argument that as universities are funded by tax payers’ money, the sole duty of a student is to concentrate fully on study and not be involved in any socio-political movements, we quote Vivekananda whom the RSS-BJP pretend to follow. Vivekananda said: “I call him a traitor who, having been educated, nursed in luxury by the heart’s blood of the downtrodden millions of toiling poor, never even takes a thought for them.” Thus Vivekananda made a clear distinction between a traitor and a patriot. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose who, of late, has found fancy with the BJP leaders centering on much-hyped issue of release of secret files on him, said: “If discussions about the current state of affairs be branded as politics, if attempts to improve the lot of motherland be branded as politics, then neither for students nor for teachers is there any alternative but to join politics.”

Objective behind

When we talk of the country, of the nation, we mean the vast masses of the common toiling people. So the interest of the country or for that matter, to put the thing in perspective, true national feeling lies in serving the interest of the common citizens. Can, therefore, those who in their narrow sectarian political interest and lure for pelf and power are nakedly subserving the vested class interest of the ruling monopolists in capitalist India, allowing the country to turn into a fiefdom of unbridled loot and plunder of domestic and foreign monopolists, squarely passing on the burden of acute unsolvable market-crisis of capitalism on the destitute

pauperized masses in the name of economic reform and fiscal prudence, systematically curtailing all hard-earned democratic rights of the people, polluting the socio-cultural fabric by either encouraging rotten vulgar imperialist thoughts to penetrate deep or pushing the people into mystic alley of obscurantism, religious fanaticism and blindness and above all, making a mockery of democracy in every sphere of life, be called nationalists? What the RSS-BJP-ABVP backed by the ruling class are trying to rouse is not nationalism-patriotism but national jingoism which reactionary fascists use as typical ploy for exploiting people’s love for their motherland and then consolidate and concentrate all power in the hands of the autocratic state in the name of protecting country’s territorial integrity and keep foreign invasion at bay. Once this concentration of power is firmed up, the tooth and claw of fascism is laid bare and steamroller of yet more ruthless oppression run with alacrity. This is exactly the long-term goal of the ruling monopolists which they want to have materialized through its trusted representatives like BJP or Congress.

What prompts BJP to raise the bogey of pseudo-nationalism now?

That long term plan apart, there is also an immediate political need of BJP to raise the bogey of pseudo-nationalism or jingoism. BJP came to power by promising to bring “*achhe din*” (good days). The “*achhe din*” package comprised lowering of price line, providing jobs to crores of unemployed, eradicating corruption, unearthing of black money and distributing Rs 15 lakhs to each countryman out of that, safeguarding the dignity of women, providing remunerative price to the peasants, opening of closed factories and unleashing full-fledged industrialization etc. But just within one year and a half, this has proved to be a big hoax. The economy is in grip of recession, inflation particularly food inflation is spiralling, manufacturing industry is in red, unemployment is soaring, closure and lock-out are rising, corruption remains the mainstay of all spheres of government-administration, black-marketeering, hoarding and price manipulating are merrily controlling the retail market, no benefit of plummeting of

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JNU incident**Presenting an alternative leftist line of struggle as against reactionary bourgeois politics –need of the hour***Contd. from page 6*

international crude price has been passed on to the people, black money is reigning as usual, peasant's suicide is showing no sign of abatement, crime on women has assumed alarming proportion, beggary is escalating, hunger and starvation death are reaching dizzy height with every passing day. Vending dream of digital India to the urban youth is also proving to be abortive. With plight, penury and misery of the people mounting, no difference is found between Congress rule and BJP rule. The rout BJP faced in the Delhi and Bihar assembly elections bear testimony of people's disgust with it. The mainstream bourgeois media which once projected Modi, hitherto abhorred as the architect of worst Gujarat pogrom, as 'development personified' and saviour of the country, also cannot but write today about his utter failure in every respect and playing fraud with people. The media find their unstinted backing of Modi in the last parliament proving a boomerang.

The real design

So, the RSS-BJP leadership has been working out different strategies to deflect people's attention. First they tried to exacerbate communal divide through instigating warped passion centering on religious conversion programmes like 'ghar wapsi', scarecrow of 'love jihad',

etc. In sequence were orchestrated broad daylight murder of an innocent Akhlaq in Dadri, UP, serial killing of rationalists and spread of religious-philosophical intolerance. Alongside was an attempt to create a stir over spruced up 'Indianness' by weaving stories about existence of all modernities in ancient India. But everything backfired and invited wrath of the right-thinking people including the intelligentsia. Even precipitation of 'Saffron versus Dalit binary' attempted through ABVP in Hyderabad proved counter-productive. So was needed to reframe RSS-BJP-ABVP's adoption of "nationalist" outrage to one in which the identities of "anti-nationalists" are insinuated, and not overtly specified and gradually create a simmering cauldron over pseudo-nationalism.

Hence the gun was pointed at JNU. If one carefully notices the sequence of events, it would come into view that RSS-BJP and their lackeys were prepared for such an incident to happen so that they could latch upon it to unleash its neatly woven "anti-national" propaganda, paint atheists-communists and innocent students refusing to endorse RSS-BJP's line as *jihadi* terrorists conspiring to destabilize the country and pose themselves, the protagonists of arch communal Hindutva and so called archaic Indianness, as true champions of nationalism and national integrity. Notable is the fact that while fanning up national jingoism, the RSS-BJP have deliberately chosen to direct

against the sword against leftism in particular as they fear true ideological challenge and unmasking of their fascist face from genuine leftism. It brings in memory how Hitler butchered communists by spreading the rumour of Reichstag burning.

Congress trying to derive advantage of the situation

In this connection, it is necessary to mention that finding BJP, its main rival in bourgeois power politics, in quandary, Congress, the other most trusted representative of the ruling bourgeoisie and rejected by the people just the other day for its naked pro-capitalist anti-people policies and neck-deep corruption, has jumped into the fray wearing a cloak of democracy. But everyone knows how 'bright' is the record of the Congress in protecting democracy if one starts with imposition of emergency, full scale rigging of West Bengal election of 1972, promulgation of one after another black acts like MISA, POTA, AFSPA etc., toppling of non-Congress governments of various states by invoking section 356, engineering defection of the legislators and winning trust votes through bribing and so forth. The pseudo-secular face of Congress had been exposed several times when it engineered communal riots in Bihar, Assam, Gujarat and other places on a number of occasions, peddled soft-Hindutva in the northern states for securing Hindu

votes, when late Indira Gandhi solicited RSS support for winning election in 1970s and late Rajiv Gandhi opened the lock of Babri Masjid for wooing Hindu voters and thereby set the country aflame. Sole aim of Congress is to return to power riding on people's accumulated grievance against BJP. So, if anyone harbours illusion about Congress being a secular democratic ally in fighting communalism-pseudo-nationalism-fascism of BJP, he is not only in fool's paradise but bringing on calamity by his own imprudence.

Only a genuine united militant left movement can be the deterrent

The menace of fascism-communalism-national jingoism of RSS-BJP can be fought only by the leftists if they come forward in right earnest and unleash a powerful united people's movement along correct leftist line based on true secular principles and higher culture. They need to organize the voice of protest raised throughout the country particularly the intelligentsia, translate that into a powerful militant mass movement and channelize that movement along right track to its logical culmination. So, presenting an alternative left line of struggle as against the reactionary politics of the bourgeois parties to divide people, blunt the thinking process and gradually strengthen the base of fascism keeping a faced of democracy, is the need of the hour.

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Massive Parliament March of Anganwadi workers and helpers

At the call of the Joint platform of Federations of Anganwadi workers affiliated to AIUTUC, AITUC, CITU, AICTTU, HMS and INTUC, a massive Parliament march involving nearly one lakh Anganwadi workers and helpers was held in Delhi on 15 February. From the March a delegation to the Finance Minister demanded increase in the budget allocation of 36 thousand crores for ICDS to ensure basic amenities, healthy food and better living conditions for ICDS beneficiaries, withdrawal of plans for privatisation plans for ICDS, raising Anganwadi workers and helpers to the grade three and four of Government employees, with a minimum monthly salary of 18,000, pension of Rs. 3000 and social security benefits. Among the leaders of different central trade unions and federations of Anganwari workers who addressed the huge gathering was Comrade Achintya Sinha, Secretariat Member, AIUTUC. Calling for a powerful united movement reaching out to the grass root level is the need of the hour and that with a correct outlook, discipline and higher values, he said that the Anganwadi workers and helpers should issue a warning to the government that if the demands were not met, there will be country-wide mighty movements. The meeting finally declared that powerful movements including demonstrations, dharnas etc. would be released in villages and cities to culminate in a protest week from March 1, 2016.



Pre-poll Situation in Kerala

The assembly elections are nearing in Kerala. All the parliamentary parties have started political exercises, with the aim of gearing up their respective organizations, projecting their leaders in the media, and making calculated damage of their opponent's prospects. All are done with narrow political interests and no perspective of people's genuine problems. A season of heightened political activity arrived in the state since the last two months with all the parties taking out 'yathras' or political tours. Conventionally they all begin in the northern district of Kasargod, and end up in the state capital, Trivandrum. They promise freedom from violence, corruption, liquor, suicides, communalism, anti-people policies and any other known vices. They pledge to ensure that Kerala will be a land of development, progress, tolerance, creativity, abundance, friendship, equality, harmony, and social justice. En route to Trivandrum they also engage in good measure of mudslinging on political opponents. Although the 'yathras' have pushed up the political temperature in the state, they have not touched the people's conscience. This is because the yathras have no real connection with people's problems.

UDF Rule: Corrupt and anti people

The natural resources of the state has been further thrown open to the monopoly houses making land, water, the sea, and the forests mere commodities for trade and plunder. Petrol and diesel prices have hovered far above the real cost price of these products in India. The state government has done their share of jacking up the taxes several times whenever price of crude oil has fallen in the international market. Natural rubber is an important commodity from Kerala's plantation sector. It has seen continuous price decline leading to severe crisis for the small scale rubber farmers and tapping workers. The problem can be solved by stopping the import of natural and synthetic rubber. But the central government is not interested in doing it. Neither is the state government providing any relief to the hard pressed people.

School education, which was the pride of the state and number one in the country, has fallen at such depths that, students are literally deprived of the basics. The Director of Public Instruction, the officer heading the school education had to issue an order instructing the government schools to teach reading

and writing, which should have been completed in standard 1, afresh in the higher classes. Such a situation was created because, successive governments since 1994 have implemented world bank funded education projects and followed the concomitant mischievous curriculum revisions. This has indirectly promoted the growth of private schools and commercial educational institutions. Now the global education meet at Kovalam, Trivandrum, on Jan 29,30 has inked contracts for making Kerala education a hunting ground of international monopoly houses.

Educational debt is another problem that has grown alarmingly in proportion to the commercialization. Rising cost of education, poorly-paid, difficult-to-get jobs and educational loans which are easy to avail, but hard to repay have together created the problem of educational debt draft for many middle class and lower middle class families.

Once Kerala was the model for all other states in the area of public health system. But now all the hospitals including Govt. medical college are under-staffed with a vintage staff pattern of 1970s, even this not being filled up by appointments. The essential medicines and other treatment accessories are not made available in Govt hospitals. When patients depend upon private hospitals for costly and protracted treatment they often have to make fund collection from relatives and public to meet expenses.

Electricity charges and water tariff have been raised several times in the last five years. Price rise of essential commodities has continued. It has derailed common man's life. While the farmer, deprived of fair price for his produce was pushed to suicide, prices of all essential goods have sky-rocketed. Govt. is not ready to procure agricultural produce at fair price and distribute it to common people at moderate rates. Instead we see monopoly houses are taking over retail trade. Public sector under takings like civil supplies corporation is too weak to influence the open market. Moreover, they are gripped by corruption. All sections of common people are struggling to make their day to day living. The miserable living condition of plantation labourers and fish processing workers came to light when these workers erupted into strikes, which jolted Kerala recently. Workers in many sectors are denied minimum wages stipulated by the govt. NREGS scheme is the Govt. model

of denying minimum wages to workers. Common people go to NREGS scheme because they have no other option.

These problems of people's life are not the concern of the government. They are blind to the people's plight. When the plantation labourers and fish processing workers rose up in movements, the government was found to be with the capitalists. The government does not think twice before accepting a demand of the capitalists or sanctioning a benefit for them. They instinctively know where they belong. And moreover the government representatives and ministers have proved repeatedly to be purchasable persons. Recently a series of scams and corruption, scandals have come to light. For example bar scam, solar scam, national games scam, Pattur land scam, Bolgatty lands scam, palm oil scam, etc. Those that have not come out in public knowledge will be many more.

So called left opposition

An out and out reactionary, anti people and corrupt rule of five years should have spurred broad united people's movements against the policies of the govt. But in actuality, the so called left opposition has failed in this due responsibility. Though the situation was most favourable for the growth of mass movements, the opposition could not come up as the force of movement. For one, it was never serious in involving the masses in whatever movements it conducted. Rather party or frontal cadres were deployed in some programmes, some of which were really big protests against the government, but with no real mass participation. Secondly, the really virulent protests centred around corruption and scandals, which had sensational importance, rather than any bearing on people's life problems. So these programmes failed to catch the imagination of the people, and they fizzled out fast. Neither did the official left leadership have a programme for systematic development of people's movements. Thirdly it is a fact that, the official left leadership has displayed autocratic style of functioning both within their organizations and outside. Many a time they have settled political and ideological scores with violence in the true style of rightist fascist forces. This has hindered the development of an atmosphere of open political discussions and debates. Fourthly, added to these is the fact that, the left, when they were in power had no difference policy wise from the Congress governments of the state.

Be it the issue of self financing educational institutions, or charge hikes, these anti people policies were implemented under different pretexts and explanations. So the people generally perceive that, leftism is a different style of sloganeering and flags, but policies are similar. These have caused a definite decline of the official left's support base and cadernship.

This disillusionment with both UDF and LDF has caused a section of people to search for a 3rd alternative. And the BJP could utilize it to some extent. Apart from its traditional base among the upper caste Hindus, the BJP has developed friendship with leaders of some community and caste organizations. This, along with the hyped-up image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was utilized by BJP in bettering its position in the panchayat elections. These will remain to be its stock in trade in the coming assembly election also.

The strengthening of BJP-RSS and the fascist tendencies of the central government has been received by the Kerala people in a special way. The democratic minded people, not to speak of the left oriented, very well sense the danger, and they strongly feel the urge to defeat BJP. This sentiment has gone in favour of the CPI (M). Thus the BJP's better performance in the panchayat election has paradoxically resulted in a more confident LDF.

While UDF, LDF and BJP are engaged in parliamentary politics disregarding peoples' burning issues, SUCI(C) is striving to organise democratic people's movements in the state. As CPI(M) which is the strongest leftist party in the state is not taking initiative to form a platform of left parties for building up united movements, SUCI(C) has formed a Left United Front (LUF) with 2 other left parties namely Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP) and Marxist Communist Party of India (United) - MCPI(U). Since its inception 2 years back, LUF have been organising people against neo liberal policies of the central and state governments, communalism, corruption and politics of violence.

A new trend also is growing in the state. That is movements of the common people for specific demands are developing under the leadership of non-party struggle committees of the people. Some of these movements have achieved glorious victory braving brutal police repression and backstabbing by the parliamentary parties. It is noteworthy that this type of movements alone is achieving

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Leading nationalized banks report huge loss because of hefty rise in bad loans

Four leading nationalized banks, Punjab National Bank (PNB), Allahabad Bank, Dena Bank and Central Bank of India reported dismal performances in the quarter ended December 2015, primarily because of a steep rise in provisioning for bad loans. While PNB reported a small net profit of Rs 51 crore, Allahabad Bank posted a net loss of Rs 486.14 crore, Dena Bank incurred a net of loss of Rs 662 crores and net loss of Central Bank of India has been Rs 836.62 crore. But this was only the tip of the iceberg. Latest to join the bandwagon of loss makers has been Bank of Baroda (BOB), considered next to State Bank of India in terms of assets. BOB posted its highest ever loss in any quarter at Rs 3,342 crore. Not lagging far behind are IDBI Bank, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce with reported loss figures in Q3 of 2015 at Rs 2183 crores, Rs 1505 crores, Rs 1425 crores and Rs 486 crores respectively.

The reason for these banks to be in the red is due to hefty rise in bad or non-recoverable loans euphemized as non-performing assets. BOB's provisioning for bad loans has registered a nearly five-time jump. Even State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest bank, reported a 62% drop in profits, again due to bad loans. India's 29 state-owned banks have written off a total of Rs 1.14 lakh crore between 2012-13 and 2014-15. A newspaper report about these write-offs only underlines the gravity of India's problem with bad loans and the consequent constriction of credit flow. To put things in perspective, such an amount would be enough to build more than 11,000 km of national expressways at an average cost of Rs 10 crore per km entirely funded

by the government. Likewise, with Rs 1.14 lakh crore, the government could have widened the scope of the rural job scheme by nearly four times. If the unpaid loans made by India's public-sector banks were recovered, they would be enough to pay for India's 2015 spending on defence, education, highways, and health, according to an IndiaSpend analysis. For every '100 of loan given by public sector banks, '17 worth of loans are in a dodgy territory.' 6.2 have become a bad loan, where the repayment of the loan by the borrower has stopped happening. ' 7.9 has been restructured i.e. the repayment of the loan has been placed in a moratorium for a few years. In some cases, the borrower does not have to pay the interest during the moratorium period. In some other cases, the tenure of the loan has been extended. Further, '3 out of every' 100 has been written off, with no hope of recovery of the loan. If one adds stressed loans (loans on which time-specific moratorium has been granted for repayment) with bad loans, the figure would be whopping Rs 8 lakh crore (\$117 billion).

A sizeable amount of loan default is wilful. Most of these loan defaulters are big industrial houses and corporate sectors. Mounting bad loans and high default rates by large companies have drawn criticism from experts and regulators, including Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Raghuram Rajan, who minced no words against those who "celebrate birthday bashes" despite owing a lot of money. He also admitted in an e-mail to RBI employees that "We do not punish the wrong-doer—unless he is small and weak,..." This belief feeds on itself. No one wants to go after the rich and well-connected wrong-doer, which means they get away with even

more. If we are to have strong sustainable growth, this culture of impunity should stop. In other words, no punitive action against the wilful defaulters who embezzle public money with the government-administration as passive bystanders or indulgent onlookers and flex muscle and move influential quarters to evade any penalty whatsoever! Moreover, the government which condones such a glaring financial crime by the corporate giants intervenes only to finance the bail out of the banks by drawing from public exchequer in the name of recapitalization. The government which has been slashing subsidies and allocations to key public welfare

sectors citing paucity of fund and arguing in favour of curtailing 'wasteful expenditures' announced last year that Indian Banks would need \$40 billion (2% of GDP) of fresh capital in the coming years. In fact, the Government of India has already granted Rs 70,000 crores for being pumped into the banks having maximum NPAs. This is the monetary and fiscal policy of anti-people pro-capitalist Indian government.

(Source : — FM's Budget speech 2015, Hindustan Times dated 08-02-16 and 13-02-16, Business Standard dated 10-02-16 and Times of India 14-02-16, scroll.in-17-02-16 and swarajyamag.com)

SUCI(C) Haryana on recent Jat agitation

Comrade Satyawan, Member, Central Committee, and Secretary Haryana State Committee, SUCI (C), issued a statement to the Press on 20 February 2016 on the question of Jat Reservation and ongoing agitation. In it, in view of the grave situation arising in the state centring round the issue of Jat Reservation, Comrade Satyawan appealed fervently to all concerned to maintain peace and fraternity among themselves. He expressed sadness and sympathy for those killed and injured. He also asked the state government to shed all inaction and take immediate correct, effective and strong steps to bring back normal situation; at the same time he asked the government to put restraint upon the unbridled pronouncements of BJP MLAs and others. He added that instead of calling representatives of all the

groups of Jat community together at a time in a dialogue to find out the solutions, the efforts of the government to selectively invite representatives of their own choice and ignore others had been dangerous. In the so-called all party meeting also the government did not show any seriousness and left scope for criticism. This inefficiency of the government is telling upon people's life and is affecting everybody.

Comrade Satyawan drew attention to the fact that today people of one and every community are being deprived of employment, education and other basic necessities of life. In such a situation it is needed to maintain amity, fraternity and unity of people. He appealed to all the political parties and conscientious people to come forward to bring the situation back to normal.

First Tirupati City Conference of AIDS O

First Tirupati City Conference of AIDS O was initiated with a well decorated huge rally with the portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the great leader of Indian freedom movement on 29 January, 2016. The open session was addressed by Comrade BS Amarnath, Tirupati City in-charge of SUCI (C). He called upon the students to come forward to take the social responsibility to overcome the present crisis. In the delegate session Comrade D Raghavendra, President, AP & Telangana, AIDS O, highlighted anti-student educational policies of the state and central

governments. He vehemently criticised the central government's political interference in university affairs of Hyderabad Central University resulting in the death of Rohith Vemula. He urged the students to take pledge to build up a powerful student movement against continuing onslaughts on student community. Two resolutions were adopted unanimously on 'Re-introduction of Pass-fail system' and filling up of all vacant teaching posts in schools and colleges under Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam purview. A 14 member strong city committee was elected.

Pre-poll Situation in Kerala

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victory in these days in the state. Moolampilly movement in Kochi against forceful eviction, Chengara movement demanding land for the downtrodden agricultural workers, NH movement in 8 districts against forceful eviction and land acquisition for road widening and Vilappilsala movement in Trivandrum against garbage dumping in the village Vilappilsala are a few examples of this type of movement. SUCI(C) is the only political party which plays a leading role in all these movements. Inspired from the above said

movements, education loan holders who are now in a debt trap are getting organised in Indian Nurses' Parents' Association (INPA) and hitherto unorganised teachers of unaided schools in the state are getting organised in Kerala Unaided School Teachers' Organisation (KUSTO). Leaders and cadres of SUCI(C) are actively engaged in giving shape to these organisations also. The thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat are thus reaching wider sections of the toiling people.

All India Anti-Imperialist Forum condemned JNU incident

All India Anti-imperialist Forum(AIAIF) in a statement dated 19-02-2016 condemned arrest of the JNU students and the government's attempt to foist fascism in the guise of curbing anti-national activity.

AIAIF demanded immediate release of JNUSU president and other students held on charges of sedition and stern punishment of the hooligans responsible for attacking students, journalists and teachers in the court premises.

AIAIF also called upon people to continue the movement in an organized and sustained manner to defeat the government's attempt to foist all-out fascism.

Glimpse of countrywide protest against JNU incident



(From top) Kolkata, Patna, Jamshedpur & Bhopal (joint leftist rallies);

SUCI(C) flays Union Budget as pro-rich pro-capitalist having addressed no people's issues

In an instant reaction on the Union Budget 2016, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), said in a statement issued 29-02-2016 that the burning problems the countrymen at large are reeling under are spiralling rise in the prices of essential commodities including basic food items, mounting unemployment, spurt in job loss, increasing poverty, dwindling income to a level far less adequate to eke out a bare living, growing number of starvation deaths, corruption at every level of administration, rampant black marketing and hoarding by unscrupulous traders to create artificial scarcity and jack up prices, continuous hike in power and transport tariffs, absence of rudimentary healthcare and scope for proper education, etc. But the Union Finance minister, instead of taking any realistic approach to at least give some relief to the suffering people has chosen to continue with same pro-rich pro-capitalist approach and measures camouflaged under a smokescreen of high-sounding phrases and jargons. What featured prominently in his presentation is a list of tax benefits to industrial houses, corporate sector and start-up ventures and amnesty to tax defaulters besides conventional statement of figures of allotments, slapping tax on PF and steep rise in indirect taxation which is borne by common people. Fighting shy of the question of providing jobs to the unemployed, the FM has advised the youth that instead of job seekers, they should be job creators by becoming entrepreneurs and setting up their own business. Without addressing the basic issues like lowering the prices of agricultural inputs, breaking the corrupt nexus that denies remunerative prices to the peasants, and taking any realistic step to augment the income of the poor peasants most of whom earn Rs 20 or less per day, the FM has only clamoured focus on agricultural development by talking of bettering irrigation, allowing 100% FDI in food processing industry and a few other measures which are slated to benefit the rural kulaks only. Doubling coal cess would exorbitantly increase electricity tariff the burden of which would slay the already slain people further. Instead of taking strong action against the price manipulators, he has talked of bringing depth to speculative trading in commodity derivatives which would widen scope for speculation on food articles and push up price further. This budget is poised to widen income disparity by way of giving hefty concession in direct taxes to the rich and big business and stimulating indirect taxation to squeeze the pauperizing populace more and more.

We call upon the common people to imbibe the truth that only pressure of powerful organized mass movement can make the government yield to some of their just demands for ameliorating the harrowing economic onslaught they are subjected to.



(From top) Delhi and Hyderabad (AIDSO & AIDYO)

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