

Proletarian Era

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Call of Historic 24th April 68th Anniversary of our Beloved Party Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)

All of us are aware that on coming 24th April, we shall observe 68th anniversary of our beloved party the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the great Marxist thinkers of the era.

Every year on this day we face a concrete socio-political situation ridden with many problems and crises in people's lives which calls upon us to strive utmost for expediting anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our country. With this object in view, 24th April calls upon us to engage more vigorously in our struggle to identify our self interest with the interest of class, revolution and the Party, so that we can successfully hold aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought and Proletarian Internationalism. Remember, this year we will begin year-long programme of celebrating 100th year of historic November Revolution.

It is now clear that with every passing day, the world imperialist-capitalist economy is sinking

more and more in grave crises. It is embroiled in continuous recession, which the bourgeois economists now euphemistically call 'slowing down of the economy'. More the multi-nationals, monopolists are confronted with the shrinkage of world market, more they become ruthless in exploitation. Thus, closure of factories, ever increasing retrenchment, unemployment, price rise, tax hike, spiraling inflation, etc. have become the order of the day in all capitalist-imperialist countries and are making people's life most unbearable. India, as a capitalist country with imperialist character is no exception. Here crores of people are retrenched and unemployed, millions are dying without food and medical care, thousands of peasants and workers are compelled to commit suicide, thousands and thousands of women are forced to sell themselves in the flesh market. Whichever bourgeois party comes to power in central and state governments making a mockery of the 'verdict of the people' in elections, it only works to satiate the greed of the capitalist masters only and creates more and more

horrifying condition for common people in the name of 'development'.

Imperialists in their frantic attempt to overcome market crisis, have been resorting to armed aggression, invasion in and occupation of other independent countries. Since 1990's, the Middle East and Arab world have become open hunting ground of the imperialists headed by US imperialists. Millions have been killed. Many cities, towns, crop fields, hospitals, educational institutions, historical monuments have been destroyed. Millions have been rendered homeless and turned refugees searching for a shelter to somehow survive with their families. The imperialist sharks have revived, engendered and fuelled, overtly and covertly, religious fundamentalism to divide people and blunt rational thinking. It made the task of the imperialist war merchants easy to incite religious-ethnic-racial strife, conflicts and wars and then use the erupting disturbance as a shield to plunder cheap raw materials of the war-torn countries. These

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Feast for the capitalists

— *Damocles' Sword* on the poor and have-nots

Around 95% of the Indians find life turning further nightmarish with every passing day with galloping rise in the prices of essential commodities including food articles and commensurate fall in their buying power due to fast dwindling income because of spurt in unemployment and job loss and necessities like rudimentary healthcare, basic education and minimal civic amenities eluding them. On the other hand, the billionaire monopolists, big industrial houses and corporate behemoths constituting the minuscule of the population have 95% of the country's wealth at their command. So, while the oppressed suffering millions expected some relief from the budget so as to eke out a bare living, the rich and affluent comprising monopolist barons, industrial houses, corporate sector and their servitors wanted budget proposals to enable their coffers not just swell but overflow. Let us proceed to see which of the two contradictory expectations the budget has fulfilled and how.

Claim and Reality

We do not intend to enter into any technicality or unnecessary jargons to make our point as we

know such has become exclusive preserve of the pro-establishment economists-columnists-commentators to suppress the reality and hoodwink people. We shall confine to some fundamental issues that matter when viewed from the perspective of the common people back-broken by the load of increasing financial assault of ruling capitalism. Bare facts viewed in perspective would be self-evident of the reality. The FM while presenting his budget last year said that he was "laying out the roadmap for accelerating growth, enhancing investment and passing on the benefit of the growth process to the common man, woman, youth and child; those, whose quality of life needs to be improved." But he has avoided making any clear statement if any of these objectives has been achieved and if not, why. First take the figure of growth which in bourgeois economics is expressed in terms of GDP growth. Last year, the FM said, "Based on the new series, estimated GDP growth for 2014-15 is 7.4%. Growth in 2015-16 is expected to be between 8 to 8.5%." He himself has stated in the budget speech this year that GDP growth has been 7.6% only. So where is the much-boasted

"acceleration" in growth? Next is about authenticity of the figure. We quote here two media reports. First one says: "It must be clarified that the claims made by the Government of seven per cent plus growth rate are fudged. Other indicators of growth such as generation of employment and increase in bank credit do not show parallel buoyancy. The growth rate is calculated by government officials on the basis of data collected from the field. Many assumptions are made in making the calculations. For example, it may be assumed that the industrial output in all districts of the country is equal to the output observed in Gurgaon. It is easy for the data to be manipulated. Instructions can be given to show increased production of agricultural crops." (*The Statesman* 04-01-16) The second one states that one "must have been shocked to learn at the end of January that our GDP growth for the fiscal year 2013-14 has been upgraded from 4.7 per cent to 6.9 per cent by our Central Statistical Office (CSO) overnight... CSO explained that this curious phenomenon happened for three reasons — the base year for price

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So-called 'Growth Story' is authored through crafty statistical manipulation

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comparison has been changed from 2004-05 to 2011-12; new e-data available from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs was used to better reflect the manufacturing activities; and 'GDP at market prices', as opposed to GDP at 'factor cost', has been used as the reference GDP of the country... The most surprising fact about the CSO data is that, despite very high revised rate of growth, our GDP in nominal terms remains the same. It is still stuck at roughly \$ 2.1 trillion." (*The Statesman* 02-04-15) No further elaboration is necessary about scripting of India's 'extraordinarily high' growth story.

Next, the FM had talked of 'enhanced investment' in his budget of 2015 but gave no figure of actual investment that took place last year i.e. 2015-16. On the contrary, the analyses published in the media say "private investment is constrained by insufficient demand. ...persisting poverty of much of India's population ... is unable to provide a mass market for industrial goods" (*Frontline* 22-01-16) "India's domestic private investors have got cold feet since 2011-12. The reasons for this include the sagging demand conditions at home and abroad, and the unutilized capacities they had built during the previous years...Consumer demand in India is not mass-based — with bulk of the expenditures coming from a small category of the rich — and therefore not beneficial for industries that want to gain from economies of scale." (*Hindu* 17-02-16) In other words, there has not been any rise in investment. Rather, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) dipped noticeably due to poor performance of manufacturing sector and a sharp decline in capital goods output. Economic Survey of 2015 admitted that projects worth 8.3 per cent of the GDP are investment in "suspended animation" meaning that roll out is held back because of absence of market. FM has not mentioned if any of these projects has seen light of the day. On the other hand, there is virtually no fresh credit off-take from the banks by the industry. Both the FM and the Prime minister have maintained eerie silence on the success of the 'Make in India' slogan which prompts one to believe in the rumour that it has been a flop. All these facts indicate that there has hardly been any productive investment.

Last year, the FM had claimed that "one of the major achievements of his government has been to conquer inflation" which, however, was at wide variance with the experience of the common people going to market to procure items of daily requirement. He claimed last year that CPI (consumer price index) inflation rate was 5.1%. This year, the FM has stated that "CPI (consumer price index) inflation has come down to 5.4%, providing big relief to the public." Only FM can say if 5.4% is less than 5.1%. Once again, if opinion of any common household which finds meeting both ends difficult because of unabated price spiral is taken into account the figure provided by the FM would prove to be a big joke. Just to give an illustration, retail prices of pulses jumped up 42.2% in October last and continue to soar. Vegetable prices have risen upto 67% over last five years. (*Z News*) Disparity between Wholesale Price (WSP) and Retail Prices for essential vegetables like brinjal, cabbage, cauliflower went up beyond 53.3 percent during November 2015 to January 2016 (*Business Standard*-22-02-16) This lends credence to the belief that considerable statistical manipulation and methodological incongruities are inherent in the officially published data which is nowhere near reality. Finally, the FM has not furnished any conclusive evidence whatsoever in showing that his promise of improving the quality of life of the common people has been honoured. We understand his predicament because even immensely fudged data cannot come to his rescue.

Agriculture

Now we proceed to see in brief if some of his tall claims and promises made in this process stand to reason. We start with agriculture. A section of the monopoly press is crying hoarse that the government has rightly shifted focus on improving agriculture. "We are grateful to our farmers for being the backbone of the country's food security... Government will, therefore, reorient its interventions in the farm and non-farm sectors to double the income of the farmers by 2022", asserted the FM in his speech. Let us first mention that peasants' suicide has increased by 26% during the BJP's rule of less than two years and a BJP MP has even gone to the extent of attributing farmers' suicides to a "fashion" and

"trend" to end lives. Anyway, let us see what proposals have been put forth to provide claimed 'income security' to the peasants apart from customary talk of bettering irrigation etc. Two major problems cause wretchedness and impoverishment of the peasants—increasing cost of agricultural inputs that make them entrapped in high debt and non-availability of remunerative price for the produces which compel them to distress sale. The FM has announced slash of fertilizer subsidy by Rs 2,438 crore meaning further rise in price. A media report revealed that only 35% of Rs 50, 300 crore of urea (major fertilizer) subsidy reaches the intended beneficiary as there is a thriving black market diverting it. The budget does not speak of any concrete measure to break the corrupt nexus responsible for this roaring black trade. Diesel is another essential ingredient for running shallow pumps by small farmers. Despite 367% fall in international crude price and Indian government till July last having saved close to Rs 1.5 lakh crore in 2015-16 on account of global oil glut (*The Economic Times* 22-08-15) as oil import bill came down from 9% of GDP in 2011-14 to less than 5% GDP in current fiscal year, the benefits have not been passed on to the common people including the peasants as the government went on appropriating the advantage by repeatedly increasing excise duty and allowing no perceptible impact on retail price of diesel. In its 2014 Lok Sabha election manifesto, BJP had promised to ensure an MSP (Minimum Support Price) of agricultural crops based on 50% above cost of production. The FM has opted to remain oblivious of that promise of theirs. His emphasis is on decentralized procurement and online procurement through FCI (Food Corporation of India). Rightly apprehended by many, this "decentralisation" would gradually phase out FCI from centralized procurement over large tracts of the country and either state governments or in keeping with the policy of increased privatization, private entities authorised by the state governments would take over. Moreover, withdrawal of FCI from bulk of the procurement would pave way for decisive entry of giant Agro-marketing MNCs like Wal-Mart, IEKF etc. in agriculture. In fact, procurement sector was opened to private players long back

by way of amending APMC Act. New dimensions are now added to that. Introduction of e-platform for marketing of agro-produces and allowing 100% FDI in food processing is sure to facilitate domination of monopoly capital in agri-business. Whatever little insulation from price-crashes is still available to the peasants will cease to be in force. In other words, the misery and penury of the peasants would only aggravate and god only knows by which magic "income of the farmers would be doubled in six years", as claimed by the FM. The boasting of enhancing agriculture credit from Rs 8.5 lakh crore to Rs 9 lakh crore does not make any sense either as most of the needy poor peasants are unable to have access to institutional credit because of hassles, bureaucratism and domination of middlemen. The upshot is that less than half of the agricultural credit appears to be actually reaching the farmers. In 2014, about 58 per cent of the agricultural credit was composed of loans above Rs 2 lakh; no average "farmer" actually takes a crop loan of more than Rs 2 lakh. (*Frontline*-01-04-16) So, only available source of loan to most of them is the unofficial moneylenders who charge hefty interest. Also notable is the fact that the government who has shown amnesty to corporate bigwigs by waiving loans to the tune of Rs 1.6 lakh crore has not shown any such gesture to the debt-trapped peasants. The much-clamoured 'Fasal Bima' and other insurance schemes also have found virtually no taker because of clumsy procedures and other complexities. In fine, all the announced agro-projects and allocation of Rs 35,984 crore for Agriculture and Farmers' welfare is only going to benefit rural kulaks (euphemized as farmers) and large MNCs at the cost of the poor marginal and landless peasants, sharecroppers and agricultural workers.

Social Sector

There is orchestrated hype on the part of the ruling quarters that this budget is pro-poor. We have seen above how pro-poor it is in so far as rural masses are concerned. Now we come to allocations under various social sectors or public welfare like health, food security, Integrated Child Development Services, mid-day meal project, MGNREGA and education. If one

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Announced agro-projects and allocation for ‘Agriculture and Farmers’ welfare would only benefit rural kulaks and large MNCs

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carefully goes through the budget provisions, it would be clear that allocations towards this sector have gone down as percentage to GDP.

We first look at healthcare. The precarious condition of the healthcare system in the country is marked by absence of adequate number of hospitals and proper infrastructure, paucity of qualified doctors in rural health centres and hospitals, skyrocketing of the cost of medicines, investigation methods and treatment. There is huge shortfall of SHC (Sub Health Centre), PHC (Primary Health Centre) and CHC (Community Health Centre). The condition of the existing PHCs and SHCs is horrible with most of them having no doctor or qualified nurse. As against WHO and UNO guidelines of allocating 5% of GDP towards health, it is barely 1.5% in India. The budget does not address any of these real issues. Instead, its emphasis is on providence of more and more insurance routes which, as would be vouched by one to all having practical experience, putting more to the private insurers whose sole objective is to buttress their pure commercial interest through appropriate fixation of the premium rate. Moreover, if the proposed ‘Rashtriya Swastha Suraksha Yojna’ with an insurance cover of Rs.1 lakh per household is presumed to be targeted at 8 crore BPL households (or about 40 crore people), a budget allocation of merely Rs.1,500 crore implies serious underfunding. The FM in his step towards “reinvigoration of the supply of generic drug at affordable price” has announced establishment of 3,000 Stores under Prime Minister’s *Jan Aushadhi Yojana*. In a country of 125 crores, is not the number even fit to be called miniscule? Secondly, this government immediately on assuming power phenomenally increased price of 108 drugs including life saving drugs as a result of which a cancer drug costing Rs 4,000 jumped to over Rs 1 lakh. It was discussed at that time that such was done to propitiate US medicine MNCs on the eve of the Prime Minister’s US visit. Just two months back, the government has withdrawn imposed import duty exemption on over 75 life-saving drugs making them highly expensive. What is the relief to people then? Increased privatization of healthcare

is also pushing the cost so much as to elude 90% of the populace lacking affordability to meet the same. Draft Health Policy document released in 2015 could not but admit that unable to meet the rising cost of healthcare, 6.30 crore of countrymen are dropping below poverty line per year. But that seems to be of no concern for the government. On the top of it, the FM has talked of starting a ‘National Dialysis Services Programme’ through PPP mode to provide dialysis services in all district hospitals. One can imagine how ‘affordable’ will be this service to be effectively run by private operators. Questions are raised if there is any specific private player or players who are on the radar for reaping commercial benefits out of this venture.

Coming to food, subsidy is reduced by Rs 4,584 crore. Total allocation in this budget for ICDS is Rs16,119.9 crore, half of Rs 28, 454 crore allocated in the 12th plan for the year 2016-17 and slashed by Rs 1500 crore compared to previous year despite the direction of the Supreme Court for its universalization, which needed at least an additional Rs 10,000 crore. Demand for increasing salary and other facilities to lakhs of Anganwadi employees, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Mid-day meal workers, NCLP staff and such others and to recognizing them as *bona fide* workers has been totally overlooked. In keeping with its past tradition, this BJP government has once again drastically reduced allocations towards midday meal scheme from Rs 13,152 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 9,700 crore. MGNREGA, as we know, is a scheme which despite pilferage of funds, nepotism and other corrupt practices provides at least some money in the hands of utterly destitute rural poor. One would recall that last year, allocation under this scheme was pegged down at Rs 34,699 crores. This time the allocation has been increased by about 10% to Rs 38, 500 crore (lower than Rs 40,100 crore allocated in 2010-11) though there is a built up arrear of at least Rs 6,000 crore because actual scale of operation of the scheme had been larger. Assuming same scale of operation and zero inflation, the allocation ought to have been Rs

46,000 crore. Moreover, it is alleged that despite promise of increasing the number of days of work from 100 to 200 under the scheme, the actual level of expenditure indicates an average of just 38 days of work in 2015-16 showing how serious the government is in providing “socio-economic security to every Indian, especially the farmers, the poor and the vulnerable.”

Finally, a word about providing LPG connection to 1.5 crore rural households below the poverty line. The FM says 15 subsidized cylinders would be available to them per year. Sounds incredible indeed! As per last Socio-economic Index, income of main earning member of 75% rural households is below Rs 5000 per month (could be even less than Rs 1000), 50% of the households are casual manual labour and 6.68 lakh families survive on begging. Would they be by any stretch of imagination afford even one subsidized gas cylinder? Only the government might be having the answer.

Education

Next is education. Who does not know how the education system of the country is suffering both from infrastructural constraints (proper school building with required sanitation facilities, adequate number of qualified permanent teachers etc.) as well as content (Syllabus, orientation of the courses etc.) provided? Secondly, there are two routes to education—one is the government and government-aided schools where quality of education with no detention upto middle level is abysmally poor and the other is via private schools where relatively better education is provided at astronomical cost. But for the FM, priority has been to set up a “regulatory architecture” for ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world-class teaching and research institutions, set up a Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) and to finance improvement in infrastructure in our top institutions and arranging e-access to degree certificates.

Not Job-seekers but Job-creators — a new deceptive exhortation

Emphasis is now on skill and entrepreneurship development as both the Prime Minister and the

Finance Minister in partial modification of erstwhile slogan of ‘Self-employment’ are now exhorting the students and youths “not to be job-seekers but job-creators.” What prompts them to do so? Because they know that the economy is in grip of recession due to shrinkage of the market caused by fast dwindling purchasing power of the pauperized masses. So, private investors are keeping away from establishing any new industry. Shutters are downed in one after another existing industries. The government is also shying away from its responsibility of taking initiative for setting up labour-incentive industries under its aegis. Most of the vacancies created from retirement are not filled up. A few industries mostly in service sector set up here and there are all highly sophisticated capital-intensive offering virtually no mentionable job opportunity. So, there is no job. The pre-electoral promise of the FM and the PM about providing crores of jobs has proved to be a damp squib. Hence, coining a fresh term for ‘self-employment’, the bogey raised long back by bourgeois quarters to suppress the truth of absence of employment opportunity in dying capitalism, the FM and the PM have now floated a ‘job creation’ theory as if 30-35 crores of unemployed youths would all become entrepreneurs through training, start their own ventures with seed capital provided by venture capital funding (the FM and PM prefer to rename that as start-up financing) and prosper by overcoming competition from monopoly giants. Absurdity par excellence! Who does not know that being unable to repay bank loan availed of to start business as part of “self-employment”, a good number of so called entrepreneurs are languishing in jail?

Black money

Everyone remembers that the BJP Prime Minister Modi in his run up to the Lok Sabha elections of 2014 assured of bringing back black money stashed abroad within 100 days of his assuming office and provide Rs 15 lakhs to every citizen. But once in the office, that promise has died its natural death. In his last budget speech in February 2015, the FM had said: “The problems of poverty and inequity cannot be

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Subsidies to corporates up — Subsidies to social sector drastically slashed

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eliminated unless generation of black money and its concealment is dealt with effectively and forcefully.” He then launched a scheme to get people to declare their overseas black money and pay a tax of 30 per cent and a penalty of 30 per cent. Only 638 tax-evaders declared assets and income amounting to Rs 4,147 crore. So, the scheme was expectedly a big flop. This time, the FM has said: “Our Government is fully committed to remove black money from the economy. Having given one opportunity for evaded income to be declared once, we would then like to focus all our resources for bringing people with black money to books.” And once again he has declared “a limited period Compliance Window for domestic tax payers” so that all the tax defaulters instead of being meted out stringent punishment for defrauding the government would simply get away by paying a stipulated amount without “facing any scrutiny or enquiry” and having “immunity from any prosecution.” Media analysts believe that this compliance window would not mop up more than meagre Rs 2,500 crore. (*The Times of India* 01-03-16) Even retro tax disputes of MNC giants like Vodafone (on whom the tax demand is of Rs 14,200 crore) would now be resolved by paying only tax arrears and no penalty or interest. Rightly observed one commentator: “Mr Finance Minister, you just made every honest tax payer feel like an idiot.” (Vivek Kaul in *Huffingtonpost.in* 29-02-16) The Gold Monetisation Scheme offered last year also proved a non-starter with hardly any mentionable number of subscribers. “Reintroduction of 1% excise duty on jewellery would bring back inspector raj and arm-twisting of illiterate artisans by government officials”, alleged the working President of Save Jewellery Workers’ Committee indicating generation of black money with another window opened for settling matters underhand through bribing. Just to reiterate, every year, as high as Rs 28.30 lakh crore of black money is estimated to be generated in India because of rampant corruption at all levels of business and administration. A sizeable portion of that including what is leaked from the coffers of the Government is stashed abroad. The balance that remains in the country finds way into the economic system

and pushes inflation up. In consequence, the economy is deflated just as a person is weakened if he sells his blood to the blood bank regularly. Surely, the culprits are not common pauperized people but handful of rich and affluent. The failure of the government to unearth unaccounted money notwithstanding all playing to the gallery only shows that the government is either not willing or does not dare to touch this tiny group of big economic offenders.

Military budget

As we know, militarization of economy is a common feature of all imperialist-capitalist economies today. Accordingly, most unproductive defence budget continues to go up in every budget of our country as well. Last year, it was Rs 2.46 lakh crore (\$36.1 billion). This year, overall defence budget is 2.58 lakh crore excluding Rs 82, 332 crore earmarked for defence pension. But as per media report, “over the years the CAG’s findings have exposed “military efficiency” as a myth. Unfortunately the mismanagement malaise has taken deep root and only when the CAG detects kickbacks that can be politically exploited, do its findings attract requisite attention. Yet huge, precious resources are being squandered because “defence” equates with a holy cow, above requisite scrutiny. Efficiency, time and cost overruns are all very serious matters that remain ignored.” (*The Statesman* Editorial 04-01-16) Still, there is more allocation towards defence.

Taxation

It was revealed that in between 2003-4 and 2013-14, as high as 36.5 lakh crores of rupees worth of tax concessions and waivers have been granted to the industrial houses and corporate sector. Every hour the government waives Rs 7 crores of corporate tax and every day exempts Rs 168 crores towards that. (Bengali Daily *Bartaman* dated 22 September, 2014) As per latest revelation, Indian government has lost over Rs 65,067 crore in corporate subsidies (waivers and exemptions) in 2014-15 and is expected to lose Rs 68,710 crore in 2015-16. (*The Logical Indian* -11-03-16). This is almost double of Rs 35,984 crore of much boasted agriculture and farmers’ welfare budget as well as of MNREGA budget of Rs 38,500 crore. It also

states that though the corporates were supposed to pay tax at statutory rate of 32.45% including surcharge, the effective tax paid by them was just 24.67%. Some of the biggest companies have been paying even less. It is reported in the media that “some prominent people” are evading taxes in the garb of agricultural income (which is not taxable). (*The Times of India* 16-03-16) Total of NPAs and stressed loans in the banks or the total default by corporates has touched Rs 8 lakh crore and the government intends to bail out the banks by pumping in \$ 40 billion or Rs 2,720 lakh crore (2 per cent of the GDP) from public exchequer by 2018 admitted the FM last year. Most of the loan defaulters are the corporates owned by giant monopolists. Top 62 monopoly houses are the biggest defaulters. Of late, embezzling bank loan of as high as Rs 9500 crore, industry baron Vijay Mallya has managed a safe passage abroad. It is learnt that despite being declared a defaulter of earlier loans, nationalized IDBI bank had granted him fresh loan of Rs 900 crores. Betraying extreme audacity, he has even shifted the blame on the banks saying that his failure to repay loan is nothing but a commercial problem.

Even then, all concessions and waivers granted this year in budget are to the business houses including 100% exemption to start-ups. Bank interest is also progressively reduced to facilitate further loan to the corporates at the cost of the common depositors. The government is on a spree of imposing cess so that burden of indirect taxation on common people increases by leaps and bounds. After 3% education cess, 6% highway cess on petrol-diesel prices, 0.5 *Swachh Bharat* cess introduced last year (which as per proposal can go upto 2%), the new levy this year would be in the form of 0.5% ‘Krishi Kalyan’ cess to be loaded on all taxable services. Doubling cess on coal from Rs 200 to Rs 400 per tonne would lead to exorbitant rise in electricity tariff. Across-the-board imposition of cesses and taxes would result in revenues amounting to Rs.20, 670 crore which would be borne by common citizens. The FM announced allocation of Rs 9000 crore for *Swachh Bharat* Mission. But he has not disclosed how much has been collected through the cess route so far. Also as a part of ‘Swachh Bharat’ project, he has not

opted for clean energy sources like solar power but tilted towards most hazardous and unhygienic nuclear power may be to honour the Indo-US nuclear deal. Coming back to taxation, the government even had no qualms whatsoever in imposing tax on PF money withdrawal on the plea of encouraging subscription to New Pension Scheme (NPS) where a part of the corpus is invested in share market making the hard earned social security savings of the subscribers subject to the vagaries of speculation. However, under pressure of vehement opposition round the country, the government has been forced to withdraw the same. Already the service tax is 15%. Once the much-trumpeted Goods and Services Tax (GST) is introduced, burden of indirect taxes on ordinary people will mount sky high.

Thus while the tax-evaders, black-money holders, wilful defaulters of bank loans and the big business are beneficiaries of tax concessions and waivers, the brunt of taxation is to be borne by common people bleeding white on account of rising economic onslaught of ruling capitalism. And yet, the FM could say that “there is a limit to which an economy can afford exemptions specially when public spending is to be high” (*The Times of India* 01-03-16)

Financing the Deficit

As usual, there is deficit in the budget (that is expenditure is more than income through both revenue as well as non-revenue receipts). The FM takes pride in pegging down the deficit to 3.9% of GDP and project a 3.5 % deficit in the coming year. But in real terms, the amount of deficit in 2015-16 has been higher at Rs 5, 55, 649 crore in 2015-16 as GDP figure has been inflated through revised methodology of calculation. Whenever one talks of government expenditure, the FM’s of bourgeois governments have made it a habit to point at rising subsidy to social sector and hike in salary bill consequent on recommendation of the Pay Commissions while, as has been indicated in brief above, lowered revenue is on account of huge concessions to corporates, limitless pilferages, unproductive investment and so forth. Question is how the deficit is financed. In this case also, casualty is the suffering impoverished people. Part of the deficit is financed by market

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Oppressed people must rise up in protest and wrest their just demand for relief under pressure of powerful movement

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borrowing by the government. As per last available figure, total borrowing or sovereign debt of India is around Rs 68, 94,690.99 crore which is serviced from public exchequer. Increasing sovereign debt means tightening noose of debt on all citizens. This year also, the government plans to borrow Rs 3, 54, 015 crore from the market (*The Times of India* 22-03-16) to augment sovereign debt further. Next financing is from the earning from communication sector like 4G or 5G auction. Last year, the government received Rs 57, 000 crore from this source. This year, it is estimated to be Rs 99,000 crore. Telecom companies will simply recover this bidding sum from end-consumers by loading on retail tariff of cell phones and other IT-enabled modes of communication. Third route proposed is disinvestment of Public Sector Units including Public Sector Banks i.e. handing over not only the loss making but even the profit making PSUs, created under public pressure after independence with public money, to private capitalists in the name of garnering additional resources. The target this year is Rs 56,500 crore. A beginning of bank privatization has been made by reducing government stake below 50% in IDBI bank. PSUs have so far been biggest employment providers. Privatization of PSUs would, among other things, entail job reduction in the name of downsizing, threaten security of job and wage

and resort to more and more contract labour system. The last source is printing of additional notes (earlier known as deficit financing method). Nowadays, the figure of additional currency printing is not disclosed. But is an open secret that this does take place clandestinely. These additionally printed notes increases money supply or inflation affecting the common man. And finally, the government found an easy avenue to garner additional resources by repeatedly imposing tax on petrol-diesel so that the benefits of lowered oil production cost accrue to its coffers and not passed on to the people at large. Just in last two months, the government collected about Rs 14,000 crore from this most unjustified slapping of intermediary taxes.

Vision is pro-capitalist— direction is towards squeezing even last drop of blood of oppressed millions

We do not want to go into further minutest details. It is clearly evident that unlike what has been stated by many opposition leaders and critics, this budget does have both direction and vision. Vision is pro-capitalist and direction is towards squeezing even the last drop of blood of the suffering people. From this effusive praise and drum-beating of the power that be and its servitors, it ought not to be difficult to understand that this budget has been no exception to

the brazenly pro-rich pro-capitalist and out and out anti-people character of the budgets that the incumbent finance ministers, whether of Congress or BJP, have been presenting over the last few years in the name of stimulating growth. When one talks of growth, one wants that to be translated into more permanent remunerative jobs, higher income, better living conditions, and lesser inequalities. If the top 1% grows at over 1000% per year and the rest struggle harder and harder to merely survive, that cannot be called 'Growth'. So called Growth story of 'Vibrant India' has seen that the share of wealth of top 1% of the richest people in the country has surpassed the 50% mark in the past three governments, i.e., during the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government from 2000-04 and two-terms of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government between 2004 and 2014. They also witnessed an increase in their wealth during the first year of the Modi government. "The colour of the government has been no impediment to the steady rise in the riches of the wealthy," Livemint reported. On the other hand, according to Credit Suisse, the share of "the poorer half of the population" declined to 4.1% from 5.3% between 2000 and 2015 though overall, the country's wealth rose by \$2.284 trillion (Rs155.312 trillion) during the same period. (*International Business Times*, 14-

10-15) Thus, as per inevitability in dying capitalism, the gap between the rich and the poor has been widening with every passing hour and the budget proposals of each year are only facilitating that further. What is needed is developing a powerful organized people's movement round the country and compel the bourgeois government under pressure of that movement to yield to their just demand for relief from the ongoing gruelling capitalist exploitation that is sustained and aggravated by the budgets the incumbent Finance Ministers have been authoring every year. It is unfortunate that the parties like CPI(M), CPI which call themselves Marxists-leftists and projected as so by the bourgeois media show no intention of building such people's movement. Instead, they, just like any other bourgeois opposition, end their responsibilities by making some ritualistic criticisms like "budget is, therefore, distorted without any vision and is once again a blatant attack on the poor and the oppressed" without spelling out what the specific cause is and what the common people need to do. So, it is our fervent appeal that they imbibe the imperativeness of building up the desired mighty movement for getting some respite from the growing economic onslaught and ensure that the movement develops under correct revolutionary leadership to be led to its logical culmination.

People's movement in Tripura

The small eastern state of Tripura has recently been fervent with people's movement. In February at Agartala the Tripura State Organizing Committee led by Comrade Arun Bhowmik, Tripura State Secretary, SUCI(C), submitted a memorandum with signature of thousands of citizens, to the Governor on various demands including immediate repair of 44NH, curbing of prices of 108 life-saving drugs, petrol, diesel, cooking gas and other essential commodities as also curtailing of power tariff, putting a stop to attacks on women and children, abolition of no-detention policy in schools etc. A meeting was also held.

Also in February, the Party organized a mass squatting at Orient Chowmuhani (crossing), Agartala, on demands of punishment to the rapists and murderers of women and children, reintroduction of Pass-fail system in schools, reducing prices of life-saving drugs etc., providing job to unemployed youth, and adequate health facilities for people.

On 5 March, AIDS Ram Thakur College Committee staged a protest demonstration at Badharghat Chowmuhani against police baton-charge on students who had been staging a movement centring round the death of a student in an accident on 3 March. They demanded punishment to the police personnel responsible, compensation to the injured students and improvement of traffic system at the crossing.

On 11 March, state SUCI(C) organized a protest demonstration in front of the Deputy Magistrate's office in Agartala against exorbitant rise in the price of sugar in ration.

State level joint convention held in Bhopal by four left parties

On 3 March, a state level joint convention was organized by SUCI (Communist), CPI(M), CPI,CPI(ML-Liberation) at Gandhi Bhawan, Bhopal, MP, against the Madhya Pradesh BJP Government's policy of crushing all forms of democratic rights particularly the right to hold protest demonstration, Dharna etc. Addressing the convention Comrade Pratap Samal, MP State Secretary, SUCI(C) said that today's convention is for protecting our basic democratic right to protest against any anti people policy or any injustice by holding protest demonstrations or street corner meetings. He urged the people of the state to unite against this fascist step of the state government and build up strong state wide movement against it.

Others who spoke were Comrades Subhasini Ali, Polit Bureau member of CPI (M), Prabhat Kumar, Polit Bureau member of CPI(ML-Liberation) and Devendra Singh Chouhan state in-charge of CPI(ML-Liberation), Shri L. S. Hardeniya senior journalist. The main resolution was placed by comrade Arvind Shrivastava, State Secretary, CPI. The convention was presided over by well known poet Shri Rajesh Joshi, who returned his Sahitya Academy award against growing intolerance in the country.

Call of Historic 24th April

Contd. from page 1

engineered bloodbaths also provide them the pretext to boost all types of arms production in their own countries and feed their military industries.

Despite the much hyped globalization of trade and investment, there is severe competition among the imperialist robbers over the booty. Out of the conflict of interests among the imperialist countries, new regional power blocks are appearing in the world. India as a rising imperialist power has joined the bandwagon of US-led strategic block of Japan, Australia, Canada and Israel in order to firm up its position as a regional superpower. India at the same time is keeping close relations with other contending imperialist powers with a view to enhancing its own bargaining power.

Long back, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher and guide had pointed out that fascism has become a general feature in all advanced and backward capitalist countries, differing only in form and degree. He also showed that in India, the national bourgeois party Congress had laid down the foundation of fascism. Now the BJP-RSS after being saddled to power is strengthening fascism further by inciting Hindu religious fundamentalism, medievalism and traditionalism and by propagating fictions as history, wishful ideas and fantasies as science etc. Their object is to destroy the scientific and logical bent of mind of the people and to replace it with blind faith. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh pointed out time and again that fascism destroys the very process of man making. It dehumanizes human being, creates robot devoid of human values, ethics

and culture. If fascism takes a decisive root in the country, the voice of protest and the will to struggle for justice would cease to exist.

At this hour of grave crisis of the humanity, we feel with much pain that had the world socialist system headed by Soviet Union been in existence, had powerful world communist movement and anti-imperialist struggles surged forth as before, the world situation would have been different. But we can understand from the teachings of Great Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh why internal counter-revolutionaries in connivance with the external imperialists were able to dismantle socialism and restore capitalism. As a result, world communist movements and anti-imperialist struggles were weakened. Again we know from the teachings of these great leaders that capitalism is doomed to death and following the inexorable law of history, final victory of socialism is inevitable in future. This setback of socialism is only temporary. The path of emancipation shown by the great November Revolution is still valid for the proletariat of the world. With this firm conviction, we shall begin yearlong celebration of the 100th anniversary of Great November Revolution from this year.

Already we are witnessing that there are surging waves of mass struggles, strikes and demonstrations in US, Europe and in all capitalist-imperialist countries. We have heard the slogans 'down with imperialism-capitalism, down with globalization', 'we are 99%, they are 1%'. Movements are developing but subsiding. Again there are rising tides of movements but those are ebbing

due to the absence of powerful proletarian revolutionary leadership. Hence while objective condition is well prepared, subjective condition i.e. the presence of strong revolutionary Marxist party is yet to be matured. This is the crying need of the hour.

The situation is the same in our country too. Here also we find series of spontaneous and sporadic outbursts of massive agitations of workers, peasants, students, youths and women. Even good numbers of intellectuals, educationists, writers, scientists, artistes are also raising their voice to protest against fascist attacks. This is something never seen in our country after the freedom movement.

Our Party bodies and mass fronts are engaged in organizing, developing and joining class and mass struggles on burning issues of people's life in many states and are hailed by the people as the 'only party to fight for people's cause with higher ideology and ethics'. But our Party alone at this moment cannot develop that powerful a movement at all India level. So, need of the hour is to combine with other left parties for launching joint movements as enunciated by Lenin and further elaborated by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. We are trying utmost to develop left and democratic unity but election-oriented politics of CPI (M) and others is hindering our effort. But as a revolutionary party and guided by the teaching of great Lenin, we shall continue our effort to unite with other left parties whatever 'temporary, vacillating, unreliable, undependable' role they may play.

So in our country, there is, on the one hand, ever increasing desire of

the people to protest, to struggle, to change the system. On the other hand, whichever cities, towns and villages in different states our comrades are reaching out with the powerful revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, they are getting tremendous response. In fact, wherever proper attempts are made, hundreds of students, youths, workers, peasants, women and even honest intellectuals are coming forward to support and join our Party. More our Party grows, more will be the advancement of class and mass struggles thereby preparing the ground for anti-capitalist socialist revolution. We ought not forget that by developing revolutionary movement in our country, we will, as internationalist, strengthen world revolutionary movement too.

It is also to be noted that the social democratic parties like CPI(M) and CPI have disgraced themselves enough before their rank and file and enlightened people. They have proved themselves ideologically bankrupt, politically opportunist and totally election-oriented. Honest left minded people from these parties also are joining our Party. The extent of support we are getting now from them was never seen before.

So the present situation demands that our comrades, guided by the invaluable teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, must enhance their struggle to heighten ideological, political, organizational, ethical standard and initiative, fighting out all bourgeois vices. Only through this, we can properly respond to the need of the hour.

This is the call of the historic 24th April, the foundation day of the SUCI (Communist), great revolutionary Party of the Indian proletariat.

All India Anti-imperialist Forum (AIAIF) condemns the heinous war manoeuvres of USA and South Korea against DPRK

Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Vice-President, AIAIF, issued the following statement on 14-03-2016:—

Ever since the launching of a satellite for peaceful purposes by DPRK, the imperialist powers led by USA have been threatening DPRK by imposing stronger economic sanctions and warning it with military attacks in future. USA and South Korea have staged a joint military exercise named "Key Resolve and "Foil Eagle 16". This is a huge mobilization of troops with numerous warships and attack planes targeted against DPRK. For over 60 years USA's policy has been to encircle DPRK militarily and to strangle it economically, and all the time menacing it with armed invasion, even nuclear attack. It is not DPRK which has launched military attacks on other countries, nor has it established foreign military bases; it is USA and the other imperialist

powers that are guilty of such despicable crimes. USA is the only country to have used nuclear weapons against another country. All peace-loving people of the world denounce this heinous conspiracy of USA, other imperialist powers and their stooge South Korea to overthrow the Government of the Workers Party of Korea and destroy the socialist system of DPRK. DPRK has every right as a sovereign state to defend itself from imperialist attack and to advance its technological capability. The All India Anti-Imperialist Forum (AIAIF) along with all the progressive peace-loving people of the world stand on solidarity with struggle of DPRK to defend itself from imperialist aggression to advance its technology for defeating the imperialist powers if they attack DPRK.

**Long live socialist DPRK!
Down with imperialism!**

All India Anti-Imperialist Forum strongly condemns the lynching of innocent cattle traders in Jharkhand

In a statement issued on 19-03-16, The All India Anti-imperialist Forum (AIAIF) strongly condemned the horrendous lynching of two young Muslim men in a forested area in Jharkhand when they were herding some buffalos to a nearby market. This incident, AIAIF, held, was just short of the gruesome Dadri killing a few months back and another instance of rising acts of intolerance under the BJP rule and attack on the minority communities by the arch communal *Hindutvawadi* zealots. AIAIF demanded of the BJP Government in Jharkhand to immediately apprehend the criminals and give them exemplary punishment. AIAIF also appealed to the people to foil the divisive actions of the *Hindutvawadis*, and maintain their unity in the fight against the oppressive, exploitative system.

How “Secular and Democratic” is Congress, CPI (M)’s election ally in West Bengal

Prakash Karat, former General Secretary of the CPI (M) had said in his article titled “The Political-Tactical Line of the 21st Congress” [published in “The Marxist” theoretical organ of the CPI (M), vol. XXXI 1, January–March 2015] that “It is the Congress-led UPA government’s anti-people policies and corruption which helped the BJP to come to power. Therefore, the political line precludes having any understanding or electoral alliance with the Congress.” However, undergoing a somersault, the CPI (M) leadership in its desperateness to get some seats in the West Bengal Assembly Election and thereby somehow hold on to its political existence, has forged an unprincipled opportunistic electoral alliance with the Congress by painting it as a ‘secular and democratic force’. So, it has become necessary to recall certain facts which would bear out how “secular and democratic” Congress is. We are sure that the left-minded people of not only West Bengal but of entire India as well as the honest rank of the CPI (M) and its associates who have allegiance and emotional attachment to leftism would find it extremely material for them.

“Democratic Acts” of the Congress

1. Promulgation of Black Acts that violates the fundamental democratic rights of the people:

ESMA—Essential Services Maintenance Act introduced in 1968 and victimized countless workers over decades.

MISA—Maintenance of Internal Security Act. Congress introduced it in 1971 to enable the police administration indefinitely preventive detain any individual, search and seize property without warrants and wiretapping in the name of preventing unlawful activities. One to all condemned it as brazen subversion of human rights and one’s right to defend oneself.

NASA—National Security Act (1980). It was also a brainchild of the Congress stated to be for facilitating “preventive detention in certain cases and for matters connected therewith” but in reality purported to gag voice of dissent and arbitrarily imprison and harass individuals unilaterally and arbitrarily considered to be involved in acts “prejudicial to the security of the state”.

TADA—Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (1987). Under this draconian Act, the police were not obliged to produce a detainee before a judicial magistrate within 24 hours. The accused person could be detained up to 1 year. Confessions made to police officers were admissible as evidence in the court of law, with the burden of proof being on the accused to prove his innocence.

UAPA—Unlawful Activity Prevention Act (1967). In 2008 it was amended to a harsher level enabling the government to brand any political movement as ‘terrorist’ and imprison agitators without trial.

AFSPA—Armed Forces (Special Power) Act (1958, 1983

and 1990). The Act modelled on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Ordinance promulgated by the colonial British government on 15 August 1942 to suppress “Quit India Movement”, gives the armed forces wide powers to shoot, arrest and search, all in the name of “aiding civil power.” The Act also confers untrammelled powers to the Army with virtual immunity against conviction for any misuse or abuse and denies any judicial protection to the suspects or prosecuted. Under cover of AFSPA, military continues to commit grave crime against humanity like rape and murder particularly in the states of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Jammu and Kashmir with impunity.

2. Declaration of Emergency that throttled democracy

Late Congress Prime Minister Indira Gandhi clamped Emergency in the country on 25 June, 1975 after Allahabad High Court ruled her victory in 1971 election to be a fraud perpetrated by the administration. She moved the Supreme Court which endorsed the Allahabad Court’s ruling. There was growing resentment among people against this fraud and the misrule of the Congress. Shaken by that and haunted by the fear of losing power, Indira Gandhi declared Emergency in which a number of fundamental democratic rights of the citizens were suspended and a terror situation gripped the whole country. In the 21 month long Emergency, countless number of opposition political leaders and workers as well as prominent journalists-columnists were thrown into prison and censorship imposed on the media. The whole country virtually turned into a prison with the countrymen reeling under apprehension, administrative terror and stripping of civil and democratic rights. It was an out and out autocratic fascist rule.

3. Brutal attacks on democratic movements

i) As West Bengal has been the citadel of left-democratic movement inspiring the entire country to take up cudgels against the capitalist onslaught let loose on the people right from the time Indian national bourgeoisie assumed state power through compromise, the state was particularly targeted by the ruling class for crushing the people’s movements that surged forth here. In the 1950s, the then Congress government brought down brutal attacks on the anti-tram fare hike movement, teachers’ movement, movement against the unification of Bengal and Bihar.

ii) Congress savagery raved wild when its police ran amuck on 31 August, 1959, the day of historic food movement organized jointly by the left parties. On that day a mammoth rally of unarmed hungry people demanding food and against shameless hoarding and biting price rise was organized in Kolkata’s Esplanade East area. All on a sudden, police blocked all the exit routes and then pounced upon the encircled agitators and resorted to brutal baton charge killing over 80 people as per government’s own admission. Countless remained untraced. When the students resounded in mighty protest against this genocide next day, the 1 September, the Congress government fired on them killing one on the spot and injuring many. Enraged at the policy atrocity, Ananda Bazar Patrika wrote in its editorial: “they are insult to mothers’ womb; they carry legacy of notorious British Police Officer Anderson.” Even today, the struggling people of West Bengal observe 31 August and 1 September as martyrs’ days every year.

iii) In 1966 there was another historic food movement which also faced severe onslaught by the police of Congress government. Two blooming youths, Ananda Hait and Nurul Islam fell to the bullets of the police. Hundreds were injured.

iv) In 1970 the Congress government decided to post police inside factories to break workers movement. This special force was given the power to arrest workers inside the factory without arrest warrant. They were even licensed to open fire. When the workers rose up in legitimate protest and called for industrial strike, 24,000 odd CRP, BSF, SRP and EFR personnel were let loose on them. That was on 12 August, These armed forces raided

different areas of the township, dragged workers from their quarters and compelled them to join work. Congress also deployed armed anti-socials to break the strike. On 13 August, Comrade A B Roy, a Trade Union activist, was murdered in front of the very eyes of the CRP. (Source:—Durgapur Workers fight back repression—West Bengal Committee, CITU) Many such incidents would one find compiled in various documents of CITU, CPI (M)’s Trade Union, as also in other publications.

v) Between 1971 and 1972 Congress criminals killed 45 trade union leaders. Over 1000 workers were taken into custody.

vi) Between 1972 and 1977, as per CPI (M)’s own admission more than 1100 of leftists activists were killed by the then Congress government headed by Siddhartha Shankar Ray.

vii) In May 1974 a few millions of workers participated in the historic railway strike that went on for 20 days at a stretch all over India. Indira Gandhi government resorted to unprecedented savagery to crush it. Thousands of workers were arrested without trial and thousands retrenched.

viii) Congress government at the centre did not mince matters to most undemocratically topple opposition governments both in West Bengal as well as other states using its appointed governors as pawns.

These are just a few instances. The complete list would run into pages.

4. Glimpses of how “Secular” Congress is

i) During the freedom movement Congress did not wage any cultural movement to free people from communal-casteist-parochial poison. The British imperialist rulers encashed upon that to divide people and rule. In the post-independence period they followed the same ‘divide and rule’ policy to scuttle united struggle of oppressed people against growing capitalist exploitation. In pursuance of that policy, Congress had tacitly fomented communal-casteist riots in various places. Congress took care that riots constantly break out to ravage exploited people’s unity. A publication titled “History of riots” by Sailesh Kumar Gangopadhyaya has provided yearwise figures of riots during Congress rule as follows;—

Contd. on page 8

“Secular and Democratic” credential of Congress

Contd. from page 7

1968: 346, 1969: 519, 1970: 521, 1971: 321, 1972: 240, 1973: 242, 1974: 248, 1975: 205, 1981: 319, 1982: 474

ii) At one time or another Congress politicians have fomented communal riots for political advantage. In some of the cases, Congress ministers have reportedly instigated riots (Bihar ex-chief minister K B Sahay was allegedly involved in 1967 Ranchi riots) and blocked riot enforcement. (Source:—Electoral Competition and Ethnic Riots in India Steven I. Wilkinson, 2006) Congress leaders are also alleged to have links with Ahmedabad riot of 1969, Jamshedpur riot in 1979 and Moradabad riot of 1980. M J Akbar wrote in the ‘Sunday’ magazine of 09-09-1979 about Jamshedpur killings (1979) that as Congress was crazy to get Muslim votes and RSS was instigating the Hindus on communal line, Maulana Kadri, a well known Congress person, openly fomented Muslim sentiment to polarize minority votes. Among the worst communal riots witnessed thereafter were anti-Sikh genocide of 1984, Meerut massacre of 1987 and Bhagalpur carnage of 1989. Meerut riot (1987) reportedly found two local MLAs of Indira Congress very active to inflame the situation. In 1984 following the murder of Indira Gandhi, Congress perpetrated

Sikh genocide in different parts of the country the most horrible being the Delhi massacre along with rape of women of all ages. It came to the open that Jagdish Tytler, Congress MP, planned and personally executed the Delhi massacre. The Congress top brass promoted Sikh terrorist J.S. Bhindranwale (later turned Frankenstein and killed during Operation Bluestar) to weaken the Akali Dal in Punjab and split the Sikh vote. The Congress then supported the candidates backed by Bhindranwale in the 1978 SGPC elections. The Congress leader (and ex-President of India) Giani Zail Singh allegedly financed the initial meetings of the separatist organization Dal Khalsa. Congress also recalled divisive leader of Mizoram Laldenga, perpetrators of many killings, from UK and made him the Chief Minister. In 1989 assembly election in Mizoram, Congress played even Christian communal card and sought to use influence of the Church as well. Congress Indira Gandhi, after her defeat in the 1977 elections, shamelessly declared she would look after the interest of the Hindus. Later, it was found that what she meant was tacitly inciting Hindu communalism as RSS extended support to Indira Gandhi in the elections between 1977 and 1980.

iv) Most importantly, Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 opened the lock at

disputed Babri Masjid premises and allowed laying foundation stone of Ram Mandir there. On 6 December, 1989, he began his election campaign with the promise of establishing *Ramarajya*. Seizing upon the opportunity, arch communal RSS-BJP demolished the historic monument like Babri Masjid (the Congress-led central government remained an indulgent onlooker), roused Hindu communal passion, inflamed the country with communal frenzy and engineered communal bloodbath. Even today, in the north Indian states, Congress is accused of peddling soft-Hindutva for reaping electoral mileage.

5. New liberal economic policy

CPI (M) leaders often pose

themselves as arch critics of neo-liberal economic policies and hold that such policies are wreaking havoc in people’s life. Who has been the pioneer and architect of these neo-liberal policies of capitalist globalization? Is it not Congress? If so, how could Congress be viewed as “democratic”?

This very Congress, one of the most trusted representatives of ruling bourgeoisie, is now applauded by the CPI (M) leadership as “Secular and Democratic” to buttress its narrow sectarian electoral interest renouncing leftism and embracing opportunism. We urge upon the left-minded people and honest rank of CPI (M) and its associates to seriously ponder over this issue.

NEWS

International Women’s Day observed

On the occasion of the International Women’s Day different mass organizations and trade unions held programmes across the country. At Bhiwani in Haryana the All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (AIMSS) held a meeting on 7 March 2016. Different speakers including the president of the meeting Mamta Tigrana and the main speaker Ritu Kaushik, member of the all India body of the organization, highlighted the anti-people policies of union and state governments which are causing all-out cultural-moral-ethical crisis which in turn is giving birth to situations leading to the mounting atrocities on women. They called for powerful social-cultural movement against all these menaces.

Joint protest by left parties in Bangalore

Karnataka State units of SUCI (Communist), CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) and Forward Bloc organized a joint demonstration and public meeting on 25 February at Town Hall, Bangalore to protest against the BJP government’s attack on the constitutionally guaranteed rights like Freedom of expression, Freedom of Press, high-handed attitude of the Judiciary, increasing crimes on women and to condemn the bogey of pseudo-nationalism raised by the rightist forces. Hundreds of protestors comprising of professionals, students, youth and women participated in the protest meeting. The leaders of various left parties exposed the evil design and motives of the rightist brigade behind the many incidents occurring in the country including the JNU issue, Hyderabad Central University issue, FTII issue, Madras IIT issue, Jadavpur University issue and strongly condemned the same. Those who spoke on the occasion were Dr. Marulasiddappa, senior litterateur, and Comrades M. N. Sriram, State secretariat member of SUCI(C), G.V.Sriram Reddy, State Committee member of CPI(M), Lokesh, State Committee member of CPI, and Maruthi, State leader of CPI(ML). Comrade V. N. Rajashekar, Bangalore District Committee member of SUCI(C), presided over.

Joint meeting in Haryana on recent agitation over reservation

Four left parties, SUCI(C), CPI (M), CPI and CPI (ML) organized a joint meeting on 4 March at Jaswir Smarak, Rohtak, and held the state BJP government responsible for the sordid state of affairs prevailing in the state. They demanded that the government provide adequate compensation to the victims of recent violence and loot during the Jat reservation agitation. As regards reservation, they said that while there should not be any curtailment in the benefit of those covered by prevailing reservation norms, extending the benefit to others should be considered to the extent possible through appropriate provisions in the constitution. The meeting was addressed by Comrades Anoop Singh, veteran member, SUCI(C) State Secretariat, Surendra Singh, CPI (M) State Secretary, Indrajot Singh of CPI (M), Dariyab Singh and Azad Singh of CPI and Prem Singh Gehlabat of CPI (ML). Comrade Satyawar, member, Central Committee and Haryana State Secretary, SUCI(C).

How Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh and Veer Savarkar, RSS ideologue, reacted after arrest by British Government

Rants of India



BHAGAT SINGH Petition After Arrest

- The path I have chosen against British is right
- whether it's British or Indian parasites. The war continues against their exploitation
- The fight doesn't end with me. My sacrifice inspires many
- I'm a war prisoner. I claim to be treated as such. Shoot me instead of hanging



SAVARKAR Petition After Arrest

- I realized my path against British was wrong.
- I stay loyal to English government. I never fight against British after my release
- My release will rejoice my followers and they will stay loyal to British as well
- I'm a political prisoner. Give me some benefits and treat me good

Comrade Provash Ghosh's message to the 9th Congress of Communist Party of Pakistan

(As requested by Communist Party of Pakistan in their letter dated 20-02-16, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) sent a message to their 9th Party Congress. The letter of Communist Party of Pakistan and message of Comrade Provash Ghosh are given below.)

To SUCI (Communist)

Dear Comrades,

We are delighted to announce that CP Pakistan will be holding its 9th Congress this year in the 3rd half of March 2016. For security reasons, we are not announcing the exact date and venue of the congress as well; for the same reason we deeply regret not to be able to invite delegates from the fraternal parties.

But we would be highly encouraged and appreciate to receive your solidarity / greeting messages till 15th March, 2016.

Dr Shafiq Ahmad
International Department
Communist Party of Pakistan

20 February, 2016

Solidarity Greetings to the Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of Pakistan

To
The General Secretary,
Communist Party of Pakistan

Dear Comrade,

I, on behalf of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist), founded by the great Marxist thinker Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, do convey my revolutionary greetings to the comrade delegates present in your 9th party congress. You have set an inspiring example of steadfastly upholding the banner of Marxism-Leninism and Proletarian Internationalism in the face of stiff restrictions and cruel oppression by the fascist Pakistan government and amidst the poisonous atmosphere of religious fundamentalism. Let me offer red salute to you all.

You would surely concur with us that in all the imperialist-capitalist countries of the world, be it developed or less developed, the proletariat and the oppressed people are now facing unbearable hardships. In the last century, great Lenin had defined imperialism as the moribund, decaying stage of capitalism and consequently held that the era is of proletarian revolution as well. That very capitalism today has encountered an unprecedented crisis and is virtually lying on death bed. It is engendering not only acute economic and political crisis but also creating havoc in the social fabric of the countries. In a word, capitalism has made human life unbearable today. True to the prediction of great Karl Marx, the propounder of scientific socialism, capitalism or market economy is faced today with insoluble and ever

increasing market crises. Starting from USA, the chieftain of imperialism, the scenario is the same in all the imperialist-capitalist countries of the world. Thousands of factories are closed, millions of workers are without jobs, rate of unemployment is rising daily, unbearable poverty, want of food and medical treatment are pushing millions to death. Unable to bear the burden of life, people are committing suicide. There is no respite from the attack of price-rise, inflation and tax-hike. Elections in the capitalist countries have been turned into farce by the bourgeoisie which has long ago thrown away the banner of liberty-equality-fraternity and democracy. Fascism has become the inalienable feature of every developed or less developed capitalist country; difference is only in degree and form. The multi-party democracy has been transformed into two-party democracy, where in the name of the verdict of the people in elections, what actually reigns is the verdict of money power i.e. the capitalist power. Through so called elections, the capitalist class decides which of its party or servant would form the government and which other would sit in the opposition. Through mockery of elections, the bourgeoisie appoints, reappoints and replaces its chosen faithful servants.

All these show that bourgeois democracy has been turned into fascist autocracy. Fascism is the worst enemy of mankind. It kills values, morals and ethics of the people, destroys thinking and reasoning faculty and thus

dehumanises human beings and turns them into robots devoid of human sensibilities, feelings for the society, even obligations to own kith and kin. Today we all see how crass individualism, self-centeredness and consumerism have gripped human life, how the sweet social and family relations are torn apart. Parents, the old and aged are neglected. Dignity of woman has become a casualty. Eve-teasing, kidnapping, rape and mass rape and murder of women are now the order of the society. Out of acute poverty, women and teenage girls, even minors are being compelled to sell themselves as commodities in the flesh market. Capitalism which in its rising period awoke the nations by the thoughts of renaissance, by the radiant ardour of knowledge, higher morals and human values, has today, in its dying period, cast all round darkness over human civilization. To abolish religion-based monarchy, capitalism once championed the cause of scientific reasoning, secularism and humanism. But today that very capitalism in order to crush democratic movements of the people, working class struggle and revolutionary movement, is resurrecting fanatic religious fundamentalism.

But Comrades, the dark scenario is not the last word. There is a new ray of light as well. The exploited and oppressed people in various countries are now seen to often burst forth in anger and agitation. Not only in the underdeveloped capitalist-imperialist countries, but even in USA and other European countries people's movements are shaking the foundation of imperialism-capitalism. Could anybody think of 'Occupy Wall Street' movement before its outburst? Nobody could think that series of workers' and general strikes would sweep the European countries so soon and such slogans as "down with capitalism", "down with globalisation", "they are one percent, we are 99" would be raised. Next would inevitably come the call for organising socialist revolution. So the objective condition for revolution is ripe in all countries. Absent is the fulfilment of the subjective condition i.e. the necessity of genuine and strong Marxist party and leadership.

Imperialism-capitalism in order to prolong its life at its present dying stage is trying, on the one hand, to drown people's minds in the darkness of medieval thinking and divisiveness of religious

fundamentalism and to entangle them in fratricidal bloodbath over fomented communal-ethnic-parochial-casteist hatred. On the other, on the plea of establishing peace, preserving rule of law and democracy etc., the imperialists are invading other sovereign countries, occupying them, recruiting local mercenaries and with their help igniting the fire of civil and local wars thereby creating newer and newer arms markets to sell their weapons. The immediate fallout is the influx of refugees in Europe where thousands of migrant men, women, children, old and aged are pushed to extreme distress. Despite this, I have already stated, people want change, desire to protest, come out to fight, but without leadership. As a result, tides of protest are sometimes rising and then subsiding. This is repeated again and again. Cry of the hour is the presence of real, strong proletarian revolutionary party in each country. It is true that the new epoch which was created by the Soviet socialist revolution, emergence of parallel socialist system in the aftermath of Second World War and the surge of worldwide communist and anti-imperialist movements, ushered in a favourable condition for the onward march of human civilisation. But that situation has been completely changed because of the dismantling of socialism by counter-revolution. But this cannot make the Marxists despondent. The religious preachers, who claimed themselves as god-sent messiahs, had to pass through alternate cycles of success and failures for hundreds of years before achieving final victory. Bourgeois democratic revolution, starting from renaissance had to fight for over three hundred years to achieve victory. But all these fights only replaced one form of exploitative class rule by another and hence could not put an end to exploitation of man by man. But socialist revolution brought in a radical change in the exploitative base and character of thousands and thousands of years old social foundation. Judged in this backdrop, the power and strength of only 70 or 80 years of socialism, that too in encirclement by capitalism-imperialism, stands incomparable. Long before the great Marxist teachers had given the warning that socialism once established does not guarantee its existence; rather it may collapse as well if not properly

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Solidarity Greetings to the Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of Pakistan

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protected. Out of complacency, the communists of the socialist and other countries did not give proper importance to this warning and thus paved the way for disaster. Great Marx said that dictatorship of the proletariat is a transitional phase to reach communism from capitalism. It means if the leadership treads correct path, society would reach communism from socialism. Otherwise, capitalism would come back. Great Lenin said it is easier to accomplish revolution than to protect it. After revolution the strength of the defeated capitalist class rises ten times more than before. Great Stalin said, the more socialism advances, the sharper becomes the class struggle. Before his death, Stalin gave the warning in the 19th Party Congress of CPSU that neglect of socialist ideological struggle was helping the bourgeois influence to grow and the counter revolutionaries to gain strength. Great Mao Zedong, after painfully observing the turn of events in the Soviet Union, organised the magnificent proletarian cultural revolution to save China's socialism.

While founding our Party in 1948, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, during those hey days of international communist movement, as part of self-criticism and paying full respect to the international leadership, cautioned about preponderance of mechanical

process of thinking instead of dialectical process in the communist movement which manifested itself in blind submission to the leadership. This could happen because in the post-Lenin period, necessary development of Marxism in keeping with the advancement in science and knowledge and in the face of emergence of newer and newer problems, was not done, and the ideological struggle was also neglected. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also showed that despite tremendous advance in politics, economy and epistemology and abolition of private ownership in the Soviet Union, private property mental complex kept its hold in the superstructure, i.e. the preponderance of the impact of bourgeois individualism was there in all aspects of life. So he said that the bourgeois humanist moral standard, i.e. "interest of revolution is primary, self interest is secondary", would no longer serve the purpose, and to save socialism in socialist countries and to accomplish revolution in developed capitalist countries, new proletarian morality which calls for identification of self with the working class, party and revolution after freeing oneself completely from individualism, to submit oneself happily and unconditionally to the cause of revolution, is indispensable. He also said that though there was spectacular struggle in many fields in the Soviet Union, necessary class struggle was not conducted in

the superstructure and the counter-revolution gained its strength mainly from this weakness in the superstructure. He cautioned after the 20th Congress of CPSU that the way Khrushchev, in the name of fighting cult of individual denigrated great Stalin, the authority of Leninism, would ultimately undermine Leninism itself and would open the floodgate of revisionism and of counter revolution. This actually happened in reality. The communists and working class of Soviet Union could not timely comprehend the danger and fight it back because they were themselves victims of individualism, their ideological and moral standard was low and they possessed blind allegiance to the leadership. It is really sad. But as true Marxists we have to move forward taking lessons from this. Marx took lessons from the defeat of Paris commune that it was not enough to overthrow the bourgeoisie from power; the old bourgeois state has to be destroyed and new working class state has to be built up. This lesson Lenin applied in Soviet revolution. In future socialism, we cannot stop only by accomplishing revolution in economic and political field. In order to uproot capitalism, we shall have to conduct relentless class struggle in the realm of mind to remove individualism and private property mental complex. On the basis of this experience and guided by the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Zedong,

proletariats in different countries will accomplish revolution. In our country India, capitalism has already attained imperialist character and is in good relationship with USA not only in economic and political spheres but also has gone into strategic military partnership with USA. India has appeared as a super power in South Asia and Middle East. Against ruthless capitalist exploitation and oppression within the country, our Party, guided by Marxism-Leninism- Shibdas Ghosh Thought are organising class and mass struggles with the ultimate aim of bringing about anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

As proletarian internationalist, I have placed before you some of our thoughts and experiences with the hope that your thoughts and experiences would help us to enrich ourselves. We wish your Party Congress to be a total success. We believe, getting emboldened by the revolutionary science of Marxism-Leninism the exploited people of Pakistan will stand up under the leadership of the Communist Party of Pakistan and by building up class and mass struggles hasten the process of successful anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

Long Live Marxism-Leninism

Long Live

Proletarian Internationalism

With Revolutionary Greetings

Pravash Ghosh

General Secretary

SUCI (Communist)



**Countrywide
Observance of Shaheed-
Azam Bhagat Singh
Martyrdom Day on
23 March (clockwise)
Tirupati, Delhi,
Jamshedpur,
Alappuzha**



Support SUCI(C) Candidates in Kerala Assembly Election

SUCI (C) strongly denounces the steep hike in petrol-diesel prices once again

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), issued the following statement on 17-03-16 :—

We strongly denounce the decision of steeply hiking petrol and diesel prices once again by Rs 3.07 and Rs 1.90 per litre respectively on the pretext of striking a balance with international crude price and exchange value of rupee which, however, does not correspond to reality. When crude price was \$147 per barrel, retail price of petrol was Rs 75 per litre. Right now, when the crude price is hovering around \$40 per barrel, the petrol is costing Rs 63 per litre. In other words, when international crude price has come down by 367% and the government reportedly has saved close to Rs 1.5 lakh crore in 2015-16 on account of global oil glut, the corresponding fall in retail tariff has been a cosmetic 16% because, instead of passing on the benefits to the common people, the government has appropriated the same by repeatedly increasing excise duty on fuel. Tax components of retail tariff of petrol and diesel at present are around 57% and 55% respectively which make the Indian retail prices virtually double the global price of oil.

We call upon the people to rise in powerful protest against this most unjust policy of the government of denying them the due relief by pursuing exploitative fiscal policy wreaking havoc in their life.

SUCI(C) vehemently protests drastic cut in small savings interest as another step towards squarely passing on burden of capitalist crisis on common people

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 19-03-16:—

We vehemently protest the way BJP government at the centre within a month of announcing its decision to revise small savings interest rates every quarter and in keeping with the practice of declaring major fiscal and monetary policies seriously affecting people's interest bypassing parliament, has now drastically slashed the interest on postal savings as well as PPF from 1 April next. It does not need any mention that this highly anti-people decision would put a good number of people including senior citizens in dire straits as a continuously lowering of income from hard earned savings parked either in banks or small saving schemes would drastically reduce their purchasing power in market marked by spiralling rise in prices. While as high as Rs 36.5 lakh crores worth of tax concessions and waivers have been granted to industrial houses and corporate barons in last ten years and top monopolists have been merrily getting away by embezzling public fund through defaulting lakhs of crores of rupees of bank loans, the government is meting out harshest of punishment to the common citizens back-broken by ruthless economic oppression compounding with every passing hour. It is evident that the aim is to gradually withdraw all relatively secured avenues for savings and compel people to divert whatever little they save for rainy days to speculative stock market either through direct participation or via intermediaries thereby putting safety of their money in total jeopardy. This very move once again proves what acute and insolvable a crisis ruling capitalism is enmeshed in and how its servitor government in absence of desired surge of organized conscious powerful people's movement is squarely passing on the burden of that crisis on the progressively impoverished and pauperized toiling masses.

We once again renew our appeal to the increasingly assailed common people not to remain a passive onlooker or helpless bystander when such gruelling capitalist onslaught is descending upon them and instead close their rank to immediately build up the imperative protest movement based on higher ethics and culture and under correct revolutionary leadership.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH