

# Proletarian Era

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Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

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## Red Salute

### Comrade Mao Zedong



26 September 1893  
– 9 September 1976

We have won a great victory. But the defeated class will continue to struggle. Its members are still about and it still exists. Therefore we cannot speak of the final victory, not for decades. We must not lose our vigilance. From the Leninist point of view, the final victory in one socialist country not only requires the efforts of the proletariat and the broad popular masses at home, but also depends on the victory of the world revolution and the abolition of the system of exploitation of man by man on this earth so that all mankind will be emancipated. Consequently, it is wrong to talk about the final victory of the revolution in our country light-heartedly; it runs counter to Leninism and does not conform to facts. (15-04-1969 ; quoted in Directives Regarding Cultural Revolution)

## “Some Inputs ...”

### Deceitful-dangerous new document on National Education Policy 2016

Formulation of a new education policy was among the electoral promises made ahead of the 2014 general elections by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during its attempt to ride to the seat of Union government. How important it was considered by the party was evident from the fact that this was also a priority agenda of the RSS, the ideological mentor of the BJP, whose political wing the BJP worked as.

Following a set of twists and turns, the Union Human Resource Development Ministry (HRDM) recently came out with a document entitled *Some Inputs for Draft National Education Policy 2016* (hitherto referred as *Some Inputs...*). On several earlier occasions, the Party submitted its considered opinions on the pages of *Proletarian Era* [1 December, 2014 ; 1 January, 2015; 1 February, 2015; 15 April, 2015; 15 January, 2016] on different emergent issues of education as well as attacks launched against education of the country. It also avails of the opportunity to submit its brief views on the

present document. But before going into the details on that document, a brief look at the past background for the education system of the country may be relevant.

#### Education envisaged for the modern nation

When the modern Indian nation was emerging the stalwart educationists and eminent personalities, who also fought for the country to earn independence, thought of an education system to build up future generations of worth for that sovereign independent country. As the base they envisaged education for all, free and comprehensive, which earlier had never been like that. They also did not mince words to pronounce that it was the government which must bear the full responsibility of providing free and universal education at all stages of formal education system, from the lowest to the highest stages of it. For that the government must provide the resources, including a fair adequate

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## Hold aloft the banner of socialist revolution being free from illusion of bourgeois election

### Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya's call at the Memorial Meeting of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in Assam

The 40th Death Anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the fore-ranking Marxist thinkers of the present era and the founder General Secretary of the Party was observed all over the state of Assam with due honour like elsewhere in the country. Everywhere in districts the Red Flag was hoisted, floral tributes were placed at the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and memorial meetings were held. Under the auspices of the Assam State Committee, a meeting was held on 8 August at the Guwahati District Library Auditorium with Comrade Chandralekha Das, Assam State Secretary of the Party as the President. Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, Polit Bureau Member, SUCI(C) and a well-known mass leader, addressed the gathering as the main speaker.

While paying his tribute to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and recalling the indelible memories of this great leader, Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya maintained that it was impossible to express the life struggle and greatness of this revolutionary leader in common parlance. Those of us who had come in touch with him were immensely privileged, we found a new meaningful life. We lost him very early, at his age of only 53 years on 5th August of 1976. At that time, it appeared that not only he had breathed his last, even our heartbeats had stopped all on a sudden. Momentarily we felt as if we had lost our desire to live. We all shared this feeling. Next moment, the knowledge and teachings that he had sown and nurtured within us dawned afresh in us ; we realized

that the great leader was no longer physically there among us, but he had bequeathed to us his unique invaluable struggle to advance the Indian revolution, to build up SUCI(C) as the only genuine communist party in India and to further the international communist movement. He has also left a vast treasure of knowledge before us. With these as beacon, we would have to stand up erect and imbued afresh with higher consciousness we would have to take ahead the revolution in the country and in the world.

**There cannot be revolution without a revolutionary party, nor the party without its revolutionary theory : Lenin**

Highlighting Lenin's teachings, Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya said

that without a correct revolutionary theory there cannot be a revolutionary party and there cannot be revolution either, without a revolutionary party. Keeping this great teaching in view, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh enunciated the correct theory of the Indian revolution. With all his mite he has built up the SUCI(C) as the revolutionary Party, has provided the guidelines for building up a revolutionary party and developing revolutionary character laying out the issues in minutest details. Through all these, the Indian revolution, the genuine communist Party of India the SUCI(C) and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, have stood out inseparably together in the same orbit. Till his last moments, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

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# Not man-making but skill development and employability set as object of education

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fund from the budgetary allocation.

However, they also held firmly, what should be the character of that education was never going to be the business of the government. It had to be determined by educationists, academicians, scholars and education-loving people. And accordingly, a galaxy of towering personalities of the past spent their life and life-struggle to lay down their ideas and views in unambiguous terms. With all their due reverence and responsibility towards the glorious scholastic tradition of the ancient India, the host of the illuminaries who included men like Vivekananda, Rammohan Roy, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Rabindranath Tagore, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Lala Lajpat Rai, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Jyotirao Phule and many others thus maintained that education must have 'life-building, man-making, character-making' role to play. They knew that the emerging nation must be equipped with secular, scientific, democratic modern education that knew no national bounds. Only that could help the nation grow with all strength, vigour and character to stand with head high in the present day world. It is a matter of deep regret for the country, that despite all trumpeting and intermittent frantic hype for education reforms since independence the dreams of these doyens of modern India about its desired education system for the age, not only remain unfulfilled, those seem to have been shattered with each attempt at overhauling education. The present Draft National Education Policy (hitherto to be referred as NEP) of the BJP government, proposed with overt and covert approval and endorsement from their mentor RSS, adds to that long list of those skewed attempts at avowed development of education of the country.

## Formulation process

In its move for the NEP the HRD Ministry of the recent Union government came out with a document on a proposed New Education Policy on 21 March 2015. Anybody concerned with education of the country, would have expected that the task of formulating an education policy should have been laid with a public committee of renowned, upright, rational and democratic-minded

educationists and such eminent personalities from other walks of life. As said before, this was not the task of the government, its ministers or its pliant or stooge organizations- individuals-bureaucrats. The process followed was far from this desired path. At that time, the claim of the HRDM "some lakhs, thousands and hundreds of meetings are proposed for different levels" was questioned. It was asked: "How many of these, have people at respective levels come to know of, let alone have seen or taken part in? What were the proceedings or outcomes of those?" While these questions remained unanswered, there were open reports of RSS-affiliate individuals and organizations demanding 'complete overhaul' of Indian education emphasizing 'only assimilation of Hindu thoughts into country's education can provide perfection of means and finish confusion of ends'. They even claimed to have placed their opinions with the then HRDM to be considered and incorporated.

In the next phase a 5-member panel or committee, mainly of bureaucrats, and called Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy, subsequently known as TSR Subramanian Committee or Panel was formed which submitted its report containing its recommendations to the HRDM on 27 May 2016. The HRDM was supposed to put this report for "public views" and evaluate it itself. However, the HRDM, instead of making the report public, came out with a 43 Page document "*Some Inputs...*" in July 2016, in which they claimed that the new education policy would prove to be a *milestone*. Be that as it may, these twists and turns at the background of evolution of this policy did not speak of a clean approach from the HRDM.

## Object of education

In the document *Some Inputs* ..., the Section 4.5 titled Curriculum Renewal and Examination Reforms starts with a quote: "To quote Swami Vivekanand, "*Education is not the amount of information that we put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas. If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more*

*education than any man who has got by heart a whole library....* ... *If education is identical with information, the libraries are the greatest sages of the world and encyclopaedia are the greatest Rishis.*" This was an addition, rather an amendment on the original draft of the NEP. However, later in the document, in its Section 3, there is a list of multiple (as many as 14) objectives of education. In none of those and also nowhere else in the document, the objective quoted from Vivekananda ("*We must have life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas*".) finds its due place to give effect to, or even desired. This is even after the HRDM claims the NEP to be a *milestone for the country's education system*. Rather, the purpose of education is set to be limited to *skill development for work and entrepreneurship and employability generation* for life and development of the country. (p9: *Some Inputs*) (emphasis ours). The document however does not answer some questions. Will skill or employability-oriented (a new term for old job-oriented) education generate jobs, which are dwindling due to acute industrial recession? On the contrary, should not the document ensure object of education to be free from fanning up consumerist, job-seeking and individualistic approach and outlook? Besides nowhere in the document there is any reference to secular, scientific and modern education. Even there is no appreciation of scientific method and approach as a foundation of education.

## Maladies in the system

That the education system of the country is presently plagued with thousand and one serious maladies, cannot be denied or ignored by anybody with a minimum knowledge about the issue. In the "*Some Inputs...*" document, the HRDM also could not but admit that "There are many persisting concerns and challenges relating to *access to and participation in education, quality of the education imparted, equity in education, system efficiency, governance and management, research and development, and financial commitment* to education development."(p.7) But nowhere there are concrete assessments of the situation undertaken to define

the causes to get at the root of the problems, nor any remedial measures suggested in right earnest. Had the government been really interested in mending right the earlier follies and make education inclusive, they should have rescinded the Right to Education Act 2009 and introduced legislation to guarantee genuine Right to Education at all levels and education as a Fundamental Right, not merely introducing some tinkering efforts like, as they suggest in the document, in amendment of 'the RTE Act to bring minority institutions back into the fold'. If the HRDM is really keen on bringing education of the country on the right track, they should allot 10% of Central Budget in education exclusive of emoluments and pensionary benefits for teaching and non-teaching staff and withdraw self-financing approach to education and policy leading to formation of elitist expensive institutions through government funding. They should ensure academic support and improvement of crumbling infrastructure for educational institutions at large. If the HRDM is genuinely respectful to democratic and constitutional ways and means it should also guarantee treatment of education as a subject of Concurrent List thereby ensuring rights of States in educational issues.

## Instances of maladies : Drop-outs

In any case, in respect of maladies, for brevity's sake a few important issues may be chosen for discussion. For instance, on Drop-outs, the document admits that "In 2014-15, the retention rate at primary level was 83.7 per cent and it was as low as 67.4 percent at the elementary level. This indicates that roughly, four in every 10 children enrolled in grade I leave the school before completing grade VIII" (p.12). It even makes contradictory statements of facts. It is said that there is significant decline; but again it is defined as a matter of concern. No reason is however given nor remedy suggested. It says the drop-out problem brings into focus the need to undertake measures to improve retention in schools of children from socially and economically disadvantaged communities(p.11), but what measures, there is no indication. It is stated that "children

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# Collective socialist movement covering all aspects of life, a must to form a communist party

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had conducted an incredibly difficult and arduous struggle during which for hours together and day after day, leaving out the few hours for rest, he tried to convince the leaders and cadres of his Party as well as common people. The sole object was to bring home to them the unavoidable tasks for hastening the process of bringing about Indian revolution. 'You can easily understand that it would be futile to try deal with all that this great character with such wisdom and knowledge taught in the span of a single speech. So I would touch upon only a few aspects', said Comrade Bhattacharyya.

Initiating a discussion on the real face of the capitalist rule and exploitation in India, Comrade Bhattacharyya said that in the hellish situation perpetrated by the prevailing exploitative- oppressive capitalist system, the ruling capitalist class is consolidating its power day by day in all fields like economy, politics and military. They have the aim of exploiting the vast poor masses of the country that make 90% of the population and of thwarting the Indian revolution. That is why, you will note, without caring much for the parties like CPI, CPI(M), Naxalites, Maoists or other political parties, they are keenly observing us. They know they cannot prevent revolution without combating the SUCI(C). Comrade Ghosh had himself said that the SUCI(C) has become the eye-sore of the capitalists and their subservient political parties because the thoughts and views of this Party, SUCI(C) is touching the depth of people's heart. Its fast growth and spread is sending shivers down the spine of the ruling class.

Comrade Bhattacharyya said that this situation has not come out of the blue. The Party as people find it now, or the prestige and position it enjoys among people are because it has earnestly and correctly tried to follow and practise Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts. It is only because of that, the Party now has its organization spread out in almost all the states of the country. In many of them people are realizing that this is the genuine communist party.

## **CPI and later also CPI(M) never grew as a communist party**

In course of his struggle for building up the SUCI(C) Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed with, so to

say, mathematical and graphical precision in the causes, why the undivided CPI was not at all a communist party despite bearing the title 'communist' and having been launched with the desire to establish communism in the country. They conducted some movements of workers, peasants and students and others. Their leaders were jailed, faced bullets. At one stage they did not openly and nakedly serve capitalism as they are doing now. Yet with firm conviction based on his wise in-depth illuminating analysis Comrade Ghosh spelt out that the CPI had not been a genuine communist party. The bourgeois parties crop up all on a sudden, and then suddenly break apart, or merge with each other in no time, they harbour their single goal of winning elections to become ministers and for that chalk out plans to form unethical, unprincipled combinations with this or that party alliances and above all they build up a neatly planned understanding with the ruling capitalist class. In exactly the same way as such bourgeois parties, the CPI and later also the CPI(M) formed as breakaway part of CPI, will meet the same end: this was what Comrade Ghosh emphatically underlined even at that time. Today, his forewarning is being found clearly manifested. But why did it happen?

Recalling the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Bhattacharyya said that to answer the question it is first necessary to properly grasp the Marxist understanding of how a communist party may be formed. Such a party cannot be formed by a few people sitting together, holding a convention and forming committees. Those who will come forward to take leading role in forming a communist party must launch an all-out collective socialist movement on the basis of correct theory and practice covering all aspects of life including sex. They will have to go ceaselessly to the masses of the working class and other sections of exploited toiling people, will have to build up movement on the demands of their life and livelihood, and through all these will have to generate class consciousness in them. Conducted over a concrete period of time, this all-out socialist movement will bring out clearly who stands where in the movement, who proves oneself worthy for being considered to be included in the process of party formation as also who may be elected for

which posts. This preparatory all-out socialist movement is an indispensable prerequisite for a genuine communist party to form. The undivided CPI did not tread anywhere near this.

Secondly, in a class divided society invariably there are mutually opposing class thinking, that of exploited and of the exploiters. The exploiting class tries to keep the exploited chained in exploitation; on the contrary, the exploited class strives to free itself from the clutches of exploitation. It should be borne in mind that those who will come forward to form a communist party, for sure, they carry some class thinking or the other. So they will have to identify themselves with the said socialist movement unwaveringly and through that must identify themselves totally with the proletarian revolutionary thought process, uprooting the last vestiges of bourgeois process of thinking. At this point Comrade Shibdas Ghosh laid extreme importance on a very significant issue. We are aware of Marx's guidelines about the unavoidable necessity of forming correct revolutionary party to accomplish revolution. We also know that great Lenin has enriched in theory and practice the Marxian guidelines on different aspects of forming revolutionary party throwing light on many details. In the same manner, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat has brought the understanding of these guidelines to greater heights in keeping with the necessities of time. It is not possible to discuss all these elaborately in this mass meeting. Right at the start of this address, I mentioned about inescapable necessity of conducting all-out socialist movement covering all aspects of life. While explaining it Comrade Ghosh said that it is only through this movement that it will be possible to give birth to the revolutionary process of thinking of the working class, to bring it to deeper understanding. Repeatedly he pointed out that to accomplish revolution it is necessary to develop one process of thinking, oneness in approach, singleness of purpose and uniformity of thinking in the whole party. Failing it, it will never be possible to build up the correct revolutionary party. This is the correct guideline for acquiring the class consciousness of the proletariat.

At the same time, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also said that this cannot be acquired at will, it is vital

to follow the correct process. Now, what is that correct process? The great leader, Marx had held that 'Communism is humanism minus private property'. It means to become a communist one has to free oneself from the clutches of private property and private property mental complex; even the 'last root of bourgeois thinking and culture' must be weeded out. This is a very difficult and arduous struggle which cannot be avoided under any circumstances. It is this private property mental complex which fosters bourgeois individualism. So it is not just enough to give up the private property one has, it does not prove by that no more remnant of bourgeois individualism is left in him or her. Rather sometimes it assumes more dangerous form. 'I have sacrificed so much, I have contributed this, have done that', from within such attitude and mindset there may spring up a new type of individualism even in socialist countries. Further explaining, Comrade Bhattacharyya said that to strengthen SUCI (C), the genuine revolutionary Party of India founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on the edifice of Marxism-Leninism, the most vital issue to judge is whether the leaders and cadres of the Party are striving to attain lofty character through the struggle of completely freeing oneself from the private property and private property mental complex. But this struggle cannot be conducted without joining the revolutionary party, without following unhesitatingly and unwaveringly the principles-rules and discipline of the Party. It further demands that leaders and cadres must go to the masses every day every moment, must make them class conscious convincing them of the necessities of communism, and inevitabilities of revolution. Have the CPI, CPI(M) ever made any struggle on the basis of this higher understanding of Marxism-Leninism? Rather on the contrary, practising totally wrong theory they have maligned Marxism-Leninism.

## **Degraded politics is the contribution of capitalism : to revolutionaries politics calls for noble feelings of heart**

Referring to the present apathy of the masses to politics, Comrade Bhattacharyya recalled how the great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in the last days of his life

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# Degraded politics is what capitalism generates; revolutionaries stand for noble politics

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said with deep pain in his heart, that his health was failing him, that he was unwell and had started his activities in his student life imbued with revolutionary mentality. He wanted to build up a new and totally different kind of party, yet people were turning their back on politics on seeing the vulgar face of bourgeois politics. When the bourgeois class had got into the decadent age of capitalism, some proponents of bourgeois politics, seeing the downfall of bourgeois parliamentary politics called politics as a whole, a profession of scoundrels, their last resort. Comrade Ghosh was the lone voice who raised the counter view pronouncing boldly that politics called for noble feelings of heart and revolutionary politics was still higher an attribute. He did not stop at merely uttering these words. To hundreds and thousands of activists, whom he ultimately recruited to the Party, he laid down the significance of this nobility and what tasks it prompts us to perform. He made it clear that it was capitalism that degrades politics and has given birth to an all-out suffocating ambience in economical-political-social-cultural fields. Capitalism is snatching away the political rights of people, cunningly it is generating individualism, planfully destroying culture-morality-ethics, it is trying to turn people into beasts bereft of any sense of ideology, values, ethics or conscience. This is what capitalism aims at, for it knows that in case people take hold of the lights of knowledge and consciousness, they would at once realize that capitalism is the root cause.

## **Election today is a deadly weapon for the rulers to befool the masses**

Comrade Bhattacharyya added that election has turned out to be a deadly weapon in the hands of capitalism. It is a heinous instrument in the hands of the bourgeoisie to befool and mislead people. They are continuously carrying on propaganda that people can build their own future through elections, will be able to get rid of any dominating force above them, they will themselves govern. Clearly these are all guileful utterances, their deception. The bourgeoisie try to convince people that if they find a party wayward, let them bring another party to form a new government, or even bring in a new one through election. They will

solve all their problems. Such a campaign carried on round-the-clock is creating a deep-rooted illusion in people towards election and parliamentary politics: this cannot be denied.

Comrade Ghosh used to say that we must strike at this. People will have to be freed from this illusion; the real face of class division in politics must be explained to them, people must be made aware and convinced of the significance of revolutionary politics, of the real face of capitalism and how bourgeois petty bourgeois parties play subservient to the ruling capitalists and their interests. Let me cite an example. In USA, the preparatory phase of presidential election is on. In that process, within the same democratic party of Hillary Clinton there was another candidate, Sanders. With the ulterior motive of throttling people's wrath and resentment against the policies of intensely crisis-ridden US economy- politics and military the American capitalist-imperialist class had helped to put up Sanders as the candidate. Juggling the resentful utterances and grievances of people Sanders tried to pose as their saviour. By this, the rulers plugged the way for people's launching any movement. Lastly Sanders withdrew his nomination and extended support to Hillary Clinton only. People's plight continue to remain as it is. Not only in the USA, in all the countries, the ruling capitalist class is hatching this design to cover up the economic crisis they themselves have created and shield the prevailing capitalist system that is giving birth to these crises.

Comrade Bhattacharyya said, wherever there is capitalism in reign, it is trying to disarm people by setting up the arena of electoral battles. By that they are confining people within the limits of elections. What do you see in Europe? There, all the capitalist imperialist countries are bogged in severe economic crisis. Some thirty years back, a few European states formed the European Union with a view to combating their economic crisis. But they have failed. Rather the crisis has aggravated. A section of those are now raising the slogan that the European Union is unsuccessful. They are now even calling for quitting EU. World capitalism is totally decadent today. In no field, economic, political, social, cultural,

whatsoever, can capitalism solve any of the problems. While averting one crisis they are being dragged into another. Instead of bearing the brunt of the crisis they themselves have created, they are thrusting the brunt onto the shoulder of people. The democratic rights which capitalism once in its age of development agreed to award to people, are being snatched away one after another by the same capitalism in these days of decadence of the system. They are curbing the minimum rights of holding meetings or processions; they are not even sparing the freedom of expression. You know, at the JNU in Delhi — students held a meeting, expressed some views, right or wrong whatever it be. They did not declare war against the state, nor did they take up arms. Even then, ferocious attacks came down upon them. In our country the Constitution was framed when world capitalism was already in its decadent phase. But even at that time, it had to spell out the minimum that 'freedom of expression will be a fundamental right'. Today, capitalism intends to wipe out all the rights. On the anvil of Marxism-Leninism, Comrade Ghosh warned us, that decadent capitalism will tend to do these things from their fear-complex of revolution. It will try to trap people in different kinds of tricks. It is trying to rob people of their consciousness dragging them into the network of elections and thereby turning them into drunkards, debased, greedy. Comrade Bhattacharyya said that all the political parties are gleefully participating in this election process set by the bourgeoisie. There is no dearth of parties pretending to defend people's interests. It is now amply evident that the vulgarly immense wealth that the capitalists amass exploiting people, are partially doled out in elections to their subservient parties; they are also pouring out money of their own. This way the entire election process is coming into the tight grip of the capitalists. Using the propaganda machinery set by the capitalist class, parties and institutions of their choice, even criminals or their sorts, are becoming MLAs or MPs. For the last seventy years, this process is going on in India. There have been so many elections for the assemblies, the parliament, the panchayats or municipalities and there will be still many more. But

the living standard of people at large have not risen an inch even. Rather statistics reveal that 77% people earn a meagre 22 rupees per head a day, less than what even a kilogram of rice costs. How sky-high the price level is shooting up every day. Parallel to it, purchasing power of people is sliding down. India is a land where 125 crore people live. Each person is an asset for the country. Man desires to create wealth with his or her labour. Just think, what wealth the vast mass of 125 crores of Indians could create. This entire amount is the property of the society, the society should share it among its members. But that is far from reality. Then where lies the problem? It is in capitalism. It is the capitalist exploitation that creates crisis in market causing closure of industries, squeezing of jobs, fanning up of unemployment menacingly. These in turn are driving people to rebel. And such people searching for the way out, may be drawn towards the SUCI(C). This very thought is causing anxiety in the capitalist class and their subservient parties. So, the capitalist class is hell bent upon nipping this possibility in bud, and are thus resorting to thousand and one tricks of which election is another one, that too most heinous. At the time of independence, when we were too young, there were poor people, as we can recollect. But whatever meagre amount of property they had at that time, they could not hold on to it. Where have all those properties gone? Leaders like Gandhi- Jawaharlal dashed around the country to call upon people of the country to drive away the British imperialists with a view to bringing prosperity and happiness to people. But what do we see today, even after 70 years of independence? Street-dwellers are swelling in number like anything. Capitalism is incessantly pushing people to live like beasts without food, clothing, education or medical facilities. It is compelling 90% of people to live as good as dead. On the other side, what capitalism is bringing in on the question of morality and ethics? Capitalism is exhausting the minimum of softer and nobler instincts of man, demolishing their character, dehumanising them. Comrade Ghosh once said that a nation, even if it starves, can live with head high if it has its moral backbone erect. It is to shatter that moral backbone that

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# Across the world, election is the means to befool and debase people

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the rulers are taking to any means, going to any depth. They have created such an ambience where a poor is not trusting another poor man, brothers are distrusting their own brothers, a wife cannot trust her husband, the girl in the family cannot have faith in her father or brother. Old ladies of 60 or 70 are not daring to move out to streets all alone. Even they are being dumped here and there, raped and killed. You are yourselves finding at what rate rapes, murders are taking place every moment, every day. That is only a part of what happens in actuality. The all-powerful state machinery sits deaf, dumb and inert. They do not care to identify the rapists and adequately punish them. The reason is clear. Capitalism cannot survive without dehumanizing humanity.

## **Go to the masses, change yourself to change them, prepare to fight**

Comrade Bhattacharyya said that people are definitely seeking to free themselves from this suffocating situation that has been created. But who will free them from this situation? CPI or CPI(M)? The only force that can come out to free them are the genuine communists, the SUCI(C), the Party founded and nurtured by Comrade Ghosh himself. And for that its leaders and cadres will have to go to the masses every day, build up movements on people's problems, and through those generate political consciousness in them based on communism. To accomplish this it is first necessary to elevate their own genuine communist consciousness from higher to higher levels. Failing this task, the Soviet socialism was caught in the grip of modern revisionism. Revolution was accomplished in Russia in 1917, starting from 1954 Khrushchev's conspiracy brought in modern revisionism in there. In consequence of this, socialism fell down in 1990. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh did not live to see the present devastating debacle of socialism. He died before that. But since the fifties of the last century, he noted the trends of infiltration of mechanical thought process instead of the dialectical one in socialist countries, the trend of modern revisionism and issued warning that the standard the communists maintained at the time of the Russian revolution would not be enough in the present context.

Based on the thoughts of Lenin's days, the standard must be elevated to higher levels to meet the contemporary necessities. Mao-Zedong in China released cultural revolution to thwart modern revisionism. It was possible to give defeat to some forces that were treading the path of capitalism. Even then, despite terming it magnificent and epoch-making, Comrade Ghosh pointed out its limitations. He showed that the standard of communist thinking need to be developed to higher levels in keeping with the necessities of the time. New economism and the new kind of socialist individualism that had raised their ugly heads in socialist countries must be defeated. Within the party and involving the entire masses of people intense ideological struggle will have to be initiated in such a way that while defeating modern revisionism a newer understanding of Marxism emerges in its proper theoretical shape. During Russian as well as Chinese revolutions, when the appeal of bourgeois humanism was operative, though to a limited extent, it was considered adequate to hold social interest above individual interest as the standard of communist consciousness. Comrade Ghosh said, now it would not do with that. Because, not only bourgeois humanism has been exhausted, it has turned against revolution. Its bonafide consequence would be emergence of modern revisionism. Revisionism means infiltration of bourgeois thoughts, ideas and ideology into the communist movement covered in the cloak of socialism. So to uproot this menace, today in the realm of philosophy and thinking, an intense ideological struggle must be initiated involving the entire party and the entire masses of people of the society; the essence and the direction of this struggle will be to make it totally clear that the individual interest and the social interest are one and the same. It will make people stand up erect as a new kind of man freed from private property and private property mental complex. When this was the historical necessity, it was noted that at such a juncture in Soviet Union and in China a new kind of economism and bourgeois individualism raised their heads. A doctor in America earns this much, why should not I, a doctor of Russia or China earn that much? Highly perturbed at such an attitude, Comrade Ghosh had said

that if this thinking was not eradicated totally from the Russian or Chinese people and instead if they were not imbued with higher thinking, modern revisionism will not be uprooted, it will repeatedly come back and finally capitalism will be restored, even if modern revisionism may be thwarted for the time being. Exactly this happened. Teng Shiao Ping (Deng Xiao Ping) who had opposed the Cultural Revolution, declared after Mao's demise that it was not a sin to get rich. This is tantamount to promoting private property and encouraging individualism, which was nothing else but than fanning up pure and simple capitalism. Side by side, Comrade Bhattacharyya added: I would like to remind you that the concept that individual interest and social interest are one and the same in socialism, was the outcome of the contribution of thinking of all the giant Marxist authorities, yet Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has raised the understanding of this concept to a unique level.

Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya then said that to confront the present complex situation, we should realize the focal point of our struggle. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh repeatedly made it clear to us that we should conduct an uncompromising struggle till the last days of our life against bourgeois thoughts and views covering all aspects of life including love, sex, marriage. Through this we should keep on our relentless struggle every moment every day to change ourselves. The ultimate goal of our life would be to change others through changing ourselves first. But this cannot be done without incessantly developing class and mass struggles. The present situation cannot be confronted without elevating the communist movement to this standard. Today at every step, in every event, we are finding the unflinching readings and opinions of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh being manifested in reality, both in the darker and brighter parts of the situation. True, counter revolution overwhelmed former socialist states, but that did not mark the end. Revolution is sure to make its comeback. Voice of revolution is again being heard in Russia, China, or east European countries. In economy and culture, people there are painfully feeling the difference between the present capitalist activities and those when they had a socialist state. In Russia processions are coming out with

photos of Stalin. This Stalin is not just a person, but Stalin as the product of a concrete struggle. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was also the product of such a struggle. I still remember, standing before him I tended to develop a sublime feeling. Even at that time he had become an icon of Indian revolution, his thoughts had spread over the world. I used to feel, how could he raise himself to such heights? He was a man, just as I was. Where lay the difference then? With revolutionary modesty he himself had provided the answer: it was not under the influence of any supernatural power, but as a result of concrete struggle inside the Party and outside, that you could find me at this position.

Friends and comrades, to carry out properly the historical responsibilities of revolution that have been devolved upon us, we would have to keep these two struggles inside and outside the party equally alive; we will have to bring those ceaselessly to newer and newer levels with the life and struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh held as beacon before us. People of our country are now under the spell of reactionary forces. But that is not the end, nor everything. Feeling the pangs of sufferings in life of people, which are turning into a smoldering fire against exploitation of the capitalist class in 90% of the population, we must convert these smoldering fire into massive wild fires. Only then the Party will gain strength, and revolution will be hastened.

## **People do have the power to think and act, to chose the right**

Referring to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts on revolution, Comrade Bhattacharyya said that revolution cannot be spontaneous. It won't take place the other day, as and if, we want it. For revolution to happen, revolutionary consciousness will have to be generated among the exploited people in villages, towns and cities, one and all. It should be such a consciousness that people will not hesitate to lay down their life at the call of the Party. Gradually in this manner the ground for a mass uprising will have to be prepared. The revolutionary Party will have to be established firmly all over the country, from east to west, north to south. This is not any impossibility. You must be knowing that there

*Contd. on page 10*

# 41st Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on Fifth August, observed across the country

41st Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the fore-ranking Marxist thinkers of the present era, the founder General Secretary of the Party and a great leader of the people, was observed on 5 August all over the country. Everywhere on this occasion the Red Flag was hoisted, floral tributes were placed by the leaders, cadres and admirers of the Party at the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and meetings on different scales were held. Meetings were started with rendering of the song on the great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and they ended with the *Internationale*. *Proletarian Era* has already published reports of the observances from a number of states. Here we include a few more.

## Ghatshila, Jharkhand

As on the earlier occasions, 40th Death Anniversary of the great leader of the Proletariat, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was held with due solemnity at Library Hall of the Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought Study Centre at Ghatshila, Jharkhand on 5 August. The Memorial meeting was presided over by Comrade Rabin Samajpati, Secretary, Jharkhand State Organizing Committee. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran Polit Bureau Member of the Party addressed the gathering, presenting an illuminating and inspiring account of the life struggle and contribution of the great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and laying down the tasks Comrade Ghosh has bequeathed to the Party leaders and cadres to perform.

## Bangalore, Karnataka

In the last issue of *Proletarian Era* we published the report of the 41st Memorial Day observance at Bangalore, Karnataka on 5 August. Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI (C) had been the main speaker there. Here we publish the salient points of his speech there, which was not included in the report.

Laying down the significance of the Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to the Party, Comrade Ghosh had himself founded, Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya said right at the beginning, that on this day we recapitulate the essence of his thoughts, his vital teachings, which stand out as our beacon. Today though he is no longer physically present among us, we have been able to establish the Party across the country barring its three or four

states simply basing ourselves on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Thoughts, that too, to the extent we the preachers have been able to convey those to the masses. Over and above that, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has become today a Marxist authority before the world working class movement.

Comrade Bhattacharyya then said that every great thinker and leader is definitely a product of the time and the then conditions prevailing around him or her. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was in jail when he had realised that the independence that we were going to reach would only bring the capitalist class to the ruling position in India. And from there he got into thinking about the unavoidable steps to fulfill the historical necessity of achieving real independence for people. It was a time when many deeply thinking patriotic-minded individuals in different parts of India felt likewise but were baffled. Some of them felt, for 90% of the exploited toiling people it was going to be a fake one to keep them chained under the capitalist rule, just as they had been under the British Imperialists. But what was the next course for them to take? All those thinking people were searching for an answer, impatient as they were, in vain though. An eminent intellectual who had once embraced Marxism, who had the opportunity to work with Comrade Lenin, who had been deputed with the task of developing the Communist Party in China and some other countries, even he could not provide a comprehensive answer to this question. The person I refer to, was MN Roy who was a highly acclaimed intellectual, who, even after being in the thick and thin of the communist movement, failed to provide answers to this question. The answers had to wait till the emergence of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Coming out of jail Comrade Ghosh laid down before the country that the freedom movement in the country had been betrayed by the capitalist class and their agents. There will be a capitalist state to cause more exploitation, oppression for people in the attempt of the capitalist class to further their interest. So, there must be an anti-capitalist revolution and for that a communist party to lead. He emphatically stated to realize that although there was a communist party, the CPI, established in the country sometime in 1920, it was not at all a genuine communist party. It

was undivided at that time, split later in 1964. It operated and conducted some struggle too. It was not discredited as it is today, was even held in high esteem by many. It was also under the focus of the Soviet Union and People's Republic of China, the former emerging victorious inflicting a crushing defeat to the imperialists. They had been extending their support to the CPI. Despite all these being true, Comrade Ghosh emphatically observed, not from any grudge, but purely from a scientific viewpoint, in a scientific manner, that the CPI was not a communist party at all.

At the very beginning he was in his thoughts. But soon after taking up the task of building the Party, he came to establish his viewpoints in a scientific and precise manner why the CPI could not develop as a real communist party. Comrade Ghosh was ridiculed for calling CPI anything but communist. But as the lone fighter Comrade Shibdas Ghosh remained undaunted in holding on to his analysis. However difficult the task be, as a communist the real task that lay before him was to give birth to a real communist party in the Indian soil. He was a lone man talking, discussing, meeting people at various places, running from here to there. By this process he convinced a small group of people, rather a handful, and gave birth to the party on 24th April 1948.

In the process Comrade Ghosh emphasised that to form a genuine communist party the first step was to initiate an all-embracing socialist movement. He said that the CPI failed to initiate this socialist movement covering all aspects of life including sex and at the same time start democratic movements, class and mass struggles on that basis. It was through such a process that persons who were intending to establish a communist party in a particular country could get declassified, that is through relentless struggle could acquire the process of thinking of the working class. Among those who had started the movement, there would be unevenness in grasping the class consciousness. Based on that in course of struggle there would have emerged leaders who would have given a formal shape to the party. Comrade Ghosh carried on the struggle for founding the SUCI(C) following this very process.

After formation of the party, he continued the movement countrywide. He did not live long, he passed away at the age of only



Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya

53. Within this short span he made the Party so important that it could not be dismissed even by the bourgeois parties. All parties had to take note of SUCI (C). The left parties realized, something new had appeared.

Comrade Ghosh has given us a complete and comprehensive revolutionary theory covering all aspects of life. Elaborating upon Comrade Ghosh's unique analysis on individualism, including how to recognize and fight this menace, Comrade Bhattacharyya pointed to Comrade Ghosh's comprehensive understanding of the issues that the international communist movement faced, namely, the counter-revolutionary upsurge of Czechoslovakia, the cultural revolution of China and revisionism in the Soviet Union. He made it clear that revisionism is nothing but infiltration of bourgeois ideology into the communist movement meaning that modern revisionism is such bourgeois thinking and ideas under a socialistic system. When revisionism creeps into a socialist system, if there is no powerful ideological struggle to counter it, the danger of counter revolution becomes real. If bourgeois individualism is not philosophically fought, the bourgeoisie will incessantly poison people's mind and the communist movement to pollute everybody.

Once Kalinin, a veteran ideologue at the time of Comrade Stalin, held that it was sufficient to place social interest over individual interest to be a good communist. On the basis of this understanding socialist growth had started in the Soviet Union. But now in the period of decadent and moribund capitalism, more so when socialist states do not exist any more, the standard of placing social interest over individual interest, by itself, will not suffice. We must realise that in the process of establishing socialism and later communism, today we shall be called a communist only when there is a complete merger of individual interest and social interest. Such a mindset should be created.

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# Maladies mentioned, remedies evaded : verbose policy proves itself hollow

*Contd. from page 2*

from economically disadvantaged groups are more likely to receive less opportunity to participate in pre-primary education". But why? Is it not because of high cost of education rising everyday with rampant privatization as well as commercialization, the latter being practised also by the governments themselves? Is it not because of abject poverty of the majority of the masses of the country, whatever may be the cooked up government data on poverty level suggest? These reasons are simply kept under the carpet. Also kept under the carpet the fact that the union government which sheds crocodile tears for pre-school children in its policy document that is on paper, has actually mercilessly slashed the ICDS budget meant for this section of students. So lamenting on drop-outs turns out be just a hoax.

## Quality of education

To quote the document "The biggest challenge facing school education relates to the unsatisfactory level of student learning". Some non-committal verbosity is there to cover up this stark reality of lowering quality. But then the real problems are skirted. What about the poor infrastructure in most of the schools; what about paucity of schools and teachers despite the governments' commitments and objective necessity for a school in each village? What about filling up of vacant posts and appointment of adequate number of qualified permanent teachers and non-teaching staff in all funded institutions? Why not absorb all part-time, para teachers, guest teachers as permanent teachers? What about extreme poverty holding back students and their families? What's of disgusting and widespread corruption that involves education authorities, ministers, and what-not of high-ups.? What is to say about the inefficient administration and all such other vices and viruses? These are not at all mentioned; rather onus is placed on teachers and students. Does it speak of honest intention of the policy makers?

## Privatization

On privatization, too, there is outwardly a frank admission about the "wretched condition created by rampant privatization". But the policy does not answer: Why has it

occurred? Who, other than the governments, are responsible for it? Who other than a former Congress-led government introduced the slogan 'Education is a unique investment' that eventually opened the floodgate of privatization? Who other than later governments of different hues, including those of BJP retained the same approach to reign supreme? And if the present government is honest and different, where are the remedial measures, like immediate withdrawal of fee hike and effective curb on donation-capitation menace at all levels of education, as also withdrawal of education and other service sectors from under the purview of the WTO?

## Evaluation: No Detention Policy

No detention Policy is a burning issue in education field today. The document *Some inputs* says "The present provisions of no-detention policy will be amended, as it has seriously affected the academic performance of students. The no detention policy will be limited up to class V and the system of detention will be restored at the upper primary stage. Academically weak students will be identified, based on CCE conducted by schools, for providing remedial instructions." It is noted with concern that these comments come after countrywide admission of the fact that 'no detention policy has brought disaster to school education'. Even all the committees and bodies set up by the governments themselves as well as overwhelming majority of the states have endorsed that popular verdict against the no detention policy. The HRDM poses innocent admission, yet takes a half-hearted measure. Obviously it is taken only under people's pressure. Yet the government does not care to suggest introduction of Pass-fail system right from Class I, from where the education starts and which the organizations like the All India Democratic Students Organization (AIDSO), All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) and others have all through demanded for unequivocally. After all this policy is creating two kinds of students; one from the government-run or such other schools where students of poorer families take lessons from. And the other the private schools charging high fees, offering excellent grooming including their proper evaluation and detention if

necessary, for students from rich and affluent families. Detrimental to students interest in general, this matches perfectly well with the policy of curtailing education from the masses, which the rulers and their policymakers have been continuing since independence. So, on this or that pretext, with this or that cunning tricks they have always tried and will try till the last to keep the no-detention policy alive.

As a measure of examination reform, the document proposes to hold two levels of end Class X Board examination in Mathematics, science and English on the plea of high incidence of failure. But it does not spend a word on ensuring improved infrastructure, adequate number of teachers and not methods like CCE, to help 'academically weak' students. The proposed measure will only and obviously give birth to two sets of students: One handicapped from studying in ordinary schools with rickety infrastructure and following "No detention" policy (till now), and thus ill equipped for and thus weeded out from higher studies. They will be thrown open to vocational job-oriented education and finally the utterly uncertain intensely competitive job market. The other privileged with studying in high-priced private schools properly grooming them with examinations and better coaching, will emerge to look-out for few well greased jobs in the country and abroad. Should not the NEP have thought of measures instead to do away with this sad outcome? The HRDM must also immediately stop segmenting education into small modules through recourse to measures like introduction of widely criticised semester/trimester system and interdisciplinary Choice Based Course Credit System — all designed to impair development of comprehensive knowledge; it must withdraw policy of weakening public examination and stop stress on internal assessment like CCE prone to spread of corruption, favouritism, intentional victimization, etc.

## Language of instruction

On language of instruction, it says "All states and UTs, if they so desire, may provide education in schools, upto Class V, in mother tongue, local or regional language as the medium of instruction." Mark the option *or*. This will leave a room for Hindi to infiltrate as

regional language at the cost of mother tongue; even English will be taught at only functional level, without any emphasis in literature and such other components of language studies and will be marked with reduced importance.

Over and above that, the document mentions that, "Keeping in view special importance of Sanskrit to the growth and development of Indian languages and its unique contribution to the cultural unity of the country, facilities for teaching Sanskrit at the school and university stages will be offered on a more liberal scale." Not only words. In May 2016, the MHRD issued instructions to the IITs and other institutes of national importance to initiate "Sanskrit Cells" for introducing courses in Sanskrit, "to facilitate study of Science and Technology in Sanskrit literature and inter disciplinary study of various modern subjects and its corresponding subjects in Sanskrit literature." An MHRD document ([http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/Report-CVRM.pdf](http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Report-CVRM.pdf)) titled 'Vision and Road Map for the Development of Sanskrit – Ten Year Perspective Plan' further claimed, "There are hundreds of works like Siddhanta Shiromani, Vriksha Ayurveda, Upavana Vinoda, Mayamatam, etc., to name a few, which are of great relevance in the context of research and innovation." It is thus clear the government is trying to impose Sanskrit at various levels of the education system as a part of some agenda, where the Vedic age will be painted in a picture of imaginary glory. What a double-dealing on the part of the HRDM. On one hand, it advocates for teaching-learning of technological aspects of science for skill development to find global footing for the few and vocational education for the masses. On the other, it proposes and acts for promoting Sanskrit to teach materials in the name of science which were far from the modern science that is based upon established and universally acclaimed scientific methodology of observation, experimentation, theory-building, and objective testing or verifications of those theories before accepting those in the treasure of human knowledge. Where will this admixture of these two apparently incompatible propositions lead our education to? The HRDM will have to answer it.

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# NEP at best a milestone for wiping out scientific education and mind-set

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## Bureaucratic curb of autonomy

The document proposes overhauling of University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education and there are also other recommendations to fix the governance of education. These include changes in management and monitoring of education departments, schools and universities and in the process of recruitment, training and posting of academic staff. All this will lead to centralized bureaucratic administration and control over the education system with an eye to smoothening implementation of their agenda, whatever that be, spelling doom for the question of autonomy. Rather, the HRDM must take steps to stop policy of compulsory accreditation of institutions, measure designed to promote commercialization and making accreditation the criterion for UGC funding, stop attempts at autocratic centralization of education through restructuring by legalizing Private Universities Bill, Foreign Universities Bill, Educational Tribunal Bill, NCHER Bill, Central Universities Act, etc. The policy should also stop pursuing policy of curtailment of autonomy and democratic rights of academic community, re-instate all democratic rights of students, teachers and non-teaching staff, stop encroachment and curb on autonomy of educational institutions.

## Foreign universities

*Some Inputs...* suggests : Selected foreign universities, from the top 200 in the world, will be encouraged to establish their presence in India through collaboration with Indian universities. If required, steps will be taken to put in place an enabling legislation. Rules/ Regulations will be framed so that it is possible for a foreign university to offer its own degree to the Indian students studying in India, such that these degrees will be valid also in the country of origin.

In the present context of globalization and particularly the GATS, when education is viewed as a global trade, would the proposed setting of Indian campuses of foreign institutions, even the traditionally renowned ones, ever be enough to help those rise above the status of industries,

money-making centres, whose worth will be determined by their 'brand value'? Already all over the world even the best of the institutions are not being able to keep their standard from falling. There is acute dearth of good teachers at the higher level of education in all countries, including ours. Can the problem of lowering of standard or dearth of teachers be tackled simply by hiring academicians at high costs, as prescribed in the GATS' provisions? Will these foreign institutions ever care to give priority to the needs of education of the country under the particular situation available at present in their programmes for framing curricula, choosing subjects, determining terms and conditions of work for the teachers and employees etc.? Expectedly not. Particular needs of the country will come only as secondary to them; their intent and goal will only be the business. It will only add to the virulent spate of privatization- commercialization of education now rampant in the country.

## Conclusion : Old wine in a similar new bottle

In sum and substance the document *Some inputs for Draft National Education Policy 2016* does not present much difference from the proposals, recommendations, measures of earlier attempts, particularly the NPE '86, NKC report or the Yashpal Committee report of the UPA regime. Thus in discriminating two kinds of students (one privileged and other commoners that is the vast masses of students from poorer families: marked OLL and MLL in the earlier attempts respectively and here in the document two kinds sitting for two different school leaving examinations) and as corollary in restricting rather curtailing higher education from the poorer section of students, in continuing with privatization (along with ritualistic criticism of its maladies), menacing trend of centralization of powers (examination, administration and governance etc., with increase in bureaucratic powers) with a view to smoothening out any opposition or non-conformist traits: in all these major trends the draft policy does not differ from the earlier ones, barring stronger and more centralized efforts. But what is

more dangerous lies elsewhere.

## The most ominous trait

Glaring is the preamble. Here it is stated that :

"Indian scholars like Charaka and Susruta, Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya, Chanakya, Patanjali and Vatsayayna and numerous others made seminal contribution to the world knowledge in such diverse fields as mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medical science and surgery, fine arts, mechanical and production technology, civil engineering and architecture, shipbuilding and navigation, sports and games. During the freedom struggle, several leaders like Gokhale, Ram Mohan Roy, Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya and Gandhiji worked for better education for the people of India."

The list is striking from the absence of any names of the fore-ranking scientists, such as Jagadish Chandra Bose, Meghnad Saha, SN Bose, CV Raman, PC Roy and many others who contributed to the human treasure of knowledge and modern science. The list mentions afore-said four stalwarts working for education during the freedom struggle (which did not really begin during Rammohan Roy's time). Their contributions notwithstanding, the document conveniently omits the name of Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, one of the most eminent, if not the singular educationist who stood steadfast for a scientific secular education. What do these omissions indicate, may be easily judged. What is important are the happenings and utterances that go on in the background. As mentioned, while the process of preparing a national policy was on, the RSS had declared openly that they will be submitting their views and will have those implemented. The RSS affiliates had openly demanded 'complete overhaul' on Hindu thoughts. Time and again RSS- BJP leaders in the name of upholding the cause of the past Indian glory and tradition, have simply trumpeted for their *Hindutvavadi* agenda, which repudiates in clearest terms modern scientific education as foreign (though the HRDM presents a red-carpet ovation to the foreign universities for business) . They have catered totally unscientific, even obscurantist ideas in the name of science. Their campaign for Sanskrit, inclusion of Hindu

scriptures like Geeta, Ramayana, Mahabharat in curriculum even of universities, all speak of their intent. On this background total official black out of scientific modern education in the draft policy carries grave omens, no doubt.

This blunt whitewash of the concept of secular scientific modern education is sure to bring about a tremendous adverse effect on the country's social-cultural ambience. It will promote blind submission, fanaticism, obscurantism and all sorts of intolerant irrationality, as destruction of secular scientific education means destruction of rationality, power for objective analysis of life's problems and, in the long run, thinking faculty of human being with accompanying shattering of cultural- moral backbone of people. This is the mindset that helps establish fascism in the country.

So people must demand of the HRDM, rather the BJP government to maintain and fortify effectively secular – scientific – democratic approach in all aspects of education, in academic curricula and syllabi, course content and textbooks, behavioural lessons, practices and custom in the institution. Any extent and kind of communalist approach must be shunned. The education policy must lead to stop catering distorted views of history, obsolete unscientific thoughts in any and every aspect referred above. Those should give due emphasis on basic sciences, humanities and literature and stop superficial 'functional approach' or 'Child Centred Approach' in teaching and learning— measures intended to undermine foundations of school education. Only then a free, comprehensive man-making character building education that makers of the nation envisaged can be reached at. Otherwise the draft will remain a milestone document for destroying the secular scientific modern education in the country.

The HRDM needs to take note of these facts, carry out necessary amendments and rectifications before the final policy is framed. Indian people, in their turn, require to remain aware of the omens carried in the so-called Draft National Education Policy 2016 and organize themselves for a powerful sustained education movement to thwart implementation of this disastrous policy.

## AIAIF condemns US air strikes on Libya

In a statement issued on 6 August 2016, All India Anti-imperialist Forum (AIAIF) strongly condemns the resumption of aerial strikes in Libya by USA ostensibly with the purpose of annihilating ISIS. These are not the first US attacks on Libya. With the object of controlling the oilfields of Libya, US-led NATO launched the war in 2011 which broke the Libyan state and destroyed its institutions. Prior to this Libya was the most prosperous country in Africa, with its tribes united in a modern, stable, broadly secular state, and several welfare measures for the citizens were in place. It is because of the US-led war that the country plunged into chaos. There is no central authority, and the different tribes and groups remain engaged in perpetual strife bringing never-ending miseries in people's life, and propelling them to flee to European countries. This chaotic situation created by USA helped the ISIS to gain a foothold. It is to be remembered that ISIS is a fall-out of the illegal US-led imperialist war against Iraq. It is the imperialist

powers who provided succour to the fundamentalist forces in Iraq, and earlier in Afghanistan, which morphed into Taliban, Al Qaeda and ISIS. The same nefarious activities they are presently carrying out in Syria. Their bid for a regime change in Syria has helped the ISIS to establish control over large swathes of territory. And now with the entry of Russia in the war in Syria and the bombing of the ISIS strongholds there, the Islamic fundamentalists are finding refuge in chaotic Libya. Now, with the different armed groups engaged in an internecine strife to gain control over the Libyan oilfields, and with ISIS's entry into the game, USA is sensing the danger of these oilfields and the important coastal towns including the port at Sirte, being taken over by the ISIS, and has resumed bombing of Libya. We appeal to all peace-loving, democratic-minded people to combine the fight against religious fundamentalist forces with uncompromising fight against the aggressive acts of the US-led imperialist powers.

## Movements around the country

On 9 August and 10 August respectively, Shakurpur (Delhi) unit of AIDYO and Rampura unit of the SUCI(C) staged protest demonstrations and submitted a memorandum each to the local MLA of **Trinagar constituency (Delhi)** on local problems including the spate of Dengue disease .

Under the leadership of Jan Kota Sangharsh Samity, a platform raised at the initiative of AIDYO, a dharna of more than thousands was staged at **Rashtra (Balia District, UP)** on 16 August defying stiff resistance from the administration against corruption in public

distribution system. A memorandum with a 6-point demand charter was submitted to the Deputy Collector of Rashtra Tahsil.

**AIKKMS Gomti District of Tripura** held deputation and submitted memorandum to the BDO on 22 August on different problems of agriculture and farmers (namely, fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, price of crops, irrigation facilities, compensation to those affected from natural calamities, agricultural loans etc.) as well as exorbitant price rise, wretched condition of medical facilities, education, transport and communication etc.

### Make 2 September strike a total success: CTUOs call upon workers

".....While expressing confidence that ...dubious ploy to mislead, confuse and divide the workers by the government is destined to fail, the CTUOs reiterate its clarion call and appeal to the working people of the country irrespective of affiliations to further widen their unity and unitedly combat the anti-worker, anti-people policies of the Government through making the call for countrywide general strike on 2nd September 2016 a total success".

[Quoted from the Press Statement dated 18 August 2016 issued from a meeting of the leaders of the Central Trade Unions and Organisations (INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, UTUC, LPF) held at the INTUC office in New Delhi]

## Red Salute Comrade Yogesh Dhakad

Comrade Yogesh Dhakad, member Guna (Madhya Pradesh) District Organising Committee SUCI (C), State Vice President and District President of All India DSO MP and State Convenor of Breakthrough Science Society breathed his last on 17 August at only 34 years age, as he succumbed to cancer after suffering for one and a half year.

Comrade Yogesh, while a college student, came in contact with the thoughts of great Marxist leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in 2001 through All India DSO. Since then he engaged himself to become a worthy communist based on the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He led many victorious student and mass movements of the city and district including the massive and successful one against the Guna district administration's effort to shift the government boys higher secondary school from a prominent place of the city in order to build a shopping mall there. He also played important role in mass movements led by the Party like those on the burning issues of peasants, culminating in regional farmers convention in 2012 in Aron Tehsil of Guna district. Under Yogesh's leadership the Breakthrough Science Society held many programmes against superstition in several schools and colleges of the state.

For the last one and a half years, though he was suffering from severe attacks of cancer, he was mentally alert in his struggle to discharge his responsibilities. Even during his last days when his condition was deteriorating, as he came to know that the DSO College Unit Secretary of Guna PG College was having severe contradiction with her family and was undertaking a very hard struggle, he called her. As she met him, he, ignoring his own condition and pulling off the oxygen mask he was using, talked with her to give her confidence. When he was unable to attend the state level Memorial Day meeting on 5 August, he was sad and agonized. These were the instances of his earnest struggle to assimilate Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts till the last breath of his life.

Mortal remains of Comrade Yogesh was taken to his native village. There his family members accepted the Party's suggestion not to perform any rituals. Thereafter hundreds of party activists, family members and villagers joined his last journey and bade farewell to their beloved comrade.

At the memorial meeting at Guna on 21 August attended by his family members including his father, Shri Prakash Singh Dhakad, Comrade Pratap Samal, State Secretary SUCI(C) Madhya Pradesh and other leaders of, AIDSO, AIDYO, AIMSS, AIUTUC, etc, from different districts, as also leaders of different other parties like CPI, CPI(M), and hundreds of students and common people, floral tributes were paid and a number of speakers addressed the gathering appealing to learn from the struggle of Comrade Yogesh and strengthen students and mass movements.



*Police brutality on protest demonstration by AIDSO, AIDYO, AIMSS, KOMSOMOL at Guwahati, Assam on 17 August against distorted presentation of martyr Kanaklata Barua in textbooks published by BJP government*

### AIDSO contesting in Uttarakhand

For the first time, AIDSO is contesting for the Joint Secretary post in HNB Garwal Central University in Srinagar, Uttarakhand. Kusum Pandey, 3rd year B.Sc. student is the candidate.

# 41st Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on Fifth August, observed across the country

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Without attaining that the communist movement cannot remain alive. Neither can social interest advance, without individuals acquiring this consciousness. Nor, can the revolutionary party remain correct and protect it from degenerating. So, the key factor to keep the party free from revisionist thinking was to release a very powerful ideological struggle for complete merger or identification of individual interest with social interest.

Comrade Bhattacharyya added that Comrade Ghosh had said that to hasten up revolution we will have to create a condition where the people will force the capitalist class out of power. It can be done only through an insurrection in which if each of us individually realizes his or her historical role, performs the revolutionary task and gives impetus to revolution with party giving leadership at all levels, then revolution becomes inevitable. Along with that it requires preparing the people for fulfilling the historical necessity of performing, developing and concluding revolution. So two things are necessary: make yourself more equipped with higher and

higher standard, make yourself theoretically more advanced and go to the people, become their leader, continuously, every day. The date of revolution cannot be fore-told but it can be definitely said that revolution will come, it is inevitable, if the conditions for revolution are created.

Referring to Lenin's teaching and recalling Comrade Ghosh's teachings, Comrade Bhattacharyya said that in advancing the cause of revolution we should be prepared for both open and underground, legal and illegal activities, parliamentary and extra-parliamentary activities. The illusion of parliamentary democracy must be fought to make people clearly understand that this is an instrument in the hands of the capitalist class to deceive and disarm them, misguide them and make them unconscious; it is an instrument to kill development of mass and class movements based on the revolutionary working class thought and socialist outlook. Those latter, in their turn, create conditions for educating people about the system and break the illusion of parliamentary democracy and create a correct approach towards bourgeois elections. So, we

participate in bourgeois elections, enter the assemblies and parliaments at certain times and boycott these in another situation as long as parliamentary democracy exists and people's illusions for it is not dispelled, as well as we continue to develop mass and class struggles.

Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya ended his speech reiterating Comrade Ghosh's emphasis on completely identification with the masses and the revolutionary party.

## Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh-Telangana

The 41st Memorial Day meeting was organized at *Spoorthy Bhavan* at Mint Compound, Hyderabad. Addressing it as the main speaker Comrade Radha Krishna, Member, Central Committee highlighted the invaluable contributions of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to the treasure house of Marxism-Leninism, thereby elaborating and enriching it. He maintained that Comrade Ghosh founded the SUCI(C) as the only genuine communist party in India in 1948 itself and his thought will provide guidance to the communist movement in India as

well as abroad. He concluded by saying that in order to achieve the cherished goal of anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our country, strengthening SUCI(C) was the only answer and this is the way to pay befitting tribute to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary, TS & AP, SUCI(C), in his speech exposed the anti-people and pro-capitalist policies of the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State governments. Deception and Loot have become the props of these governments. The instances of cow vigilantism in Gujarat and elsewhere, Madhya Pradesh CM's utterance that there may be ghosts behind the suicides of the peasants etc., smack of dangerously growing fascist tendencies. In order to divert the attention of the people and to misdirect their anger and resentment, the rulers are encouraging medieval obscurantist ideas and harping on technical knowledge sans social responsibility.

Comrade B. S. Amarnath, Member, SOC, presided over the meeting while the other members of the newly enlarged SOC were



*Memorial meeting in Hyderabad. Comrade K. Radhakrishna, member, Central Committee addressing*

## Go to the masses, change yourself to change others, prepare to fight — call of the hour

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was a formidable independence struggle in this country which compelled the British imperialists to leave the country. It is not at all true that the civil disobedience movement of Gandhiji drove out the British. The deciding role in the independence movement was played by the heroic struggle of the Azad Hind Army of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Gandhiji wanted to call off the 1942 movement on the ground of its turning violent, but his attempt failed through. Refusing Gandhiji's call with contempt, people of the entire country came forward in more

powerful movements. At that moment, the Azad Hind Army entered the country. There was the naval mutiny centring round the farce of trial of the prisoners of the Azad Hind Force. The British rulers could not hold their ground before all these thrusts. Once, perpetrating the heinous massacre of Jalianwallabagh, these rulers wanted to show the Indians what was going to be the consequence of fighting against them for independence. The haughtiness of the British imperialists was given a drubbing by the Indian people later. This was certainly a proof that people have

the power to judge and act. They will again rise against capitalism. New thoughts have already emerged and are taking their roots. We must not be adventurist to reach our goal. With patience and calm, slowly on the strength of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts we all must build up struggles day in and day out, make mass contacts at personal initiative. In the present phase of democratic movement, waves of movements must be generated to exhaust those for greater struggles. Appealing to everybody to join this historic process, Comrade Bhattacharyya ended his address.

present on the dais.

## Durg, Chhattisgarh

On 7 August at Durg, in Chhattisgarh state, the Memorial Meeting of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of Proletariat was held with Comrade Pran Sharma, Secretary, Delhi State Committee of the Party addressing it and Comrade Viswajit Harode, Secretary of Durg District Committee of the Party presiding over. Comrade Pran Sharma highlighted the increasing crisis of capitalism all over the world including our country and the attacks the imperialists led by US imperialism are bringing down upon different countries. He called for developing powerful movement on the strength of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts to overthrow capitalism through anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH