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Imperialist-capitalist sharks are turning the whole world into a hotbed of hate killings and internecine bloodbath paving way for fascism, the worst enemy of mankind

"Get out of my country...go back home,"so yelled the man when he opened fire on two Indians killing one on the spot and grievously injuring the other in Kansas, USA, on 22 February last. After a week, another 43-year-old Indian shopkeeper was shot dead outside his home in Lancaster, South Carolina. The following day, Deep Singh Rai, a 39-year-old Sikh, was shot at and injured outside his home in Kent, California. A week back, a US-born Indian young woman was harassed on a subway train there by a white man shouting "Go back, you do not belong to this country". Not just Indians, immigrants and expatriates from other countries are also facing similar persecution, threat and even killing in US. Turn to Europe, Asia or elsewhere around the world. Invariably, one would find that the imperialist powers led by the US imperialists are igniting war-like situation in some country or other on this or that pretext and then fomenting or launching local-regional-civil wars, are devastating that victim-country and forcing people there to flee their home and hearth, and then on some other plea, are bringing down cruel attacks on the hapless refugees. The continent of Europe appears to be reeling under racist, communal terror and a climate of increasing xenophobia, which are fuelling such attacks on immigrants, foreigners and particularly refugees. Look towards Asia, and the horrifying debacle would be equally disturbing with communal-fundamentalist-ethnic-racist fanatics on a spree of lynching and intensifying hate campaign against the ethnic-religious minorities. So it is in Africa or Australia ; incidents of outburst of racist-chauvinist violence and killing are growing alarmingly. The world is being turned into a killing field, a turf of racial hatred, ethnic discrimination, communal frenzy, chauvinist fanaticism, fratricidal clashes and carnages.

World turned into killing field, turf of racial hatred

The USA has been witnessing an alarming rise in racist-ethnic clashes since long. Fake encounter killings and cold blooded murder of penurious Black people by trigger-happy racist white policemen are reported frequently. Two years back, Michael Brown, 18-year-old black teenager, was fatally shot by a racist white policeman. It sparked off protests around the nation that were galvanized by a hashtag, BlackLivesMatter (BLM), that would grow into a national anti-racist movement. The movement has argued that America's criminal justice system is a gateway to multiple systems of oppression,

denigrated and demonized and policy of deep inequality is firmly entrenched.

The situation took a turn for the worse after the new US president Donald Trump in his own jingoistic way echoed the slogan of 'Americanism' that the founding fathers of American democracy had outlined in the 'Declaration of Independence' of the country from colonial rule. Trump raised and used this celebrated slogan to his narrow end, to charge the immigrants, Muslims and expatriates for all ills of the country. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, over 700 hate groups are currently active in the United States, including neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan. The

xenophobia and nationality oppression. Recent problems of influx of evicted migrants from war-torn Middle-East countries, acute economic crisis coupled with preposterous austerity measures that write off spending on social welfare are inciting growth of racist-communal attacks and giving rise to ultra-nationalist and even neo-fascist movements throughout the continent.

In France, ultra-nationalists are the latest group to get a boost from anti-immigrant sentiment rising across the Europe. Armed right-wing racist extremist goons attacked asylum-seekers in the Calais refugee camp. The attacked refugees said that French police refused to stop the violence, and even carried out attacks of their own.

In Germany, the rise of AfD's (Alternative for Deutschland), a pro-Nazi group, has been stunning of late. People across Germany are saying that neo-Nazi and racist forces are operating openly and fuelling racist frenzies. More than 1,100 attacks on refugee shelters and asylum-seekers were registered with the German government in the first five months of 2016. Over half a century after Adolf Hitler's effort to eliminate all "impure races" from the country, ordering the genocide of millions of Jewish people, there is a calculated move to revive the noxious thought of supremacy of German race. Thus the Neo-Nazis branded with a different nomenclature are reappearing in that country.

Racist and religious hate crimes have risen up 100 per cent across England and Wales after the Brexit vote. The ultra-nationalist and anti-immigrant rhetoric of Nigel Farage, a xenophobic leader belonging UK independence party (Ukip) openly incited British chauvinism while supporting Brexit. More than a hundred incidents of racial abuse and hate crime have been reported



Defying imperialist red eyes a huge Anti-Trump demonstration in a US city

linking mass incarceration and the drug war to what is called the "New Jim Crow" of punitive treatment against black people to failing public schools, unemployment, residential segregation and poverty that grips much of the black community. However, backlash against the BLM started almost as soon as it began. BLM activists were branded as violent anti-police hooligans and thugs that licensed the racist police and other racist organizations like notorious fascist Ku Klux Klan (KKK) to exacerbate ethnic disaffection and persecution. Everyday black people alongwith their white empathisers are

FBI report suggests over 7,000 people were impacted by hate crimes nationwide already in 2013.

Latin America is also not left out of the list of violence and killing. Brazil has been one of the most violent countries in the world. On June 11, 2014, one day before the World Cup started, two policemen shot one black teenager in the head and killed him. Another 14-year old boy was shot in the leg and the back and left for dead. They had not committed any crime. The firing racist policemen were heard saying "got to kill them."

In Europe also, right-wing extremist parties are promoting

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Indiscriminate killing of innocents, mass eviction, ghastly attack on migrants-refugees, mutual suspicion and hatred : Imperialist-capitalist rulers engineering all

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since the UK voted to leave the European Union. The migrants are openly complaining about the verbal abuse they have faced from some racist-chauvinist individuals who wrongly feel empowered by the Brexit vote to express their xenophobic views as if these were a legitimate position of the majority. Purported responses to Brexit include signs saying 'Leave the EU, no more Polish vermin' being posted through letter boxes. According to the British Home Office, 44,480 hate crimes were reported already in 2013-2014, a 5 percent increase over the previous year. Over 80 percent of these crimes were related to racist hatred.

Over the last months and years, the Netherlands has experienced a surge in racist, anti-Semitic (originally denoted anti-Jew mindset but now it is synonym of racist hatred), anti-Islam hate attacks which caused serious concerns among its population. Italy is again finding the spectre of Mussolini casting an ominous shadow. While killing a Nigerian on the streets of Fermo, a mid-sized town in eastern Italy, the killer, a racist Italian, called his victim an "African monkey".

A man with neo-Nazi links went on a rampage at a concert in western Austria. He killed two people and injured 12 more before shooting himself. Last May, police in Austria arrested a suspected neo-Nazi who allegedly threatened to massacre refugees seeking asylum in the country, reported AFP. He also used neo-Nazi language and sent a friend text messages that affirmed Hitler's "National Socialist ideology." In the small town of Ozorków in central Poland, a 44-year-old man from Pakistan was attacked recently by a group of right-wing extremists who severely beat him. In January last, an unknown attacker threw a lighted bottle of gasoline into a kebab restaurant, owned by an Egyptian in another town and smashed it. A man from Bangladesh was attacked on the way to work by masked men and had to be hospitalized in Legnica. All these incidents are fuelled by the xenophobic and right-wing atmosphere systematically encouraged by the government of the Law and Justice Party (PiS) of Poland.

In Hungary, an authoritarian government has clamped down on the news media and erected razor wire fences to keep out migrants.

Hungary's Viktor Orban and Slovakia's Robert Fico, talk about defending a "Christian culture" against Muslims and foreigners. Jobbik, an ultra-right outfit, is also reportedly making dent into public mind in Hungary. There are worries that Poland may follow suit.

Vladimir Putin's capitalist government is also pursuing its own 'state nationalism' and ultra-nationalist agenda. Most of the Europe's extreme racist-fanatic parties embrace Putin's version of nationalism and the promotion of 'traditional values'. Putin has promoted a Eurasian Customs Union. If successful, it would be a major step towards rebuilding the old exploitative Tsarist empire. "It's a new Russia," Putin had told the audience during an interaction which smacked of the doctrine of oppressive Tsarist regime. It is the same barely concealed dog-whistle rhetoric that prompts the AfD to propose banning mosques. As a consequence, racist-ethnic hatred against non-Russian nationalities, Africans, Asians, and Chinese people is growing in Russia where socialism had virtually wiped out such warped mindset.

Thus, the National Front in France, English Defence League and Ukip in UK, Golden Dawn Greece, the Freedom Party in Austria, and Pegida in Germany, Jobbik in Hungary, the Danish People's Party in Denmark, the Party for Freedom in the Netherlands, Russian Party and Golden Dawn in Greece have been carrying out ghastly killings, spreading terror, intimidating immigrants, foreigners, persecuting religious minorities and espousing xenophobic ideas with impunity.

In the South Asian subcontinent, incidents of communal riots, torturing and even lynching of Muslims and dalits have become almost a regular feature in India. There is a silent, yet perceptible and ominous conspiracy of taking away the citizenship of near about 5 million genuine Indian citizens belonging to linguistic and religious minorities in Assam. All around the country, protests against government policies are being throttled on any pretext.

On the other side, the Islamic fundamentalist groups in Bangladesh and Pakistan are carrying out similar planted violence and covert terrorist strikes killing hundreds of innocent religious minorities. The ruling dispensations in both the countries are lending support, overtly or

covertly, to those fundamentalist forces till there is a widespread public opinion against them. These forces foment religious fanaticism and carry out hate campaign and harassment of religious minorities in their countries, create disaffection among the various religious communities, precipitate mindless violence and undertake terrorist activities. Similarly, many human rights groups have condemned the Myanmar government of the National League for Democracy, the party of Nobel Peace Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi for facilitating the violence against the Rohingyas and Burmese Muslims in the name of 'ethnic cleansing'. These attacks are brought down by the ultra-nationalist communal-chauvinist Buddhist fundamentalist-communal groups like Bodu Bala Sena (Buddhist Power Force) and 969 movement, described as 'Myanmar's fastest-growing neo-Nazi 'Buddhist' nationalist movement'.

The entire world is aware how the vast stretches of West Asia have been turned into a killing field by the imperialist super-powers, particularly the US imperialists, and their client regimes for the sake of establishing their unchallenged control over its crucial strategic position and rich natural resources, mainly oil. Earlier, it was the Talibani and Al Quada created, nurtured and backed by the US imperialists in Afghanistan who led communal-fundamentalist assaults on religious minorities, expatriates and other ethnic people. Now, arch Islamic fundamentalist Islamic State (IS) and their cohorts have converted the land into a slaughter house. IS maniacs openly rejoice beheading and meting out bestiality to women. A rough calculation shows the relentless offensive by US-backed Zionist Israelis is becoming more brutal. Heartless eviction of common people continues unabated. About half a million people, mostly civilians have died in Iraq since in US's war of occupation. Zionist Israel also has a long history of committing serious crimes against Israeli Arabs. In all, more than 100,000 people have so far been killed in barrel bomb explosions while sitting in their homes, hit by stray gunfire, pummelled by million-dollar cruise missiles or shot dead along ditches with single bullets to the back of their skulls in conflicts in Syria, Libya, Lebanon and Yemen, making it one of the bloodiest years in the

Middle East's history. Besides that, so many conflicts have been flaring up between the Shiites and the Sunnis—two sects within Islam. Both groups and sects have been perpetrating crimes against each other out of hatred.

Bearing the legacy of apartheid, social discrimination continues in African countries. Added to it, there is fundamentalist violence, ghastly ethnic conflicts leading to famines, appalling mass starvation, even genocides in a number of African countries, fomented and fuelled by the USA-led imperialist powers.

Intensification of fundamentalist forces be it Hindu in India, Muslim in Pakistan, Bangladesh or the Middle-east, Buddhist fanaticism in Myanmar and Sri Lanka or so called "Christian culture" of Hungary's Viktor Orban and Slovakia's Robert Fico or the rightist forces of Europe or KKK in USA, all these have indeed been threatening to religious minorities in the respective countries, vitiating socio-cultural atmosphere and triggering fratricidal bloodbath and killings. The same horror repeats itself in other parts of the capitalist-imperialist world. All around, under cover of right wingers, there is a menacing growth of semi-fascist forces bearing and preaching extreme hatred against people belonging to other sections or communities.

Patrons of menacing rise of communalism-fundamentalism

Obvious questions are why is this spurt in this menacing rise of racism-communalism-fundamentalism-ethnic chauvinism? Who is behind all these? Who is weaving ploys to make this inhuman activities into a common trend? Is it endowment of any super-natural entity or the perpetrators of these heinous crimes are very much alive and active in this material world? Take communalism-fundamentalism first. Does any religion advocate hatred towards other religions or affirms killing of believers in other religions? Absolutely not. Let us recall one basic thing. Religion and fundamentalism are not one and the same. When religion is used for buttressing petty-sectarian-sinister political interest, it is fundamentalism. It is the fundamentalists who promote and practise communalism. Religion is being used as the cloak by fundamental-communal forces to justify unspeakable crimes on humanity, whether it be in the name of Islam, Hinduism, Christianity or

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The Great November Revolution

Even after hundred years a fiery inspiration to struggle for a society free from exploitation

[On the occasion of the centenary of the historic Great November Revolution that led to the foundation of the USSR, the first socialist state in the world, *Proletarian Era* has decided to publish different write-ups on this epoch-making event in the history of mankind. From 15 March 2017 issue, we started a series of articles on the course that led to the foundation of the Bolshevik Party and prepared for the revolution under the leadership of Comrade Lenin, the great leader of the Proletariat. Below is the second part of that series. *Ed. Board, P.Era*]

[Contd from *P. Era*, V 50, No. 15]

Today, when there are confusions on the question of taking part in parliamentary election and coordinating parliamentary movements with extra-parliamentary movements, the invaluable teachings of Lenin on this issue do still provide a guideline. So long as revolutionary movements are not sweeping across the whole country, so long as people cannot be freed from their deep rooted illusion about bourgeois politics, till then the necessity of reflecting the voice of extra parliamentary movements inside the parliamentary forum would remain. People need to be made aware of the truth that bourgeois parliamentary system cannot pave the way towards people's emancipation. When futility of the parliamentary system would get fully exposed and people being imbued with revolutionary ideology would be ready for insurrection, then the need for participating in bourgeois parliamentary election will cease. That would be the time to boycott parliament.

In the changed situation, when the revolutionary struggle was on the retreat, the Bolsheviks decided to participate in the election to the Second Duma, with a view to utilizing it as a platform in the interest of revolution. The Mensheviks too decided to take part, but their decision to join hands in electoral alliance with parliamentary forces like the Constitutional Democrats, (an anti-revolutionary party), was to make the Duma serve the sinister design of the Tsar and rein in the mass movements. The Mensheviks constituting the majority in the Central Committee of the party, the policy decision was likely to go in their favour. With the object of safeguarding the working class and mass movements from such a compromising line, the Bolsheviks raised the demand for holding the Party Congress. The 5th Congress of the Party was held in London in May 1907. There, Trotsky's attempt to set up a centrist group ended in failure. The Congress decided that henceforth the party would conduct intense ideological struggle against all other bourgeois, petty-bourgeois

forces, the Constitutional Democrats, Socialist Revolutionaries, Popular Socialists, etc. Pointing to this victory of the Bolsheviks, Stalin wrote: "The actual unification of the advanced workers of all Russia into a single all-Russian party under the banner of *revolutionary* Social Democracy – that is the significance of the London Congress..." Soon after the Congress was held, the Tsarist Government dissolved the Second Duma and started to make extensive arrests. In the December of 1907 Lenin somehow evaded arrest and went abroad.

Days of Stolypin Reaction

Between 1908 and 1912 was a very difficult time for the Russian revolutionaries. Stolypin, a minister under the Tsar, had sent thousands of revolutionaries to the gallows. So, the period is referred to as 'The Stolypin Reaction' days. During this period, between 1908 and 1912, the Bolsheviks made use of legal provisions for protecting illegal party organizations and strengthening the party to the extent possible. In Lenin's words the party went over from the method of open revolutionary struggle against Tsardom to indirect struggle trying to make use of one and all legal provisions. The Mensheviks left the arena of struggle altogether. It became quite a fashion with the intellectuals to say that given the newer context, Marxism needs to be revised. People like Bogdanov, Lunacharsky and others were diluting the strong theoretical basis of the noble ideology of Marxism, in the name of improving it. Instead of waging battle against them, Mensheviks including Plekhanov left the battlefield. It became imperative for Lenin to give a fight to such an attack and thereby develop the realization of Marxism. About this time, Lenin penned his famous treatise *Materialism and Empirio-criticism*. He led a successful struggle against the idealist thinking of Mach and Avenarius. Lenin showed that just as the communists had to learn both how to advance in the midst of revolutionary current so

also during the ebb they had to learn how to retreat properly when the reactionaries flourish and how to protect and strengthen the illegal party, while utilizing to the best possible extent whatever little scope is there for legal means and strengthen contacts with the masses—that too communists must know. He added that, "... the Bolsheviks effected the most orderly retreat, with the least loss to their "army", with its core best preserved... The Bolsheviks achieved this only because they ruthlessly exposed and expelled the revolutionary phrasemongers, those who did not wish to understand that one had to retreat, that one had to know how to retreat, and that one had absolutely to learn how to work legally in the most reactionary of parliaments, in the most reactionary of trade unions, co-operative and insurance societies and similar organisations." (*Left-wing Communism, an Infantile Disorder*, p.16) In such a situation a revolutionary party will have to sharpen its knowledge and understanding.

Though the Mensheviks failed to grasp it, the Bolsheviks under Lenin's leadership knew for certain that the tide of revolutionary movement would reappear within a few years and it would be the responsibility of the party to prepare the people for participation in the newer uprising. Lenin said: "And the revolution itself must not by any means be regarded as a single act but as a series of more or less powerful outbreaks rapidly alternating with periods of more or less complete calm. For that reason, the principal content of the activity of our Party organization, the focus of this activity, should be work that is both possible and essential in the period of a most powerful outbreaks well as in the period of complete calm". (*CW*, Vol. 5, p.514)

He also showed that one who becomes a revolutionary after the revolution has set in, is not a true revolutionary. Rather one who can carry on with the revolutionary principles and slogans during a time when the reactionaries have been bringing down severe attacks and when the liberals and democrats suffer from extreme vacillation, is a true revolutionary. He is a true revolutionary, who can provide lessons to the masses how to wage struggles in a revolutionary way; and what will be the outcome of such lessons, nobody can predict.

"Whether the next wave will surge up tomorrow, the day after, or months hence, depends on quite a number of unpredictable circumstances...."(*CW*; Vol.8, p.139) He pointed out: "A people's revolution cannot be timed in advance...An uprising can be fixed, if those preparing it have influence among the masses and can correctly estimate the situation." (*CW*; Vol. 8, p.153)

In this context, it would be relevant to recall another teaching of Lenin: "Generally speaking what are the features of the suitable moment for revolution? We would certainly not be in the wrong to stress upon the following features.

What, generally speaking, are the symptoms of a revolutionary situation? We shall certainly not be mistaken if we indicate the following three major symptoms — 1. When it is impossible for the ruling classes to maintain their rule without any change; when there is a crisis, in one form or another, among the 'upper classes', a crisis in the policy of the ruling classes, leading to a fissure through which the discontent and indignation of the oppressed classes burst forth. For a revolution to take place, it is usually insufficient for 'the lower classes not to want to live in the old way'. It is also necessary that 'the upper classes should be unable' to live in the old way; 2. When the suffering and want of the oppressed classes have grown more acute than usual; 3. When, as a consequence of the above causes, there is a considerable increase in the activity of the masses, who uncomplainingly allow themselves to be robbed in 'peace time', but in turbulent times, are drawn both by all the circumstances of the crisis and by the 'upper classes' themselves into independent historical action.

Without these objective changes, which are independent of the will, not only of individual groups and parties, but even of individual classes, a revolution as a general rule, is impossible. The summation of such objective changes is termed 'a condition for revolution.'" (*CW*; Vol. 21, pp. 213-214)

The Bolshevik Party is formed

In 1912, Trotsky formed the 'August Bloc' combining all anti-Lenin and anti-Bolshevik groups and trends. Trotsky declared that he did not side either with the Bolsheviks or the Mensheviks, he was a

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Country pays heartfelt tribute to the great leader Karl Marx

To commemorate the occasion of 136th Memorial Day of the great leader of the proletariat, Karl Marx on 14 March, this year as a part of the centenary celebration of the great November Revolution, SUCI (Communist) and its different mass organizations, held observance programmes in different parts of the country, in cities- towns and villages. Here we include a brief coverage.

Karl Marx Memorial Day was observed at the initiative of AIDS0, in Gangtok, Sikkim. Attended mainly by students of Tadong Government College and Gangtok and Sikkim University, the meeting was addressed by Comrade Sourav Mukherjee, member, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI(C) as the main speaker. Apart from highlighting the teachings of Karl Marx the Great Leader of the proletariat and its concrete and creative application by Lenin to lead to the November Revolution in Russia, Comrade Mukherjee further expressed the conviction that the socio-economic and cultural problems of peoples' life in Sikkim as they are in entire India can be solved only by organizing anti-capitalist socialist revolution by applying Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh thoughts and following the ideals of proletarian internationalism. Leaders of AIDS0 Sikkim were present.



The Great November Revolution

Stolypin Reaction shattered Mensheviks, Bolsheviks made orderly retreat

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centrist, a conciliator. Having declared thus and assembling other Trotskites, he called for the plenum of the Central Committee in January 1910, going against Lenin's will. Though the Bolsheviks stopped publishing their organ in keeping with the decision of the plenum, Mensheviks and Trotskites did not wind up their publications. While waging a battle against these anti-party forces, the Bolsheviks came to realize that a separate Bolshevik Party had to be formed uniting all Bolsheviks. With this objective, the Sixth All-Russian Party Conference was held in 1912 January in Prague. Stalin has written about this conference: "This Conference was of the utmost importance in the history of our Party, for it drew a

boundary line between the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks and amalgamated the Bolshevik organizations all over the country into a united Bolshevik Party." (*Verbatim Report of the Fifteenth Congress of the C.P.S.U.(B)*, cited in *History of C.P.S.U.(B)* p. 222) In this way, by expelling the Menshevik opportunists, Liquidators, Otszovists and others, the R.S.D.L.P. was reconstituted into a new, monolithic type of party named 'Bolshevik Party'. This is the party of Leninist model for all those who want to form a true revolutionary party.

The Bolshevik Party freed from the clutches of all opportunist, vacillating and treacherous forces under the unique leadership of Lenin, with renewed vigour dispelled the dense darkness of frustration

that had descended particularly on the workers and peasants, throughout the country in those days of Stolypin Reaction. Once again the revolutionary movement started advancing. By waging a battle against the enemies of the working class and their agents the Bolshevik Party consolidated still further its work force and extended its links with the working class. The new daily of the Party 'Pravda' (meaning truth) was brought out on May 5th 1912. That very year the Tsarist Government convened the 4th State Duma. The Bolshevik Party put in its best efforts and participated in the election to the Duma, and succeeded in getting six of its representatives returned. Thereafter the party carried on the task of training and educating the

revolutionary workers of the newer generation through using the Duma as the platform for revolutionary demonstrations and bringing out a wonderful newspaper like the Pravda as the organ of the toiling masses. Drawing attention to Pravda importance, Stalin said, 'The Pravda of 1912 was the laying of the cornerstone of the victory of Bolshevism in 1917.'

On August, 1914, Germany declared war against Russia. On the question of war the unique stand taken up by the Bolshevik Party under Lenin's leadership needs a brief explanation.

World War, Bolshevik Party and revolutionary movement

Lenin showed that towards the
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The Great November Revolution

Monolithic Bolshevik Party formed under Lenin defeating centrist Trotsky and others

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end of the 19th century, world capitalism had reached the stage of imperialism, the growth of finance capital being its distinctive feature. In the interest of finance capital, the imperialist countries were in need of newer markets, occupation of newer colonies, newer spheres for export of capital and search for raw materials. A change of balance occurred in the economic and military might of the imperialist states. These imperialist forces desired to re-divide the world market with a view to extending their political hegemony and reaping maximum profit for the monopolists. The bitter struggle over who could capture how much share of the world market made imperialist war inevitable. Thus started the First World War. Tsarist Russia, France, Belgium and Great Britain, these countries together formed a bloc. As opposed to it there was the union of countries like Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey and a few others.

War would not have acquired such a terrible character and the communist parties of the world would have stood to gain, had the parties belonging to the 2nd International not betrayed the workers' interest and had they the courage to say, as per the declaration of the World Congress of the 2nd International, held in 1912 in Basle, that all the workers of the world consider it a crime to shoot each other to increase the profit of the capitalists of their respective countries. But when the war had started, instead of adhering to this declaration, almost all the parties belonging to the 2nd International, having fallen victim to national chauvinism, started raising slogans of 'protection of fatherland'. Only the Bolshevik Party under the leadership of Lenin remained loyal to the declaration of the Basle Conference. In Russia, the Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries sided with the Russian imperialists, voicing national chauvinist slogans. They spread the idea of class collaboration and peace among the capitalist and the working class and began to campaign in support of Russian war against other countries. The imperialist-capitalist class kept on practically bribing the upper strata of European workers with the help of the riches that they had looted from the colonies, thereby creating aristocrat leaders. These leaders from among the workers

exerted sufficient influence among the parties of the 2nd International. Consequent upon this Lenin had to dissolve the 2nd International subsequently.

Just as Lenin waged battle against the opportunist thoughts and ideas of the Mensheviks inside the country, he also had to lead an uncompromising struggle against the confusions that had cropped up in world communist movement. In 1916, Lenin wrote the famous book *Imperialism-the Highest Stage of Capitalism*. In this book he showed that capitalism, having lost its progressive role as it reached the last stage of development, turned into decadent capitalism of parasitic nature. However this did not mean that the life span of capitalism would be ended all by itself. The working class had to uproot this system using revolution as the weapon. Lenin said "*Imperialism is the eve of the social revolution of the proletariat*". He clearly showed that at this stage of imperialism and proletarian revolution, it is possible to attain the victory of socialism in a single capitalist country. From such an assessment of Lenin, the proletariat of different countries realized that they would be able to conduct revolution successfully against their respective national bourgeois class. This realization inspired the proletariat in the different countries.

The Bolsheviks had linked the possibility of establishment of peace instead of war with the success of the proletarian revolution. They said it was the proletarian revolution that could end the imperialist war and establish peace in reality by uprooting imperialist rule. This was the theoretical and strategic stand regarding war, peace and revolution, and the Bolsheviks carried on their revolutionary activities based on this. The First World War that resulted from the general crisis of imperialism-capitalism, further intensified instead of solving capitalist crisis, and Russian administration was weakened still further. Keeping in view the death toll and devastation that the imperialist war wreaked on common people's life, Lenin roused the workers of the country against the Tsarist rule and gave the call to intensify the mass and class struggles even more so as to effectively strike at the imperialist-capitalist rule, the latter being at the root of war as also all other miseries. The Russian bourgeoisie was trying

to convince the masses about the lie that this imperialist war was in fact peoples' war. The Mensheviks assumed the role of active associates in creating the false patriotic image of the Russian bourgeoisie. Firmly opposed to this, the Bolsheviks were engaged heart and soul in organizing the workers and peasants of the country against war as also against the conspiracy of the bourgeois class. They even campaigned among the navy and the army and attempted to convince them that capitalism-imperialism constitutes the main enemy of the people. If peace was to be restored, this imperialist war was to be turned into a civil war, with the army turning their arms against the bourgeois class of their respective countries.

The contention of the Bolsheviks matched with the experience of the common people of Russia. Russian land-owners and capitalists were flourishing from the war. Contrarily war was adding to the burden of sufferings and deprivation in the life of workers and peasants. Millions of people died in the war; innumerable lives were lost from epidemic in the war-ravaged country. Russian economy was going to the ruins. At such a time there was a serious dearth of workers in Russia since almost one and a half crore of the youth had been compelled to join the army. One after another mills and factories downed their shutters, agriculture too had stagnated. The common masses along with the soldiers at the fronts going hungry and lacking proper clothes and shoes, spent life in utter destitution. This treacherous war was devouring the greater share of Russian resources.

On the other hand, the Tsarist army was repeatedly facing defeat. Suffering from miserable lack of arms, they were no match against the mighty German artillery. In the meantime it became known that the Tsarist War Minister Sukhomnilov had helped Germany, betraying the country's interest, and some more ministers and generals of the Tsar had also followed suit. Consequently Tsarist army kept on retreating and Germany by and by, with greater show of strength grabbed Poland and certain parts of the Baltic Provinces.

All this resulted in spurting up the anger and hatred of the workers-peasants-intellectuals against the Tsarist army and intensifying the revolutionary movements of the

people against Tsarist administration throughout the country as well as at the war-fronts.

Palace uprising

Discontent was gradually spreading among the Russian imperialist bourgeoisie too. The manner in which the religious leader Rasputin together with influential persons in the Tsarist Government was trying to come to peaceful terms with Germany, left no doubt with the capitalists of the country that the Tsar's war attempts would fail. They had the apprehension that the Tsar might go for a peace pact separately. In such a situation the Russian capitalists preferred to enthroned Mikhail Romanov, brother of Tsar Nicholas the 2nd, and schemed accordingly. Through the palace uprising leading to a change of the Tsar, the capitalists wanted to kill two birds with one blow. The first was to continue the war using governmental power. And the second, by creating confusion in people of Russia through this change of the Tsar, suppress the surge of revolutionary struggle that was coming up in waves among them.

Had the Tsarist Government effected a separate peace-pact with Germany, the British and the French Governments would not only have lost one of their allies in this imperialist war, the supply of chosen soldiers of quality from Russia would also have stopped. So, the British and French governments lent all-out support to the Russian capitalists, in the attempts of the latter to stage the palace uprising to overthrow Nicholas the 2nd.

Just as the Russian army was continually facing defeats, so also within the country financial crisis too continued to assume formidable dimension. Around January-February in 1917, extreme chaos appeared in the supply of food, raw materials and fuels. Food supply to Petrograd and Moscow almost stopped. Mills and factories began to close down one after the other, causing many to lose employment. An ever greater number of Russian people were gradually coming to the conclusion that the only way to get rid of this intolerable situation is to put an end to autocratic Tsardom.

Evidently the end of Tsardom was imminent. Though the Russian capitalists had intended to overcome this extreme crisis in Russia by staging the palace uprising, the

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Global horror is the outcome of intense crisis of obsolete capitalism

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Buddhism. Now, who are those forces? It will not be difficult to uncover the diabolic face of imperialism-capitalism lurking behind and pulling the strings.

Look at trouble-torn West Asia-North Africa. The imperialists, particularly the US imperialists and their NATO allies, have turned these regions into their favourite hunting ground for the sake of establishing their unchallenged control over its crucial strategic position and rich natural resources, mainly oil. To give shape to this design of reigning over the oil-rich strategically important West Asian countries like Iraq and Iran and North African countries like Libya and Sudan, the US imperialists and their allies took to different means and methods. One of them has been to drive a wedge into the Arab countries on the basis of different brands of Islamist fundamentalism, including Shia-Sunni division. In the 1950s and '60s, the leading political movement in the Middle East was Pan-Arab nationalism, for which, despite its limitations, distinctions were largely irrelevant. The US imperialists and their allies sensed danger in that growing trend towards Arab unity. So they cleverly incited Sunni-Shia schism and disrupted solidarity among the Arab people as well as created rupture in the unity of the Arab rulers. In fact, the gruelling war of the 1980s fuelled by the imperialist camp led by the US imperialists between the then Sunni-ruled Iraq and Shia-dominated Iran had this element at the root. Now, that divide is cleverly nurtured by the US-led imperialist camp to divide the Arab Muslim people, perpetuate rift among different countries and pit one section against the other. At the same time, the US imperialists befriended the rulers of oil rich Saudi rulers, armed them to the teeth and made them their apostle in West Asia. Alongside, they have been giving all support to Zionist Israel for two purposes. One is to inflame Zionism or Jewish chauvinism to perpetuate divide between the Palestine Arabs who are majorly Sunnis and the Christians. Secondly, Israel with sophisticated arms including nuclear weapons remains a threat to all Arab countries refusing to toe US dictates. Lebanon where anti-US imperialist Hezbollah commands a significant support was attacked several times by Israel. Similarly, Iran, which is a formidable power, is being continuously threatened of a military attack by Israel as proxy for

the US imperialists since Iranian rulers are opposed to US hegemonism. Thirdly, if the Arab countries and their people are divided, it becomes easy for the US imperialists to generate local and partial wars and if necessary, full-fledged war of occupation as was in the case of Iraq under whatsoever false pretext. Next is to destabilize or orchestrate regime change in case the incumbent powers refuse to bend before US. In Libya, the US imperialists set up so-called rebels against the government, trained up, funded them, armed them and posed them as staging popular movement against Libyan President Qaddafi. These rebels were mainly Islamist fundamentalists including Al Qaeda forces. Finally, Qaddafi was killed by NATO forces. After having demolished Libya and Qaddafi, the US imperialists have now chosen Syria. The US imperialists led the group of its allies to create a so-called rebel force. Fed with all aids and assistance, these so called rebels started a movement with a declared demand for ouster of the President, Bashar Al-Asaad and destabilize Syria. It is in course of fostering this rebellion that the dreaded Islam fundamentalist force IS who regale in beheading people has come to be born there as handiwork of the US imperialists and their allies. ISIS is now spreading its network of killing beyond Middle-East as was evidenced in a spate of terror attacks in Europe and even in Sylhet in Bangladesh.

Surge of jingoism-chauvinism-racism linked intricately with the crisis of capitalism

Why is the global scenario turning so horrendous? Because, all desperate attempts by the imperialist-capitalist rulers to somehow stave off the insoluble accentuating market crisis in the decaying stage of capitalism are proved abortive. In fact, the capitalist crisis today, as shown by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era and Founder General Secretary of SUCI(C), today has become an hourly one. Capitalist-imperialist rulers are adopting one measure to wriggle out of one crisis only to sink into a bigger crisis. In the 1990s, they boastfully claimed that the prescript of globalization (i.e. opening up each other's market, dismantling tariff barriers, facilitating free movement of labour, outsourcing to destination of cheaper production etc.) as the panacea of

all economic problems. But that is not rescuing them. Hence they are taking resort to such trickeries like rebuilding of tariff walls, curbing of outsourcing and so forth. So, to get this revised economic agenda materialized, there is felt the pressing need to raise ultra-nationalist and racist slogans and fuel jingoism which would also precipitate divide among oppressed people and disrupt process of developing their struggling unity.

Did Hitler-Mussolini stand for nationalism? Similarly, do the fascist rulers of the day represent nationalism? No. This world today embellishes their evil, which is better characterised as bellicose, annexationist, warmongering chauvinism. The word 'nationalism' was the unwritten sanction for Hitler to kill six million Jews. In Nazi doctrine, racism was a total ideology bound up with national chauvinism and the concept of a master race. This rabidly reactionary chauvinism was the fever pitch of a rabid fascist power to conquer the world. Such is the aim of both Trump and Modi as well as other trusted political managers of imperialism-capitalism.

Historically, ultra-nationalism and xenophobia mean the demonization of minorities within a society to the extent that they feel insecure. It takes xenophobia to the extremes. And it is contemptuous of a rule-based liberal order which is akin to ringing of the bell of fascism. Thus, counter-revolutionary ravings are done in the name, and under the cloak, of nationalism. This sums up the 'nationalism' of the world's imperialist-capitalist oppressors today. The sinister ploy behind fanning up racism and national jingoism under the garb of nationalism to disunite people, bring cleavage among various communities, pit one section of the toiling people against another and generate mutual suspicion, disaffection and animosity among them. In the process of butchering democracy in every sphere, slogan of nationalism which once united people irrespective of race, region, religion and ethnicity of a given country within its given territorial boundary has become today a tool in the hands of the capitalist-imperialist rulers to elicit blind allegiance of the people towards the ruthlessly oppressive capitalist-imperialist state through craftily exploiting the latter's natural feeling for their motherland. It ought not to be forgotten that when emancipation of the oppressed people lies in imbibing the truth of proletarian internationalism, cement

struggling unity of the working class of all the countries and prepare for bringing about anti-capitalist socialist revolution in their respective country, the reactionary capitalist-imperialist rulers are trying to frustrate that by raising hype of ultra-nationalism.

The racist-ethnic fanatics of Europe and US are training their gun against the immigrants and refugees blaming them for all troubles to the citizens of the land. Who created this migration problem? A quick glance at the bare facts would reveal that they have been made to desert their homeland because the imperialist death merchants particularly US imperialists have unleashed unprecedented barbarism in the region in pursuit of their heinous agenda of expanding spheres of influence through overlordism, brigandage and wars of aggression. None of the ruling capitalists of the European countries including Germany, UK, France and Italy utter a single word against this felonious act of the US rulers. Now they are floating racist-communal organizations, inciting anti-immigrant anti-refugee frenzy to dupe their own countrymen and suppress the hidden truth.

How prophetic had been the Marxist stalwarts

All this clearly reveals the heinous imperialist design to pre-empt an anti-capitalist revolutionary upsurge by trying to install fascism. It only reminds us of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the outstanding Marxist thinkers of this era. Long back in the 1950s, while analysing the post-world war situations, he had said that fascism has become a common feature of all capitalist-imperialist countries, whether advanced or backward. The horror story narrated above that repeats today in the USA or India, Britain or France, Germany or the Netherlands, with variance in degrees, only attests to how correct his forewarning was.

Even further back, how irrefutably great Marx had said that "*Capital comes (into the world) dripping from .. head to foot, from every pore with blood and dirt.*" (Capital Vol.1, p.760) In a letter to the Socialist Propaganda League in America, Lenin said that in the struggle for true internationalism, socialists can never approve or indulge in any restrictions on immigration of this or that section of working class hailing from other countries. Later, speaking of the fascist regimes of the thirties, Stalin

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Fascism is the frantic attempt of the imperialists to stave off revolution by an anticipatory move

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said: "A result of the protracted economic crisis has been an unprecedented increase in the tension of the political situation in the capitalist countries, both within those countries and in their mutual relations. The intensified struggle for foreign markets, the abolition of the last vestiges of free trade, the prohibitive tariffs, the trade war, the foreign currency war, dumping, and many other analogous measures which demonstrate extreme nationalism in economic policy have strained to the utmost the relations among the various countries...The internal situation of the capitalist countries... is becoming still tenser...This, indeed, explains why the ruling classes in the capitalist countries are so zealously destroying or nullifying the last vestiges of parliamentarism and bourgeois democracy which might be used by the working class in its struggle against the oppressors...why they are driving... Chauvinism and preparation of war as the main elements of foreign policy; repression of the working class and terrorism in the sphere of

home policy as a necessary means for strengthening the rear of future war fronts — that is what is now particularly engaging the minds of contemporary imperialist politicians...the victory of fascism in Germany must be regarded...as a sign...that the bourgeoisie is no longer able to rule by the old methods of Parliamentarism and bourgeois democracy." [Report to the 17th Congress of the CPSU(B), SW, Vol.13, p. 288-388]Elaborating further and pointing out the linkage between fascism and national jingoism, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had taught that "Fascism is a historically conditioned form of counter-revolution in which capitalism seeks to stave off revolution by an anticipatory move. It is designed to save the crisis-ridden, chaos discredited capitalist order from collapse in the face of mounting dissatisfaction of the people against the existing system... its distinguishing features...are mainly economic centralization, maximum concentration of political power in the state, rigid firmness in administration—all this leading to more and more identification of the interest of the monopolists with that of the state

— and cultural regimentation... Fascism always and everywhere adopts a dual policy of suppression and persuasion or deception... National jingoism has always been a powerful instrument in the hands of the bourgeoisie to poison the mass mind against the ideology of class struggle and proletarian internationalism.... reactionary nationalism, as preached by the bourgeoisie, and patriotism of the masses of people are not one and the same... reactionary bourgeois nationalism is an expression of the bourgeois world outlook and a weapon in the hands of the exploiters to exploit the patriotic sentiment of the people in the interest of the bourgeoisie, patriotism guided by the ideology of proletarian internationalism is a powerful instrument in the hands of the exploited people to liberate themselves from the exploiting system of capitalism-imperialism...reactionary bourgeois nationalism derives from the selfish bourgeois interest of perpetuating the obsolescent capitalist order which stands in the way of social progress, patriotism fortified by the ideology of proletarian

internationalism flows from the fount of true love for people and aims at battering all barriers of social progress. So fascism can ill-afford to tolerate the real patriotic feelings of people.... With the passage of time and accentuation of capitalist crisis, the leopard will show its spots more prominently. There is no doubt about it." (Call of the Hour, SW, Vol. II, p.55-56, 57-58)

It is, therefore, incumbent upon all peace-loving democratic-minded conscientious people round the globe to close their rank and find a common cause in their fight against the raised hood of the fascist vipers. With immense patience, firm conviction, courageous determination and unflinching allegiance to Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought and to the cause of revolution to uproot and overthrow capitalism-imperialism, they will need to launch and strengthen sustained united powerful democratic movements one after another in all countries of the world. Thereupon will rest the possibility of combating the presently prevailing extremely tortuous, difficult situation anywhere and everywhere on this globe.

The Great November Revolution

War consumed Tsardom, February Revolution 1917 overthrew it

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common people treaded a different path.

February Revolution and fall of Tsardom

Right at the beginning of 1917, on 9 January, there was a strike. Petrograd, Moscow, Baku and Nizni-Navogord were shaken with rallies and demonstrations. Despite police atrocities, an ever growing number of workers began to join in so as to make the programme of country-wide strike a success.

The Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries initially tried to direct this early movement according to the intention of the liberal bourgeoisie. 14 February was the inaugural day of the Duma's session. Mensheviks had planned a procession of workers in front of the Duma. But the workers followed the Bolsheviks' call to organize a protest rally instead of going to the Duma.

On 18 February in 1917, a strike broke out at Putilov factory in Petrograd. By 22 February, most of the big factories were shut down from the strike. On 23 February (8 March by the new calendar) on

International Women's Day women workers took to the street against starvation, war and Tsardom. Petrograd workers too lent their support to this movement of women. The next day, 24 February, the strike extended even further with almost 2 lakhs of workers joining in.

On 25 February, all workers of Petrograd joined the strike and the entire city was paralysed. Everywhere clashes erupted between the Tsarist police and the demonstrators. Workers thronged the roads united, holding high the red flag that bore the slogans 'Down with Tsardom', 'Stop the war', 'We want bread', etc.

From 26 February morning demonstrations and strikes turned into mass uprising. Workers began to snatch the arms from the police and the soldiers and arm themselves. At Znamenskaya Square the police opened fire on the workers' procession. The Tsarist General went all the way to crush this uprising, but failed. That very day the 4th company of reserve battalion of Pavlovsky Regiment of the Tsar government fired back upon the

Tsarist cavalry. Attempts were begun in earnest to get the police and the soldiers over to the side of the demonstrators with women workers playing an important role in this respect. They directly appealed to the army and the police narrating the extreme suffering of the people under the heartless Tsar regime and sought their help in overthrowing the Tsarist power. The same day the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party laid down a manifesto giving a call to continue armed struggle while at the same time declaring the formation of a temporary revolutionary Government.

The next day, on 27 February the soldiers in Petrograd refused to open fire upon the workers. Aggrieved soldiers swelled up in number and joined ranks with the revolutionaries. Their number swelled from 10,000 in the morning of 27th to 60,000 within the evening.

The revolutionary workers and soldiers then started to arrest Tsarist Ministers and Generals, while freeing the imprisoned revolutionaries. The political prisoners, when released, at once joined the revolutionary battle.

Though gunfights on the streets followed for some more time, soon the Tsar's troops switched over to the workers' side — making the fall of Tsardom inevitable.

As soon as the news of the victory of the revolutionaries at Petrograd spread over to the other cities and the fronts in Russia, workers and soldiers everywhere started to dethrone the Tsarist executives. Thus was achieved the victory of the bourgeois democratic revolution in February; thus was uprooted the Tsardom.

The bourgeois democratic revolution of February had succeeded because here the workers constituted the vanguard detachment. Dressed as soldiers, they led the revolution of millions of peasants with the demands of 'peace, bread and freedom'. During these initial days of revolution Lenin wrote: "The revolution was made by the proletariat. The proletariat displayed heroism, it shed its blood; it swept along with it the broadest masses of the toiling and poor population." (CW; Vol. 20, pp. 23-4)

(To be continued)

SUCI (C) expresses deep concern at the growing communal tension in UP

Expressing deep concern about the growing communal tension in Uttar Pradesh, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(Communist) has issued the following statement on 25 March 2017:

The whole country is witnessing with worries and agonies the sudden rise of communal tension in UP immediately after the formation of BJP government there, particularly after it issued the order, as reported in the press, to seal no less than 36 slaughter houses and hundreds of meat shops, rendering thousands of workers, attached to them, jobless and causing a loss of thousands of crores of rupees so far. This act of the UP government cannot but raise serious apprehensions that the major policies in both the socio-political, cultural spheres and also in education will be given a typical Hindu orientation thereby jeopardizing whatever little secular atmosphere is there, still prevailing in the country. The minimum sense of democracy will emphatically assert that what one shall eat cannot be decided by others, far less can be directed by the government in a democratic set-up. The aforesaid order of the UP government has adversely affected the livelihood of lakhs of people

connected with the business. Furthermore, this will affect not only export of meat to no less than 50 countries but also will adversely affect the leather and associated industries and thereby weaken country's economy.

The situation has been made more complicated by raising the question of Ram temple by Sangh Parivar as well as by the effigy burning of the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, accusing him of shielding, instead of taking action against a professor of the University who according to ABVP is 'fuelling the resentment against the present government's Kashmir Policy' – which the Vice-Chancellor reportedly refuted and said that to be baseless. All this together has vitiated the atmosphere to such an extent that peace and amity are being threatened. In this situation, we urge the UP government to withdraw the said order immediately to bring back normalcy in the state and save the livelihood of the affected people. We also fervently appeal to the people that they shall not fall victim to any sorts of provocation, rather shall remain firmly united and develop mighty united struggle against the growing all out crisis of life."

Central Trade Unions call for countrywide solidarity programme in support of victimized Maruti workers

In a joint statement issued on 25 March 2017 the Central Trade Unions (CTUs: including AIUTUC, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF) express deep distress and anguish at the sentence of life to 13 workers and of 5 years jail to another four workers of Maruti Suzuki in connection with the violence plotted by the management in the Manesar plant of Maruti in 2012. In the same judgement 117 workers were acquitted honourably and 14 workers let off with sentence to the period they were in jail. The violence in 2012 in which a general manager of the factory was killed was the handiwork of hired musclemen of Maruti Suzuki management meant to create the ground for crushing the unions. Despite no way being

responsible for the incident, the workers have been convicted on the basis of concocted evidence manufactured by the state administration, police and employer nexus in a shameless abuse of power. More than 546 regular and 2000 contract workers were thrown out of their jobs and 148 workers were thrown into jail for up to four and half years. However the heinous design of the Haryana state administration-capitalist league to crush the trade union movement in the Gurgaon industrial area could not be achieved fully. Over one lakh workers in the area boycotted lunch on 16th March in spontaneous expression of protest. The workers of Maruti and its ancillaries/ subsidiaries in Gurgaon/ Manesar went on total strike for one hour in the evening shift of 18th

March. Workers' unions in Gurgaon industrial belt had massive protest demonstration on 23rd March in solidarity with the victimised workers including filing of appeal against the conviction' The Central Trade Unions denounce the ugly game of the state and capital nexus with the same vehemence with which they denounced the violence of 2012 and congratulate the workers for their immediate and united response. The CTUs assert that the trade union movement cannot be cowed down with such nefarious acts by the government-employer nexus. The CTUs express their solidarity with the struggle of the Maruti workers and the initiative of the industrial workers under the banner of Trade Union Council, Gurgaon in support of the Maruti workers. The CTUs call

upon all the trade unions irrespective of affiliations and workers in general to come forward in solidarity with the Maruti workers struggle for justice including the legal battle. The CTUs also call upon all the trade unions in the country irrespective of affiliations to organise demonstrations at their workplaces or the industrial centres on **5th April 2017** as a mark of solidarity with the Maruti workers struggling for justice and for trade union rights and demanding unconditional release of the Maruti workers and reinstatement of victimized workers.

Signed among others by Comrades Sankar Saha (AIUTUC), Sachdev (AITUC), Harbhajan Singh Sindhu (HMS) and Tapan Sen (CITU).



November Revolution Centenary observance in Silchar, Assam on 25 March last



People remember Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh in Loyalpur, Pakistan on 23 March. More news of observance of Martyrs' Day in remembrance of Bhagat Singh and his compatriots Sukhdev and Rajguru will be reported in the next issue.

Observe 70th Party Foundation Day on 24 April 2017 with due solemnity and zeal

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