

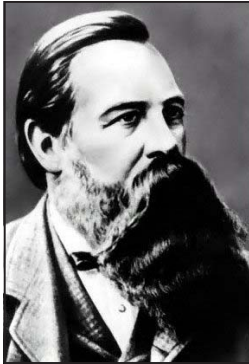
Proletarian Era

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Red Salute Frederick Engels



5 December 1820 — 5 August 1895

“The capitalist now sets his worker to work. In a certain period of time the worker will have performed as much labour as was represented by his weekly wages. Supposing that the weekly wages of a worker represent three workdays, then, if the worker begins on Monday, he has by Wednesday evening replaced to the capitalist the full value of the wages paid. But does he then stop working? Not at all. The capitalist has bought his week’s labour and the worker must go on working during the last three days of the week too. This surplus-labour of the worker, over and above the time necessary to replace his wages, is the source of surplus-value, of profit, of the steadily growing increase of capital... The origin of surplus-value (of which the capitalists’ profit forms an important part) is now quite clear and natural. The value of the labour-power is paid for, but this value is far smaller than that which the capitalist manages to extract from the labour-power, and it is precisely the difference, the unpaid labour, that constitutes the share of the capitalist, or more accurately, of the capitalist class.”

(Review of Volume One of Capital for the Demokratisches Wochenblatt, March 1868)

Once more on GST

A further step towards usurpation of power of states, steeper price rise and concentration of economic power

The highly-dramatized mid-night ceremony on 1 July, 2017 to mark the introduction of Goods and Services Tax claimed to be an overhauled taxation system has been eulogized by the country’s Prime Minister as a ‘festival of honesty’. He and his government have indicated that the scope of GST would be “expanded beyond taxation reform and transformed into an instrument for the campaign against corruption and poverty.” One would recall that a year back, the Union Finance Minister while commenting on fallout of GST stated that it would convert India into one common market, prevent tax-on-tax, make goods and services cheaper, facilitate businesses far more and boost the country’s GDP. If one is carried by these conventional cosmetic vocabularies now variegated with an array of sweet-coated words and prompted to view these homilies estranged from the prevailing capitalist system wreaking havoc in people’s life day in and day out, the real motive behind such steps on the part of the custodians of rotten reactionary capitalism would remain veiled. Need is to remove the veil and find out what is the sinister motive behind all these economic or fiscal savageries like economic liberalization, Value Added Tax (VAT), demonetization of currency notes, GST and so forth. Once that is unravelled, it would be clear why the bourgeois rulers and their bootlickers are so frantic in guarding that in every possible way. It is people’s ignorance or lack of consciousness which enables the ruling dispensation to bluff them and take them for a ride.

Economic policies cannot be viewed estranged from the prevailing capitalist system

While exposing the sinister design behind the much-trumpeted GST, we, a year back,

(Proletarian Era, 1 August 2016) pointed out in no uncertain terms that any step, any measure towards economic reform initiated *suo motto* by any bourgeois government in any capitalist-imperialist country is bound to be in the aggregate interest of the ruling capitalist class and destined to militate against people’s interest. Assessing the import of any economic policy without this necessary political outlook would keep the truth elusive. Secondly, when the entire capitalist-imperialist world is frantically trying to stave off the growing intense insoluble economic crisis endemic of the system, the capitalist-imperialist rulers, their political managers and caretaker governments, would only formulate laws, impose regulations and revamp procedures simply to serve the vested interest of the monopolists and corporates, both domestic and foreign, and operationalize the agenda of more and more concentration, consolidation and centralization of economic power along with political powers in the hands of the capitalist-imperialist state. To shield this heinous objective, the ruling party leaders and ministers indulge in a slew of false promises and assurances as well as make all kinds of radical postures. Their highly fine-tuned propaganda machinery, pliant media and hired economists-scholars-commentators are also pressed into action to create illusion among the people about such measures, laws, regulations and reforms.

How people have been repeatedly duped in the name of reform

Let us rewind to 1969 when Indira Gandhi, the then Congress Prime Minister, had announced nationalization of banks and abolished privy purse. It was also hailed as a progressive move, if not a step towards socialism, by many including the so-called Marxists. Indira Gandhi was extolled as the ‘harbinger of liberation of Asia’. Equally deceptive were her slogan of *garibi hotao* (remove poverty) and the 20-point programme of poverty alleviation. What had been the outcome of both? Rich became richer and the poor poorer. Fortunes showered on the handful of industrial barons and business tycoons while escalating plight and poverty made the toiling people wretched beyond tolerance. Based on Marxist methodology of analysis, our Party had then warned the countrymen that, “...in a capitalist state, when the bourgeoisie takes recourse to nationalization, it does so in the aggregate interest of capitalism precisely to bring

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People’s Movement earns significant victory

People’s unambiguous support towards the demand for immediate re-introduction of Pass-Fail system from Class - I and their unstinted support towards the General Strike call on 17th July, 2017 by the SUCI(C) on this demand have forced the TMC government of West Bengal to agree to the demand and write to the central government conveying the positive stand of the state government in this regard. The State Education Minister repeatedly called on our state leadership and send letters requesting to withdraw the General Strike.

In view of this, the West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI(C) has withdrawn the General Strike and congratulated the people for achieving this significant victory.

GST

None of the so called reforms brought any relief to people, rather devastated their economic life more and more

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about a coalescence of monopolies with the state and thereby virtually subjugating the state to the interest of the monopolists. In this way, the rock-bottom foundation stone of fascism is laid." (Extracts from the Resolution of the Central Committee of our Party on bank nationalization dated 30 August, 1969.)

Next we recall the day of 24 July, 1991 when the then Congress Government had rolled out economic liberalization with much fanfare based on the prescriptions of the new-fangled doctrine of globalization. It was claimed that this liberalization of economy "would create wealth, remove the stigma of abject poverty, social misery and inequality." "Reform...is not to give fillip to mindless and heartless consumerism we have borrowed from the affluent societies of the West. In a society where we lack drinking water, education, health, shelter and other basic necessities, it would be tragic if our productive resources were devoted largely to the satisfaction of the needs of a small minority." (Budget speech of Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister on 24-07-1991) Wearing the cloak of an erudite economist, he said that hitherto existing large scale tax evasion, both in terms of income and in terms of wealth, would go away and there would be substantial improvement in tax compliance in the few months to follow. Calling Manmohan Singh a 'hedgehog', his cabinet colleagues bragged that "his budget has deservedly earned its place in our history." At that time also, our Party had provided detailed analysis of this mega-deception showing that cry for liberalization is a bourgeois conspiracy to well-entrench its tooth and claw. We categorically stated that "The Congress (I) government has launched its savage-most-ever attack on the toiling and exploited people of our country in order to serve the Indian monopolists and save Indian capitalism from crisis." (*Proletarian Era* dated 14-10-1991) Has not history proved our analysis and stand to be absolutely correct? Has not this so called globalization-liberalization proved yet more devastating for the toiling millions in every respect—be it harrowing price rise, growing unemployment, massive job loss, plummeting income, marginalization

of rural poor, spurt in black-marketing and hoarding, large scale tax evasion by the rich and privileged or surging corruption in every sphere of economic activity and controlling bodies? Have our productive resources been devoted to meet the basic necessities of the millions of suffering countrymen like drinking water, education, health, shelter and such others? Or it has been a saga of carrying coal to New Castle? What do the drumbeaters of globalization-liberalization now say about this fallout other than trying to beat about the bush with hollow pedagogy?

The chapter of 'Economic Revamp' to follow was much-trumpeted tax reform in the form of introducing Value Added Tax (VAT) in April, 2005. In the preface to the White Paper issued on January 17, 2005 by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers constituted by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Asim Dasgupta, the Convenor of the said committee and the then CPI (M) Finance Minister of West Bengal, claimed that "VAT will not only provide full set-off for input tax as well as tax on previous purchases, but will also abolish the burden of several of the existing taxes, such as turnover tax, surcharge on sales tax, additional surcharge, special additional tax, etc. ...VAT will improve tax-compliance...augment revenue growth ... and therefore help common people, traders, industrialists and also the government." It was further stated there that "correctness of self-assessment will be checked through a system of department audit... comprehensive cross-checking system will help reduce tax evasion and also lead to significant growth of tax revenue... protecting transparently the interests of tax-complying dealers against the unfair practices of tax-evaders." We had immediately pointed out that talking of price reduction in decadent moribund capitalist system is a hoax. The proposed multi-point tax system of VAT would be cumbersome, harassing and would ultimately trigger price rise as starting from the manufacturers to the traders and retail merchants, all would pass their tax burden squarely on the consumers by way of loading it on the end price or retail price. Moreover, being unable to comply with the new procedures,

many small businessmen, traders and retail outlets would not only be in severe crisis but would gradually disappear and cause loss of the means of livelihood to many. The big monopoly houses and retail giants would eventually take over the entire commerce. Further, when a noxious axis of corrupt tax-administration, ruling capitalists and the government rules the roost in our country, if the procedural hazards are increased in tax assessment without taking any genuine initiative to tone up the administration and put in place stringent punitive measures for the unscrupulous tax officials, claim of preventing tax-evasion or begetting any improvement in tax collection would prove a fiasco. Instead of so called claim of freeing the system from all these aberrations, it would increase corruption, manipulation and evasion further. (*See Proletarian Era* dated 01-03-2005) Have the consequences of VAT been anything else other than this? How much has the price line spiralled in the last 12 years? What has been the extent of growth of organized retail under big brand names? Has not the quantum of tax evasion by the big industrial houses, corporate behemoths and business magnates been massive?

Then in November last had appeared on the centre-stage the prescription of demonetization once more advancing surfeit of counterfeit arguments that it would unearth black money, remove corruption, cleanse the system of fake currencies, stall funding of terrorism and ultimately paving the way towards a cashless society. Again, based on Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, we exposed the hideous underbelly of this stunt and categorically stated that so long capitalism stays, not a single aberration bred by it can be eradicated through so called reforms initiated by its pliant government. The government and those playing second fiddle to it claimed that once the system was made cashless, all crimes and misconduct related to cash would come to an end. We rebutted that as well. We showed that whatever they may say to hoodwink people at present stage of dying capitalism, cash in the sense of money which is the medium of exchange cannot disappear not only in capitalism but even in socialism. Such an argument is, therefore, a blatant lie and preposterous. Money as

medium of exchange would stay in different forms like plastic money (debit or credit cards), electronic banking (on line banking) or digital wallet (Paytm, Jio money, etc.). In cashless mode people would end pay extra money each time they transact digitally and hence promote the digital business of the monopoly houses. Hence, such monopoly houses are celebrating demonetization which their pliant government had implemented clearly at their behest. On the other hand, those who depend on cash transactions like small and mid-size businesses, cash-based small retailers, vendors and hawkers would be in serious trouble so much as to be on the course of eventual phasing out. Similarly, the unorganized sector employing 93% of the total workforce would be badly affected and the rural poor including small and marginal peasants, daily wagers and casual labourers would be pushed to the precipice of utter ruination.

Myths created around GST

In the series of these capitalist deceptions, GST is the latest endowment. As we had shown a year back, GST is based on the same principle of input tax credit as was the case with VAT. Only VAT had been state-based while GST is at all-India level. If VAT has proved to be a damp squib, how can GST be a runaway success? The Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and their cabinet colleagues are talking of one tax, one country and one market. Is it so? There are four GSTs — CGST (central), SGST (state), UTGST (Union territory) and IGST (Inter-state). All are GSTs, nonetheless! Secondly, cess would continue to be levied over and all above GST. Thirdly, petrol-diesel is not brought under GST, the reason being the maximum rate under GST is fixed at 28%, whereas existing tax on petrol-diesel is 57% (23% excise and 34% VAT) plus cess. GST is not applicable on electricity also. Can anyone disagree that both petrol-diesel and electricity are among the most vital and immediate factors that affect price levels? So will not those be playing on as usual to bring about further dreaded spurt in tariffs? Also, alcoholic beverages for human consumption are kept out of the purview of GST. It may be because the excise duties imposed by the states on alcohol bring substantial revenue to the state

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Rising protests and movements against lynching of innocent people in the name of cow protection

Ever since the BJP has come to power at the Centre, communal divide in the society and communal violence including incidents of lynching in broad daylight have been growing speedily. Lynching is a most condemned and hated term to the civilized people of the whole world. USA has been notorious for lynching of black Americans by a small group of racist fanatic whites who are despised by the majority of the democratic-minded US citizens. Now that very condemned and hated practice of lynching has virtually become a daily affair in our country bringing a bad name to our nation. The irony of the whole thing is that the members of the arch Hindu communal Sangh Parivar (who have been indulging in such inhuman acts of lynching in the name of cow protection or protection of Hindutva) often calling the critics of their most communal and undemocratic activities anti-nationals and unpatriotic, are the persons actually tarnishing the image of the country by perpetuating lynching in the name of cow protection. Are these members of Sangh Parivar of RSS-BJP-VHP—Bajrang Dal who are tarnishing the image of our country in the eyes of the whole world fit to be called civilized?

Incidents of lynching and attack are happening regularly

Even though some stray incidents of lynching had taken place earlier also, these have become a regular feature, fast spreading all over the country, particularly after Mohammad Akhlaq, a 60 year old citizen from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh, was beaten to death on 28 September, 2015 by a group of frenzied Hindu fanatics who accused him of consuming and possessing beef although everyone has got the right to take any kind of food he or she likes. Moreover, in the instant case, the very allegation of beef consumption was also proved to be a cooked up one as the veterinary department reports later revealed that he had in fact possessed mutton, not beef. Since then, there has been a spurt of similar lynching and public humiliation on the pretext of cow protection, dishonouring Hindutva and so forth. On 9 October 2015, a truck was attacked with petrol bombs by alleged Hindu extremists after rumours of it carrying dead cows in Udhampur emerged. Zahid Ahmad, the truck driver succumbed to his injuries 10 days later, while

another man suffered serious burn injuries. Just 10 days after the Udhampur attack, Independent MLA Engineer Rashid was attacked by activists belonging to the Hindu Sena. Some activists shouting slogans "gow mata ka apman, nahi sahega Hindustan (India will not tolerate any disrespect to cow)" had pounced on him and painted him with black colour, engine oil and blue ink after he finished a press conference condemning the 9 October attack. Just around the same time as the Udhampur killing, a 20-year-old truck driver from Saharanpur was lynched in Himachal Pradesh allegedly for cow smuggling. In January 2016, several passengers, including a Muslim couple, were attacked by a cow protection group at Khirkiya railway station in the Harda district of Madhya Pradesh over allegations that they were carrying beef. Similar to the incident in Dadri, the pieces of meat found in their possession were found to be buffalo meat. In March 2016, two Muslim cattle traders while heading to an animal fair were lynched and hanged by a cow vigilant group in Jharkhand's Latehar district. In the same month, 32-year-old Mazlum Ansari and a 15-year-old youngster, Imteyaz Khan, were brutally thrashed by a local 'gau rakshak' group in Chatra district of UP on the charge of smuggling cattle. Later, it was revealed that they were actually on the way to sell eight oxen they owned at a cattle market in the state. Mustain Abbas, a 27-year-old father of four, who was travelling back home after buying bulls from Haryana was allegedly fired upon by Gau Raksha Dal members on 5 April 2016. On 17 June, 2016, a 30-40 member odd group of Bajrang Dal brutally attacked a *dalit* family in Koppa, Karnataka, for allegedly possessing beef. On 11 July 2016, a few *dalit* youths who were skinning a dead cow brought from Bediya village were beaten up and then paraded naked by the members of the self-styled Gau Raksha Dal outside Mota Samadhiyala village near Guna in Madhya Pradesh. On 26 July, 2016, two Muslim women were beaten up at Mandsaur railway station in MP by the members of the Bajrang Dal, on the suspicion of carrying beef. In August 2016, two *dalit* men were brutally attacked by a group of 100 cow vigilantes while skinning a dead cow. In August 2016, in Mewat, Haryana, a woman and her 14-year-old minor cousin were gang-raped

and two of their relatives murdered by insane Hindutva groups after being accused of eating beef. On 1 April, 2017, Pehlu Khan and at least four others were grievously injured when a mob of so called cow protectors attacked nearly 15 persons while they were transporting cows in vehicles on the Behror highway in Alwar district in Rajasthan. Pehlu Khan later succumbed to his injuries. Five people of a family, including a 9-year-old girl, were injured in an attack by self-styled cow vigilantes in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on 21 April, 2017. One of the children of those attacked, a 10-year-old, is still missing. A recent diabolic incident of lynching has been that of 15-year-old Junaid Khan who was stabbed to death in Ballabgarh, Haryana by a mob that mocked his skull cap and called him a beef eater after an argument over train seats escalated inside a compartment of EMU train. Two of his brothers were injured in the incident. Though all such ghastly incidents are worth to be brought to the fore, we have narrated only some of the striking and rudely shocking ones since space in our organ would fall far short if the entire list of lynching and attacks on the Muslims and dalit people by self-styled cow vigilant groups propped up and backed by the Sangh Parivar is to be published. As many of 97% of these attacks were reported after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government came to power in May 2014, and about half the cow-related violence was from states governed by the BJP, revealed an analysis of violence recorded until June 25, 2017. (Source: — First Post 03-06-17, India Today-26-06-17 and Hindustan Times 28-06-17)

A fear of lynching and persecution has gripped the society

And now the menace of lynching has taken such alarming a proportion and assumed such brutal a nature that many parents fear to send their children outside home. "I cannot send my sons back to the place where my Junaid was killed. I fear for their lives. They are all I have now," said Junaid's mother Saira. Majib, Pehlu Khan's relative, said a feeling of uncertainty and fear has so enveloped their village in Behror, Rajasthan, that people have stopped visiting each other's houses fearing violence. (The Hindu—29-06-17) Admitting that the recent incidents of violence against the

minorities, particularly the lynching of Junaid in a train had left him frightened, Nazmul Hassan, a 42 year old engineer from Aligarh, while caught by the police hiding himself in a burqa said that as he had to go to Delhi to visit an ailing cousin, he was scared to travel alone. Hence, he decided to wear a burqa to conceal his male identity. Afterwards, the police confirmed that his fear was genuine as Hasan had a horrific experience of being attacked and abused in the previous week for being a Muslim. (Times of India—06-07-17) 21 year old Nadeem Ansari who had come from Palamu village to take part in the funeral of Alimuddin Ansari of Manua village of Jharkhand and was brutally lynched by 10 members of a cow vigilant group on the suspicion of transporting beef, said in disgust, "They should declare a Hindutva state and kick us out. It would be better than killing us off like this one by one". (Scroll.in 01-07-17) All these cases are horrifying. And all of them reveal definite patterns.

Democratic conscience is not dormant

As the ever increasing incidents of lynching have created fear among the Muslims and a large section of *dalits* who are Hindus, it has at the same time shaken the conscience of the right-thinking democratic minded people of the entire country. Thousands and thousands of people have joined the surging movement under the banner "NOT IN MY NAME" against the brutal killings and attacks on innocent people in the name of cow protection. This "NOT IN MY NAME" protest that started with a private Facebook post by documentary filmmaker Saba Dewan on 28 June evening, when thousands of citizens gathered at Jantar Mantar in the capital city of Delhi spontaneously spread to 19 cities in the country—from Kolkata and Patna in the east to Mumbai and Pune in the west, from the towns of Haryana in the north to Bangalore and Chennai in the south. Leading film personalities like Shabana Azmi and Girish Karnard, eminent historians like Ramchandra Guha and noted social activists like Teesta Sitalavad had joined the protest. And much more. The movement transcended the boundary of our country and spread in different parts of the world. Cities of London, Boston and Toronto witnessed surge of the movement in full swing. This shows how much

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Movement against lynching

Very slogan of cow protection is preposterous, itself communal in character because underlying implication is banning of beef eating

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the Hindutva fanatics and the pseudo-patriots have maligned the name of the country throughout the world.

A unique form of protest had taken place earlier in Aizal, Mizoram. When Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister and a prominent BJP leader, went to Aizawl to attend a security review meeting on 12 June, 2017, some 2,000 members of a social media group including hundreds of ladies congregated at the Vanapa Hall in Mizoram's capital Aizawl, and feasted on beef as a mark of protest. "By organising the festival, we wanted to send a message to the BJP-RSS that Mizos won't be a party to the Centre's plan to make India a beef-free country", said one of the organizers. In Christian-majority Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram, where beef is a staple and integral part of the cuisine, the tribal people have thus made it very clear that they would not accept the cattle slaughter rules. (Indian Express-12-06-2017)

Doublespeak of the ministers and ruling party leaders

After remaining silent for long, some central ministers including the Prime Minister, have now opened their mouth in the face of the growing movement and have been talking of taking strict action against those who indulge in violence in the name of cow vigilantism. But it is

apparent that this hollow warning for playing to the gallery is akin to the saying, "To run with the hare and hunt with the hounds." One point is common in all the utterances the BJP ministers and leaders making, being forced by the situation. That is, killing of men in the name of cow protection is not acceptable. If one critically analyses their statements, it would be clear that they do not oppose protection of cows but per force oppose killing of men. During the entire period when such incidents of lynching were taking place, they had covertly encouraged such crimes. But the point is that those who are indulging in violence and lynching and those who are now talking of punishing them are both supporters of cow protection. The very slogan of cow protection is preposterous and is itself rabidly communal in character because the underlying implication is banning of beef eating. So, any act initiated in the name of protection of cows, whether violent or peaceful, is equally condemnable. Any espousal in favour of cow vigilantism is purported to create Hindu fanatic sentiment against cow slaughter itself. And obviously, that is tantamount to opposing consumption of beef. Beef eating, it needs to be added, is not the habit of the Muslims alone. The Christians also eat beef. Even many Hindus in various parts of the country eat beef. Markandey Katju, former chairman of Press Council of India and retired

Justice said, "I eat beef and would continue to do so." (Times of India, 03-10-15) Rishi Kapoor, noted film personality, had also said, "I am a beef eating Hindu. Does that mean I am less God fearing than a non-eater?" (Hindustan Times 06-02-17) In a democratic country, no one far less the government can dictate who would take what in his or her diet. It is the choice of an individual. There cannot be two opinions on this. Dictates on diet is an attack on democracy.

Blindness leads to fanaticism

But even that freedom is also infringed upon. Blindness is fast developing in our country because of the fanatic communal propaganda of the arch Hindu communal Sangh Parivar on the one hand and long absence of mighty democratic movement on the other hand. This is creating a dangerous situation. Because, blindness triggers fanaticism, blunts thinking, kills rational bent of mind and in course of that, lays the rock-bottom foundation of fascism. Fascism is the greatest enemy of mankind. This dangerous portent which looms large over the country can be thwarted only by developing powerful democratic movements as well as inspiring and involving the masses in intense ideological discussions and political debates by developing scientific approach and logical bent of mind in social thinking. It shall never be forgotten

that fascism is the last resort of dying capitalism today to prolong its ruthlessly oppressive class rule. This is why the ruling capitalist class, its dependable political parties and the governments are engaged in fostering blindness and fanaticism among the masses through various means. Cow vigilantism is accelerating the process.

Surge of powerful left-democratic movement only can thwart the menace

It is a sad commentary on the better known left and democratic parties of the country that they have not come forward to develop any effective protest movement against this growing menace in the country as yet. Democratic mass movement against the growing all-out crisis bred by ruling capitalism in every sphere of life of the working class and other sections of the exploited masses, an imperative need of the hour, cannot grow without fighting this most reactionary fascistic trend and without uniting and involving all the sections of toiling oppressed people, irrespective of caste, religion, community or nationality in this movement. It is late no doubt. But for developing this most urgent and indispensable movement, it is not too late. We will have to close up our ranks and mobilize vast masses of the toiling people and build up a powerful and protracted movement without any delay.

Holding aloft banner reading "Capitalism Kills", protesters join massive rally in Hamburg against world capitalist-imperialist leaders attending G-20 Summit

Thousands and thousands of protesters assembled in Hamburg and took part in a massive protest rally in Hamburg, Germany, on 7 and 8 July, the venue of the G-20 summit of 2017, to protest against the mounting onslaught of capitalism on their life and livelihood. Expressing their wrath and discontent, they lampooned the G-20 country heads with a banner reading 'Welcome to Hell'. Other banners displayed in the rally read :-

"Defend human rights; Stop expulsions"

"Stop the war against migrants"

"Solidarity is the tenderness of the people"

"Together for a just world."

"Peace, Jobs, Solidarity; Fight Imperialism!" "Capitalism Kills!"

These tens of thousands showed up for two days and two nights defying an aggression of 20,000 odd German cops, fitted out like an infantry assault battalion. As reported, this volcanic eruption of anti-capitalist mood of people had visibly rattled the G-20 participants weaving ploys day in and day out to squarely pass on the growing burden of insoluble capitalist crisis on the oppressed people and make them bleed white. This surge of people's protest against imperialist-capitalist machine would give impetus to anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist movements in various countries and accelerate the process of eventual overthrow of capitalism by revolution consequent to fulfilment of both objective and subjective conditions necessary for that.

November Revolution Centenary Celebration

At Bhiwani, Haryana, a meeting was organised on 29 June 2017 under the auspices of the Committee formed for the purpose of celebration of the great November Revolution. At the meeting the main speaker was SUCI(C) State Committee member Comrade Rajendra Singh, while Comrade Ramphal, District Secretary presided over. An exhibition of photographs as well as quotations was also arranged at the venue. The meeting was followed by a well-decorated and disciplined procession which traversed the city.

Commemorating Martyr for Communal Harmony

The 71st martyrdom of Vasant Rajav, who had embraced martyrdom in the year 1946 to preserve communal harmony, was observed on 1 July 2017, in Ahmedabad Gujarat, at the initiative of the platform 'Movement for Secular Democracy'. On behalf of the latter, solidarity was expressed with the 'Not in My Name' movement that is going on throughout the country against the lynching of innocent minorities in the name of religion and casteism.

Demand for immediate reintroduction of Pass-Fail System reiterated in West Bengal

In two separate sit-in demonstrations in the heart of the city of Kolkata, West Bengal educationists, teachers, students, including children and their guardians and other sections of common people of the state reiterated the demand for immediate reintroduction of Pass-Fail System right from Class I from this academic session. The first sit-in was held at Y-Channel in Dharmatala on 22 June, 2017 organized by All Bengal Save Education Committee, in which despite inclement weather and with administration and police desperately trying to foil it, more than one thousand people from eight districts of South Bengal attended with firm resolve. Shri Bimal Chatterjee, former Advocate General, West Bengal termed the policy a heinous conspiracy turning students into its victims. He pledged his unflinching support for the movement to the end. Shri Tapan Roychoudhury well known leader of teachers' and education movement pointed at the heinous political motive of the policy which vertically cleaves students into two communities, one affluent section enjoying all privileges and the other from poor and middle class families being deprived of any decent education. The gathering was also addressed by Prof AK Ray, General Secretary, All India Save Education Committee, Shri Kartik Saha, General Secretary, All Bengal Save Education Committee, and other leaders of the AISEC and ABSEC. Prof. Anurupa Das read out the written message from the President, All Bengal Save Education Committee, veteran leader of social-cultural movements and poet Prof. Tarun Sanyal, unable to attend due to serious illness. A delegation led by Shri Kartick Saha submitted memorandum to the Governor and Chief Minister of West Bengal highlighting the demand of immediate reintroduction of the Pass-Fail system accompanied by

demands for withdrawal of the West Bengal Universities and Colleges (Administration and Regulation) Act, 2017, for scrapping the distorted history of Singur movement from syllabus of Class VIII in the State; for putting a halt to policy of privatization-commercialization of education; for allocation of necessary funds on education. Similar demonstrations were held in other five districts of South Bengal and six districts of North Bengal.

In the second sit-in held at Rani Rasmoni Road, Kolkata on 3 July 2017, around four thousand children sat for the whole day along with their guardians demanding immediate re-introduction of the pass-fail system to safeguard their studies and future. It was organized by Primary Education Development Board (PEDB), West Bengal, itself formed in 1992 as a form of movement against doing away with the End- Primary scholarship examination, along with abolition of the pass-fail system and English at the primary level by the former CPI(M)-led Front government in West Bengal. The children were encouraged and inspired by speeches of veteran educationists like Prof. Dhrubajyoti Mukherji, presiding over, Prof. Biswapati Mukherji, Prof. Chandrasekhar Chakraborty, Ratneswar Bhattacharyya, Prof. Miratun Nahar Sri. Bimal Chatterjee, former Advocate General, West Bengal, well known law-professional Sri. Parthasarathi Sengupta, Prof. Anathbandhu Mukherji, Mr. Ratan Laskar, Secretary, PEDB, renowned singer Mr. Pratul Mukherji and others. Professors, teachers and leaders of education movement were also present. In their turn some children spoke firmly in favour of the pass-fail system, others sang songs and recited poems. One and all they raised the slogan "We want pass-fail back". On their behalf, a memorandum was submitted to the Governor, West Bengal, by a delegation led by Shri Ratan Laskar.



Comrade Satyawan, President, AIKKMS addressing peasants' rally at Asoknagar on Mandsaur issue

Martyrs of Mandsaur remembered at Asoknagar, MP

A month from the killing of 6 protesting peasants by the MP police at Mandsaur of the state, on 6 July a memorial meeting was held at Pachharikheda crossing in Asoknagar, by the state units of the Party SUCI(C) and the All India Kishan aur Khet Mazdoor Sangathan (AIKKMS).

A few hundreds of people from different areas of Asoknagar and also from the neighbouring villages including peasants, students, womenfolk or other sections of common people respectfully attended the memorial meeting to pay their tributes to the martyrs. The meeting started with paying floral tributes to the martyrs. Addressing the meeting as the main speaker, Comrade Satyawan, member, Central Committee SUCI(C), and All India President AIKKMS said that the farmers face huge loss from natural hazards. They do not get remunerative prices for their produce and hence are debt-trapped. Unable to repay debt, they take extreme step of committing suicide. Comrade Satyawan emphatically pronounced that the Party and AIKKMS are in one voice with the peasants to condemn this firing on Mandsaur farmers and call upon all sections of toiling people, peasants, students, youth, women and others to come forward and build up powerful mass struggle against these atrocious activities. Anil Trivedi, an advocate of the Indore High Court and a social activist, bitterly criticized the government act of sending 20 activists including SUCI(C) District Secretary to jail, for their paying tribute to the martyrs. Several other peasant leaders addressed the meeting, presided over by Comrade Lokesh Sharma, member, MP State Committee, SUCI(C).

Bank Employees' Unity Forum vehemently opposes the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017

In a statement dated 03-07-17, Bank Employees' Unity Forum vehemently opposed introduction of the highly pernicious Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, (FRDI) 2017 that would throw out a sizeable number of bank employees out of job following arbitrary and whimsical merge and amalgamation of banks, drastically reduce salary of bank employees, authorize a "Corporation Board" to declare any bank unviable and hence candidate for liquidation and decide what paltry amount to be paid to the depositors in the liquidated banks.

The Forum called for united resistance against this draconian move to dismantle the present banking structure in the interest of the domestic and foreign monopolists.

AIDYO Foundation Day observed in Tamilnadu

On 29 June 2017, 51st Foundation day of AIDYO was observed at Chennai city. This being the centenary of the Great November Revolution a film show compiled from parts of different Russian films, was held, as a part of the programme of AIDYO Foundation day. AIDYO Chennai District Secretary Comrade Raja Manikyam presided over the programme. Also at Theni district of Tamilnadu a whole-day long programme of membership drive was undertaken. This was followed by a meeting in the evening.

Corrigendum

Please read 'water table' as 'water level' on first column on p. 2 and 41st foundation anniversary as '51st foundation anniversary' on p.6 in P Era dated 1 July, 2017. Mistakes regretted.



Children demand reintroduction of Pass- Fail System in PEDB sit-in

GST

Slogan of 'one tax, one market, one country' is a big hoax

Contd. from page 2

governments and the central government that a compromise has kept it out of the constitutional mandate for levying GST. Such being the scenario, the current multi-layered taxation is not abolished altogether. As a result, excise duties, sales tax, service tax, VAT and cess would not cease to exist. Then, how is it 'one tax'?

As regards the slogan of creating 'one market', India's is already a homogeneous well-integrated capitalist market where trade and commerce including agricultural commerce is operated based on capitalist laws. Fragmented are the various players into the big, medium and small. GST would be entirely based on a digital system where taxes have to be filed online. While big corporate houses and moneyed businessmen can afford to deal with the situation by appointing technically skilled people and consulting tax consultants, would not on-line tax filing system be off-putting for small traders uneducated in IT? Already many small traders are on the verge of extinction because their economic condition debar them from complying with the host of procedural hazards. How would the individuals who collect goods from the bulk-stockists, carry on their cycles or two wheelers and sell it to the customers at their doorstep keeping some margin, survive in the GST regime? These poor people mostly unemployed youths who are categorized as self-employers would be out of their means of livelihood overnight. Is it then not a fact clear as daylight that the government through GST is on a mission to eventually phasing out all these small and middle players?

Finally, is India from economic point of view a unified whole? India's richest 10 per cent hold 370 times the share of wealth that its poorest hold. India's 1% super-rich has been getting richer at a derailing speed. Even the President of India had to admit that 660 million Indians are unemployed, though the real figure is much more than that. Report of government appointed committee says 77% of Indians are languishing below poverty line, being unable to earn even Rs 20 a day. While the bourgeois government grants tax waivers and concessions worth Rs 9 lakh crores to the industrial houses, corporate sector and super-rich, including branded swindlers, in just one year of 2016-

17, it is discernibly reluctant to write off even a few thousand crores of rupees of loan to distressed peasants fearing adverse effect on the economy. The inevitable disparity capitalism bequeaths to mankind is so glaringly visible! Can this reality of existence of two Indias be erased simply by ushering in a tax reform within capitalism? Absurdity par excellence!

Inherent flaws and incongruities of GST

We now turn to address some of the flaws and bluffs GST is stuffed with. Already, it has come to the fore that GST has turned bitter for both buyers and sellers. Traditional sweetmeat shops and confectioners of West Bengal who hitherto conducted business based on cash are now forced to switch to adopt corporate mode by investing more on infrastructure including IT support for conforming to the mandates of GST. Obviously, they would largely recover the increased cost from the customers by increasing prices of their items. Medicine shop owners and consumers already taste a shade more pungent. People are also in a quandary as to how the tax on service would be worked out post-GST. It needs to be pointed out that the coverage of the term 'Services' is very wide. Purchase of any goods or services can easily be associated with another service element. For example, while one pays premium towards an LIC policy, he would pay GST. If he makes the payment in digital mode, he is, as things stand today, would pay GST on that. Further, it might also happen that the concerned bank of his or her would levy GST for debiting his or her account for making the payment through the digital intermediary like Paytm. Similarly, we would pay GST while purchasing any goods. Already apprehensions galore about double taxation—one GST for goods and the second GST for service. If we make the payment through debit or credit card, we would be charged by the bank as per GST rate on that as well. Who knows whether tomorrow, the big retailers would impose GST on the service rendered by them in helping the customers to choose his merchandise, in getting the purchased items packed and even for facilitating payment at the designated counter. With this extensive coverage of and wider scope for interpreting 'services', one

cannot rule out the possibility of GST extracting more money from the common people on this or that pretext. Secondly, while the basic precepts of bourgeois democracy mandate framing and monitoring of fiscal rules by the sovereign parliament, the GST Council, a non-constitutional body consisting of the central and state government representatives, will now be performing that job with no accountability to parliament. Similarly, Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), a non-governmental private organization will provide IT infrastructure and support to the government as well as the taxpayers and others concerned. Already Infosys, the IT giant has been awarded Rs 1,380 crore worth of contract to build GST technology network. More surprisingly, while the GST will be entirely operated online, the very software to be used for the purpose is not yet even tested. One also wonders how can a fully IT based tax system with a host of paraphernalia including submission of a number of periodic returns be operated in a country where computer literacy rate is stated to be just 6.15%? There is a quite stringent penal clause for non-compliance in GST. It means that if a computer-illiterate small businessman fails to satisfy the powerful tax regulatory authority about submission of due returns based on correct computation as well as on time, he may be jailed. Already confusions are galore about the nitty-gritties of the system. Though the seven GST categories based on rate are announced, there is no clue as to how the classifications have been made and on what basis. There is no proper guideline, no appropriate clarification, no clarity on so many related issues. Plenty of hiccups are apprehended threatening to grow into gasping death-throes for many. In such a turmoil and muddling situation as well as amongst threat of punitive steps, what would expectedly dominate is rampant corruption on a larger scale at the end of the tax collecting, assessing, monitoring and regulatory administration, which is infamous for its culpability to wrongdoing, receiving bribes and complicity with the tax evaders as well as those who wilfully defraud the public exchequer. Also, as is common and inevitable in capitalism, newer breeds of unscrupulous agents and

middlemen would appear to fish in the troubled water. Thus, harassment, hassles and oppression would increase.

Next is that in the proposed input tax mechanism, there is a concept of value addition at various stages of the supply chain (raw leather converted into designed shoes indicate value addition at manufacturing level of the supply chain). How is this value decided in capitalism? Is it not mostly on arbitrary basis depending upon how much profit is envisaged at a particular stage of supply chain (from sourcing raw material to selling finished good to end customer) by the concerned manufacturer/ supplier/ dealer? Moreover, there is an "anti-profiteering clause" in the revised GST laws, which mandates that any benefit arising out of the GST would need to be passed on to the customers. An anti-profiteering authority would be set up to keep a close vigil on whether companies are passing on the benefit of lower taxes to consumers. This is another hoax. What is the motive force of production in capitalism? It is to earn maximum profit. How does that maximization take place? It takes place only by depriving the workers of their due wages, appropriating their surplus labour power and squeezing the rapidly depleting pockets of the exploited people by exorbitantly jacking up prices. That is the reason why profits keep piling up on the capitalist rulers while people are pauperized with every passing day. How can the basic law of capitalism be changed keeping capitalism intact? This is deception of highest order! What has happened so far? Concept of input tax credit had already been implemented in MODVAT, then CENTVAT and VAT. Have the capitalist owners ever passed on the direct benefits of any tax reduction on account of so called input tax credit to the consumers, or have they absorbed the entire benefits as extra profit? Even the bourgeois government which saved as high as Rs. 1.50 lakh crore because of drastic fall in international crude oil price did not pass on the benefit to the suffering countrymen. Instead, the government has repeatedly imposed additional duty on oil prices to better its revenue collection at the

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GST

If capitalism could ameliorate people's suffering, then capitalism would not have been capitalism

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cost of the people's suffering. In view of this, is there any cogent reason to believe that the capitalist owners would not retain the savings from tax outgo under the GST regime to improve their profit margin and instead be so benevolent as to pass on the benefits to the people? Is it not asking big manufacturers, industrial houses and corporate sector to forgo profit opportunities akin to asking the tiger to feed on grass? Can capitalism be capitalism then? Clearly, the big industrialists and manufacturers as well as other large players would stand to benefit while smaller firms and *kirana* shops end up spending more as their compliance cost would rise. It is pertinent to mention here that similar tax reforms have considerably wiped out small business and local grocery outlets (known as Mom and Pop shops) in the western world.

Also pertinent in this regard is the question of price rise. We have already shown above that GST would not bring down but only push up prices of almost all essential commodities. It may happen that in order to dupe people, the government in association with the big manufacturing and production houses may temporarily effect marginal reduction in prices of some identified items or cunningly manipulate or fudge data to highlight dip in inflation and then showcase those as success of the GST. But, within no time, such short-lived euphoria over limited items would be over. We need to understand in this connection that reduction of price at *suo motto* initiative of the government and forcing the government to bring it down under pressure of people's movement to beget some relief to them, are two different issues. Expecting the bourgeois government to lower price on its own is a myth. Because, price rise is inevitable in capitalism. It is triggered by the very laws of capitalism. Particularly in dying capitalism today, price rise cannot be contained howsoever pious, for argument's sake, may be the wish or steps of anyone. Secondly, taxation policy is one of the factors, though not the only factor behind price rise. Apart from general laws of capitalism, other aberrations and corruption bred by the capitalist system like hoarding, black-marketing, realization of cut money

by the middlemen and various other manipulations like commodity trading on speculative capital market also contribute to price spiral. Can these factors be wiped out without overthrowing capitalism? These are issues which even a section of honest economists-scholars overlook while trying to understand the outcome of any economic reform within capitalism. Answers to all these questions cannot be found in the text books of bourgeois economics. To unravel the truth, one needs to examine these questions on the anvil of scientific methodology of Marxism-Leninism linking these with associated political aspects. Common people bleeding white under mounting economic assaults by oppressive capitalist rule need to understand the real cause behind their hardship and predicament and chart out the course of remedial action accordingly.

GST imperils federal structure

Finally, the GST also contradicts the cardinal principle of federalism. The Indian Constitution demarcates the legislation power between the federal government (the Centre or Union) and the States in India into three parts or lists: Union list, States list and Concurrent list. Among the powers vested with the states is power of imposing taxes in certain defined areas to mop up state revenue. As per that, various state governments are granted freedom to decide their own fiscal policies within the specified parameters. For example, states hitherto used to enjoy complete freedom in deciding sales tax rates. VAT tried to reduce that freedom but did not force the states to agree to one fixed rate. But, now through GST, the central government is taking away that vital power of taxation of the states. Secondly, GST is a destination-based tax. Destination-based tax means tax is applied on goods and services at the place where the final consumption takes place as against present system of origin-based tax where tax is levied at the place the goods or services are produced. There are states which produce less but consume more. Such states might stand to receive extra GST revenue compared to those who produce more and consume less than what is produced. This would bring about another imbalance. Moreover, it is also apprehended by certain quarters that in an attempt to compensate the

states for loss of revenue on account of GST there could be imposition of additional cess on certain goods now attracting higher sales tax. Also, since the quantum of revenue would be pre-determined and non-augmentable under GST, the states might fall short of adequate resources for enhanced public investment and hence forced to extend olive branch to private investors. Clearly, GST is destined to entail non-federal unitary concentration of economic power at the Centre. This centralization of economic power in the hands of union government in a capitalist state is nothing but another move towards pushing the country towards fascization of economy.

It is relevant to recall that if GST was a panacea for staving off capitalist crisis, USA, the chieftain of world imperialism-capitalism would have switched to it long back. Despite US market being much less fragmented in terms of the size of the players, US do not have a uniform value-added tax like the GST. Different states in the US have freedom to impose tax at different rates. Tax slabs also vary according to state and commodities. But that much rudiment of federalism is also sought to be banished in India. Then what could be the effect of such banishment other than bringing more distress to people? It is also to be understood that developing movement against any tax hike by a state government is relatively easier than building up such movement against any such increase in tax imposed by the central government.

Poorer sections panic-stricken but the bourgeois quarters euphoric over GST

GST has already made the economy off-balance. A panic has developed both among the common people as well as small and middle-level businessmen and traders. Many goods including medicines have vanished from the markets in absence of clarity over many issues including applicability of rates. There is chaos just like what we saw during demonetization. Already reports are pouring in that taking advantage of the chaos and absence of clarity, various manufacturers, merchants and service providers are levying GST as per their whims. Obvious question is if things are in such a state of unpreparedness and consequent disarray, why has the BJP government been in a tearing

hurry to introduce it? Answer is that this so called reform is mandated by the ruling Indian bourgeoisie in the aggregate interest of capitalism, frantically trying to put an extra lease of life to their moribund stage by working out all possible strategies to load the burden of their insurmountable crisis on the common people. Long back, both the Congress and the BJP governments during their respective terms were up for introducing GST at the behest of their masters. But, the dominance of various players in the market, dispute over revenue sharing between the Centre and states and other ancillary problems were holding back its implementation. It seems that the ruling class can no more afford to delay this tax reform which, as we explained above, is part of their sinister agenda to accelerate concentration of economic-political power at the hands of capitalist state in the interest of the monopolists, both domestic and foreign. That is evident from the way top industrialists like Mukesh and Anil Ambani, Ratan Tata, Aditya Birla and Gautam Singhania, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI), US President Donald Trump, IMF and such others have been asking for and stood firmly behind GST. Is there any reason to believe that the so called reforms these ruling monopolists need and hail would in any way benefit the oppressed millions?

People must resist this fiscal savagery

People cannot lie low and allow such fiscal savagery to ravage them more and more. They must rise up in powerful protest, close their rank, cement their unity and boldly face the situation with the spirit of resisting the growing economic onslaughts. Otherwise, the ruling capitalist class and their servitor parties and pliant governments would be more reckless, more autocratic in running the steamroller of gruelling oppression with more ferocity and cruelty. People must know and find out the correct revolutionary leadership that can explain the whole picture most clearly to them and inculcate in them the correct understanding about the nature, mode and gameplan of ruthlessly exploitative capitalist system and lead their just struggle to the desired goal.

SUCI(C) strongly condemns highly undemocratic nomination of three BJP-Sangh Parivar activists as MLAs to Puducherry Assembly by Central Government

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 05-07-2017:

The Central Committee of the SUCI(C) strongly condemns the arbitrary and shocking announcement of the Home Ministry of the Indian Government about sudden nomination of three MLAs to the State Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Puducherry (previously Pondicherry) on the recommendation of the Lieutenant Governor. It is a preposterous, wanton, undemocratic and harmful act of injustice inflicted on the people of Puducherry and subverting their electoral rights.

The announcement and the appointment without any due legitimate proposal and recommendation of the people's elected government in power speaks volumes about the hidden interest of the BJP-led Central Government working hand in glove with the Puducherry Lieutenant Governor, Kiran Bedi. Ever since her appointment as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, she has been accused of developing contradictions and conflicts with the state government. This has been telling upon the daily life of the general masses as many routine administrative activities are paralysed by the high-handed acts of interference by the nominated Lt Governor into the affairs of the functioning of the elected state government.

Ever since Puducherry gained independence from French colonial rule and its merger with India, not even a single representative of the BJP has been elected by the people, who have consistently resisted its entry into the state legislature as attested by the pathetic performances of its candidates in all elections so far.

In this background, the nomination of the BJP state president, who incidentally was a losing candidate in the last Assembly elections, the BJP state treasurer, and another man of Hindutva brigade, running a private school, into the Assembly is a mockery of people's will and people's right to elect, both in spirit and practice.

The SUCI(C) demands immediate withdrawal of the nominations of these three persons to the posts of MLA and requests intervention of the President to set right this unjustifiable interference by the Central Government and riding roughshod over the rights of the elected state government. The SUCI(C) also appeals to the people of the state as well as the well-meaning, democratic minded citizens of the entire country to raise their voice unitedly against such blatant anti-democratic, authoritarian measures being increasingly resorted to by the BJP-led Central government ever since it assumed power.

SUCI(C) condemns recently signed Indo-Israel Pacts

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 07-07-2017:

The SUCI (Communist) condemns Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hobnobbing with the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, showing cold shoulder to Palestine. During his recent visit to Israel, the Indian Prime Minister has signed several pacts with the Israeli Government which include items like mutual collaboration in technological innovation, combating terrorism etc. Zionist Israeli administration is most hated by the democratic minded people of the world because of its inhuman and ruthless aggression against the Palestinian people, its illegal, forcible occupation of Palestine lands and its belligerent postures vis-à-vis several other Arab states. India's strategic alliance with this hated aggressor Israeli regime runs counter to the anti-imperialist heritage of the Indian people. Since independence, the Indian Government stood in support of the Palestinian cause, and always opposed, at least verbally, the aggressive and expansionist policies of Israel. But, in recent years, reversal in this Indian policy is being exposed more and more. India has virtually abandoned the Palestinian cause and has been collaborating with Israel in defence matters as well as arms procurement. In the name of technological innovation in the recent pact, thrust is on production and sourcing of sophisticated armaments. Actually India in its bid to emerge as a regional superpower is aligning with US imperialism and Zionist Israel, its military outpost in the Middle East. The SUCI (Communist) strongly protests this blatant imperialist stand of the Narendra Modi Government and demands that it must abandon its pro-Israel stand and must reiterate its unqualified support for the just cause of the Palestinian people.



Massive demonstration against G-20 Summit, 2017, in Hamburg, Germany
[News on page 4]

Save Education Committee, Assam demands reintroduction of Pass-Fail System

Demanding the re-introduction of Pass-Fail System from class I in government-run schools of the state from the coming academic session and also protesting against the increasing attempts at privatization, commercialization and communalization of education, Assam unit of All India Save Education Committee organised a protest programme in the form of "Gana Obasthan" (mass-sit-in demonstration) at Dighali Pukhuri in Guwahati on 3 July 2017. Teachers and students from different schools and colleges along with educationists joined in large number. At the outset, Prof. Pradeep Mohapatra, one of the Conveners of the Committee addressed the gathering. Dr. Dinesh

Baishya, an eminent educationist and former Principal of a premier college in Guwahati, in his speech stressed upon the need for the unity of all sections of people in the society so as to defeat the design of the capitalist class to destroy the public-funded education system. Prof. Jaynal Abedin, former President of Assam College Teachers' Association gave the call for a concerted effort to compel the Government of Assam to re-introduce pass-fail system from the next academic session. Finally, Prof. Abdus Sobur read out the memorandum on the issue addressed to the State Education Minister before it was handed over to the government representative.

SUCI (C) observes All India Protest Day against GST across the country

Hyderabad

All India Protest Day against 'midnight' introduction of the GST in the country was observed by the Party on 30 June in Hyderabad jointly with Marxist Communist party of India (United). Comrade Ch. Murahari, Hyderabad District Secretary, SUCI(C) and Comrade Thandra Kumar, State Secretary, Telangana MCPI(U) spoke on the occasion. An copy of GST was also burnt as part of the protest.

claim GST will bring down price-level is a hoax. Besides, it will help the Central Government wield more power over states. Strikingly no other parties including the so-called Marxists are trying to build up effective movements against it. The speakers called upon the people to come forward to help SUCI(C) develop protracted movement to defeat this anti-people step taken by the BJP Government.

Tripura

In Agartala, Tripura, the protest day was observed on 30 June through a meeting addressed by Comrades Arun Bhowmick, Secretary, State Organising Committee and Subrota Chakraborty, member of the SOC, who expressed grave concern over the fact that the GST at the end will act as extra burden of indirect tax upon people already shattered under capitalist exploitation, while big industrialists and corporate will be relieved with reduced burden of taxes. They pointed out that the

Andhra Pradesh

On 3 July 2017, at Clock Tower Anantapur in AP, Anantapur City Organising Committee of the SUCI(C) organised a protest meeting with Comrade G. Lolitha, member State Organising Committee and Comrade Raghavendra, City Secretary of the Party present and other leaders, cadres and supporters taking part.

In addition to the above places, protest against the GST was held in Bangalore, Karnataka, Siliguri in West-Bengal, Patna in Bihar, Vadodara in Gujarat, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, etc.

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