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RSS-BJP widening their cobweb of heinous conspiracy

Bringing down savage economic attack and simultaneously fostering divisiveness of all kinds to hold people to ransom

There is a saying that “the road to hell is paved with good intentions”. People of capitalist India under the BJP rule have now been experiencing how apt the aphorism is. With every passing day, the degree of economic onslaught on them is severer to push life and livelihood on the brink of total ruination. The BJP Prime Minister fashions himself as the builder of a new India, basks in self-glorification and is in the habit of making tall claims of great achievements without, of course, caring for substantiating his claims with facts. And then he and his party have a very powerful propaganda machinery in the form of the government-controlled TV channel as well as monopoly-owned corporate media which are pressed into action 24x7 to make people believe in his rhetoric and ride on his basket of promises. The members of his kitchen cabinet also eulogise those fake promises as well-thought out steps to usher in a life of mirth and prosperity even though the promises are not just proved to be a hoax in no time but found masterly chalked out blueprints of slaying the slain with much more ferocity. Of late, the Prime Minister and his sickening sycophants are busy convincing the people reeling under the repeated assaults of savage economic and fiscal policies that by 2022 the poor would see ‘better

days’, shall have permanent houses and access to electricity, proper healthcare and sanitation facility and good education. The farmers’ incomes shall double. Ample opportunities would open up before the youth and women to grow and prosper, and the country would be free of scourges of pseudo-secularism and terrorism. For that, he says he is not afraid of taking “big” and “tough” decisions and vows to complete 99 schemes before 2019. So he urges people to make more sacrifices. His colleagues in the cabinet and the party also play second fiddle to his hawking of spurious dreams and hail him for architecting the country’s development and raising India’s prestige abroad. To buttress their claim, they have been highlighting ‘survey’ reports indicating how majority of Indians perceive him as the best Prime Minister.

Needless to mention that the highest accolades are received from the top monopolists, the industrial houses, the chambers of commerce and the global bodies of imperialists-capitalists like World Bank and IMF. Because, it is them which the Prime Minister, his government, party and fellow-travellers work for and keep in good humour to remain in power.

Contd. on page 2

SUCI(C) demands time-bound judicial enquiry into the mysterious death of the Judge of Sohrabuddin encounter death case

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 29 November, 2017 :

The recent media reports about the circumstances surrounding the mysterious death on 1.12.2014 of 48 years old CBI judge Brijgopal Harkishan Loya, presiding over the Sohrabuddin encounter death case, have raised many questions which need to be answered since one of the accused in the case is Shri Amit Shah — Gujarat’s Minister of state for Home at the time of the encounter and the BJP’s national President at the time of Judge Loya’s death.

The Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) demands that the central government should immediately issue orders paving the way for setting up a time-bound judicial enquiry to inquire into the cause of judge B.H. Loya’s death.

GUJARAT ASSEMBLY ELECTION

SUCI(C) calls for ending 22 year long BJP rule of fear, hunger and corruption

The Election Commission who conspicuously delayed declaration of the dates of assembly election under the pretext of completion of rehabilitation work of flood-ravaged Banaskantha finally announced that polls would be held in two phases, on 9 and 14 December. It is alleged that this unusual delay was to facilitate declaration of some customary pre-poll sops to the people of the state by the Prime Minister to assuage their hostile feelings. In keeping with lately emerged pattern of 2-party democracy, it is the BJP and the Congress, who are the main contenders. Both these parties had started their pre-poll sorties long back and the whole and sole plank of their propaganda has been to take pot shots at each other, often stooping very low and transcending limits of decency. Not a single people’s issue is being addressed. Disgusted with such rotten power-mongering under the cloak of politics, to be precise electoral politics, common people have been becoming more and more

indifferent to political affairs allowing the capitalist rulers and their political agents to continue their oppressive rule with impunity. A brief overview of the people’s growing ordeal and how the ruling BJP is cunningly bypassing the burning people’s issues and instead projecting irrelevant non-issues to divert and confuse people on the eve of election would expose the great deception that has become the hallmark of bourgeois vote politics in India.

Growing plight and pauperization of people in 22 years of BJP rule

A myth has been created that Gujarat is a ‘vibrant’ state with spectacular all-round development worth of being showcased throughout the country. But the reality is just the reverse. Like all other parts of the country, downtrodden people of Gujarat are equally plagued with growing poverty and misery. Life and livelihood is devastated in every respect. While the ruling BJP

is raising the slogan of “Hu chhu Vikas, Hu chhu Gujarat” (I am the development, I am Gujarat), major sections of the toiling working masses are on the streets to protest against growing misery and poverty tearing them apart.

Devastation of the peasants

Prices of essential food articles are skyrocketing. But, the producers of these commodities, i.e. the peasants are not getting even the price for covering up their expenses which have been rising enormously because of spurt in the cost of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers. There is no facility of cold storage for perishable items like vegetables, fruits, etc. As a result, peasants are forced to sell out those crops at a very low price. Government delays declaration of Minimum Support Price so much that the peasants do not wait for it and go for distress

Contd. on page 6

Two pronged attack of RSS-BJP

‘Surgical strikes’ of demonetization and GST slaying the slains

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Twin blow of demonetization and GST

Of the 99 catalogued schemes so visualized to ‘salvage the suffering millions of their ongoing ordeal’ two have been high-pitched, namely, demonetization and Goods and Services Tax (GST). It was claimed these two ‘grandiloquent ideas’ on implementation would cleanse the economy of all dirt and filth, unearth black money, free the system from corruption and malpractices, plug all the loopholes, bring in transparency, simplify taxation system and shower windfall gains on the people in the form of rising income and dip in prices. But within months of rolling out of these two ‘surgical strikes’ on economy in sequence, the people found that they have not just been fooled but held to ransom. Overnight evisceration of overwhelming proportion of the currency in circulation paralyzed the bulk of the lower end economy like agriculture, providing livelihood to 80% of the countrymen, small and medium (MSME) business, small retail outlets and vast unorganized sector, as everyone knows that cash is the medium of transaction in all these sectors. Once cash vaporized overnight, these sectors came to a grinding halt and means of livelihood of millions of hapless downtrodden Indian citizens became jeopardized.

Growing peril of the peasants because of demonetization and GST

Anyone familiarized with the conditions of the peasants in India is aware that theirs is a life besieged with growing plight and appalling poverty. Ruinous anti-peasant agrarian policies of the bourgeois government have been fostering ruthless eviction from land, unabated sky-rocketing of prices of agricultural inputs, MNC invasion of the agricultural sector with contract farming of cash crops and dominance over input production as well as spiralling rise in diesel and electricity prices. Over and above, an utterly corrupt nexus of unscrupulous middlemen-corrupt government officials-administrative high ups-ruling party leaders-village touts control the crop procurement machinery which deprive the peasants of minimum price of their produce, making so called Minimum Support Price announced by the government remain on paper. These utterly distressed peasants have been further devastated with the

attack of demonetization. This came at a time of kharif harvest and the start of rabi crop sowing which is dubbed the ‘busy season’ of cultivation from a standpoint of credit demand, the other being bunching of festivals and weddings. But the Prime Minister as a prelude to doubling their income in five years had indeed gifted a bitter harvest to these countless increasingly pauperized peasants. The procurement machinery refused to buy crops citing absence of cash. The peasants not only failed to sell their crops, but also found whatever little cash they had having been declared invalid preventing them from buying even bare necessities to survive. Cash shortage had led to vegetable procurement prices crashing, delay in wheat sowing and inadequate inputs for winter crops as well as a drastic fall in wages of agricultural labour. Deflationary winds continued to blow in the kharif or summer crop season as well since the after-shock continues to persist. And most disquietingly, the quarters of vested interest who thrive on the hunger of millions of poor, seized the opportunity to make quick bucks through various foul means like cornering the produce at throwaway prices for releasing later in the black market, managing to obtain fresh currency through backdoor in connivance with unscrupulous officials and use that selectively to cheat the peasants with lure of instant payment if willing to sell at prices dictated by them, jacking up input prices and offer that as ‘loan’ to the peasants with stringent conditions of repayment and so forth. Formal financing of the peasants in many parts of the country is significantly from cooperative banks which were barred from exchange-deposit of demonetized currency.

Thus, the accumulated effect of a whole set of factors—dominantly cash-dependent sale, transport, marketing and distribution of ready produce to wholesale centres or mandis, disruptions and breaks in the supply chains feedback to farmers because of fall in sales, increased wastage of perishables, lower revenues that show up as trade dues instead of cash in hand and when credited into bank accounts with limited access affect the sector—shattered the peasants and agrarian economy beyond recovery. But the Prime Minister shamelessly goes on saying that “The Government’s decision has several gains for

farmers, traders, labourers, who are the economic backbone of our nation. No longer will the progress and prosperity of rural India be curtailed by corruption and black money.”

Agriculture and the peasants are in further peril with spluttering start of GST. Cost of essential inputs like seed, fertilizer and pesticides went up by 200 to 300%. The government has incorporated a new definition of ‘agriculturalist’ in the goods and services tax law to enable select farm items to be brought under the tax net nationwide. Accordingly, floriculture, horticulture, sericulture, the raising of crops, grass or garden produce and also grazing, dairy farming, poultry farming, stock breeding, the mere cutting of wood or grass, gathering of fruit, raising of man-made forest or rearing of seedlings or plants would all come under the purview of agriculture and attract GST.

Obvious target is the poor farmers somehow eking out a livelihood from such activities. Farmers now are to buy many raw materials by paying GST loaded price, farmer leasing out his land is liable to pay GST at the rate of 18%. He would also need to take registration under new tax regime, and file 37 returns annually.

Cascading effect of a shattered agrarian economy is felt in the retail market even today. Sudden declaration of note ban robbed the ordinary vendors and small dealers of cash in hand to buy agricultural goods and sell in the market. So, there had been chaos and uncertainty all around. At one stroke, the prices of rice, pulse, edible oil, sugar, green vegetables and other essential items shot up on an unprecedented scale making life nightmarish for common people. And then the corrupt businessmen, black marketeers, hoarders and price manipulators with the government-administration as an indulgent onlooker took full advantage of the situation to increase prices under this or that plea. Ambiguity over GST rates and rising cost of transportation have further given a free hand to these unscrupulous lobby to raise the prices anyway and every way to squeeze the common people. Even after much of craftsmanship in fudging figures and revising computation methodology, the government has to admit now that India’s retail inflation including food inflation is on a spiral forcing people

to curtail purchase of essential items including food articles which is bound to affect the health of the people further.

Escalated woes of the working class and small business under demonetization and GST

Adverse impact on the industry, particularly on the Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), has been tremendous. Cash accounts for 90 per cent of the transactions in this sector drop in March 2017. With demonetization, MSMEs recorded a drop of 60% in employment and loss of 55% in revenue. So, rollover of cash (meaning buying fresh raw material or other accessories with sale proceeds of goods) suffered immensely causing virtual stalemate. There is growing murmur among the owners of small business since they are in the process of being extinct. Migrant and casual workers have lost jobs en masse. Unorganized sectors which employs 93% of the non-agriculture working population shed workforce in large numbers because they had no cash to pay wages. Around 65% of daily wage earners went without work in urban areas in the wake of demonetization and returned to their villages. Corporate media also could not but admit the loss of 1.5 million jobs. But unofficial sources put the figure to be much higher.

Then has come down the “Damocles” sword of GST. The mandates that all goods and services produced by registered or unregistered enterprises ought to be taxed at source. It requires that all the 63.4 million unincorporated enterprises including 45 million small and micro enterprises are forced to bear the extra costs of developing infrastructure for online registration in order to comply with the GST Act. The second way in which small enterprises suffer is in terms of rising input costs for supply side inputs. For example, in the textile industry only 4 per cent of the fabric is produced in composite mills and the rest of the fabric is purchased from small producers. By putting 18 per cent tax on synthetic yarn, the cost of production of synthetic fabrics (often purchased by lower middle class) is going up. Complying with requirement of GST by adding to cost and that too substantially is another predicament of the

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Two pronged attack of RSS-BJP

Communalism-casteism-parochialism-chauvinism fanned up to disrupt unity of toiling people

Contd. from page 2

MSMEs. In fact, they have now been shedding existing manpower or resorting to layoffs under GST regime. Small apparel manufacturing units like hosieries, handlooms etc. are in deep trouble following introduction of GST. This sector employs women in large number and continued loss forces the sector to terminate jobs of many. Already struggling to survive and compete with cheaper machine-made goods, the added burden of GST compliance is out to decimate self-employed artisans or craft workers. 93% of adult workers, are in the unincorporated, unorganised sector. A little over half of these are self-employed. Many are semi-literate or illiterate. The craft sector employs about 11 million people of which 43 lakhs are in the handloom sector. This 11 million is almost as large a number as those who work in the organized private sector. It is also the second largest employer in the country after agriculture. Now with GST, the lives and livelihoods of this enormous mass of people, most of whom barely make ends meet, are at stake. So if one looks carefully, it would be revealed that beneficiaries of GST are the big industrial houses, giant MNCs and large corporates. Because they, apart from receiving input cost benefit, also find GST as a convenient means of uprooting competition from the smaller units or at the very least putting pressure on them. And finally, being an indirect tax, burden of GST is ultimately borne by the end consumers, just like in the current process. Hefty rise in the prices of all items of daily need attests to this.

So, all sections of the toiling population, including small traders, salaried employees, daily-wage earners and poor farmers, have been mincing no words in expressing the immense hardships they have been suffering over the past one year, not only on account of GST, but because of the cumulative problems that followed the 'historic economic initiative of demonetization'. Clearly, in a bid to soothe the frayed temper of the people particularly before ensuing Gujarat assembly election, the government has now announced GST rate cuts in 210 items as if this would bring down the prices. This is another big-ticket deception. The rate slash might facilitate

much-clamoured 'ease of business' but would hardly reflect in end-price. But our Prime Minister goes on prattling that "increased competition due to GST will lead to moderation in prices. It will directly benefit poor and middle-class consumers," and "GST has made articles of need cheaper" in his so called televised propaganda of "Man ki baat".

Economy in tailspin, poverty and misery going up

However, much to the discomfiture of the Prime Minister and his party colleagues, the country's economy is on a tailspin with GDP growth rate recording continuous dip. Estimated loss on economy after demonetization and GST is put somewhere near Rs 12 lakh crore as per National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

Visibly rattled at this, the BJP government in order to hoodwink people, has now knocked at the doors of IMF and World Bank, the international organizations of the imperialist powers, to elicit a certificate of optimism about India's long term growth prospect. Not only that. Moody's, an international rating agency whose job is to anyhow serve and protect the class interest of the imperialists-capitalists, have tried to rescue the BJP government by announcing about so called marginal increase in the creditworthiness of India (meaning how safe it is to give loan to Indian government in terms of its repayment capability). This is being showcased to prove how firmly the economy is held on the rails. Clearly, it is not the economic health of common people but the loan repayment capacity of the government which is highlighted as evidence of economic stabilization. More loans by the government means more and more mortgaging the country to the loan-givers. So, when the Prime Minister says that he is "not selling the country", does he speak the truth? What could be more ludicrous than this! But irony is that close on the heels of Moody's declaration, Standard and Poor, another international rating agency, kept its India rating unchanged at the lowest investment grade. It showed diversity of opinions even among the agencies of the imperialist world about the extent of bankruptcy the Indian government is inching towards because of its suicidal policies in the interest of the ruling monopolists. Most disquieting

is the role of the economists-columnists who have sold themselves out to the government and are hence busy discovering 'positives' out of the disastrous policies and serve the aggrieved minds with craftily manufactured and suitably punctuated 'clinching and irrefutable' evidences of 'long term' benefits.

Rising onslaught of communalism-casteism-parochialism-separatism

But the ruling class and its subservient BJP government know that such gimmicks and fustians by the Prime Minister and his associates and their indulgence in surfeit of counterfeit optimism would not be able to keep the people silent for long. Life's experience would bring them on the road of protest. And if that protest finds right channelization to turn into a united conscious anti-establishment upsurge, the whole capitalist system would be in danger. So, ploy is woven simultaneously to disrupt the unity of the toiling people by driving wedge of communalism-casteism-parochialism-chauvinism and blunt their thinking process and reasoning faculty by incessant propagation of religious fanaticism, blindness, obscurantism, bigotry and all kinds of irrationalities, and leave no stone unturned to nix any possibility of their convergence on common interest and cause. Under mandate from the ruling capitalist class, the ruling RSS-BJP and their Sangh Parivar allies have been arraying their entire arsenal to plunge people into this dungeon of divisiveness, disunity, intolerance, mutual distrust and hatred. The ruling powers are also embroiling the toiling masses back-broken by savage incessant economic assaults like demonetization and GST in fratricidal bloodbath, casteist-communal clashes and such other internecine conflicts. Every day, reports of communal conflagrations, dalit lynching, honour killing and persecution of religious minorities are pouring in. Even rationalists are assassinated to threaten people dire consequence if they dared to launch any conscious protest against all inhuman acts and nurture logical bent of mind. In most of the cases, frenzied armed hoodlums belonging to RSS-BJP and their affiliates are perpetrating such ghastly crimes with impunity.

While people of the country are bleeding white because of severe

economic onslaught and crying for bare survival, the ruling RSS-BJP, their leaders and government have found the agenda of building Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, organizing 'Namami Gange' 'Namami Brahmaputra' festivals with pomp and grandeur and lighting one lakh lamps on the banks of Sarayu river by recklessly spending from public exchequer. Likewise, they are erecting 100-feet tall statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji and Sardar Patel incurring expenses of thousands of crores of rupees and connecting Mumbai and Ahmedabad by bullet train at a whooping cost of \$ 17 billion. Whose money is this? Is it not people's money which instead of being spent on mitigating people's hardship is wasted on all kinds of unnecessary non-productive activities? Obvious question is would building a Ram Mandir or installing sky high statues provide any relief to the growing predicament and impoverishment of the people? Would these wipe out the calamitous effects of ruinous economic and fiscal policies? Likewise, the primary social obligation of RSS-BJP is now to highlight and create communally motivated issues like cow vigilantism. Anybody with a saffron band on head is now licensed to brutally assault or even mercilessly kill anyone he thinks is 'dishonouring' mother cow. The same 'mother cow worshippers' remain conspicuously silent when modesty of women is outraged, rapes and gang rapes rise menacingly, female foeticide and infanticide soar alarmingly and dowry deaths grow abysmally. Fuelling mysticism and spewing venom against the religious minorities, particularly the Muslims, to glorify Hindutva are the other priority areas of RSS-BJP. An armed brigade of saffron-clad storm-troopers is now let loose to glorify Hindutva, assault and establish 'Ram Rajya' and behead anyone who shows courage to oppose this 'suddhikaran' (purification of the country) agenda of RSS-BJP. This craftily designed scheme of promoting frenzy and fanaticism, raking up obsolete thoughts and creeds and pitting one section of the people against the other serves nothing but the heinous class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie towards disrupting solidarity of the toiling people. Thereupon it deflects attention of suffering millions from the ruthlessly

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Two pronged attack of RSS-BJP

Thwart the fascist attacks by intensifying class and mass struggles

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oppressive, utterly corrupt dying capitalist system, the root of all their woes and pains. It thus dehumanizes people, breaks their moral backbone and dispossesses them of the very power of thinking. So, it is another mortal blow on humanity, human essence and finer human qualities and fellow-feeling. As obedient order-takers of the ruling capitalist class, the RSS-BJP know that unless people are so dehumanized, they cannot rule over them. So this sinister conspiracy.

Moreover, no one has right to criticize the flawed policies or tell the truth. If one sticks to facts, is not sold on fairy tales and flights

of fancy and seeks concrete evidence, he is branded as anti-national. Any sort of criticism of the BJP government is not only brushed aside as a non-permissible offensive against the Prime Minister but is often inviting punitive action as well. It has virtually become mandatory to gulp whatever stories are dished out by the government, the ruling party and its leaders. Otherwise, it is painted as unpatriotic and held as being tantamount to sedition.

Thwart this two-pronged attack of oppressive capitalism

So, it is a two-pronged attack on the part of the ruling capitalist class and its servitors. On the one side is

savage economic attack, muzzling voice of protest and curtailment of civil and democratic rights and while on the other side, there is directed move to rob people of the power of thinking and strip them of human essence. Along with that, there are bluffs and deceptions in varied form. There is carrot of mellifluous words and high-sounding promises as well as stick of brutal oppression, repression and persecution. This smacks of impending clamp of fascism.

Oppressed people ought to be alert of this impending danger. They should not fall in the trap of RSS-BJP. Their fascist attacks must be thwarted with all might. That is

possible only when all sections of the toiling people would rise above all divisive thoughts and find common interest in developing powerful class and mass struggles on the burning problems of life, intensify those struggles with every passing day based on higher revolutionary ideology and culture and led by correct revolutionary force. Alongside, a fierce ideological struggle ought to be released to defeat the pernicious thoughts RSS-BJP are breeding and fostering to keep people arrested in blind alley of mystic irrational thoughts. Slightest neglect of this twin imperative task would aggravate the two-pronged attack of capitalism explained above.

187 farmer bodies vow in Delhi to take their fight to villages

At the end of a two-day Kisan Mukti Sansad (farmers' liberation parliament) attended by thousands of farmers from across the country and held in Delhi by All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), 187 farmers organisations decided on Tuesday 21 November to take their fights to the villages. The Kisan Mukti Sansad has 'passed' two bills - 'Farmers freedom from Debt Bill and Guaranteed Fair and Remunerative Prices Bill', suggesting roadmap to overcome agrarian crisis. The bills will be placed in Lok Sabha by Swabhimani Shetkari Sangathan leader Raju Shetti, who left the NDA recently citing anti-farmer policies, and in Rajya Sabha by CPI(M) member K K Ragesh. Farmers demanded a Farmer's

Commission to provide immediate loan waiver to indebted farmers and relief to those in distress, the minimum support price for agriculture products be replaced by assured minimum price etc. Among others who addressed the sansad were Comrade Satyawan, Member, Central Committee, SUCI(C) and President, AIKKMS and A Rengasamy, Vice-president, AIKKMS and Tamil Nadu State Secretary, SUCI(C).

The Kisan Sansad also held a 'women parliament' which was attended by around 3000 women farmers and widows of farmers who had committed suicide in various parts of the country and was addressed, among others, by Medha Patkar, leader of Narmada Bachao Andolan and National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM).

Victory of AIDSO in Assam

AIDSO Candidate Islamul Haque Laskar won the post of Magazine Secretary in Assam University Student Union election 2017

United movement against central government policies declared by the central trade unions

Central trade unions namely AIUTUC INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC under the banner of Independent Federations and Associations issued a joint declaration on 11 November 2017 from New Delhi. They congratulated the working class of the country for their overwhelming united response to the 3-day joint Mahapadav near Parliament from 9

to 11 November 2017 and strongly criticized the anti-people policies of the BJP-led Union government. The declaration called for joint district level conventions by the first week of January 2018, district level Satyagraha in the last week of January on common date for all districts to be decided by the state level meetings of central trade unions and industry level joint strike against privatisation spree.

SUCI(C) launches movement against eviction by the BJP government at Jamshedpur

The BJP government of Jharkhand state has taken up massive eviction drive upon existing slums in Jamshedpur. It has deployed a powerful contingent of police and

security forces against it. SUCI (C) is building up a massive movement of people on the demand of "No eviction without proper alternative rehabilitation programme".



Comrade A Rengasamy, Vice-president, AIKKMS and Tamil Nadu State Secretary, SUCI(C) addressing at Kisan Mukti Sansad

Cuba, North Korea reject 'unilateral and arbitrary' U.S. demands

Cuba's foreign minister and his North Korean counterpart rejected the United States' "unilateral and arbitrary" demands while expressing concern about escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula, the ministry said. The ministers, meeting in Havana, called for "respect for peoples' sovereignty" and "the peaceful settlement of disputes," according to a statement released by the Cuban foreign ministry. "They strongly rejected the unilateral and arbitrary lists and designations established by the U.S. government which serve as a basis for the implementation of coercive measures which are contrary to international law," their joint statement said. (Reuters-23-11-17)

Centenary of the Great November Revolution celebrated across the world

In observance of the centenary of the Great November Revolution, red flags and hammers and sickles could be seen proudly waving from Europe to South America to Asia.

In **Russia** defying inaction even opposition from the government, thousands of communist supporters from around the world rallied in downtown Moscow on November 7 to mark the centenary of the Great November Revolution.

Carrying red flags, chanting communist slogans, and upholding socialism, demonstrators from dozens of former Soviet countries braved brisk weather as they marched down a main street, passed the State Duma, and rallied in Revolution Square with pro-Soviet songs blaring from loudspeakers. "All my life I have supported the Communist idea. There is no other idea that could unite in such a way, to make a man a person," said Mikhail Veseldin, an 87-year-old pensioner.

"I don't live far from here, but I would go anywhere under any circumstances to be here," said Svetlana Panova, a Moscow pensioner. "So many young people, it's great! So many foreigners!"

In Leningrad (now called St. Petersburg) several thousand people marched from the place where Lenin came from immigration to the spot where military ship Aurora, at sunrise stood and shoot which was the signal for beginning of the great October Revolution. The Russian government did not allow the demonstration to be held at the usual meeting place at the centre of St. Petersburg at the square in front of the then Winter Palace.



A rally in Moscow

Commemorations of the event were also held in other cities of Russia like Omsk, Novosibirsk as also in other former Soviet republics such as Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

From November 2nd to November 15th in Moscow, there was an International Forum, on October Revolution Future with participants from the world including even Australia, Africa, Latin America, United States, West Europe and Asia.

In a letter dated 30 October 2017 to the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) President, the Cuban President Raul Castro congratulated the Russian people "on the occasion of celebrating the centenary of the Great October Socialist Revolution", and wrote "This momentous event marked a milestone in the history of humanity and its influence has been present in the struggles for independence, decolonization and self-determination of peoples. The ideals that motivated workers, peasants and soldiers in the construction of the first socialist state, under the certain leadership of Lenin and the Bolshevik Party, remain fully valid."

At Havana in **Cuba**, a gathering was organized in presence of the First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, President Raul Castro with cultural programmes that included poetry, music and dance dedicated to the Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin and his "Great October Socialist Revolution."

On 7 November 2017 **Bolivian President** Evo Morales congratulated the Russian people in a tweet remembering how "united, peasants and workers managed to form the first socialist state in the world" and included a 53-minute animated video. That same day, a rally was held in La Paz. **Venezuela's** workers held a march on 7 November 2017 in Caracas. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, then addressed the gathering. "We, as revolutionaries and socialist[s], join in this global commemoration," a member of the National Directorate of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela said, according to TV channel *TeleSur*. Other events were reportedly held in **Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay**.

China opened a commemorative museum exhibit in Beijing.

Vietnam held a large ceremony in Hanoi, connecting Lenin's October Revolution to Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh's August Revolution against French colonial rule in 1945, according to Vietnamese Communist Party newspaper *Nhan Dan*. In **North Korea**, also known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the official Korean Central News Agency wrote that Victor Petrov, chairman of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with the DPRK, honored late supreme leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il with "100th Anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution Medals and Certificates."

We had two goals in Centenary celebrations : To develop ideological standard in the Party and to carry lessons of November Revolution to the masses —Ranjit Dhar

[Following is the address, Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran member, Polit Bureau, SUCI (C) delivered in Bengali while inaugurating the Exhibition on the Great November Revolution at the concluding programme of yearlong celebration of centenary of this historic event in Kolkata on 17 November 2017.—Ed. Board, P Era]

Comrade and friends,

To observe the centenary of the Great November Socialist Revolution in India, the march that we had set out with the inaugural meeting in Delhi on 7 November 2016, is culminating today in this mass meeting on 17 November 2017 at Dharamtala (Esplanade) in Kolkata. It is as a part of this concluding ceremony that this exhibition has been set up. Here, on one hand, there are pictorials, depicting the glorious history of the Great November Revolution. With those, we have tried to present in this exhibition, invaluable teachings of the great leaders of the world communist movement. It must be clearly spelt out, that Marxian science found its concrete application in the November Revolution on the soil of Russia. While concretizing the science and teachings of Marxism in the then Russian and changed international situations, there cropped up some contradictions between the general guidelines of Marx and Engels on one hand, and the concrete situation of Russia on the other. It was a kind of contradiction that is sure to crop up with different concrete situations. To comprehend this contradiction correctly and on that basis, to determine the strategy of revolution of a country and give effect to that in reality, each country requires a Marxist leader of its own emerging through revolutionary movement on that soil. And here lies the contribution of great Lenin. It was him, who concretized the teachings of Marx-Engels successfully in a way as was required in Russia. And by correctly resolving the contradiction between the general and the particular, he contributed invaluable teachings and knowledge in the treasure of Marxism. These make what we know as Leninism. And, as unfailing comrade-in-arms of Lenin and after his demise, upholding the lessons of Marxism-Leninism correctly, it was great JV Stalin, who built Russia into a powerful socialist state. In the way Marx cannot be comprehended without understanding Lenin, similarly Leninism cannot be precisely comprehended without the teachings of Stalin.

We, from our Party, had two objectives in this centenary celebration. First, not learning the history of November Revolution by rote, we aimed, instead, at developing in SUCI (C) leaders and cadres the correct realization about the concrete application, i.e., concretization of Marxist-Leninist science with which this history is impregnated, the concepts of revolutionary theory and philosophy which the history is permeated with. In other words, to know and realize these aspects of the history of the November Revolution, we wished to launch intense ideological struggle to heighten the standard of ideological consciousness of all of us in the Party, our leaders and cadres.

Secondly, we had the goal of carrying the message of the November Revolution, its history and lessons, to the people. We have been continuing this task through the last one year. We have set up November Revolution Centenary Celebration committee in localities one after another involving people there. The response at our call that we met with from people is, in one word, stupendous. Our experience shows that the people still bear an innate natural attraction towards leftism, towards Marxist revolutionary ideology. By the activities of pseudo-Marxists, there might have been some confusions created in this regard, yet people look for leftist politics, search for the genuine revolutionary Party.

With these words, I declare this exhibition open for you.



Comrade Ranjit Dhar inaugurating the Exhibition

Gujarat Election

Myth of ‘vibrant’ Gujarat is shattered by the growing plight and penury of the people of the state

Contd. from page 1

sale. Despite the tall claims of Gujarat's development, as many as 2,766 of the state's farmers have committed suicide between 2003 and 2016. The disruptive consequences of demonetization led to a further fall in incomes, threatened agricultural production and created uncertainty about any revival of agricultural growth. A large number of the rural poor have no access to drinking water.

In absence of adequate irrigation facility, the farmers still depend on rain god for cultivation. Even after so many years, no proper irrigation facility has been developed by the government. Narmada irrigation system is still a mirage. After so many decades and incessant drum-beating by Shri Narendra Modi and the BJP, the work of sub-canal and minor-canal is still not completed. Wherever it is completed, it is of so low a quality that often cracks appear and water rushes to the nearby farmlands or villages causing further damage. The recent floods in Banaskantha district were partly attributed to such cleavage in Narmada main canal. Some more statistical facts about Narmada are revealing:

- The determined irrigation due to Narmada project was about 17.92 lakh hectares. But today only 2 lakh hectares are being irrigated.
- Still canal work of 42000 km is unaccomplished.
- Originally, the total cost of the complete project was estimated to be Rs. 6000 Crore. But now the estimate has gone up to Rs. 1 lakh Crore.

Notably, a law curtailing the right of the peasants to irrigation has been enacted in the state assembly. The plight of the peasants would be further aggravated when they would face forcible grab of their cultivable land for construction of Airport, Highways, SEZ, Special Investment Region (SIR), Delhi-Mumbai industrial Corridor (DMIC), Bullet train, etc. and would be evicted from their home and hearth. Alternate cycles of drought and flood rattle their livelihood.

Peril of the working class

The working class is also in peril. Shutters are downed in many industries throwing thousands out of job. 60,000 small industries have been closed down. Of late, much-clamoured Nano factory in Sananda has announced closure. The employees of Nano had to struggle

for months and face police torture and rustication before getting their right to do union. Now they are facing job loss. Minimum wage has reached the bottom. Migrant labourers as well as locals working in the power-looms, diamond industry, garment factories, textile mills, chemical and pharmaceutical factories work under inhuman condition where they don't get even basic facilities of drinking water, toilets, ventilation, etc. Most of them don't have identity cards. Factory registers do not mention their names. Instead, fictitious names are mentioned so that there is no record of their employment. They work in most unhygienic conditions for 12, 14 or even 18 hours a day and are paid meager wage. They are not allowed to undertake trade union activities in their factories. Even media portray such hapless labourers in such a bad light that an anti-working class mind develops among other sections of the common people. When these workers being unable to bear with the gruelling oppression rise in protest, struggle for their legitimate rights or resort to strikes, the capitalist owners in connivance with the state government and vested interest cunningly seek to impress upon people that these are attempts to disrupt production and disturb industrial peace. Similarly, ASHA and anganwadi workers, mostly impoverished women, are yet to get subsistence level remuneration for the arduous job they perform. No better are the white collar employees including bank employees. The highly undemocratic labour reform severely restricting the basic rights of the workers, which could not be brought in the Parliament, was enacted by the Gujarat Government in the state assembly with the help of majority.

Soaring Unemployment

Unemployment continues to mount despite all mouthful assurances of the BJP government and leaders. Plight of the unemployed youth knows no bound. Let alone those who are denied access to highly expensive education even highly educated students, gold-medalists and doctorates are without employment. Only a few are fortunate to have some stray jobs at low wage on contract basis. Despite contractual appointment being prohibited by law, the government is an indulgent onlooker to such contract jobs offered by the private agencies to

exploit the unemployed youths.

Education curtailed and made accessible only to a few rich

Rampant privatization and commercialization has made education exclusive preserve of the rich and affluent. The menace of donation, tuitions, autocratic behavior of the private institution management, large number of vacancies in the posts of teaching and non-teaching staff, appointment of part-time, ad hoc and contractual teachers at less than half the normal salary, unthinkable student teacher ratio of 100 : 1 are some of the general features of the Education System in Gujarat. All the central or state policies have proved to be detrimental to the spirit of democratic, secular and scientific education- be it Semester System, NEET or Fee Regulation Act. The students, parents, teachers and associated employees are left in lurch. A Higher Education Council Act curbing the autonomy of the Universities was passed within few minutes on the last day of the assembly session in the absence of Opposition. The standard of education has been deteriorating to an alarming level. The state is 13th in terms of admission in higher education. There is no intention on the part of the government to control the privately managed institutions. Some figures would be revealing:—

- 56% dropout between standard (class) 10 to 12.
- 26% dropout between class 1 to 10 in the state.
- In total 77.56 lakh students leave their studies before coming to higher education.
- The students pursuing higher education in the entire country is 18%, while it is just 14.72% in Gujarat.
- 27.49% of primary schools in the state don't have standard 8.
- According to a government report of 2017, only 858 primary schools out of 34,237 are of A+ grade, 11,134 schools are of A grade while the rest of the schools are of D grade.
- One fourth of the total schools in the state are private.
- 44.56% of secondary and higher secondary schools in the state don't have laboratories.
- 30% of the teachers in secondary schools are ad hoc.
- Average Student-Teacher ratio in Colleges and Universities is 85:1.
- Out of total 59 universities in the state, only 33 are government universities.
- The number of Government

Medical Colleges is only 6 against 15 Self-Financed Medical Colleges.

- There are 16,000 vacancies of teachers in primary school and about 10,000 of lecturers in Higher Education.

Healthcare woes

Similarly sordid is the state of affairs in the health sector. Rapidly deteriorating service and facilities in the government hospitals are compelling common people to opt for highly expensive treatment in private hospitals. During monsoon, epidemics like Swine Flu, Malaria and Chikungunia claimed more lives than what were lost in the flood. A few data would throw more light on the sorry state of health in the state:

- About 1029 children died in Ahmedabad Civil Hospital in last 10 months.
- Gujarat stands 9th in the entire country in infant mortality rate.
- According to C.A.G. report of 2016, there is 77% vacancy of Specialist Doctors, 72% vacancy of Nursing Staff and 41% vacancy of Paramedical staff. Even the number of beds is less by 73%.
- The number of Community Health Centres at district level is 73% less, 219 Primary Health Centres are less while 948 Sub level Health Centres are less in the state.
- There are 16,574 vacancies of doctors in 3000 Community Health Centre and 67 Government Hospitals.
- Out of 75 sanctioned vacancies of Pediatricians in Government General Hospitals, only 23 are filled.
- Malnutrition, child mortality and women health is lower than national average.

Wherever SUCI(C) workers are campaigning, the people are highlighting non-availability of due civic service from the BJP-run highly corrupt Municipal Corporations in major cities. People have been vociferous about complete inaction on the part of the Municipalities and Nagarpalikas during the monsoon in particular, when people witnessed the most corrupt and ineffective administration of Municipal Corporations. The entire state is water-logged, roads are flooded, street lights go off now and then, pits and manholes submerged in water cause accidents in large number and outbreak of epidemics is

Contd. on page 7

Gujarat Election

Elect SUCI(C) candidates to reverberate voice of people's movement inside the House

Contd. from page 6

common.

Growing insecurity and lack of safety

There is growing insecurity and lack of safety of the citizens. Theft, loot, murder of lonely elderly persons for robbery, harassment by bikers' gang, spurt in hit and run cases, growing crime against women including rape, gang rape, sexual harassment and eve-teasing are rampant. The government who waxes eloquent about 'Beti porao, beti bachao' is not at all serious about desirable implementation of Domestic Violence Act, Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act, etc. Not even a Protection Officer has been appointed. The anti-Sexual Harassment Committees are only on paper. In spite of prohibition, liquor sale and consumption are going on unabated. Everyone knows that the sprawling illegal liquor trade and its mafia kingpins have controlling influence on the government and administration. Ironically, though the recent amendment in Prohibition Act has included the provision of hanging the violators, not a single arrest has been made so far. Still more ironical is the appointment of 'Vahivatdaar' (Middlemen) in all the Police Stations, ostensibly with strings pulled from behind. Extent of crime against women would be clear from the following figures:

- Total number of Crimes: 3859
- Rapes: 343; Dowry related crimes: 2961; Eve teasing: 762
- In the last 4 years, more than 950 teenage girls became rape

victims in Ahmedabad city alone. Culprits of only 250 cases were hauled up.

- Gujarat ranks 108th in Male-Female equality.
- Gujarat is 25th in Male : Female ratio.

Environment surcharged with fear and tension

Since the horrific anti-Muslim pogrom of 2002, the atmosphere continues to be surcharged with tension as the RSS-BJP and their Saffron Brigade have been continuously spewing communal venom with a gusto perpetuating a sense of fear and insecurity among the Muslim minorities. Of late, self-appointed cow vigilant groups are on a prowl harassing, persecuting and even killing anyone they like on the pretext of preserving honour of the cow. The culprits of ghastly dalit lynching incident of Una are roaming free on bail. The report of the committee appointed to probe into another incident of dalit lynching at Thangadh has not been published. The very social mosaic of the state is under strain.

Not a single people's issue is addressed by either BJP or Congress

But while such are the burning issues wreaking havoc in people's life, the BJP having understood that fake slogan of development would work no more, has been carefully skirting the key issues and instead fanning up communal-casteist sentiment to garner votes. Now

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all other front-ranking leaders of the BJP have made a beeline in Gujarat to woo the voters, not by addressing any of their pressing problems, but highlighting non-issues in the context of the election like Kashmir situation, terrorism, international diplomacy, certificate of country's development from IMF and World Bank and so on and so forth. It appears that it is not a state election but a parliament poll. The Prime Minister and his colleagues are busy on self-eulogy over 'phenomenal growth and development' of the country in last three years of BJP rule completely bypassing their scorecard of performance in the state in the last 22 years. Beating about the bush, fuelling Hindu communal sentiment by raking up Ram mandir issue, taking potshots at the Congress, their main parliamentary opposition, inciting narrow sectarian Gujarat-chauvinism and dishing out trashes like self-proclaimed "Chaiwala" credential of the Prime minister are what the BJP leaders have chosen as their plank for seeking vote. And they have the corporate media standing by them in their good stead in this bid of self-projection and self-support. On the other hand, the Congress trying to better prospects by riding on the anti-incumbency factor is also traversing almost on the same line, befriending the casteist forces, peddling soft-Hindutva and indulging in personal attack against the BJP. If one wishes to see what low has stooped

murky bourgeois vote politics in decadent moribund stinking capitalism, one can come to Gujarat and be a witness. Money is flowing like anything—so are false promises which BJP President Amit Shah termed openly as 'electoral gimmicks'. They have the least concern for people's cause. To them, people are not human beings but are mere voters who are to be bluffed and hoodwinked in every possible way to grab seats and pave way for self-aggrandizement.

Make SUCI(C) candidates victorious

While these two trusted representatives of the ruling monopolists in alliance with other opportunist bourgeois groups are in the fray with the singular objective of grabbing pelf and power, the SUCI(C), upholding the banner of genuine struggling leftism and relentlessly pursuing the revolutionary line of developing class and mass struggles based on higher proletarian culture, is providing the alternate current of value-based socially purposive politics. With an appeal to elect tested soldiers of democratic movement and reflect the voice of the people inside the assembly, the SUCI(C) has fielded three candidates in three constituencies—Ellisbridge (Ahmedabad), Manjalpur (Vadodara) and Limbayat (Surat). SUCI(C) calls upon the right-thinking conscious people of Gujarat to wholeheartedly stand by its candidates and make them victorious.

DPRK (North Korea)'s Open Letter to Parliaments of Different Countries

(This letter has been enclosed with a letter no 09/119 dated 28 September, 2017, of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Korea in the Republic of Indonesia)

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly have sent an open letter to the parliaments of different countries on Sunday.

The letter noted that Trump, president of the U.S. styling itself the 'superpower, denied the existence of the DPRK, a dignified sovereign state, and spit out ignorant remarks of total 'destruction' at the UN General Assembly, stunning the world public.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, the basic mission of which is to promote friendly and cooperative relations with the parliaments and peace-loving people of different countries around the world, proceeding from the foreign policies of the Workers' Party of Korea based on the ideas of independence, peace and friendship, bitterly condemns the reckless remarks of Trump as an intolerable insult to the Korean people, as a declaration of war against the DPRK, and a great threat to the global peace, the letter said adding:

From the first day of his office, Trump has engaged himself in arbitrary and high-handed practice, scrapping international laws and agreements incurring his displeasure on the "U.S. first principle", the height of American way of thinking that it is best if the U.S. is well-off at the expense of the whole world.

U.S. brought to their knees those countries devoid of principle, narrow-minded and selfish countries seeking after their interests with its nuclear stick and force and then cooked up the illegal "sanctions resolution" against the DPRK to deny the elementary right to existence of the Korean people and check their normal economic development in breach of the inviolable UN Charter by abusing the UN Security Council. This is intensive act of the revelation of the "U.S.- first principle."

Trump threatened to totally destroy the DPRK, a dignified and independent sovereign state and a nuclear power. It is an extreme act of threatening to totally destroy the whole world.

If Trump thinks that he would bring DPRK, a nuclear power, to his knees through nuclear war threat, it will be a big miscalculation and an expression of ignorance.

THE DPRK has emerged a full-fledged nuclear power which has a strong nuclear arsenal and various kinds of nuclear delivery means made by dint of self-reliance and self-development. The real foe of its nuclear force is a nuclear war itself.

The foreign affairs Committee of the DPRK SPA takes this opportunity to express the belief that the parliaments of different countries loving independence, peace and justice will fully discharge their due mission and duty in realizing the desire of mankind for international justice and peace with sharp vigilance against the heinous and reckless moves of the Trump administration trying to drive the world into a horrible nuclear disaster.

Observe 25th Anniversary of Demolition of Babri Masjid on December 6, 2017 as Black Day

Six Left parties — the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (ML)-Liberation, Revolutionary Socialist Party, All India Forward Bloc and the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) issued the following statement on 22 November, 2017 :

The wilful demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992 remains in the historic calendar of independent India as the *Black Sunday*. This brazen act, accomplished under the direct gaze of the authorities and law enforcing agencies under a Congress central government and a complicit BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, remains the severest of attacks on the secular democratic foundations of the modern Indian republic. It highlighted the reality that far from consolidating the modern republic there are rabid forces who are determined to destroy its very foundations and to bring in an autocratic, rabidly intolerant, fascistic "Hindu rashtra" which is the RSS's ideological project.

RSS sponsored Hindutva private armies led by BJP leaders perpetrated the Babri demolition then – and today such private armies, emboldened and patronised by the BJP in power, are acting like a law unto themselves. The *gau rakshaks* of today are on a rampage, attacking dalits and Muslims over fabricated allegations of cow slaughter. Moral policing squads are prescribing what our youth should wear, what they should eat, or whom they should befriend. Instead of upholding the law of the land and proscribing such private armies, senior BJP leaders, including

Ministers in the Central and various State Governments have openly endorsed, patronised, and promoted such private armies and rationalised or even celebrated their violent actions.

Though a quarter of a century has passed since this blot on India's secular democracy, no action has been taken till now against the organisers and perpetrators of the demolition who have brazenly violated the law of the land and irreversibly damaged India's secular democratic foundations. Democracy-loving people in India will never forget this injustice and will fight till its perpetrators are brought to justice.

December 6 is also the death anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Chairman of the drafting committee which gave independent India its Constitution. The Left parties will observe this day by mounting a campaign against the intensification of the assaults on dalits across the country and on the secular democratic values of our Constitution by the communal forces. This assault must be resisted and defeated through popular mobilisation and struggles to defend the secular democratic principles, our composite culture and resist every attempt to divide people on communal lines.

The Left parties call upon all their units in the country to observe December 6 as a *Black Day* and to strengthen in the current context the struggle against communal polarisation being patronised and encouraged by the central as well as many BJP led state governments.

The form of protest actions in various states will be decided by our respective state level units.

Comrade Sunil Mukherjee passes away

Comrade Sunil Mukherjee, veteran member of the West Bengal State Committee of SUCI (Communist) and former District Secretary of Purulia, passed away on 11 November morning, at 85 years of age at his residence in Patlabari of Dhanbad district, Jharkhand after suffering from multiple age-related ailments.



Comrade Sunil Mukherjee was drawn towards thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the Great Leader of the Proletariat and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers and philosophers of this era, in 1957-58 through departed Comrade Pritish Chanda, member, Polit Bureau of Central Committee, SUCI (C). In a short time he became acquainted with other leaders of the Party and engaged himself in the struggle for building himself up as a dedicated Party worker.

While in service in the Indian Railways at Adra in Purulia, West Bengal, he started spreading Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought among the railway employees. In course of that, he engaged himself in Party work in Purulia, an extremely backward and poverty-stricken district, among the poor peasants, agricultural labours, daily wage earners, bidi-workers, rickshaw pullers, porters and such others. Forsaking his easy life of a government employee and ignoring all adversities, Comrade Sunil Mukherjee continued his organizational work staying among the poor, without caring for food or shelter and yet without muttering a single word on difficulties. With untiring efforts, he explored across a vast area with or without any contact available and responding to any assignment the Party would have given to him. He became near and dear to everybody within and outside the Party by virtue of his immense love and affection for the downtrodden, his plain and simple nature, dedication, honesty and loyalty to the Party, including ability to work happily under any leadership at any level, even juniors.

Comrade Mukherjee had been an important trade union leader among the railway employees and took a leading role in the historic railway strike of 1974. The authority suspended him repeatedly, slashed salary and meted out vindictive punishments. Accepting these as normal to a revolutionary life, he only laughed at those to say that during suspension he could find more time to devote to Party work. He served as the Purulia District Secretary from 1967 to 1987. He was included in the State Secretariat in 1987. He was also member of the Secretariat of the All India Committee of AIUTUC and was later given the charge as its Vice-President. His failing health since 2010 made him inactive and finally bed-ridden.

His mortal remains were brought from his residence to the Party office at Raghunathpur, Purulia where grief-stricken party workers-supporters- sympathisers and common people came in masses and bid him adieu with tears and floral tributes. A memorial meeting was scheduled at Purulia on 2 December which will be addressed among others by Comrade Sankar Saha, member Central Committee, SUCI(C) and AIUTUC General Secretary and Comrade Swapan Ghosh, member, West Bengal State Secretariat, SUCI (C).

Red Salute Comrade Sunil Mukherjee

West Bengal Government announcement of reintroduction of Pass-Fail system marks victory of sustained movement of people

Comrade Saumen Basu, the West Bengal State Secretary of SUCI (Communist) issued the following statement on 24 November 2017 :

Education minister of West Bengal recently announced in a statement on the floor of the state Asembly that Pass-Fail system will be reintroduced at the school levels in this state from the next academic session. We welcome this decision and, at the same time, consider it as a significant victory of sustained movement of all sections of people.

Since the CPI(M)-led government abolished Pass-Fail system from the primary stage of school education, people's movement was initiated under the leadership of SUCI (Communist). Which continued even under the

subsequent TMC rule in the state. Finally when a 12 hour bandh was called in the state on the 17 July last, the state education minister could realize the massive support it was going to acquire and then and there pledged to reintroduce the Pass- Fail system from the ensuing academic session. Abolition of Pass- Fail System (i.e., the policy of No- Detention) at the school level has brought inconceivable disaster to the system of learning and teaching, particularly in regard to the students coming from the common poorer families. So to meet the long-standing demand of this historic movement of people for reintroduction of the system, the government must bring back Pass-Fail system right from class I.

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