

# Proletarian Era

Volume 45 No. 10  
January 1, 2012

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)  
Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Price : Rs. 2.00

## Rise up to defeat the imminent US war threat to Iran

Immediately after occupying Iraq on a fraudulent pretext, US imperialists branded Iran as a 'rogue state' and a constituent of, what they called, the 'axis of evils' the other two being socialist Cuba and North Korea. Right from then, they were weaving one after another ploy to bend the Iranian regime and make them submit to their diktats. By managing to elicit approval of UNO which has now virtually turned into their rubber stamp, the US imperialist rulers imposed stringent economic sanctions against it. From then onwards, they were also accusing Iran of developing nuclear capabilities on a higher scale so much so as to be close to producing atomic bombs which, according to them, pose threat to peace and security in West Asia. Subsequently, they, along with their European imperialist-capitalist allies, moved a resolution in a crucial meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) alleging that Iran, a party to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), has failed on a number of instances to meet its obligations under the NPT safeguards agreement and violated the statute of IAEA. Alongside they went full throttle to level a host of concocted charges against it like plotting to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to Washington etc. In fact, US imperialists along with Zionist Israel, their closest ally, if not the representative face, in West Asia, have long been trying to muster international backing for a military strike on Iran by spreading canards and heaping fabricated charges akin to writing the script of the chimera just like what they did for occupying Iraq and engineering a regime change in Libya at gunpoint. After moving NATO forces to pound on Libya, killing President Gaddafi and installing a puppet regime there, the US rulers have now concentrated on raising their anti-Iran tirade to a pitch which, there is every reason to apprehend, is a prelude to launch a full-fledged war against Iran. Syria, another West Asian country refusing to yield before their command, is also featuring on their hit list.

### Why US imperialists are so eager to overrun Iran

To those closely observing world events and possessing a broad democratic outlook, it is not very difficult to understand the motive of the US imperialists. In absence of the powerful socialist camp which notwithstanding many limitations and shortcomings it suffered from under revisionist leadership assuming power after first Stalin and then Mao Zedong, continued to be a bulwark of

peace against war and war-mongering, the US imperialists have arrogated to themselves the role of a super-authority authorized to rule the entire world like an emperor. Any country declining to obey their mandates or carry out their behest are immediately bracketed as 'inimical to peace and democracy' and targeted for military intervention and blitzkrieg. Everyone is aware that among other things, the gigantic oil conglomerates and their bid to control production and distribution of oil bankrolled the post-Second World War military and economic rise of US imperialism. In the unipolar world, the US imperialists and their associates are unbridled in their bid to consolidate their absolute hold on the rich oilfields of West Asian countries by flexing their economic and military muscles. By militarily overrunning sovereign independent Iraq flouting all international laws and trampling underfoot the barest precepts of democracy, the US and its allies have managed to regain control over the oil business in that country, which threatened to slip out of their control in 2002 with Saddam Hussein taking a firm anti-US imperialist stand. After illegal occupation of sovereign Iraq, the US imperialists were keen to capture the oil fields of the West Asian countries one by one. But much to their chagrin, Iran has refused to bow down before the US decree.

The US imperialists expected that in the recently concluded elections in Iran, the ruling incumbents would be defeated by the opposition which comprised forces backed by them. But to utter disappointment of the US rulers, the ruling dispensation was returned to power and hence the attempt to install a pliant regime in Iran proved abortive. Since then, the US imperialists have upped their ante much more aggressively against Iran and pulled the strings from behind to precipitate unrest inside Iran, pit one section of the toiling people against another and instigate internecine conflicts so that they, on the plea of preventing human rights violation, curbing terrorism and scuttling subversion of democracy could meddle into the internal affairs of the country leading gradually to launch a full-fledged military offensive to 'gift democracy' to the Iranian people. This is the blueprint of international gangsterism the US leaders have designed to buttress their heinous class interest. US President Obama, it is pertinent to mention, has, of late, declared despotically that the US would continue to pursue in the West Asia its

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## SUCI (C) expresses deep shock and profound grief at the demise of Kim-Jong-il, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), in a statement issued on 20 December, 2011 expressed deep shock and profound grief at the sudden demise of Kim-Jong-il, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, Chairman, National Defence Commission and Supreme Commander of Korean People's Army, DPRK. Recollecting his valiant fight against the heinous conspiracy and sinister machinations of world imperialism-capitalism led by US



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Polit Bureau, paying revolutionary tribute to Comrade Kim-Jong-il, departed General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, at the DPRK embassy in New Delhi.

imperialism, the arch enemy of the mankind, and his exemplary role as well as revolutionary audacity in staunchly defending socialism in DPRK spurning the red eyes and war threats of US imperialists and their allies and thereby upholding supremacy of scientific socialism in the entire world, Shri Ghosh said that demonstration of this indomitable spirit which he acquired in course of his avowed pursuit of Marxism-Leninism in the most difficult situation in unipolar world today will ever remain as a fount of inspiration to all revolutionaries round the globe. Paying rich tribute to the departed revolutionary fighter and leader, Comrade Ghosh expressed total solidarity with the brave people of DPRK at this hour of profound grief and irreparable loss and exuded confidence that they will turn their grief into firm determination and colossal strength and drawing inspiration from the exemplary life struggle of the departed leader will cement their unity to defend socialism in their country and foil all nefarious imperialist designs to push their country over the brinks. Comrade Ghosh also pledged full support of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) and the working people of India to the valiant struggle of the people of DPRK against overlordism and brigandage of US imperialism and their lackeys.

IRAN**US imperialists target countries that refuse to bow down before their diktats***Contd. from page 1*

“core interests” like “countering terrorism and stopping the spread of nuclear weapons; securing the free flow of commerce; and safeguarding the security of the region, standing up for Israel’s security and pursuing Arab-Israeli peace”. But the core interest, oil, for which US has already launched two wars of aggression in the region, remained unmentioned and hence shielded cunningly. The US imperialists and their associates are also stated to be working on new sanctions and an oil embargo against Iran.

Apart from grabbing the vast oil resources, there are other reasons also for the US rulers to unleash a combination of war games, mind games, conspiratorial games and spy games against Iran and other West Asian countries. In order to somehow stave off the acute insoluble market crisis endemic of capitalist economy, the US imperialists and for that matter all imperialist powers, big or small, are compelled to resort to frantic rearmament and militarization of industry so that increased military consumption to some extent artificially stimulates the sagging economy. More militarized is the economy, more rabidly world imperialism led by US imperialists is precipitating war on others. Another vital economic aspect is that US dollar, as we know, is required by every oil-importing country. This is the reason why the central banks of most of these countries keep their foreign exchange reserves in US dollars. Thus more dollars are circulated outside the US, or invested by foreign owners in US assets. Consequently, the rest of the world has to provide the US with more goods and services in exchange for these dollars. The US can pay its debt to other countries just by printing its own money. This very special status of the dollar is threatened with some of the key oil producing countries switching over from dollar to Euro for trade in oil and gas. Iraq wanted to do the same just before it was invaded. But Iran dared to move out of its dependency on the US dollar for its energy revenue when it faced sanctions in 2006 and thus considerably undermined the demand for US dollar in the world market. The US imperialists fear that if other oil exporting countries follow the suit, consequences will be disastrous for them.

Apart from these vested economic interests, there is another

major political reason. While many rulers of West Asia have accepted capitulation to US imperialism and engaged in sickening tailism of the Pentagon regime, the surging resistance movements against US domination and hegemonism in various parts of West Asia are receiving all kinds of support and backing from the governments of Iran as well as Syria and Lebanon. Lebanon even successfully repelled a US-sponsored military assault as well. This growing resistance in this crucial West Asian zone is also helping and strengthening the liberation struggle of the Palestine people causing much embarrassment to the Zionist rulers of Israel. Compared to Syria and Lebanon, Iran commands a superior military power, is abode of richer oil fields and has a strategic geographic location. Destabilizing Iran would not only allow US rulers to capture its oil resources but also help them consolidating their domination in the entire region and at the same time cause moral setback to the rising anti-US resistance movements. So, Iran is now the prime target of the US imperialists and Israel is lying in wait to attack Iran once it gets a nod from its big brother.

**US plotting against Iran**

And the devil is never starved of stratagem. It may be recalled that Iraq was accused by the US rulers of possessing weapons of mass destruction which were subsequently proved to be fictitious. In Iran’s case, the target is Tehran’s nuclear weapons programme. The logic put forth by the US imperialists is that since Iran is rich in energy resources, it has no reason to produce nuclear energy which, they hold, as the first step towards achieving Tehran’s final goal of becoming a nuclear State. They also accuse Iran of backing international terrorism and patronizing acts of sabotage. Iran categorically and in the strongest terms condemned this utterly false allegation by the United States authorities and called it an evil ploy to hide the ulterior motive of Pentagon regime to arm-twisting prior to waging a war of aggression. While the US rulers are so loud in sensing foul in Iran’s becoming a nuclear power, the fact is that it is Zionist Israel which has about 300 nuclear warheads. Israel obviously at the behest of the US rulers, has unleashed a most unjust war against the Palestine liberators, repeatedly attacked neighbouring Syria, Lebanon and other countries, carried

out worst savagery in the Golan Heights area. Israel has already started hostilities against Iran. The use of the ‘incredibly precise’ Stuxnet worm or the Duqu virus to cripple Iranian systems is being widely talked about in various quarters. The November 12 explosion at an Iranian missile base was suspected to have been the work of the Israeli intelligence. Armed to the teeth and backed by Pentagon, Israel poses greatest threat to all countries in the West Asia including Iran. Israel and US are regularly conducting military exercises in and around Iran, strengthening their air and naval bases in various West Asian territories and upgrading their nuclear weapon-studded armoury. It is they who are brewing up fresh war tension in the region after illegal occupation of Iraq and engineered regime change in Libya. Iran is being encircled from all sides. But to deflect attention, the Pentagon rulers are pointing fingers at Iran for threatening peace by developing its nuclear capabilities. The issue of Iran’s stepping up its nuclear capabilities is to be viewed in this backdrop of the all-out efforts on the part of the US imperialists and their allies to push that sovereign independent country over the brink.

**Every country has a right to defend itself**

Iran has repeatedly said that it is only keen to have nuclear capability for peaceful means. While agreeing to sit and talk on any issue with anybody including the US imperialist regime or its protégé Israel, if there is respect and fairness, Iran has also made it clear that if someone wants to talk rudely and in a domineering manner with daggers drawn, no independent sovereign country having minimum self-respect can accept the same. Obvious question is if in the face of continuous arm-twisting and under constant threat of being attacked any time, any country builds up its capabilities for self-defence, on what ground can that be called incorrect or unjust? Has any of the countries the US imperialists brand as ‘evils’ or ‘enemy states’ used any nuclear weapon or weapon of mass destruction against any other country, militarily aggressed and occupied others’ territories, set up numerous military bases on foreign lands to spring attack on foreign territories, sent naval force studded with deadly nuclear weapons to patrol along the shores of other countries, violated the airspace of any sovereign country, strafed and

raided others’ territories with unmanned drones, threatened other countries of armed interventions, star wars and nuclear warfare if they dared to disobey their whips or overran integrity and freedom of other countries? Driven by the vested class need of expanding market, extending sphere of influence and growing as superpowers, it was the advanced imperialist-capitalist countries headed by the US imperialists who began stepping up their efforts in developing nuclear arsenal and went on intensifying their noxious politics of nuclear blackmailing right from mid-twentieth century. US so far has conducted as many as 1,054 tests by official count, which far exceed the number of similar tests by others taken together. The US imperialists were the first to manufacture atom bomb and flaunt their military supremacy by dropping nuclear bomb to descend upon the world an era of horror and holocaust, destruction and devastation. They have been continuously upgrading their nuclear armoury and coming out with innovations in the category of mass destructive weapons. Lethal weapons like napalm bomb, agent-orange have been merrily used by them in Vietnam and Iraq to kill millions of innocent people and leaving many more millions crippled with radiation-borne diseases. Evidence of Zionist Israel using some such weapons against Palestine liberation fighters was also reported. Every fact goes to prove that the US imperialists and their allies have decided to make the domain of nuclear weapons an exclusive preserve of theirs and a forbidden territory of others.

It is worth mentioning in this connection that after the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were razed to rubble by atom bombs dropped by the US imperialists, the world opinion turned in favour of not only destruction of nuclear weapons but complete destruction of all kinds of weapons. To free the earth from the horror of war, the then mighty socialist camp under Stalin’s leadership, gave call for complete and all-out disarmament including full nuclear disarmament. But the imperialist bloc led by US imperialism did not pay any heed to this world people’s opinion and instead stuck to developing yet more sophisticated nuclear weapons and pursued all sorts of nefarious activities — snooping under the guise of providing aides, committing

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## Delhi University scraps *Ramayana* by Ramanujam Makes mockery of democracy-secularism, assaults historicism

Of late, the Academic Council of Delhi University has decided to scrap from its under-graduate curriculum the essay entitled *Three hundred Ramayanas, five examples and three thoughts on translation* written by the famous scholar AK Ramanujam. Eminent educationists and historians as well as people with a modicum of concern for secular, scientific, democratic education, apprehend handiwork of heinous communal politics behind this decision. From all over the country they are registering their unequivocal condemnation of this move. It requires that the move should be scanned with cool rationality.

To get things straight it must be stated that Ramanujam's essay does not present any radically new information or thought that have not been touched upon earlier by some or other authors. In his main contention, Ramanujam holds that the *Ramayana* is not singular and unique. There are many versions of the epic. Quoting from some of these versions, for instance, Iramabataram by Combon, Ramcaine of Thailand, *Jain Ramayana* composed by Vimalsuri, *Ramkatha* prevailing among the Santhal tribals and the popular version of Valmiki *Ramayana*, Ramanujam shows that there are serious and ample differences among these, which even tend to be contradictory. In the *Jain Ramayana*, *Ravana* is the main character and not *Rama*. He gets into love with *Sita* and tries to win her favour. On the other hand, different authors have showed earlier that the *Ramkatha* in the *Jatakas* has no reference to *Ravana*, nor there is any kidnapping of *Sita* by him or *Rama's* bid to bring her back from Lanka, defeating *Ravana*. The story in this version, entitled *Dasaratha Jataka* and not even *Ramayana*, hinges upon a narration of plots and conspiracies for the throne as a result of which *Rama* had to leave for a 14-year exile to the Himalaya.

Academicians, too, hold similar opinions. Hemchandra Roy-choudhury in his famous *Political History of India* shows that *Rama* and *Dasaratha* find mention even in *Rigveda*, where *Rama* is a demon, not a god. He also mentions that the *Dasaratha Jataka* of the Buddhist origin, shows *Dasaratha* as the king of Varanasi and not of Ayodhya, *Sita* as the sister of *Rama* and not wife, with no link to *Janak*. In his book *Wonder that is India*, the historian A L Basom holds *Ramayana* as the legend of Ram, containing less archaic features than what *Mahabharata*, another great epic of this country has. From different evidences Basom also inferred a distinct pro-Aryan bias of the authors, which painted the non-Aryans including the Dravidians as *rakshases* or demons.

Modern scholars who rely upon rational scientific analysis of history have also pointed out variations and

contradictions. On the basis of comparing descriptions of *Lankapuri* of *Ravana* with evidences of archeological finds they have clearly demonstrated that such well-secured walled township with forts surrounded by trenches inside walls, as Lanka was, could only be found after eighth century AD. Besides, the tales of golden wall of *Swarnalanka*, or of approaching that land via boulder-made embankment across the *sagar*, might have a lot of imagination and story-telling in them. In fact, the word *sagar* does not necessarily imply ocean; large lakes are also called *sagars*. Besides, the island of Ceylon was not called Lanka in the ancient times. On the basis of a score of evidences in his research on the location of Lanka, the archaeologist HD Sankalia showed in his book, *Ramayana, Myth or Reality* that Lanka, the kingdom of *Ravana* was probably located in the forest land somewhere at or around *Dandakaranya*, now in MP and *Ravana* could have been a leader of the *Gond* or a similar tribe. These point to the facts that much of the epic might have included additions of later times added by way of popular story-telling.

The fore-ranking indologist Suniti Chattopadhyay reviewed and analysed different versions of *Ramkatha* or *Ramkahini*, that is stories on Rama and showed that the bards generally had two different popular versions that they used to sing to people. One of them is the conflict between *Rama* and *Bharat* on the throne, an account to be found in the *Dasaratha Jataka*, as mentioned before. The other was the tale of conflict between *Ravana* and the tribal population which accepted monkey as their totem. The ingenious poet Valmiki must be awarded the credit of collating the two tales into an extremely popular version of *Ramayana* with the episode of kidnapping of *Sita* added to it.

In the seventies of the last century, Sukumar Sen, one of the stalwart scholars and academicians of the country, writes in his book *Ramkathar prak-tihas* (History behind the tales of *Rama*; in Bengali; the following quote is a free translation): "We pronounce *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* at one

and the same breath, because we regard the two as religious scriptures of equal rank and prestige. It is not at all correct. Neither our tradition will hold this as true. *Ramayana* is an epic, a creation of poet. *Mahabharata*, on the other hand, is a history, anecdotes collected through generations from people... Since *Ramayana* is an epic it is not considered a scripture; but since *Mahabharata* is considered an ancient historical literature, it has been endowed with the prestige and status of a scripture that is recited in many rituals as instructed by the *Smritishastra*... *Mahabharata* is considered history, though not in the present connotation of the word. In the past, history meant ancient tales."

But before coming to these opinions, the great scholar narrates in the foreword of the same book: "The following discussion of mine treads along the ground on the path of historicity, and does not float on religious faith... It needs fuel of facts to run, legs of reasons to stand upon... The living soul of history lies in evidences and proofs; religion resides beyond such evidences and proofs". This clear enunciation is enough to set the scientific method of studying history.

Ramanujam, dealing with all these points, namely multiple version of the *Ramayana*, the variations and contradictions involved among these versions and a materialistic, rational quest for reaching the truth, distinctly attempts at such scientific method of study of history. He goes against the attempt to hold *Ramayana* as a unique and sacred scripture, though the latter view enjoys popular support to a large extent. The questions that arise are: How should issues like this be judged? Why has Delhi University decided to scrap Ramanujam's essay at this juncture of Indian socio-political developments when everything appears to be going wayward? How does the issue affect or help people already tormented with thousand and one burning problems of life? Does this move relate to any academic question? Has anything to do with education at all? The reality is that the same essay was targeted as back as in 2008 by *Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad*, the student wing of the BJP, an arch Hindu fundamentalist party. Their political existence rested and cashed upon the popular belief of *Rama* being a god, *Ramayana* a sacred scripture. And since Ramanujam's article really put that very theme to question, it endangered their political existence itself. So they demanded its exclusion

from the curriculum. And the means ABVP adopted included vandalizing the office of S Zafri, the then Head of the History Department of the University. Subsequently they submitted a memorandum to scrap this essay from the curriculum on charges of blasphemy. Their attempts having failed, this time the Academic Council has been made the vehicle to get this agenda of BJP through, and that too without debate and discussions, without any logic and reasoning. At the same time, such a move could not have been mooted without the tacit sanction of Congress, the party in power in Delhi, both state and Union. It exposes how little serious Congress is, in upholding secular democratic principles. On the contrary, it also proves that at some point or other, on critical issues concerning people's life, Congress stands on the same boat with BJP, however loud the two may shout at each other claiming their differences as well as their concern for people. So if BJP plays the Hindu card, Congress, if necessary, does not fall back to play upon what is called soft Hinduism. The BJP in its turn, presently smells the prospect of replacing Congress in the rat race for the seat of governance, at a time when Congress in power is continuously shattered with and made fast unpopular from the all-out economic-social-political crisis of the Indian capitalist state, aggravating with their blatantly monopolist policies. It thus plays now the card of *RathaYatra* against corruption or then that of fanatic Hindutva, such as this move of the Delhi University that avoids reasons and debates. And Congress in total disarray prefers to play low with tacit sanction of the move so as to reap harvest from this indulgence of Hindutva for winning over the majority Hindu vote bank. To these bourgeois political outfits *Rama* or *Ramayana* are just the means for gaining advantage in parliamentary political game and have nothing to do with religion, belief or reverence.

But people cannot rest in peace simply recognizing these moves as mere ploys for parliamentary politics. They need to find out the answer also to the question, what makes these parties or the associated vested interests of this capitalist system rake up these issues particularly at this hour. For, it is a time when every day every moment people's life is plagued with ever-increasing horrors of, to mention among many, devastating price rise and deepening poverty, accompanied by tangle of debt-traps

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## Scrapping Ramanujam's essay — integral part of disastrous design of the ruling class

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driving farmers to commit suicide in hundreds of thousands, job-loss, wage-freeze, and above all menacing unemployment, along with rampant corruption particularly involving those in charge of governance and all ancillaries of political power-administration-bureaucracy-police-even military who fish in the maximum possible harvest of power and pelf for themselves from the murky water of society, unbridled privatization and commercialization of services particularly education, health, power and such others pushing these out of reach of common poorer people, abject cultural degeneration and so on so forth. All these horrors are nothing but contributions of intense exploitation, discrimination, oppression perpetrated by the Indian capitalist rulers and their social system and state machinery, which swamped in insurmountable global recession of the world capitalist-imperialist system is constantly trying to rid itself of the crisis by thrusting the whole brunt of crisis upon the vast masses of common toiling people. Hence the capitalist rulers, the monopolists and the bourgeois petty bourgeois political parties that nakedly serve this system for power and pelf, are not only stepping up exploitation, oppression and discrimination to fleece people more and more shattering any resistance offered by them. They are also leaving no stone unturned to ensure that people instead of uniting against this system with courage, determination and ideological clarity to develop massive class and mass struggles to end with exploitation and oppression, are left disunited and dehumanized with their moral backbone shattered, with their thinking faculty blurred with fanatic blind mind-set upon which any reactionary thoughts and ideas may be easily implanted. This is also the ripe ground for fascism to grow, creating further hindrances for movements, revolutionary or even mere democratic ones.

By scrapping Ramanujam's essay which speak of rational scientific method of studying *Ramayana*, the academic institution of the stature of Delhi University has really advocated the view which accepts the epic as a scripture plainly on blind faith and popular belief. By this act it has simply subscribed to the design of the ruling capitalist class. At the same time this incident has revealed another ominous trend of the recent times. It belongs to the same set of *Rama-Ramayana*-Ram temple issue that has vitiated the

socio-political scene of the country with fanatic religious fanaticism in course of the last few decades. The issue was raked up with the *Shilanyas* (foundation stone laying) performance in 1986 for a Ram temple at the site of the sixteenth century historic monument of Babri Masjid at Ayodhya in UP given permission to by none other than Congress led by Rajiv Gandhi, and was followed by *Intpuja* (worship of the foundation bricks) undertaken by the RSS-BJP combine, *Ram Ratha Yatra* of the BJP leader Advani in 1990 bringing in its wake communal riots wherever the Rath passed through, despicable demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992 by thousands of frenzied *karsevaks*, cheered and boosted by their leaders of the top-most ranks, perpetration of the Gujarat pogrom in 2002, one of the worst mass-killings of the Muslim minorities in independent India, orchestrated and executed by the same RSS-BJP combine and the Narendra Modi-led BJP government of Gujarat with full hand of administration-bureaucracy-police in it as well as with BJP also in charge of the Union government led by AB Vajpayee – LK Advani. All these cunningly brought about a totally undesirable and unwarranted communal polarization of the masses subjecting the minority communities to such a shell-shock that they are yet to get over. Added to it in 2010, there was the verdict of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on the ownership of the disputed land of Ayodhya at the site of the former Babri Masjid. In sequel to all other incidents of the Ram temple issue, this verdict too bore the stink of communal overtone, as it went beyond the basic premise of jurisprudence and fundamental codes and procedures of the judiciary once practised even under bourgeois democracy and relied not upon evidence and facts but upon issues of sentiment and religious faith of the Hindus, centring round the belief that the place had been the birth place of Lord *Rama*. On the other hand, in defiance of minimum shades of impartiality, the verdict virtually legalized demolition of the Babri Masjid and ruled against the parties of the Muslim side for their failure to prove with evidence that the property in dispute had been constructed by Babar in 1528 AD. The Delhi University decision is the latest in this series of incidents related to the Ram Temple issue. All these incidents, as they occurred at different times, only added repeatedly fresh salt to the injury inflicted upon the society by the

RSS- BJP combine, through the communally charged polarization dividing and disuniting people.

But it was not just the bourgeois political parties that were to be put to the dock on the count of playing the tune of overt or covert communalism. In the same heinous game, they were accompanied by the judiciary, hitherto projected as a neutral institution for justice, the administration-bureaucracy in charge of governance or even the academic institutions which are vested with the charge of education of the country. Criminal offenders of grievous communal offences go scot-free. That the Gujarat administration was directly involved in the Gujarat pogrom is an open secret. Anybody, be it a man of politics or of bureaucracy, who dared to criticize the Modi government or held any adverse opinion about its stand, was killed or dealt with punitive measures. Very recently about a month back, crucial witness of the Gujarat pogrom, Nadim Sayeed was killed in public in Ahmedabad. Well-known veteran columnist Kuldip Nayar has alleged on the pages of the Statesman on November 10 last, that all records and evidences, including FIRs, on involvement of the administration in the 1984 massacre of the Sikhs in Delhi, are being destroyed. It is thus the design and handiwork of the ruling capitalist class, which makes no mistake to use any and every appendage of its state machinery to give effect to this heinous conspiracy towards disrupting people's unity against oppressive capitalist rule, the root of all evils.

Delhi University decision to scrap Ramanujam's essay on *Ramayana* is thus never an innocuous academic issue, but an integral part of the disastrous design of the ruling class, bearing serious omen for any and every democratic minded person. The ambit of the decision is not confined to just proscribing a book or article, the concern does not end merely at that. Rather it concerns far more serious issue and that is the freedom of expression, freedom of holding different views. It exposes to what extent the system which runs under the cloak of democracy, is really secured, in fact, to what extent it is endangered from infringement.

It may be reiterated here that based on the fundamental concepts of individual liberty and equality, it was during the Renaissance that these slogans were raised, the slogans of freedom of expression, the concept of philosophical tolerance as against the rude arrogant intolerance

of feudalism and feudal rulers based on blind faith and submission to divinity and feudal diktats, the idea and practice of coexistence of different, even contrasting views in society, coexistence of believers and nonbelievers, of theists and atheists. The bourgeois democratic society accepted it and even promoted it that one must not force one's opinions on others. And all this was adopted formally and informally, legally or conventionally, with the intent that it will lead to unhampered, many-pronged development and growth of human civilization and society. The bourgeois democracy stood upon and derived its sustenance and nourishment from these concepts, ideas and practices.

But now in India we are having a bourgeois democracy at a stage when it has become a decadent system, has lost all its vitality and rather has been plagued with all-out decadence. However, since the Indian state still clamours of democracy, from that point of view, are not those who are pressing upon banning of a literature from the reach of students that goes against their opinion and interest and those who are conceding to this unjust demand, both merely resound the footsteps of nascent fascism? Can democracy, in its truest sense, flourish, even survive without freedom of expression? Does not democracy presuppose that opinions may differ and may get into even heated debates, to emerge into its final shape? Can science, philosophy, art, literature, and for that matter any creative faculty of mankind grow and flourish without the ambience promoting freedom of expression, without debates and discussions? Does not democracy presumes the condition that on any issue particularly the sensitive and serious ones truth can be reached through scientific probe, debates and discussions, of course without forcing anyone to accept it unless one is convinced? Otherwise will not any curb of opinion, any ban, as it has happened in the present scrapping of Ramanujam's writing from the Delhi University curriculum, turn out to be something like *fatwa*, a hated act that goes with the dreaded forces like the Talibans or some such. And once the society or the relevant authority starts to succumb to such *fatwas*, where will it end other than bringing in fascism in its wake? It is thus imperative for all to fight the move tooth and nail and thwart it at its very outset and save the vestiges of democracy that still persists in the gloom and darkness of all-out crisis of the decadent capitalism that prevails in this country.

## Youth Camp At Yavatmal and Wardha in Maharashtra

A youth camp of Yavatmal and Wardha was organised by AIDYO at Yavatmal on 18th December at Sawitri Bai Phule Social Works College. A good number of AIDYO members and common youths participated in the camp. The camp was inaugurated by Comrade Pratibha Nayak, General Secretary, AIDYO and it commenced with garlanding of the martyr's column on the eve of the Martyr's Day of great freedom fighters Ashfaqullah Khan and Ramprasad Bismil. Comrade Pramod Kamble welcomed the delegates. The camp organized a debate on the issue of unemployment as well as held cultural programmes in Hindi and Marathi and conducted sports activities. The whole camp was conducted and presided over by Comrade Sangitrao Bari. At the end, an eleven member strong Wardha-Yavatmal Committee of AIDYO was formed.



Ninth Odisha State Conference of AIDSO was held on 18 December at Bhubaneswar against commercialization of education and abolition of pass-fail system from school education. Comrade Dhurjati Dash, Odisha State Secretary of SUCI(C) is seen addressing while All India leaders of AIDSO are seated on the dais. (Below) Massive rally of students on the occasion of the Conference



Brass Workers Union, affiliated to AIUTUC demonstrating before the DM's office at Moradabad on 12 December, 2011 in support of their various demands

## RED SALUTE COMRADE KALYANI BANERJEE

Comrade Kalyani Banerjee, veteran Party activist, died at Joynagar on 21 December last. She was 81. Comrade Banerjee was initiated to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought in 1950 and began her party work in the Kalighat area of Kolkata. Later she took up job of a school teacher under the instructions of the Party and tried to develop herself as an ideal teacher seeking to educate her students not merely in academics but also to develop as human beings of higher ethical and cultural standard. Apart from organizing the teachers, she played an important role in developing women's movement in the state of West Bengal. She functioned as President of North 24 Paraganas district AIMSS and Vice-President of the state AIMSS. After retirement, she moved to Joynagar and was connected with Party activities there till her last breath. She was extremely disciplined and methodical and made every effort to work flawlessly. She was a very silent worker and bore the character of personified impersonal motherhood. Whoever came in touch with her felt the warmth of a caring mother. She led a very simple life and tried to reflect in her day to day life the higher human qualities, ethics and morality she learnt from the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. In her demise, the Party has lost one of its dedicated workers possessing higher cultural standard as per the education of the Party. Comrade Provas Ghosh, Comrade Yakub Pailan and other Central Committee and West Bengal State leaders paid their deep respect to Comrade Kalyani Banerjee by way of offering floral tribute.



AIDSO, Tripura demonstrating in Agartala against introduction of Common Entrance test in Medical Education.



Comrade Tarun Mandal addressing the protest movement against proposed Nuclear Power Plant at Koodankulam in Tamilnadu. Earlier he was given a warm reception by Dr. S. P. Udayakumar and other leaders of the movement.

**PROTESTING AGAINST** ● Severe Price Rise ● Price Hike of Fertilisers-Seeds-Pesticides ● Abolition of Pass-Fail System ● Curtailment of democratic rights ● Limitless corruption ● Women and Children trafficking, atrocities on women and others **AND DEMANDING** ● Employment for retrenched workers-employees and unemployed ● Medical treatment for all under Government ● Just price for agricultural produce of farmers

## PARLIAMENT MARCH on 14 MARCH 2012

To submit memorandum with crores of signatures  
To thwart anti-people policies of Central Government

## IRAN

# US-led imperialists declined to agree to total disarmament nuclear disarmament included

*Contd. from page 2*

political murders, engineering coups d'etat, fostering partial and localized wars and escalating war-phobia and tension. Thus while complete and all-out disarmament including full nuclear disarmament was the legitimate demand of world populace for lasting peace, it has been the US imperialists and their cohorts who, in utter disdain to world people's opinion went on accelerating manufacture of lethal nuclear weapons to perpetuate tension and hostility. And to camouflage this hideous agenda, the Pentagon rulers floated the concept of so called nuclear proliferation and insisted on other countries' abidance to Non-Proliferation Treaty while retaining their own right to pursue manufacturing of higher versions of sophisticated nuclear weapons having more power of mass destruction so as to keep other states under perpetual domination. Today, it is nuclear weaponry. Tomorrow they may well declare that manufacturing non-nuclear arms is the prerogative of theirs only and others should refrain from doing so. Such possibility cannot be brushed aside if overlordism of the US imperialists goes unchallenged.

So, it goes without saying that gangsterism of the US brigands armed with latest nuclear weaponry is escalating the possibility of war, keeping the world environment surcharged and casting a spectre of horror. It is the international despotism and brigandage of the US imperialists led by the US imperialists, which is the root cause of nuclear proliferation. Equipped with most advanced nuclear armory and modern sophisticated weaponry of mass destruction, US today is the biggest terrorist state in the world. This nuclear supremacy is providing the US imperialists the audacity to thump around, intimidate others and carry out bedlam and butchery at will. It is the US imperialist state which poses greatest threat to world peace, civilization and mankind today. What propriety US imperialism has to ask others to give up building nuclear capabilities when it itself is adding nuclear muscle with every passing hour? Hence, the world opinion needs to be united on the imperativeness of immediately destroying the entire nuclear arsenal of the US imperialists. But so long that is not happening, every country in order to survive and protect its inalienable right to defend sovereignty and freedom is justified on every count to acquire, if

necessary, nuclear power and continuously upgrade the same. It cannot be that those possessing nuclear teeth would enjoy unfettered right to grow nuclear while the others will tamely surrender before their red eyes forsaking development of their own nuclear programmes or perish. There cannot be two standards for the two groups. If there is a ban on nuclear weapons, it should be equally applicable to all. There cannot be a polarization between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' of nuclear power. The US imperialists, who first, under false pretext, used nuclear power for destructive purpose and triggered nuclear warfare, cannot be allowed to take everyone for a ride. In such a backdrop, what alternative the countries like Iran who are under constant threat of being overrun by the US-led imperialists, have other than resorting to development of nuclear weapons in self-defence? How can such a move on the part of these countries be called illegitimate as every country has inherent right to defend its sovereignty and freedom in whichever way it deems fit and appropriate even if that means developing its own nuclear capabilities? Under the circumstances, it needs to be realized that freeing the world from the curse of nuclear weapons lies in strengthening worldwide powerful people's movement and force the US-led imperialists under pressure of that movement to agree to total disarmament including destruction of nuclear armory.

### Changing nature of governance to be decided by country's people only

It is pertinent to mention in this connection that the US imperialist rulers are now nakedly interfering into the internal affairs of other countries even militarily under the pretense of a "humanitarian" mission to protect civilians from oppression and repression of their respective rulers. True that in the capitalist and feudo-capitalist states, the respective ruling classes in order to consolidate the bourgeois rule suppress the democratic aspirations of the people and often resort to repressive course as well. As against that, there does exist mounting discontent among the people who often burst forth in protest. Of late, the grievances of the people in several countries in North Africa and Middle East have burst out as militant mass upsurges against their repressive autocratic rulers. If the rulers are either stooges of or

favourably disposed towards the US imperialists, the Pentagon rulers stand by those rulers and shamelessly support their anti-people steps as was recently seen in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, Qatar and Oman. The Obama administration even advised Saudi Arabia to move 2000 odd soldiers and other artilleries to crush the democracy movement against the King of Bahrain. But if the governments are antagonistic to the US imperialism, the Pentagon rulers adopt a different tactics. Feigning solidarity with the agitating people, they covertly fan up the anti-incumbency sentiment of the people not for fostering democracy or realizing people's legitimate demands but to ensure that misled by either their planted agents or disaffected groups and forces propped up by them, the people's struggle culminate in installation of their client regimes and thereby establishment of their domination. This is what has happened in Iraq, Egypt and Libya. What is important in this regard is to understand that if any ruler of any country oppresses or represses the people there, violates human rights, subverts democracy or throttles voice of protest, it is an exclusive preserve and prerogative of the suffering masses of the country concerned to decide whether they would allow the present incumbents to continue in power or bring about a change in governance. No regime from outside is mandated by any civilized charter or convention to meddle into the internal affairs of that country under any pretext or subterfuge whatsoever. If the people of any country are engaged in a legitimate struggle against their autocratic repressive rulers, toiling people or even ruling dispensation of other countries can express solidarity with them, provide them moral support and build up world opinion in favour of their struggle. But any kind of interference, let alone military intervention, is never permissible. It would then be a flagrant violation of democratic norms, ethics and practices, international diplomatic codes and conventions. Any country violating these agreed principles, infringing upon the autonomy of another independent country and that too for buttressing ulterior motive of robbery and piracy must be held guilty of committing a barbaric crime against humanity. The war-monger US imperialists and their allies are willfully committing that crime to inflate their swelling coffer. The truth of Lenin's thesis that

imperialism is the progenitor of war and the principal danger to world peace is vividly manifested in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. Now, it is the turn of Iran. No country is safe today. The prowling paw of the US imperialists and their associates can be extended to any country, any time. "Submit supinely or perish"—such is fiat of the US imperialists.

### Frustrate this sinister imperialist machination

Should every country succumb to this threat? Should the toiling people of the world remain silent if their respective rulers meekly surrender to such felonious overtures? Surely not. This murderous run must be stopped. Even when the US-led imperialist powers are armed with modern lethal arms, people of the world are not altogether powerless. People have in their hands at least one weapon in their hands to protect themselves, to safeguard their sovereignty i.e. their invincible ideological power based on which it is needed to develop round the world broad-based powerful well-knit anti-imperialist movements involving all sections of toiling and democratic-minded patriotic people with genuine communists as the core. This will invariably give birth to people's own political power. Hence, the anti-imperialist movements in the different countries need to be properly coordinated so that a mighty militant global people's movement can develop worldwide against imperialism particularly US imperialism and the tremendous power of this movement ought to be transformed into decisive political power of the people. If such movement grows based on correct revolutionary ideology, that will constitute the invincible weapon in the hands of the suffering people to beat back the US imperialist war mongers and frustrate all their sinister machinations to overpower others. Alongside building up organized sustained legitimate democratic movements under correct revolutionary leadership in various countries against the respective oppressive bourgeois rules through formation of people's struggle committees and volunteer corps right from the grass root level, it is imperative that toiling people come forward to develop this history-ordained anti-imperialist movement.

It is also of immense importance to understand that today no people's

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## IRAN

## Growth of powerful well-knit anti-imperialist movements worldwide under correct leadership will give birth to people's own political power

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struggle can reach its logical culmination until it conduces to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement. It is the weakening of the world communist movement consequent to revisionist conspiracy that has licensed the imperialist sharks to kill at will and maraud with gusto. After Second World War, it is pertinent to recall, US emerged as the most powerful imperialist state and virtually dominated over the once formidable European imperialist powers. But, at that time whenever the US imperialists showed the audacity to attack any other country or sought to intervene in the internal affairs of others, they faced stiffest of opposition and humiliating defeat. Because, then international communist movement was at its peak. Soviet Union under Stalin was at the helm of the mighty socialist camp reckoned as citadel of peace. Mao Zedong accomplished revolution in China inflicting crushing defeat on the puppet Chiang regime directly backed by the US imperialists. Ho Chi Minh was leading historic struggle of Vietnamese people against the invading Pentagon army which earlier was routed at the Korean War. Anti-imperialist militant peace movements, anti-colonial liberation movements were sweeping around the world. Even humanist stalwarts like Bernard Shaw, Einstein and Bartend Russell stood firmly behind the liberation struggles and stood against all attempts to subvert democracy by the imperialist powers led by US imperialism. In such a world situation, the US imperialists were distinctly cornered and forced to shelve their sinister agenda. What does humanity demand of a conscientious mind in this grave hour of human civilization when democracy is being butchered by those perching atop the towers of Pentagon? Conspicuous silence or conscious concerted effective action? No democratic-minded person can remain a passive onlooker to butchering of democracy. Hence, it should be incumbent on the anti-war peace-loving democratic-minded patriotic people of all countries to rise up against any such attack, resist and repel it with all might.

It is heartening to note that

people all over the world are voicing their protest against interference and armed aggression of the imperialists particularly the US imperialists and their bid for world domination. What is most encouraging a development in the contemporary world scenario is that toiling people of the big imperialist countries from US, UK to Germany, France and their satellites like Israel, Turkey have also risen in protest against the war cries of their respective rulers and vehemently opposing the policy of conducting stealth operation overseas, exporting violence and overrunning sovereignty of other states. But all these struggles are to be properly coordinated. Any attack on any country must be considered by the toiling people of fellow countries as an attack on all of them. In other words, it would just not be an expression of solidarity but beyond that—unleashing action spurred by a sense of oneness. Had the Iranian government joined the Iraqi resistance movement against invading US army demonstrating a rare sense of anti-imperialist fraternity rising above mutual differences and integrating the democratic aspirations of the patriotic people with anti-US imperialist outrage, history might have been written otherwise. Time has come to realize that in right earnest. Even the US people who are raising voice of protest against rising economic onslaught and the pernicious war policy of their government ought to intensify their struggle to force their war monger rulers desist from attacking any other country because more accelerated are the war efforts of the Pentagon regime, more back-broken will be they in bearing the burden of this escalating war expenditures. So, the US people must also along with their struggling brethren in other countries raise demand of their government to hands off Iran.

If the desired co-ordination and fraternity among the fighting people round the countries can be developed, it would not only give fillip to the anti-imperialist struggles and democratic movements in each country but would also enfeeble the enemy to a great extent, bend the imperialist rogues and felons and frustrate their sinister machinations.

## RED SALUTE

## COMRADE DIPANKAR SINHA

Comrade Dipankar Sinha, an important organizer of the Kolkata District Committee of our Party the SUCI(C), breathed his last on 17 December at the Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital, at the age of just 54 years. He was suffering from acute lungs infection. Comrade Dipankar Sinha was the Coordinator as well as one of the Directors of the Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital. On receiving the heart breaking news, Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran member, Polit



Bureau and other leaders, Party activists, eminent personalities, leaders of other political parties and many of his admirers rushed to the hospital to pay homage. In his memorial meeting organized by the Kolkata District Committee of the Party on 24 December, Comrade Manik Mukherjee highlighted the various noteworthy and exemplary qualities of Comrade Sinha. Comrade Mukherjee recalled that Comrade Sinha was born in affluent family of Dumka in the Santhal Parganas district now in Jharkhand. He had come in contact with the thoughts of our great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh through Comrade Kalyan Ghosh, his relative and a departed worker of the Party. He was assigned the responsibility of the AIDS unit of Dumka. Later he moved to Kolkata and continued Party activities as an activist of AIDYO. Though he was initially connected with his family business, in course of time he decided to dissociate from that and work full-fledged for the Party. It is not that easy to give up riches for the sake of ideology and making need of earning subordinate to that. He had deep emotion and dreams, centring round the Hospital, shouldered his responsibilities to the best of his capabilities, was deeply moved at the pain, suffering or inconvenience of any of the Hospital staff and patients. Because of his tender feelings, higher cultural base and values, he could endear himself to one and all. He would act instantly to help anyone and reflected the important qualities of a revolutionary by having genuine love for the masses more than his kith and kin. He never came to the forefront but silently worked from behind. Even eminent intellectuals were drawn near to him for his unassuming nature and sense of purpose. His attempt was to imbue everyone he came across with the higher cultural and ethical tune contained in Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Comrade Manik Mukherjee concluded by saying, "If you can remember and pursue in your life the culture and qualities he reflected, then only shedding tears for him would be justified, then only would you be able to keep his memory ever alive in your heart." There was also a memorial meeting organized in the Hospital premises on 22 December.

SUCI (C) has been persistently calling upon all to build up powerful movement pursuing the aforesaid course. To achieve this objective at this most critical period of human civilization, SUCI (C) took initiative way back in 1995 to form All India Anti-Imperialist Forum in a convention in Kolkata in which many foreign delegates also took part. The conference called upon the progressive and peace-loving people of different countries to take initiative to form as broad-based as possible anti-imperialist fora through suitable means and draw up programmes on common agreed bases. The fraternal delegates and anti-imperialist fighters of different countries suggested that since SUCI(C) has mooted the idea and rightly so, it might take the initiative to create an international forum to coordinate the growing anti-imperialist struggles in different parts of the world and developing a struggling fraternity and solidarity among all. Following that, our Party took up the responsibility and the International Anti-imperialist and

People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee, now renamed as International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC) was set up in a historic convention in 2007 in Kolkata. The second conference of IACC was in Beirut in January, 2009. In the third international conference of IACC held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in November last, a call was given for revolutionary fight against imperialism and neoliberalism, hegemony and militarization policies of the US-led imperialists. The conference also stressed the need for emergence of true revolutionary leadership to ensure that the people's struggles against imperialist menace and autocratic oppressive, exploitative and tyrannical systems are led to their logical culmination. We call upon the people of the world to act accordingly, assert their power through release of unconquerable wave of well-coordinated global anti-imperialist movement to save the world from the scourge of imperialism.

## **SUCI(C) criticizes Lokpal Bill introduced in Parliament as a clear back out from the assurances given by the government**

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 26 December, 2011 :

We strongly criticize the Bill on Lokpal and Lokayukta that has been introduced in the Parliament on 22 December last since it shows that the Congress-led UPA government has clearly backed out from the assurances it gave in the previous session of the Parliament about the contents and stipulations of this vital legislation. It is also evident from the draft Bill that the government is opposed to create any independent autonomous effective and powerful institute of Lokpal and hence has brought in certain provisions which would leave scope for exercising indirect, if not direct, influence by it thereby frustrating the very purpose of a strong Lokpal legislation. We, therefore, demand that all such dubious provisions be removed altogether. We also demand that the Bill must be in total compliance with the assurances given and must, among other things, bring the Prime minister and his office under the purview of Lokpal without any string attached. The CBI should also be taken out of any form of government control and placed under a suitable democratically evolved independent authority. We also totally disapprove the idea of keeping the entire activities and conduct of the MPs inside the parliament out of the jurisdiction of Lokpal and demand that all their activities be brought under Lokpal. We are also equally opposed to the proposal of constitution of a 9-member Lokpal as this would surely make this all important institution unwieldy and hence ineffective in discharge of its responsibility. Moreover, invoking reservation in selection of Lokpal members is not only unnecessary but is fraught with the danger that divisions and dissensions within the body on questions not related to the cases under scanner might surface and would delay or dilute the rulings. This also holds out that the government is making all possible efforts to make the proposed Lokpal enfeebled within. Last of all, in a capitalist society like ours where all institutions and public bodies are vulnerable to infiltration of deep-seated corruption, there ought to be a system of appropriate check and balance and each and every such body must be accountable to another proper democratically evolved body or forum. Hence, Lokpal should also be accountable to a proper body evolved through discussion among all concerned and stakeholders.

We call upon all the people to rise against such deception and double dealing of the government and develop a countrywide well-organized sustained powerful movement for enactment of a strong effective Lokpal Bill free from any kind of emasculation or crippling provisions. We also remind the countrymen of a vital fact that mere legislation of a strong Lokpal and customary declaration of its implementation will not be enough to contain the all-pervasive corruption arising from the worn-out capitalist system. It is the constant pressure of sustained conscious mass movement which is the real antidote to escalating corruption in a capitalist set up like ours.

## **SUCI(C) expresses grave concern over the latest empowerment of RAW to intercept phone calls, mails and data communications**

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist) issued the following statement on 20 December, 2011 :

We strongly oppose the latest move of the Congress-led UPA government to empower the RAW on the plea to put it on a par with global agencies to intercept phone calls, emails and voice and data communications domestically. We are of the firm opinion that this undemocratic act of the government enforced on the plea of checking terrorist activities is surely fraught with danger of infringing the fundamental democratic rights of the people. We therefore strongly demand that the government rescind it forthwith.

## **SUCI(C) expresses surprise and dismay at the unexpected decision of team Anna to suspend the movement against corruption**

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) issued the following statement to the Press on 29 December, 2011:

When virtually nothing has been achieved in the Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill-2011 passed by the Parliament, when the UPA government had backed out from the assurance of the house and the PM, and when therefore mounting greater pressure on the government to change its dubious stand was the need of the hour, the sudden decision to suspend the movement by team Anna before the movement could gain momentum cannot but dampen the spirit of struggle of the masses and thus embolden the government itself. Further, its decision to campaign in the assembly elections in five states against the UPA headed by Congress can only confine the people's movement within the blind alley of parliamentary game. It is very well known to the people that all the big or small bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties ruling at the Centre or at the states are directly or indirectly allowing corruption to continue. By defeating one party or a combination in the elections and thus helping another party or group of parties of the same kind to come to power can hardly help fighting corruption. Such a move can only create parliamentary illusions in the people, and thus weaken their struggle against corruption and other problems of life. History has emphatically shown that there is no alternative to peoples' movement.

We call upon the people to carry on their struggle against corruption with greater enthusiasm and vigour by organizing themselves in people's struggle committees from grassroot levels and following a correct path.

## **SUCI(C) denounces proposed Food Security Bill as a mockery on the people's woes**

Reacting to the Food Security Bill placed in the Parliament on 22 December, 2011, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 27 December, 2011 :

In the name of securing availability of food to the countrymen, the Bill which has been introduced in the Parliament by the Congress-led UPA government with much fanfare is sure to turn out to be a mere gimmick than an honest endeavour to mitigate the acute suffering of the hunger-stricken malnutrition-afflicted poor and have-nots. The prescribed quota of just 7 kg of foodgrains and that too to only 46% of the rural and 26% of the urban populations falls far short of irreducible minimum requirement of not less than 15 kg needed for staying alive. Allocation of meager 4 Kg to the rest rural and urban populations and that too not exceeding 90% and 50% respectively of the same is also a cruel joke. Even the declared scanty benefits would not reach the actual beneficiaries because the utterly corrupt implementation machinery will merrily corner them all as has been seen in the case of National Rural Employment guarantee Scheme, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Integrated Child Development schemes and a host of such other propositions. By not stipulating that the government should, as demanded by the people for long, assume direct and total responsibility of both procurement and distribution of foodgrains, the Bill will not touch the fringe of the problem and thus turn out to be a mere hoax. The sole purpose of bringing such a cosmetic Bill is to provide electoral mileage to the ruling Congress on the eve of ensuing elections by hoodwinking the people.

We, therefore, urge upon the toiling people to develop a powerful democratic movement throughout the country to force the government remove all the lapses and lacunae, incorporate the vital omissions and tone up the administration and ensure enactment of a proper and effective Food Security Bill which will really provide some relief to the needy, hungry and destitute

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