

Proletarian Era

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91st Death Anniversary of Great Lenin



Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) garlanding the portrait of Great Lenin at the Party's central office in Kolkata on 21 January, 2015.

Comrade Provash Ghosh wrote to Prime Minister opposing nomination of a riot-accused BJP MP to Aligarh University Court

To
The Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of India
18 January, 2015

Sir,
We join the conscientious civil society, secular and democratic minded saner section of the people and the renowned academicians in vehemently opposing the most atrocious decision of your government to appoint Kunwar Bharatendra, MP from Bijnore, to the Aligarh Muslim University Court, the highest decision making body of this reputed academic institute. The aforesaid MP, as you are well aware, is an accused in Muzaffarnagar communal riot cases and hence his nomination to such a noble seat of learning is highly undemocratic and unjust, communally biased, subversive of secular spirit and destined to vitiate the academic environment of the university and infringe on its autonomy.

We, therefore, urge upon you to withdraw his nomination to AMU Court and also desist from appointing such tainted persons as echelons in the hierarchy of educational institutions.

Sincerely Yours
Provash Ghosh
General Secretary
Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)

Indian Science Congress and Hindutva

Glorification drive brings disgrace to the country

The Indian Science Congress held annually is one of the largest fora of Indian scientists often along with their foreign counterparts to present their views, interact with each other and help country's scientific and technological researches with some directions to follow. It is true that not always it performed its tasks as desired. Rather hardly it has tried, particularly in the recent times, to deal with theoretical or epistemological aspects of science, limiting itself more to technological issues related to science and industries. Yet it was the forum for students- research workers- teachers of the country from different branches of science to come together for scientific exchanges; it was the forum which listened to the pathbreaking presidential addresses from, among others, the scientists of the stature of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray talking on 'Dawn of Science in Modern India' in 1920 (The Acharya had also authored an invaluable memoir on Hindu Chemistry, that is chemistry in ancient India, based on his painstaking research), which gave due recognition to the achievements in science in ancient India, and as well, aimed at equipping people with genuine scientific awareness. It appeared outrageous that the same forum has been misused in its 102nd session this year held recently at Mumbai University in Maharashtra. Incidentally, yet significantly, the RSS-BJP combine which is now in power at the Centre, has also won this state in the last election and had a hand in organizing the Science Congress there.

Science was bade adieu in Science Congress

The Science Congress this year included a symposium on "Ancient Sciences through Sanskrit" as its centre theme. Tone of the theme was set by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, who while inaugurating it with verbose eulogies of science and Indian scientists, invoked the Vedas to explain the purpose of science.

Following his footsteps, papers presented in the Congress dished out downright anti-science ideas and pseudo-science to claim that discoveries in modern science including certain fundamental inventions were all made in the ancient India. In lieu of concrete scientific evidences, the authors took liberty simply to quote from or refer to some earlier texts, or made references to the descriptions in the epics and myths. Striking was the fact that papers were invited not by any scientific institutions or departments of science but by the department of Sanskrit of Mumbai University and Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas University, Ramtek. Equally noteworthy was that none of the speakers seemed to have been engaged in any kind of serious pursuit of science, nor were they scientists of any repute or known to have done any significant research on science in ancient India. Yet these self-styled authors, including students of Sanskrit, even went to the extent of claiming inventions of most advanced inter-planetary aircrafts in Vedic India, or 'To understand Einstein, one needs to read Vedas' and so forth. Some author asserted that the Kurukshetra war of the epic Mahabharata escalated beyond the earth to the moon and finally to the Mars. The warriors reached those places on aeroplanes. Helmets of slain enemies were recovered by the NASA scientists from the Mars itself. In another piece of gem, it was claimed that cows have a bacteria in their bodies that could transform anything it feeds upon into 24 carat of gold. Dr Gauri Mahulikar, head of the Sanskrit department of Mumbai University claimed that *Baudhayan* wrote the geometric formula now famously known as Pythagorean theorem 300 years before Pythagoras and also that in the same book *Sulbha Sutra* the pi ratio, that is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter (a basic proposition in mathematics) was cracked for the first time.

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Massive protest by All India DSO and All India DYO against Barak Obama's visit, 26 January, 2015 in Kolkata

Distortions, fabrications, trash replace science in the Science Congress

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Interestingly even though a large section of delegates at the Congress seemed to be criticizing at least disapproving this admixture of science with mythology and pseudo-science, much to the dismay of many the chairperson of the symposium did not allow any question-answer session. Everybody knows that question-answer session is not just customary, but imperative in a forum like the Science Congress, because exchange of opinions and interaction between scientists make the very essence of scientific thinking and process. Its absence raises questions like were then the authors afraid of facing questions, or, is it just for blind acceptance instead of scientific reasoning.

The strongest uproar probably came in regard to a paper co-authored by Captain Anand Bodas (Anand J Bodse), retired head of a pilot training centre, and Ameya Jadhav, a teacher. Presenting the paper Captain Bodas claimed that certain ancient texts like the *Vymanik Shastra* written by Maharshi Bharadwaj and *Brihat Vimanshastra* by Agastya Muni (as also in the book *Viman Sanghita*) contained evidences of existence of interplanetary aircraft in India around 9,000 years ago (between 6 and 7000 BC). Also as acclaimed, these 'ancient Indian aeroplanes travelled from one country to another, from one continent to another, and from one planet to another' at a speed of 12,800 miles per hour. Those were fuelled by electric power made from the urine of cows and elephants and those 'could move left, right, as well as backwards, unlike modern planes which only fly forward'.

Deliberate lies and fabrications marked the show

Such claims made loudly but not appeared absurd, those also contained glaring distortion of facts, intentional bluffs, deliberate dishing out of trash, surfeit of fabrications and hence smacked of a sinister motive to replace science by junks of nonsense. It is known to all that both Maharshi Bharadwaj and Agastya Muni find references in some *slokas* (verses) of the late Vedic age, that could not be older than 1000 years; Captain Bodas claimed their works as 9000 years old. Then again *Vymanik Shastra* by Maharshi Bharadwaj was no ancient document; it could not have been written earlier than 1904 to be published in 1951 by some AM Josyer, the founder of International

Sanskrit Academy at Mysore. Reportedly one Pandit Subbaraya Shastry, of early 20th century was the originator of the Sanskrit *slokas* quoted by Captain Bodas. One of Pandit Shastry's associates, Ellappa, a draughtsman in a local engineering college, made the sketches of those so called ancient Indian planes. Pandit Shastry himself was unsure of the practicality of the ideas propounded in *Vymani ka Shastra*. And the claims made in the book had already been refuted back in 1974 in a research paper titled "Critical Study of the Work, Vaimanik Shastra" in the Scientific Opinion journal, by a group of five Indian young scientists from the departments of aeronautical and mechanical engineering of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore. They had added: 'The planes described (four types) are at the best poor concoctions, rather than expressions of something real. None of the planes has properties or capabilities of being flown; the geometries are unimaginably horrendous from the point of view of flying; and the principles of propulsion make them resist rather than assist flying.' So the symposium paper was a clear case of chicanery, a complete lack of minimum honesty and authenticity. (Sources: The Hindu 3,4,6 January 2015; Indian Express 6 January, Delhi Edition, p2; Deccan Herald, 9 January 2015; The Statesman, Kolkata Edition, 11 January 2015)

Scientific methodology and viewpoint

However, redeeming were the reactions of a sizeable section of intellectual community. Eminent scientists, historians and academicians from leading research centres of the country like the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad or National Institute for Science, Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi and others even from beyond the country, strongly criticized this deplorable attempt at diluting and denigrating science with bogus materials. Organizations like Breakthrough Science Society that work for promoting scientific mindset among people at large have also registered their unstinted opposition to this dubious attempt towards fanning up pseudo-science in the cloak of science.

Nevertheless, the symposium has brought up several issues to probe into. As it is known, scientific enterprise is a quest to understand and explain natural phenomena

based on knowledge that are supported by observations and experimental evidence, with an ultimate view to acting upon and gaining control over the nature for the benefit of the humankind and society. It is a dynamic process that involves constant advancement. At the same time, it is intimately related to and interacting with the objective conditions in the society, conditions of material and spiritual (mental) productions in the society, at any stage of its growth and development. Thus in the primitive society, from concrete, objective experiences of the material world, man might have come upon the thought that things in nature were related. But it was in the realm of thought, in imagination that could never be verified through any experiment or more precise, advanced kind of observations. No doubt it was science, but it was the ancient science fundamentally different from the modern science. Later, in the womb of feudal society amidst the darkness of the Middle Ages, the society was shivering from the birth-pang of a new society to free both material and spiritual productions from the shackles of absolute power of the rulers and priesthood, as well as dogmatism, bigotry, obscurantism, absolutist ideas and such other backward thoughts. Under the rule of monarchy or churchdom, science was given only limited scope for development to the extent that it did not go against religious scriptures. But due to inherent law of social development and ever growing urge for fulfilling the social necessity of the corresponding time, science began to take its stride despite manifold difficulties and ultimately gained a huge momentum in its development in the age of renaissance and rising period of capitalism when reasoning and rational outlook replaced blindness and enabled the human mind to base itself on rationality and adopt a scientific view of the world. It was that historical context which paved the way for growth and development of modern science based on painstaking observations, reasoning, analysis and experimental verification. One after another newer visions of the earth emerged. Newer theories were framed, mankind came to know newer truths about the nature and its processes. It was then that after prolonged struggles of dedicated scientists, the theory of relativity was born, man's conception about the fundamental particles, their structure and energy was revolutionized and concretized from nebulous imaginary concepts,

Heisenberg's uncertainty principle was framed to give a deeper insight into world of subatomic particle, and so on. All these concepts and theories could never have seen light in the earlier ages without the newly emerging background of growth of society and modern science. Thus to claim "To understand Einstein, one needs to read Vedas", is true only to the extent that in the last analysis developments of later times are unquestionably founded upon what were acquired earlier. The same is true for great technological accomplishment, whether it is aeronautics, plastic surgery, in-vitro fertilization or stem cell therapy. These could not have been made without the material base created in society, without their specific substantial theoretical edifice. Man's spiritual world, that is, his world of thoughts and ideas grow out of the material condition and under no circumstances, can man's spiritual world supersede the limits of the given material condition. That is why, none of the great geniuses of the past could conceive the modern scientific thoughts and come out with the newer discoveries of various scientific laws in the different domains. This is the scientific view of origin and growth of thoughts and ideas. Hence, to claim that innovations of modern aircrafts already existed in ancient India is not only false, unhistoric and against the ethics of science but also dangerous as it can inflame fanatical passions. As Darwin said, false facts are more dangerous than false views.

Cultivation of knowledge is a collective effort of mankind

Besides, it is also a fact that many scientific conclusions or discoveries were independently made at different places without the knowledge of respective scientists or persons responsible. In the ancient ages scientific achievements were made in isolated centres where human civilization was being built up largely independently. Besides, there is also the question of scant evidences. Significant evidences left on papyrus of Egypt or clay tablets of Mesopotamia or *bhurjapatroor* palm leaves in India were liable to be destroyed easily. The treasure of human knowledge that modern man enjoys has to bear with these limitations, and has to appreciate every bit of evidences that the humankind have been able to accumulate or reconstruct. Modern man while assessing and evaluating

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Who has turned Assam into a slaughter house ? Where lies the solution ?

Once again at different places in Assam an organized killing of innocent people took place on 23 December last. The barbaric attack has taken a toll of nearly hundred individuals including women and children belonging to the tribal community in Shonitpur and Kachugaon districts and also in certain areas under the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD). On 22 December evening, the miscreants, after having injured four innocent persons through haphazard shooting at Gosaigaon, Patgaon, Samarpur and Kachugaon under BTAD, killed within 24 hours 24 persons at Shonitpur, 8 at Dhekiajuli, 3 at Kokrajhar. 4 members of the same family were murdered at No. 9, Phulbari of Shonitpur, when assailants on bikes came and shot them. 9 innocent villagers were shot down at Pavo of Biswanath Chariali and Maital slum. This bestial carnage was followed by setting fire to several villages - hundreds of houses being gutted in the process. As a result, more than a lakh of common people including children, women and the elderly were rendered homeless, had to take shelter most helplessly in schools or had nothing other than the sky under which to repose in the extreme winter cold. Numerous people were traceless. No one knows who they have happened to have lost-mother, father, brother or sister, son or daughter. Many succumbed to death due to severe cold. Others are still in hospital, fighting death. The entire atmosphere is weighed down with grief over bereavement - a heart-rending sight - a slur to the civilized world. The whole of Assam is terror-stricken - the security of people being so challenged.

Under such an unbearable situation, whether the Congress Government in the state or the BJP-led Central Government remained silent spectators - even more aloof and unabashed in their bid to blame one another and evade responsibility. Reportedly the central intelligence had prior information of the attack even three days earlier. But instead of beefing up the security of the innocent common people, they allowed them to be hapless victims of such a brutal attack. How could this happen despite prior knowledge to the government? Is it that human lives bear no values to the governments and their administrations? Why then the governments did not take action? The truth is that the capitalist class and their servitors - both the central and state governments squander with the lives of the people in the interest of their own political gain and this has been going on for long. Pitting the Bodos against the non-Bodos by fomenting chauvinist-ethnic sentiments, parties like the Congress, the BJP and BPF (Bodoland Peoples' Front) have time and again drove these communities to war against each other simply to reap electoral benefit.

Everyone knows that as a counter to the parochial movement of the Assam Gana Parishad (AGP), the Bodo movement for a separate Bodo state was initiated in 1987. At that time the arch provincial AGP government instead of addressing to the economic demands of the Bodo people and allotting proper acknowledgement to the questions of their language and culture that could free them from

the clutches of the separatists, followed the path of resorting to oppressive measures. As a result, the separatist forces gained in strength and their movement got more extended. Later on, with the Congress installed in governmental power, Bodoland Autonomous and Interim Council were formed in 1993 through a law framed in the State Assembly. But the government went on dilly-dallying over defining the jurisdiction of the Bodo Land Autonomous Council. Quite a few controversial villages with non-Bodo majority were inducted in the Bodoland. This naturally led to discontent and apprehension fermenting among the non-Bodo population. Also, no initiative was taken by the government to arrive at a consensus for resolving the disputes involving both Bodos and Non-Bodos. Moreover, allegations were raised that there was discrimination in allotment of subsidies to the Bodo Council. In such a backdrop, playing on the grievances of the people, an armed organization termed Boro Liberation Tiger (BLT) emerged with a demand for a separate Bodostate. Not only this, raising secessionist slogans, another armed organization, NDFB by name, also came into existence with the same demand for a separate Bodoland. This surcharged the atmosphere further leading to a spate of killings and terrorist activities. In its trail, on 10 February, 2003, based on a tripartite pact among the BLT, the BJP and the Congress, the 6th schedule was amended to create Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD).

The percentage of Bodo people

residing in the BTAD was just 30%. Even 90% of the population of certain areas was non-Bodos. The Bodo separatist forces are now bent on ousting the non-Boro people from those areas through repeated threat and attack so as to prove Bodo majority within BTAD. Centering on that, there were continued clashes between different communities that took a toll of thousands of innocent lives. As per available figures, 2009 innocent people lost their lives in community clashes between 1990 and 2013. Prior to that, between 1987 and 1990, more than a thousand of common people were killed by armed terrorist miscreants. Majority of those rendered homeless through such killings and compelled to take refuge in different camps, were not provided with rehabilitation by the government. Tarun Gagoi-led Congress which formed the government after entering into an electoral adjustment with BTAD Chief Executive and former BLT chief Hagrama Mahilari-led BPF Party, was following anti-people policies and was steeped in corruption, indulging in discrimination and had generated acute economic crisis. Both Bodos and non-Bodos were equally affected by all these. To divert the growing discontent of the toiling people, both Bodo and non-Bodo, a horrific communal riot was unleashed in July, 2012, at Kokrajhar in Bodoland under direct instigation of arch racial and communal forces. More than thousand people belonging to the minority community lost their lives.

Development of such a dreadful situation in Assam is however noisolated an incident but has stemmed from the obtaining socio-economic-political situation in the state. It goes without saying that the political-economic situation of Assam is but a reflection of the political-economic situation prevailing in capitalist India. Just as in other states, in Assam too, lakhs of young men and women are desperately moving from one corner of the state to the other in search of jobs. Neither the state nor the central government has taken any effective steps to solve this mounting unemployment problem. While in other states, some industries were set up after independence and some jobs were created, the same cannot be said about Assam. Not only this, a few industries that were running in Assam earlier, have mostly closed

down. So, thousands of men and women belonging to peasants' and workers' families can hardly maintain themselves despite putting up arduous labour. In their bid to crush the united democratic movements that were developed by the toiling masses irrespective of caste-creed or religion and based on the urgent demands of the people, both the government and its police force have all the time been resorting to various deceptive acts and using brute force. Also they have been hatching conspiracy to disrupt the unity of the people by creating division among them in the name of caste, creed, ethnicity, language and religion. The net result of this has been that the entire North East including Assam has turned into nothing less than a slaughter house.

A point to be considered here with due importance is that notwithstanding compromise with race-caste and religion, a nationalist feeling had developed throughout the country during the freedom movement. But such a feeling of Indian nationalism did not grow in the same way in the states of North East. Hence, in this part of the country, there was marked domination of backward feudal thoughts like casteism, racialism etc. So, the bourgeois parties like the Congress, the BJP etc. could easily exploit these prevalent divisive mentalities to disrupt the unity of the toiling masses and serve their petty political interests riding on that divide. With a view to destroying the left and democratic movement that had developed in Assam against such capitalist exploitation and discrimination, the AASU movement (movement by the All Assam Students Union to oust so called *foreigners*) grew up towards the later part of 1979. This parochial AASU movement paved the way for provincialism, separatism and secessionism to rear their ugly heads in the state. An incessant dishonest, motivated and exaggerated campaign that 'a regular infiltration of foreigners in lakhs is endangering the very identity of the Assamese people as well as their language and culture' was unleashed by the parochial-chauvinist quarters to pollute people's mind. This stoked the fire of communalism-provincialism which spread throughout the state leading to worst fratricidal bloodbath which took a huge toll of innocent lives. In an atmosphere

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All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) flays Amendment to Labour Laws

After assuming power at the Centre, the BJP led Union Government – the trusted representative of the capitalists has come out with severe offensive on workers community conforming to its pre-poll commitment and gift in return to the corporate houses who immensely contributed to the BJP to grab the citadel. Suiting the evil design of the capitalists to continue with retrenchment, lay-off, closure of the factories and large scale contractisation the Union Government as well as the Government of Rajasthan with full speed and vigour have framed amendments to labour laws under the guise of Labour Reforms commensurate with its class rule by extending favour to the corporate houses by taking away even the rights and privileges the workers enjoyed hitherto. In line with the footsteps pursued by the Rajasthan Government, other BJP ruled states, namely, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, are in the process of similar retrograde amendments of Labour Laws. It cannot be denied that in our country instead of effective implementation rampant violation of labour laws by the industrialists have become a regular phenomenon.

In August last, the Rajasthan Assembly assented to barbaric anti-labour amendments concerning (1) Industrial Disputes Act, (2) Factories Act, (3) Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act. The salient features of the amendments are as under:

- 1. Industrial Disputes Act:** In respect of establishments employing workforce upto 300, requirement of Government approval for retrenchment, lay-off, closure etc. as existed, has been dispensed with. In Rajasthan, out of total 7622 factories, the number of establishments / factories employing less than 300 workmen stands at 7522. Thus by virtue of this amendment vast section of workers of the state are practically thrown out of the coverage of I.D. Act. Rather those workers are pushed to the ambit of 'Hire & Fire' policy – their future being totally insecure and uncertain. To become eligible for representative union, the mandate of 30% workers of the establishment in its favour shall constitute an essential criterion.
- 2. Factories Act:** Depending on operational mode the factories shall be grouped (a) units operated with power the qualifying manpower norm is raised to 20 from 10 (b) those operated without power the manpower norm is raised to 40 from 20. With technological advancement *vis-a-vis* due to large scale outsourcing and contractisation vast number of industrial units is operated with lesser strength despite their capital investment being quite substantial, granting exemption to those units, on the plea of simplification, from furnishing Returns & Maintaining Registers which was obligatory in the case

of 16 major Labour Acts. Specific provision has been incorporated debaring the workers from filing any case against the employer for violation of labour laws without approval of the state government. In other words, pending Government's approval no case shall lie in any court of law against the employer. Establishments employing workmen of 40 and above only would qualify to be a 'factory', and those with lesser strength would be disentitled of the rights and privileges the Factories Act provides.

- 3. Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act:** The contractors employing workers upto 49 heads being left out from its ambit, major section of the contractor workers would be denied of the protective net available under the Act. At the same time, the amendment limiting the workers' strength would practically encourage the employers to be more eager to engage exclusively contractor labours reducing recruitment in permanent jobs *vis-à-vis* the financial liability. Simultaneously, by availing the services of contractor labour, the total effect on account of labour would be grossly minimized.

Boosted by safe passage of the amendments to labour laws by Rajasthan Assembly which was otherwise a laboratory to experiment the BJP's stance and design conforming to the BJP's political objective of faithfully serving and upholding the interest of corporate houses, just like the Congress led UPA Government, the BJP led Union Government was prompted to renew the bogey of Labour Reforms with all its might. The BJP Government claims, such amendments would generate large-scale employment

opportunity and help industrialization. But in actuality it is an evil design to allow industrialists who are prone to violate labour laws, to continue their loot and plunder unabated. Bills proposing amendments to Apprentice Act and Factories Act in the meantime have been placed before the Parliament.

- 4. Factories (Amendment) Bill 2014:** By amendment of Sec. 26, the working hours are spread over 10.5 hours (including lunch/tiffin break) which is now extended to 12 hours in place of earlier specified limit of 8 hours subject to clearance from the State Chief Inspector of Factories, depending on the situation and on compliance of the procedure laid down. Earlier Sec 64 which restricted 50 hours overtime per quarter is now straightway raised to 100 hours. Upon exigencies and in view of 'public interest' this limit may be extended to 125 hours. Said amendment invariably would cause undue hardship to the workers on the one hand while on the other lead to negative impact on employment potentiality. Prohibition of night shift duty to women workers, under Sec. 66, by amendment is totally relaxed.

The factories employing less than 40 workmen will be considered as Small Factories and in respect of said establishments an enactment is proposed and titled *The Small Factories (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Bill 2014*, lying pending with the Parliament. By virtue of said amendment the definition of *Factory* shall be altered and the employers would be armed with unfettered right to loot and exploit the workers curbing the benefits and privileges they enjoyed hitherto under major Labour Acts like Factories Act, Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Wages Act, Payment of Bonus Act, Equal Remuneration Act, Shops & Establishments Act, Child Labour Act etc. Upon enactment whatever safeguards the working class so long enjoyed would no more be available.

- 5. Apprentice (Amendment) Bill 2014:** The Proposed Bill for amendment is an ominous step

and envisages liberalizing the penal provision in respect of the employer who may be charged for violation of the respective Sections contained in the Act which provides penalty that may be extended to imprisonment as well. By amendment, the penalty has been substituted with a meager amount of Rs. 500/-. Thus, the main thrust of the proposal is to relieve the employers liable for penal offence. Authority for supervision and control under the Act was vested with the Central Apprenticeship Council but now proposed to be transferred to the State Apprenticeship Council. Moreover, on the one hand the number of apprentices in a particular unit shall be restricted to 30% of the overall workers' strength on the other the honorarium payable shall be limited to 70% of the Minimum Wage only utilizing them in any sort of jobs even those of permanent nature and accomplished by regular - contract, casual and daily rated labours whereby the employers would be advantageously placed to utilize the Apprentices in permanent jobs with comparatively lesser cost. Consequently, the wage parameter against overall production cost of respective industrial units would be relatively less with consequent benefit to concerned entrepreneurs.

Thus the initiative towards the amendment of Labour Laws is basically a comprehensive and concerted effort enunciated by the Union Government primarily to cover various Acts viz. Industrial Disputes Act, Factories Act, Contract Labour (R & A) Act, Apprenticeship Act etc. concerning Industries – its management, workmen and related issues. Going for those amendments sole objective of the Modi Government is to provide unfettered right to the owner class in their pursuit to retrench and loot the workers community on the one hand and simultaneously disarm the toiling workers of their hard-earned legal and trade union rights acquired through protracted and arduous struggles over the years, on the other.

In a recently held meeting, the Central Government mooted

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SUCI(C) demands appropriate enquiry into the incident of 100 unidentified dead bodies found floating on the Ganges

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 16-01-2015:

The sudden discovery of 100 odd dead bodies stated to be mostly of unwed women and children floating in the Ganges near the village of Pariyar and Safipur area of Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh is bound to raise a lot of questions. It is disquieting that in a civilized country, there is a horrific spectacle of dogs and birds feeding on unidentified bloated and decaying bodies floating in the stream and the government remaining silent over the matter.

We demand that there be an appropriate enquiry into the cause of this incident and if there is any foul play behind it, the guilty should be identified, apprehended and meted out stringent punishment.

SUCI(C) strongly opposes the proposed atrociously anti-labour reforms of Maharashtra government, calls for intensifying working class movement to foil such sinister moves

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 25-01-2015:

We strongly oppose the most atrocious proposal of the BJP-led Maharashtra government following the footsteps of BJP-led Rajasthan Government to confer, by way of amending Industrial Disputes Act 1947, unilateral right to the capitalist owners of factories with less than 300 workers to lay off staff or close down the units without seeking government permission. It is estimated that roughly 39,000 of the 41,000 establishments located in Maharashtra, the most industrialized state of the country, will be covered by this proposed outright anti-working class amendment which, brought out in the line of Prime Minister Modi's pro-capitalist "Make in India" campaign, will insecure the life and livelihood of lakhs of workers, erode workers' hard earned rights and lead to job losses stoking further unemployment. It is also reported that a move is afoot to amend the Contract Labour Act, 1970, so that units with 50 or more contract workers as against 20 at present will be required to register with the government thereby allowing small- and medium-scale industries to hire contract labour more freely and depriving the workers of their trade union, socio-economic and constitutional rights and rendering them more vulnerable to the whims and diktats of the employers. Likewise, Factory Act, 1948, is proposed to be amended so that safety rules under the law will now be mandatory for units employing 20 workers or more as against 10 at present. It is evident that once such pro-capitalist amendments are operational in the states, those will be extended to the whole of the country through adoption at central government's level exacerbating misery and penury in the lives of the working people. The proposed reforms are thus presage of the shape of things to come in future. This is also a clear instance of how the BJP government has shamelessly yielded to the pressure of domestic and foreign monopolists to strip the Indian working class of all the democratic rights it earned through prolonged arduous struggle over the years. It is no surprising that the BJP which has been brought to power by the ruling monopolists will be nakedly serving the vested bourgeois class interest at the cost of the oppressed and exploited working class.

While demanding immediate withdrawal of the proposed anti-labour reforms, we feel it is imperative on the part of all the political parties who talk of people's interest to come forward and unleash a united organized movement involving all sections of the working people to resist such demonic attack on the working class, failing which the ruling capitalist class with a subservient government at its disposal will deal more and more deadly blows to the working class and make living impossible for them.

SUCI(C) called for organizing massive protest demonstration on 26 January against decision to invite Obama as chief guest

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 24-01-2015:

Disregarding and dishonouring the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people and showing utter disrespect to the leaders and martyrs of India's anti-imperialist freedom movement, the Modi-led BJP government has been blatantly shameless in inviting Barack Obama, President of US, the chieftain of world imperialism and of the most dreaded despotic war monger enemy of mankind, as the Chief Guest of the Republic Day programme on 26 January, 2015, obviously to subserve the class interest of the ruling Indian monopolists aspiring to emerge as an Asian superpower by establishing closer economic-political-military ties with the Pentagon rulers.

Our Party has already given a call to the anti-imperialist peace-loving people of India to rise in vehement protest against this sinister move of the Modi government and organize massive demonstrations including burning of effigies of the US President at various places across the state on the very day of 26th January so as to shake both the US imperialist rulers as well as ruling Indian monopolists and their political managers.

Amendment to Labour Laws

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proposal to amend the Minimum Wages Act defying the recommendation of 43rd ILC. Incidentally, the Recommendation of 43rd ILC was a replica of the Recommendation of 15th ILC, enriched by the Apex Court by adding 25% more in determining the Minimum Wage. Unfortunately, without honouring the legalized form of minimum wage, the Modi Government has taken initiative to determining National Minimum Wage which is little higher than that notionally fixed under BPL guideline. Strangely, the proposed minimum wage falls short of the lowest wage structure declared by the Union Government and State Governments. The amendment proposal on the one hand amounts to disrespect to the Apex Court, on the other to sheer deprivation to several crores of workers from their legitimate wages. Also the amendment makes no differentiation between skilled and unskilled workers whereby all workers, irrespectively, would be forced to accept wage of the unskilled ones. Such Bill if enacted shall throw crores of workers out of coverage of the Labour Laws and compell them to lead their livelihood at the whims of employers. Similarly, on Bonus Act also

anti-workers amendments have been proposed with restrictive conditions which would debar a great section of workers from getting due bonus. As per the existing provision of the Bonus Act the quantum of bonus ranges from 8.33% to 20% of earned annual wages. Depending upon the capacity and profit of the establishment the workers could agitate to get higher quantum within the specified limit. It was prolonged demand of trade union movement – *Bonus to all*. By the proposed Small Factories Bill 2014 irrespective of profit of the establishment, right of Bonus of the concerned workers will be restricted to 8.33% denying them any form of higher bonus.

Basically, in the hands of the present Union Government the reforms are directed to provide the industrialists a free hand to continue their ill-design of *malafide* act of retrenchment, lay-off, closure, pursuing the policy of *hire & fire* besides denying the workers their rights and privileges and making them responsible for intense capitalist crisis.

At this present critical juncture, in order to frustrate the sinister design of the Government, the trusted agent of the corporate houses, the foremost task of the workers in general is to forge unity and plunge into struggle unitedly across the country and give shape to nationwide strong united movement.

Make SUCI(C) Candidates Victorious in Delhi Assembly Election

Constituency	Candidate
1. Burari	Comrade Manager Chaurasia
2. Sadar Bazar	Comrade Ritu Kaushik
3. Badli	Comrade Rakesh Kumar

Scientific knowledge is built upon collective efforts to become treasure of the entire mankind

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the past needs also to acknowledge that even in those days of poor linkage, knowledge was transmitted across the globe. Thus cultivation of knowledge, including practice and research of science did not and do not hinge upon the efforts of a single individual or on a single book or document. It was and is a collective effort of the mankind, carried out by many, contributing their own efforts to it. And its history is also a history of exchange, with acceptance and transmission standing essential to the growth of knowledge. Any discovery or invention made at any corner of the world immediately became and becomes the valuable ingredient of the entire treasure house of human knowledge and science. May be among the contributors, one represented or expressed the issue in the most comprehensive or best possible form. It is him or her, who is then credited with the distinction of being the discoverer or inventor. Before Charles Darwin, there were many others who embarked upon the idea of organic evolution; even it is known that Wallace, contemporary of Darwin, reached virtually the same theory independently. Yet Darwin is credited as the proponent of the theory of organic evolution, because on the strength of concrete objective materials and instances, he gave shape to the most comprehensive theory of the time. Similarly, the ancient Greek mathematician Pythagoras (c. 570 – c. 495 BC), is credited with the first recorded proof of the well-known Pythagorean theorem though knowledge of the theorem predated Pythagoras as it is indicated in some Egyptian *Papyrus (6619)* written between 2000 and 1786 BC or Mesopotamian tablet *Plimpton 322*, written between 1790 and 1750 BC during the reign of Hammurabi the Great, as also in the *Baudhayana's Sulba Sutra* from India, the dates of which are given variously as between the 8th century BC and the 2nd century BC. Similarly the first recorded method for calculating the value of the number π or *pai* (δ) also called Archimedes' constant, was devised around 250 BC by the Greek mathematician Archimedes. However, certain features of construction of the Great Pyramid at Giza in Egypt of about 2589–2566 BC (with a ratio of perimeter and height equal to twice the value of *pai*), a clay tablet of Babylon dated 1900–1600 BC and a papyrus from Egypt of around 1650 BC or

the *Sulba Sutra* of India of around 600 BC, indicate the idea of *pai*. Contributions of Indian mathematicians were undoubtedly commanding in ancient India and it cannot be brushed aside that many of those outstanding developments were carried to the western world by the Arab traders who, to be fair, credited "the lands beyond the Indus river", 'Hindustan', for these advances. Now using them as marks of first found or first done, can at best whip up a chauvinistic trait, unwarranted in scientific exercises.

Why were scientific achievements of ancient India lost?

Besides, while making such claims one must also answer: Why were such path-breaking achievements of science in ancient India lost in the days to come without leaving any trace? We may recall the words of the famous Indian scientist Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy. In his celebrated book *The History of Hindu Chemistry* he identified three causes behind this. The first was the introduction of the caste system. The second, that behind the decline of the rich culture of medicine and surgery (of *Charaka* and *Susruta* tradition), was the introduction of the code of conduct by *Manu*. And the third reason was the spread of the Vedanta philosophy among the educated section. He wrote: "The intellectual portion of the community being thus withdrawn from active participation in the arts, the how and why of phenomena — the coordination of cause and effect— were lost sight of, and the spirit of enquiry gradually died out among a nation naturally prone to speculation and metaphysical subtleties, and India for once bade adieu to experimental and inductive sciences. Her soil was rendered mortally unfit for the birth of a Boyle, a Descartes or a Newton and her very name was all but expunged from the map of the scientific world."

Human contemplations transgress limits of his experience

In the history of development of man's thinking there is another point to note. True, thinking was always based on man's experience of the material world around. Yet, on the basis of those experiences, man even tended to transgress the limits of his experience to contemplate or aspire for something which was not in existence in the material world but was a product of his mental world.

This relative independence of mind and mental production is acknowledged in science. Thus seeing birds with wings fly freely across the sky, it led him to wish to fly. Since he himself, the ordinary man, could not fulfill his wish, he contemplated extraordinary characters adding wings to their body, much like man's own body, yet different in certain respects. Those could satiate his desire and those were the characters that gave birth to mythologies. Now, years after in the modern age we cannot take liberty to consider these contemplations, their detailed descriptions as proofs of some objects existing in reality and accept them as 'scientific advancements' of those ages. Equating myths with science is a mark of height of ignorance or deliberate mischief mongering.

What made Science Congress lack substance and ethics of science?

In sum and substance then, the novel symposium on Ancient Sciences through Sanskrit witnessed verbose eulogies and euphoria on science, scientists and Indian glory. But it lacked the substance and ethics of science, smacked of guileful presentation of half-truths, boastful assertion of absurd claims of Indian glory and all these presented with a definite design. It is a design of the ruling capitalist class of India that needs to be unveiled by every right-thinking person particularly the scientific community with a rational frame of mind that repudiates unquestioning mind hinged on blind faith. Only such rational mind accepting causality behind everything, can unmask the socio-political root of this gymnastics of anti-science, distortion of truth and subversion of facts. But why this design? Because in its rising period, capitalism was a progressive force and hence it encouraged development of science and scientific bent of mind as against feudal darkness. But following inexorable law of social development, capitalism is now decadent, moribund, reactionary, inhibiting social progress. Haunted by the fear complex of anti-capitalist revolution, the ruling capitalist class is now desperate to prolong its worn out class rule marked by ruthless oppression and suppression by hook or by crook. And for that, what they attempt is to retrograde the mental process and blunt thinking faculty. Science is the tool for developing rational scientific bent of mind for

unraveling truth. So, there is an attack on science and scientific methodology for searching truth and replace it by pseudo-scientific thoughts and obscurantism. Danger inheres here.

This is the weapon upon which fascism develops and survives, fascism which the ruling capitalists of each and every capitalist country, including ours, is now trying to cling to as the last prop to survive. As Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of our Party and one of the foremost Marxist philosophers of the era, had elaborated: "Fascism is a peculiar fusion of spiritualism and science. The adoption of the technological aspect of science in its bid to develop the economic and military might of the fascist state and the dishing out of all sorts of anti-science religious fads and idealistic jugglery as the panacea for all the ills that are the concomitant evils of the exploiting capitalist system and the present society, go together in the name of national culture and heritage. Fascist culture is thus a queer admixture of scientific or truthful and illusory elements. The scientific element is stronger in its views about natural processes while the illusory element is stronger in its views about social processes. The aim is to turn the mental process of the people from the scientific path of causality to the mystic alley of blind faith, preconception and obscurantism, ultimately developing contempt for social action." (*Call of the Hour* : selected works, vol.,2) The symposium in the Science Congress bears testimonies of all these traits of fascism!

RSS-BJP committed to vulgarize science to serve bourgeois class interest

At present, the BJP, the political face of the Hindu communal RSS and Sangh Parivar and trusted political manager of the ruling Indian capitalism is installed to the seat of power for governance over the country and is entrusted with the job of faithfully serving the reactionary socio-political interest of the ruling capitalist class and hence hastening up building the base of fascism. So, true to the design of their mentors, the ruling class, the RSS-BJP are on a spree to distort history, subvert science and muddle the thinking with some wild unsubstantiated propaganda about so called fables of availability of everything in ancient India. Alongside vigorous pursuit of crass communal Hindutva agenda

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Only united protracted movement can save people

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surcharged with communalism-parochialism, thousands of innocent people belonging to the minority community were attacked and killed. In this backdrop, the harmony and fraternity existing among the different communities was destroyed. Assam became virtually divided into two warring camps—the majority and the minorities. The unity-solidarity of a state formed out of the combination of multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious people was shattered. Such a movement caused separatist thoughts to develop in those among the minorities who had once come up spontaneously to accept and absorb Assamese language and culture. All of those communities including the *Bodo, Rava, Michhing, Lalung, Ahome, Koch* etc. raised the demand for either autonomy or separate states. So, today—the very geographic identity of Assam is at stake. Given such a situation, despite earnest effort by our Party, SUCI(C), to develop the left and democratic movement which was so urgently needed to fight the divisive thoughts, the non-left approach of other left parties like the CPI and CPI(M) obstructed the process. These parties continued to combine with the parties serving the capitalist class in their bid to raise the number of their MLAs and MPs. By entering into electoral alliance with the Congress, one of the most trusted parties of the ruling Indian monopolists and the arch provincial party AGP, the CPI and CPI (M) struck a blow at the root of united left democratic movement. To exploit tribal sentiment from narrow sectarian electoral interest, CPI raised the demand that Assam be declared a tribal state. It is SUCI(C)

alone that has been conducting ideological battle against arch provincial, separatist, secessionist thoughts as well as against communalism and striving hard to develop united movement of the oppressed people rising above all divisiveness and based on higher ethics and culture against the anti-people policies and measures of ruling capitalism and its subservient governments. Also, as a result of this SUCI(C) is creating an impact not only among the saner section of the Assamese-speaking people but even among the various tribal and ethnic groups, minorities and other sections of the toiling masses. But we have not yet been able to penetrate among the masses extensively as desired. Instead, today the whole of Assam is burning under the fire of divisiveness which again is being taken advantage of by the arch communal Sangh Parivar and its constituents like RSS, BJP, Bajrang Dal, such other ultra Hindutva outfits. They are ever busy fanning up religious blindness and crass communal thoughts and engineering communal riots. In such a background, there can be change in the state of affairs only if an intense, united, well-knit and protracted movement on the burning problems of life bred by the exploitative capitalist rule develops involving oppressed masses belonging to all sections of the toiling people including the Bodos, the various other tribes and ethnic groups and the religious minorities under the guidance of genuine leftist thought and ideology. Only such a democratic mass movement can free the people from all vile divisive thoughts and cement their struggling unity.

BJP spokesperson is giving legal advice to alleged terrorist

Though the RSS and BJP are pretending to be against Jihadis and terrorists, their spokespersons, however, are not loath to offer them legal assistance. Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen (JMB) activist with links to the Burdwan blast, Sahanur Alom, has revealed that his wife Sujena Begum and father-in-law Julmot Ali stayed at a farmhouse belonging to senior advocate and spokesperson of BJP's Assam unit Bijon Mahajan. Sources said Sahanur has confessed to contacting Julmot Ali while being on the run. When contacted, Julmot Ali said, "I sought legal advice from Mahajan regarding the case. I wanted Sahanur to surrender." Reacting to the reports, advocate Bijon Mahajan said, "Giving legal advice to a client and non-disclosure of the content of the advice cannot be an offence because disclosure is prohibited under Section 126 of the Evidence Act, 1872." Sahanur was arrested by Assam Police on 5 December night from Larkuchi village in Nalbari district and remanded in 14 days' police custody. We are not sure if the BJP spokesperson using his clout can arrange for release of the alleged terrorist and whether similar service would be offered to other alleged terrorists by the likes of Mahajan in the RSS-BJP. (Source—Times of India—09-12-14)

Corrigendum

On page 8 of Proletarian Era dated 15 January, 2015, name of Party's Assam Sate Secretary was inadvertently printed as Chitralekha Das in place of Chandralekha Das. The mistake is sincerely regretted.

Deliberate dishing out anti-science carries in it menace of fascism

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for dividing people and pitch one section of the people against another to thwart united organized popular upsurge against capitalist rule, the RSS-BJP are also targeting science to make people forsake the path of truth and instead be blind alley of a falsified notion of life and history. This is no glorification of India but in fact an affront to civilization. And this is nothing unexpected nor new from the RSS- BJP combine. It lies at the root from where they themselves stemmed up. Without highlighting the real significant advancements in mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, architecture or other branches of science and technologies in ancient India, they tread upon this twisted, distorted path of falsehood and deception. It merely brings back what MS Golwalkar, the ideologue and mentor of the RSS-BJP laid as foundation of their approach. In his key book *We or Our Nationhood Defined*, he asserted that Hindusthan (India) was a land of plenty with advanced science, cultivation, industries, and a culture and "for the last thousand

years or less, the land has been infested with murderous bands of despoilers" (p 52). To reestablish the glory he embarks upon his theory. He had scant regard for mounting evidence that 'Aryans' a pastoral people from Central Asia came in to North-West India in repeated waves, intermingled with the local inhabitants and settled down. Instead he modified Lokmanya Tilak's theory of the Arctic origin of Aryans. He wrote: "the North Pole is not stationary and quite long ago it was in which, we find, is called Bihar and Orissa at the present; that then it moved ... came to its present position. If this be so, did we leave the Arctic Zone and come to Hindusthan or were we all along here and the Arctic Zone left us and moved away northwards in its zigzag march? ...it was not the Hindus who migrated to that land but the Arctic Zone which emigrated and left the Hindus in Hindusthan" (p 45). This was a cunning deliberate misinterpretation of science to promote anti-science, which made use of the scientific hypothesis of growth and

development of continents to fit his end. The hypothesis lays down that the earth we see today had not been the same through ages; even the poles were not in their present positions; the south pole was located somewhere at a place on the earth which now falls in India; oceans were born or lost; the continents grew in matter and extent; all these changes on the surface of the earth entirely hinged upon material earthly processes; and to note particularly, all this *happened roughly from a few hundreds to tens of millions of years ago when there was no trace of human beings living on the earth*. The 'murderous despoilers' of Mr. Golwalkar must have brought about ruinous pollution of this land. Or else, how could a thinker who once lead a Sangh, could utter such a queer theory in the garb of half-truths, in the shape of a cunning mixture of science and absurdity. The spirit, the theme, the elaborations expressed in the last Science Congress stems from such a root. Clearly science was no goal, creating scientific temper was no

objective, genuinely helping scientific research was no agenda; the only purpose was to fan up chauvinism and blindness in the cloak of science.

The omen looms large over the entire country with a cruel darkness of falsehood, deception and blind fanaticism. The whole design is being given shape to by the RSS-BJP combine, led by none other than the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However loud he may try to convince people that for the sake of development he is forsaking the Hindutva agenda, at the next moment he seizes the opportunity to go ahead with it. The whole campaign of catering pseudo-science or falsehood in the name of science that culminated in the Science Congress was initiated at his enterprise and pronouncements. It thus remains with each and every rational minded people of the country to raise protest in one voice, unveil the design in its every bit and build up strongest organized resistance at every corner of the country to thwart the heinous moves.

Joint Left Protest Against Obama Visit



Mumbai, Maharashtra



Ranchi, Jharkhand



Bhiwani, Haryana



Kolkata, WB



Allahabad, UP



Surat, Gujarat



Agartala, Tripura



Madurai, Tamil Nadu



Hyderabad, AP



New Delhi



Patna, Bihar



Guwahati, Assam



Punjab

Conventions by All India Anti-Imperialist Forum against invitation to Obama Kerala

At the call of the Kerala Chapter of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum (AIAIF), a state level anti-imperialist people's convention was organized at Pulimootil Trade Centre Hall, Alappuzha on 16 January 2015, to protest against the decision of Narendra Modi government to invite Barack Obama as distinguished guest in this year's Republic day celebrations. The convention was chaired by Dr.V.Venugopal, member, All India Secretariat of AIAIF and inaugurated by Prof. K. Aravindakshan, noted economist and Vice President of AIAIF Kerala Chapter. Comrade C. K. Lukose (Central Committee member and Kerala State Secretary of SUCI(C)), Adv. Mathew Velangadan (President, Kerala State Janakiya Prathirodha Samiti, Alappuzha District Committee), Aala Vasudevan Pillai, T. B. Viswanathan, Adv. Nazar Paingamadom (Chairman, Gandhi Yuvavedi), G. S. Padmakumar, S. Seethilal, G. R. Subhash and N.K.Sasikumar spoke.

Karnataka

A protest meet was organized at Gandhi Sahitya Sangha, Malleshwaram by AIAIF, Karnataka. The meeting was attended by students and youths from different colleges and localities of the city. It was addressed by Mr. C. R. Krishna Rao, Senior Editor, Navakarnataka Publications Pvt. Ltd, Mr. Parthasarathy, a leader of progressive movement and Mr. M.N.Sriram, State Convenor of AIAIF. Mr. N.Ravi, an organizer of AIAIF, presided over.

Bihar

Bihar unit of AIAIF arranged a meeting at IMA hall in Patna on 16 January 2015. The convention was addressed by Prof. Santosh Kumar of NIT, Patna, Dr P N P Pal, former President, IMA, Patna, Prof. Bharati S Kumar, former Dean, Patna university, Shri Dayashankar Ray, Editor, *Rashtriya Sahara*, Prof. Javed Akhtar, well-known theatre personality, Vikash Rahi mathematician and Arun Kumar Singh well-known mass leader. It was presided over by Prof. O P Jaisal, historian and former President, Bihar School Examination Board. All the speakers denounced invitation to Obama by Modi-led central government and dwelt on how

US imperialism poses the greatest danger to mankind. Sadhana Mishra conducted the proceedings.

West Bengal

An anti-imperialist meeting was organized at College Square, Kolkata, on 17 January 2015 by AIAIF, West Bengal. Dilip Chakraborty, Chandan Sen, Prem Sharma, Syed Hasan and Sourav Mukherjee and others, addressed the meeting. The speakers vehemently opposed invitation to Obama and gave call for organizing powerful protest demonstrations against the decision of Modi government.



Comrade C. K. Lukose, Central Committee member, SUCI(C) addressing at a joint meeting in Kerala on 24 January against the invitation of Barack Obama

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