

Proletarian Era

Volume 48 No. 13 Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)
February 15, 2015 Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Price : Rs. 2.00

Mass Law-violation rally of SUCI (C) brutally attacked by TMC government police in Kolkata

Kolkata had witnessed many historic movements, which had earned it the nickname of 'city of nightmares' from the capitalist rulers. Once again it witnessed a massive thrust of movement; once more its streets were soaked in blood while youths, boys or girls, men or women with blood coming down their face, even from their eyes, shouted slogans that rent the air. People stood around aghast; grief writ on their face, they wondered if they were witnessing

some nightmare.

For quite a long time, out of despair and helplessness, people of West Bengal, like elsewhere in the country, were being tormented with the question if there was any remedy to the limitless rise in price-line, dreadful rise in crime on women, all-out attack on education, alarming hike in expenses and rapid deterioration of healthcare, increasing corruption at every level of society and, not least, the thumping around of anti-socials and

criminals that did not spare schools, colleges even households. The answers were provided on 5 February last. Yes! There is the way! It is the path of mass movement. People of West Bengal had already been aware that while all other parties ran after pelf and power, SUCI(C) is the only party which, boldly holding aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, has untiringly fought for the legitimate demands of people and ceaselessly organized militant class and mass struggles, even achieving some of the vital demands in the near and distant past.

It was again the same Party, the SUCI(C) which had taken to the streets. After failing to move the governments both at the Centre and in the state, it was announced a month back that the Party will stage a mass law-violation (civil disobedience) on the 5th February to make the deaf listen. But it was not going to be a street drama for a day. For that, there had already started the two month- long preparation. Throughout the state, right from the district headquarters to remote villages innumerable meetings were held, extensive poster display and wall writing were undertaken; local programmes were taken up, such as mass deputations to the respective district authorities, including the District

Magistrate's offices and at block level. As a culmination of all these on the afternoon of 5th February a 30,000 strong rally began its journey from College Square in central Kolkata towards Rani Rashmoni Road in Esplanade, the heart of the city. There were the protesters, the leaders and cadres of the Party, the supporters- sympathizers-periphery and the vast masses of common people, peasants and their families from the villages, workers from the industrial belts, middle class from the towns, students, youth, men, women, children with their parents, old with their sons-daughters-kins and neighbours. It was a vast mass, a surging wave of people effervescent yet resolute in fighting for their cause. Common people of Kolkata, in their turn, did not remain mere bystanders; they thronged on both sides of the street, held up or joining expectantly. They greeted the rally exuding confidence in the Party.

As mentioned the programme was not only scheduled, but publicly announced too. Well in advance, the police-administration was duly informed of the schedule as well as the route the rally will traverse. It was also made clear that the Party would violate laws on 5 February afternoon in the customary way and peacefully. Despite these, on 4

Contd. on page 2

SUCI(C) On Delhi Election Results

Comrade Pratap Samal, Secretary, Delhi State Organizing Committee, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 11-02-2015:

During the 2014 Lok Sabha elections people believed in the promises made by the Modi-led BJP and gave a crushing defeat to the Congress. However, within a very short period of eight months the people realized that they had been taken for a ride as the BJP government is openly pursuing pro-monopoly, pro-corporate and anti-people policies with no let-up in their miseries. They expressed their wrath and anger in the recently concluded Delhi Assembly elections and dealt a crushing defeat to the BJP-reducing it to a shameful non-entity in the Assembly. We congratulate the people for rejecting both the anti-people and pro-capitalist BJP and Congress.

People have voted the AAP to governmental power with overwhelming majority with the hope that unlike the BJP and the Congress, the party will sincerely fulfill all the promises it made on issues like corruption, privatization of water and electric supply, commercialization/privatization of education and health-care, price-rise, unemployment, crimes against women and children, regularization of the so-called unauthorized colonies, dilution of the public distribution system etc. The People also believe that the AAP, unlike the BJP and the Congress, will consistently follow anti-capitalist, pro-people policies to benefit of the people.



Police brutally bashes Comrade Uttam Parui, an unarmed student activist, encircling him from all sides ; the comrade lost his right eye.



Unarmed young protesters bravely face police baton

Rally was part of ceaseless movement : despite savage attack protestors vow to continue it

Contd. from page 1

February afternoon the Party came to learn that the police would not allow law violation to take place. They would stop the rally at a mid-point and would request the SUCI (C) leaders to address the rally to make necessary announcements. It may be recalled here that long since, in fact since the British rule, law violation has been taking place in the stipulated area where Section 144 is in force. Now the police-administration of the state government started singing a different tune.

After a brief meeting at College square where the West Bengal State Secretary of the Party Comrade Saumen Basu and other leaders had briefed the gathering about the objective of the programme, the rally commenced at the scheduled time. It moved peacefully, yet exuding fervor and determination. However, once the rally reached Regal Cinema Hall near the destination, the picture changed. Armed police along with the dreaded Rapid Action Force pounced upon the rally all of a sudden with a rare show of brutality. Later the police claimed that they had simply wanted to disperse the rally. If that be so, why did they resort to such indiscriminate lathi charge instead of using water canon or tear gas and that too targeting head and neck of the agitators instead of legs, that was usual ? It was a programme of mass violation of law. But not a single person was arrested on the charge of violation of law. Instead, such a beastly savagery was found to rave wild. It was a totally unprovoked preplanned attack with the clear intention of crushing the movement, unleashing worst state terrorism and violence. Was it a civilized behaviour at all? Even women were not spared. The SUCI(C) workers were completely unarmed. They tried to resist the baton attack with the banners they were holding or with bare hands. Demonstrating rare courage befitting true revolutionary workers, they answered the police attack with the words that howsoever savage might be the attack, they would not leave the ground. The police, however, had its plan and carried on with brutal lathicharge. Police authorities alleged that the agitators threw bricks at the police. But the footage of the electronic media clearly spoke otherwise. Distinctly it could be seen that uniformed

policemen were pelting stones at the demonstrators. It was also seen that 10 to 12 policemen were mercilessly beating one unarmed demonstrator down on the street glaringly with the intention of inflicting grievous injury if not maiming. Uttam Parui, a Party volunteer from East Midnapur district and a son from an agricultural worker family, lost one eye as his eyeball was hit by the police baton. Another comrade, Ramakanta Sarkar, a meritorious student from Tufanganj of North Bengal, also has blood clotted in his eye which he cannot open yet. But he was a SUCI(C) cadre, who could proclaim that he was proud to have been able to take part in such a movement. Another AIDS activist Arijit has received severe blow on his neck. He is also hospitalized. Both Uttam and Arijit are activists in the student front, being AIDS workers. Similarly, Diptangshu Bhowmik, another student activist's hand has been fractured. Many more including women volunteers have their limbs broken or have sustained grievous injuries. Hundreds of Party workers have been injured. Of them, 35 were quite seriously affected to be treated in hospitals.

The entire mass of people around, including the Press were unambiguously at one to confirm that the rally was unique in being well organized, peaceful and well-disciplined. It was so impressive and bore such a mark of grit, determination and discipline that unlike earlier occasions, most of the mainstream media, both print and electronic, could not but give coverage to this historic movement. Comrades Biman Basu, West Bengal State Secretary of the CPI (M) and Suryakanta Mishra, leader of the opposition in West Bengal Assembly went to the hospital to see the injured. But the TMC government remained unfazed. It is learnt that the Police have filed FIR against many of the SUCI(C) leaders including Comrade Saumen Basu, State Secretary, Tarun Mandal, Ex-MP, Tarun KantiNaskar, Party MLA and framed non-bailable charges against them. It is thus clear that like any other bourgeois government, the TMC government is also equally keen to brutally suppress legitimate democratic movement and implicate the workers of democratic movement in false charges. It is queer that while the police of the

TMC government cannot find the guilty of incidents of grave crime including rapes and murders, do not care to arrest those who snuff out people's life and rob them of their money, embezzle government fund, cheat and dupe people with alacrity, rather, the police who prefer to hide under the table when attacked by ruling party goons even inside the police station, are so active in crushing people's democratic struggle. Of course they acted at the behest of their masters.

But why? The rally was part of the people's movement on an 18-point demand charter. The demands concerned the burning problems of people's life and livelihood. Those included withdrawal of anti-peasant draconian Land Acquisition Ordinance, putting a check to rise in prices as well as reduction of prices of 108 essential medicines and lowering of power tariff, refund of money to the chit fund victims and stringent punishment to the culprits of chit fund scam including Sarada scam, remunerative price of produce to the peasants, stoppage of lock out and retrenchment in industries, abolition of automatic promotion system upto class VIII, banning commercialization and communalization of education, stringent appropriate measures to stop growing crime on women, rein in increasing criminalization of politics etc. All these were simple democratic demands that the union and state governments are supposed to address. While most of the parties including the pseudo-Marxists have deserted the path of movement, the SUCI(C) is developing people's struggles pursuing correct leftist path. So, it is the target of all the governments subserving the vested interests.

The situation that necessitated this massive civil disobedience movement was elaborated by Comrade Saumen Basu, the West Bengal State Secretary of the Party, at the College Square gathering before the rally. He pointed out that during its 3- year rule the TMC government in West Bengal is trampling upon all its pre-poll pledges and is pursuing the same set of anti-people policies for which it criticized the erstwhile CPI (M)-led Front government. On the other hand, rising to power of the Union government taking advantage of people's resentment against the last Congress-led UPA government and riding on liberal backing of the

monopolists, the new BJP government at the Centre has virtually declared war against people, here again on the plea of bringing in *achhe din* or good days. With this, and along with the RSS, it is carrying on the dangerous and heinous communal politics of Hindutva with a view to bringing about permanent cleavage between the majority Hindu community and the minority communities, as well as to destroying the social fabric striking at the root of the secular, scientific, democratic and universal education. Against all this, the SUCI(C) has been ceaselessly striving to develop militant mass and class struggles of people. The rally was a part of it. Had it not been a harvesting season, it would have been still more massive with more people from the villages. He vowed for continuing the movements cautioned in particular against the alarming communalist politics of the BJP.

After the rally, condemning the unwarranted and barbarous police atrocities Comrade Saumen Basu announced that the next day, 6 February would be observed as protest day across the state. Accordingly hundreds of meetings were held that were attended by thousands of people supporting the movement and condemning the police brutality. Comrade Basu further affirmed that intensifying the struggle the Party would launch a mass-signature campaign on the 18 point charter of demand targeting 1 crore signature over the next two months. Side by side, during this period the Party would also organize deputations, rallies, squatting, mass law violation, gherao, road blockade and such other forms of movement at the block and district levels. In culmination there will be programmes like sit-in before the Governor House in Kolkata and such others. Intensive propaganda campaign along with street corner meetings, poster and wall writing and public display of the rally and the police atrocities will also be organized in other states of the country.

Once more with the news of the massive rally, police atrocities on it and resulting grievous injuries of the demonstrators spreading fast across the state, even the country, people have come to witness and realize the courageous persistent and organized role the SUCI(C), the revolutionary Party of India, is steadfastly playing to uphold their cause.

Obama visit

What was it aimed at

There had been too much of hype centring on the recent visit of US President Obama as the chief guest of the 66th Republic Day celebration. As the political manager of the ruling monopolists, Narendra Modi, the BJP Prime Minister made every possible effort to convert the visit into a historic Indo-US love fest. There was equally enthusiastic response from the US President. So, it turned to be gala event marked by a slew of gimmicks, subversion of protocols, pet talks, exchange of pleasantries and the gallery show of patting at each other's backs. Both the leaders showed how adept they are in building political charisma by injecting the element of personal chemistry into the relationship and then project how that has been the necessary catalyst to galvanize the Indo-American relationship by ironing out all differences, straightening all edges. What was significant is that the 59 paragraph Joint Statement issued following animated conversations talked of a Joint Strategic Vision for Asia-Pacific granting India to play a central role in the region. It was also evident from the statement that there was a push by the US to draw India into its view of international affairs and the push to encourage India to buy US weaponry and nuclear equipment. So, was the emphasis on identifying benchmarks in different areas of civil nuclear and defence cooperation, clean energy, trade and intellectual property rights and the bilateral investment treaty. Let us go into the details and find out what prompted such a grandiose ceremony.

Recap of Indo-US nuclear deal

The centrepiece of the visit has been the "nuclear deal" which India and US entered into 2008 but could not take forward to because of some hitches that hitherto remained unresolved. It may be recalled that the US imperialist regime stated that it would help India in taking forward her plans to develop her civil nuclear energy programme by extending cooperation in setting up nuclear reactors even by amending US domestic laws and policies to facilitate the process. India government agreed to assume responsibilities and practices which consisted of identifying and separating civilian and military nuclear facilities and programmes in a phased manner and filing a declaration regarding India's civilian facilities with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and taking a decision to place voluntarily her civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. But many eminent persons including leading Indian nuclear scientists opposed this move as they felt current stage of Indian nuclear capabilities and availability of necessary technology were enough for production of electricity from indigenous nuclear minerals and successful application in diverse sectors from health, agriculture and industry to national and energy security. Even anti-imperialist democratic minded people vehemently opposed the deal correctly alleging that this deal would pave way for increased US intervention in India's nuclear programme.

But all these protests went unheeded as this deal had stemmed from the aggregate class interest of the ruling monopolists to form a strategic alliance with the US imperialists. It is also worth to

mention that though the deal was finalized during the Congress rule, the BJP, then in opposition, despite scoffing at the Congress over certain procedural aspects purely from the angle of parliamentary opposition, had concurred to the need of the deal. This was only but natural that both the Congress and BJP are the trusted representatives of the ruling monopolists and hence are wedded to the task of subserving the class interest of their masters.

Contentious issues holding implementation of the deal

But the deal did not materialize as there were two sticking points. First contentious issue was the question of nuclear liability. US wanted that once the reactors are supplied, all liabilities of successful operation will lie on Indian companies using it. That means onus of an accident, if any, would also be on the user Indian companies and the US-based supplier or builder firms would not be held responsible for that. In India's case, the operator, by law, can only be the State administered units under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), i.e. Government of India. So, the liability will be on the government. What was most disquieting that in order to appease the US nuclear lobby, the Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre placed a Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill in Parliament in March 2010 to legitimize this bailing out of supplier US MNCs. However, in the face of mounting public protest, Indian Parliament had amended the Bill inserting a Section 17(b) which allowed the liability in the case of a nuclear accident to apply to the supplier firms as well and also the right to recourse of the operator. US

did not accept that and hence the matter remained pending.

Second dispute was over implementing the "Agreement and Procedures" agreed to by the two countries with regard to reprocessing of spent fuel in March 2010. Fuel in the US-built reactors, by US law, becomes obligated to the US irrespective of where it was sourced from. The US had, therefore, demanded that it be allowed to track the movement of reprocessed US-obligated fuel even if the plants were under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. It also insisted that it should have that right to ensure that the supplies are not misused for manufacturing nuclear weapons. This was rejected by India arguing that the IAEA regime of safeguards was adequate and that should be sufficient to assure the US of its non-diversion.

Modi resolved the issues at the cost of people

Modi's excessive exulting centring on Obama's visit and the US regime's too enthusiastic a response clearly indicated that Indian government was ready to move away from its earlier stand and was ready to give concessions to the US on some key issues that have been irritants in the bilateral relations between the two countries. After talks with the Indian Prime Minister, Obama announced that a breakthrough had been achieved on the implementation of the nuclear deal and that the US would be committed to its "full implementation". What had broken the impasse? First of all, the Modi government had found out a unique route to bail out the US nuclear MNCs without, as it claimed, "not diluting the Civil Nuclear Liability Act". It has quietly passed on the liability of the American companies onto Indian shoulders. It is agreed that Indian public sector insurance companies would create a pool of Rs.750 crore while another Rs.750 crore is to be put in by the Indian government. This corpus of Rs 1500 crores will be drawn in to meet damages on account of any accident or disaster. Already the law caps the compensation to victims to be borne by the operator (Government of India) to Rs 1,500 crore. In case the cause for any accident is the defective equipment supplied by the US firms, this insurance policy will be redeemed to increase the limit by another Rs 1,500 crores. Thus, taxpayers' money will be used to underwrite the defaulting US companies. The Indian side has also

reportedly made an assurance to provide a legal memorandum that suppliers will not be liable to general tort law claims and, accordingly, multiple, concurrent liability claims will not be entertained. In other words, recourse from suppliers (US firms) in case of nuclear damage can only be under the Liability Act, which is now limited in amount.

In response to India diluting its stance on the nuclear liability issue, the US government has given up its claim to exercise control in perpetuity over all nuclear equipment and parts supplied by the US companies. The Obama administration agreed with the Indian viewpoint that the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) supervision would suffice in this regard. Thus, apparently, the bottlenecks before full-fledged implementation of the Nuclear Deal have been removed much to the glee of the US corporates who would now dump their equipment in India at hefty prices. The word "dumping" is most appropriate as US has not set up any nuclear plant after the nuclear accident in 3 Miles island in 1979. So, the equipment and machineries are only supposed to be part of the stockpile that would be released. Incidentally, the argument put forth by Modi government is that the liability arrangement so agreed upon would put India "in conformity" with the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), a 1997 IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) framework that essentially shelters suppliers from liability. Fact is that only a handful of states have signed on to the CSC, whose payout in the event of a disaster is far less than what is promised by the IAEA's Vienna Convention of 1963. The US, one of the signatories to the CSC, has made it clear that it would not be bound by its dispute resolution mechanism.

Moreover, it is learnt that the 10,000 megawatts of nuclear reactors that India had committed itself to buy from the US multinationals GE-Hitachi and Toshiba-Westinghouse are not in operation anywhere else in the world today. Hence, there is no assessment of the risk element of such equipment which implies that possibility of accident cannot be ruled out. Additionally, the cost of 1 MW by the American reactors is estimated to be around Rs 20 to 25 crores while thermal power projects with the latest carbon emission limiting technologies cost only Rs 5 to 7 crores. Thermal energy, if India sets out to harness her potential, will be further less expensive. In other words, electricity will be costlier

Contd. on page 4

Obama Visit

Obama-Modi bonhomie marked growing proximity between two imperialist powers

Contd. from page 3

several times in case power is generated by US installed nuclear reactors.

What more US extracted in the bargain

Besides opening the door of India's nuclear equipment market to US MNCs, it is learnt that though US has not given any assurance of reducing its carbon emissions, India has subordinated itself to such carbon emission reduction when our contribution to global cumulative emissions is a mere 2.2 per cent of the total (from years 1850 to 2000) while the US is responsible for 29.3 per cent. It means that US firms would force sale of new greener climate technologies to India. Moreover, a working group has been set up under US pressure on Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Modi has categorically stated that India would be willing to accept all suggestions of the Indo-US Working Group and the US corporates and MNCs are going to get special treatment in taxes and transfer pricing issues. Already, bowing under US pressure, Modi government has deregulated price of 108 important essential medicines to enable US Pharmaceutical giants to make a kill in India. Now, if there is more bending on the question of TRIPS, prices of many essential commodities, particularly medicines would climb up exorbitantly denying a majority of the toiling Indians the right to basic healthcare. Already, the Modi government has passed an ordinance for FDI in insurance to signal more opportunities for US business in India.

Next is the commitment of India to buy huge arms from US like "Transformative technology" to co-produce military hardware like the Javelin anti-tank guided missiles and MH-60 helicopters. In the coming two years, India has indicated that it wants to buy 22 Apache helicopters, 15 Chinook helicopters, four P-81 maritime patrol planes, six C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and other high-tech equipment. The combined price tag would exceed \$8 billion. Agreement has been reached only to co-produce relatively un-sophisticated "Raven" drones, surveillance systems for Lockheed C-130 planes and jet engine technology. There are fears that under the DTTI signed in 2012, India will become

increasingly dependent on American military technology. The Americans have indicated that meaningful transfer of technology will only happen if India signs the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA). The LSA will give the American military access to "fily pad" bases on Indian soil.

In fact, India is going to bail out US arms manufacturing giants like Boeing and Lockheed who are unable to sell their produce in the global market particularly West Asia and West Europe. There is no global order for C-17 Globemaster III. Countries like Holland have cancelled purchase order of F-35 aircrafts. India also earlier refused to purchase F-18 planes. But now it has come to the rescue of US arms industry. Not only arms, India is also ready to appease the infamous US oil lobby. Before the US President's visit, the Indian government asked Indian private companies to cut imports of oil from Iran. Industry experts in Dubai said that India was bowing to US pressure. "India does not want the Obama visit to be overshadowed by some dispute over (American) sanctions on Iran," Robin Mills, an oil consultant based in Dubai, told Reuters.

From some ruling quarters, it is claimed that President Obama has pledged \$4 billion to India in loans and investments that could unlock what he called the "much untapped potential" of business partnership between the two countries. Fact is that this consists largely of loans to buy US products. As per media report, the US export-import bank will finance \$1 billion worth of exports of US products to India. US overseas private investment corporation will lend \$1 billion to small, medium size enterprises in rural India to buy US technologies. The US Trade and Development Agency would leverage \$2 billion for renewable energy, i.e. purchase of new US technologies by India. In other words, this so-called \$4 billion 'India Package' is to promote US imports into India which means instead of "Make in India", Modi has virtually ended up in promoting "Made in USA".

By agreeing to all such favours and concessions to US MNCs and corporates, Indian monopolists who made a beeline to shake hands with Obama expect that US would reciprocate with a more liberal approach towards their commercial interest in US and other countries.

Ruling Indian monopolists want Indian exports to US to increase considerably. However, in this round of bilateral talks, despite all the excitement about economic deals, the US offered little to India apart from the import of US-made goods into the Indian market. So, India finished more as a giver than taker in the field of economic cooperation and bilateral trade.

Binding India in military axis

The political purpose of Obama's visit is more pronounced in the "Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean" referred to above. It explicitly affirmed "the importance of safeguarding maritime security and ensuring freedom of navigation and over-flight throughout the region, especially the South China Sea". It also reflected the world view of US on most of the other contentious international issues, including Iran and North Korea. North Korea's ballistic missile programme was criticized. US also demanded that India make statements to affirm the US position on world affairs (namely on China, Israel and Iran). The joint statement said that it was up to Iran to prove that its nuclear programme was "exclusively peaceful". There are reports that the Indian side has even expressed willingness to partner US in counterterrorism in West Asia and Africa.

The undercurrent here is to induce India into the narrative of US policy named as "Pivot to Asia", which is a polite way of saying to "Encircle China". Even though Obama says that a "thriving China is good for America", it is clear USA is keeping all options, including the military one, open. So, US regime has stationed troops in the Philippines, and the building of military alliances with Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Australia have been further strengthened. The Pentagon has adopted an air-sea battle doctrine in the Asia-Pacific region, deploying 60 per cent of its nuclear-armed and high-tech navy in the region. Joint exercises with the navies of the region have also increased. Obama's "pivot to the East" policy has encouraged Vietnam and the Philippines to be more inflexible on their positions in the territorial disputes with China. In other words, the whole and sole objective of US imperialism is to beef up its military presence in South East Asia and escalate war

tension in the region. And it wants India to be its main and most dependable ally for that.

Long back Brajesh Mishra, National Security Adviser in the first National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in 2001, had talked about a Washington-Tel Aviv-New Delhi axis emerging. Under Modi, a much wider axis extending all the way to Tokyo could become a reality. India, US, Japan and Australia have been conducting quadrilateral military exercises in the Indian Ocean and a "quadrilateral" defence agreement among these countries is in the offing. It is therefore not surprising that the subject of more military cooperation between US and India was one of the key issues that came up for discussion during Obama's visit. The US in fact has been working overtime to ensure that India ends up as the southern anchor in its "pivot to Asia". So India is being drawn into USA's strategic and military network as a steadfast accomplice.

As a *quid pro quo* for India's open support for the US' rebalancing in East Asia, the Obama administration has announced support for India's bid to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum. President Obama also assured India of the US' support in its bid to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Key members of the NSG remain opposed to India's membership. All members of the 48-nation group are signatories to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). There is also indication that US will back India's claim for permanent membership of UN Security Council.

Why this thrust on strong Indo-US bonding?

The obvious question is why both the sides are so keen to become formidable allies? Our Party in course of its analysis of the obtaining national and international scenarios based on Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought has shown that the ruling Indian monopolists who have already attained imperialist character have now been aspiring to emerge as not just an Asian but a global superpower. Immediately after independence, the ruling Indian national bourgeoisie in its bid to grow and develop speedily, pursued a policy of bargaining with both the imperialist and socialist camps and

Contd. on page 9

Government advertisement omits 'secular', 'socialist' from Constitution's Preamble

What Lurks Behind the Controversy

In the image of the Preamble to the Constitution which featured in the advertisement published in newspapers to commemorate India's 66th Republic Day, the Modi-led BJP government did not use the word 'socialist' and 'secular'. The ad used the image of the original Preamble in the background, which says "We the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, democratic Republic..." This has generated a controversy. A section of the critics is alleging that two words were deliberately dropped by the BJP government as it does not believe in either of these. Going a step further, they accuse the BJP government of undermining the Constitution of the country. On the other hand, the BJP government dismissed the charges by arguing that the original Preamble signed by the Constituent Assembly members as on January 26, 1950 when the country became a republic did not contain the words "Secular" and "Socialist". These words were added in the 42nd Constitution Amendment of 1976 by the then Indira Gandhi-led Congress government. Hence, there is no question of dishonouring or distorting the Constitution. Amidst this acrimonious debate, the Shiv Sena, an arch Hindu communal chauvinist outfit and coalition partner of the BJP, stirred up the controversy further by welcoming the exclusion of the words 'secular' and 'socialist' and demanded that these two words be deleted from the Constitution permanently. Obviously some confusion has been created in the public mind centering round this dispute. So, it has become necessary to examine the issue from the people's point of view.

Certain relevant facts

First of all, we mention certain relevant facts. It is true that in the Preamble to the original Constitution, the words "Secular" and "Socialist" were not incorporated. As understood, there were also some debates on this at the time of finalizing the draft Constitution. Dr. B R Ambedkar who was entrusted with the responsibility of drafting had reasoned that there was no need to include the term 'secular' as the entire Constitution embodied the concept of secular state, meaning and implying non-discrimination on grounds of religion and equal rights and status to all citizens. On the inclusion of the term 'socialist,' he said it is against the very grain of democracy to decide in the Constitution what kind of society the people of India should live in. "It is perfectly possible today, for the majority people to hold that the socialist organization of society is better than the capitalist organization of society. But it would be perfectly possible for thinking people to devise some other form of social organization which might be better than the socialist organization of today or of tomorrow. I do not see therefore why the Constitution should tie down the people to live in a particular form and not leave it to the people themselves to decide it for themselves," he had said. His words had influenced the final decision to omit the two words. (Source: *The Hindu* dated 29 January 2015)

But, during the Emergency in 1976, the Swaran Singh Committee commissioned by the then Prime

ruling BJP circle is that the Indian ethos is 'inherently secular' and hence making the inclusion during the Indira Gandhi's regime was redundant. The Congress taunted the BJP by saying that the deletion of the two words was only a prelude to their "substitution" with "communal" and "corporate". While according to CPI, "secularism symbolizes the character of our state while socialism symbolizes the goal India has to achieve," the CPI (M) leaders reacted by saying that "struggle for secularism" in India was a struggle for the country's survival and its advancement and attacked Modi "for remaining 'silent' when 'constitutional values' are targeted.

Evolution of Indian Constitution

Let us now proceed to have an insight into the issue based on objective scientific method of analysis. Indian people fought against British imperialism to achieve freedom. By the word, freedom, Indian toiling people did not mean just the end of an alien rule but emancipation from all kinds of oppression and exploitation. But within the vortex of the freedom movement were also the aspirant Indian national bourgeoisie who wanted that freedom remains limited to transfer of political power from the British imperialists to it. Thus, two class aspirations were inherent in the freedom movement—the aspiration of the national bourgeoisie like the Tatas, Birlas, Dalnias and Goenkas and the aspiration of the common working people. These two interests were glaringly opposite and antagonistic. In absence of a correct proletarian revolutionary party, the Indian freedom movement was led by the Congress, the political party of the Indian national bourgeoisie and ended in replacement of the British rulers by the Indian national bourgeoisie. India did achieve political freedom but became a capitalist state wedded to the task of protecting and preserving the vested class interest of the ruling Indian national bourgeoisie. So, the Indian people did not achieve their desired emancipation but continued to be oppressed under the grinding wheel of capitalist exploitation which became more and more ruthless with every passing day.

The word "constitution" comes from a Latin word meaning "an important law" and is defined as

the fundamental and entrenched rules governing the conduct of a nation state, and establishing its concept, character and structure. It comprises the set of political principles by which a state is governed. Since India is a capitalist state subserving the class interest of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie, the basic philosophy and fundamental values which the Indian Constitution is based on could not but be conducive to the class interest of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie. It is admitted that Dr. B R Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, and other framers of this base document cherished many democratic values and ideas. Moreover, the freedom movement also had raised many pro-people demands. Some of the provisions of the Indian Constitution were so drafted as to reflect some such demands and values in words. But, for all intent and purpose and in the ultimate analysis, the Constitution remains a directive principle of the Indian capitalist state. For example, the Constitution envisages equal right to every citizen. But this equality is in the bourgeois sense. During the days of rising capitalism, the bourgeoisie, then a progressive force, gave the slogan of equality as against feudal inequality and discrimination. But as exploitation of man by man was not abolished in capitalism, equality in the truest sense of the term cannot be realized in a capitalist system. And now when capitalism following inexorable course of history has become moribund, decadent and reactionary, whatever little right it gave to the people and whatever rights the people achieved through struggle, are being progressively snatched away, trampled underfoot. So, the Constitutional provision of equal right has become a mockery today. Even when the Indian Constitution was framed, the Chairman of the drafting Committee was not free to prepare the Draft of the Constitution according to his own ideas. He had the Government of India Act, 1935, before him, in addition to the reports of various committees appointed by the Constituent Assembly under the British rule. It is an irony in India's constitutional history, that the Government of India Act of 1935 which was passed by the British Parliament and which the leaders of the Indian National Congress spoke of destroying became the foundation

Contd. on page 6

Secular and Socialist

Pursuing ‘secularism’ and ‘socialism’ has been people’s demands

Contd. from page 5

of many of the articles of the Constitution adopted by the Constituent Assembly. It was no accident but inevitable as the Indian Constitution had to be so framed as to safeguard the class interest of the Indian national bourgeoisie who replaced the British imperialists as rulers.

Secularism and Constitution

Now, let us come to the question of secularism. The very concept of secularism means “independent of religion” and is based on non-recognition of any supernatural entity in worldly dealings, ideas and concepts. The proponents of the Renaissance in the days of advent of capitalism which was then fighting against feudalism and rule of religion uncompromisingly with vigour, espoused secularism to denote that political and social matters, state and governance should be free from any religious intervention. Religion would remain as a matter personal belief, if be so, of any individual. But Indian freedom struggle was spearheaded at a time when capitalism as a system had already become reactionary. Forsaking the task of democratization of the society, the capitalist rulers were then compromising with many feudal values including religious revivalism to prolong their moribund class rule by dooming people to ignorance and divisiveness. The Indian freedom movement which was led by the Indian national bourgeoisie thus could not come out of its historical limitations and could not develop remaining completely free from the influence of religion. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of SUCI(C) and one of the foremost Marxist philosophers of the era, had shown in course of his penetrating analysis that, “Unlike western capitalism, which grew independently, Indian capitalism grew and developed under the domination of foreign finance capital with feudal relations surrounding it. As a result, it had a stunted growth. The nationalist section of the Indian bourgeoisie was naturally stirred into movement against imperialism, because, the imperialist rule in our country stood as an insurmountable obstacle in the path of establishing its class rule here and freely exploiting the Indian masses. But, like all colonial bourgeoisie in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolution, it was mortally afraid of

revolutionary mass struggles against imperialism.... The Indian nationalist leadership not only did not try to free the Indian masses from the bondage of religion and democratize the society by carrying out the tasks of social and cultural revolutions, it took up, on the contrary, religion as a vehicle of propagating nationalistic ideas. Indian nationalism, therefore, was basically religion-oriented. This religion-oriented nationalism manifested itself in the form of Hindu religious revivalism.” (*On Communal Problems*, SW Vol. II) From this perspective, ‘secularism’ in the truest sense of the term was never pursued by the ruling capitalist class and its servitors in independent India. Could be that there was a pressure even at the time of framing the Constitution in regard to leaving out the word “secular” from the Preamble and so Dr. Ambedkar who himself might have cherished secular values had to justify the non-inclusion of the word by arguing that “the entire Constitution embodied the concept of non-discrimination on grounds of religion.” Moreover, in independent India, the very concept of “secularism” was cunningly and deliberately distorted by the ruling quarters by equating it with the practice of encouraging all religions. And the ruling capitalist class and its most trusted political parties like the Congress and the BJP have fomented religious sentiments and blindness, overtly or covertly, to keep people divided so as to thwart any united organized movement against gruelling capitalist oppression. So, to claim that the Indian ethos is ‘inherently secular’ is a deliberately misleading hoax.

What is scientific socialism?

At the outset, it needs to be clarified that by socialism today, we understand a specific social system characterized by certain specific features. While in capitalism, there is private ownership on the means of production and the motive of production is to earn maximum profit, in socialism which is established by overthrowing capitalism, there is social ownership on the means of production and the objective of production is to meet the growing need of the society, both material and cultural. So, there is a qualitative difference. The production system is completely free from the tentacles of private ownership and hence wealth does not accrue only to a handful of capitalist owners who, in capitalism,

thrive by depriving the labour, the creators of the wealth, its due. In socialism, there is no exploitation of man by man, every citizen is a public man, sustained by, supported by, public expense; every citizen makes his particular contribution to the activities of the community according to his capacity and receives in turn in accordance with his ability. The socialist state takes care of all the needs of the people. And every student of political economy and social science knows that a social system is the superstructure of a given economic base. In socialism, the economy is freed from private control and appropriation of the fruits of others’ labour, and hence in socialist society, the equality is realized in truest sense; freest and speediest development of man is guaranteed, poverty and unemployment become words unheard of, rich-poor divide is done away with, wealth is not concentrated in the hands of few but are equally distributed among all, the standard of living of all citizens continuously goes up. This is scientific socialism which was established in the Soviet Union through accomplishment of the first working class revolution that proved the correctness of Marxism-Leninism. Before that, a kind of egalitarian society that emphasizes equality and equal treatment across gender, religion, economic status and political beliefs, reducing economic inequalities was envisioned by some bourgeois humanists, and some were prompted to name it as socialist as well. But all such concepts were, as shown by Engels, utopian, since their proponents never studied history of social development based on scientific analysis which showed that *all* past history, with the exception of its primitive stages, was the history of class struggles; that these warring classes of society emerge founded upon relations and motive force of production and modes of exchange — in a word, of the *economic* conditions of their time; that the economic structure of society always furnishes the real basis, starting from which we can alone work out the ultimate explanation of the whole superstructure of juridical and political institutions as well as of the religious, philosophical, and other ideas of a given historical period. It was Marx who first showed that the cherished socialism would come about only if the obtaining capitalist system is overthrown by revolution,

social ownership is established over means of production and under the dictatorship of the proletariat a socialist state takes over to initiate and complete the process of abolition of classes to finally reach classless communist society. That is the historic destiny of mankind.

“Socialist” and Constitution of capitalist India

Next is the question of inclusion of the word “socialist” in the Constitution of independent India which is a capitalist country. When India attained political freedom, it was the period of glory of international communist movement. The defeat of the fascist axis at the hands of the Soviet Union, establishment of socialism in East Europe, the victory of the Chinese Revolution marked the dawn of a new era. The spectacular all round development of Soviet socialism in a short span of just three decades undoubtedly proved the supremacy of scientific socialism. The impact of that was felt in this country also. Stalwarts like Netaji Subhas, Rabindranath, Premchand and others joined renowned intellectuals of the world in welcoming scientific socialism. The freedom loving people of India also aspired for scientific socialism. The Indian bourgeoisie took due note of this public mood. Moreover, the Indian national bourgeoisie, in its bid to grow fast also needed to bargain with both the imperialist and the socialist camps. In order to seek help and cooperation from the socialist camp and to wear a radical cloak before the people, it took up the camouflage of a pro-socialist tilt. So, it had to feign that independent India would be a kind of socialist state. That is why, perhaps Dr. Ambedkar had to say that he was against the very grain of democracy to decide in the Constitution what kind of society the people of India should live in and vaguely talked of people devising some other form of social organization better than the socialist organization of today or of tomorrow. And in the last sixty-six years, we have seen how democracy has been mocked at, how the gap between a handful of rich and myriads of poor has widened to lay bare the distinct inequality that is the hallmark of a capitalist society. Constitutional provisions only remained on paper

Contd. on page 7

Secular and Socialist

Establishment of Socialism and Secularism warrants overthrow of exploitative capitalism

Contd. from page 6

proving thereby that whatever little cosmetic embellishments were incorporated in the Constitution were flouted with impunity. Article 25 (of the Constitution) says that all people are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practise and propagate religion. But the experience is that these rights have been brazenly subverted, religious minorities were subjected to worst persecution, so called lower caste and backward people were nakedly discriminated against. Had the word "socialist" been included in the Preamble, it would have hardly changed the state of affairs in any way.

Position of Congress

The Congress leaders are boasting that the words "secular" and "socialist" were incorporated by them in the Preamble as if it is a big champion of secularism and socialism. It is the Congress which ruled the country uninterrupted for three long decades after independence. Thereafter, leaving a brief period in between, it had been the Congress rule at the Centre. While Congress rule endowed the capitalists with fabulous wealth, it contributed liberally to generating appalling poverty, misery, destitution and deprivation for the poor and downtrodden. It was in the Congress regime that a good number of communal riots were engineered. It was the Congress Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who in order to woo Hindu vote committed the heinous crime of opening the lock of Babri Masjid which brought in its trail destruction of that historic monument by the Hindutva zealots, exacerbating communal tension and polarization in the country. Then why did Indira Gandhi bring the 42nd amendment which, among other things, included the words "secular" and "socialist" in the Constitution?

It has to be understood that there was immense pressure from the people to pursue secular principles and policies in a country where social composition is marked by presence of various religious and ethnic communities. In fact, a national bourgeois state of a multi-religious multi-ethnic country is expected to follow secularism and remain above any religious tutelage. Moreover, the urge for a socialist society free from exploitation and oppression was also equally strong

among the toiling Indians. In fact, this urge is very powerful even today. So, from this perspective, there is every justifiability of the demand to incorporate these two words in the Constitution. This public pressure was all along on the ruling dispensation. As leader of the Congress, Indira Gandhi also was aware of this public mood and pressure. But then she as a shrewd bourgeois politician played a trick. When she in order to concentrate political power in her hand chose to promulgate Emergency and sought to make the directive principles of state policy, or the duties of the state, superior to fundamental rights, or individual rights of citizens by way of bringing about the 42nd amendment which did not allow courts to question constitutional amendments, she needed a camouflage to hide this fascistic step. And the need for that camouflage served by incorporation of the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Constitution as if she was very pro-poor and committed to safeguard the interest of the minorities. But that does in no way negate the legitimacy of including both the demands in the Constitution.

Position of BJP

But now the BJP is out to drop those words from the Preamble to declare its avowed disapproval of both the principles. As is the experience of the countrymen, right from the moment the ruling capitalist class started sending signals that it would back the party to power as against its other most trusted representative, the Congress, which had become thoroughly unpopular because of its misrule for ten long years, the air was surcharged with communal tension. Arch Hindu communal RSS-led Sangh Parivar, of which the BJP is the political face, went full throttle in pursuit of its heinous communal agenda and unleashing anti-minority tirade with renewed vigour. Communal riots broke out in UP as well as other parts of the country. Riding on the communal divide, the BJP improved its tally of MPs in UP and some other states. After the BJP was saddled in power, the Sangh Parivar with many of the BJP ministers, MPs and MLAs in its core-fold, went whole hog in inflaming communal passion and fomenting religious backwardness, bigotry, superstitious and obscurantist thoughts. There is

an orchestrated attack on communal harmony, secular democratic values and rational thinking to produce an intellectually stunted generation. And as a part of discarding secular values and principles and instead glorifying Hindutva doctrine and raising slogan of *Hindu rashtra*, the BJP top brass rolled out the move to strip the Preamble of the word "Secular".

Dropping the word from the advertisement was no act of inadvertence but a deliberate omission. Similarly, the BJP has been openly saying that it is pro-industry meaning pro-industrialist in its policies and trying to justify its stand by claiming that pro-industry does not mean not being pro-poor. In other words, it is not even opting to camouflage the ruthlessly oppressive capitalist society with a socialist cloak. Moreover, the ruling Indian monopolists have already attained imperialist character and are becoming a trusted ally of US imperialism with a view to fulfilling their aspiration to emerge as not just an Asian but a global superpower. So, they are no more interested to keep a 'socialist' tag on them even as a camouflage. Hence, the BJP, as the most obedient servant of the ruling monopolists, has chosen to jettison the word 'socialist' from the Preamble. And once having a cue, the crass communal-chauvinist outfits like Shiv Sena have been raising decibels over the issue purely for reaping electoral mileage riding on communal polarization.

Questionable stand of the pseudo-Marxists

When judged in this backdrop, one wonders how could the pseudo-Marxists who call themselves leftists sing paeon in favour of the country's Constitution safeguarding the interest of the ruling capitalist class. Is the character of our state by any stretch of imagination secular? Is not there a marked disposition towards Hindu religion? Are not state-sponsored functions found to be observing many Hindu rituals like lighting lamp, breaking coconut, blowing conch etc.? CPI (M) leaders ended responsibility by slamming Modi for remaining "silent" when "constitutional values" were targeted and saying, albeit vaguely, that struggle for secularism is struggle for the country's advancement. One

wonders how could secularism and socialism represent "constitutional values" in capitalist India. CPI leaders say that presence of the word "socialism" in the Preamble of the Constitution symbolizes the goal of India. Absurdity par excellence! Can a law book protecting a capitalist state indicate the goal of the oppressed, repressed, pauperized and persecuted countrymen? Only those who want to keep the people in the dark about the obtaining socio-political system, character of the capitalist state, imperativeness of building class and mass struggles to bring about anti-capitalist socialist revolution that alone can bring about the cherished emancipation of the people from the yoke of gruelling capitalist exploitation, can create such illusion about the Constitution.

In fine, it matters little to the toiling people whether the country's Constitution contains the words "secularism" and "socialism" or not. The Constitution, as is often projected, is no sacred a document, not anything supra-class in class-divided capitalist India. It is no scripture of the people but meant to serve and defend the capitalist rule and state. Subverting the constitutional provisions of course is tantamount to disobeying the law of the land and if anyone does it with mischievous intent, that is to be condemned and prevented. Under people's pressure, whatever little protection to the civil and democratic rights of the people was incorporated in the Constitution needs to be safeguarded. However, that does not mean that the Constitution is sacrosanct and hence inviolable. If the Constitution comes in the way of pursuing people's cause, becomes handy in the hands of the rulers in suppressing people's just struggle for survival and emancipation, there is every legitimacy in defying it. In fact, incorporation of words like "secularism" and "socialist" in the Constitution is only meant to confuse people as the Constitution of a capitalist state today can neither uphold secular values nor could be the custodian of a true socialist society. Such embellishments are only purported to obfuscate the truth that the Constitution is the caretaker of the capitalist state which the toiling people under the leadership of the working class need to smash to in order to build up a new one and take civilization forward.

Is it a crime to develop and join movement in people's interest

An open letter from SUCI (Communist) to the Chief Minister, West Bengal

Honourable Chief Minister
Government of West Bengal

February 12, 2015

Madam,

You must be aware that on 5 February last, when a 30,000 strong disciplined and peaceful rally, organized by the West Bengal State Committee of our Party, SUCI (Communist), was marching ahead for the scheduled and announced programme of mass law violation, a contingent of armed police and RAF pounced upon the protestors suddenly and without any provocation in front of the Dharmatala Big Bazaar and carried out indiscriminate and brute baton-charge. It left more than 300 protestors injured, among which 107 sustained serious and grievous injuries. The cruelest of the attacks was inflicted upon two student activists of the Party. Comrade UttamParui hails from a very poor family of East Medinipur. After successfully completing his post-graduation with much hardship, he maintains his family by undertaking private tuition. He joined the Party during the Nandigram movement in which he was an ardent fighter. On the fateful day, a few RAF personnel surrounded him and thrashed him savagely with baton sparing no part of his body including eyes. This savagery of the RAF inflicted severe damage to the eyeball of his right eye so much so that he has lost that eye. The right eye of Comrade Ramakanta Sarkar, Secretary of AIDS O Tufanganj unit of Coochbehar district has also been severely affected, though the doctors are still trying utmost to save it. The legs of Comrades Swagata Karmakar, a girl student from Kolkata and Manosa Mete, a peasant worker from Burdwan district have been fractured and they are unable to walk till now. Many others are carrying bandages on their body, head, hand or leg. The question is what crime had all of them committed? They simply raised their voice at one with others' in the interest of the suffering people of the state to demand from the Union and State governments:

- i) scrapping of the atrocious ordinance by the Central government for forcibly grabbing the land of the poor peasants;
- ii) lowering of the prices of essential commodities including 108 life-saving drugs, cooking

- iii) gas, electric power and others; prevention of alarmingly rising atrocities on women and trafficking of women and children all over the country;
- iv) reducing the price of petrol-diesel in tune with the reduction in price of crude oil in the international market without raising tax and cess;
- v) refunding money to the victim investors and agents of the Sarada and other chit fund scams who had been abjectly cheated;
- vi) meting out exemplary punishment to those responsible for the Sarada and other chit fund scams
- vii) scrapping of automatic promotion system up to class VII in schools and putting effective check to communalization and fanning of unscientific thoughts in education;
- viii) withdrawal of the decision of curtailing 20 % allotment in the health budget;
- ix) scrapping of the SEZ Act;
- x) ensuring remunerative price of the agricultural produce including rice-jute etc. to the peasants;
- xi) ending corruption, speculation and black marketing in supply business of fertilizer- seed-pesticide;
- xii) enforcing compulsory use of gunny bags for carrying and transporting food grains
- xiii) introduction of 200 days work a year scheme in villages and towns along with continuation of rural employment schemes for 100 days work;
- xiv) ensuring minimum wages for tea garden workers and such others.

The protestors were taking part in the law violation movement to press for realization of these demands. A month long intensive and extensive campaign had been undertaken across the state announcing this programme and hundreds of thousands of people had expressed their support to and solidarity with the movement. The State government also knew of this. On 5 February itself, the police intermittently informed that they would stop the rally en route at College Square, Bowbazar or Wellington Square. We recorded our objection pointing out that it was a law-violation programme and there

was no enforcement of section 144 on any of the aforesaid places indicated by the police. Then how could the police stop the rally at any of these points? Under which legal provision could they do it? In any case, when the front of the rally had reached the Big Bazaar on SN Banerjee Road, the police suddenly attacked the rally putting up barricades on both sides of the road as well as in the front of the rally. There was no promulgation of section 144 at that point. It was evident that the entire action on the part of the police was pre-planned.

Mass law violation movement has been much in practice in this state since the days of British imperialist rule. At that time, such civil disobedience led by the leaders of the freedom movement often took place. Afterwards, during the Congress rule and later CPI(M) regime, too, such law violation was staged at different points of times. Always the police used to stop the rallies in areas under section 144 and arrested the protestors. What made the exception to take place this time? Why did the police bring down such a brutal attack on the unarmed, peaceful protestors instead of arresting them? Had the police intended to disperse the protestors, why did they not use water cannons and tear gas shells instead of resorting to indiscriminate baton charge right from the start? And then again why did they charge the batons not below the waist towards legs, but made heads and eyes of the protestors their targets? This is not just a complaint from our Party; it is the opinion coming out from the people of the state. You have ridden to governmental power raising protest against police torture and atrocities upon mass movements including those of Singur or Nandigram and promising to bring about a change. Is this an example of that promised change? When incidents of rape, murder, robbery, snatching, extortion are taking place every day and the oppressed victims are hardly finding the police to receive complains from them, we find that there was no hesitation on the part of the police to pounce fast and furious upon the peaceful protestors. Still more surprising is the fact that the police has lodged non-bailable FIR under sections 147, 148, 19, 332 and 333 against 22 protestors including me, the Secretary of the West Bengal State

Committee of our Party, Comrade Chandidas Bhattacharyya, member, WB State Committee of our Party, Comrade Tarun Mandal, the former MP, Comrade Tarun Naskar, an existing MLA and other leaders. It implies that we were armed and held an illegal rally, had attacked the police and destroyed public property. Do you think anybody in the state would believe these trashes!

People of the state know us well. They know we are not used to practising the politics of anyhow winning elections and capture the seats of power. As a revolutionary party, we have been conducting since long mass movements on different demands of all sections of people namely workers-peasants-students- youth- women and others. As fallout of these movements, we have also been successful in realizing several vital demands such as the one of reintroducing English at the Primary stage of schools. In course, till to date, 175 workers of our Party have braced martyrdom, thousands more have sustained injuries, 60 including 49 leaders and cadres forced to serve life-terms, are still in prison. Cities, including Kolkata, towns and villages of the state have often been soaked with blood of our cadres. If your government tends to take it for granted that by mounting such attacks on us, causing grievous head injuries, hitting at and damaging eyes and spilling blood, you would terrorize us and would drag us away from the path of movement, you would be committing the same mistakes as your predecessor governments had committed. Armed with Marxism- Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, our cadres carry the teaching of the Party in their heart and are, on the one hand, extremely firm, determined, courageous and struggling on face of any injustice and oppression and on the other hand, are remarkably honest, disciplined and noble in character. Taught by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat and a foremost Marxist philosopher, we in our Party, ceaselessly keep alive our struggle to acquire and assimilate the noble traits from the life struggles and characters of the stalwarts of the Indian renaissance, the revolutionaries and martyrs of the freedom movement of the country, the great men and characters of the

Contd. on page 10

Obama Visit

Deepening strategic and military relations with US imperialism poses great danger to Indian people

Contd. from page 4
 hence maintained relationship with both the camps by championing so called Non Aligned Movement (NAM). However, as Indian capital gained more and more strength, the ruling Indian monopolists tilted more and more towards the US. This tilt became more pronounced after sad dismantling of the socialist camp because of modern revisionism and imperialist conspiracy. After attaining imperialist character, the Indian monopolists began to export capital abroad. Overseas direct investments by Indian corporates stood at US\$ 5.23 billion in March 2014 as, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Destination of Indian finance capital includes USA as well. When the US government had threatened to reduce outsourcing jobs to India as a measure to generate employment for American citizens, Indian corporate bigwigs hit back by saying that they had provided employment to over 2 lakh Americans in their US-based industries. The Indian monopolists want their economic flourishing to continue unhindered. So, they want to penetrate more into not only US but European and West Asian markets as well, besides holding on their sway over the Asian particularly the South-Asian market. Alongside grabbing more and more

share of the world imperialist-capitalist market, they also need to assert their political power by flaunting military might before the world. So, they are too eager to become a close ally of the US imperialists, firm up economic-political and most importantly military cooperation with the Pentagon region, consolidate their hold on the Asia-Pacific region and thereby take on China, another formidable power of the imperialist-capitalist camp following completion of counter-revolution there. And in order to cozying upto US, abandoning whatever little cognition they took earlier of the sentiments of both Indian as well as Arab people, they are now closing political and military ties with Zionist Israel, the face of US imperialism in the Middle East. At the same time, using their bonhomie with US, they are also trying to bargain with China. Moreover, India is now running a current account deficit. To reduce the deficit, it needs foreign currency. That need cannot be met by endless borrowing. So, India is scouting for increased FDI in various areas including defence to boost its industries as after Second World War, Japan and various European countries took loan from US to rebuild their economies. And in US, India finds a willing supplier of FDI. On the other hand, for all the

criminal acts, gangsterism, overlordism and war mongering round the globe, the US imperialists are most hated today and facing more and more isolation in the field of international politics. Moreover, among most of the European countries currently suffering from acute economic crisis, US do not find a dependable ally today. Even in Iraq war, US did not have anyone but UK as its ally. Russia under Putin is emerging as a powerful imperialist power engaged in Europe. Japan though having necessary infrastructure has not yet been able to develop as a full-scale military power. So, the US imperialists need to have India in tow as a dependable ally. Spurred by that need, the US imperialists also want to back India to confront domination of China in the Asia-Pacific region and use closer ties with India to serve and safeguard their imperial interest in oil-rich West Asia where India has some influence. In fact, US imperialism is now trying to develop a military axis with India, Australia, Japan and Israel. And of course, the US imperialists are driven by the pressing need to rejuvenate their beleaguered economy by making deeper penetration into Indian market particularly arms market and nuclear industry. This is the coincidence of interests.

Country on the precipice of grave danger

Deepening strategic and military relations with US imperialism poses great danger to the Indian people. It is incumbent on the right-thinking patriotic-minded anti-imperialist peace-loving people to correctly understand the unfolding scenario in its entirety. If the move of the Indian government to side with the US imperialists is not staved off and India becomes a close ally of the US imperialist regime, India will get entangled in the US war machinations which will endanger the glorious tradition of anti-imperialist democratic struggle of the peace-loving Indian people and entail further ruination of the country. The Indian Republic, it is known to all, was established by fighting and ousting British imperialism, a close ally of US imperialism. And now the ruling Indian bourgeoisie is so keen to buttress its imperialist interest that it had no qualms in making Obama, the head of the butcher war-monger US imperialist state, pursuing overlordism and brigandage with impunity and terrorizing the whole world, the chief guest of the Republic Day celebration programme and thus pushing the country to the precipice of grave danger.

4th All Odisha Women’s Conference organized by AIMSS

4th All Odisha Women’s conference organized by All India Mahila Sanskrutik Sangathan, Odisha State Committee against atrocities on women and spreading of obscenity and liquor, was held at Bhubaneswar. The opening session was held on 31 January at Mahatma Gandhi Road. Overcoming many hurdles, delegates came with firm determination to make the conference a grand success, because they believed that it was the only revolutionary women’s organization fighting seriously for their just cause for quite a long time in Odisha. A 5,000 strong well decorated procession representing 24 districts of the state, was received by the reception committee members including many eminent personalities of the state. By the side of the meeting place, a quotation- photo exhibition was inaugurated by the veteran artist Mr. Asim Basu. The meeting was inaugurated by the chairman of the reception committee

Prof. Gokulananda Das, the former Vice-Chancellor of the Utkal University. In his brief welcoming address he pointed out that ‘ this women’s conference will lay foundation for a mighty women’s movement in the state .’ Comrade Swayamprava Nayak. Secretary, AIMSS Odisha gave a short introductory speech. The main speaker, Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, President, AIMSS in her speech elaborated the present socio-political situation of the country and emphasized that the root cause of today’s women problem was inextricably connected with the crisis ridden capitalist system. Hence she urged the delegates to consciously strive for developing mighty movements in that direction. Honourable guests Prof. Rita Ray, social-scientist, Comrade Dhurjati Das, secretary SUCI(C) Odisha state committee and Dr. H.G. Jayalaxmi, General Secretary, AIMSS, urged the delegates to create self confidence

that they could achieve their cherished goal, that to lead a dignified life in the society. For that it would be necessary to make AIMSS, the only women organization which imbued with the teaching of the great Marxist thinker of the era, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, stronger. Presiding over the meeting Comrade Binapani Das, President AIMSS Odisha State Committee, in her concluding address called upon the delegates to spread the message of the historic conference

throughout the length and breadth of the state.

On 1st February the delegate session was held at Koraput Bhawan, Bhubaneswar that was attended by 515 participants. Dr. Birendra Nayak, reception committee member and former Reader of Utkal University and Mrs. Krishan Mohanty, renowned social activist also addressed the delegates.

New state committee with Comrades Binapani Das as President and Swayamprava Nayak as Secretary was unanimously elected.



Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee addressing in the Open Session

NEWS

Deputation to the Education Minister in Haryana

Against the anti-people education policy of the BJP Government a protest rally was held at Mahendergarh in Haryana on 10 January and a deputation was organised for submission to the Education Minister Ramvilas Sharma on 12-point charter of demands. Similar deputations were also organized at Kaithal, Sonapat and Bhiwani with demonstrations in front of the District magistrate. Demonstrations were also held in different districts including at Kurukshetra on 12 January, at Bahadurgarh, Hisar etc. on 15 January.

SUCI (C) condemns attack on Delhi church

In a statement issued on 15-01-15 Delhi State Organizing Committee of SUCI(C) condemned the attack on the church at Vikas Puri, Delhi. Describing it as yet another attempt, ahead of the forthcoming assembly polls, to polarize the electorates on communal lines which needs to be severely condemned by all the democratic and secular forces of the country., the statement stated that the event needs to be seen in the backdrop of several such instances

all over the country where the religious minorities, particularly the Muslims and Christians, are subjected to targeted persecution. The statement demanded that while the culprits be immediately apprehended and punished, a judicial inquiry be immediately instituted to unearth the conspiracy.

AIDSO protests slash in Central allocation towards Education

AIDSO in a statement issued on 19 January, 2015, strongly opposed the decision of the Modi-led BJP government to drastically curtail higher education budget by Rs. 3900 crores in the current financial year and stated that when the Prime Minister Mr. Modi is inviting the foreign investors in the field of education, this curtailment will pave the way of privatization and commercialization of education.

Remembering Martyrs Tripura

82nd martyrdom of Surya Sen – the revolutionary leader belonging to the uncompromising trend of freedom movement and the leader of the anti-British struggle of Chattagram, now in Bangladesh, was celebrated at Battala in Agartala-Tripura with due honour. Leaders of AIDSO, AIDYO and AIMSS offered their tribute to the martyr by

garlanding at the martyr's column. This was followed by a whole –day long public programme of wearing badges bearing a picture of the martyr. In the afternoon cultural programmes as well as seminar were held, where among the speakers were Amar Debnath- State President of DSO, Sanjoy Chowdury – State President of DY0 and the invited guest Subhaskanti Das. The speakers stressed upon the point that the present generation is getting detached from the like of patriotism, culture and higher values that had developed in the course of freedom movement and so we are today delinked. In such an ambience it is essential that we commemorate these revolutionaries like Masterda and seek inspiration from their life. The programme was presided over by AIMSS State President Shibani Das.

Uttar Pradesh

Ramprosad Bismil, Asfaqueullah Khan, Rajenranath Lahiri, Roshan Singh etc. were arrested and tried when they attempted to raise funds for the freedom movement against British imperialists by looting from government exchequer. Following that case termed "Kakori Conspiracy Case", these valiant soldiers of Indian independence movement were hanged by the imperialist British rulers.

To commemorate the 87th anniversary of their sacrifice, the martyrs were remembered through different programmes on 17 December at Jaunpur and 21 December at Protapgarh at the initiative of Komsomol, the organization of young communists of SUCI(C). The organization also conducted a camp at Jaunpur on 1 January.

Mass law-violation rally brutally attacked by police in Kolkata



Uttam Parui lost his eye due to police atrocities



Ramakanta Sarkar admitted to the hospital with serious eye injury



Police is brutally bashing another student activist



West Bengal State leaders in front of the rally

An open letter to the Chief Minister West Bengal

Contd. from page 8

world and the communist revolutionaries. It was Comrade Shibdas Ghosh who taught us: "... Those who initiate the revolutionary movement and struggle, those who set out with the fight against injustice, have to pay more, have to face more deaths, have to make more sacrifice... They carry this attitude that they would die yet would protest against injustice, would not leave the battle field." Carrying this invaluable teaching in our heart, our Party workers build

up and carry on working class movement and mass struggles in people's interest. So, however savage oppression the police of your government may bring down upon us, they would not be able to crush our mass struggles. Instead movement will spread out to and continue in districts as well as at the state levels.

Thanking you,

Saumen Basu
Secretary
West Bengal State Committee
SUCI(Communist)

Comrades seriously injured during the law violation movement are undergoing treatment at different hospitals of Kolkata. A second operation on the eye of Comrade Uttam Parui will be performed and treatment of the eye of Comrade Ramakanta Sarkar will be done, both in Hyderabad. We appeal to people for generously contributing to the treatment fund of all these comrades.

Phone — 913322653234; 919874404888

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH