

Proletarian Era

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SUCI (Communist) will contest 119 Seats in 20 States and 3 Union Territories in the coming Parliament Election, 2019

Dates of election to constitute the 17th Lok Sabha have been announced. For months before this announcement, both national and regional bourgeois parties have been customarily busy in showering plethora of promises, a number of pre-poll sops to deceive voters. Alongside they were engaged as usual in mud-slinging at each other.

During the days of its advent in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries by overthrowing autocratic feudal-monarchical order, capitalism had upheld the flag of scientific thought, democracy, democratic values, concept of secular humanism free from religion, lofty ideals of equality-liberty-fraternity and accomplished bourgeois democratic revolution. At that time, multi-party parliamentary democracy as the political system of capitalism was established. Relative autonomy of and separation of power among the legislature, judiciary and executive—the three wings of state—were stipulated. In the initial days of rising capitalism, the emerging progressive bourgeoisie had implemented all these principles to a considerable extent. But once, following the inexorable law of history, capitalism entered the stage of monopoly and imperialism, its decadence and reactionary character were

manifested glaringly. Obviously, capitalist rulers in all capitalist-imperialist countries began to trample underfoot all democratic rights, values, practices and codes which once they championed. The very concept of democratic right was reduced to the unfettered right of the monopolists to ruthlessly exploit and plunder people as raw material. The slogan of democracy “of the people, by the people and for the people” was replaced by operation of an utterly oppressive system “of the monopolists, by the

monopolists and for the monopolists”. Compromise with religious blindness and encouragement to religious fanaticism were resorted to for blunting rational thought process. Freedom of press, freedom of expression, philosophical tolerance and all such other erstwhile democratic concepts began to be flouted at will. Voice of opposition was muzzled and all legitimate protests brutally suppressed. Alongside, parliamentary democracy was reduced to parliamentary

fascist autocracy. Democracy is replaced by fascism in different forms and degrees in different countries. ‘Multi-party democracy’ has been virtually reduced to ‘Two party democracy’.

India as a capitalist-imperialist country has been no exception. It is also marked by all these evils of rotten reactionary capitalism. What is happening on the electoral front? The ruling bourgeoisie is selecting this or that party of its trust as its political manager and then bringing it to power by using money, muscle, media and administrative power. When the incumbent ruling party gets discredited before people because of its avid pursuit of anti-people pro-capitalist policies, and grievances begin to accumulate against it, the ruling bourgeoisie brings to the fore another chosen political manager of its own and ensures replacement of the former manager by the latter. What has been the fallout of this game of periodic change of government and ritualistic elections? The rich is getting richer and the poor poorer. 1% of super-rich own 73% of the country’s wealth. India has become home to 1/3rd of global poor. 20 crore 30 lakh of people go hungry every day. Over 4000 people die daily in



Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) addressing a press conference at Party's Central Office in Kolkata on 13 March 2019 where he explained the political stand of our Party on the ensuing parliament election and released the list of the constituencies where Party is contesting as well as the names of the candidates. Seated by his right is Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, Member, Polit Bureau.

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Comrade Lukose was a leader whom the comrades accepted from the core of heart

Comrade Provash Ghosh in the memorial meeting

[Comrade C.K. Lukose, Polit Bureau member and former Kerala State Secretary of Kerala of SUCI (Communist) breathed his last on 13 February 2019 in Thiruvananthapuram. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Party, a memorial meeting was held on 25 February, at Sarat Sadan, Howrah, West Bengal. The memorial meeting was presided over by Comrade K Radhakrishna, Polit Bureau member of the Party. Comrade V Venugopal, Central Committee member and present Kerala State Secretary of the Party also paid his tribute by delivering a heart-touching speech. Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary of the Party, was the main speaker. His speech is published below. Speeches of Comrades Radhakrishna and Venugopal will be published later.]

You all know that in a memorial meeting, we, who are living and are

students of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great Marxist thinker,

reminisce on the life-struggle of the departed leader or comrade with the objective of gaining necessary education from that struggle. You are also aware that ours is not merely a party. It is a new model family. When social and family lives are being wrecked because of a rotten environment and crisis of values that utter degeneration of the capitalist society is breeding and exacerbating with every passing hour, we are engaged in the struggle

for building up this model family based on higher communist ethics and morality as per the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Our mutual relations are not just of assigning work and then checking the performance. It is a relation that is spurred on by nobler feelings of heart based on higher revolutionary ideology, ethical and moral values. So, when we lose any member of this family, more so when any

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absence of minimal healthcare. Closures or, lock out of factories, retrenchment of workers are going on in increasing numbers. Temporary contract jobs have replaced permanency of jobs. Monopolists and multinationals are killing the middle and small traders. Unemployment is soaring menacingly. More than 70 crores are unemployed and semi-employed, receipt of over 23 lakh applications including a good number of post graduates and doctorates for just 368 posts of peons in UP bear eloquent testimony to that. Unable to get remunerative price of the produced crops, poor peasants are committing suicide. So far, over 3 lakh 50 thousand peasants have committed suicide. In the name of unearthing black money, what is done is to increase black money even more speedily. Only a few petty offenders are taken into custody for playing to the gallery, while the big fishes with the backing of the ruling class and its subservient governments are piling up huge black wealth with impunity. Severe economic onslaught, fiscal savagery, spiralling of price line, beggary, prostitution, rape, gang rape, trafficking, honour killing, lynching, migrant labourers, breaking of families—everything is going up at an alarming rate. Rudimentary healthcare and education continue to elude common people on an escalating scale. The list of growing misery and penury, deceptions and deprivations of the oppressed countrymen gets longer and longer.

Election too has become farcical and a big deception today. Defying the codes and rules of the Election Commission, the power-greedy bourgeois parties spend huge sum, of money to capture votes. They exploit the wretchedness and political ignorance of the masses to lure them with money and other petty benefits. The hapless unorganized people also easily fall into their trap, feel that whatever little is coming should be taken. After election, they find how have they been deceived, lock, stock and barrel, and their life having worsened further.

All the national and regional bourgeois parties now in electoral fray have tested power, either at the centre or in the state. And as corruption has become a hallmark of decaying capitalism and virtually the law of the land, none of these parties remained free from it. They say that their MPs and MLAs are people's representatives. But in the last Lok Sabha, 442 MPs out of 545

were crorepatis (i.e. 82%), the richest being worth of Rs 683 crores. Did they then represent poor oppressed people or the handful of rich? Earlier people used to respect the political leaders. Now, out of bitter experience, they hate the politicians. Why is it so? Because, when religion was progressive, it gave birth to higher characters. But afterwards when religion in its service to feudal monarchies became reactionary it failed to provide morality. Then at the time of democratic revolution, bourgeois humanism in its period of emergence created higher characters. The leaders of our freedom movement also possessed high moral character. But now capitalism itself is corrupt, anti-people and devoid of moral values, naturally leaders subservient to the existing corrupt system have become totally corrupt, hypocrites and cheats. They are now busy opening liquor shops, extending scope of lottery trade, promoting all kinds of obscenity, sex-perversion and rotten culture through film, TV and other media so as to destroy human essence, dehumanize people and emasculate them particularly the youth, from within, so that they cannot raise voice of protest and can be purchased as the muscle power of these parties.

For a prolonged period, the Congress had ruled the country and foxed people with catchphrases like 'socialistic pattern of society', 'Garibi Hatao' etc. When the Congress became thoroughly discredited because of its brazen anti-people pro-monopoly policies coupled with tumbling out of one after another mega scams, the ruling capitalist class backed and projected the BJP as the alternative in parliamentary politics. The BJP too dished out a host of false promises before election to bring 'Acchhe Din'. But in its 5-year rule, the situation has gone from bad to worse. People's plight has increased manifold. It is to be recalled that the mentor of BJP, i.e. RSS had totally opposed Indian freedom struggle. M S Golwalkar, the ideologue of the RSS, categorically stated that the theories of 'anti British territorial nationalism' had deprived people of the positive and inspiring content of Hindu nationhood. Hence, according to him the national independence struggle was reactionary and the revered leaders and martyrs of freedom movements were nothing but reactionary, traitors and unpatriotic. In fact, the RSS fully cooperated with the British imperialists. Now the same RSS and

the BJP, are proclaiming themselves as nationalists and patriots.

As Marxist we are atheists. But we are also aware that religious preachers were great men and they all, during the period when religion had a progressive role, fought for social cause, faced wrath of the then rulers and were even persecuted by them. None of them ever preached any hatred against any other religion. But now the RSS-BJP is doing exactly opposite to that. They are inciting communalism-fanaticism in the name of religion. Did Chaitanya, Ramkrishna or Vivekananda give call for demolishing Babri Masjid or building Ram mandir in its place? Is there any reference in Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas about Babri Masjid having been built on Ram's birthplace? It was Rajiv Gandhi, the former Congress prime minister, who opened the lock of Babri Mmasjid and allowed worship of Ramlala there for electoral benefit. And we know how the arch Hindu communal RSS-BJP took full advantage of that. What followed in the trail was countryside spread of communal conflagration which took away so many innocent lives, made so many families bereaved and homeless, outraged the modesty of so many women, surcharged the atmosphere with communal tension and passion and helped precipitating hatred and distrust among different religious communities equally oppressed and repressed under capitalism. Is it then any pursuit of religion? Who does not know that all these are a cleverly crafted ploy to reap electoral benefits by creating vote banks through polarization and destroy the democratic unity of the oppressed people? Often these rulers foment and ignite religious, caste, parochial tensions and conflicts. Dalits and Tribals are also suppressed and repressed.

Further, they are destroying scientific thought and encouraging religious blind faith to accentuate fascization of the country and to make the people believe, 'life is governed by divine order' and causes of their miseries are 'sins in previous life' and rich are becoming richer due to 'blessings of almighty god'.

Now when the BJP has become unpopular, there is an endeavour to bring back the Congress as the alternative. But they are two parts of the same coin. The Congress was never secular. During the freedom movement, its leaders played a reformist-oppositional role, encouraged religious thoughts and dominantly patronized Hindu

religion. So, as against developing on a true secular humanist plank, Indian nationalism virtually became a Hindu religion-oriented nationalism. Only Netaji Subhas, Bhagat Singh, Rabindranath, Saratchandra, Premchand, Subramania Bharati, Nazrul were exceptions. Congress also engineered riots in Rourkela, Bhagalpur, Nellie and Delhi. Congress president is competing with BJP leaders in visiting temples and preaching 'soft Hindutva'. The same very Congress clamped emergency on the country, promulgated a number of black acts, like TADA, MISHA, ESMA etc., ruthlessly suppressed many movements, killed many peasants, workers, students and youths. So the Congress was never secular or democratic. It is a matter of regret that the same Congress is now projected by the CPI (M) and CPI as 'secular' and 'democratic' to gain some MP seats. Earlier, purely to buttress petty electoral interest, the CPI (M), under the garb of opposing the 'autocracy' of the Congress had joined the hands of the Janata Party comprising RSS-Jan Sangh in 1977. Thereafter, the CPI(M) had joined the BJP in anointing V P Singh to prime ministership. And now the CPI ((M) is combining with the Congress in the name of opposing communalism of the BJP. Let alone revolutionary politics, even leftism has no connection with such crass opportunism.

Already there are spontaneous outbursts of people's discontent in the form of sporadic agitations and protest movements. Our Party is of firm opinion that the task imperative is to provide organized shape and proper direction to such erupting people's protest. So is the necessity for developing and intensifying the class and mass struggles on the burning problems of life. Moreover, the various bourgeois parties are at loggerheads with each other. Sharp contradiction among the regional and national capitals is manifest. Even the monopoly houses are divided over various economic and political issues. Such a favourable situation demanded a united powerful left movement to surge forth as the alternative to bourgeois power politics. We urged left parties to develop mighty class and mass struggle with our united efforts. But that expectation has been belied. Just for getting a few seats, the CPI (M) and CPI, abandoning the path of struggling leftism, are shamelessly indulging in tailism of Congress and other regional bourgeois outfits and are

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thus further maligning and weakening leftism.

Our Party based on our organizational strength has been building up class and mass struggles on various pressing demands of people in different states. In course

and as a part of the ongoing struggles, we shall participate in the election. We shall keep before the people the historical truth that mere change in government would not bring end of misery or sufferings in life. Emancipation from this gruelling oppression can come

by only through accomplishment of anti-capitalist socialist revolution. To accelerate the process of revolution, what is needed is to develop and intensify the class and mass struggles along the right track and based on proletarian revolutionary ideology

and higher culture. If any of our candidates is elected, he or she would fearlessly uphold people's cause and reflect the voice of extra-parliamentary movements inside the house so as to coordinate parliamentary battle with extra-parliamentary struggles.

Parliament Election, 2019 — List of SUCI(C) Candidates

Constituency	Candidate		
1. Assam:		10. Madhya Pradesh:	
1. 1-Karimganj:	Comrade Provash Sarkar	1. 3-Gwalior:	Comrade Sunil Gopal
2. 2-Silchar:	Comrade ShyamdeoKurmi	2. 4-Guna:	Comrade Manish Shrivastav
3. 4-Dhubri:	Comrade SurotJamanMondol	3. 19-Bhopal:	Comrade J C Barai
4. 6-Barpeta:	Comrade Husseinjaha Begum (Ina Hussain)	11.Maharashtra:	
5. 8-Mangaldoi:	Comrade Swarnalata Chalia	1. 9-Ramtek:	Comrade Shailesh Janabandhu
6. 14-Lakhimpur:	Comrade Hemkanta Miri	12.Odisha:	
2. Andhra Pradesh :		1. 2-Sundargarh:	Comrade Justin Lugun
1. 35-Kurnool:	Comrade M. Naganna	2. 3-Sambalpur:	Comrade Naba Kishore Pradhan
2. 36-Anantapur:	Comrade G Lalita	3. 7-Bhadrak:	Comrade Kirrtan Mallick
3. Bihar:		4. 8-Jajpur:	Comrade Subhash Mallick
1. 15-Muzaffarpur	Comrade Md. Idris	5. 9-Dhenkanal:	Comrade Manashi Swain
2. 16-Vaishali	Comrade Naresh Ram	6. 10-Bolangir:	Comrade Hrudananda Karuan
3. 21- Hajipur	Comrade Jiwas Paswan	7. 14-Cuttack:	Comrade Rajkishoure Mallick
4. 26- Bhagalpur	Comrade Deepak Kumar	8. 20-Berhampur:	Comrade Somenath Behera
5. 28- Munger	Comrade Jyoti Kumar	13. Punjab:	
6. 30- Patna Sahib	Comrade Anamika	1. 11-Bathinda:	Comrade Swarn Singh
7. 36-Jehanabad	Comrade Umashankar Verma	14. Rajasthan:	
8. 40-Jamui	Comrade Pankaj Kumar Das	1. 07-Jaipur:	Comrade Kuldeep Singh
4. Chhattisgarh:		15. Tamil Nadu:	
1. 7-Durg:	Comrade Attaram Sahu	1. 2- Chennai North:	Comrade J Sebastin
2. 8-Raipur:	Comrade Devendra Patil	2. 3-Chennai South:	Comrade S Saikumar
3. 11-Kanker:	Comrade Laxmi Kureti	3. 33-Theni:	Comrade T Chinnasathyamoorthy
5. Gujarat:		4. 15- Salem:	Comrade P Mohan
1. 20-Vadodara:	Comrade Tapan Dasgupta	16. Telangana:	
2. 25-Navsari:	Will be declared later	1. 8-Secunderabad :	Comrade Ch.Pramila
6. Haryana:		2. 6-Medak:	Comrade K Bharatesh
1. 6-Sonipat:	Comrade Balbir Singh	17. Tripura:	
2. 7-Rohtak:	Comrade Jaikaran	1. 1-Tripura Paschim:	Comrade Arun Kumar Bhowmick
3. 8-Bhiwani-Mahendragarh:	Comrade Om Prakash	18. Uttar Pradesh:	
4. 9-Gurgaon:	Comrade Sarwan Kumar	1. 6-Moradabad:	Comrade Vijaypal Singh
7. Jharkhand:		2. 39-Pratapgarh:	Comrade ShashNath Tiwari
1. 7-Dhanbad:	Comrade Ramlal Mahato	3. 70-Ghosi:	Comrade Surajeet al Shrivastav
2. 8-Ranchi:	Comrade Sidheswar Singh	4. 72-Jaunpur:	Comrade Asoke Kumar Kharwar
3. 9-Jamshedpur:	Comrade Panamoni Singh	19. Uttarakhand:	
4. 10-Singhbhum:	Comrade Chandramohan Hembram	1. 2- Garhwal:	Comrade Mukesh Semwal
5. 14-Hazaribagh:	Comrade Rajesh Ranjan	20. West Bengal:	
8. Karnataka:		1. 1-Coochbehar:	Comrade Provat Roy
1. 5-Gulbarga:	Comrade S M Sharma	2. 2-Alipurduar:	Comrade Ravi Chandra Rava
2. 6-Raichur:	Comrade K. Somashekhar	3. 3-Jalpaiguri:	Comrade Haribhakta Sarder
3. 9-Bellary :	Comrade Devdas	4. 4-Darjeeling:	Comrade Tanmoy Dutta
4. 11-Dharwad:	Comrade Gangadhar Badiger	5. 5-Raiganj:	Comrade Sujan Krishna Pal
5. 13-Davanagere:	Comrade Madhu	6. 6-Balurghat:	Comrade Nurul Haque
6. 21-Mysore:	Comrade Sandhya	7. 7-Malda North:	Comrade Subhas Sarkar
7. 23-Bangalore Rural:	Comrade TC Rama	8. 8-Malda South:	Comrade Anshudhar Mandal
8. 25-Bangalore Central:	supported Candidate	9. 9-Jangipur:	Comrade Samiruddin
9. Kerala:		10.10-Baharampur:	Comrade Anisul Ambia
1. 2-Kannur:	Comrade R Aparna	11.11-Murshidabad:	Comrade Bokul Khandakar
2. 5-Kozhikode:	Comrade A Sekher	12.12-Krishnanagar:	Comrade Sk. Khoda Box
3. 11-Chalakkudy:	Comrade Suja Antony	13.13-Ranaghat:	Comrade Paresh Chandra Halder
4. 14-Kottayam:	Comrade E V Prakash	14.14-Bangaon:	Comrade Swapan Mandal
5. 15-Alleppuzha:	Comrade R Parthasaradhy	15.15-Barrackpur:	Comrade Pradip Chowdhury
6. 16-Mavelikkara:	Comrade K Bimalji	16.16-Dum Dum:	Comrade Tarun Das
7. 17-Pathanamthitta:	Comrade Binu Baby	17.17-Barasat:	Comrade Tushar Ghosh
8. 18-Kollam:	Comrade Twinkle Prabhakaran	18.18-Basirhat:	Comrade Ajoy Bain
9. 20-Thiruvananthapuram:	Comrade S Mini	19.19-Jainagar:	Comrade Joykrishna Halder
		20.20-Mathurapur:	Comrade Purna Chandra Naiya
		21.21-Diamond Harbor:	Comrade Ajoy Ghosh
		22.22-Jadhavpur:	Comrade Sujata Banerjee
		23.23-Kolkata South:	Comrade Debabrata Bera
		24.24-Kolkata North:	Comrade Bijnan Bera
		25.25-Howrah:	Comrade Shanawaz
		26.26-Uluberia:	Comrade Minati Sarkar
		27.27-Sreerampur:	Comrade Prodyut Chowdhury
		28.28-Hooghly:	Comrade Bhaskar Ghosh
		29.29-Arambag:	Comrade Prasanta Mali
		30.30-Tamluk:	Comrade Madhusudan Bera
		31.31-Kanthi:	Comrade Manash Pradhan
		32.32-Ghatal:	Comrade Dinesh Maikap
		33.33-Jhargram:	Comrade Sushil Mandi
		34.34-Medinipur:	Comrade Tushar Jana
		35.35-Purulia:	Comrade Rangalal Kumar
		36.36-Bankura:	Comrade Tanmoy Mandal
		37.37-Bishnupur:	Comrade Ajit Bauri
		38.38-Burdwan East:	Comrade Nirmal Majhi
		39.39-Burdwan Durgapur:	Comrade Sucheta Kundu
		40.40-Asansol:	Comrade Amar Chowdhury
		41.41-Bolpur:	Comrade Bijoy Dalui
		42.42-Birbhum:	Comrade Ayesha Khatun
		21. Andaman &Nikoborn Islands:(UT)	
		1. 1-Andaman & Nikobar Islands:	Comrade Balaram Manna
		22. Delhi:(UT)	
		1. 1-Chandni Chowk:	Comrade Ritu Kaushik
		2. 3-East Delhi:	Comrade Manager Chourashia
		23. Puducherry:(UT)	
		1. 1-Pondicherry :	Comrade Mutu
		Assembly Election, 2019	
		1. Odisha:	
		1. 13-Rajgangpur:	Comrade Leony Tikey
		2. 22-Anandapur:	Comrade Anam Charan Mukhi
		3. 23-Patna:	Comrade Benudhar Sarder
		4. 26- Josphipur:	Comrade Sambhunath Naik
		5. 29-Bangriposhi:	Comrade Pitambar Naik
		6. 30-Karanjia:	Comrade Bajuram Sidu
		7. 43-Bhandaripokhari:	Comrade Digambar Swain
		8. 48-Binjarharpur:	Comrade Radha Ballav Mallik
		9. 51-Dharmasala:	Comrade Madhumita Sahoo
		10.59-Pallahara:	Comrade Nirmala Pradhan
		11.60-Talcher:	Comrade Pralhad Sahoo
		12.61-Angul:	Comrade Mandadori Rauth
		13.62-Chendipara:	Comrade Bharat Kumar Mallik
		14.63-Athamallik:	Comrade Ramaniranjan Pradhan
		15.64-Birmaharajpur:	Comrade Nityananda Mallik
		16.88-Banki:	Comrade Arobinda Behara
		17.90-Barbati Cuttack:	
			Comrade Pratap Chandra Mishra
		18.91-Choudwar Cuttack:	Comrade Pavel Pryadarshan
		19.93-Cuttack Sadar:	Comrade Sasmita Mohanty
		20.110-Pipili:	Comrade Padma Charan Jena
		21.131-Hinjili:	Comrade D Tirupati Dora
		22.132-Gopalpur:	Comrade P Shiba Prasad Reddy
		23.133-Berhampur:	Comrade Shibli Shankar Mishra
		24.144-Koraput:	Comrade Rama Chandra Barik
		2. Andhra Pradesh:	
		1. 94-Guntur West:	Comrade M Basavaraju
		2. 153-Anantapur:	Comrade D Raghaban
		3. 157-Hindupur:	Comrade Ashoka

Comrade C K Lukose Memorial speech

Comrade Lukose was a model communist character

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forerunning member departs us, we writhe in pain. All of you assembled here know Comrade C K Lukose, our departed Polit Bureau member, by name. Some of you might have also seen him in the meetings from a distance. But comrades outside Kerala are not very much familiar with his exemplary revolutionary struggle and his crucial role in building up the Party in Kerala. This is our failure. So far, our central leaders were confined to particular areas and were known only there. Other comrades in other parts of the country had seldom any opportunity to be aware of their roles and struggles. This practice has been changed after the recently concluded 3rd Party Congress so that the Central Committee leaders are able to know the comrades round the country and the comrades too become acquainted with them. Hence, at the outset, I would like to speak something relevant in this regard.

I would like to tell you how could a character like Comrade Lukose develop on the shores of the Arabian Sea, far away from here, on the basis of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Our Party work in Kerala began in 1968-69. An AIDSO worker and supporter of the Party who passed out from an engineering college in West Bengal, joined Quilon Engineering College in Kerala, as a teacher. He was told to take with him some Party literatures and works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh so that he could carry out some propaganda work there. Because of his efforts, a few students were attracted towards the Party. Comrade Lukose was one of them. At that time, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty was sent to Kerala and he played an important role there. But suddenly Comrade Natarajan, who was most promising among those engineering students passed away. A portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh which he painted is in the Central Party Office in Kolkata. Comrade Lukose shared a very intimate friendship with Comrade Natarajan. These few comrades initiated the Party work in Kerala. Comrade Lukose became very much disturbed by the sudden and untimely demise of Comrade Natarajan. But overcoming his pain and rising above all hesitations, he came forward to shoulder more and more responsibility in building up the Party. Here, I need to mention another aspect. When our work started in Kerala, our Party was

very little known in the country. It was not like what you see today. The names of SUCI (Communist) and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had not reached South India. Like in West Bengal, undivided CPI was then a very powerful force in Kerala. The CPI leaders in the initial period of their party formation were honest and militant. In Kerala, the CPI had organized struggles against feudal kings. Their leaders were very



Comrade Provas Ghosh speaking in Comrade Lukose memorial meeting

popular too. It was in Kerala that the CPI could form its first government way back in 1957. Such was its role and strength. When the CPI(M) was formed in 1964 through a split, larger faction of the undivided CPI leaders joined it. At that time, they possessed a struggling character. They then enjoyed support of both the Soviet Communist Party and the Chinese Communist Party. So people presumed them to be communists. Hence, the people used to question us how could we claim ourselves as genuine communists when the CPI (M), CPI were in existence, building up movements and enjoying backing of both the Soviet and Chinese parties? We faced similar questions in West Bengal also at the formation stage of the Party in 1948-52. Such was the case with Kerala also. Leaders like Comrade Lukose had to face, deal with and overcome such questions. You must know this history of development of Party organization in Kerala. In such a situation, only a few comrades took the initiative of Party building. But, some of them could not conduct the arduous struggle and hence fell behind. After this, Kerala Party faced one more deep crisis when the then Secretary of the State Party deviated from Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Comrade Venugopal and the others were students at that time. At that

critical moment of the Party, Comrade Lukose came forward and took up the responsibility to save the Party. After this, he never looked back. I want to emphasize on this aspect of Comrade Lukose's struggle.

I would like to speak about another aspect. Most of us who are on this dais could get living association of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, more or less. Many of us have seen him closely and shared an intimate association with him. On the other hand, Comrade Lukose had seen Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in the meetings. At best, he could exchange a few words with him. But he had no opportunity to come in close contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Yet, he succeeded in assimilating the essence of the invaluable revolutionary teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh by going through his works. On the one hand was the crisis in Kerala Party and the task of keeping the morale and

confidence of some junior comrades intact. On the other hand was conduction of a hard all-embracing struggle to develop himself as a worthy communist. Silently, he went on conducting this difficult painstaking struggle thereby thoroughly changing himself and beginning to advance further in his struggle. You have just heard from Comrade Venugopal how he had influenced his family too. So he had struggled both within his family as well as outside, covering all aspects of his life. Never did he compromise anywhere. It is here that you will find a true reflection of a valuable teaching of Marxist philosophy. As shown in the Marxist theory of knowledge, external contradiction is a condition of change and internal contradiction is the basic cause of change. External influence becomes effective only when the imperativeness and desirability of the change is accepted from within. Even after being in constant association with fore-ranking leaders and going through many Party literatures, many comrades fail to change themselves. On the other hand, there are comrades who despite not having received the opportunity to be in close association of the higher leadership and being stationed far away, could succeed in grasping the revolutionary teachings, change themselves and go on improving their standard

continuously from higher to yet higher stage. Comrade Lukose was a glowing example of how this is made possible.

Under the leadership of Comrade Lukose, Kerala Party has successfully fought a force like the CPI(M) at every step. The Kerala Party boldly faced and overcame all false propagandas, thwarted one after another attack and rebutted the slanders and smear campaigns that the CPI (M) had directed against us. Through such a commendable struggle, our Party organization is now spread along the length and breadth of the state. Let me read a portion of their latest organizational report. Out of fourteen districts of Kerala, Party has elected district committees in eleven of them. In two districts, we have organizing committees. Party work has started in the other district also but committee formation has not yet taken place there. In Kerala, the number of party members and applicant members are more than one thousand. Apart from this, there are several thousand Party supporters. In that state, AIUTUC, AIDSO, AIDYO, AIMSS – all these class and mass organizations are functional. There are twenty six registered unions affiliated to AIUTUC. Science and medical units are also operating. Comrade Venugopal has said in his speech that on the basis of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, they have succeeded in forming a permanent people's struggle committee – 'Janakiya Pratirodh Samiti'— throughout the entire state of Kerala. This is their credit. No other state has succeeded to form such a committee till now. The eminent Justice V R Krishna Iyer was the Chairman of this people's committee till his death. Many movements have been conducted under the leadership of this committee. This committee is still functioning. Party developed such a deep relation with Justice Krishna Iyer through this committee that he attended many of our programmes in Kolkata. Kerala Party had succeeded in doing this. They had also succeeded in associating Dr. N A Karim, an eminent educationist and ex-Vice Chancellor with the 'Save Education Committee'. Subsequently, Dr. Karim became a supporter of the Party. In this way, they have succeeded in assembling many intellectuals in Kerala. Comrade Lukose had the ability to attract both the intellectual section as well as the

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Comrade C K Lukose Memorial speech

Comrade Lukose was a creation of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought

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toiling people. Another big achievement of the Kerala Party is establishment of a hospital which they have been running for many years at a very low cost for providing medical care to the poor people of the state. A doctor comrade who is a whole timer and member of the Party State Committee is rendering full time service to that hospital. Apart from this, they have also successfully developed people's committees to spearhead movements on various demands and issues like banning alcohol, against crimes and atrocities on women, safeguarding the interest of peasants, etc. A state level Anti-imperialist Forum has also been formed. Many women are there who, in absence of any employment opportunity in the state, are forced to go outside Kerala including overseas destinations to work as nurses. These nurses face several problems in their workplaces which keep their parents and family members continuously worried and apprehensive. Viewing this as an issue which ought to be taken up and addressed in right earnest, a 'Nurses-Parent Forum' has been formed at the initiative of the State Party. Kerala Party has been relentlessly conducting movements involving common people on many burning issues of life. As a result, our Party has been able to earn people's confidence and is recognized as the only party to struggle for people's cause. During the recent floods which devastated Kerala, it was only our Party which immediately jumped to save and rescue the affected people with all its might and conducted extensive relief work. All comrades and supporters of our Party took part in these relief and rescue activities. This also earned immense appreciation from all sections of the masses. In all these activities and movements, Comrade Lukose was the source of inspiration. You have heard from Comrade Venugopal how Komsomol unit was built up in Kerala.

A special and important part of Party organization are the Party centres where our comrades stay together. These centres are viewed as the preliminary stage organizations which could be elevated to Party communes through a definite process of struggle. This concept was not there previously in world communist movement. It is a specific form of organization based on the teachings of Comrade Shibdas

Ghosh with the objective of developing collective life. Constant common association, constant common discussion leading to constant common activities and to develop it further constant common living – that is what the Party centres are aimed at operationalising. This is a very difficult struggle. In this struggle, there are contradictions and conflicts, scope for misunderstandings and even bitterness. There is influence of bourgeois culture on our comrades. They are also attacked by bourgeois culture. Party centres too are affected by this. Again, in these centres, there is also a struggle to acquire higher proletarian culture on the basis of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. We run these centres on the basis of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. In Kerala, there are 26 Party centres. All these centres were being guided by Comrade Lukose. It is relatively easy to deliver a speech, to prepare a write-up, even to organize a public agitation. But to imbue a group of individuals, one by one, with a new ideology in order to free them from careerism, conventional family life and manifold attacks of bourgeois vices and in course of that, developing them as workers of a genuine communist party is not so easy. Comrade Lukose, in this way, succeeded in developing a few hundreds of our comrades. We have more than a hundred whole-timer comrades in Kerala. These comrades have left their families, discarded all their personal interests and submitted themselves wholeheartedly to the Party. Who had inspired them? Who was that leader? He was Comrade C K Lukose, a leader who could imbibe the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrades respond to the appeal of only those leaders who come forward leaving everything behind, whose words match their acts in all aspects of their personal lives and in their behaviour, culture and work. Even those who at least honestly struggle to practise what they preach attract other comrades. Comrade Lukose was a leader of the above standard and it is only because of this that he was able to inspire the comrades. He was elected State Secretary at the first Kerala State Conference in 1988. But actually he had emerged as the leader much before that. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh used to say that there are two types of leaders. One is a leader elected from the conference. But there is another

type of leader, who irrespective of whether elected or not, becomes able to earn respect, love, trust and confidence of the comrades and thus are accepted from the core of their heart. Comrade Lukose attained the standard of being a leader of the second kind. He used to listen to the problems of every comrade with great patience and tried to help them with deep love, affection and care. I have observed that he used to listen more but talk very less. He had the ability to convince comrades and others with very few words. But whatever and whenever he spoke, he spoke with perfect arguments and in a manner which could touch the hearts of others. Everybody, irrespective of age, used to freely associate with him. Never did his conduct, behaviour and attitude reflect that he was a leader of such stature. He used to mix and associate with the comrades as a friend and colleague. He could easily accept criticisms by other comrades. Referring to the session of criticism-self-criticism organized before the last Party Congress, he had written to me that 'I have been criticized and I am happy by that.' Comrades used to feel no hesitation or constraint to tell him anything or to express to him any difference of opinion. Always he used to educate the comrades. He was always ready to learn from them. Other leaders and comrades of the Party should draw necessary lessons and education from the higher qualities that he had acquired as an ardent student of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He was in the habit of meticulously going through the Marxist classics including speeches and writings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as well as all the literatures published by the Party. Apart from this, he used to cultivate various aspects of literature, science and culture. He used to read literature of our country and also of other countries as well as mythologies. In order to develop the minds of the children, he used to tell them stories from the lives of many great men. In this course, he has succeeded in developing few hundreds of children and became more than a father to them.

As you know, the image of Marxism-Leninism-Communism has been considerably tarnished by the CPI (M) in the soil of Kerala. But on the same soil, the Kerala State Party based on the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and under the able leadership of Comrade Lukose, could raise high the nobility

and superiority of Marxism-Leninism. Since good communist character is reflected in the conduct and behaviour of our comrades in Kerala, developed based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, the conscious section of the people of this state is continuously getting attracted towards our Party. Comrade Lukose had emerged in Kerala as a model communist character. It is for this reason that he could command respect of many people outside the Party even. In spite of this, there was not an iota of conceit, egocentrism or self-projection in him. 'I have done this' or 'This happened due to me' – he was not in the habit of saying all these. When he used to discuss with us, he used to behave like a student with an open mind to acquire more knowledge. On the one hand, he was very soft-spoken, modest and amiable in nature, while on the other hand, he was very firm and uncompromising on questions of principles.

When the leader whom he came in contact with in the initial stage of his political life, whom he loved and respected very much and who was very dear to him had suffered moral degeneration, he was immensely pained when he came to know about it. At that time he was very sick and bedridden. But he never hesitated to severely criticize the misconduct of that leader. That leader had repeatedly appealed to him for rapport. But he did not vacillate for a moment. Unwaveringly, he stood by the decision of the Party. Once, in a school of politics in Muzaffarpur, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had said that 'If you ever observe that I myself, Shibdas Ghosh, who is speaking of morality and ethics, have deviated from this even a bit, expel me from the Party.' Comrade Lukose used to carry this teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in his heart. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had warned us that the struggle to acquire communist character is a very difficult one. He pointed out that we have all come from the bourgeois society and this bourgeois society is not what it was either in the 19th century nor in the beginning of 20th century. Bourgeois society today is filthy, ugly and rotten. We live in such a rotten society. Therefore, from the highest leader to every comrade – all are continuously being attacked by this polluted environment. Every moment we have to be alert and fight against this attack. Otherwise, centring on

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Comrade C K Lukose Memorial speech

Comrade Lukose will remain in the hearts of the comrades as builder of SUCI (Communist) in the first state in South India

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the question of love-affection or hankering for name and fame, the harmful bourgeois vices would make inroad in us. If we remain unalert, there might be a hidden attack and like termites, it would eat away the very vitals of revolutionary character from within. Even the highest leader is also prone to such attacks. He further said, 'Do not possess blind allegiance to any leader. The interest of the Party and revolution is supreme. Therefore, if you observe any defect or deviation in a leader, stand up courageously and fight that in the interest of the Party and revolution'. Today I can say openly and unhesitatingly that Comrade CK Lukose proved himself to be a worthy student of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He had severely and uncompromisingly criticized the defects and deviations of his erstwhile leader, without even a moment of hesitation. This is also an exemplary education for all of us.

As Marxists, we know that a personality, a leadership, a particular capability do not come by birth. It cannot be attained just by honest efforts either. Again, even an ordinary person can raise himself or herself to a high standard. It depends on how one understands the highest ideology and the highest culture of one's time and by accepting that ideology, how one struggles to apply that in life covering all aspects and thereby advances forward. A host of problems would arise, many hindrances would come in the way. And even there may be sudden attacks. It may be that close associates would desert, friends would become foes, co-travellers would join the opponents. Any of these can happen. Even it may happen that someone whom I had once loved and accepted might stoop to a lower standard and degenerate. Comrade Ghosh taught us that in such an event, there ought not to be any compromise. Let there be separation. There is no question of peaceful coexistence in this regard. A person, who can brave bullets, might also falter and become weak on the question of love and affection. In this respect also, there is caution from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

In our Party, a struggle has been going on to create new men following the guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He himself created some such characters. The

communist movement in the world is now in crisis. It is very difficult to become a communist in today's situation. In the 1940s and 1950s, in the favourable environment of glorious onward march of world communist movement, many had come forward to embrace communism. The Soviet socialism was then steadily progressing under the leadership of Great Stalin. The Chinese revolution had achieved glorious victory. Gigantic liberation movement was going on in Vietnam. All these international developments created a tide in favour of communism. So there was an earnest desire among the toiling masses to become communists. Today a reactionary wave is sweeping the world. There is immense confusion and frustration about communism among the masses. In this adverse situation, it is indeed a very difficult struggle to join communist movement, to achieve and save communist character. But Comrade Lukose had set an example as to how in such a difficult situation a communist conducts struggle to preserve communist character till the last breath. Comrade Radhakrishna has told you of the commendable struggle Comrade Lukose had conducted in the last phase of his life ignoring a disease-afflicted failing health. I have also observed some aspects of it. He never missed any Central Committee meeting despite his deteriorating health. He never stayed back on health ground. While staying at Shibpur centre, he used to discuss many theoretical questions. I went to Kerala twice when he became fully incapacitated. In one study class, I saw that comrades were lifting him on a chair to the venue so that he could listen to the class. He could not remain seated for long in a chair. So he was taken to an adjacent room. I thought he went there for taking rest. Later I came to know that he was listening from that room lying on the bed. Such was his quest for knowledge and eagerness to learn. Next time also I saw the same thing. He never said that he would not be able to attend any meeting because of ill health. He could not walk, could not even speak. But his brain was active, desire to know more was high. I did never see any expression of illness on his face. Even when he became unfit to move his limbs, eat, walk and even lie on the bed of his own effort, there was no imprint of

such a grave illness on his face when he met the comrades or us. He had an ever smiling face. His eyes had remained shining all along. When I went to visit him for the last time, he requested me in an almost inaudible voice to look after the Kerala Party and take care of my health. Even for communicating this much, he needed help of other comrades who could make out what he was saying from the movement of his lips. I fully remember that. He could feel that his death was imminent. So, it is the duty of the Central Committee to look after Kerala State Party. That was not all. He also requested me to relieve him from the post of Kerala State Secretary and also drop him from the Central Committee. But here I disagreed with him. I said: You would certainly continue to be in the Central Committee because we need your advice and views. He agreed to it. While the sessions of the 3rd Party Congress were going on in Ghatsila last November, I saw many comrades were taking photos with their cameras. It is a normal thing now-a-days. At the end, when myself and Comrade Haidar were getting down from the dais, one comrade from Kerala who was taking photos came to us and told that comrade Lukose intended to talk to us. Then I came to know that Comrade Lukose saw the entire proceedings of the Party Congress through video, sometimes sitting and sometimes lying in bed. He followed the entire Party Congress and its deliberations. See how intense was his eagerness even being so seriously ill. I saw him in the video. He looked at us, smiled and gave us red salute. We also gave him red salute. I could feel this was his last red salute to us.

Comrades, how can I forget such a comrade. What a character! This has been a creation of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. He has been an example before all of us. Disease had to admit defeat before his revolutionary grit and determination. He defeated all pains associated with the disease. He defeated death also. He will remain in the hearts of the comrades of Kerala through generations as the builder of SUCI (Communist) in the state, the first one in south India. He will also ever live in the hearts of all the comrades of India. This character cannot be forgotten. He also taught a band of comrades how collective functioning is to be

ensured on the basis of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teaching and keeping democratic centralism operative. I believe those comrades would stand like one man to fulfil the void created by this sad demise of Comrade Lukose and fulfil his unfinished tasks. That will be the showing of true respect to him.

Comrades I would like to tell one more thing. This I have discussed in other meetings also. I shall not enter into any other political point today. It is true that the strength of the Party is increasing. Wherever there is an attempt, wherever we can reach out Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought to the people, we have been getting response. Today all other parties are discredited, totally bankrupt on the question of principle. The social democratic parties like the undivided CPI and then the CPI (M) which once posed big hindrance to our advancement, are now digging their own grave. The CPI (M) is now begging at the doors of various bourgeoisie parties for a few parliamentary seats. Such is the condition of the CPI (M) now. Coming days would bring more scope and possibilities for our Party. But there is a caution in this regard. Great Lenin once said that spread of Marxism is associated with the lowering of ideological struggle. Not that it would happen inevitably. But the apprehension remains. When there are only a few, they need to struggle hard, overcome many stiff hindrances and fight against many adversities. In the process, they are more steeled with revolutionary ideology and become strong and sound. But when difficulties and hindrances are relatively less and success is easier to achieve, then the struggle to attain higher ideological standard and character tends to slacken. That is what great Lenin had warned about. Our comrades, leaders, young Central Committee members, the State Secretaries, District Secretaries all must conduct continuous struggle to lift their ideological and cultural standard. Juniors should not be blind about the seniors. If they notice any mistake on the part of the leaders, they must courageously point it out. Married comrades must fight if they found their spouses are making mistakes. They must also fight on the question of approach towards their sons and daughters. Please keep in mind that Marxism-Leninism -Shibdas Ghosh

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Comrade C K Lukose Memorial speech

Take necessary lessons from a rare communist character worth emulating like Comrade Lukose

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Thought is the only ideal, the only ray of hope in the present day world. The whole human civilization is in deep crisis today. Not only economic crisis, crisis of human values, human essence and morality. There is hardly anyone worth to be called MAN. This is the condition of the whole human race today. Amidst this pervading darkness, we have to save the Party, protect it and hold aloft the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. The Party has to be made stronger. Mere increase in quantity will not do. What we need is quality. And to maintain quality, it is absolutely necessary to relentlessly conduct the struggle to lift our ideological-cultural standard. As taught by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, do not spare anyone, not even the General Secretary to save the Party. With these words I like to read out an appeal of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh which is relevant today. At the memorial meeting of Comrade Subodh Banerjee, he said: "I said,

that the coming days are very important to us. You are to build this party fast, within a very short period, with the political and organizational strength necessary to provide leadership to revolution. We could not have achieved this task earlier even if we had contemplated it. But now, with our present numerical strength, if all of us — each and every leader and cadre — strive to put it into reality, with adequate contemplation, we shall succeed to achieve it. To that end, every worker present here shall have to carry out his respective work without turning away from it, with individual initiative and intellect — no matter whether you can achieve it or not, you succeed or fail. Its method shall be that, on the one hand, you will be learning the party's politics, and, on the other, you will make every effort to organize people in any sphere on the basis of this politics. ...So, grasp the basic point — Indian revolution is on the threshold of emergence, and nothing of worth remains of this society —

this you should realize. No longer the ruling class can give it any lease of life with any palliatives whatsoever. The Indian society is in the throes of birth. Only, it suffers from want of people's organized conscious political movement, from want of a genuine revolutionary party with that minimum of necessary strength with which this ferment for revolution in the people, this situation ripe for revolution can be led into an organized protracted powerful war for revolution. In entirety the objective condition for revolution is ripe, with all its ingredients and ammunition. The people yearn for a change. The ruling class has nothing else to bank on, except the military muscle of this old order. They count also on people's ignorance and political confusion, but that is not of any major importance. The reality puts so much pressure on the people that no confusing logic and delusions of religion can hold them back. Once the tide of revolution breaks out, no argument will succeed to prevent the

onrush of the masses. ...But what is lacking? It is that genuine revolutionary party, based on the correct revolutionary political line, ideology and comprehensive revolutionary theory with the minimum necessary strength. There is that party, it has developed — only it lacks in that strength with which it can channelize the outbursts of people's agitations into the correct course on a definite revolutionary line for protracted battles. Fast you have to muster this strength — anyhow, at the cost of life even."

This is the appeal of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Now go back from this meeting by taking necessary lessons from a rare communist character worth emulating like Comrade Lukose and carrying in your heart the appeal of our Great leader and teacher. With this, I end here.

Red salute Comrade C K Lukose!
Red salute our leader, teacher and guide Comrade Shibdas Ghosh!

Great martyr Chandrasekhar Azad remembered in UP

Martyr's Day in commemoration of the great revolutionary of uncompromising trend of the Indian independence struggle, Chandrasekhar Azad was held at different places of UP.

In Allahabad the Martyr's Day was observed under the joint auspices of AIDS0 and Shaheed Chandrasekhar Azad Club on 27 February at Azad Park. Starting with offering of floral tributes at the great Martyr's portrait by the AIDS0 and the Club leaders, the observance also included wearing of badges, quotation exhibition and book stall. AIDS0 State President Comrade Harishankar Maurya, State Secretary Comrade Dilip Kumar, District Coordinator Comrade Vijay Pratap Singh and Pawan Srivastav and Angshu Kumar, the District Coordinators from the Club addressed the gathering. The occasion was observed also at Bakshi Bandh, Daraganj on 28 February. AIDS0 and the Club leaders addressed and conducted the programme.

On 27 February AIDS0 held an

observance at English Home, Namner, Agra. It was presided over by Sri Iswar Dayal, former Principal, Baptist Higher Secondary School, Dinesh Mohanto, member All India Council of AIDS0 addressed the programme and students rendered patriotic songs.

In Jaunpur on 26 February evening KOMSOMOL organized a candle march and a meeting at Khajrun village. Before the candle march started, floral tributes were paid by people and Comrade Rampyare, member Fatupur Local Committee of SUCI (C) spoke of the independence movement and Shaheed Azad's great role. Other leaders also addressed and local youth and children rendered songs.

At Pratapgarh, AIDS0 held similar programmes on 25 February at Dhakwa Bazar and on 26 February at Badhwan Bazaar.

Movement against illegal poultry business in Pilani, Rajasthan

A 109-day long Dharna was held at Kutubpura village in Pilani, Rajasthan against an illegal poultry business. On the 110th day of the dharna, a meeting was also

convened where different left parties in the state participated. On behalf of the SUCI(C), Comrades Rajendra Sihag and Deepak Dahiya took part. Comrade Dahiya assured that SUCI(C) would be with this movement of the village people. In their movement. Amraram, Rajasthan state Vice-President, AIKMS, also addressed the gathering.

AIMSS observes International Women's Day

On the occasion of International Women's Day, an all Bengal convention was organized by All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan at Ashutosh College Auditorium,

Kolkata, on 9 March last in protest against growing atrocities on women and demanding a total ban on sale of liquor and drugs, stopping trafficking of women and children and ensuring security and dignity of women. The convention was presided over by Comrade Sujata Banerjee, West Bengal State Secretary, AIMSS.

Among those who spoke were Shri Parthasarathi Sengupta, well-known lawyer, Dr. Malabika Mishra, Professor Afroza Khatun, Comrades Chhaya Mukherjee, All India President and Keya De, All India Secretary of AIMSS. Comrade Sujata Banerjee gave the call for women to organize themselves in movements. The meeting was followed by a rally led by AIMSS voicing various demands. Similar programmes were held in other places of the country.



Observing International Women's Day, AIMSS held Protest rally following a convention in Kolkata, West Bengal on 9 March

Comrade K Radhakrishna at the 4th party congress of Marxist Communist Party of India (United) in Ernakulam

Deputed by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General secretary, SUCI(C), Comrade K Radhakrishna, Polit Bureau member, SUCI(C), attended the 4th party congress of Marxist Communist Party of India (United)-MCPIU- held in Ernakulam, Kerala, on 15 February 2019 and delivered a brief speech.

Conveying his hearty greetings to the MCPIU congress and its delegates, Comrade Radhakrishna, at the outset, expressed hope that this congress would strengthen scope for building mighty movement of all left and democratic parties and forces in the country against our common enemy capitalism - imperialism. He then pointed out that all the left forces are aware what anti-people policies are pursued by capitalists-imperialists led by the USA globally. They are out to exploit and oppress the working people of the world. They have subjugated so many countries in the recent past. Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and now Venezuela are a few of these. Though movements after movements are breaking out in Europe and America, on account of lack of proper leadership these movements are dying out.

Nationally, said Comrade Radhakrishna, the ruling Indian bourgeoisie has been pursuing the policies of liberalization-privatization-globalization on account of which a handful of monopolists are becoming multi-billionaires while vast majority of the working people are getting increasingly pauperized. Unemployment is growing rapidly. All these could happen because the left forces are not united. The great teacher of the working class Comrade Lenin had given the clear cut guideline that though there might be differences among the left parties, they should unite on the basis of a minimum agreed common programme and a code of conduct to launch united movement on legitimate people's issues. He urged that while the left forces should be united against the common enemy, their differences should be thrashed out in public through an open ideological struggle so that not only the working people but also the leftist cadres get educated and derive necessary political consciousness to understand what is correct and what is incorrect. The relationship among the united left parties should be based on the principle of 'unity-struggle-unity' and a code of conduct. Through this process, correct political line will emerge victorious.

He then briefly narrated how the CPI (M) and CPI had abandoned path of struggling leftism and instead combined either with the BJP or the Congress for narrow sectarian electoral interest. Referring to the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, he said that if any legitimate people's movement surges forth, a genuine revolutionary force should also join the same and establish its hegemony over the movement by isolating the reactionary forces. In this way, revolutionary movement would get a fillip. But CPI (M) and CPI did not follow this teaching of Lenin and stayed away from the JP movement in the 1970s allowing rightist forces to control it. However, when there was an urge among the left forces to develop such a mighty movement in West Bengal, our Party took a position that since this was a leftist bastion, left parties could themselves unitedly lead the movement here and there was no need for any outside personality. But disregarding our suggestion, the CPI (M) went ahead and invited Shri P C Sen, former Congress Chief Minister of West Bengal to guide and lead the movement. We, Comrade Radhakrishna said, disassociated from that combination because P C Sen was a thoroughly discredited person and was responsible for firing upon common people during democratic movements when he was the chief minister and thus killed a good number of common people. We criticized that line of the CPI (M) openly. We wanted a healthy debate on such a critical issue on the basis of the great teaching of great Comrade Lenin. But the CPI (M) objected to our criticism and said it was impermissible in united movements. Since then, they chose not to be associated with our Party in united movements.

Today, our Party and a few other parties hold that the task before the left and democratic parties is to forge unity and develop united movements against the brazenly pro-monopoly, pro-MNC and anti-people policies of both the Congress and the BJP. But CPI (M) and CPI, in the name of fighting fascist danger held out by the BJP, are now busy in striking deal with the Congress to somehow secure some seats at the hustings. Fact is that they are not at all interested in launching ideological battle against the BJP and in building united movements against anti-people



Comrade Radhakrishna speaking at MCPIU party congress

policies of the BJP government. They are only after netting electoral gains, he pointed out. He hoped that

this MCPIU congress would chalk out programme to build up united left and democratic movement.

AIDSO State Secretary attacked by ABVP goons in Tripura

On 12 February last, when Comrade Ramprasad Acharyya, AIDSO Tripura State Secretary was passing through Ram Thakur College in Agartala, a good number of miscreants belonging to ABVP, students' wing of the BJP, stopped him and pressurized him to join

ABVP. They also threatened to kill him if he disagreed. When Comrade Acharyya refused to bend, they beat him mercilessly and left him lying outside the college gate. Comrade Acharyya was rushed to the hospital with multiple injuries. An FIR was filed demanding arrest of the culprits.

Communist Party of Pakistan on uncalled for war madness

The current escalated frenzy of jingoism between India and Pakistan, has created a nonsensical combatant environment in the whole region, followed by heavy cross border shelling and air bombardment which is a total wastage of the national capital in the air. No doubt this tension is in the best interest of the religious fanatics and the military establishment, but it has nothing to do with the peoples' well-being of both the countries. Over 700 million people in both the countries are subjected to starvation, miseries and even a bigger number is without work. Peasants / workers / unemployed, under heavy debts are compelled to commit suicide and others have to sell their children and body parts in order to survive in this system of savage capitalism.

In the given conditions, the ruling classes must be ashamed of having delivered nothing to the public. This uncalled for war madness is a pretext for the military to grab mammoth increase in its budget supplies.

The present so called elected democratic governments in both the countries are two sides of the same coin, both playing to the gallery of their dirty political ambition and in larger canvas serving the interests of the imperialist masters and arms dealers.

CP of Pakistan strongly condemns the ongoing bellicose environ between the two countries. CP of Pakistan admits that both India and Pakistan are twin natural neighbours, holding very important geopolitical position in the region of Asia, all the outstanding issues must be resolved through political dialogue, respecting peaceful coexistence of each other. Both must fight together against poverty, diseases, unemployment, homelessness, fascism, increasing fanaticism and moral degradation.

For this very sane reason Communist Parties, Progressive and Peace, Democracy loving forces on both sides should unanimously resolve to press upon the rulers and the military establishment in their respective countries to shun away the pursuits of war in lieu of peace, jobs and people's harmony, diverting all the resources towards the welfare of the people instead of dumping it in fire fodder.

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VOICE OF MEDIA

Capitalism is 'under serious threat'

Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan on Tuesday warned that capitalism is under "serious threat" of a "revolt" as the economic and political system has stopped providing for the people, especially after the 2008 global financial meltdown. Mr. Rajan, told *BBC Radio 4's Today Programme* that governments across the world cannot afford to ignore social inequality when considering the economy. "It's not providing equal opportunity and in fact the people who are falling off are in a much worse situation," he said. He said authoritarian regimes arise "when you socialise all the means of production. A balance is needed, you can't pick and choose - what you need to do is improve opportunity." (The Hindu 12-03-19)

Fugitive Nirav Modi and the BJP

When fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi was spotted on the streets of London last week looking somewhat different and wearing an extravagant ostrich-leather jacket, the government insisted there had been no delay on India's part in efforts to prosecute him and extradite him. NDTV has learnt that contrary to these claims, the British authorities have had no response to several queries they've sent for information. In fact, a legal team from the UK also offered to come to India to help facilitate action against Nirav Modi but allegedly got no response from India.

NDTV has learnt from the Serious Fraud Office in London that the first time that India sent an alert to the UK was under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) way back in February 2018. This was soon after the CBI first registered the criminal case against Nirav Modi and his family members for cheating the taxpayer of Rs 13,000 crores of money in the Punjab National Bank Scam.

While earlier, legal assistance for catching offenders abroad could be tedious and time-taking, the legal assistance treaty meant that the Home Ministry could directly forward summons or warrants to the Indian High Commission in London, which would then forward it to the central authority. In this case, the central authority in Britain decided that between the crown prosecution service and the SFO, it was the serious frauds office that was more appropriate to handle a request for taking action against Nirav Modi.

The Serious Frauds Office confirmed to India by March that Nirav Modi was in the UK. At that time, Indian officials were struggling to determine whether he was in Europe or Hong Kong; it was only months later that they confirmed he was in the UK. The frauds office also assigned a counsel to help India with its case — lawyer Barry Stancombe, a junior barrister who specialises in fraud and money laundering.

NDTV has learnt that Stancombe and his team, while going through India's request, realized they needed many more documents. They wrote three letters that summer, to which they received no response. They also communicated, NDTV has learnt, that they were willing to make a visit to India to collect evidence so that they can arrest Nirav Modi, but that did not get a response.

Meanwhile, Nirav Modi built his legal team in anticipation of the UK acting on India's requests. Working on his request for asylum was the legal firm Mischcon, being handled by a lawyer called Kamal Rehman, and there was a second team led by Anand Doobey to work on his extradition case.

The Ministry of External affairs confirmed on Saturday that by August, two extradition requests were sent from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate. On the UK asking for more documents, the spokesperson denied it and said: "We are not aware of the request for any additional documents."

Sources told NDTV that by December, the Serious Frauds office had stopped pursuing the case due to the "lack of interest" on India's part. When contacted, a spokesperson for the frauds office said in an email: "We can neither confirm nor deny any SFO interest in the case." NDTV also contacted Barry Stancombe who too, refused to comment.

NDTV has sent emails and calls to the external affairs ministry and the CBI, but they haven't responded. (NDTV 12-03-19)

BJP ally on BJP— Nirav Modi link

The Shiv Sena in an editorial in party mouthpiece *Saamana* alleged that Nirav Modi, who is at the centre of the scandal, had been a 'partner' of the BJP and helped it collect funds for elections.

Sena leaders claimed that Nirav Modi was in direct contact with Amit Shah and Narendra Modi over the last 3-4 years and both Shah and

Modi were in the know of things going on at Nirav Modi's firms, but ignored the wrongdoings as Nirav Modi was the party's main fund raiser among the diamond trading community.

Senior Sena leaders who spoke to *IndiaChimes.com* in Mumbai claimed that Nirav Modi directly and indirectly contributed Rs 250 crore to the BJP coffers over the last 4 years, since January 2014 and helped fund the BJP poll campaign blitz in 2014 that saw the party come to a landslide victory. Sena leaders were openly critical of the Prime Minister and his handling of the economy, stating that the big con men have got away easily, but the poor are burdened with taxes and levies.

Sen11a leaders took pains to point out that Nirav Modi along with about 5-6 other businessmen were instrumental in bankrolling the BJP party since 2014, since the party projected Narendra Modi as the PM candidate and launched a multi-crore media campaign. Modi was the one who struck the deal with these 5-6 businessmen and top industrialists including Adani, Ambani and others to fund the BJP campaign, promising them massive sops if he became the PM, claimed Sena leaders in Mumbai. (*indiascoops.com-06-05-18*)

After Pulwama, the Indian media proves it is the BJP's propaganda machine

On February 14, an Indian paramilitary convoy was attacked in Pulwama in India-administered Kashmir, resulting in the death of 40 Indian officers. The Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Muhammad soon claimed responsibility. In retaliation, the Indian Air Force carried out an airstrike on an alleged militant training camp in Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Indian Foreign Secretary V.K. Gokhale claimed that it "struck the biggest camp" and that a "large number" of terrorists were killed.

Without any official statement on the number of casualties by the Indian government, the Indian news media reported that 300 terrorists were killed, citing government sources. But Pakistan responded by rejecting these claims and told the Associated Press that the area was "mostly deserted wooded area" and that there were no casualties or damage on the ground.

This discrepancy is just one example of the confusion and misinformation spread to the public by deeply flawed media reports.

Our investigation into the Indian media's reporting on the Pulwama

attack found that many reports were contradictory, biased, incendiary and uncorroborated. News organizations such as *India Today*, *NDTV*, *News 18*, the *Indian Express*, *First Post*, *Mumbai Mirror*, *ANI* and others routinely attributed their information to anonymous "government sources," "forensic experts," "police officers" and "intelligence officers." No independent investigations were conducted, and serious questions about intelligence failures were left unanswered.

.....as the media continued to promote government positions on the crisis, other critical political issues dropped out of public scrutiny. The controversy surrounding the Rafale deal and allegations of corruption against the government were suddenly sidelined, as was the order for the eviction of more than a million forest dwellers (that was later stayed) and a hearing on the repeal of an important constitutional clause before the Supreme Court.

The entire episode is emblematic of a broader trend in Indian media. Many news channels are not only owned, operated or invested in by politically influential families, but also are sometimes run for the express purpose of advancing party positions. To make matters worse, between 2013 and 2019, editors of channels and publications have been sacked and replaced, primarily because of their criticism of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. (*Washington Post 05-03-19*)

Nobel Laureate decides not to attend Science Congress any more

In Proletarian Era we had earlier published a brief write-up on how anti-science views are being propagated in the prestigious Indian Science Congress. Here we add a comment from a famous scientist.

Nobel laureate in Chemistry, Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, who is also the President of the Royal Society, London since 2015, has refused to attend the Indian Science Congress. The India-born scientist finds the event unworthy of attending. As reported by a leading English daily, Ramakrishnan attended the Science Congress last year and found it discussed very little of science. Added to it, there were ridiculous totally unscientific claims made in the session this year also. Thus Ramakrishnan was quoted saying: "It was a circus. I find that it is an organization where very little science is discussed. I will never attend a science congress again in my life."



Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, Member, Polit Bureau, paying floral tribute to great Marx at the Party's Central Office in Kolkata on the occasion of his 136th death anniversary on 14 March. Many other Central and State leaders were also present.



Comrade Sankar Saha, Member, Polit Bureau, garlanding portrait of great Stalin in the party's Central Office in Kolkata on the occasion of his 66th death anniversary on 5 March. Available Central and State leaders were present.

Karnataka faces worst ever drought in recent decades

This time the spectre of drought has come to haunt the farmers of Karnataka State with more vengeance! More than 95% of the 160+ taluks has been declared as drought affected reflecting the intolerable situation of the farmers. In fact Karnataka has topped the list of most affected drought-hit states in the country with recurrence of drought year after year. Such had been the crisis that during the last assembly elections held in 2018 and as usual, with a view to wooing the voters, the mainstream bourgeois political parties had to talk of adopting urgent remedial steps, if elected, and incorporated such assurance in their manifesto. After coming to power, the present JD(S)-Congress government claimed to have released huge sums of money to waive farmers loans. But considering the number of farmers in the state and the extent of distress, the amount released has miserably failed to tackle even the fringe of such an alarming problem.

Another depressing fact is that even the released amount has not reached the farmers. When already this is the situation the recent drought has only added to the woes of the already suffering farmers.

Instead of taking effective step to give these hapless peasants some relief, both the central and the state governments are engaged in customary slugfest and accusing each other of neglecting the farmers. It is also true that the BJP is indulging in the worst type of discriminatory politics of favouring the BJP ruled states like Maharashtra and showing step motherly attitude towards Karnataka now being governed by its parliamentary oppositions. As many as 47 towns and 625 villagers are dependent on the Cauvery river for the daily water needs as the water level in reservoirs are lower than the requisite level. Speaking to ANI, Director Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre: "Roughly there is around 41 TMC

water in our dams, right now there is sufficient water for drinking. The government has strictly instructed all dam authorities to store water for drinking, it will be given for irrigation only if there is excess water."...."As a consequence of the deficit rainfall in the state in September 2018 onward, there is not much water in the reservoirs of Bengaluru, Mysuru and other 47 towns and 625 villages which are dependent on Kaveri river," he added. Reportedly, a similar situation occurred in 2017 when less than 20 per cent of water was left in nine of Karnataka's 12 dams. The condition in North Karnataka is still worse.

As the peasants, even after 71 years of independence have to depend on monsoon rains, any shortfall in this regard aggravates their hardship. Monsoons have been poor last year and so have multiplied their plights. Farmers who were being forced to borrow heavily from the nationalised and co-operative banks are now reeling under huge debts. The much-clamoured loan waiver by the Congress-JD(S) government is only limited to debts from the co-operative banks. Government also failed to open required number of cowsheds and provide much needed fodder & water. Further, far from being provided employment for 180 days under MGNREA, even payment of back wages of last 2 to 3 months has not yet been released. To make matters worse, there is acute shortage of drinking water. So, the peasants are migrating en masse to the cities only to seek means for a bare living and we know, most of them would turn into street beggars and die unnoticed and uncared for.

Following an official level review which could not suppress the truth, the state government was forced to declare 156 out of 176 talukas as

drought-affected. It has been estimated that loss owing to natural calamities, including floods/landslips and drought during both kharif and rabi seasons is Rs 32,335 crores. But the BJP-led central government had so far released just Rs 949.49 crores, a pittance considering the actual need. Even the NDRF (National Disaster Relief Fund) norm warrants release of minimum Rs 4460 for salvaging the situation.

About 68% of the cropped area in India is vulnerable to droughts. Of this, over 33% of the area in the country receives less than 750 mm of mean annual rainfall and is classified as "chronically drought-prone". Another 35% area receives mean annual rainfall of 750-1,125 mm and is classified as "drought-prone". The drought-prone areas are confined primarily to the arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid regions of peninsular and western India. But, to utter dismay, the prescriptions of the Manual for Drought Management, released in December 2016 by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, are such that even the most drought prone districts do not find a place in the central list of drought affected. While stipulating that mild and moderate drought is no longer eligible for relief funds from the Centre, the manual has made it clear that only if the calamity is of "severe nature" can the state governments submit a memorandum for financial assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund. When the peasants need additional support from the government just for bare survival, the government is formulating stipulations to make their life yet more ruinous. But the government is unfazed. This is the hideous underbelly of the much-touted pro-peasant policies of the bourgeois governments irrespective of hue.

Women's demonstration in Spain



Wearing purple and raising their fists, hundreds of thousands of women took to the streets of Spanish cities on International Women's Day on 8 March 2019 calling for greater gender equality. "We are unstoppable", read one of the main banners in Madrid's demonstration, where about 375,000 people, according to officials, completely packed a central avenue on a day marked by protests amid a national strike. Purple has in recent years been a signature colour of women's rights protesters.

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