

Proletarian Era

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Observe 68th Foundation Anniversary of Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) on 24 April with due solemnity



[In the Indian political scenario, the Congress, hitherto most trusted representative of the ruling capitalist class, is in complete disarray, scrambling as a discredited force to people. The BJP, or rather the RSS-BJP combine, the other representative of the ruling class which have won the trust of their master in place of the Congress are in arrogant aggressive mode with their pro-corporate Hindutvawadi fascistic agenda, in consequence fast earning people's wrath and disapproval. It was the opportune moment for the left and democratic forces to close their ranks and forge steed unity to develop massive people's movement over the country as the last hope for exploited, oppressed people. That would have been the left alternative to right reaction. But spurred by the utterly opportunistic vote-based politics and power-craze, the media-backed official lefts like the CPI(M) and its associates have entered into an electoral alliance with the discredited anti-people Congress in West Bengal assembly election to help the latter regain their image and brazenly betray people's cause. Thus, the CPI (M) and its allies have not only dealt a severe blow towards developing people's movement but have even pathetically maligned leftism. Our Party has stood up firm and resolute to protect and enhance the prestige and honour of leftism by waging a virtually single-handed fight even in the election.

In this situation on the occasion of the 68th Foundation Anniversary of our beloved revolutionary Party of the country, SUCI (Communist), we are reiterating here a few excerpts from invaluable teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of the Party and one of the fore-ranking Marxist philosophers of the post-Lenin Era, as to how a revolutionary approaches election in a capitalist set up and related issues. We earnestly believe these quotations will throw important light on the aforesaid and related issues.]

"The parties which so long have been providing leadership to the movements in our country are basically election-oriented parties. Be these self-styled, fake Marxist-Leninists or bearers of Left or Right 'communist' flags, be they contenders of this ism or that ism — their bottom line is the same, they are absolutely election-oriented parties."

"The self styled revolutionaries, the Marxists, all are found to be saying that elections will yield nothing. We also say this. We, who call ourselves Marxists, never say that we believe in election politics, or that we do not want revolution. None of us tell these things. Because if we talk like this we would be immediately isolated from the democratic-minded, revolutionary-minded people

of West Bengal. If any of us happen to tread in the blind alley of election politics, in the open even he has to swear by revolution. There is no other way. But let this be. Now let us see what the Marxist-Leninist theory says on this issue. Marxist-Leninist theory says that Marxists go in the Parliament, because parliamentary illusion exists among the people. What do the words, parliamentary illusion mean? They mean that the fake democrats, the fake socialists, the fake revolutionaries still exert considerable influence on the democratic forces, the workers-peasants-middle class, that is, the classes who constitute allies of revolution, and it is they who spread the parliamentary illusion. It means that conditions have not ripened for the people to bring about revolution, or for a front to be built up having that character which comes into existence immediately prior to direct seizure of power under the leadership of a revolutionary party. In other words we still exist in that stage of democratic movement in which we have to take part in the elections in order to free people from the illusion of parliamentary politics; we have to form the government if we attain electoral majority, and use that government, to the extent possible, for building up revolutionary movements. We have to restrain the police and use the front as a weapon for mass movements. It is for this that we participate in the elections and put up candidates for election. So the Marxist-Leninist theory says that till the pseudo-democrats, pseudo-socialists, pseudo-revolutionaries are isolated from the

SUCI(C) strongly opposes the decision to allow US aircrafts and warships to use Indian military bases for berthing and refuelling

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary of SUCI (C) issued the following statement on 13 April 2016 :

We strongly oppose the decision of the Indian government to allow US aircrafts and warships to have access to Indian military bases for berthing, refuelling, repair and other logistic purposes. This is clearly a step forward towards forging closer military alliance with the US imperialist regime which has been spearheading one after another war on foreign soil, subverting sovereignty of other countries with alacrity, orchestrating regime change in different lands flexing military muscle and installing its military bases throughout the world as a part of its policy of expansionism, overlordism, brigandage and international gangsterism. It is also reported in 'The Hindu' today that this logistic support which has been agreed upon 'in principle between the two countries was first proposed in

2004 but was resisted by the then UPA I government. Though the NDA government is denying opening up Indian soil for setting up any US military base, it is apparent that such might also be agreed upon in future under the pretext of bolstering maritime security cooperation between the two countries as India which has already emerged as an imperialist power is strengthening its tie more and more with US imperialism to establish its hegemony in South-East Asia. Also there is an imperialist machination of forging a strong military alliance among the powerful and relatively less powerful imperialist powers comprising US, India, Japan and Australia in Asia-Pacific that potentially poses a threat to peace in the region.

We call upon peace-loving anti-imperialist people of India to condemn the step outright and develop powerful anti-imperialist militant peace movement to thwart such pernicious moves.

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Gleanings from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought

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workers-peasants-middle class, i.e., the classes who constitute the allies of revolution, and the conditions can be created for the seizure of power under the leadership of the revolutionary party, till then the Marxist-Leninists take part in the election by building up democratic fronts.”

“Every movement is influenced by politics. Nothing is out of bounds of politics, be it food, medicine or anything else. So how can you keep yourself isolated from it? You are a social being. Not to speak of the organization, even the individual’s mindset cannot remain free from its impact. You may be unaware of it and think of keeping yourself aloof from it. You may think that you stay by yourself, not in touch with anybody. This means you lack awareness; you do not know how you enter into a relation with society every moment, how the existing political environment influences your mindset, the ideological outlook of your organization and the style of functioning of your organization. What you call style of organization, that is the method or tactics of running the organization also reflects either bourgeois or the proletarian revolutionary concept.

With what outlook a revolutionary fights in bourgeois elections

For example, say, an election has come, we have to take part in this struggle. You are thinking that in this election we are fighting against the Congress — what is there of revolutionary politics in it? Any tactics to defeat the Congress is revolutionary. No. In election the Congress is on one side, the opposition on the other and people are in between.

So long as revolution is not accomplished, whether people want elections or not, like it or not, they get dragged into it, involved in it. Revolution means that people have realized that there is no need for elections, when they are all organized and boycotting elections in an organized manner, not negatively but have positively reached the stage of seizure of power and are saying: “No more election; capture power.” Only at that point does taking part in the election become infructuous, unnecessary. Or else the people do get time and again enmeshed in the election. And in order to stay with the masses, both revolutionaries as well as non-revolutionaries — all have to participate in the election. The

genuine revolutionaries too have to do that. Everybody has to participate in the election. Only those who practise sectarian truism, those who do not really practise revolutionary politics may want to fight shy of it and remain out, otherwise everyone has to participate. But does it mean that all those taking part in the election are having the same outlook? So you have seen outwardly everyone takes part in the election, I do, we the revolutionary Marxist-Leninists do, the social democrats, the genuine forces, the sham elements, the bourgeois parties, the pseudo-socialists — outwardly viewed, it all appears to be the same. And everybody would say that he only is right, the opponent parties are wrong. So, any tactics or move to defeat the opponent party is justified, because I am right. If this is your line of argument, then there remains no difference in terms of outlook between you and the bourgeoisie. As a matter of fact, an in depth analysis will prove your approach to be erroneous.

What is important to note is that the method and tactics of conducting struggle, the principles of organization adopted both by the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, their outlook regarding election, as also the tactics for winning or approach towards defeat — these are determined keeping in view the stage of revolutionary movement and the level of people’s consciousness in the country. The main objective of the bourgeois parties is to grab maximum number of seats by any means and ride to power. Having captured power, to protect the existing system they undertake some reforms and raise slogans on false pretexts. To take recourse to whatever propaganda helps them to don a progressive cloak, to confuse and befool the people for some time in order to prolong the existing system itself — this is their purpose. Hence, their main objective becomes securing maximum number of seats in the elections by hook or by crook. Apart from this, they also project some political programme and an agenda of immediate tasks. But whatever be their programmes and slogans, the sole objective is to grab maximum number of seats.

On the contrary, when the party of the proletariat participates in the election with the object of revolutionary purposiveness, being compelled by the necessity to remain with the people, it does so on the basis of mass revolutionary political line. It also tries utmost to win seats. But the essence of its

objective is never to anyhow grab maximum seats. The revolutionary party’s focal point is to educate the people as to how to fight the election on the basis of a mass revolutionary line and in doing so, if we can win maximum seats; all the better. If we cannot, not even a single seat, so be it. If we can retain ten seats, then be it so. But the central, the focal point can never be to anyhow grab some seats.

What is that mass line and mass style of activity, what is that revolutionary political line, which I will take to the people in the election? I will take this message to the people: since you are taking part in the election, you should do so from the perspective of people’s interest, based on revolutionary politics. While doing so you yourselves should guard your own strongholds. Whatever may be the number of seats you get, as many as you can, say, for argument’s sake, all — secure them only on the basis of this very line. Solely on the basis of this line — under no circumstances should you muddle up this point. But instead if you raise this bogey ‘do anything and everything to defeat the enemy’, then you, too, on the pretext of fighting the enemy and by donning revolutionary mask, would be trying to retain the very same method and tactics used by the bourgeoisie to fight election. Of course, you would do all these in the name of revolution. Is this the way to become a revolutionary? Does this advance the revolutionary task? No, in this way no one can become a revolutionary, nor does this advance the revolutionary task. Does this help expose the bourgeois parliamentary politics, as we say, through election? Is it one and the same to speak about something and to put it into practice? Some people merely talk, and others actually practise what they profess. So, the essential task is to politically educate the people to distinguish between those who merely talk and those

who actually practise it.”

“Although outwardly there appear to be many opposing forces in politics, and the press projects so many contending forces, but viewing the situation from the context of ultimate struggle, I hold, only two contending forces are there in politics — one for revolution, the other opposing revolution — in whatever nomenclature might it be posed. One is the politics of countering revolution, whether by the Congress through its politics, whether by all the many juggleries of so-called leftism, or by proclaimed commitment to democratic socialism, or by raising various right reactionary slogans, and through politics of catchy stunts. And the other is the politics of organizing revolution.”

“All the parties, even those with leftist labels, are in a conspiracy to isolate the SUCI. They think that while the Congress and the CPI, on the one hand, are mounting oppression from their seat of power in this state, all of them will try, on the other, to jointly push the SUCI into a corner. They want the SUCI to submit to their totally election-oriented evil politics, the politics of stunt, the politics of grabbing ministerial positions and powers, the politics which degrade their political workers into opportunists and cowards. We cannot anyway submit to this combined pressure...”

[Sources: *The present situation and our task*: speech on 24 April 1966: SW, 2009, vol. IV, p.67; *Danger from Left Opportunism in Running a United Front Government*: Speech on 24 April 1970: SW, 2009, vol.IV, p 329-30; *On Preserving Unity and Establishing Revolutionary Leadership in Workers’ Movement*: Speech on 18 March 1974: SW, 2009, vol.IV, p 539-43; *Mass Movement in India and Tasks of the youths*; Speech on 21 June 1975, SW Vol. III p532, 536-37]



Massive demonstration of people of Jamshepur, Chakulia, Dhalbhumgarh, Ghatshila, Potka, Dumariah was held before the Deputy Collector’s office on 17 March at Jamshepur, Jharkhand led by the East Singbhum District Committee of the Party on different burning problems of people.

West Bengal Election

Unfolds mockery of bourgeois vote politics and murky face of vote-based power-monger parliamentary parties

What are the burning problems tearing apart people's life? Every suffering countryman would say unbridled rise in prices of essential commodities including basic food articles, galloping increase in power tariff, mounting unemployment, huge job loss, rapidly falling income in absence of any source of earning, exorbitant cost of education, non-availability of minimal healthcare, acute shortage of potable water, severe lack in civic amenities, periodic hike in transport fare, non-receipt of remunerative prices of agricultural produces by the peasants, rampant corruption at every level of administration, public service and social life, brute domination of hoarders, blackmarketeers and price manipulators in connivance with corrupt administration and ruling party goons, phenomenal rise in crime and violence, spurt in atrocities on women including rape, gang rape and trafficking, growing hunger and malnutrition, increase in starvation deaths, menace of obscenity and vulgarity in films, TV, ads eating into the very vitals of life particularly the youth and so forth. Like the oppressed people round the country, the residents of West Bengal are also reeling under these problems. But is any of these people's issues featuring in the election campaign of the mainstream political parties, whether ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) or CPI (M)-Congress alliance or the BJP? Is any of the established media, both print and electronic, raising any of these issues? Unfortunately not. These mainstream political parties whose whole and sole concern is to anyhow grab vote, win seats and then either ride to power or at least stay afloat in the corridor of power, are in fact wary of referring to any of the pressing problems of people's life because each one of them during its tenure in the government, whether in the states or at the Centre, has only followed policies that exacerbated these problems, let alone ameliorating them.

Track-record of BJP and Congress

Each of these parties has an enviable record on merrily reneging on all their pre-poll promises made for hoodwinking people to secure votes. Just a few months back, when the All India President of BJP

was asked what about the Prime Minister's assurance of unearthing black money within 100 days of assuming power, he replied nonchalant that it was a customary pre-election *jumla* (gimmick). But these shameless media-popped up bourgeois leaders are unfazed at such rank political opportunism and utter betrayal to people in the run-up for election. While addressing electoral meetings, they continue to bank on a slew of *jumlas* as they have nothing else to offer to the oppressed people who are viewed not as human beings but only voters by them. The slogans of *acche din* and *sabke vikas* have proved to be damp squib. Come to Congress, BJP's *bete noir* in electoral politics and main rival in the race for power. Even after murdering democracy throughout their rule at the Centre by way of clamping emergency, suspending basic democratic rights, promulgating one after black acts like MISA, POTA, AFSPA etc., unleashing a reign of terror in West Bengal during the 1970s for recapturing power and brutally crushing democratic mass movement, they are now fighting the ruling TMC in alliance with the CPI (M) raising slogan of saving democracy and combating terror. It is Congress who opened lock at the controversial Babri Masjid premises and made way for worshipping *Ramlala* there seemingly to foment Hindu communal sentiment and secure Hindu vote based on that. The whole country is witness to what price the common people had to pay for that. Now, the same very Congress leaders have become protagonists of secularism in West Bengal election and their friend CPI (M) is wholeheartedly endorsing it.

Fact-sheet of CPI (M)

What about CPI (M)? Renouncing the path of leftism, they, enjoying status of official left courtesy bourgeois media, are now lashing at the ruling TMC for murdering democracy, practising nepotism, indulging in corruption, rigging election and precipitating terror. One can jolly well ask them, what did they do when relishing power for 34 years? Which democracy they demonstrated when letting loose police on the poor Singur peasants agitating against forcible land grab or pounding on hapless inhabitants of Marichjhapi?

What democracy they highlighted when their former Chief Minister Jyoti Basu said after one blooming youth Madhai Halder fell to police bullet while participating in a democratic movement that the "agitation was hitherto vegetarian and hence it has been made non-vegetarian"? What democratic step was the decision to order mass rape of Nandigram women for breaking that just movement against illegal land-grab and handing over the fertile land to domestic and foreign monopoly capitals? What anti-terror mind was reflected by a veteran Central Committee member of CPI (M) when he warned of encircling the agitating Nandigram peasants from all sides and making their life hell? Even to divide the Nandigram agitators on religious line, the CPI(M) leaders had brought the Shahi Imam of Delhi and send him to the spot after briefing at the State Secretariat and their party office? What brand of 'secularism' was that? Was it a 'progressive nepotism' when CPI(M) planted their own men at the helm of all educational institutions and public bodies? Did not the CPI(M) resort to all kinds of malpractices including giving threats, parading armed criminals near the booths as well as in the localities, intimidating the voters, warning the electorates of dire consequence if they did not support their candidates, booth-capturing, forced stamping, distribution of doles and naked use of administrative machinery in their favour to win elections? Finally, CPI (M) leaders have also adopted the *jumla* tactics with *dexterity*. A veteran state secretariat leader of CPI (M) has been contesting from Singur seat. In order to show how 'prosperous' Singur would have been if the proposed Nano factory of Tatas would have been set up on the multi-crop fertile land forcibly grabbed at the point of gun, he chose to inaugurate his election campaign riding on a Nano car. The truth he and his party is suppressing is that for shifting the said Nano factory to Sanand in Gujarat, the then Gujarat government under Narendra Modi gave them a total subsidy of Rs 30, 000 crore from public exchequer including a soft loan of Rs 9750 crore at a token interest of 0.1%. Still the factory proved to be non-viable and production was as low as 4.5% of

installed capacity in 2013. Thereafter, the production is virtually shut down as there is no market for Nano. A few months back, Ratan Tata admitted in Business Standard that conceiving the Nano project was a mistake. Of late, 400 odd Nano workers of Sanand, many of whom are on contract basis, organized a massive demonstration in Ahmedabad in protest against the Tata management's ploy to terminate the workers by initially suspending them on alleged misconduct. Then why this deception with the hapless evicted peasants of Singur who are now unable to make both ends meet? Why is the ferrying of 'industrialization' dream when they know very well such is not possible in crisis-ridden dying capitalism today? Just for the sake of vote? What is then left of political scruple?

Scorecard of TMC

Turn to TMC and the picture would be no different. TMC leadership came to power by promising to usher in a change (*Poribartan*). Where is that promised *Poribartan*? Rather, from experience it is found that the TMC government is a carbon copy of the erstwhile CPI (M) government both in policy and practice. Before 2011 assembly election, TMC promised of a 'green revolution' in industrial sector that would breed one crore jobs. What happened to that? Now, it seems TMC is in competition with CPI (M) in vending false dream of industrialization by periodically organizing lavish industrial summits with business barons and then announcing sumptuous figures of industrial investment in the offing. But, not a single industry has seen light of the day. Rather the existing ones are downing shutters. Tea and Jute, two pivotal industries of West Bengal are now gasping with workers of closed factories dying of starvation and absence of medical assistance. Like CPI (M), Congress or BJP, TMC is also talking of 'self-employment' which is another hoax. Lest the hold on unemployed youths should weaken, TMC chief minister who often laments of being cash-starved because of a huge loan burden she has carried in legacy, has been distributing lakhs and lakhs of rupees to various clubs, existence of many of which are under

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West Bengal Election

Election coverage in media reduced to serving electoral arithmetic, giving description of campaigning by mainstream parties and repeating same hollow speeches and verbal duel of theirs

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question. One of her close confidants openly called upon the beneficiary clubs that since they have been financial assistance, they should ensure TMC's victory in election. Similar distribution of freebies under various ornamental names is going on. To destroy education, CPI (M) had abolished pass-fail system up to class IV. TMC has extended it up to class VIII. In CPI (M) regime, definite party nominees were foisted at the helm of all educational institutions. TMC has not only followed the suit but allowed mafia dons to take full control of academic institutions. A known TMC mafia so foisted was alleged to have thrown a metal flower-vase at a lady professor in a college and injured her because she reportedly refused to bend before his diktats. During CPI (M) government, power tariff was raised from Re 0.70 per unit to Rs 4.27 per unit. Before coming to power, TMC said it would not allow any increase in power tariff. But in last five years, TMC has hiked power tariff twelve times to take per unit cost to Rs 6.59. CPI (M) had introduced a ploy of raising power tariff by introducing a formula of "Monthly Variable Cost Adjustment". TMC did not abolish that. Rather a state government power company SEDCL has filed three suits in Central Tribunal in Delhi for hiking per unit cost to Rs 13.23 with retrospective effect. Arbitrary raising of transport fare at definite intervals under the pretext of rise in fuel cost was a common thing in CPI (M) rule. Yielding to the pressure of private bus owners, TMC hiked fare in both private and public buses. But when the retail fuel tariff dipped following fall in international crude oil price, TMC did not feel it necessary to bring down the fare. During CPI (M) rule, starvation deaths were repeated from many places including Amlashol in Junglemahal area. During TMC rule, more than 133 peasants have committed suicide. During CPI (M) rule, there was marked deterioration in healthcare in terms of number of hospitals as well as doctors and health staff. A classic case of criminal mismanagement and neglect came to light when ants ate away substantial portion of a diabetic patient in a Kolkata-based government hospital. On the contrary, medical expenses went up and private hospitals had a mushrooming growth. Privatization

process was in full swing even in government hospitals through PPP route. In TMC regime it is in total shambles and government health service has been virtually transformed into an appendage to ruling party. Anti-socials, middlemen and touts are thumping around in hospital premises harassing and fleecing patient parties with administration a mute spectator. A doctor TMC leader who wields a lot of clout in the state health circle ordered dialysis of a pet dog in the largest government hospital in Kolkata. Free treatment once available in government hospitals is now totally absent. It is in TMC rule that the mega scale Ponzi firm scandals like Sarada and Rose Valley involving thousands of crores of people's hard earned money have surfaced with alleged involvement of and indulgence by ruling party leaders. One TMC MP and one TMC minister are still in jail while few others are out on bail and summons issued to few more. West Bengal tops the list in women trafficking and ranks second in rape. Harrowing incidents of rape and mass rape occurred in TMC rule and in many cases the TMC chief minister dismissed them as small incidents or handiwork of opposition parties. Following the footsteps of CPI (M), the TMC government also in the name of augmenting revenue collection is issuing bar license aplenty without caring for its social impact and consequence. Blue film video parlours have proliferated even in remote villages whereas TMC-sheltered anti-socials were caught red-handed while running sleaze racket in dance bars. TMC student wing leaders and local heavyweights were found organizing and enjoying vulgar stage shows not only on the important spots of Kolkata and district towns but even inside Calcutta University. Killings, extortion and terror have exceeded the scale prevalent in CPI (M) rule. All known notorious criminals who till the other day were in CPI (M) fold have switched over to TMC and are openly thumping around, indulging in all kinds of criminal activities. In 2014 parliamentary election and lately in Salt Lake municipality election, TMC had surpassed CPI(M) in rigging election with administration in tow. Weapon-wielding criminals scared genuine voters away, forced entry into the booths and openly stamped in favour of ruling candidate nominees. In

TMC rule, syndicates (a cartel of mafia-dominated suppliers of building raw material) are thumping around, forcing realty promoters and even individuals building their own houses to procure sub-standard raw material from them at 2 to 3 times higher prices. In the recent tragic incident of collapse of a flyover under construction in North Kolkata, there is allegation of procuring sub-standard raw material from a company owned by a close relative of local TMC leader without tender under political pressure. While for playing to the gallery, TMC supremo said a couple of months back that her party would have no truck with anyone connected with infamous syndicate business. But on the eve of elections, mayor of Salt Lake (modern satellite town of Kolkata) municipality and a heavyweight TMC leader known for running several syndicates openly said that syndicates are part of life and party cannot afford to leave syndicates. Finally a word about Singur—Nandigram. Instead of permitting the evicted Singur peasants to make forced entry into the Tata occupied land and regain their lost property, TMC supremo filed a case against the Tatas which is now pending in the Supreme Court. Now the TMC supremo who rode to power capitalizing on Singur-Nandigram movements is washing off her hand by saying that she has nothing to do if the case takes 50 years for disposal. Similarly, all police officers guilty of planning Nandigram operation and ordered opening fire on Nandigram peasants, have now been rewarded by the TMC government through promotion to higher ranks. These are just but a few instances of how TMC has brought *Poribartan* from previous anti-people CPI (M) government. Yet the TMC chief is claiming that she has done more than what she committed before coming to power.

No one dares to bring people's issues to the fore

So, none of these vote-based ruling parties is daring to bring any people's issue to the fore. Instead they are busy at mud-slinging at each other, trading and counter-trading charges, calling others by name, branding each other as corrupt and thieves, basking in self-glory and self-eulogy and as usual showering customary false promises. The whole episode reminds one of the proverbial

saying that 'the pot calls the kettle black' and 'those staying in glasshouses are pelting stones at others'. The exponents of bourgeois parliamentary democracy envisaged that people's sovereignty would be exercised during the polls through lively meaningful debates among the contending political parties supposed to be democratic bodies voicing people's opinion and the electorates would carefully listen to all of them, judge and compare their viewpoints and then exercise their franchisee based on political consciousness freely and fairly. But where is that debate or discourse? The scenario is marked by 'either arm-in-arm or at each other's throat' devoid of any logic, reason, soberness, polite conduct or civil behaviour. There is no intention to make people politically conscious, no accountability to the people whatsoever. Rather there is all out effort to see that people do never get chance to think and decide but only cast their votes in blind allegiance or blindfolded. What a low bourgeois vote politics has stooped to and how parliamentary politics is turned into a political career of pelf and power!

The role of the bourgeois media, at least the large and influential section of it, is equally despicable. Knowing full well that all these mainstream bourgeois and pseudo-Marxist parties are delivering trashes in the name of election speeches and having as main plank only deplorable practice of taking pot shot at each other, making personal attacks and resorting to character assassination, the media is discharging its sacred duty by giving wide coverage to them only. As if, there is no other go for the common man but to restrict their choice among these unprincipled, opportunistic power-mongers only. Turn over the leaves of any mainstream daily, listen to any TV news and one will find only putting old wine in new bottle. Election coverage has been reduced to serving with a slew of electoral arithmetic, giving description how the candidates of mainstream parties are moving around the roads either on foot or in vehicles, offering prayers in temples, waving at the electorates, sipping cocoanut water or deriving comfort from delivering same hollow lifeless drab speeches and verbal duels. There is not even slightest of inclination towards

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West Bengal Election

Combined power of media-muscle-money-administration has turned election into a mockery

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referring to people's issues. Moreover, some of the rich media houses have gone a step ahead to craftily manipulate public opinion before election by publishing constituency-wise pre-poll surveys claimed to have been undertaken by market research organizations. There is no way to verify the veracity of such surveys nor could one ascertain if such surveys have any objective basis or totally fictitious. . . And the omnipotent Election Commission whom one has seen to be a perfect fit to the proverb 'much cry and little wool' is a mute spectator to all these manipulative exercises. By this, the media houses, notwithstanding a good number of journalists and columnists being honest and visibly enraged with the state of affairs, are also contributing in bringing down the standard of people and politics, making mockery of parliamentary democracy and turn the whole show into a farce.

Blackout for revolutionary force upholding people's cause

But there is sparkle in this pervading darkness, a definite and glowing ray of hope in pursuance of genuine leftism and revolutionism. But what is equally regrettable that while projecting this power-centric opportunist deceptive vote politics as the only reality, there is a complete blackout for the genuine revolutionary force which stands as antidote to this. Spurred on by two illumining teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great Marxist leader and thinker that "politics calls for nobler feelings of heart" and "the essence, the living soul, the kernel of any great and revolutionary ideology of every age is ingrained in its higher cultural and ethical standard", the SUCI(C) has been steadfastly trying to pull the alternate trend in Indian politics, organizing class and mass struggles based on higher proletarian culture and ethics and relentlessly trying to uplift the standard of political consciousness of the masses braving all odds, overcoming

all hurdles, weathering all storms. It is because of this that SUCI (C) has been able to carve out a space of honour, love and affection in the hearts of the toiling people, not only of West Bengal but almost in all states of India. Without any media backing, without any MLAs or MPs, its organization is spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. In course of developing anti-capitalist revolutionary movement holding aloft the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism and militant leftism, it is also under compulsion of the time, participating in election with its clear distinct revolutionary mass line. How SUCI(C) views election could be gathered from an invaluable guidance by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh quoted separately in this very issue of *Proletarian Era*. In this election also, SUCI (C) alone based on its organizational strength and mass support contesting as many as 191 seats, second highest after TMC. While others' campaign is premised on vilification and slander,

stunts and gimmicks, SUCI (C) is raising all people's issues, trying to apprise people how the problems are stemming from the obtaining capitalist system and what is the correct course of emancipation from this gruelling capitalist oppression wreaking havoc in their life. But there is no mention of this distinctively different political line and approach anywhere in the media. In fact, if one seeks to source information about election from mainline media, he or she would never come to know that SUCI(C) is fighting in 191 constituencies upholding honour and banner of genuine leftism. This is the murky face of democracy in India. But like all revolutionaries of all ages, SUCI(C), reared and steered by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, have full faith in people and firmly believes that it is the people, the oppressed millions from the different sections of the society who would definitely rise to the occasion and make the revolutionary line of SUCI(C) victorious.

West Bengal SUCI(C) demands stringent punishment to culprits responsible for Vivekananda flyover disaster in Kolkata

Expressing deep condolence for the people who died (27 unfortunate men and women till 6th April) and numerous others who were injured as a portion of the under-construction Vivekananda flyover in Kolkata fell over them, Comrade Saumen Basu, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI(C) in a statement dated 31 March, 2016, said:

Unidentified number of people are trapped below heavy wreckage today when a portion of the under construction Vivekananda flyover collapsed at peak hours at densely populated busy Posta area in north Kolkata. Delay in rescue operation due to late arrival of suitable cranes and other disaster management equipment caused the number of dead to increase while it is anybody's guess how more of the grievously injured now trapped under the debris would survive. The

state government should have deployed the army forthwith for rescuing the ill-fated victims with due expediency. Similar grave accidents had occurred earlier too. Accidents of such magnitude never happen automatically. Such disasters take place due to shady transactions between the supply syndicates who provide sub-standard material for undertaking the construction and show utter negligence in performance and those who hire them .

We demand immediate rescue of all the incapacitated people, full medical treatment to them, suitable compensation to the family of the dead and the injured, and exemplary punishment to the culprits after conducting an impartial investigation of this agonising accident.

We convey our deepest compassion to the families of the dead and the wounded.

TMC leader's nephew in the construction of the fly over

Bartaman (Bengali daily) 2.4.2016

This time TMC's name is associated with the construction of

the Vivekananda flyover. It has come to be known that an

establishment belonging to a relative of a TMC leader got the subcontract of the flyover construction. As per the police and local sources, the accident occurred as the said establishment supplied inferior material. It is alleged that they got the contract coercing the construction company. Knowing that there would be trouble unless they were awarded the contract, this Hyderabad-based company was compelled to gift it to the close relative of a ruling party leader.

...police investigation brought to light that Rajat Bakshi is the owner of the contractor company named

Sandhya Enterprise. He is the nephew of the TMC leader Sanjay Bakshi. Rajatbabu created this company in his mother's name. This establishment is experienced mainly in real estate. Never had it undertaken the responsibility of constructing a bridge. Even they had no engineer and technical expertise to do such construction job...the deal to cement the remaining portion of the bridge is given to Ratna contractors. According to sources, the owner of the establishment, in reality, is the nephew of the TMC leader. Another relative of a TMC leader also is associated with it.

Blacklisted company favoured to construct the flyover

Ananda Bazar Patrika (Bengali daily) 1.4.2016

...the company got the responsibility to construct the flyover in 2007-08 during the Left Front rule. Under JNURM project during UPA rule the Left Front government handed over the responsibility of constructing the flyover to IVRCL company (in 2009) .

... In 2011 it was blacklisted with the charge of using inferior quality material in the construction of UP Water Nigam. Two years back the AP government recommended

the Hyderabad Municipality to blacklist the company for violating labour laws. There is more. For sub-standard work and due to delay in completion of the project, Rail Vikash Nigam Limited removed IVRCL from three projects in 2013. ...a section of KMDA (officers) opines that the company is accustomed only to work on oil pipe line and water pipe line. They have not much experience to undertake construction of flyover when they bagged this project.

Movement on education across the country

Educational Seminar in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh –Telangana and Delhi

Karnataka State Committee of the All India Save education Committee organized an "Educational Seminar" on the topic *Save Universities, Save Democracy* on 19 March, 2016 at Gandhi Bhavan, Sadashivnagar, Bangalore.

Based on the realization that severe crisis that education of the country in general, and the University education in particular, faces today, the KSC of the AISEC felt it urgent to discuss and find out the challenges and the way out. It also felt that educationists, professionals, teachers, parents and students need be apprised of the situation and organized for thwarting the crisis. The seminar was an outcome of these realization and feelings.

The day-long state-level seminar was addressed by Prof. JS Patil (Former VC, Karnataka State Law University), Smt. Shashi Deshpande (Wellknown litterateur), Mr. Allamaprabhu Bettaduru (Writer, President, AISEC, Karnataka), Mr. MA Siraj (Senior Journalist; Guest faculty, CSSE & IP, National Law School of India University, Bangalore), Prof. Sharath Ananthmurthy (Professor of Physics, Bangalore University) and Smt. K Uma (Secretary, AISEC, Karnataka). Dr. Prithvidatta Chandrashobhi (Professor of History, KSOU, Mysore and columnist and former-student of JNU) and Prof. DN Jha (Renowned historian) sent messages wishing the seminar success.

Under the auspices of AIFEA (All India Federation of Educational Associations) an educational seminar on 'Condition of education in the present system and way out' held in Delhi on 16 March Prof Narendra Sharma, President Delhi Chapter All India Save Education Committee emphatically demanded of the government to withdraw the disastrous No Detention policy and ensure scientific, secular and democratic education. He urged professors, teachers, students and parents to build up formidable movement. Kartick Saha, Secretary BPTA and Secretariat member of AIFEA reiterated the issues on elaborate facts and figures.

Andhra Pradesh-Telangana Chapter of AISEC organized an educational seminar on "Budget allocation for education in Telangana state and destruction of education, implication for social development", at Arts College, Osmania University Hyderabad on 30 March 2016

MPAIDSO protest government move to close down 1 lakh 8 thousand schools

On 7 April last, Madhya Pradesh State Committee of All India DSO organised a dharna as a state level protest demonstration against the MP government's decision and move to close down 90% (1 lakh 8 thousand) of government schools of the state. The massive demonstration was attended by hundreds of student from different districts (Bhopal, Gwalior, Guna, Asok Nagar, Sagar etc.). A memorandum with signature in hundreds of thousands from common people, youth and students was also submitted to the state Chief minister. The dharna was addressed by student leaders who pointed out that this move was a recent example of anti-people pro-corporate policies of the BJP-led state government. Unequivocally they called for stepping up a powerful movement to thwart the move.

Rejoinder to 'The Hindu' newspaper for publishing wrong news about SUCI(C) candidates

To
The Editor
The Hindu

Dated 13 April 2016

Dear Sir,

We are astonished to see that average asset of 32 SUCI(Communist) candidates contesting in the 2nd phase of West Bengal Assembly poll has been shown as Rs 8.31 crore in your different editions dated 13.04.2016, Wednesday, page 13. This is absolutely wrong and does not tally with the assets of SUCI (Communist) candidates deposited with the Election Commission of India. This stands near Rs. 6,46,000 (immovable) and Rs. 1,12,000 (movable) at an average.

We wonder how such an esteemed daily of yours of national stature could publish such wrong and unconfirmed report. We herewith attach the deposition of movable and immovable assets of 32 SUCI (Communist) candidates (who are mainly whole-timer of the party) from the Commission's website for your appraisal.

We would expect that you should rectify your error and publish it with due importance for all concerned.

Yours Sincerely
Swapan Ghosh
Member, Secretariat,
West Bengal State Committee
SUCI(Communist)

Encl: Attachment of movable and immovable assets of 32 SUCI (Communist) candidates.

SI. No	Name of the Constituency	Name of the Candidates	Moveable properties (In Rs.)	Immoveable properties (In Rs.)	
1.	10	Kumargram	Ram Oraon	6,000	4,00,000
2.	11	Kalchini	Rajesh Lohar	11,000	Nil
3.	12	Alipurduars	Alokesh Das	52,000	53,000
4.	13	Falakata	Tarani Roy	1,10,685	3,85,685
5.	14	Madarihat	Sudhist Baraik	1,44,741	Nil
6.	15	Dhupguri	Niranjan Roy	11,000	18,00,000
7.	17	Jalpaiguri	Haribhakta Sarder	15,000	12,50,000
8.	18	Rajganj	Arun Barman	40,664	50,00,000
9.	19	Dabgram-Fulbari	Abu Kasem	2,300	13,00,000
10.	20	Mai	Jotish Minz	7,200	Nil
11.	25	Matigara-Naxalbari	Khitish Roy	17,000	14,00,000
12.	26	Siliguri	Tanmoy Dutta	54,010	Nil
13.	29	Islampur	Dayal Chandra Singh	5,277	Nil
14.	30	Goalpokhar	Dulal Rajbanshi	66,546	10,55,000
15.	32	Karandighi	Santilal Singha	7,000	6,40,000
16.	33	Hemtabad	Jotirmoy Barman	15,77,137	2,00,000
17.	35	Raiganj	Sanatan Dutta	1,37,000	1,40,000
18.	38	Kumarganj	Ranjit Deb	1,060	Nil
19.	39	Balurghat	Birendranadi Mahanti	4,35,000	4,00,000
20.	40	Tapan	Kalicharan Ekka	2,400	2,70,000
21.	44	Gazole	Subhas Sarkar	71,387	Nil
22.	45	Chanchal	KaHcharan Roy	2,06,932	15,00,000
23.	46	Harishchandrapur	Mosaraf Hosen	9,410	Nil
24.	43	Habibpur	Sibananda Soren	5,500	1,55,000
25.	285	Suri	Swadhin Dalui	50	Nil
26.	286	Bolpur	Samarjit Barman	8,500	2,00,000
27.	289	Sainthia	Naba Das	2,750	1,50,000
28.	290	Mayureswar	Uttam Kundu	250	5,50,000
29.	291	Rampurhat	Md. Mustakin	3,80,600	13,00,000
30.	292	Hansan	Amal Mondal	1,22,000	5,00,000
31.	293	Nalhati	Abdus Salam	1,500	2,00,000
32.	294	Murarai	Mangal Hembram	62,100	18,00,000
Total			35,73,999	2,06,48,685	

Average: Rs. 1,11,687 Average: Rs. 6,45,271

Heinous fascistic move of asking undertakings from Urdu writers

Remorseless as it appears, the union BJP-led government has come out with a fresh offensive move. The National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), defined as an autonomous organisation but operating under the Ministry of Human Resource Development led by Smriti Irani, has been issuing a declaration form to be filled by Urdu authors in first person. The declaration insists that writers, who seek monetary support in the form of approval for bulk purchase by NCPUL's monetary assistance scheme, should make it clear unequivocally that the book in question "does not contain anything against the policies of the government of India or the interest of the nation". That the declaration is not merely verbose or formal may be seen from the warning associated with it. The form warns that in case of a breach, the NCPUL can take legal action against the author and take back the monetary assistance. Besides, the form also asks authors to provide signatures of two witnesses in each case, which can only be called a blatant affront upon authors' self-dignity and integrity.

This is clearly a threat, a coercion towards strangling dissent, which naturally has drawn strong criticisms from different quarters of literary circles and organizations. NCPUL director, one of the recent political appointees that the Council is studded with, uses the worn-out rotten argument that 'If a writer wants financial aid from the government, then of course the content cannot be against (the government).' In a typical bureaucratic mode he adds

that the NCPUL being a government organisation, and its personnel being government employees, they will 'naturally protect the interests of the government'.

But he leaves open a bunch of questions. Is it a democratic country that we are living in? Will the government identify itself as a democratic or a fascist dictatorial one? Is it not ingrained in a democracy that people, irrespective of their religion, language, ethnicity etc., have equal rights? Do not those democratic rights include freedom of expression too? In any democratic set-up, authors enjoy the right to freely look at the reality, including its pros and cons, to chose content, and to question and criticise freely any policy or measure that may appear detrimental to people's life and cause. So freedom of expression entails freedom of criticism too. No government can put its hand on this right, under any pretext, more so on the pretext of offering financial assistance. Of course that is true, only if the government calls itself democratic. On the contrary, such intervention can only come from governments which are undemocratic, tending to be fascistic.

Then again, anti-national is that which is detrimental for the country, its people. And if any government policy is detrimental for people, it is the government or its policy that is anti-national and not its criticism. As demanded in the said form the author must vouch for whether his or her work may disturb harmony and goodwill among various sections of the society. This is plainly a

matter of the publisher to judge. Besides it is subject to legal provisions. But that does never necessitate a blanket declaration by all authors that the content does not disturb harmony and goodwill. The government or its bureaucrats are no judge to get into it. NCPUL bureaucrats working as 'government's shenanigans' may boast of being bound by their service rules and servitude. But the society at large including authors do not have any such binding to yield to their arm-twisting.

But there are still more vital questions involved. Till now, it is the Urdu writers who are being served with this declaration form. Now what does NCPUL work for? Of course, promotion of Urdu language and literature. Why it has been required from the Council to work for this promotion? Because it is felt that the 'Urdu literature is suffering and writers need the money'. Does that make the government treat Urdu writers as its soft target for arm-twisting? But there is another serious problem. With this move the union government and its HRD ministry tend to associate the language to a particular community. This is further "dangerous". Does the government move then imply that the Urdu writers only belong to that community and so they are susceptible to perpetrate anti-national activities? If so, it is not only an affront to those writers or that community, it is never admissible in any country that tends to boast of being one of the largest democracies of the world. Or, is it that the move has concealed within

it the feelings and concept of that twisted brand of nationalism, which the RSS- BJP advocates. It is well known that the RSS called the national freedom struggle reactionary and the BJP is nothing but its political face working within the ideological limits set by the RSS. People of the country, on the contrary, know it well, that notwithstanding all its shortcomings, the national freedom struggle of India tended to unite people for independence of their country from the foreign British imperialist rulers cutting across their divisions and rising above whether they were the Hindus or the Muslims or such others? Only the sectarian fundamentalists of those days could call that nationalism reactionary and only the fundamentalists of today will harbour such nationalism.

By all counts then the move towards asking the Urdu writers to fill up the said declaration form is undemocratic, rather smacking of fascist trend that carefully conceals a hidden agenda of training the gun on a particular community. It identifies with deplorable Hitlerite tactics of witch-hunting and ethnic cleansing. In the name of creating or preserving harmony and goodwill among people, it surreptitiously aims at disturbing those. In the name of protecting national interest it really aims at unsettling national amity and fraternity. Our Party urges people of the country to realize the danger it contains and build up strong countrywide resistance against it. [Sources: *The Hindu* 03April 2016; *India Today* 22 March 2016 ; *Indian Express* 19 March 2016]

Today, where are capitalism-imperialism leading humanity to?

Hydra was never going to loose any of its so many tentacles with innumerable suckers; it would grow the one as soon as it had been cut or broken. Capitalism, the deadly enemy of mankind replicates the model. It has so many tentacles with so many suckers. You cut one, soon there will be another in its place. But it surpasses the mythological menace in one sense. As it grows more and more moribund, it is being found to have more and more tentacles to carry on its blood-sucking venture. The victims, mankind, the poor toiling, exploited masses, seem to be standing awe-struck, mesmerized unable to find out what to do.

Here are some recent instances of the means capitalism finds to continue its exploitation and oppression. They are cruelly innovative, pervasive across the countries, devastatingly demoralizing.

People's Republic of China created by the great leader of the Proletariat, Comrade Mao Zedong was marching well on its way towards socialist construction of the society there. But since the seventies of the last century, its capitalist-roader leadership once again pulled it back into the dreaded dungeon of capitalism. The results are manifest in different ways, in the fast widening discrimination and differences in the society.

Recently there was a story posted on a web forum. It featured a 'sheltered, well-heeled, peacock girl' from Shanghai, representing metropolitan China, summarily severing her relationship with her beau. She was dejected after her visit to his home in a poor village in the hinterland province of Jiangxi. The story was later found to be false, but before that it went viral with so many real-life testimonials of such estranged relationships in

response. This incident attests to a crumbling society in which social differences between the members of couples, based on their rural – urban backgrounds are playing the key factor. It was not just the abject poverty and accompanying life-styles of the present rural populace in China contrasting with aspiring affluent urban middle class, more so their younger generation and their life-styles. The vast differences are manifest in culture and ideological questions. These are eroding the ethical-moral base of the society that the PRC under Mao had laid as the foundation through long marches of struggle. (Source: *The Statesman*, Kolkata Edn., 14 March 2016)

The reaction to the story on the web, however, shows that *the Chinese may be gradually realizing what capitalism has snatched away from them!*

The second instance concerns the ISIS, now considered a dreaded

outfit. Even the big imperialist powers spew venom against it, after the world has witnessed the cruelty of the outfit. But it was the same powers along with their accomplices and allies, who had worked in overt or covert ways to create and nurture this outfit with military training, arms and other supplies only to fulfill their own nefarious designs, for instance to bring about a regime change in Syria. And now what are these ISIS outfit doing? Here is what the New York Times has to report on 12 March:

Now and then the United Nations and human rights groups have accused the IS of systematic abduction and rape of thousands of women under captivity. It was also known that the IS had pounced particularly upon Yazidi men and women with a vengeance. Allegedly, until last year, some 5,000 Yazidi men and women were taken captive

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Parliamentary elections, Trump and Modi

Election is held as a sacrosanct appendage of bourgeois parliamentary democracy. It claims to award people with the right to choose their government. What ultimately happens in reality, how far people are able to exercise their right to vote freely to their choice and how far the government formed in course of this process matches with people's aspirations are quite different questions that remain largely unanswered. Rather, what the elections present in the name of democracy is the decadence of the moribund capitalist-imperialist system of today.

The USA and India, two typical representatives of the capitalist-imperialist world are also branded as two of the largest democracies in this world today. Their respective parliamentary elections, thus, have great significance in the international politics. And that is not just in the kind of bourgeois governments the elections produce, but in the entire run-up of the process: in the modes, means, methods, money involved, issues that are worked upon, impact the process generates and so on. Each of the two countries has its singularity. Yet there is a general standardized pattern that emerges on scrutiny.

Some recent studies on the ongoing primary campaigns for the US presidential election reveal that the electioneering process in the USA takes place in an ambience characterized by unbridled overflow of cash and vouchers, that is all-powerful money. It is of a kind in which political campaigning has fast lost authenticity and relevance. Brushing aside real experiences of burning problems in their life and their genuine solutions, people are left with a web of fabrication which artfully dodges serious social and economic issues and problems. Instead it caters false promises to people for some make-believe golden days on the strength of unverified, yet grandiose rhetoric.

The campaign really comes out as a two-act drama which poses for people's welfare and what-not. First, pulse of voters are located from opinion polls, sample surveys or face-to-face interviews of commoners. It identifies what ails people, for instance, low income, wage stagnation, fear of immigrants, unavailability of jobs, outsourcing of jobs to other countries for cheap labour etc. So far so good. These are real problems, all burning issues. But at the next step these are processed into campaign materials by digital technicians used by the candidates. They concoct the stories, images and pledges from a

back room, the cyber-laboratories and make them digitally compatible, to be used in the computerized digital environment and methods as talking points in the campaign. And the whole campaign is monitored by the relentlessly operating media which enjoy unbridled sponsorship, patronage and strict manipulation by the real band master, the monopolists and their corporations.

The campaign taps on the anxieties and grievances of people, pesters them to crave for a solution through electoral processes, and in the process creates an artificial strongman persona who will solve their problems. The crux, the goal is how skillfully the pitch of this campaign may be reached to ensure the result predetermined by the monopolists and their corporations. After the election, the strongman persona for people turns out to be the right choice for those who have sponsored and fostered him (or her). Along with a band of lieutenants, his (or her) only aim becomes how best to serve the masters, the monopolists and their corporations. People are left stranded to find all pledges brushed aside clean, all dreams shattered, all silver lines eclipsed by darker days.

On this background Donald J Trump has come up as a candidate vying for the nomination of his Republican Party for the office of the President of the USA. He had already run briefly for the same purpose in 2000, on the independent Reform Party, organized by a rich businessman, Ross Perot. Later he earned popularity with his 'combative behaviour on reality shows on small screen'. This time, he scrambles to fit well as a typical American ideal of success. He chairs the Trump organization, which mostly invests in property. He owns Trump entertainment. His fabulous wealth with assets between \$ 4 billion and \$ 10 billion obviously qualifies and equips him for venturing for the office of the President of the USA.

To successfully vend his candidature he seems to have identified people's anxieties. The US economy is bogged in unprecedented stagnation and crisis. Americans are now plagued with the dreadful thoughts of 'steep earnings inequality and limited income mobility'. Approximately 13 % of the nation's GDP is concentrated with the top 1 % of population. The financial oligarchy of the monopolists and the size and the influence of their major corporations have become vulgarly mammoth. And for the common Americans industrial jobs offering decent pay, plentiful

earlier, have dwindled. Even the handful of opportunities seem to be eluding them, as they find jobs are being shipped overseas under the package of business processes outsourcing, simply because wage is low there. So, common people of the USA not only want the government to redistribute wealth by taxing the rich corporations, but an end to outsourcing of jobs.

Out in the world, the USA now figures as an out and out hated, dreadfully muscle-flexing enemy in a large portion of the globe. And the more the USA attempts at reviving its image with the help of its military might, the deeper it is bogged into the quagmire of failure. None of the problems it laid hands upon, has been solved in its favour, be it in Afghanistan or in Iraq or in Syria or elsewhere.

Outwardly flamboyant, liberal in self-satiating vulgarity, thriving on / ultra-freedom, recklessly violent and psychologically aberrant — this trend of 'culture', coupled with that of rising racism and religious fanaticism, widely fostered at that, has caught American society in a whirlpool that torments the American common folk. On one side despite all tall talks, shooting spree in schools and public places continue; even in premier educational institutions some incidents of forced group sex and other perversions thrust upon students under the nose of the authorities have been reported. On the other side, a section of people are drawn deeper into conservative approach to life, including rabid racial outlook, denial of equality of men and women, even religious fanaticism. The Republican Party, also called Grand Old Party (GOP), has become a conservative movement with pro-business, that is pro-capitalist policies, religious conservatism and national jingoist policies for the outer world. A majority of the party members are said to be white males who dislike and denounce the civil rights of women and minorities. The party and its government are handsomely funded by wealthy donors and corporate interest groups.

Right from the start of his campaign, Trump tried to strike the shrillest cords. He coined the slogan 'Make America Great Again'. Speaking pungently against the Islamic State, he stepped ahead to brand the Muslims as terrorists and pronounce that Muslim immigrants must be prevented from entering the country. He promised to shut down mosques, keep a database of Muslims, and round up the children of "illegal" immigrants. To win over

the heart of the rank and file he harped on the hypocrisy of the wealthy and so-called big bosses of the party and the establishment. He played upon the question of outsourcing. While the US rulers pose for nuclear non-proliferation at least on black and white, Trump bluntly suggested that US allies like Japan, Saudi Arabia and South Korea should get their own nuclear weapons and save Washington the burden of protecting them. Thus, without any real rational analysis and political ideological understanding, Trump's entire package of campaign material rests upon fomenting a frenzy in the American people, who are increasingly frustrated, restive, yet helpless under the yoke of economic and social inequalities, barrage of filthy imperialist culture, total cultural-ethical degeneration, and incessant propagation of obscurantist thoughts, to lead them to conservatism and fanaticism.

However, Trump's blunt aggressive mode is reaching such a point that even inside his party, there is question being raised as to how far a presidential material he is. For instance his comments on women (calling them 'bimbos' and 'fat pigs') has drawn such criticism that he himself had to bring out his wife, a well-groomed model to set things right. Time will show, whether the American people, monitored and duped by the monopolists accept Trump or not and if they accept, what future he brings to their country and to the world. But certainly, the phenomenon of Trump is no erratic one. It is typically capitalist in its days of acute crisis.

If in the USA DJ Trump tries to emerge as an American idol of success, in India Narendra Modi has put up the Indian image of success. From a tea-vendor on streets, he chose to identify himself with the RSS- BJP and their *Hindutwadi* doctrine, became first the chief minister of the state of Gujarat for a few terms and then succeeded to mounted the office of the prime minister of the country as a whole. The story of his emergence offers a comparable case study. All the features described with respect to the USA were repeated. Money was aplenty. Real political-social issues, identified or not, were sidetracked. Digitally-fabricated media-managed campaign material projected 'strongman persona' capable to bring about development and golden days ahead. Post-election events proved how all these had stood in favour of the masters, the monopolists, with people

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Parliamentary elections, Trump and Modi

Contd. from page 8
 remaining on the receiving end.

Like all other states of India, Gujarat too was and is, affected by unemployment, price rise, abject poverty of particularly the marginalized sections of the society, miserable human development index in respect of women and children and such others. But Modi did not ride the election hurdle on any commitment to solve any or all of these issues. He liberally dished out benefits to the rich and the affluent middle class, and consigned the poor to further misery and penury. Obviously these produced resentments which needed to be controlled. So he had rode on the wave of communal frenzy whipped up in a ghastly pogrom against the minority community. It shattered unity and amity of communities to set a stumbling block before people's united movement against the capitalist system. The masters, the monopolists, finding a choice of theirs, showered their blessings on the new leader. Modi's elections were thus characterized by free flow of money and naked partisanship of the administration. The 'octopus-like' grip of Modi and his administration on media lead even the Press Council of India to conclude that it gave way to large-scale practice of 'paid news' in Gujarat elections putting a 'blot' on the press as well as democratic process, monitoring and doctoring news on what was going on inside the state. Even the loud slogan of development was packaged with fraudulent data. Gujarat had been among the three fastest-growing states in India for long, even more than 21 years before Modi claiming credit for that. Then again out of the claim of Rs.1,06,161 crore investment proposed in a single year (2005), investment of only Rs.74,019 crore (69 per cent) was made; the information available under RTI showed only Rs.24,998 crore (23.5 per cent) projects under implementation.

Based on such fraudulent, tight-controlled and monitored data, Modi posed himself, aided and abetted by his supporters, as a surgically efficient, 'development personality' to allure people, particularly its younger generation. This was further evident when Modi came out to stand on the launching pad for the office of the prime minister of the country. The leading monopoly houses of the land and abroad showered eulogies upon Modi and his leadership even to the extent of calling him "perhaps India's best example of effective governance and impressive development".

On the national stage, Modi and his team had studied people's anxiety and grievances accumulated against the long misrule of the Congress-led two UPA governments. The big leftist parties had also earned the wrath of people as a faithful partner of the UPA, as well as from the similar pro-capitalist rule they themselves had run in some states like West Bengal and Kerala. So people were dejected, despite capitalist exploitation wreaking havoc in their life. Unemployment, price rise, rampant corruption, shameless pro-corporate policies that were robbing people of their last vestiges of livelihood, the land, abject degeneration all these brought out the putrid state of the obsolete system. Yet the country was producing a swelling band of richest persons of the world. Indian imperialism was dreaming to emerge as a formidable economic-cum-military superpower in the neighbouring region, even beyond that in the world arena. Reading the situation to their advantage, Modi and his team with liberal blessings of their master, the monopolists, had the 'fabricated package' of bringing 'achche din' for people of the country made ready from the digital backroom of his propaganda machinery, including event managers and thrown up in the air by the neatly manoeuvred media. D J Trump coined 'Make America Great Again', Modi invented "Make in India" for Indian entrepreneurs, 'skill development' for the younger generation to make them ready for the global market. Fund was, as usual overflowing; media vigorously operative in his favour. Yet with all these well-rehearsed and well fuelled machinations, the apparent Modi wave is already fast fading out. Despite all fabrications and tall talks Modi and his party BJP have produced an arrogantly pro-corporate government robbing people of whatever vestiges they still possess. And to mesmerize and mislead them, the people, Modi, his government and his party aided and abetted by their mentor the RSS, a rabid Hindu fundamentalist outfit are carrying out cunning and careful implementation of their Hindutwavadi agenda, while upholding a false image of ancient Indian glory and in the name of bringing about a value-based society, they are out to destroy the last vestiges of secular democratic fabric of the society. For that, now they perpetrate ghastly communal riots before some state elections, or then charge ahead with some cooked up issue, nationalism, terrorism or else.

The octopus of capitalism not just sucks out people's blood, with its numerous tentacles it controls the media. The much-hyped, sacrosanct elections are simple means to carry on this devastating system under the cloak of parliamentary democracy, that is, with monitored approval of people. The two instances narrated above, though brief and partial, bring out how and on what methods, with what purpose the elections are

carried out, what they produce. The democracy is the cloak; the aim is to establish a total economic-political concentration of power over a population duped, shattered, disunited and thus emasculated to stand firmly against the system. This is what is to be found in fascism. The elections in the present day capitalism is a means to prepare ground for that, along with thousand and one other means.



AIDSO protest at Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand on demand of roll back of CBCS and Semester system, of publishing answersheet of all students, of recruiting teachers in vacant posts etc.



Observance of Martyrs Day
 Clockwise from top left:
 Saini Majra (Punjab) ;
 Begusarai (Bihar);
 Jaunpur (UP)



Martyrs Day observed in Pilani, Rajasthan



Discussion on "Distorted views on nationalism-patriotism, deepening problems of people and our tasks" at Patna, Bihar at the IMA Hall on 11 March. Comrade Arun Singh, Member Bihar State secretariat of the Party inaugurating the discussion; the main speaker Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI (C), Bihar State Secretary Comrade Shivshankar and Patna District Secretary Comrade Sadhna Mishra seated on the dais.

Today, where are capitalism-imperialism leading humanity to?

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by the IS. Of them, about 2000 later managed to escape or were somehow smuggled out. Interviews with some of those Yazidi women, particularly with some of those who had escaped, revealed a horrific picture of their condition in IS camps in Kurdistan under the Islamic State's self-proclaimed caliphate. It was already known that the IS even went to the extent of handing Yazidi women captives over to their activists as rewards or selling them off. Now, a still more grim picture has surfaced. In sheer disregard to human rights and dignity, the IS have subjected women and even girls as young as 12, to extreme form of exploitation by using them as sex-slaves. Leave aside concealing their offence, the IS boasted of their practice of turning their women captives into sex slaves. They have even established a department of "war spoils" to manage slavery! Over and above that, in order to ensure that the women do not conceive so that they can thereby keep up the supply of sex-slaves to the IS activists, the IS are now using both oral and injectable contraception and sometimes both on them. (Source: The Statesman, Kolkata Edn., 14 March 2016)

If the IS were to be regarded as the illegal offspring of capitalism, this is how the outfit human values and humanity. *But wherefrom do the IS derive their motive and method?*

A recent UN move may clarify the issue.

This self-appointed guardian of the world which in the contemporary world has been acting more as a rubber-stamp organ of the US imperialism, time and often sends peace-keeping forces to many countries torn with internal armed strife or war between themselves. Many of these troubles, if not all of them, are plain and simple outcome of imperialist designs. And once the latter could ignite the fire of violence and war, they send peace-keeping forces to quench it. And these peace-keepers are really a motley band of mercenaries of different capitalist-imperialist countries.

Now the UN Security Council has adopted a resolution that calls for repatriation of the entire peace-keeping units whose soldiers face allegations of sexual abuse while serving under the UN flag. It has become necessary since a UN report shows a rising number of such allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation by the peacekeeping forces in recent years. In 10 such

peace-keeping missions there has been a nearly 33% increase in one single year (from 52 in 2014 to 69 in 2015). (Source: Times of India, Kolkata, 13 March 2016)

What a paradox! The imperialists prepare the grounds for trouble. When it brews to a height they send peace-keepers! Along with peacekeeping their soldiers make merry on the victims. The UNSC suggests strong action! But the world is faced with the naked truth! The peacekeepers turn into tormentors. And when these self-appointed guardians of international peace themselves perpetrate violations of all norms of decency and humanity, the IS is provided with the cue, and move further ahead to clamp slavery and sex slavery upon the victims. *How would the advocates of capitalism frame their defence argument?*

Now let us move to another instance relating a capitalist – imperialist country which was once described as *the land of rising sun*. If the phrase connotes some optimism, the referred instance casts a dark gloom of pessimism. The world knows about the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan in the recent past. It raised a worldwide alarm against the use of highly disastrous nuclear power. Facing strong adverse opinion of people, the governments of imperialist powers were compelled to speak of doing away with further expansion of nuclear power projects, if not withdrawing them altogether. Japan was no exception.

But that was to show the world. In reality, ghastly things are happening. Those not just reveal gross violation of human rights, they show not even minimum respect for human lives, humanity and human values. Ashes of six unidentified labourers were found reportedly at a Buddhist temple in Minamisoma, north of the defunct Fukushima nuclear plant. These labourers were among some 26,000 workers – mostly aged between 50 and 60 years of age and comprising marginalized section of the society, possessing no special skills on one hand, or no close family ties on the other. What assignment have they been engaged in? They have been employed to remove the radioactively contaminated top soil (that is the topmost part of the ground), wipe off roofs, clean out gutters and chop down trees in a 'seemingly endless routine'. As a former day-labourer now heading a citizens' group, Mitsuo Nakamura, said, "They are exploited by the

vested interests that have grown in the massive project of decontamination of Fukushima." How and to what extent? The Government practically absolved themselves of any responsibility towards these labourers, as well as the task of cleaning the vast area of radioactivity caused by the Fukushima disaster. Rather, they have opted for assigning this task to some 300 companies, the corporate-contractors and the subcontractors under them, entrusted with contracts of the decontamination project. Obviously those companies and their agents are not performing philanthropic acts. They are set up to reap their harvests. So they raise an army 'decontamination troops', recruiting in it those from among marginalized workers who in the days of acute unemployment have no choice but to risk the hazard of radioactivity even at the cost of their life. They are made to work in a way followed in the case of slaves and akin to bonded labour, on three to six months contracts with little or no benefits. They live in make-shift barracks. Even the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare found that nearly 25% of the companies committed labour-law violations in the first half of 2015. These included

underpayment of wages and overtime and failure to do what should have been mandatory radiation checks.

The government must have posed these hapless workers to the country as national heroes cleaning up the land from the wastes of a national mishap. But the reality is otherwise. Driven to the limits of destitution and depravity and living in dire straits, without any protection for their life and livelihood, every now and then they are driven to desperate attempts of crimes. This in turn, isolate them even from the local residents into rootless haggards.

Again, what a paradox! The imperialists and their governments follow policies that bring about disasters to people, contaminating them and their environment. Then they start decontamination project and create new ways for profit. For the cleaning operations they rope in hopeless helpless workers and drive them to the most unbearable, unclean life. (Source: The Statesman, Kolkata Edn., 14-03-2016)

And with all these *where do they, the capitalists-imperialists, their political managers and their agents, lead humanity to?*



At the call of 11 Central Trade Unions and independent federations of workers and employees, a national convention of workers was held in Delhi on 30 March. Comrade Satyawan, was present as Member of the Presidium from AIUTUC. Comrade Sankar Saha, AIUTUC General Secretary is seen addressing the convention.

New building for Palakkad district Party Centre inaugurated

Comrade C K Lukose, Member, Central Committee and Kerala State Secretary of SUCI(C) inaugurated the new building constructed by Palakkad District Committee for district Party Centre, built entirely on contributions of Party comrades and sympathizers. The inaugural function

was attended by a good number of people including our comrades from different parts of the district, their family members, sympathizers of the Party and leaders of different social movements with which our comrades are associating. The meeting was presided



over by Comrade G S Padmakumar, member, Kerala state secretariat of the Party. Comrade Rengaswamy, Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Secretary and other Palakkad district leaders of our Party addressed the gathering.

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