

Proletarian Era

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Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, Polit Bureau member, garlanding the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, at the Party's Central Office in Kolkata, on 24 April 2019



Comrade Sankar Saha, Polit Bureau member, SUCI(C) and General Secretary, AIUTUC, hoisting Red Flag at Party's Central Office on 1 May, 2019.

Disturbing Developments within the Judiciary

What is the cause and how can the rot be stemmed

Comments of one of the senior Supreme Court Judges in the context of some alarming developments is very significant as well as revealing. He is reported to have said that 'rich and powerful trying to run the court and playing with fire'. Any common citizen cannot but be dumb-struck at such an utterance from an honourable judge. Judiciary is viewed by most of the citizens of India as the last resort to receive justice in the existing bourgeois democracy. People have been made to believe that the judicial machinery enjoys total independence and autonomy in deciding legal cases based on merit and delivers justice thereupon. Accordingly, common people expect that the judiciary would examine each and every case based on the law book, not bend before any external influence or pressure and pronounce the correct verdict, whether it is exonerating the innocent or punishing the culprit or judiciously settling other legal disputes. And naturally, the honourable judges and the juridical process are believed to be above board. The judges are addressed as "My lord" meaning they are acknowledged to be accredited deliverers of justice.

A spate of incidents shaking that belief

But for quite some time, this abiding faith in the judiciary is shaken because of a slew of incidents and untoward experiences. First of all, though it is claimed that the 'door of law is open to all' reality has turned out to be otherwise. Most of the poor and destitute can hardly afford to have access to judiciary because of a number of hassles, paraphernalia and above all, escalating expenses. Secondly, more often than not, the rich and powerful are found to elicit the verdict in their favour even if the circumstantial evidences and other factors are apparently, and at times glaringly, against them. So, there is a common refrain among the downtrodden millions that 'the court-house is only for those who have money'. Secondly, people find with annoyance and pain that while a poor petty thief is dealt with severely for his misdeed, the law is blindfolded when it comes to the question of booking the 'powerful and influential' for endless corruption, malpractice and even horrendous crime. This indeed mocks the saying: "everybody is equal in the eyes of law". Hence, as the poet had said, "the sins of law".

Contd. on page 4

Time to re-establish the glory of May Day

Ups and downs were there. But that could not affect the glory and significance of the historic May Day. In its bid to survive, the dying world capitalist system has become frantic. It has been aggravating its exploitative, oppressive, discriminatory and aggressive character with each passing day. Yet, the world over, massive people's movement has started to raise slogan not just for their immediate economic-social problems, but also against the system. Workers, peasants, middle class people, even an eminent section of intelligentsia across the world, are again placing on record their appraisal of and fraternity-solidarity with the cause for which the May Day assumed its iconic role. So this is the time to re-establish the May Day in its proper perspective, to realize what glorified position the May Day holds in human history.

On that occasion of the May Day in 1886, the struggling workers assembled in thousands at the Hay market of Chicago, demanding rightfully, reduction of daily working hours from existing 12 or 16 to 8—a demand raised by the First International founded by great Marx and Engels. In the chapter on "The Working Day" in the first volume of Capital, published in 1867, Marx called attention to the inauguration of the 8-hour

movement by the National Labour Union founded in 1866 in Baltimore. But when the workers gathered at the Hay Market to press for their rightful demand, the owners, the capitalists and their mercenaries, the police, greeted the agitating workers with bullets, hanged the leaders of the movement in public. But it ushered in a new chapter in the struggle of the working class in support of its legitimate demands. Reiterating decision of the Second international to designate 1 May as International Working Class Day, great Engels observed in 1890: "The spectacle we are now witnessing will make the capitalists and landowners of all lands realize that today the proletarians of all lands are, in very truth, united. If only Marx were with me to see it with his own eyes!"

Capitalist system today is decadent, moribund, reactionary and more oppressive and violent

The capitalist system was taking its root then in the world. Now, the same capitalism has turned into a totally moribund system generating all-out crisis in human life, social-individual-national or global. The more crisis-ridden it is, the more ferocious it becomes, more squarely it

passes the burden of that crisis on to the working class. Even the unrelenting apologist of capitalism-imperialism can no longer deny that under capitalist globalization, the entire world economy is bogged down today in ever-deepening crisis. The USA, the locomotive of world capitalism, led the drive for globalization and free trade across the globe with the hope of grabbing the whole world market. Now the same US imperialists are crying out *America First* and are waging fierce trade war with other contending imperialists to hurt their economy. With continuously increasing exploitation, capitalism has brought in terrible economic recession and hopeless industrial stagnation which continuously give birth to spiralling unemployment, horrific price rise, erosion of purchasing power of people and crippling poverty in almost all capitalist countries, be it in the USA or in any poor African country, so to say. This has led the capitalist countries to get trapped inevitably in unavoidable market crisis.

Unemployment, disparity, discrimination,

Besides, industrialization is a myth in dying capitalism of today. Instead, the life of the working

Contd. on page 2

Moribund capitalism brings down all-out onslaught on toiling people

Contd. from page 1

people is devastated by the spiralling unemployment along with wage freeze, job insecurity, joblessness, triggered by closures, massive retrenchment, lay-off and rapid downsizing-merger of workforce. Added to these, there is the spurt of contract and casual labour at throwaway wages and precarious working conditions that affects tens, even hundreds of millions of workers worldwide.

Even joblessness among the landless agricultural workers and poor peasant is mounting. Besides, in order to maximize profit by aggravating the ruthless exploitation of the workers and peasants, the capitalist governments in various countries including India are setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs), the virtual slaughterhouse of the workers, by forcibly grabbing fertile agricultural lands evicting poor and marginal peasants, even tribals from remote forests, from their home and hearth and thereby snatching whatever little means they have for eking out a bare livelihood.

Disparity and discrimination are other inalienable characteristics of the present day capitalism to add to the woes of working people. A microscopic few rich enjoy the total security of comfort, lavishness and extravagance from the society with more than 80% of the population continually being thrown out of social security system. Particularly after the last global financial crisis, even the ruling powers of the ILO member countries bound by ILO decisions on 'Equal Remuneration' and against 'Discrimination' in 'Employment and Occupation', are looking the other way in the rampant discrimination in their countries. Discriminations on the grounds of gender, racism, religion, caste and social origin are increasingly affecting unity and cohesion of the working class as also aggravating perilous self-seeking competition amongst individual workers. Discrimination coupled with inhuman oppression of migrant labour, both in developed and developing countries, present instances of shameful disgrace for humanity.

Menace of forced and bonded labour

Workers and employees are no more than wage slaves in capitalism. There is no doubt about it. But what globalization has brought in additionally, are the menace of forced labourers or bonded labourers, who are treated inhumanly under deplorable work conditions.

Millions of labourers search for jobs of any kind, anywhere, ultimately to become forced or bonded labourers. They may be initially unemployed or underemployed or they may have been victims of eviction in the name of development or may be helpless victims of wars, triggered and dragged on by the war-monger imperialists to feed their fabulously flourishing arms industry and for grabbing markets. Extreme poverty is dragging people, more so the peasants, into horrible debt-traps, who either become migrant and forced labourers or cannot but choose suicide as the last option. Rampant human trafficking particularly of women and children feed flesh trades, while shockingly for the world, there are media reports from personal experience of a victim, that poor people from Nigeria, Libya and other African countries are being trafficked to keep slave market running (Ananda Bazaar Patrika, 05-04-19). The US president allocates billions of dollar to build wall at the Mexican border to prevent immigration. But, to one's dismay, it is the US corporate giants like Levi Strauss, Ford, General Motors, Nike etc. and their subcontractors who own factories in Mexico near the US border. They not only take advantage of lower wages for the Mexicans, including women, but also force them to work in abjectly miserable conditions. Outsourcing, contract and casual employment add fuel to the fire. Workers paid lower than the stipulated minimum wage or made to work without social security are slave labourers too, as can be found frequently in countries like India. Even in so-called white collar IT or similar jobs unfair wage, compulsory overtime, denial of public holidays, lack of basic work place amenities and such other service conditions, make the employees virtual slave labourers. As reports pour in, programmers and other employees of the IT industry are dying unexpectedly early due to long hours and gruelling stress of work in China, the country turned into a dreaded imperialist from its glorious socialist past, while the billionaire owner of the China's biggest e-commerce platform emphatically demands of his staff to work 996, that is 12 hours a day from 9 am to 9 pm, for 6 days a week. In the IT sector in India too white collar employees have to labour for 12 to 14 hours a day.

But capitalism-imperialism today is not just cruelly exploitative, it is viciously shrewd. Averse to, because it is apprehensive of, any form of protest by the exploited working

people, the system is continuously trying to cripple humanity by degrading the entire society culturally, morally and ethically, promoting vulgarism, extreme consumerism, intense self-centredness and indifference to the social cause.

Labour Law amendments to disarm workers

At the same time, the capitalist rulers need to disarm the toiling masses in mindset too. So, from one country to another, they are vociferously advocating so-called reforms. The disguise lies in the slogan that reforms will enhance investment and hence accentuate development. In reality, however, these are no more than aggressive attempts meant to emasculate working people by snatching back their hard-earned rights, including the right to organize or go on strike and the right to collective bargaining. Instead, these reforms extend as much favour as possible to the monopolists and their corporate houses.

For instance, in India, the present BJP-led Union Government under Narendra Modi, as the trusted representative of the monopolists tries severely offensive so-called reforms. The Industrial Disputes Act, the Factory Act, the Factories (Amendment) Bill 2014, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, the 'Fixed Term Employment' in Industrial Employment (standing order) Act, 1946 are among such reforms. These disarm the workers as they arm the owners, the capitalists with unbridled liberty to adopt 'Hire & Fire' policy. These even change the definition of factory to suit the present trend of reducing workforce with the help of technology, outsourcing, contractual labour etc., thereby also reducing financial liability towards workforce for the capitalists. In summation, these reforms curb the benefits and privileges workers enjoyed hitherto under major Labour Acts.

The Indian government is also toying with a preposterous Wage Code Bill, being delayed only because of strong opposition. Amalgamating the provisions of four vital Acts — the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the all-subsuming Code Bill actually proposes vide Section 9(1) 'different national minimum wage for different states or different geographical areas'. It is likely to

lead to a 'race to the bottom' among bourgeois petty bourgeois state governments to lower wages, in the interest of their master, the capitalists. The Union government is bound by the formula for fixing the minimum wage, recommended repeatedly by the Indian Labour Conferences (ILC) since 1957 and the Supreme Court. On its basis, the Seventh Pay Commission set by the present Union government itself recommended Rs 18,000 as the minimum wage. Yet the Union government refrains from including it in the Wage Code Bill. The Code Bill also does away with the existing right of the workers or their trade unions to legally access and question the audits of the establishment's accounts, necessary for any collective bargaining. Thus the much-touted Wage Code Bill is nothing but an unscrupulous all-out attempt against the working people.

Beyond exploitation there is emerging silver-line

So, at this hour when capitalism-imperialism is baring all its teeth and claws, the fighting people must rise above frustration and clearly visualize the silver linings that appear in the situation. It was with a long struggle accompanied by great martyrdom and sacrifice that the working class earned their rights, including the right to strike as an industrial action. The May Day itself attests to that truth. Now the ruling capitalist class is taking away those rights by flouting even the decade-old ILO jurisprudence. As mentioned earlier it is the absence of the socialist camp, that has invigorated the capitalism-imperialism to launch the present devastating attack. But there is definite silver lining that shines from behind this deprivation-oppression-confusion.

The decade of people's protests : failures fail to prevent movements from growing again

In the recent past, more so during the last decade, exploited and oppressed working people, dared to raise united and vigorous protest against the rising onslaught on their life and livelihood by their respective bourgeois petty bourgeois governments. Thus beginning towards the end of 2010 through 2011, a wave of protests drawing thousands of people developed in Asia-Africa-Europe-America. From Tahrir Square in Cairo, the streets of Tunis, Syntagma Square in Athens, cities of France, Yemen in Arabian Peninsula, North African state of

Contd. on page 9

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought Provides the Beacon

[On 24 April 2019, 71st Foundation Anniversary of SUCI (Communist) was observed with due solemnity throughout the country amidst the election campaign for constituting 17th Lok Sabha running in full swing. As part of that observance, we present to our readers the following excerpts from the invaluable teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C) and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, which our readers will find relevant.]

"We...Marxists, never say that we believe in election politics... Marxist-Leninist theory says that Marxists go in 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... So the Marxist-Leninist theory says that till the pseudo-democrats, pseudo-socialists, pseudo-revolutionaries are isolated from the 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.... (Selected Works IV, p 329-30)

"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.



Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on the dais at a massive rally at Saheed Minar Maidan, Kolkata on the occasion of 25th foundation anniversary of the Party on 24 April 1973 with Comrade Nihar Mukherjee (rear) and Comrade Subodh Banerjee (right) seated by his side. .

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." (Selected Works IV, p. 541-43)

... whatever may be the tall talks of the ruling

bourgeois class and their parties, in reality, they have no concern about the people. Even when they talk of nation and national interest, their sole purpose is to exploit the patriotic feelings of the masses in furtherance of their bourgeois class motives. So, nationalism, which during the period of independence struggle was to some extent progressive in nature and to that extent served the interest of the people, has now become a privilege and a weapon in the hands of the ruling bourgeoisie to deceive and hoodwink the masses in order to distract the attention of the people from the real problem to a fake one. On and off the ruling bourgeoisie and the petty-bourgeois parties use this deceptive weapon to keep the masses away from the main current of the revolutionary struggles. (Selected Works IV, p 496)

...fascism is an all-out counter-revolutionary upsurge. On the one hand, it destroys the process of rational thinking in people, makes them self-centred, makes knowledge, learning and education technology-oriented, that is, it engenders a group of technocrats in the country who have completely abandoned all sorts of human values, who have no sense of responsibility towards people and society, to whom employment and wage slavery are simply everything, and who are ready to do anything and everything in exchange of money — and in this direction they channelize the cultivation of science and learning. On the other hand, fascism fosters all sorts of spiritualism, age-old superstitions, irrational mindset and blindness. Fascism is a peculiar fusion of spiritualism, obscurantism and irrational bent of mind with the technological aspects of science. When this happens in a country the reasoning faculty itself dies out in the country....when the reasoning faculty dies in the country, then that paves the way for infiltration of reactionary ideas in society. To make man fanatic with the poison of national chauvinism, on the one hand, and, on the other, to foster out-dated traditionalism while raising vague slogans of socialism, revolution and progress — if all these three can be combined, then the ground for ascent of fascism is ready in a country. It should be borne in mind that the ruling bourgeois class after having misled the intelligentsia succeeds in masterfully combining these three things then only, when the mindset for carrying on mutual discussions on the basis of reason and logic really ceases to exist in society. This provides the golden opportunity for fascism to rise. (Selected Works IV, p. 457-58)

Stalin's Approval Among Russians Hits Record High — Poll

A record 70 percent of Russians approve of Soviet leader Josef Stalin's role in Russian history, according to a poll published by the independent Levada Centre pollster on Tuesday. Stalin's image has been gradually rehabilitated as an "outstanding leader."

Seventy percent of Russian respondents told the Levada Centre in 2019 that Stalin played a positive role for Russia. Stalin's previous record approval rating stood at 54 percent in 2016. A record low of 19 percent viewed Stalin's role negatively, down from 32 percent in 2016. "Stalin begins to be perceived as a symbol of justice and an alternative to the current government view, deemed unfair, cruel and not caring about people," Academy of Sciences sociologist Leonty Byzov opined, as quoted by the RBC news website. "It's purely a mythological image of Stalin, very far from the real historical figure," Byzov added. The share of Russian respondents who said Stalin's crimes were unjustified has decreased from 60 percent in 2008 to 45 percent this year, Levada said. Of the 51 percent who viewed Stalin favourably as a person 41 percent said they respected him, followed by 6 percent who sympathized with and 4 percent who admired him. Stalin's positive approval rating stayed consistent across all age groups, with the exception of the 18-24 age group who were largely indifferent. Levada conducted the survey between March 21-27. (Source: Reuters and The Moscow Times-16-04-19)

Developments within the Judiciary

Conspiracy to curtail whatever little relative independence still remains with judiciary

Contd. from page 1
the strong, taking their course, without recourse and the words of justice remain mute.” And with passage of time, this very notion is gaining further ground resulting in fast erosion of trust and confidence hitherto reposed on the judiciary. In recent times, a few media headlines on some reported irregularities, allegations and even integrity of the hon'ble judges have not been just worrying but alarming.

The disturbing reports and incidents

First was the tussle between the Supreme Court and the BJP-led government over the methodology of appointment of the judges. While the Supreme Court wanted to continue with the existing collegium system where the power is vested with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and other senior judges, the BJP government wanted to intervene and have an assertive say in regard to appointment, promotion and even probing of the judges through creation of a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). However, after prolonged wrangling, the proposal was dropped. It is relevant to mention here that even earlier, the Indira Gandhi-led Congress government also made all possible efforts including amendment of the Constitution to create a 'committed' judiciary. In January 2018, four senior Supreme Court judges including hon'ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, the present

CJI came out in the open, unprecedented in the history of Indian judiciary, to level allegation of foul play and motivated move on the part of the then CJI, Justice Deepak Misra. In a press conference, the four aggrieved judges alleged that Justice Misra was arbitrarily and whimsically assigning sensitive cases to preferred benches with the expectation of receiving a particular result. Indirectly, they sought to communicate that the then CJI was pliable to the wishes of the BJP-led central government and hence compromising with the relative independence of the judiciary. But later a truce was arrived at, point of dispute was stated to have been settled and the rebellious judges went back to work. The wound healed but the scar remained.

Now, just a few days back, a former woman staffer associated with the office of the present CJI brought charge of sexual misconduct against him and alleged that since she protested against his unsolicited advances, she was victimized and removed from service. She even has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court detailing her allegations and also wrote to all 22 Supreme Court judges narrating the whole episode. No one knows the correctness or incorrectness of the allegations but the sign is ominous. What is more intriguing is that within no time of levelling of this charges against the CJI, a young Supreme Court advocate came up with a startling allegation that “a lobby of

disgruntled judges, Supreme Court fixers, corporate scamsters and a few corrupt politicians have meticulously planned the conspiracy to force the CJI to resign as their 'Corrupt works' were not going through in Supreme Court”. He is also reported to have submitted documentary evidences in support of his allegations to the Supreme Court in a sealed cover. He further claimed that the CCTV footage (presumably forming part of those evidences) would reveal many things. In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, he further claimed that he was offered up to Rs. 1.5 crore by a man to frame a “false case of sexual harassment” against the CJI. It was also stated that benches are often fixed by money power. Though nobody should prejudge the veracity of the allegations which ought to be investigated thoroughly following right process of law and already a couple of benches and a one-man judicial committee have been constituted to look into the entire gamut of the things, the very statement that powerful corporate and political lobbies are engaged in manipulating and pressurizing judiciary is extremely serious and does raise grave concern about the credibility of the judicial system of the country. The accuser woman has, of late, walked out of the inquiry into her complaint stating that the entrusted three-judge bench has not been conforming to Vishaka guidelines which deal with

procedures to be followed in a complaint of sexual harassment. All these indicate that all is indeed not well with the country's judiciary. And in the din and bustle, highly important Rafale case and some such other cases have been relegated to the back, if not suppressed for unknown period of time.

Earlier incidents where travesty of justice was apprehended

Quite a number of cases are there in the public domain where travesty of justice has been apprehended. A CBI Court Judge who was presiding over a sensitive allegedly fake encounter case in which a powerful political figure was the prime accused, died under mysterious circumstances. While pronouncing verdict on a blast case that killed around 300 persons, an NIA special court judge in his scathing criticism of the prosecution stated that he had to conclude this judgment of acquitting the principal accused, a self-styled godman belonging to arch Hindu communal Sangh Parivar, with deep pain and anguish since a dastardly act of violence remained unpunished for want of credible and admissible evidence. He clearly insinuated towards intentional dilution of the investigation by the prime government agencies since the accused was 'well-connected' and wielded enough clout in the ruling quarters. In September 2016, a group of three researchers published a paper titled “Jobs for Justice(s): Corruption in the Supreme Court of India” in which they showed with facts and figures how a section of the hon'ble judges of the Supreme Court of India pander to the government by ruling in its favour, particularly in the politically important cases in the hope of receiving plum postings after retiring from the Court and the government does return the favour with offer of prestigious post-retirement jobs. Two years back, charge of abetting corruption was levelled against the then CJI for granting affiliation to a fake medical college and in fact a High Court judge was arrested in that case for accepting bribe. If this holds true for the Supreme Court, one can well imagine what is the state of affairs in the lower courts. Justice Markandey Katju, a former Supreme Court Judge, is on record to have said five years back that 50% of the higher judiciary



SUCI (C) candidates filing nomination or campaigning in different states, namely Odisha, Punjab, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar and others.

Contd. on page 5

Developments within the Judiciary

Bourgeois system which itself is based on inequality cannot uphold equality even in the eyes of law

Contd. from page 4

consisting of the Supreme Court and High Court judges were corrupt. It is also people's experience that while a section of the judiciary for whatsoever reason tends to yield to 'outside pressure' and even does not hesitate to function as a 'committed judiciary', those who are relatively honest and try to be true to their professional ethics often face harassment, frequent transfers, supersessions, threats, intimidations and even life risks. Thus, the very efficacy of the judiciary of the country is under strain.

Initial formulation of the principles of bourgeois democracy

Obvious question is why is it so? Why corruption is found to have permeated even the judiciary, the institution meant for delivering justice? The thinking and truth-seeking people need to deeply ponder over this basic question. It is true that apparently the judiciary seems to have a relative independence. But is that relative independence valid anymore? If not, why? Why is there planned attempt on the part of the vested interest to curb or subvert its relative independence? Answer lies in correct understanding of the character of the obtaining socio-political system.

Any student of social science knows that we are living in a bourgeois democratic set up. This set up, better called bourgeois democracy, is the socio-political superstructure of capitalist economic base of a class-divided capitalist system. Bourgeois democracy emerged during the rising period of capitalism when the inertia of the age-old obsolete feudal-monarchical system crumbled following accomplishment of bourgeois democratic revolution. The bourgeoisie then progressive in nature in the context of social progress, developed its own political system in the form of bourgeois democracy. The founding fathers of bourgeois democracy formulated the principles, codes, norms, practices and functional procedures of the newly established system. While enunciating the cardinal principles of operationalizing the new democratic system, exponents of bourgeois democracy did delineate definite role of and attributed relative independence to each of the three organs of the state—judiciary, legislature and executive. The

judicial principles and codes of conduct were also laid down at that time in keeping with the broader principles and outlook of emergent bourgeois democracy. At the same time, in order to prevent concentration of power with any of the three state organs as well as overlapping of their respective functions, they brought in the concept of "Separation of Power" and included quite a number of checks and balances within the system. As per that 'Separation of Power', the responsibility vested with the judiciary was to check and safeguard whether the laws promulgated by the legislature and being enacted or implemented by the executive are compatible with the expressed provisions of the Constitution. The very process of checking this was termed as judicial review. However, the scope of such review was kept within very brief limits to ensure that the supremacy of the legislature, the sovereignty of the people, was not impinged upon. Since the bourgeoisie was then a progressive social force, it held that as far as the independence of the judiciary was concerned, people's opinion would be of supreme importance. So whoever believed in democracy must also believe in the ultimate triumph of public opinion, the exponents of bourgeois democracy espoused and scripted.

Role defined for judiciary in classical bourgeois democracy

As mentioned, in bourgeois democracy, judiciary is one of the three major and vital organs of the capitalist state. Despite some variations from country to country, traditionally, in a bourgeois democratic state, the judiciary is deemed to be functioning as guardian and interpreter of the Constitution through clarification and application of laws promulgated by the legislature; settling, that is, providing as per bourgeois principles and sense, 'impartial adjudications' of disputes between the state and individuals, between individuals, and between different levels of government within the state. But, in capitalism, the oppressive capitalist class is the ruling class. By virtue of controlling the economy, it also controls politics, socio-cultural arena, everything. The entire capitalist system is geared to serve the class interest of the ruling capitalists. So, like the two other

organs or pillars — legislature and executive — judiciary also, in the ultimate analysis, serves and protects the capitalist state and the class interest of the ruling capitalists notwithstanding its relative autonomous character as is manifested before the people. This is the objective reality that exists independent of one's recognition or acceptance.

Fiction of bourgeois 'equality'

Incidentally, the exponents of bourgeois democracy spoke of 'equality, liberty and fraternity'. But was this slogan ever implemented in the truest sense of the term? Answer is an emphatic no. In the initial days of rising capitalism, when there was free competition among the capitalists in what was known as *laissez faire* economy, some equality in bourgeois sense was

eyes of law be operative even to whatever extent it was prevalent in the days of rising stage of bourgeois democracy? With more and more concentration of wealth in the hands of the ruling monopolists, the concomitant process of more and more concentration of political power at the hands of the capitalist state by gradual systematic subversion of earlier principles governing bourgeois democracy also picked up speed. In such an objective reality, expecting even relative 'equality' from the bourgeois state machine including judiciary is an illusion, akin to the proverbial saying: 'a square peg in a round hole'.

It can be visualized from another angle. The judiciary is bound to function within the precincts of the bourgeois Constitution. Constitution decides



Massive protest against gangrape and murder of an engineering student in Bellary, Karnataka. Similar protests were held throughout the state.

granted by the system including its judiciary. But, this apparent equality was, in essence, premised on inequality which was at the base of the capitalist system. So, true equality was never feasible in the capitalist system or bourgeois democracy even during the days of its advent. As the days rolled by and capitalism got firmed up as a system, the contradiction and fiction inherent in the term 'equality' as envisaged in bourgeois democracy started getting manifested. But when capitalism after giving birth to monopoly entered its decadent phase, it became reactionary and posed hindrance before further social development. So, the inherent inequality of the capitalist system was marked by widening gap between the rich and the poor, rapid pauperization of the toiling millions and increased concentration of social wealth in the hands of the capitalist owners and their servitors. How could then 'equality' in the

structure of the bourgeois state. Constitution tells how the government and administration would function, how new laws are to be enacted and old laws changed or removed in bourgeois democracy. Now, who had drafted the Constitution of our country and for that matter of any capitalist-imperialist country of the world? Surely not the common people nor were they anyway involved in the process of preparing the Constitution. It was done by a few educated persons known as legal experts guided by bourgeois thoughts and appointed by the custodians of the capitalist state for the purpose. The legal framework envisaged was also in keeping with the objective of serving and protecting the capitalist state. Who is in the state power of capitalist India? It is the Indian capitalist class. So, the capitalist state is subservient to the bourgeois

Contd. on page 6

Developments within the Judiciary

Only exploitation-free socialist society can deliver real justice to people

Contd. from page 5

class interest. What is bourgeois class interest? It is to maximize profit and amass fabulous wealth with the help of the means of production owned by the rich and by depriving the working class, peasants and other sections of toiling masses of their legitimate dues and usurping the fruits of their labour. This motive of profit maximization by a handful of capitalist owners of the means of production by appropriating and depriving the multitudes of toiling millions makes the system 'unequal', breeds inequality. Hence, the entire operation of the capitalist state machine is inherently fraught with inequality, discrimination and denial.

All lofty principles of democracy given a burial in dying capitalism

With the capitalist system turning obsolete and reactionary following inexorable course of history, all lofty principles once enshrined in the bourgeois law book and operation manual have been given a burial. The ruling capitalists at the helm of the state power, in their bid to provide extra lease of life to their ruthlessly oppressive and utterly corrupt rule, have been merrily flouting all principles and prescripts of bourgeois democracy more often than not. So, there have been frequent interferences into the functioning of one or the other state organs, or to be exact, curbing of their relative autonomies, as is deemed necessary to suit the class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie. Even the democratic bodies, regulatory authorities and the investigating agencies are also not spared. The entire system is sought to be controlled centrally and autocratically trampling underfoot all earlier prescripts of relative autonomy. The observed attempt to imperil judiciary is a part of this blatant subversion of the basic tenets of democracy by the ruling capitalist class and its political managers. In course of this, a fascist design is now being given effect to for turning the judiciary into an appendage of the ruling class by way of making it pliant to the fiat and directives of the bourgeois government which is nothing but a caretaker of the capitalist state. In other words, relative autonomy of judiciary is subjected to the overbearingness of a section of the executive making a mockery of the

laid down codes of "Separation of Power".

When does corruption engulf a system?

When does corruption afflict and cripple a system? Only when the system itself becomes a stumbling block before social development and advancement of civilization, and the beneficiaries as well as protectors of the system systematically trample underfoot all laid down principles and bend all rules to stick to power by hook or by crook and by suppressing each and every legitimate aspiration and demand of the people at large. Since the capitalist system itself has turned reactionary and utterly corrupt, every wing of the capitalist system is bound to be affected by corruption. A structure, howsoever strong it might look outwardly, begins to get corroded and ultimately collapses if termites permeate it from within and eat its very vitals. Similarly, no one engaged in safeguarding, serving or preserving the worn-out stinking capitalist system with termites of corruption nestling in every hole of it, can remain insulated from the bite and gulp of corruption.

Judiciary in socialism

So, raging corruption and the entire caricature of democracy is originating from the decadent moribund capitalism which has nothing to offer today except oppression, suppression, subversion, deprivation and deception. Emancipation from all evils, all inequalities, all deceptions lies in revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. It is pertinent to recall that during the full bloom of Soviet socialism, one could see what a genuine judicial system is. We have referred above how the Indian Constitution was authored by a few picked up experts to suit bourgeois class interest. But, contrarily, Constitution of Soviet socialism was developed by involving lakhs and lakhs of the workers-peasants and other sections of the common people. The draft of the Constitution was circulated among all. There were extensive debates and discussions among the millions of workers and peasants for several months as to how the Constitution of the socialist state should be. Innumerable meetings were organized by the Soviet citizens to collectively read the draft,

thoroughly exchange opinions, intensively discuss various aspects and meticulously scrutinise each and every chapter. Thousands of amendments and suggestions were sent by them. In fine, all sections of Soviet citizens enthusiastically and spurred on by a definite purpose of strengthening the working class state aimed at establishing true equality, participated in deciding the Constitution. This was the way Soviet Constitution was finalized and adopted unanimously in 1936. So, the Indian Constitution was not "by the people" and, for obvious reason stated above, not "for the people" either. On the other hand, the entire process of evolving the Soviet Constitution through broadest possible enthusiastic participation of the masses for conducting the socialist state free from exploitation of man by man, did provide the cherished model and held out supremacy of socialist system. It was indeed a people's Constitution, not just in nomenclature but in essence. Further, the whole world had a full view and realization of what true judicial process is, in the famous Moscow Trial organized by the Soviet socialist state under great Stalin to punish the traitors and imperialist agents who had woven ploy to destabilize the socialist state. The entire trial, arguments, counter-arguments, submission of evidences, right to the accused to defend themselves were all held in the open before a galaxy of foreign delegates, journalists, lawyers, diplomats and political leaders. All the foreign dignitaries present during the trial, had pronounced in one voice that the world had never seen before an adjudication conducted in such a democratic and transparent manner. They also unanimously held that a grave conspiracy which was undoubtedly hatched to destabilize Soviet socialist state, was duly exposed through due process of law and open conduction of the trial. In praise of Soviet socialism system, Romain Rolland, the great humanist, once observed that the USSR's existence proved that ideas and practice could be linked.

Secondly, seeking judicial settlement of disputes in Soviet Union was totally free of cost. The state itself appointed the lawyers and bore all the expenses. Each and every citizen irrespective of his where he stayed, which language he spoke or what job he did or what profession he was in, had easy

access to judiciary. This too was hitherto unthinkable in bourgeois society. Hence, this history does bear recall when the judicial system in capitalist India is under scanner.

Task imperative of the suffering countrymen

It is true that for establishing much cherished and historically determined socialism, imperative task is to overthrow capitalism by revolution. But does it mean that things would be allowed to go on unabated till the time anti-capitalist socialist revolution is accomplished following fulfilment of all necessary scientifically determined conditions? Surely not.

It is not that the pitch darkness cannot be pierced through. There are many honest democratic-minded lawyers, judges and jurists who refuse to submit to this bourgeois ploy to subvert whatever relative autonomy the judiciary still have despite all curbs and erosions. A large number of thinking persons are also visibly enraged at this evident move to curtail independence of judiciary, bring under the command of the ruling party and its government, vile efforts to manipulate judicial pronouncements and reduce the juridical process into a fancied course of the power that be. They also vehemently condemn the attempt on the part of the ruling class to overpower judiciary and turn it into its caged parrot. It is essential that all of them raise their voice of protest unitedly and powerfully and work hand in hand in an organized manner to seek remedy to such reprehensible acts. Such a united powerful movement of the truly enlightened section in fraternity with the legitimate struggles of all other sections of toiling masses on burning problems of life can only check these ongoing maladies and aberrations in the judicial arena. This desired movement also should firmly demand that access to judicial remedy should not be the exclusive preserve of the rich or powerful. Justice ought not to elude the poor and weak and no one should consider himself or herself to be above law. At the same time, all these movements must be so developed as to be conducive to developing revolutionary movement to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism in which exploitation-profit-greed, the mentality of cheating and deceiving others will go for good. Only in that socialist society, one would get real justice.

Determined organized powerful sustained movement of Service Doctors' Forum achieves demands in West Bengal

Twice it happened, last year and this year too. Service Doctors' Forum, an organization of in-service doctors in West Bengal, achieved significant victory in realizing their legitimate demands by conducting powerful organized movement against the TMC-led West Bengal government.

In 2018 the TMC government approved only 180 NEET-PG qualified, three year in-service doctors for MD/MS study along with TR (Trainee Reserve— that entitles one proper salary). Even the Chief Minister herself asserted that 180 is the final number. Under pressure of the movement of SDF, Hon'ble Justice of West Bengal State Administrative Tribunal (WBAT) pronounced the

government's decision arbitrary. But the government did not comply, even ignored mass deputations by SDF. Instead it challenged the same at the High Court. The High Court in due course, also upheld the WBAT order. The TMC government still refused to implement the Court Order. So, the SDF intensified its movements; organized Citizen's Conventions, led protest rally to the Governor and repeatedly gave deputations to the State Health Ministry. During the peak of these agitations, the government seemingly as a vindictive measure, transferred Dr.Sajal Biswas, General Secretary of the SDF to a distant corner of Bengal. Doctors and citizens lodged a case at WBAT against this

transfer. Here also WBAT went against the government decision. Since the state government did not give TR to all deprived candidates despite repeated Court directives, SDF lodged a 'Contempt of Court' in WBAT against the state health authorities. But the state government again approached the High Court to vacate contempt ruling. However, the High Court stood by the cause of the deprived TR candidates and again directed the government to release all of them. When the government still showed audacity to ignore the Court directives, SDF stepped up its movement by organizing a continuous sit-in-demonstration besides lodging another contempt case in High Court. It continued for 6 long days with participation of hundreds of service doctors as well as eminent personalities and civil society, and supported by Medical Service Centre, Organization for protecting Hospitals and People's Health, Junior Doctors Unity, etc. Tremendous pressure of organized movement for 6 long months finally

succeeded in bending the government as the Chief Minister declared to give TR to all deprived doctors.

But again in 2019, the TMC government declared that only 10% of doctors will be allowed TR. Immediately, SDF jumped into movement and led deputations to all concerned government departments as well as to the Principal Secretary and Vice Chancellor of West Bengal Health University. Side by side, SDF moved WBAT once again. After inexplicable dillydallying, repeated non-compliance with Court directives, issuance of arbitrary orders, the TMC government finally had to yield and concede to the righteous demand. SDF also met the Hon'ble Governor who after discussing the issue with the SDF leadership sent a note to WBUHS and State Health Department to implement the same. This hard-earned victory not only re-established credibility of SDF as a struggling organization but also created a big impact on the medical fraternity.

'From the perspective of people's interest, how should election be viewed'

In the run of the 17th Lok Sabha Election, that has already covered 4 of its 7 phases of polling, all the major-minor parliamentary parties are out in the fray with bags of money, pledges and freebies to rope in people to vote for them. Among themselves they are engaged in a deluge of slanderous, vulgar, shameful allegations and counter-allegations in the name of election campaign, which does not address any of the ever-deepening problems of real-life of people, nor any serious political issue. Even after all these, the hapless voters are unsure whether they will be able to cast their vote or whether the full proof EVM will register their vote at their desired place or will be guided by a pre-fabricated algorithm to dump votes to a candidate desired by the powers-that-be.

Amidst such dark clouds of 'dance of democracy', people of India are witnessing a completely different kind of tempest sweeping across the land. Armed with and based upon the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of the SUCI (Communist), the genuine revolutionary Party of India, Comrade Provas Ghosh, the General Secretary of the Party elaborated the Party's views and approach to the election in a few-page book entitled '*From the perspective of people's interest, how should election be viewed*'. The book has been printed in lakhs in eight Indian languages namely Bengali, English, Hindi, Urdu, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. With the officialdom and the monopoly sponsored media

pushing the Party to a total black-out though it has put up 119 candidates in 20 states and 3 union territories, it is the SUCI (C) Party leaders and cadres who have braved the scorching summer-sun at its peak and are delivering the message to people, at home, on the streets, in trains-buses, on agricultural fields, at factory-office-school-college gates, literally virtually anywhere. People in their turn, are finding word-by-word expression of the problems they face, of the approach they should take up in choosing their candidate who can give vent to their voice in parliament, along with carrying on extra-parliamentary democratic movements. In one word, they are reaching the conclusion that it is the true leftism, the true language for people to get even the slightest

relief from the existing ruthless exploitation and injustice, that the SUCI (C) has upheld in the process.

Unambiguously, the tempest created by the book has conquered people's heart and imagination. When there is utter despair all around, when no parliamentary party is trusted, when people find a pitch darkness coming down heavily upon them, even a sparkle of a fire-fly generates confidence in them. That way, this book, based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought is creating a new hope, providing a new direction to people. Once the eyes are able to pierce through the darkness, radiant ardour of the dawn of a new era would illumine the path.

Here we present a few images of how people are receiving the book and reading with eagerness.



Hundred years of Jallianwalabagh massacre

Observance demands pledge to end with oppression, exposure of pseudo-nationalists

Jallianwalabagh massacre, one of the most hideous crimes ever committed by the British imperialist rulers in India, hardly needs any elaboration. In brief, Michael O'Dwyer Lt Governor of Punjab, as provincial executive head acting for the British imperialist rulers had been instrumental in forcibly recruiting people of that state in large numbers in the imperialist army in the first world war, had left the post-war Punjab in a shambles, and imposed a number of repressive measures including those to thwart revolutionary attempts and suppress rising protest movements of people of Punjab, Sikh-Hindu-Muslim together, against the draconian Rowlatt Act 1919 by the imperialist British Government. O'Dwyer had also expelled Dr.Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, the leaders of protest movement from the state and prevented national leaders from entering Punjab while imposing strict censoring of news. In this background, on a peaceful assembly of people on the occasion of a harvest festival on 13 April 1919, the British Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, with his troops sealing the only entry point of the assembly ground and opening fire indiscriminately, killed several hundreds and injured thousands. That the brute army officer did it with a cool head and was utterly remorseless was evident from his later remarks that he

wanted to 'teach a lesson', 'punish defiance', and 'make a wide impression not only in Amritsar, but throughout the Punjab'. That he did it under full endorsement from his higher authority, Michael O'Dwyer, was evident from the latter calling Dyer's action 'correct'.

As the news trickled out of Punjab, people were shocked and restive, but Gandhi-leadership backed out from organizing protest. The great poet Rabindranath Tagore, sick at that time, proposed to go to Punjab together with Gandhi. Gandhi declined as he did not want to embarrass the British imperialist rulers.

Rabindranath, through a strongly-worded letter relinquished knighthood, conferred on him by the British Government. In the letter dated 31 May, 1919, he wrote: "The enormity of the measures taken by the Government in the Punjab for quelling some local disturbances has, with a rude shock, revealed to our minds the helplessness of our position as British subjects in India. ... the very least that I can do for my country is to take all consequences upon myself in giving voice to the protest of the millions of my countrymen, surprised into a dumb anguish of terror. The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation, and I for my part wish to stand, shorn of all special

distinctions, by the side of those of my countrymen, who, for their so-called insignificance, are liable to suffer degradation not fit for human beings. ..." It had a widespread triggering effect on the nationalists, including the revolutionaries. Bhagat Singh, a teenager at that time, bowed down and took blood-stained earth from the venue with a pledge to free the country from British oppression. Udhham Singh, who from his secular outlook took the name, Ram Muhammad Singh Azad, finally settled the score with O'Dwyer without trying to escape after shooting him at point blank range. Even from outside India, a Soviet official wrote to media on behalf of the newly formed USSR government, conveying great leader Lenin's compassionate fraternity with the legitimate struggle of the Indians.

2019 is observing the hundred years of the Jallianwalabagh massacre. The present British government merely called it a regretful event. They did not spend a word on the brutality and murderous design of their executive heads and army officials. But what needs particular mention on this occasion of Jallianwalabagh massacre is that even at that time the Punjab Hindu Sabha, not only did not take part in the movement against the Rowlatt Act, they lauded the British as the long lost Aryan brethren of the

Hindus, their leaders emphasizing 'We are proud to be citizens of an Empire on which the sun never sets and have given clear proof of our solicitude to maintain that privilege.' (K L Tuteja, *The Punjab Hindu Sabha and Communal Politics 1906-1923*). It was Punjab Hindu Sabha from which ultimately sprang the Hindu Mahasabha under Savarkar, which latter was the precursor to the present Hindu communal ruling RSS-BJP combine. RSS-BJP and their leaders, particularly with the 17th Loksabha election in process, are trying their utmost to fan up pseudo-nationalism. How far they will be successful only time will say. But this remains as an indelible historical fact that their precursors remained completely indifferent to the massacre of their own countrymen. Rather they lauded the murderers, the imperialist rulers. At the turn of hundred years of the Jallianwalabagh massacre, patriotic Indians cannot forget this shameful stand of the Punjab Hindu Sabha, which lies at the root of the politics of the RSS-BJP combine. Our Party and its mass organizations like the AIDYO- AIDSO have paid tributes to the martyrs, condemning the imperialist brutality, not as a ritual. We take this as the inalienable part of our commitment to the cause of exploited and oppressed people for which we are and will always be striving with all our might.



SUCI(C), its mass organizations and common people observe hundred years of Jallianwalabagh massacre at different places including Amritsar, Lucknow, Kolkata and elsewhere.

Tales of the BJP : Believe it or not

BJP- the richest political party

Association of Democratic Reform (ADR) said the total income of the seven national parties has increased by 51 per cent, or nearly Rs 5.26 billion, between 2015-16 to 2016-17. Among them, the BJP claimed an income of Rs 10.03 billion, and an expenditure of Rs 7.1 billion during 2016-17. "This forms 66.34 per cent of the total income of national parties added together during 2016-17," the ADR,

a Delhi-based think-tank, said in the report.(Business Standard-11-04-18)

So many chowkidars, yet look at the scale of loot

In the past five years (2014 to 2018), banks have written off bad loans (NPAs) worth a mind-boggling Rs.5.56 lakh crore. 'Write off' means that the unreturned loans are put in the category of uncollectible debt.

Bank frauds involving Rs.1 lakh and above have increased from 4,693 in 2015-16 to 5,076 in 2016-17

and further, to 5,917 in 2017-18, the Rajya Sabha was told in February this year (Question No.973).

In a reply in January this year in the Rajya Sabha (Question No. 2125), the government stated that there were 41 economic offenders (like Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya, Mehul Choksi, etc.) who had defrauded banks and run away to foreign countries, 12 of which had a cumulative outstanding amount of Rs. 1,97,769 crore as on March 31, 2017 and the remaining 29 had outstanding amount of Rs. 1,35,846 crore as on June 30, 2017. That's a total of about Rs.3.34 lakh crore.

However, all this loot has happened under the watchful eye of the Great Watchman himself! This money could have been used to settle debt of farmers who have been committing suicide, or it could have been pumped into the rural job guarantee scheme to provide some relief to lakhs suffering from unemployment, or it could have been used to strengthen and universalise the public distribution system – or for many other works of public good. But it has all gone to create achche din (good days) for corporate bigwigs and cronies. (newslick 26-04-19)

People's movement gains momentum to recognize and re-establish the glory of May Day

Contd. from page 2

Algeria, Madrid's central square and other places, protests rolled on to the Times Square in New York, in over 1500 cities across 82 countries. Protests ranged widely. Virtually everywhere those were against acute and spiralling unemployment which were about to reach or had reached double-digit even in countries like USA or Germany. They were also against terrible price hike which affected not only food and other essentials for the poor, but even made car-owning middle class people in France join movement on the streets as they found it difficult to maintain their livelihood for which they had to travel to workplace spending more and more on fuel. Also ubiquitously, protests were against drastic budget cut on public funding in the name of austerity, for example on education, health measures, social welfare measures like pension, instead offering liberal bailout of large corporate houses and monopolists. Elsewhere protests were against denial of all kinds of democratic rights, political repression coupled with rampant corruption and the brutality of the notorious security agencies. Thus, in countries like Tunisia and Egypt, people fought in masses against the decades-long autocratic, despotic rule of their respective corrupt and tyrannical Presidents, who were favoured, fuelled and backed by the worst enemy of mankind today, the imperialists, more so the US imperialists. People of France also had to fight against their government's bid to introduce new Labour Code curtailing workers hard-earned rights.

There were the militant Arab Spring movements, which spread across the Middle East in Asia and North Africa with people venting out their anger against their prevailing autocratic rule as well as the US and other imperialist intervention. There were movements across Europe in countries like Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Britain and elsewhere. Almost everywhere, people imploded under the pressure of drastic austerity measures to overcome sovereign debt crisis and intense recession resulting in huge cuts in social benefits, wages, public spending, steep rise in taxes, all resulting cumulatively in sharp rise in already piercing menaces of unemployment and price hike of essentials of life. Massive demonstrations recurred across the streets of large and small cities even leading to barricade fights. Then there was the famous 'Occupy Wall

Street' movement in New York, USA which began on 17 September 2011 with thousands of protesters gathering for the cause. They held their ground for months and firmly voiced the slogans "We are the 99% that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%", "Banks got bailed out, we got sold out!" "Like our brothers and sisters in Egypt, Greece, Spain, and Iceland, we plan to use the revolutionary Arab Spring tactic of mass occupation to restore democracy in America."

Naturally such movements spread so widely across the world among countries with economies strong or weak, created great hope among toiling people of world. Our Party, from its commitment to the cause of people's movement and proletarian internationalism hailed the people's uprisings unhesitatingly. But at the same time it raised the caution that the class-conscious working people as historically poised vanguard of anti-capitalist revolution need to develop genuine revolutionary parties in the countries involved, conducting an all-embracing struggle. Only genuine communist leadership can infuse the necessary revolutionary consciousness among the fighting toiling masses to lead respective movements to its logical culmination. Unfortunately failing this historic task the movements ended with the imperialists gaining ground instead.

But failures have never stopped human history to make strides towards the future that awaits mankind to reach, following inexorable historical laws of social change. Thus by the turn of a decade there is again a massive spell of movements, in different parts of the world. Those are uniting toiling masses from different walks of life drawing them into sustained, more organized movements. Thus pensioners in Spain are fighting in thousands for over a year earning support from people in other spheres of life and activities. The Yellow Vest movement of France continues for 23 consecutive Saturdays involving workers, peasants, office employees, students, even housewives in cities, towns, outskirts and villages. In Russia, thousands of working people protested increase in political repressions and declining living standards on 23 March in several parts of the country. Also a few months back there were widespread protests against pension reforms implemented by Putin's administration.

On the other side of the globe, the American people have been

staging many protest demonstrations, strikes etc. in different cities of the USA, on issues of education, low wage, tough service conditions, price hike etc. Thus more than 30000 public school teachers in Los Angeles held strike for their cause, the first of its kind in 30 years (NDTV- 15-01-19); there were also different movements going on in North Carolina, for over a year, in Philadelphia, Miami (Miami-Dade College), University of Illinois in Chicago, Ohio and others during March-April 2019. The situation in this locomotive of the capitalist world becomes evident from the facts that with unemployment reaching double digit, one out of 6 Americans lives below poverty level. A striking cab-driver who lives in his car laments that "I'm currently homeless....I don't make enough to get out of my situation, but I can't walk away..... I'm trapped in an endless cycle." (NBC News 25March). An industrial design student said "There's nothing left once you make your tuition payment. There's no money for food, rent." In Mexico, near the US border in Texas, a whopping mass of 45,000 workers partially paralyzed some factories. Massive, daily assemblies were held in public square. Notably, though fighting mainly for economic demands, the workers appeared to have realized the need for a united sustained struggle, beyond their own respective factories. In Argentina thousands of men and women united under the country's two workers' unions, leftist groups and around 60 social and political groups took the streets of Mar del Plata in the March of the Torches protesting against increasing prices in public gas, electricity, water and transportation services. (telesur 25-01-19)

Fighting people questioning the system

These are a few instances from across the world. But it gives the pulse. Even with capitalist-imperialist onslaughts mounting high, people are proving they do not accept those lying low. So even after defeats and setbacks, overcoming frustrations people are regrouping into more organized, more united, more spread out combinations. Movements are continuing for months, even years. The spirit, the zeal is manifested in May Day observances too. Thus hundreds of thousands of working people are gathering to observe May Day in Havana in Cuba or in Moscow in Russia, are holding rallies in cities of Europe, Asia and elsewhere to protest on different

issues, demanding back workers' rights. But merely these movements may not bring back the May Day on to the pedestal befitting its glory. And it is here that the present movements are showing brighter silver lines.

For instance, people of France are not just continuing their several months-long movement, they are also putting the system in the dock, raising anti-capitalist slogan. Moreover, it is also being found that different communist forces of that country are trying to build up their unity to develop unity of working people, men and women in the interest of the movement. This they do because they recognize that the Communists are with the people and always work for the people. In Russia the situation has deteriorated to such a low, that about two-thirds of the Russians are now regretting collapse of the USSR. People are being seen marching on the streets of Russia as also other erstwhile Soviet Republics with portraits of Lenin and Stalin chanting slogans to bring socialism back. (People's dispatch—published by news click, 28-03-19)

Enshrined on the memorial plaque of the May day is the following sentence —

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN OUR SILENCE WILL BE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE VOICES YOU ARE THROTTLING TODAY

So it is high time now that fighting working people of the world need to converge on the above realizations. Even massive and militant movements against capitalism may not prove adequate for the avowed goal of ending with exploitation-oppression-discrimination-deprivation. Against lethally and brutally armed capitalist state machines to continue united people's movement in an organized sustained manner what is needed is a genuine revolutionary leadership. And in these days of imperialism and working class revolution, such a leadership can be provided only by genuine communists, fighting with Marxism-Leninism as the rock-bottom foundation of their life-philosophy. When this realization dawns upon the working masses, there will be no hesitation, no confusion to place the crown of glorious struggling heritage upon the May Day again in the world. The working class armed with the scientific thinking of Marxism-Leninism knows it well that revolution is inevitable. The earlier people realize the truth the shorter become their days of suffering!

Latest Medical Bulletin on Comrade Ranjit Dhar's ailment

Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran Polit Bureau Member of SUCI(C) is now 89 years old and he has been suffering from Diabetes, Hypertension, Chronic Kidney Disease, Ischemic Heart Disease along with history of operated urinary bladder cancer.

Recently Comrade Dhar had one episode of hospital admission for blood in urine, electrolyte imbalance, multiple small brain strokes and infection. He was treated by a medical team of specialist doctors headed by Dr Asok Samanta. Following discharge, Comrade Dhar developed loss of memory, confusional state, incoordinate speech, imbalance of gait and behavioural problems. He was diagnosed to have Age Related Dementia with behavioural abnormalities and was managed at home.

On 24 April, Comrade Ranjit Dhar developed shortness of breath, low urine output and drowsiness and was again admitted to Critical Care Unit of Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital.

He is diagnosed to have Acute Renal Failure with Congestive Cardiac Failure. A medical team comprised of specialist doctors headed by Dr Asok Samanta is being formed. Possibility of Hemodialysis from 2 May is under contemplation.

Presently clinical condition of Comrade Ranjit Dhar remains very critical.

CPI (M) leaders express concern at their rank voting BJP

'Even mistakenly don't ever consider to defeat Trinamool with the help of BJP', said Biman Bose, the Left front Chairman and the veteran CPI (M) Polit Bureau leader in an election meeting in West Bengal on 16 April last, while campaigning in favour of their candidate (source: Ganashakti, Bengali organ of the CPI (M) dated 17 April 2019). He also asked his party workers to take lessons from the terrorization and intimidation tactics adopted by the BJP in Tripura where the CPI (M) was routed in the last assembly election. This abrupt caution proves that among a large section of the CPI (M) workers-supporters whispers are taking rounds that 'This time vote BJP or else it is impossible to stop TMC.' Sometimes secretly in muffled voice, sometimes openly such support for the BJP has shocked large section of left minded people.

What prompted Bimanbabu to say so in election meetings which were mostly attended by his party activists and supporters? Because, as per reports from informed quarters, there is a marked tendency on the part of the CPI (M) to transfer vote in favour of the BJP to defeat the TMC. Why so? Because, after losing governmental power to the TMC, the CPI (M) in West Bengal is virtually in shambles. To turn around, it needs to regain governmental power. How can that be possible? A few days back, Suryakanta Mishra, CPI (M) West Bengal State Secretary advised his party cadres : 'Don't taste poison.' Still CPI(M) workers rush to the BJP. Likewise, many of the CPI (M) leaders are reported to have been telling their rank and file that first the TMC has to be ousted from power. Who can do that? The BJP. So, it is needed to transfer votes to the BJP to defeat the TMC. Once the TMC is defeated, they would manage to knock out the BJP subsequently and regain the lost crown of governmental power. What a 'leftist' formulation of painting the BJP as less dangerous than the TMC. Moreover, already a sizeable number of CPI(M) activists including MPs and MLAs have switched to the BJP and the TMC. A turncoat CPI (M) MLA has contested this parliament election on a BJP ticket. One can see for oneself what 'ideology' the CPI (M) leaders have imbued their rank with that there is a mass exodus to the TMC and the BJP. In fact, what the CPI (M) had cultivated in its 34 year long rule in the state is pure and simple vote-centric opportunist politics, bourgeois power politics which has no connection with leftism, let alone Marxism. So once that umbrella of governmental power has gone, the party organization has crumbled and those who hitherto rallied behind the CPI (M) with the expectation of pelf and lucre and to bask in the shelter of 'power' are now shifting allegiance to the present ruling parties for the same benefits. This once again attests to the ideological bankruptcy of the CPI (M) and how it is desperately seeking a berth in the corridor of power even if it means tailism of the Congress or others and transferring vote to the BJP.

71st Foundation Anniversary of the Party observed



1. Mass Meeting at Joy nagar, 24 Parganas South, West Bengal — the meeting was addressed by Comrade Saumen Basu, member, Polit Bureau ; 2. Comrade Radhakrishna, member, Polit Bureau addressing the meeting at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh; 3. A part of the gathering at Agartala, Tripura; 4. Comrade Sridhar, member, Central Committee addressing meeting at Hyderabad, Telangana

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