

Proletarian Era

Volume 48 No. 19 Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)
June 1, 2015 Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Price : Rs. 3.00

Jayalalithaa's acquittal in disproportionate asset case

Raising questions about due process of law

AIADMK supremo and two times Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Ms Jayalalithaa has been acquitted of all corruption charges in the disproportionate assets case by a vacation bench of Karnataka High Court on 11 May, 2015. The way this very important case, which was continuing for 19 long years was virtually folded up in a vacation bench with tearing hurry has raised several eyebrows throughout the country. Strangely, the acquittal was ordered without allowing the prosecution to argue their views in the Court. The Court also directed return of all the confiscated assets to Ms Jayalalithaa. For quite some time, a series of judicial pronouncements in favour of persons occupying seats of power or projected as celebrities made people wonder if the juridical process was duly followed in granting such exonerations. The charges ranging

from amassing assets widely disproportionate to known source of income, corruption, abuse of power to make personal gains to even murder. The common experience is that while the legal procedure tends to be very stringent, if not abnormally harsh at times, in dealing with cases where the accused is an ordinary person, often belonging to the poor and downtrodden segment of the populace, too much of lax, it leniency, undue dragging, overlooking of glaring evidence, tampering with official documents, inexplicable turnaround on the part of the prosecution including central investigating agencies, insufficient references to law books, frequent change of judges and counsels without any apparent cogent reasons and a host of such aberrations have become the hallmark of court cases where the accused are persons having sufficient clout in the

political-government-administrative circle or have so called prominence in the society. Of late, there have also been a slew of allegations of biased and partisan judgments on the part of the Judiciary raising questions if the Judiciary is gradually becoming committed to the power that be. The acquittal of Ms Jayalalithaa, if viewed in the backdrop of available facts and turn of events, would provide enough grounds for such apprehensions to be stronger. In this backdrop and for arriving at the truth, we intend to have a glance at the available facts, may be with a little more details, starting with the case of Ms Jayalalithaa.

The conviction of Ms Jayalalithaa

In 1996, BJP leader Subramanyam Swamy who once was very close to Ms Jayalalithaa

filed a case accusing her of amassing huge assets disproportionate to her income. As per estimate furnished by him then, the assets so built up amounted to Rs 66.65 crore. Needless to say, after 18 years, the value of that asset has gone up substantially, may be 3 to 4 times more. Lavish display of riches and affluence during the wedding of Ms Jayalalithaa's foster son in 1995 also invited public revulsion against her unaccountable ostentation. Though she managed to wriggle out of a host of cases of corruption and malfeasance filed against her, the suit filed by Swamy remained pending for 14 years among lots of twists and turns. In the meantime, Jayalalithaa was saddled in the seat of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for two terms and obviously arrogated more political power to herself. Taking note of

Contd. on page 2

SUCI(C) top leadership hands over relief material to UCPN (M) leaders in Kathmandu, holds talk on various issues

In the *Proletarian Era* dated 1 May, 2015, we published the letter dated 26-04-15 written by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), to Comrade Prachanda, Chairman, Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) [UCPN(M)], expressing deep distress at the calamity that had struck Nepal on April 25, conveying condolence to the Nepalese people for the loss of life of thousands of their compatriots in the earthquake and offering help in relief work. After a prompt interim reply, Comrade Yubaraj Chaulagain, Secretary, International Department, UCPN (Maoist), sent the following letter on 15-05-15 :

Dear Comrades,

We thank you very much for your heartiest support to the victims of devastating earthquakes that happened on 25 April 2015 and afterwards. We appreciate medical and other support from the side of SUCI which is the another height of true friendship with the spirit of proletariat internationalism shown by SUCI.

We will manage a time for you to see the chairman of UCPN (Maoist) Comrade Prachanda by upcoming 22nd of this May. We will have a lot of discussions on the different issues on that occasion.

I am looking forward to your answer.

with revolutionary greetings and regards!

Accordingly, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Member, Polit Bureau and Comrade Satyawan, Member, Central Committee, Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) [SUCI(C)] met Comrade Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', on 21 May, 2015, at his official residence in Kathmandu, Nepal to extend the support of the toiling people of India to the neighbouring earthquake-stricken working people of Nepal. Comrade Chakraborty



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty handing over the relief cheque to Comrade Prachanda

expressed deep concern at the plight of the people of Nepal, particularly the toiling masses, and handed over to Comrade Prachanda a draft of INR 25 lakhs representing contribution raised from the people of India by the volunteers of SUCI(C) across India for their earthquake-stricken neighbours. He stated that being internationalists, it is our proletarian obligation to stand by the suffering people of Nepal at this hour of grave crisis. Comrade Prachanda expressed thanks on behalf of the UCPN(M) and the toiling people of Nepal for sharing their distress.

Comrade Chakraborty also exchanged with Comrade Prachanda the experience of the Medical Front of the SUCI(C) who have been working in the devastated districts of Dolakha, Kathmandu, Nuwakot and Lalitpur over

Contd. on page 8

Due process of law

Judiciary and central crime investigating agencies found to be discernibly soft with political big shots, industrial barons, so called celebrities and top bureaucrats

Contd. from page 1

that, the Supreme Court in 2005 shifted the case from Tamil Nadu to Karnataka stating that it was not possible for the case to run neutrally in Tamil Nadu. Karnataka government appointed Shri B V Acharya as the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) in the case. Finally, the case picked up steam in 2010 in the Special Trial Court of Karnataka. But then a series of interim motions and legal manoeuvring ensued which ultimately led to Shri Acharya, who had brought the case to near fruition resigning from the post of SPP. His resignation was accepted by the then BJP-led Karnataka government and Shri Bhavani Singh replaced him as the new SPP under "directions of the Supreme Court". While the job of the SPP is to try to prove the charges against the accused, it was alleged that Shri Bhavani Singh did just the opposite, tried every way to help Ms Jayalalithaa and intentionally prolonged the hearing. In this background stepped in Justice John Michael Cunha as the last trial judge. He had a reputation for thoroughness and probity. The proceedings began in the Karnataka Special Court. Finally, Justice Cunha passed on 27 September, 2014 the ruling against the AIADMK supremo pronouncing her guilty and blamed her of taking advantage of procedural trammels of the legal system in keeping the penal consequences at bay for the last 18 years. The Special Court judgment said, "The accused have failed to offer any satisfactory explanation as to the enormous unexplained credits entered into their bank accounts. Whatever explanation offered by the accused by way of confirmatory letters is proved to be false and bogus. The identity of the persons who provided the source is not proved. The transactions which resulted in the cash credit are also not established... It is also proved in evidence that the returns and the balance sheets and the profit and loss accounts were manoeuvred solely with a view to offer an explanation about the huge unexplained credits entered in their respective bank accounts. As a result, the accused have failed to prove their defence even by the standard of preponderance of probability." Taking into

consideration all these facts and circumstances, Cunha said, "I am of the view that this case calls for stringent punishment." So, she was sentenced to 4 years jail and a fine of Rs 100 crore.

Ms Jayalalithaa's conviction was hailed by many as a victory for the Judiciary and verdict against criminalization of politics. It was observed by many including a section of the press that Justice Cunha had risked his life and created a milestone in the realm of justice in India by removing a sitting powerful Chief Minister. To go against Ms Jayalalithaa in a politically volatile atmosphere even after proving her guilt without a shadow of doubt required immense fortitude, they all said.

Public Prosecutor's volte face over granting of bail

But Ms Jayalalithaa went for an appeal. Initially her bail petition was rejected by the Karnataka High Court on 7 October 2014. While rejecting bail, Justice Chandrasekhar stated that persons jailed under the acts of corruption cannot be let out easily and going by the precedents on other corruption cases, there are no chances for granting bail to her. He also mentioned that the sentence accorded cannot be stopped. Initially, Shri Bhavani Singh, strongly opposed bail. Bhavani Singh's written submission then stated that "in view of the seriousness of the offences and keeping in view the status of the accused, the prosecution reasonably apprehends that if the conviction and sentence is stayed, she may misuse the liberty and in such event, it will be difficult for the prosecution to secure the presence of the accused for receiving the sentence, if the appeal is dismissed by this court in the latter stage". He further stated that "Section 389(1) of the Cr PC provides only suspension of sentence and not the conviction as prayed for by the appellants". But within a week, Shri Singh, for reasons unknown, made a *volte face* and said that the prosecution had no arguments to make and no objection to conditional bail being granted. But the Karnataka High Court despite such a stand by the Public Prosecutor, dismissed the bail application and ruled that the "court is of the opinion that no grounds exist to suspend the sentence", and "viewed from any angle, this is not a

fit case in which sentence could be suspended and bail consequentially granted".

Refusing the bail, the judge ruled: "When the Special Public Prosecutor was asked as to whether he has any submission in this regard to make, he has openly submitted that he has no arguments to make and that the sentence may be suspended and the accused may be released on imposing conditions deemed fit under the circumstances of the case. But he did not make any submission as to whether he does not press the written objections already filed." And remarked that "Corruption amounts to violation of human rights and leads to economic imbalance."

The acquittal

So Ms Jayalalithaa's only hope of securing bail was through a special leave petition in the Supreme Court. The petition was filed and the Apex Court on 18 October, 2014, suspended her four-year sentence and granted her bail taking on her word that there would be no attempt to delay criminal appeal proceedings in the Karnataka High Court. At the beginning of hearing of the bail petition in January 2015, an issue then arose as to whether the SPP Bhavani Singh had been properly appointed to conduct the appeal. After examination, the Supreme Court ruled that Shri Bhavani Singh had been improperly appointed. So again Shri B V Acharya was brought back as SPP in the eleventh hour.

The case was then referred back to Karnataka High Court for hearing of the appeal against her conviction. Finally, the Karnataka High Court set aside the Special Court verdict and freed AIADMK supremo of all the charges arguing that her illegal or unaccounted wealth was about 8% of her income - which was "relatively small" and "within the permissible limit of 10 per cent". Shri Acharya reacted strongly to the verdict, saying the prosecution case was seriously prejudiced as Karnataka government and the SPP appointed by it were denied an opportunity to convince the High Court through oral arguments.

Flawed mathematics and other discrepancies marked the acquittal verdict

He further alleged that the acquittal is based on deeply flawed

mathematics. Justice CR Kumaraswamy while acquitting Jayalalithaa had observed that she had received loans worth Rs 24 crore. But, Shri Acharya said that the actual loan figure comes up to only Rs 10 crore. So there is a shortfall of about Rs 14 crore. Shri Acharya also contended that Ms Jayalalithaa's total disproportionate assets are not just 8.12% disproportionate as stated by High Court but is actually as high as 76%. He also pointed out that the High Court judgment had shown gifts alleged to be tainted as legitimate, exaggerated earnings from one of her companies and a lowered estimation of construction cost on her various properties. In the sources of her income, the order lists 'gifts' to the tune of Rs. 1.5 crore offered to Ms Jayalalithaa on her 44th birthday in 1992. But as pointed out by the prosecution, these gifts are under CBI investigation for an alleged breach of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, which prevents a public servant from receiving gifts from those with whom he or she has official business. The High Court order also lists Rs. 4 crore as income that Jayalalithaa earned from her company Jaya Publications between 1991 and 1996. But, according to her own submissions before the trial court, the company only earned a profit of Rs. 1.15 crore in that period. No explanation was given for this four-fold exaggeration by the High Court.

Crucially, the High Court verdict used a puzzling method to compute the cost of construction of the properties of Ms Jayalalithaa and her associates. According to the prosecution, these plots - adding up to about 1.6 lakh square feet - were developed at a cost of approximately Rs. 27 crore, which makes up almost a third of Ms Jayalalithaa's alleged unaccounted wealth of Rs. 66 crore. But the judgement found the cost of construction to be only about Rs. 5 crore, slashing almost a third of her unaccounted assets. The order did this by fixing a flat rate of Rs. 250 per sq ft as construction costs for all the properties - a highly unusual decision given that the properties range from farm houses in Tirunelveli to bungalows and offices in the heart of Chennai. But how did the judgement arrive at this rate of

Contd. on page 9

“Comrade Shibdas Ghosh wanted that we have the courage, character, culture, revolutionary audacity, grit and determination to make revolution successful”

(This is the text of the speech delivered in Hindi by Comrade Ranjit Dhar, veteran Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C), at the 68th Party Foundation Day meeting in Patna, Bihar on 24 April. Responsibility of translation error and inadequacy of expression, if any, lies with the Editorial Board of Proletarian Era)

— Comrade Ranjit Dhar

Comrade President and Comrades,
Today, 24th April, is the foundation day of our beloved Party SUCI(C), the real revolutionary party of Indian proletariat which was founded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. On this occasion we have assembled here to discuss and understand the root cause of the prevailing strangulating situation and determine our task. After independence so many governments led by different parties and combinations like Congress, BJP and others have come. Now it is Narendra Modi's rule. All the leaders of election-oriented bourgeois parties make tall promises to the people during elections. But, after their riding to power, all such promises are reneged on and people's life worsens further. People's life is plagued with deep all round crisis. Price line, unemployment, job loss and distress of the peasants are soaring. Why it is so?

Earlier the British rulers exploited our country through colonization, plundered our natural resources and cheap labour power and reaped huge profit. To run the oppressive rule, they established a state machine comprising military, judiciary and bureaucracy subservient to them. Naturally, the people of this country launched a struggle for obtaining freedom, not just political freedom but emancipation from all sorts of exploitations-economic-social-cultural. We did achieve political freedom but did not achieve emancipation from oppression-repression. Exploiters changed, but exploitation remained. As against British imperialists, Indian national bourgeoisie captured the state power. And parties subservient to the Indian bourgeoisie have been running the governments. 30 years it was uninterrupted Congress rule. Then came Janata Party. Then again Congress, followed by United Front of various regional outfits, then BJP, again Congress and now again BJP. But there is no change in people's condition. Because through election, only the government which is caretaker of the capitalist state changes. But the capitalist state does not change. The machine is not changed. Only the operator is

changed. As the machine built for extracting juice from sugar cane cannot produce paper, so capitalist machine cannot breed anything other than wails and woes for the people and can only extract more and more capital for the capitalists. So there is no respite for the people from all miseries and penury, deprivations and aberrations stemming from



Comrade Ranjit Dhar addressing

exploitative capitalist system.

Besides the common toiling people—the workers, peasants and middle class—aspiring Indian national bourgeoisie also took part in our freedom movement but with a different objective. People wanted emancipation of all exploitations whereas the Indian bourgeoisie wanted that the state machine shifted from the hands of the British rulers to it. So, instead of the British imperialist rulers, we are now subjugated to the rule of the native capitalists. Our country was also class divided during freedom movement. Still today the country is class divided with handful of rich capitalist owners on one side and millions of toiling oppressed people on the other side i.e. between labour and capital. The aims and interests of the two classes are fundamentally different. Capitalist owners exploit and deprive the workers of their legitimate dues with a view to maximizing profit whereas workers want emancipation from the yoke of that exploitation and deprivation. Now, if we want to produce clothes, we shall have to replace the cane juice-producing machine by a loom. Similarly, the desired emancipation cannot come by unless prevailing capitalist state machine is smashed by revolution and replaced by socialist state. This

is the deterministic law of social development and no one can go against this scientifically determined objective law. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in course of concretization of the science of Marxism-Leninism on the Indian soil could realize the need of Indian revolution marked by the absence of a genuine communist party without which revolution i.e. replacement of the old state machine by a new state machine cannot be accomplished. He showed on the anvil of Marxist analysis that the undivided CPI did not grow as a real communist party. So he took upon himself the historic task of building up SUCI(C) as the correct communist party based on Leninist model.

In a class divided society, party means class party. The ruling bourgeoisie has its class parties to serve its reactionary class needs. Similarly, the working class ought to have a party of its own to fulfil its class need—need to bring about revolutionary transformation of the society. The genuine revolutionary working class party provides a platform to the poor workers, peasants and other sections of the oppressed people for being united, strengthen themselves, both ideologically and organizationally, to lead the struggle for accomplishing anti-capitalist socialist revolution. The revolutionary party is the greatest weapon in their hands to develop struggles for overthrowing the present capitalist state and replacement of it by a new socialist state. So, it is the task of the poor peasants and workers to strengthen their class party with all their might. During the days of freedom struggle, it was the Congress whose leadership was in the hands of the Indian national bourgeoisie. So the Indian capitalists like Tatas, Birlas helped the Congress with money and all other help so that it could be instrumental in installing them into power following attainment of political freedom. They backed Gandhiji as they found in him a leader who could be used to buttress this sinister agenda of theirs. In absence of a correct revolutionary party, the fruits of such a glorious freedom movement were usurped by the Indian national bourgeoisie.

In the post-independence period, the Congress ran the government

for many years. Then when it following pursuit of a plethora of anti-people policies became thoroughly discredited, the ruling bourgeoisie began looking out for an alternative force which could be saddled in power to sustain its oppressive class rule. The alternative was to be so projected as to make people believe that a change of incumbent would end their predicament. In that process, the BJP has come to power with the full backing of the ruling class.

Has the situation changed after the BJP came to power? No, not at all. Because, as stated by me earlier, there has been a change of the operator, but the capitalist machine is not changed. Whoever would come in power with the blessings of the class, cannot but function as a skilled operator of that machine. Whether it is Manmohan Singh, Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, Atal Behari Vajpayee or Narendra Modi—all have to continue to operate the same machine, the same set of anti-people pro-capitalist policies. It is said that India is a poor country. Actually the people of this country are poor. But the ruling capitalists are not poor. They have accumulated huge wealth by exploiting the toiling masses. After attainment of monopoly character, they have now developed imperialist features exporting capital abroad, in various countries of Europe, West Asia, Africa and even USA. Out of the 10 richest persons in the world today, five are Indian industrialists.

More crisis-ridden capitalism is, more it is subverting democracy. Elections today are being manipulated mostly with money-muscle-media power. During elections money is given freely to poor people. Youths are given liquor. By spending crores and crores of rupees dignity is bought from the poor people. Where does this huge money come from? Who gives this huge money to the election-oriented parties? It is the capitalists. They want their servitors only to win elections. Criminalization of politics is at the peak. Seat of legislator has become a means for money making and self-aggrandizement. In the last general election, most of the MPs elected are billionaires. Many are having serious criminal charges

Contd. on page 4

Comrade Ranjit Dhar's speech

Through election, only government which is caretaker of the capitalist state changes, capitalist state does not change

Contd. from page 3

against them. This is the murky face of bourgeois politics. Where is democracy.

It is true that we also participate in the elections. Because so long as we are not in a position to free people from parliamentary illusion and make them conscious of the fact that the desired change in their disastrous life condition can be brought about only by revolution, we have to take part in the elections with our line of strengthening class and mass struggle. If we win any seat, it would help us to reflect voice of extra-parliamentary people's struggle inside the legislature and also expose the futility of the parliamentary system. Our aim is to prepare people for revolution by involving them in the class and mass struggles, train them to be equipped to fight against the capitalist state machinery. More conscious are the people and are so equipped, more developed and strengthened will be our Party organization. If our Party does not grow, the prevailing suffocating situation would not change.

It is not that movements did not surge forth, both during British rule as well as in independent India. People made lot of sacrifices, gave away their lives. More movements were conducted after independence than those were conducted before independence. Latest was the JP movement that rocked in the 1970s. But the desired emancipation did not come by. Why? Because, these movements were not conducted under correct revolutionary leadership. And without being led by correct revolutionary party and leadership, the movements cannot reach their logical culmination. As said earlier, the undivided CPI (now split in several factions like CPI, CPI (M) and various Naxalite groups) did not grow as a true communist party. So neither it nor any of its split factions could provide correct leadership to the people's struggles. Carrying the signboard 'communist', the CPI, CPI (M), CPI (ML) are all practising bourgeois vote politics forsaking the path of struggle. Once CPI was a big party in Bihar returning around ten MPs. Where is it now? Within a short time of our Party foundation in West Bengal, organizational activities were started in Bihar. Comrades Pritish Chanda and Hiren Sarkar, members of our first Central Committee, started party work in Bihar. But, it is true that our expansion has not been that much as

was desired though we have an invincible weapon in the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. We must probe why did we lack in this? When all other parties are disintegrating, we are growing throughout India, not in terms of MLAs, MPs but based on people's struggles. Inspired by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, many youths are joining our Party. But it is true that still we have not been able to muster the organizational strength required for creating revolutionary upsurge. But we are fighting. Our ideology is correct; our foundation is on the correct base.

The spectacle of capitalist India is horrific. Being unable to get remunerative price for their produces after shedding sweat and blood and bearing escalating cost of agricultural inputs, lakhs of debt-stricken peasants are committing suicide. Workers are being retrenched in industries. New industries are not coming up. There is no new recruitment in the existing industries. There is no permanent job. All hard-earned civic and democratic rights including trade union rights are being snatched away. With every passing day, it is revealed that the governments, whether at Centre or in the states, are not for the poor but for the rich and affluent. Election cannot bring the aspired change. Only revolution can bring it and for that genuine revolutionary party must be strengthened.

A new culture is needed for revolution. We want to build a new exploitation-free society. There will be new state machine, new methods, new laws in new society. There will be new models of life. This new society cannot be built with existing mentality and culture. New character, new culture, new life and new mentality are needed for the new society. If we continue pursuing the existing culture, we would not be able to build a new society. Culture is prime. Culture comprises character, values, ethics, morality, relationship, behavioural pattern and yearnings. So the Party historically poised to bring about the new society by revolution should be based on new proletarian culture. If we are unable to build up organization based on higher proletarian culture, we shall not be able to rule out the possibility of degeneration like the Soviet party. After accomplishment of historic proletarian revolution in Soviet Union under leadership of great Lenin and remarkable consolidation of

socialism by great Stalin overcoming all hurdles and foiling all conspiracies of world imperialism-capitalism, socialism was dismantled in Russia. Great Mao Zedong led Chinese revolution to success. But after Mao's death, counter-revolution occurred in China. So People are asking if communism is correct, why socialism failed in Russia and China. Answer has been provided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh based on the correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism. The principle reason is infiltration of bourgeois thoughts, ideas and culture in the communist movement. Economic base and political superstructure was changed but the desired change in culture, in mental make-up, in forces of habit did not come. If mind, mentality, wants, aspirations and culture are not conducive to the social progress, neither can revolution take place nor can it be protected. The role of mind is very important for doing anything. Mind guides and conducts one's activities. If mind is not based on science, scientific logic and higher culture, the longed march of the society towards change and progress cannot be achieved.

If we are to develop ourselves as communists, we must acquire higher culture through conduction of an all-embracing struggle. What is communist culture? Marx had said that humanism minus private property is communism. Elaborating further, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed that private property includes private property mental complex i.e. my property, my land, my house, my family, my ideas, all thoughts centring on the thought of self possession. But today, emancipation of the individual is inextricably linked with the question of emancipation of the society. So sense of collectiveness must overtake individualistic thoughts. And this sense of collectiveness is fostered when one has unlimited love and affection for the comrades and the people and leads a mass life with a revolutionary purposiveness. Alongside carrying out the various routine Party activities like selling of Party organ, organizing meetings and demonstrations, undertaking wall writing and pasting posters etc., we must learn how to live mass life, be a home-member of all families, share their joys and sorrows. We are seriously lacking in this. This lacking has to be overcome.

After riding to power, the RSS-BJP has been on a spree to inculcate

religious backwardness, bigotry and revivalist obscurantist communal thoughts to poison people's mind and blunt rational thinking process so that divisiveness among the toiling masses grows and possibility of people's united conscious struggle crystallizing against capitalist oppression is scuttled. The very cultural mosaic of the country is under threat. There are ludicrous claims of all modern scientific truths having been discovered by the sages of ancient Indian land. Myths are equated with objective reality. Education is being nakedly saffronized. In the name of so called Indianization, Hindu communal thoughts are spread and religious minorities are persecuted, discriminated against, physically assaulted and even subjected to organized violence and killing. Hindus and Muslims jointly fought for freedom with fraternal feeling. Now that unity is being planfully destroyed and one section of the toiling people is pitted against the other. Fatalistic ideas are being fomented. It is propagated that poverty and sufferings are due to the sins people had committed in their previous birth. If they please and placate god in this birth, they will be free from all problems in the next birth. God will deliver them their emancipation. This is how, people's attention is diverted from the real cause of misery and penury and exploitative capitalism is shielded. A dark age is being foisted on the people. Long back Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had shown that the ideological base of fascism which is being increasingly resorted to by the bourgeoisie in all countries in the form of concentration of all powers in the hands of the state, is a peculiar fusion between the technical aspects of science and spiritualism. The bourgeoisie adopts only the technological aspects of science to modernize industry and bring down cost of production. But in the sphere of thoughts, it banishes science and adopts all religious backwardness and obscurantist ideas so as to mar the thinking process and destroy thinking faculty.

And as I referred earlier, there is an all out attack on culture so that people are emasculated from within and do not rise in protest against exploitative capitalism. On the one side, there is fomenting of revivalist obscurantist thoughts while on the other hand, there is increasing encouragement to spread of rotten

Contd. on page 8

Land Bill is purported to boost real estate

In the *Proletarian Era* dated 01-03-2015, we had published a detailed article highlighting the anti-peasant anti-people aspects of the black Land Acquisition Ordinance that the BJP government issued and is now seeking to get the same formalized through enactment in Parliament. We had shown that the Ordinance would enable the corporate sharks to devour vast tracts of agricultural land by dint of application of brute force by the government. The argument put forth by the government is that this Ordinance is warranted because in absence of land, industrialization is not taking place in the country. It is reported in the media that projects worth Rs 4-lakh crore are held up because of non-availability of land. While the government has failed to provide a list of projects that have been held up, Economic Survey 2015 does not list land as a limiting factor for infrastructure projects to take off. It states that the projects are held up because of unfavourable market conditions, and lack of investor interest. Secondly, if land availability was a factor, why over 576 Special Economic Zones have failed to perform?

What about land already acquired?

In many of our earlier articles, we had shown on the anvil of reason that industrialization in the truest sense of the term cannot take place in decadent moribund acutely crisis-ridden capitalism. This brief write up is purported to show how hollow is the argument that lack of land is the insurmountable obstacle to build up industrialization as vast swathes of acquired land lie unused round the country.

No one denies the fact that land is necessary for setting up industries. It's also well known that State-level IIDCs acquire agricultural land from the peasants and distribute to the industrialists for setting up industries. But have the governments made use of the vast areas of agricultural land that the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has long grabbed in different states on the pretext of establishing

industries? Is it that no land acquired so far is left unused? It is on record that such Industrial Development Corporations in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat till date have acquired a staggering 5,72,793 acres of land. Out of it, as much as 2,55,471 acres still remain to be distributed to the industrialists and hence lying unused.

Statewise break-up of unutilized acquired land

In Maharashtra, the quantum of undistributed land is about 1,00,000 acres. Yet Maharashtra State IDC is out to acquire another 25,000 acres of agricultural land. Maharashtra has 6 industrial parks in Raigad district along the Konkan region. The total land here is 7000 acres. But 3,700 acres are yet to be distributed. In the industrial parks whatever few small scale industries were set up now have their shutters down. Peace of graveyard now looms large in these much hyped industrial parks.

Undivided Andhra Pradesh (AP) also does not lag behind in misusing the acquired land. Till 2012 the state IDC acquired 1,39,000 acres of land. 50,000 acres out of it still is left undistributed. Among the distributed land, 23,000 acres remain unused. In 2007, AP state government of undivided AP handed over 10,760 acres of land to corporate giant Reddy Brothers in Kadapa district. Nothing sort of industry has developed there. The Reddys leveraged the land — which they purchased for Rs. 18 crore — to raise Rs. 350 crore of loan. But not a single pie has been invested on it.

Gujarat, the much hyped citadel of so called industrialization, is no better. While Narendra Modi was ruling as the chief minister there, the Gujarat state IDC grabbed a whopping 1,03,784 acres of land. But 50% of that land is yet to be distributed among the industrialists. Jaynarayan Vyas, a former chairman of GIDC admitted that some of the industrial parks in Gujarat's hinterland had no takers. "In the government's enthusiasm to promote industrial development,

parks were developed in a large number of districts," he said. "But they are not successful in attracting the industries."

Same is the scenario in Uttar Pradesh (UP). The state IDC there acquired 49,000 acres. Around 35% of that land is lying vacant. There is a UPSIDC park near Lucknow, which given its prime location should make it highly sought after. But vacant land could be found there also. A few flour mills, a pickling unit and some small scale industries were set up. But all these have closed down after a brief spell of activity. Several had 'Available for Lease' or 'For Sale' signs hanging on them. On many occasions, the UPSIDC has to acquire land due to political compulsions to develop backward areas. As a result, a large chunk of acquired land has remained unused at places like Banda (Bundelkhand), Rae Bareilly and Amethi.

In Madhya Pradesh, the state IDC has acquired more land than it has been able to develop. Several companies have failed to fulfil their memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with the government resulting in land lying idle. About a dozen companies were given 2000 hectares each for jatropha plantation, a high-yield oil seed used to manufacture bio-diesel. Only one company started a venture, leaving about 21,000 hectares of land idle. The state finally had to move in to retake possession of the land.

In Odisha, for example, 3799 acres acquired for TISCO steel plant in Gopalpur in 1995 has still not been used.

All these facts make it clear that land acquired by the IDCs in different states have failed to attract industrialists-capitalists to establish industries. The reasons are not difficult to understand. Last two decades have seen record slump in the productive industries. No quackery proved remedial. Production industry comprises just about 15% of the GDP. Naturally the capitalists are unwilling to invest in this major sphere. But, the vast amount of unallotted or unproductive industrial land across India doesn't

preclude the need to tweak clauses of the Land Acquisition Ordinance. (Source: Truth Versus Hype: The Myth of Land Acquisition - ndtv-30-11-14 and Hindustan Times-10-04-15)

Even SEZs and IT sector lands are also lying unutilized

Not just vast stretches of arable land, even the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which offer plethora of concessions and facilities to the industrialists — Tax waiver, millions in terms of bank loans without or with minimal interest, water-electricity almost free, wages and working hours determined as the owner wishes—are wearing a desert look in many places. Vast land acquired for SEZs lay majorly vacant. BJP minister Nirmala Sitaraman has burst the big bubble of industrialization in her answer to a question in the Upper House on 18 March last. Her reporting of the vacant portion of the total land taken for SEZs destroys the myth: Chattisgarh 78.24%, Goa 100%, Gujarat 38.73%, Haryana 70.69%, Karnataka 45.13%, Kerala 46.91%, Madhya Pradesh 46.87 percent, Maharashtra 47.47%, Odisha 38.90%, Rajasthan 82.31%, Uttar Pradesh 63.24%. It's to be noticed that altogether 1,15,000 acres of land has been acquired for SEZs. Out of it around 88000 acres are taken in AP and Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra alone. Undistributed land account for 33000 acres in these four states.

A CAG report says that out of the 45,635.63 hectares of land notified for the development of SEZs, actual operations took place in only 28,488.49 hectares or 62 per cent of the land acquired. Neither did the SEZs create employment nor did it lead to manufacturing or industrial growth. And remember there was no environment clearance hurdle nor was there any social impact assessment required. Moreover, with all kinds of tax holidays, estimated to be in tune of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, the SEZs failed to perform. In a scathing comment, CAG says "Acquisition of land from

Contd. on page 6



Comrade Satyawan, Member, Central Committee, SUCI(C) addressing joint rally against Land Acquisition Bill in Delhi on 5 May

Land Bill is purported to boost real estate

Contd. from page 5

the public by the government is proving to be a major transfer of wealth from the rural populace to the corporate world."

And finally, what about the much-hyped IT sector? Accountant General of the Government of India reports that for the development of IT sector 1384.12 acres of land has been acquired between 1990 and 2014. But, only 493.28 acres (36%) have been used. Unused land is 890.84 acres. The situation is not difficult to understand. In this sphere too, there is no real initiative seen among the industrialists. (The New Indian Express 20.3.2015)

So, the objective reality is there is no pressing need for land for setting up industrial units even in SEZ and IT sector. Rather stretches of vacant land have been kept reserved for the capitalist lords. Even the purchased media, the uninhibited supporter of forcible land grabbing policy of Narendra Modi, cannot hide this stark reality. The news covering Mr Modi's investment declaration in Burnpur ISCO factory came out in screaming headline: NO MARKET THEN WHY INVESTMENT! (Anandabazar Patrika 11.5.2015) Candid confession indeed!

Land being grabbed for realty business

So, the question that naturally arises is that if there is no market and as a corollary no industry, then why has it become so imperative for the Modi government to grab more

land on war footing? In the shrieking debates and the deafening noise that preceded and still continues over the Land Acquisition ordinance, the real issues behind the need for a law that allows forceful takeover of land have disappeared from public scrutiny and domain.

Recently a report has thrown light on the whereabouts of real estate business in India and its future possibilities. It has shown that in 2012 investment in this sphere has been \$ 34 million. Global Construction and Oxford Economics have further shown that around 2025 India will be the third largest realty market in the world. Every year 11.5 million flats will be sold in Indian market. Land prices are on an uncontrolled rise in our country. Realty business, the capitalist class considers, thus will become a roaring one. And land is necessary to translate it into reality. But not any land. It must be close to big cities where modern ingredients for lavish luxurious life will be within easy reach. To get land with such special features new law, new system, and new initiative is the need. This purpose we are noticing is expressly clear in the central government's Land Bill which is nothing but an ominous legalization of the process for speedy appropriation and facilitation of land acquisition in a quick, cheap and easy way with little concern for consent, just compensation, effective rehabilitation and resettlement of land owners and the others dependent on land. So, the hideous underbelly of the real purpose of the



Protest against Land Acquisition Bill in Madhya Pradesh.

Ordinance is out in the open. It is purported to promote the real estate business of the monopolists and corporate bigwigs. As we have been reiterating again and again, capitalist economy is enmeshed in acute unsolvable market crisis. So, it is on the lookout for avenues from where it could fetch maximum profit. One such area is realty and infrastructure building. So, most of the monopoly houses, both in the country and abroad, have been opening their infrastructure and realty promotion

wings to reap huge commercial benefits. "India is amongst the top 20 real estate investment destinations for 2014 with total of USD 5,000 million," global property consultant Cushman & Wakefield said in a statement. So, is the tearing hurry for grabbing land at any cost. The Modi-led BJP government has been befooling people with the slogan that 'land necessary for industrialization'. But we know that those who consider others fool are fools themselves.

AIDSO calls

All India Students' Strike on 8 September against menacing attack on education

In a statement issued on 16-05-2015, Comrade Ashok Mishra, General Secretary, AIDSO said, inter alia, that in order to somehow stave off the insolvable market crisis endemic of the capitalist system, the bourgeois rulers throughout the world embarked upon the ruinous policy of globalization-liberalization from mid 1990s. This prescribed, among other things, all-out privatization and commercialization of education. All the governments whether led by Congress or BJP or any other regional bourgeois parties, have deliberately abolished pass-fail up to Class VIII and are making the board examinations optional. As a result students can learn nothing. Even the poor and lower middle class people spending their last farthing are trying to send their children to private schools. Fees are enhanced in the government-run institutions to ensure 'level-playing field' with the private investors in education sector. The semester and gradation system, introduced of late, have already severely damaged the teaching-learning process. Now, the BJP-led Central Government is going to introduce Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and RUSA

which will deliver further lethal blow to higher education. Moreover, the Central Government is on a spree of saffronizing education to destroy whatever little of secular and scientific education is still remaining in our country. They are trying to distort history, rewriting text books in their own manner. Communalism, religious superstition and obscurantism are making decisive inroad in the syllabi. An attack on education is attack on human consciousness.

The AIDSO has launched countrywide movement to resist this sinister design. As culmination of the phase of building up strong students' movement through organization of rallies, protest demonstrations, dharnas, road-blockade, post-card campaign, observance of All India Demand Week and holding of Parliament March etc., **AIDSO is giving call of All India Student Strike on 8th September 2015. We appeal to the students, teachers, educationists as well as common education loving people of our country to extend their all-out support to make the student strike a grand success.**

Countrywide protest against black Land acquisition bill

Protest against the black ordinance on land acquisition has assumed countrywide spread. We have already published the reports of the protests launched by our Party on the pages of Proletarian Era {1 April Haryana; 15 April Odisha; 1 May Karnataka; 15 May Jharkhand among others}. Besides a huge dharna was staged on 11 April at Patna, Bihar by united efforts of left parties including SUCI(C), CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) Akhil Hind Forward Bloc (Krantikari), MCPI(U) and others. Peasants and agricultural labourers coming from different parts of the state expressed their strong indignation at the ordinance and firm resolution towards developing movement against it.

On 5 May thousands of people

protested the land ordinance at Parliament Street in Delhi at the call of the Bhumi Adhikar Sanghrash Andolan (Struggle for Land Right) formed of more than 40 mass organizations of the country including the All India Krishak O Khetmazdoor Sangathan (AIKKMS). The massive rally unhesitatingly condemned the ordinance and the manner the Union government of BJP was pushing it. The rally was addressed by Ms Medha Patkar, the leader of the National Alliance for People's Movement, Comrades Satyawan, Member, Central Committee and Haryana State Secretary, SUCI(C), Sitaram Yechuri, General Secretary CPI(M), D Raja, CPI leader, G Devarajan, leader of All India Forward Bloc and leaders of other mass organizations.

UP State Anganwadi workers' protest demonstration

On 11 May a state wise massive protest was organized by Uttar Pradesh Aanganwadi Activists' Association affiliated to AIUTUC at Moradabad, against the Union Finance Minister recommendation for the closure of ICDS scheme and curtailment of ICDS budget by the Central Government. On 17 May at Sambhal in UP, the Association gheraoed BJP MP Satyapal Saini on the same issue.

Hyderabad AIDS O protests against CCE and closure of park

Protesting against the decision of the Telangana government to introduce CCE (continuous comprehensive evaluation) method for 10 class students in the middle of the academic year 2014-15, PACC (Parents Associations Coordination Committee) and AIDS O Hyderabad district committee organised a dharna cum protest demonstration programme before State Secretariat on 23 May last. Those addressing the demonstration explaining the pernicious implication of the decision were Comrade R.

Gangadhar, AP and Telangana State Secretary, AIDS O and Shri M.Kamesh, convener of PACC.

AIDS O, Hyderabad district committee, also organized a protest demonstration on 15 May against closure of NTR playground used by many people and students, for taking stroll, by the TRS government of Telangana on the pretext of setting up *Kalabharati* unit there.

AIMSS strongly condemned Sharanpur incident of atrocity on dalit women

AIMSS in a statement dated 18-05-2015 strongly condemned the incident of Sharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh in which five women of a dalit family were allegedly thrashed, stripped and paraded naked by members of another community because, as per media report, one of the girls from the attacking community had eloped with a youth from the attacked dalit family. Either for the above said reason or for any other reason, no woman can be thrashed or paraded nude in any democratic society, the statement said. The statement urged upon the Government to order an impartial enquiry into the whole incident and severely punish those found guilty.

AIUTUC expresses grave concern at Shillong High Court's ruling

In a statement issued on 29 May, 2015, Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) said that it is of grave concern that of late the Hon'ble High Court of Shillong has imposed a ban on the Media regarding circulation / publication of news of any Hartal / Strike / Bandh. The Court has also threatened penal action against the Media on the charge of Contempt of Court for such publication / circulation.

In our view, this Judgement is not only alarming but also unacceptable for the legitimate democratic movement of the country. We call upon all the democratic minded and well-meaning persons as well as socio-cultural-political and trade union organisations to stand united in defence of the hard-won democratic rights and come forward to protect the same.

Protest rally in Badlapur against fuel price hike

On 17 May, SUCI(C) unit of Badlapur- Jaunpur in UP staged a protest demonstration against the hike in fuel prices by the Union government and an effigy of the Union government was burnt despite resistance by the police.

AIDS O strongly condemns ban on Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle of IIT-Madras

Strongly condemning the ban imposed by the central HRD Ministry on organizing debates on

socio-political issues by Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle of IIT-Madras as a punishment for questioning Modi government's policies on the use of Hindi, cow-slaughter, ghar-wapsi programme and promoting Vedas, Comrade Ashok Mishra, General Secretary, AIDS O, in a statement dated 30-05-2015 said that clearly the Modi Government is intolerant to any sort of criticism against the government. By denying the scope of free, frank socio-political debate and discussion and curtailing right to freedom of speech, it is unveiling its fascistic character. The leaders of BJP-RSS-Sangh Parivar will now decide what the people will eat and speak. We vehemently oppose this attack on the freedom of speech and slaughter of democracy and appeal to the people in general and students in particular to raise their voice of protest.

BJP government rejects report on religious freedom which exposed the reality

The US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), released its annual report for 2015 on Thursday, placing India amid more than 30 countries that meet a "systematic, ongoing, and egregious" standard for failing to protect religious freedoms. Marking concern over "Hindu nationalist" groups for programmes of forced conversion, "Ghar Wapsi", attacks on churches and "hate campaigns" against Muslim minorities, the US Commission has retained India's status as a "Tier 2 Country of concern" on religious freedom. This has enraged the BJP government who in a statement said that "We take no cognizance of this report," as it is "based on a "limited understanding of India, its constitution and its society."

But every democratic-loving conscientious citizen of India knows that what the report said is a reality

in India. The very philosophy of RSS-BJP right from the day of inception has been anchored on Hindu fundamentalism, communalism and hatred for believers in other religions particularly the Muslims. Golwalkar, the ideologue of RSS, the parent body of BJP and the entire Saffron Brigade had openly said that "foreign races in Hindustan must either adopt the Hindu culture and language, must learn to respect and hold in reverence Hindu religion, must entertain no idea but those of the glorification, not the Hindu race and culture, i.e. of the Hindu nation and must lose their separate existence to merge in the Hindu race, or may stay in the country, wholly subordinated to the Hindu Nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment not even citizen's rights." (We or our nationhood) "Those are only national

patriots who wish to glorify the Hindu race and nation. "All others either are traitors and enemies to the National cause, or, to take a charitable view, idiots." (ibid) It was Golwalkar who had once said that the three internal enemies of concept of "Hindu Rashtra" are the Muslims, Christians and the Communists. So, RSS continued to spew venom against the Muslims, had released a hate campaign against the Muslims, persecuted them and even killed them in organized violence as Gujarat pogrom would vouch for. The RSS-BJP leaders are giving open call to Hindu youths to rape Muslim girls, asking Muslims to go to Pakistan, BJP leaders are calling Muslims as *Haramjadas* (bastards). Modi himself has called the Muslims "*kutte ki baccha*" (puppies). Criminal demolition of a historic monument like Babri Masjid by

Hindutva zealots in the presence of top BJP-RSS leaders is another instance of communal frenzy. Of late, there are attacks on churches as well. Hindutva zealots of Sangh Parivar like the VHP, RSS and Bajrang Dal led a violent attack on the minority Christian community in Kandhamal in Odisha. The BJP government has also sought to jettison the word "secular" from the preamble of Constitution. The list is endless. All these bear glaring testimony to the fact that RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar are making a mockery of religious freedom in India and pursuing Hindu fundamentalism and Hindu communalism with alacrity. And to shield all these, it is no surprise the Indian bourgeois government would reject the Report of the US Commission. But rejection would not keep the objective reality suppressed underneath.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar's speech**A new communist culture is required for revolution***Contd. from page 4*

imperialist culture of obscenity and sex-perversion. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had shown that by polluting culture, the ruling bourgeoisie is trying to break our moral backbone.

We must rise against all these. The crisis in our country is deepening. So, there is mounting discontent among people which are also bursting forth here and there as sporadic outbursts. Who will lead them except us? We have immense possibilities. We have the invaluable teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to guide us in every walk of life. But we are unable to discharge our responsibilities and grow fast because of our internal weakness.

Country needs revolution. People are waiting for revolution. We should have the courage, revolutionary audacity, grit and determination to make revolution successful. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has bequeathed that responsibility to us. We must fulfil that by developing our character, culture, political consciousness and organizational capacity. Let us take it as a challenge to change the situation we are facing today. We can certainly do that, change our life if we resolve to do. Let this be the pledge of 24 April.

Long Live Revolution!

Long Live SUCI (C)!

Red Salute to

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh!

SUCI(C) hands over relief material to UCPN(M) leaders in Kathmandu

Contd. from page 1

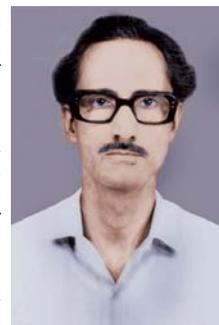
a fortnight conducting more than 20 medical camps, examining over 3000 patients, and dispensing medicines collected by medical, nursing, paramedical students, health professionals & common people of India. He also narrated Comrade Prachanda about the rich experience of the Medical Front of the SUCI(C) involving the health professionals at large while standing by the distressed following different natural and man-made calamities over more than three and a half decades, including disasters in the Himalayas, a year through 2013-14 in Uttarakhand, 2 months in 2014 in Jammu & Kashmir, and now in Nepal. Comrade Prachanda appreciated this effort heartily and noted his personal experience in one such medical camp.

Comrade Chakraborty also gifted Comrade Prachanda a collection of the important works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the eminent Marxist thinker and Founder General Secretary of SUCI(C), and works of the present General Secretary Comrade Provash Ghosh on current issues of vital importance. The two leaders also interacted upon vital political, economic and cultural issues concerning the two countries, and other issues concerning both the parties. The discussions included the characterization of Nepal state and the stage of revolution there, the issue of drafting a proper constitution of Nepal, the role of SUCI(C) in developing left movement in India, how SUCI(C)

under the guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed what stand and policy a genuine revolutionary party should follow if getting a chance to run government in a bourgeois set up, the commune system in SUCI(C), the initiative taken by SUCI(C) to develop united left movement against imperialism and communalism based on the principle of unity-struggle-unity and the need to strengthen bond and fraternity among the genuine revolutionary parties of the world. Comrade Chakraborty, *inter alia*, mentioned that Bangladesh Socialist Party (Marxist) also accept Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong-Shibdas Ghosh as the authority of international communist movement. While discussing on the developments in various countries including those in the Middle East, Comrade Chakraborty said that as Comrade Lenin had shown, people's struggles cannot be led to logical culmination unless those are led by correct communist parties of the respective soils. Both expressed conviction that such exchanges will further strengthen the relations between our two parties and peoples. Later, Comrades Chakraborty and Satyawan met Comrade Krishna Bahadur Mahara, General Secretary Prakash (Narayan Kazi Shreshtha), Vice-President and Comrade Yuvraj of International department of UCPN(M) and held another round of discussions. It was decided that there will be regular exchange of literatures as well as mass and frontal organization level coordination between the two parties.

Comrade Tridip Chatterjee passes away

Comrade Tridip Chatterjee, veteran Party member of West Bengal, passed away on 10 May on account of sudden bursting of peptic ulcer and exacerbation of crohn's disease. He was 69. Comrade Chatterjee came in contact with the Party and thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh at a very young age in early 1970s when he, a state government employee, was posted in Midnapur district and read a copy of *Pathikrit*, the Bengali cultural magazine published under the guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. He then met Comrade Saumen Basu, the then District



Secretary of Midnapur and now Member of the Central Committee and West Bengal State Secretary of the Party and was gradually initiated into Party activities. During that time, he also met Comrade Provash Ghosh, our present General Secretary and was greatly impressed and inspired. Since then, he dedicated himself to build up himself as a revolutionary worker and in the process struggled hard to overcome many hurdles and obstacles particularly of family life. Modest, upright and firmly committed to ideology, he was associated with AIUTUC and took active part in the movements of the government employees. In early 1970s, he was included in the editorial team of *Proletarian Era*. A voracious reader, his was a notable contribution towards publishing of *Proletarian Era*. Though because of multi-pronged and prolonged illness particularly after undergoing bypass surgery and developing acute diabetic problem, he could not remain that active in Party work on account of restrictive movement, he always kept himself abreast of the activities of the Party and never failed to attend key Party programmes. Exemplary had been his decision to donate a substantial part of his superannuation benefits to the Party Fund.

At his death, the Party has lost a sincere, dedicated and valuable worker.

Comrade Tridip Chatterjee Red Salute

Removing obstacles before Saffronization of Education

The central government has decided to disband the advisory committee of the journal of Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) comprising 21 eminent historians from around the world, including Romila Thapar and Irfan Habib. It is clear that the decision is based on the ulterior motive of the government to banish rational historians from the principal academic body as these historians were scathing in their criticism of distorting history and passing fantasy and myth as history in keeping with the idea of so called Indianization and in pursuit of saffronization which the ruling RSS-BJP is flaunting to buttress their arch communal political-cultural agenda. The rational-minded historians were taken umbrage of at the recommendation of a book authored by D N Batra

containing historically inaccurate absurd content for secondary reading in Gujarat schools. The Indian Historical Congress also took a bold stand against attempts to distort history by opining that it would be disastrous to pass off mythological fantasies as historical facts.

All India Save Education Committee has condemned the decision and called upon all the education-loving rational minded persons including eminent personalities in the field of history and science to come forward and join the Save Education movement to take on the vile move on the part of the power that be to destroy the scientific and logical bent of mind of the people and implant in their minds all sorts of superstitious, blind, irrational beliefs thereby blunting the very thinking process.

School of Politics in Mumbai

A School of Politics was organized by Mumbai city unit of SUCI(C), in Mumbai on 26 April on the booklet "On Communal Problems" by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Member, Central Committee, conducted the school which was attended by Party workers and supporters from Nagpur and Mumbai.

Due process of law

Ruling capitalism wants its servitors and appendages to arrogate to themselves absolute power to do anything by bending rule to serve its sinister class interest

Contd. from page 2

Rs 250? The answer is buried in page 786 of the 1000-page judgement: the figure is derived from a quote given by the Public Works Department (PWD) for the average cost of construction for a sentry shed in Chennai! The PWD submitted a cost of Rs 310 per square foot, which the judgement further reduces to Rs 250 per square foot, "How can rate of sentry shed be applied to all these properties," Shri Acharya told NDTV. He further said that these additional revelations will show that Ms Jayalalithaa's unaccounted wealth is more than 200 per cent of her income, and that there is enough material to mount a strong appeal in Supreme Court against the acquittal. According to newspaper reports, Karnataka's Advocate General has strongly recommended that the state should appeal against Ms Jayalalithaa's acquittal, citing a number of errors in the court's order. For the moment, Ms Jayalalithaa is back on the Chief Minister's seat, thanks in part to the cost of a sentry shed!

The saga of prosecution evading political heavyweights

The very purpose of narrating in detail the flow of the case as appeared in the media is to take cognizance of some facts which leave some doubt as to whether the law did take its own course or the political status of the accused did have some influencing role. These doubts are arising because in the recent past, there have been a number of instances where Judiciary and the central crime investigating agencies have been found to be discernibly soft with political big shots, industrial barons, so called celebrities and top bureaucrats particularly in respect of allegations of corruption, amassing of fabulous disproportionate assets and even murder. A few illustrations are appended.

A six-year-old disproportionate assets case against Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav was closed by the CBI citing lack of evidence in September 2013 when the then ruling Congress government at the Centre was depending on his support to stay in power. CBI sources said Yadav produced enough evidence showing that the assets grew during 1993-2005

because of loans from relatives which were later claimed to be gifts.

The CBI filed a case of disproportionate assets in 2003 against the former BSP Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Ms Mayawati whose properties run into billions of rupees. But in 2011, the Delhi High Court dismissed the case against her stating that "she has fully discharged her obligations by disclosing the identities of all of her donors, the gifts had been donated by her supporters". The central government decided not to file an appeal in the Supreme Court though she revealed assets worth Rs 111.26 crore in an affidavit filed with her nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha. The disproportionate assets case was finally quashed in 2012 — nine years later—by a Supreme Court bench. Another case of bribery relating to construction of Taj corridor was slapped against her. But, after creating some commotion, it is now in suspended animation. It is widely believed by the political circles that since the then Congress-led UPA II government needed her support to stay in power support, the cases were simply dismissed.

The CBI had accused YSR Congress Chief Shri Y S Jaganmohan Reddy of amassing huge wealth through illegal means between 2004 and 2009 by misusing the office of his father Shri Y S Rajsekhar Reddy, the then Congress Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. A special CBI court filed the case related to alleged investments made in the companies of Shri Jaganmohan Reddy in return for benefits. These three high profile cases are still stuck in the legal labyrinth.

Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Chief Minister of Bihar was handed a five-year jail term in a Rs 25 billion odd fodder scam case by a Ranchi court in September 2013. Shri Om Prakash Chautala, former Chief Minister of Haryana was sentenced to 10-year imprisonment by a Delhi court in the teachers' recruitment scam in January 2013. But, Shri Lalu Prasad was granted bail by Supreme Court in December 2013 on the ground that other similarly placed co-convicts had already been released on bail and the CBI did not oppose his bail plea. Shri Chautala, on the other hand, was released on bail by the Delhi High Court in May 2013 on medical grounds. Shri Lalu

Prasad, as everyone knows, was in alliance with the Congress while Shri Chautala was found advancing olive branch to the BJP. For that, in all probability, they were spared.

Just the other day, the Supreme Court stayed court proceedings and a summons issued by a special CBI Court against former Congress Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Hindalco Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla and former Coal Secretary PC Parakh, in the case of alleged illegal allocation of Talabira-II coal block in Odisha in 2005 to Hindalco. The Coal Bloc allocation scam, it may be recalled, is stated to have defrauded the exchequer by Rs 10.7 lakh crore and the scam took place when the former Prime Minister himself was in charge of the Coal Ministry. While sparing the former Prime Minister, the Supreme Court held that there was 'no meeting of minds to do a criminal act with regard to the said allocation' and "the order summoning the PM does not stand the scrutiny of "public reasoning". The Supreme Court also quashed any illegality in the allocation made by the government to Hindalco claiming that it was an administrative decision. In other words, the message sent out to the people is that an administrative decision even if that contravenes the law and glaringly favours some industrial house at the cost of public exchequer should not be deemed as a case of corruption, howsoever fat the amount involved might be.

Startling no less was the acquittal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his close aide Shri Amit Shah, the President of ruling BJP in the ghastly Gujarat pogrom case and a series of fake encounter cases. Under pressure of the rising public opinion against Gujarat massacre, the Apex Court ultimately had to set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to work under its monitoring, with a view to investigating the complicity of Modi, then Chief Minister of Gujarat, in the pogrom. But neither did the Court advise, nor did the Congress-led Union government step out to activate CBI enquiry into the issue. After much foot-dragging, SIT was set up after long six years from the 2002 pogrom. It finally started to function yet another year later in 2009 and submitted its report after two years in February 2011, with its

proceedings remaining still incomplete. In its initial report, the SIT reportedly held that political and communal agendas 'weighed heavily' in Modi's handling of the criminal justice system. It also recorded Modi government's abject failure in providing justice to the victims, found Modi guilty on many counts: a communal mindset, inflammatory speeches against the Muslim community which "showed a measure of thoughtlessness and irresponsibility on the part of a person holding a high public office", destruction of crucial records, appointment of Hindu communal Sangh Parivar members as public prosecutors, illegal positioning of ministers in police control rooms during the riots, and persecution of neutral officers etc. But, because of strings having been pulled from behind, SIT turned 180 degree and gave a clean chit to Modi on the same old ground of absence of any "prosecutable evidence". All these overnight reversals of positions and decisions happened within a very short period once it became evident that Modi is the Prime Ministerial choice of the ruling monopolists in the forthcoming 2014 elections.

Similarly, in an unprecedented move, Shri Amit Shah, who was home minister in Modi's cabinet in Gujarat and accused of triple murder accused with a mountain of evidence against him was acquitted by the Special CBI Court in last December, without making him face a trial and being cross-investigated. While acquitting him, the Court was found to have ignored several important facts which were damning of Amit Shah's role in the fake encounter killing of Sohrabuddin Sheikh. The Court did not take into account the statement of VL Solanki who was the investigating officer in this case and who had given a statement about how Amit Shah tried to influence the case. The Court had not taken in account all the phone call data and dying declaration of Tulsi Prajapati, another fake encounter victim, before the magistrate and National Human Rights Commission. From all these, it was clear that neither the Union government, nor the Court was keen enough to set out with real intent and purpose. On the contrary, as it came out in the media, with the then Congress-led

Contd. on page 10

Due process of law

Even jurists are of the opinion that the Judiciary is far from not being prejudiced and corrupt

Contd. from page 11

central government totally shaken with charges of corruptions and scams such as the 2G spectrum, the Congress leadership sent emissary of power and position to talk with the BJP leadership. The object was evident. The BJP must not embarrass the Congress to any great extent on these scams and the Congress, in return, would not stir up much ado on Modi and his deeds. What became casualty in the deal was due process of law.

Likewise, exposing the chinks in Indian Judiciary, the murder trial of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha chief and former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Shibu Soren which went on for 36 long years, had ended with the District Court acquitting him on all charges due to "lack of evidence" Incidentally, this isn't the only murder case against which Shri Shibu Soren has escaped a sentence. He has been fighting three different murder cases on him, and in all three he has now been acquitted. Visibly taking umbrage at this, it was commented in a section of the media that "So, all in all, message is quite clear. As long as you have money and power, keep doing what you want to. The law will take its time and finally set you free. (travelindia guide) (23-08-2007)

The Bollywood star Salman Khan who allegedly killed a pavement dweller in a hit-and-run case and was sentenced to 5 year in jail by a Mumbai Sessions Court was immediately granted bail by the Bombay High Court on a flimsy ground that he had not been given a copy of the trial court's judgment. Even the Supreme Court also refused to grant stay on the bail. Not only that. The High Court has also granted him permission to travel to Dubai to appear in an awards show. Significant is observation of the petition against bail that "It amounts to preferential treatment to a celebrity hampering the public cause of equality before law. Therefore, when such privilege of entertaining the petition or appeal and grant of liberty of interim bail is generally not granted to common man, the same ought not to have been extended to Salman for the reason of him being a celebrity."

Everyone in the country knows that front-ranking Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders including its minister and MPs have been charged with receiving huge illegal favours from the ponzi funds like

Saradha, Rose Valley, MPS and others. Some of the TMC leaders are in jail while some others are on bail. The CBI probing the case at the instance of the Supreme Court is also stated to have collected enough evidence to net many more TMC persons. Though Mamata Banerjee, the TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister had initially scaled the pitch of belligerence and trained guns against the BJP and Narendra Modi for politically using CBI, she, visibly uneasy with the CBI spilling the beans, one after another also suddenly turned 180 degrees, began making friendly overtures to Modi, helped him in getting some of the Bills safe passage in the Upper House and is in a further reconciliatory mood. And once she has come to terms with BJP notwithstanding all her previous anti-BJP rhetoric ostensibly for public consumption, there is a conspicuous slowdown on the part of the CBI to take the investigation forward. Rumours are floating around that following a deal between Mamata and Modi, due investigation into the Saradha and other scams are going to be buried underneath.

Law is discernibly lenient to the 'who is who's

If anyone takes note of the few instances cited above, two things would be evidently clear. First is that, notwithstanding all claims about everyone being equal in the eyes of law, the reality is just the opposite. The law is excessively lenient, if not in ever condoning mood, when the accused are persons occupying hot seat of power, visible in the rendezvous of power, bureaucrats close and subservient to power that be and multi-billionaire industrialists and monopolists. It is also found that while many jurists and lawyers are extremely loyal to their professional ethics and trying to decide or argue every case based on merit following laid down juridical procedure, some are not loath to subvert the same either under extraneous pressure or being unable to avoid lure of lucre. Some who take their judicial vows seriously continue to maintain the highest standards of their judicial positions and keep them beyond even the shadow of any possible allegation.

Recently, a controversy brewed and rightly so over the appointment of Justice P Sathasivam, former Chief Justice of Supreme Court, as governor of Kerala. None of the 39 Chief Justices before him chose to

become Governor of a state after their retirement. If any jurist accepts any such unprecedented post-retirement attractively remunerative assignment in a post where no judicial skills are called, there is every reason for a doubt to agitate public mind in regard to spotlessness of the appointment. This is more so when one finds that it was Justice Sathasivam who quashed the second FIR against BJP President Amit Shah in the Tulsiram Prajapathi case in April 2013 and acquitted him. So, it is being widely discussed in the media and political circle that Justice Sathasivam has been rewarded for his loyalty. If this trend sets in, then the very independence and impartiality of the Judiciary would surely be more and more called into question and doubts about verdicts being concocted for personal gains or currying favour with the seats of power would be increasing.

Corruption in Judiciary

It is also worth mentioning that no one else but the Supreme Court itself admitted that large scale corruption has permeated the Judiciary. Just when exposes of scams in 2010 had rattled the power-greedy bourgeois politicians, Supreme Court itself had trained the spotlight on growing corruption in higher Judiciary and expressed distress over rampant nepotism and corruption in the High Courts. It also candidly acknowledged that in Allahabad High Court, "Some judges have their kith and kin practising in the same court, and within a few years of starting practice, sons or relatives of the judges become multi-millionaires, have huge bank balances, luxurious cars, huge houses and are enjoying a luxurious life." (Times of India, 27-10-10) Justice Shylendra Kumar of Karnataka HC, it may be recalled, questioned Justice P D Dinakaran's continuance as Chief Justice of the HC by alleging that he is a serpent without a fang and lacks the teeth to fight against corruption. (Times of India 27-11-10) An inquiry committee set up by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha found that the charges against Justice V. Ramaswami regarding improper use of funds by him as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, before his elevation as a Supreme Court Judge, were substantially true. Parliament, however, failed to remove him from office because the then ruling party, the Congress, had orally directed its

members to abstain from voting on the motion in the Lok Sabha. In 2006, an in-house committee found that Justice Soumitra Sen of Calcutta High Court did not have honest intention when he mixed the money received as Receiver and his personal money and converted the Receiver's money to his own use. In the Ghaziabad provident fund (PF) scam, involving 34 Judges belonging to lower courts, High Court and the Supreme Court, a misappropriation of Rs.23 crore from the PF of Class III and IV employees was detected. (Frontline-27-09-2008) Former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan moved an application in Supreme Court accusing eight former chief justices of India of "corruption", and dared it to send him to jail for committing "contempt of court". (Times of India 27-10-10) In an interview to Frontline magazine dated 04-12-2010, Justice Santosh Hegde unhesitatingly observed that, "corruption in Judiciary has increased. Not only has the number of corrupt people but also in the quantum demanded gone up." The former upright Supreme Court judge late Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer had also informed once that a former judge of the Kerala High Court had requested him not to write to the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the issue relating to family members of the former Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan allegedly amassing wealth disproportionate to their sources of income. (The Hindu-04-01-2011) The Andhra Pradesh High Court suspended a magistrate in the Nampally Criminal Court for letting off a murder criminal. A Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) of Sherghati in Gaya district has been put under suspension for allegedly seeking sexual favours from a senior medical officer.

The list can be much longer. But, the instances quoted above does show that even the jurists are of the opinion that the Judiciary is far from not being prejudiced and corrupt. Rightly observed a three-judge Bench headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court that, "A judicial scandal has always been regarded as far more deplorable than a scandal involving either the executive or a member of the legislature." (dna-12-01-2010) And what is worth taking note of that despite admission of corruption creeping into the judicial system, there has not been any definite

Contd. on page 11

Due process of law

Pressure of people's power and vigil through people's conscious political movement can only rein in Judiciary from deviation

Contd. from page 10

discernible effort on the part of the judicial hierarchy to root out such malpractices.

Committed Judiciary

Alongside growing corruption and nepotism, there has long been an apprehension that the Judiciary is gradually inching towards being wholly committed to the power that be, forsaking judicial vows and due judicial process. The idea of having a committed judiciary surfaced when on June 12, 1975, Allahabad High Court found Indira Gandhi, the then Congress Prime Minister, guilty of electoral malpractices, declared the election verdict in her favour "null and void", and barred Indira Gandhi from holding elected office for six years. This galvanized people's opinion against her. Indira Gandhi alongside promulgating Emergency went for amending the Constitution to bestow absolute authority on the Prime Minister to rule by decree. A section of the Judiciary challenged this amendment in a case stating that no amendment could alter the basic structure of the Constitution. The motion was carried by a division bench of the Supreme Court with a wafer thin margin of 7 to 6. Indira Gandhi rewarded the seniormost of the judges amongst the losing minority by appointing him as Chief Justice superseding other judges senior to him. Thus, with elevation of the "committed" judge overriding convention was mooted the idea of having a committed Judiciary. Recently, the Supreme Court had admitted that a 1976 verdict by it on the Emergency had violated fundamental rights of a large number of people in the country. (*Times of India* 03-01-2011) But, there is a renewed effort on the part of the ruling party to once again turn the Judiciary into its appendage. "Modi wants a judiciary committed to Modi. He wants dictatorial powers undisciplined by the rule of law," alleged Rajeev Dhavan, Senior Supreme Court Advocate (*Economic Times*-08-04-15)

The way Jayalalithaa has been exonerated, cases withdrawn against Amit Shah and the CBI is being reined in in proceeding with Saradha scam with due expediency do provide enough substance to lend credence to such a belief. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's quick congratulatory message to Jayalalithaa on her acquittal has

prompted speculation over new alignments that may lessen the NDA Government's headache over numbers in Parliament. The acquittal of the AIADMK leader came a day after Modi shared a platform with Mamata Banerjee after months of mud-slinging between them. Nasty, narrow and sectarian political interest and pressing need to bring legislations conducive to the sinister class design of the ruling monopolists are apprehended to be prompting elicitation of desired judicial verdicts through sleight of invisible hands or crafty manoeuvres. Common people who have been experiencing for long that law is discernibly tilted in favour of the rich and powerful and cruelly apathetic to uphold their cause might well wonder what is causing the Judiciary to shed its desired neutrality and impartiality and virtually tamper with the due legal process.

Judiciary is not supra-class, ultimately protects bourgeois class interest

The answer would not be available in the parlance of bourgeois democracy at the current decadent moribund phase of ruling capitalism. Only an objective analysis of the obtaining socio-political system based on correct scientific methodology of Marxism-Leninism can unveil the truth. As we have pointed out on a number of occasions earlier, in bourgeois democratic states, Judiciary is the most powerful amongst all the three major and vital organs or pillars of the bourgeois state and is destined to protect it, obviously and ultimately in the interest of the ruling capitalist class. In order to hide its class character, it is stated that the responsibility vested with the Judiciary was to check and safeguard whether the laws promulgated by the legislature and being enacted or executed by the bureaucracy are compatible with the expressed provisions of the Constitution. At the time of their rise as a social power, the bourgeoisie could at least pretend that the Judiciary should function impartially and neutrality in delivering justice. But today, when capitalism has exhausted all its progressive role and turned out and out reactionary, corrupt and despotic and is itself subverting all canons of bourgeois democracy including relative neutrality of

Judiciary, that pretension has also been jettisoned and the class character of the Judiciary is also being coming in the open. It may be recalled that as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary, SUCI(C) and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era had shown long back, today fascism has become the common feature in all capitalist-imperialist countries. One of the key features of fascism is concentration of all political power in the hands of the bourgeois states and robbing people of all their hard-earned democratic rights. In other words, the class wants that its servitor political leaders, the key government functionaries and other appendages arrogate to themselves absolute power to do anything they want by bending rules, overriding all norms, conventions and practices so as to bluntly serve its sinister class interest and ruthlessly curb any opposition and resistance. Independent Judiciary, as is envisaged, is an obstacle in the way of that. Obviously, pliant and abiding judges, or in other words, committed judiciary is a must for ruling capitalism.

On the other hand, decadent moribund, mutilated capitalism has nothing to offer except rot and filth. Anyone associated with or defending the rotten capitalist system is bound to be afflicted by corruption, immorality and related smut. All the political bigwigs and bureaucrats who are working for protecting the system have to be plunged into the dungeon of corruption and other economic offences. This system produces them, thrives upon them and shields them. As an organ of a decadent system, the Judiciary can hardly keep it off from degeneration, can hardly transgress the limits of the system. Judiciary cannot be supra-class in a class-divided capitalist system and has to ultimately defend and protect the system, no matter how rotten it is. So, legal pronouncements cannot go against the system or the key persons working for the system, to be more precise, free from class bias. On the contrary, the poor oppressed countrymen who do not have money, do not have 'connections' at higher level, are most often than not denied justice in the court of law. Implication in false cases, multiplied hassles and harassment, inexplicable dragging of the suites and forced ouster from petitions because of escalating cost are what

is in store for the poor. For example, the pavement dweller who was run over and killed by allegedly inebriated Salman Khan got no justice. But Salman managed escape by dint of his 'connections' and clout. This is the face of the judicial system in India. Some stray instances of punishment of one or two such culprits do not overrule this fact. Judges themselves also cannot remain insulated from corruption and bias, which is evidenced of late, unless they are of strong will, firmly based on ethics and morality and have guts to refuse pliability or vulnerability to the power that be.

Truth ought to dawn upon the people

But common people, from their daily experience and from whatever comes in the media find that the vote politics and politicians of all major bourgeois parties, national or regional, have become utterly corrupt and degenerated. This is affecting their life menacingly. So, they desire that these wrong-doers be punished. However, ignorant of the objective reality and being carried by the bourgeois propaganda on the rule of law, most of them tend to lay their confidence upon the Judiciary presuming that it is their only solace, only place to find redress. But acquittals of persons like Jayalalithaa, Amit Shah, Lalu, Mulayam or even Modi under strange and questionable circumstances have definitely been coming cropper to their presumption.

The tormenting question that comes up, therefore, is what is the remedy then? How can the menace of judicial bias and corruption be eradicated? It is not difficult to understand that if the capitalist system is the root of this menace, the question of eradication is inseparably linked with the imperativeness of uprooting the system. But that would take place only at a culmination of a historically-determined course of struggle under correct revolutionary leadership. Pending that, if the Judiciary is expected to pursue due process of law and convict the offender irrespective of political clout or connection, so called status or position, there has to be a pressure of such people's power and vigil on it. Without building up this people's conscious political movement, expecting Judiciary to deliver goods will be an illusion.

Massive response to statewide signature collection in West Bengal on 18 point charter of demands

The West Bengal State Committee has launched a 2-month long signature campaign round an 18 point charter of demand on the burning problems of life and livelihood that have been plaguing people's life increasingly with time because of the utterly anti-people policies of the BJP government at the Centre and the TMC government in West Bengal. Demands included in the charter are, inter alia, scrapping of the anti-people Land Bill, bringing down prices of all essential commodities including 108 life saving drugs, LPG, electricity, taking effective measure to curb growing atrocities on women, child trafficking and checking proliferation of indecent films, advertisements and discontinuation of giving liquor license, lowering fuel tariff, refund of money locked in the ponzi schemes including Saradha and meting out exemplary punishment to all those guilty of ponzi fund scam, repealing automatic promotion upto class VIII, lowering of tuition fees, ensuring admission of all who pass examination, banning sex education at school level, discarding communalization of education and spread of anti-science thoughts, giving up policy of privatization of health-education-power and other sectors, scrapping all moves to provide unilateral power to the industrialists and owners to retrench and lay off, providing need-based minimum wage and all necessary social and medical benefits to the workers, job or unemployment allowance to all unemployed, regularization of contract labours, annulment of all anti-worker laws and SEZ, providing remunerative price to the peasants for their produces and

lowering prices of all agricultural inputs like fertilizer, pesticide etc., no FDI in essential services including railways, insurance and defence, no privatization of nationalized banks, insurance companies and railways, no setting up of extremely risky nuclear power plants, lowering transport fare in West Bengal and adoption of stringent measure to stop criminalization of politics aided and abetted by the ruling parties in West Bengal and other states. The response is overwhelming from all sections of the toiling people including workers and supporters of other political parties even ruling TMC. Many of them have expressed that while the big parliamentary parties, irrespective of hues, are simply busy in working electoral arithmetic and keeping their political equations perfect to ride to power or stay afloat in the corridor of power, SUCI(C) is making tireless effort to build up sustained organized mass movements on the burning problems of people's life with a view to attempting to wrest minimum relief from the rulers as also preparing people for still greater, still more massive mass and class struggles. All this belied the claim the reactionaries preach: Movements are fruitless, they can bring nothing. So even this time slowly yet surely people are realizing that another movement is in the offing; it has the potential to grow big and massive. So, people themselves are gradually preparing for a longer fight. The Party acknowledges it sincerely; it thrives on this goodwill, on this unstinted support from oppressed masses. The signatures so collected will be handed over to the governor of West Bengal.



Signature Campaign going on in Behela area, Kolkata.

4th Kerala State AIMSS conference held with enthusiasm

AIMSS, Kerala organised 4th state level women's conference on 8, 9 and 10 May at Aleppey town. It was held on culmination of a two month long vigorous campaign throughout the state against atrocities on women, spread of communalism and superstitious beliefs, denial of labour rights, liquor menace etc.

The open session, after a massive and well decorated procession, was inaugurated by Dr. K.K.N. Kurupu, eminent historian and former vice-chancellor, Calicut University on 8 May evening. In his address, Dr. Kurupu alleged that the

Suraksha Samithy, Dr. D. Surendranath, President Indian nurses parents Association and others.

Inaugurating the delegate session on 9 May morning, Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee said that life of common people is wrecked under all pervading capitalist exploitation and growing atrocities of women is a part of that. She urged the delegates to play active role in building up a country wide movement against the anti-people policies and fascist onslaughts of the BJP-led central government. The Conference was marked by release of a book



Women's rally at Aleppey in Kerala on State AIMSS Conference

central government is turning India into a country of the corporate, neglecting the dreams of Indian freedom fighters throwing into oblivion the cultural movement developed during Indian renaissance is thrown into oblivion and miserably failing in guaranteeing equality to women. A new cultural movement is to be initiated, he urged. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee President AIMSS delivered the key note address. Others who addressed included Dr. V. Venugopal, Member, State Secretariat, SUCI(C), Dr. Vincent Maliakal, President, Shree

'Valiant women fighters of Indian freedom movement' by Mini. K. Philip, seminar on 'Women against communalism' and a talk on 'Astrology and Astronomy'. Concluding session on 10 May was inaugurated by addressed by Dr. H. G. Jayalakshmi, General Secretary, AIMSS and addressed among others by Comrade C.K. Lukose, Member, Central committee and Kerala State Secretary, SUCI(C). A 13-member strong state committee and 90 member strong state council was elected with Comrade Shyla K. John as Secretary.

AIMSS condoles death of Aruna Shanbhag

In a statement issued on 19-05-2015, Dr. H. G. Jayalakshmi, General Secretary, All India Committee, AIMSS expressed deep and heartfelt condolence over the death of Smt. Aruna Shanbhag, who breathed her last on 18 May after 42 long years of vegetative existence caused by a barbaric sexual assault and brutal attack on her by a sweeper in 1973. It is heartening to see the way the staff of the KEM hospital have affectionately nursed her for these long 42 years. This gruesome incident is nothing but another instance which reflects the patriarchal attitude of our society where women are viewed as objects of enjoyment and ill-treatment. At this hour of grief, AIMSS calls upon the women of the entire country to come forward and build up a powerful socio-cultural movement to put an end to such crimes on women.

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