

Proletarian Era

Volume 47 No. 22 Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)

July 1, 2014

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Price : Rs. 2.00

Red Salute Comrade Yakub Pailan A Life-long revolutionary



Homage of the Central Committee of the SUCI (Communist)

“Without attaining the necessary higher cultural standard, that is the proletarian cultural standard, one can neither realize nor acquire the ability to appraise correctly the theory of revolution. This is why correct application or effective implementation of the revolutionary politics means bringing about revolutionary orientation of life itself by involving millions in the revolutionary struggle of the masses.” This is the teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary, SUCI(C), great leader of the proletariat and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the

era. Comrade Yakub Pailan had enlivened this teaching in his life. He had accepted revolution and revolutionary life as his mission. Shortly after formation of the Party in 1948, after coming in contact with late Comrades Sachin Banerjee and Subodh Banerjee, Members of the first Central Committee in 1949, Comrade Yakub Pailan was attracted towards the revolutionary ideal of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought and was initiated into the Party. Thereafter, he slowly came in close contact of

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Homage of the Central Committee of the SUCI (Communist)

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. In course of discussions with Comrade Ghosh, Comrade Yakub Pailan could realize that Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought alone could show the path to emancipation from exploitation.

Comrade Pailan hailed from a poor peasant family. So, he had to confront poverty in his adolescence and youth. Because of that, he could not get opportunity to receive a formal education. But after joining the Party, it dawned upon him that it is not possible to develop as a revolutionary without grasping revolutionary theory. He also realized that true knowledge is creative. So, he released a struggle for completely remoulding himself as a new man, as a communist revolutionary under the guidance of the Party's ideology and leadership, by freeing his self from the backward thoughts of old rural life and the age-old creeds, rustic habits, moral base and culture.

At that time, the jotedars (rural kulaks) and rich peasants held sway over the remote villages of the Sunderbans area. Because of their despotic domination the share-croppers used to live under constant fear. These poor share-croppers did not have the courage to protest. The rich peasants and jotedars used to terrorize and oppress the poor villagers depriving the share-croppers of their dues, forcing them to give free labour, destroying arable land by forcible flooding with salted river water in order to establish fisheries and thereby ruining the poverty-stricken peasants. Under the leadership of Comrades Sachin Banerjee and Subodh Banerjee, Comrade Yakub Pailan built up movements against such oppression-repression by organizing the poor toiling peasants. He was one of the front-ranking leaders of the anti-fishery movement along the bank of the Mani river. He was also a powerful leader of the historic *Te-bhaga* (one-third of the crop) movement to safeguard the legitimate one-third right of the sharecroppers on the crops, that swept across the entire South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal in the early 1950s. This sharing one-third of the crop movement assumed a militant character and achieved victory.

He was a very popular leader of the peasants' and agricultural workers' movement in the state. He was the first elected Secretary of the *All India Krishak and Khetmazdoor Federation*. While he was cynosure of the

peasants, he was an eyesore of the vested interest. That is why, the vested interest repeatedly mounted attacks on him. He fell victim to such attacks even at an old age. In order to break the movement of the poor common people, the police and the government repeatedly targeted and tortured him. He was arrested several times, during the food movement of 1959 as well as during the peasants' and agricultural workers' movements.

In course of pursuing a relentless uncompromising life struggle, Comrade Yakub Pailan attained a very high standard of communist revolutionary character. Whoever came in contact with him was deeply attracted towards him. Not only poor down-trodden people, even many highly educated people were also attracted towards him because of the very high standard he reflected in his revolutionary life. Many of them later became leaders, organizers and workers of the Party. It is through this exemplary struggle that he was elected District Secretary of South 24 Parganas and Member of the West Bengal State Committee of the Party. In the first Party Congress in 1988, he received staff membership of the Party and was elected Member of the Control Commission. In the second Party Congress in 2009, he was elected Member of the Central Committee and re-elected as Member of the Control Commission.

Comrade Yakub Pailan was extremely affectionate. He had immense love for the poor toiling masses. He spent his entire life among them. It was his effusive love for the poor people and relentless cultivation of revolutionary teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that made him a revolutionary leader of a very high standard and carve out a space in the heart of the Party leaders-cadres as well as the common masses. He lived in the Party centre and the Party office. He had nothing personal in life and elevated himself through struggle to a stage when his personal life was merged with the Party and revolution. In the process, he attained the stature of a very high-ranking professional revolutionary.

We pledge to fill up the void created by his demise in the democratic mass movement and the movement of the poor peasants and agricultural workers by continuing our struggle as one-man based on the revolutionary teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Yakub Pailan will remain ever alive in the hearts of the people

The name of the man for whom thousands of people are shedding tears today did never find a place in the print or electronic media. This great revolutionary is alive in the hearts of the thousands of poor peasants and toiling people of the South 24 Parganas District. They all are in deep pains mourning the demise of someone so endearing to them, so respected, revered and loved by them, so close to their heart. How could such an unknown, unheard of man who once used to sell rice at the village markets and worked as a tailor, who could not receive any formal education, carve out such a place in the hearts of so many people? What was that which powered him, guided him to attain such a height? Proper understanding of Comrade Pailan's revolutionary life lies in the correct grasp of this fundamental question. Then only could one draw appropriate lesson from his life. A true revolutionary is spurred on by unending love for the unknown millions of poor toiling people, stirred by the weal and woe of the suffering myriads. With this was added the quest for knowledge that spurred Comrade Yakub Pailan. He was a successful creation of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and proved himself to be a lifelong revolutionary — these were the words in which Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary of our Party paid glowing tribute to the departed leader at his memorial meeting at the Municipality ground in Jaynagar, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, on 22 June.

Comrade Yakub Pailan, Member, Central Committee, SUCI(C), Secretary, South 24 Parganas District, a legendary leader of the movement of sharecroppers, poor peasants, agricultural workers and toiling people, a fabled leader of the historic 'sharing three crop' (Tebhaga) movement breathed his last after prolonged illness at the Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital in the early hours of 14 June. He was 83. Hearing the news of his passing away, comrades rushed to the hospital to pay their respects. In a solemn gathering at the hospital, he was paid revolutionary tribute in flowers on behalf of Comrade Provash Ghosh,

General Secretary of the Party, then away in Odisha for a Party meeting, by the available Politbureau and Central Committee members, State Committee members, Party workers and hospital staff and doctors. Then his body was taken to the mortuary. The Party declared three day mourning from 14 to 16 June. On these days, the Red Flag was flown at half-mast and comrades all over India wore black badge.

A congregation of comrades was waiting in front of the Party central office at 48, Lenin Sarani, Kolkata on 16 morning, the day of his last journey. Around 12 Noon, the bier which carried Comrade Yakub Pailan

from the mortuary, reached there and the comrades joined hands to place his body on the raised platform bedecked all over with red. KOMSOMOL comrades stood on guard in front with half-mast Flags in their hands. Gradually, all the Party leaders, organizers, and workers paid tribute to him with floral wreaths in a disciplined way. Paying tribute were Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary of the Party, Comrades Ranjit Dhar, Manik Mukherjee and Asit Bhattacharyya, all Politbureau members, Comrades Debaprasad Sarkar, Gopal Kundu, Saumen Basu and Sankar Saha and Chhaya Mukherjee, all Central Committee members, the State Committee leaders, Frontal leaders and leaders of various Party units. Comrades Biman Basu, State Secretary, and Robin Deb, state leader of the CPI(M), Manju Kumar Majumdar, State Secretary, CPI, Kshiti Goswami, State Secretary, RSP, Debabrata Ghosh, state leader, Forward Bloc and Kartik Paul, Central Committee member of the CPI (ML), Liberation came and offered floral tribute to the departed leader. When garlanding was over, it was time for the last journey to begin. Comrade Pailan was taken into the bier decorated with red flags and flowers. With the comrades bearing 83 half-mast Red Flags at the fore, signifying the years of his struggling

life, began the last journey along Lenin Sarani. Following it, comrades forming a procession stretching on and on began the silent march. Only hummed was the *Internationale* and the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. On its way the procession stopped in front of the office of the AIUTUC, the Party's Trade Union Front, where the trade union leaders and comrades paid their last respects. At Moulali crossing, the last journey was terminated. From there, the bier went to the Jaynagar Party office in South 24 Parganas, the district where Comrade Yakub Pailan had led many mighty peasants' and people's movements.

When the bier reached the Jaynagar Party Office, it was afternoon. Thousands of Party workers, supporters, sympathizers and admirers were waiting there in queues in a disciplined manner to have a last glimpse of their beloved leader and pay him their heart-felt respect. It was Comrade Sachin Banerjee who first spread the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in the district of South 24 Parganas. He was joined later by Comrade Subodh Banerjee. Under their leadership and guidance, Comrade Yakub Pailan and a few other young brave vibrant youths had created Party base in the entire

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Fundamentalist rampage in Iraq

Born of imperialist intrigues-onslaughts, sets to tear Iraq further apart

In the vast stretches of West Asia and North Africa, which the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists, have turned into their favourite hunting ground for the sake of establishing their unchallenged control over its crucial strategic position and rich natural resources, mainly oil, and have been precipitating one crisis after another, a centre of crisis has cropped up anew. After Libya and Syria, Iraq has resurfaced as a new hot-bed. As the world knows, Iraq is the country that is already ravaged from two devastating wars of aggression and occupation by the US imperialist brigands and their British imperialist allies. Plus, there are bitter, ugly and deadly sectarian conflicts and brute violation of civic and human rights overtly and covertly ignited, fomented and fostered by the imperialists. Such a country faces fresh intense turmoil.

Background: US imperialists destroyed a secular, economically sound country

But before delving further into the issue, it may be recalled that before the US aggressions, Iraq under the dictatorial rule of Saddam Hussein was no doubt a capitalist country with its exploitative and oppressive system. But it could also be identified from many of the countries of the Arab world stooping under Islamist fundamentalism, by its practice of secularism, that is absence of religion in social and public life, by its education and health facilities for the masses and liberal attitude towards women, awarding them equal rights and such others. And all these features were in addition to Iraq's success in developing a sound economy after the prolonged attritional war against its neighbour, Iran. Based on these and overcoming the initial pro-imperialist stand, Iraq under Saddam also played a strong anti-imperialist, more so anti-US imperialist role, albeit from its own nationalist interest. Nonetheless this imbued its people with militant anti-US imperialist, anti-Zionist mind-set. However, as a capitalist country developing in this era of decadent capitalism, that is imperialism, the ruling national bourgeoisie could not and did not totally and ideologically fight out religious fundamentalism, so typical elsewhere in the Arab world. Nor could they wipe out divisions and disunity among the masses based upon religious sects, communities, ethnic tribes etc. Seeds of reaction remained within; occasionally did those sprout; even there were occasional allegations of discrimination against the Shia, largely the working class and peasantry, in old Iraq by the ruling Sunnis to which Saddam belonged; but those were eventually subdued under the anti-imperialist fervour.

US occupiers play tricks to thwart resistance and disunite people

People of the world are also aware that with its brute military power the US imperialists could

devastate the country on the false plea of it possessing weapons of mass destruction (WMD), could capture the land, could heinously and stealthily execute its president Saddam Hussein and plant a pliant regime. Despite all these they could not carry the Iraqi people with them; the latter did never accept the illegal occupation of Iraq by the US imperialists.

On the contrary, freedom-loving Iraqi people spurred on by their long – cherished patriotic feeling raised and are raising their voice against the US imperialists and their stooge government. For the last ten years, they have burst into sporadic movements once and often, have carried out suicide attacks and so forth, throughout Iraq though largely in a scattered way. In the main, the protesting people remained unorganized and rudderless. Neither the protests, these anti-US outbursts, could crystallize into a well-knit protracted resistance movement.

The US imperialists are aware of this simmering discontent in the Iraqi people. They also apprehend that if they give any slack to its tightening noose on the country, people's discontent might burst into mighty movement against the illegal occupation and assume the character of Arab Spring. So, they flouted their promise of withdrawing the army by 2007 for fear of sudden upheaval that would hamper their principal goal, namely plundering of natural resources of Iraq particularly oil. But, they could not do away with their apprehension that prolonged presence of full-fledged occupation army might backfire as based on that people might consolidate their unity against it. So, they planned two things. They withdrew the bulk of the forces though with a leeway. Along with this move, they maintained that they might come to the help of the pliant government as and when necessary. On the other hand, the US imperialists, in persuance of their hated policy of engineering divides among the people, pit one section against the other, provoked internecine fights, orchestrated

ethnic strifes, began nurturing the Shia—Sunnis divide cunningly. Even to fight side by side against any eventual Iraqi resistance, they employed two ambitious clerics belonging to two bitterly warring Shi'ite groups, namely Sadr's Mehdi Army militia of Muqtada Al-Sadr and Badr Organization militia of the Supreme Islamic Council in Iraq (SICI) (of Abdul Aziz Al-Hakim). Finally however, in place of fulfilling the nefarious US design, these two Shi'ite groups, Badr and Sadr, accused each other of committing serious crimes against humanity and eventually, adding further woes to Iraqi people, perpetrated fierce bloody clashes in the holy city of Kerbala for Shia Muslims, southwest of Baghdad, which left at least 52 people dead and over 200 wounded. Such were the US imperialist machinations that only brought disunity, suffering and death to Iraqi people.

Imperialists play upon fundamentalism and Shia-Sunni divide in Arab world and Iraq to extend their hegemony

To give shape to this design of reigning over the oil-rich strategically important Middle East, the US imperialists took to different means and methods. Typical of the imperialists, as once British and French imperialists did in the Middle East and now the US imperialists are doing today, the latter have always tried to drive a wedge into the Arab countries on the basis of different brands of Islamist fundamentalism, including Shia-Sunni division. In fact, the grueling war between the then Sunni-ruled Iraq and Shia-dominated Iran had this element at the root. As for the US imperialists, while they could manage to rope in the rich and reactionary regime of Saudi Arabia leading a Sunni camp, they have failed to bring Iran on its knees before them. This had led the US imperialists to impose sanction against Iran, and to try encircle it with Sunni-dominated fundamentalist al-Qaeda forces.

Elsewhere, in Libya, to remove and annihilate Gaddafi and his government they had created a situation for armed intervention wearing the NATO mask and reared a fundamentalist rebel group there. In Syria too, in order to bully President Assad into submission and remove him in the name of a cry for regime change, they have been promoting and nurturing a so-called rebel group. In conjunction with their closest allies in the

region, namely the reactionary regimes of Saudi Arabia and Qatar, they have liberally funded these rebels, armed them with most modern sophisticated weaponry and trained them adequately. With that, they have dragged Syria into a prolonged bloody civil war between the government, its army and security forces on the one hand and the so-called rebels on the other. In course of that, they found a scope of fomenting Al Qaeda-sponsored group like ISIL (the Islamic State in the Levant) (also called the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham or Syria (ISIS)), to work to their advantage in Syria as well as beyond its border in neighbouring Iraq. Here again their principal support came from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, which blessed this terrorist fundamentalist outfit liberally with funds and arms.

Imperialist design of driving wedge between Shia-Sunni led to emergence of ISIS menace

In Iraq, the Shia-Sunni divide and conflict that had been simmering and accruing long since, was fomented cunningly by the US imperialists and their stooge government. There the Saddam-government was Sunni-led though Shias constituted a bulk if not the majority of population. The US occupiers played upon the sentiment of the ruled Shia against the hitherto ruling Sunnis. They finally managed to install a Shi'ite-dominated pliant government in the name of establishing democracy. It only went on to drive a wedge into the Shia-Sunni relationship, particularly since the elections in 2010. In that election the present Prime Minister al-Maliki's party did not secure a clear majority. Yet it flouted the agreements to create a national unity government, acted shamelessly sectarian, sacked hundreds of thousands of Sunnis from the military and banned substantial numbers of Sunnis from civilian public-service posts; it alienated the Kurds, and tried to repress legitimate Sunni opposition. Obviously the al-Maliki government could not have acted as it did without overt or covert sanction and support of their mentor, the US imperialists. This Shi'ite sectarianism not only fanned up the old Sunni Awakening movement. It also led to the emergence of the extremist and deadly fanatic Sunni militia, of the ISIS and its kin group. The ISIS made its massive headway by capturing Fallujah and

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Impressive gathering of Jaynagar memorial meeting (to the left) and Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing it

Comrades and people bid adieu to Comrade Yakub Pailan with tearful eyes

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district through many blood-soaked struggles and sacrifices. So the impact of Comrade Pailan's revolutionary character was not only on the poorest of the poor peasants of remote Sunderbans but even on the educated middle class of Jaynagar town. Among those who came to pay respect were poor fisherwoman of Kultali, noted doctors of Jatynagar, octogenarian citizen of Magrahat, middle-aged agricultural worker of Sankarpur. Many of them recollected how Comrade Pailan waged an exemplary struggle to organize the poor peasants and people braving all odds, overcoming all hurdles. Garlanding his body were Comrades Sudhir Banerjee and Nalini Pramanik, his revolutionary compatriots. Those who offered floral tributes were Comrades Sujan Chakraborty, district secretary and Jogesh Ghosh, zonal secretary, CPI(M), Chandrasekhar Debnath, district secretary RSP, Shri Gour

Sarkar, TMC convener of Jaynagar-Kultali, Smt. Farida Begum Sekh, chairperson, and Shri Prasata Sarkhel, former Chairman Jaynagar Municipality. A large gathering of comrades including the district and state leaders including Comrade Saumen Basu, SUCI(C) State

Secretary leaders paid their revolutionary tribute. Then began the last journey which was joined by thousands of Party workers, supporters and sympathizers. It appeared that the entire Jaynagar has come down to the streets. After covering the entire Jaynagar town, the bier was taken to his native village Hasanpur where the departed leader was laid to rest in the burial ground amidst tears and red salute.

His memorial meeting was held on 22 June at Jaynagar municipal ground. It was presided over by



Comrade Provash Ghosh and other Politbureau and Central Committee members offering homage to Comrade Yakub Pailan in Kolkata

Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar, Member, Central Committee of the Party. It was a sea of grief-stricken people. Grief-stricken but thoroughly disciplined gathering moved everyone. Many offered floral tribute. Wreaths were also placed at his portrait by leaders of different parties. Garlanding his portrait were Comrades Provash Ghosh, Ranjit Dhar, Asit Bhattacharyya, Saumen Basu, Sankar Saha and others. After Guard of Honour by the Komsomol volunteers, Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar read out the homage of the

Central Committee. Thereafter a minute's silence was observed as mark of respect to the departed leader. Then Comrade Provash Ghosh in an emotion-choked voice narrated the various aspects of the revolutionary life and activities of Comrade Yakub Pailan. (Text of his speech will be published later.) The meeting ended with the rendering of the *Internationale*. The comrades then dispersed with the resolve to carry on the unfulfilled task. It was evident that Comrade Yakub Pailan will ever remain alive in their hearts.

SUCI(C) strongly opposes 25% disinvestment of PSUs, calls for resisting through release of powerful movement

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 20 June, 2014:—

As anticipated, the BJP government is brooking no delay in implementing its pro-reform economic agenda of capitalist globalization first by announcing 100% FDI in defence and media, then proposing hefty rise in petrol-diesel pricing by imposing, over and above progressively increasing tariff, a flat cess of 75 paise per litre followed by pronouncing decision to substantially hike railway fare and fast privatization of the railways through PPP route and infusion of FDI. Now, the government has moved further ahead with the declaration that all Public Sector Units (PSUs) including PSU banks will have to compulsorily divest 25% of the government stakes which means rolling out the plan to eventually privatize the PSUs once created with public finance and hence deemed for all intent and purpose public property. In other words, public property is being handed over to the monopolists on a platter for minting maximum profit. It is thus evident that the rabidly anti-people economic policies which the erstwhile Congress government followed to subvert the class design of the ruling bourgeoisie and thereby earned so much of wrath of the people, are now being pursued more aggressively by the BJP government. Clearly the purpose for which Narendra Modi has been brought to power by the industrial houses is being faithfully served by him.

We strongly condemn and oppose this most disastrous policy of disinvestment of the PSUs and call upon the countrymen to unleash sustained powerful movement to resist such one after another onslaught including this privatization spree of the BJP government.

SUCI(C) vehemently opposes hefty increase in sugar, LPG and piped gas prices and calls for foiling this heinous conspiracy of the ruling class and its government

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 25 June, 2014 :—

Close on the heels of steep rise in railway fare and petrol-diesel prices, the BJP government has now announced the third tranche of its "development" to the countrymen by pushing up sugar price by Rs 3 per kg, LPG cylinder price by Rs 10 per month and piped natural gas price by around Rs 1500 per unit. Clearly the objective is to reward the sugar barons who receive huge subsidies from the government, get interest free bank loan and various other sops as well as the gas producing companies, both private and public, who amass massive profit. The government in his next step is mulling hefty increase in kerosene as well as further hike in LPG prices. It is obvious that the ruling monopolists who are reported to have spent Rs 5 lakh crore to bring BJP to power and promote Narendra Modi as the prime minister have now begun to exact to the last penny from the government by fleecing the people and the government is so splurge on increasing the price of every essential item and ensuring swelling coffers of its benefactors.

While vehemently opposing this most sinister move on the part of the BJP government to raise the prices, we once again exhort upon the people not to lie low anymore and come forward to usher in a countrywide powerful protracted movement to foil this heinous conspiracy of the ruling bourgeoisie and its government.

IRAQ

Imperialism, capitalism, fundamentalism go hand-in-hand

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Ramadi towards the end of 2013 and now in the recent fresh offensive seized control of Mosul and Tikrit in June 2014. They have advanced fast across the country to as near as only 60 km from Baghdad; they have attacked the country's biggest oil refinery at Baiji, north of Baghdad on 18 June; they have reportedly looted millions of dollars from banks, have imposed "taxes" or "levies" or Taliban-like *fatwas* like those on dress codes for women etc., or even asking for family details from the inhabitants in areas they have seized. In demonstration of most autocratic behaviour and overlordism, they are now asking the families to hand over the unmarried girls to them for tying knots and satisfy their sexual urges. ** This itself is a glaring example of what kind of demonic character the ISIS possess and what kind of rule they are intending to set up by overthrowing the current Iraqi regime, what kind of a bigger Islamic state embracing Iraq and Syria they have been planning to create by preparing for a still major offensive. In the recent ISIS offensive, over half a million people have fled insurgent-overrun areas posing a severe humanitarian crisis. The insurgents have killed 1,700 Iraqi soldiers with images posted online apparently showing ISIL summarily executing captured Iraqi soldiers, the act that assumes the pattern of war crimes, already creating panic and doubt in even the Sunni people of the seized areas. There are reports of dissent as well in the Sunni camp. An Iraqi security official and witnesses said that battle near Kirkuk had broken out between two powerful Sunni rebel groups fighting the Shia-dominated government. The battle pitted the offensive's leader, ISIS, against its Baathist allies and left 17 dead, the official said. The Sunnis battling ISIS were from Men of the Army of Naqshbandi, ex-Saddam Hussein loyalists, or Baathists. The two groups are allies but with very different ideologies; the Baathists' nationalistic, Sufi philosophy is completely at odds with ISIS's extreme Islamist beliefs. It appears that the Baathists carrying Saddam's legacy are not endorsing a fundamentalist upsurge of the nature the ISIS envisages against the present Iraqi regime.

On the other hand, now when the ISIS are gaining the upper hand and scoring military victory over the Iraqi regime and its army trained over the years by the US

imperialists at a cost of \$25 billion, the US rulers are talking of providing limited military assistance (deputing 275 war consultants etc.) to Iraq and if necessary bring down air and drone attacks on the ISIS. In fact, this would give them a fresh scope of deploying the army again in Iraq and thereby monitor its hegemonic designs in neighbouring Syria and Iran. One significant development is that Iran's top leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei openly declared that his country "strongly opposes the intervention of the US and others in the domestic affairs of Iraq." He further added that "the US aims to bring its own blind followers to power since the US is not happy about the current government in Iraq." In a veiled reference to the Arab Gulf states, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said some countries "feed terrorists by their petrodollars," and warned that such support would come back to haunt them. This is a welcome development because despite pulling all strings from behind, the US imperialists could not turn Iran against Iraq.

Imperialists reaffirm truths, leave lessons of history for suffering fighting people

The entire series of events in this part of the world then unequivocally reaffirms certain truths. Number one : Once again the events show that the imperialists, led by the US imperialists are the worst enemies of mankind. They hatch all types of heinous designs; they generate and perpetuate tension; they carry out brute wars of aggression and occupation; to divide, disunite and terrorize people, they foment any and every kind of fundamentalism and terrorism if that fits their design; they engineer ethnic, sectarian or community wars; they do not hesitate to kill people like cats and dogs either directly through their brigandage or via media, their open or secret agents. The series of events in the Arab world also reveals that the above deplorable acts which they often perpetrate in the name of establishing democracy and peace have so far made the US imperialists and their allies successfully give shape to their designs. And every time everywhere, it is the innocent people who have been the victims. They die in thousands, suffer in millions. Next, it is also being emphatically clear, that for genuine lasting peace, freedom and democracy, such suffering people in the Arab countries, or for that matter anywhere in the world, have one

single task cut out and imperative for them. They are left with no choice other than taking to intense struggle, to nothing but fight and defeat the imperialists. And that task cannot be accomplished without immediately releasing a worldwide militant anti-imperialist movement. People undertaking this arduous task cannot also miss the fact that this era of imperialism is also the era of proletarian revolution during which Marxism-Leninism unequivocally remains the beacon today for exploited, suffering people anywhere in the world. And so, even the desired anti-imperialist movement can have a right direction only if it is steered by genuine communists at the core. One may need to recall that in the past when the socialist camp was present, led by the erstwhile USSR, it acted as a bulwark of people's movements, notwithstanding its limitations, and the imperialists could not carry out their plans and designs unchallenged and unopposed. Neither were the imperialist onslaughts so unbridled. Even in the Arab world, people would find from their past so many instances of thus thwarting imperialist onslaughts. Side by side, time has come also to understand that this socialist camp did collapse not because Marxism-Leninism had failed or had become invalid. It did, because with the advent of modern revisionism, the leadership of communist movements deviated from the Marxist revolutionary path and fell prey to the imperialist design. That emasculated people's movement and added vigour to the imperialist brigandage. The outcome is as we see today in the Arab world and elsewhere.

People's movements cry for genuine leadership to lead those to logical culmination

The hard reality exposes today that in one country after another, massive people's movements are bursting forth with so much of wrath and indignation, against imperialist aggression- intrigue-brutality or against the exploitative capitalist rule of their own respective country. But those are not finding their way towards logical culmination. Rather notwithstanding their strength and vigour, these protest movements are becoming directionless, rudderless, only because of the absence of genuine revolutionary leadership to guide them on the strength of ideals of Marxism-Leninism.

So, we need to refresh our realization that it is only the genuine revolutionary ideology and the correct revolutionary party that can

guide people to their cherished goals. It is the true communists who can lead their fight against imperialist conspiracy to logical culmination, can lead people's just war to thwart imperialist wars of invasion and occupation. They are the force which can bring people emancipation from the exploitative and oppressive capitalist rule of their respective countries, as well as help people fight fundamentalism, sectarianism and all other kinds of divisive traits on the strength of one single ideology of Marxism-Leninism.

The same holds true for Iraq also. Notwithstanding their resistance movement against the US imperialists, Iraq has now been brought to the threshold of being shattered apart by fundamentalism, with the US imperialism hawks gleefully waiting in the wings. A shattered, dismembered Iraq would be emasculated further only to the advantage of the US imperialists and their agents of all hues. Suffering people of that country, the sole victims, thus stand face to face with the unavoidable task of fulfilling the necessity of developing correct revolutionary party and its leadership on their soil following correct Leninist approach. The faster they do that, the earlier would they be able to come out of the present ordeal, to reach victory against imperialism. In the ambience of a genuine revolutionary movement guided by such a revolutionary leadership, alone would they eventually be able to successfully combat and eradicate sectarian, fundamentalist, ethnic or any other kind of divisive traits hatched and propelled by the capitalism-imperialism, both ideologically and organizationally.

It is thus becoming the need of the hour for the oppressed people of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya etc. in the Arab world or elsewhere to pick up this lesson of the history, this all-important message with a view to strive for ushering in a future free of heart-rending scenes of gun-toting fanatics, air-rending frenzied cries of fratricidal violence, night-long haunting fear of imperialist missiles and drones and endless barrage of void fraudulent pledges from trigger-happy, self-seeking brigands of so-called leaders-politicians and their lackeys.

**Source:— BBC, The Time, Reuters, Washington Post, The Guardian, The Independent (16 June), Latin Post (16 June), Hindustan Times (17 June), Frontline (series of coverage including those in January 2014), The Hindu (Editorial on 18 June).

Paradox of subsidy — People are denied but capitalist owners receive aplenty

There is, of late, a common refrain in the parlance of the bourgeois economists-columnists, ruling party circles, ministers and apologists of the prevailing capitalist system that the ailing economy of the country can be set right only if the government withdraws all subsidies to food, fertilizer, fuel and every other sphere of public utilities and welfare. Their contention is that there is a yawning gap between what the government is earning and what it is spending. In other words, there is a huge budget deficit. And this colossal deficit is taking the economy off-rail. So, the government must bring down the deficit. To lower the deficit, the government ought to prune down expenditure. A good amount of government expenses is defrayed towards providing subsidies to various public expenditures. So, there has to be a drastic cut in subsidies, if not complete withdrawal of all subsidies. The protagonists of bourgeois economy argue that the government is not a charitable organization. It cannot continue giving subsidies to people. It has other areas of priorities to trigger economic growth. So, those who are espousing for continuing the subsidies are speaking against the imperative need of spurring economic revival and growth. Hence, they are strongly pleading for some 'hard decisions' which the country's newly elected BJP prime minister and his ministerial colleagues, like their predecessors in the erstwhile Congress government, are also endorsing wholeheartedly. These 'hard decisions', besides recommending hefty raise in fuel tariff, railway fare etc. also imply slashing of subsidies.

Where has this devil 'subsidy' come from? We are in a free civilized country. Our free country has a state. Its citizens are inseparably linked to the state. They are obliged to observe the rules and regulations of the state, abide by the governance of the state, obey its legal system—in other words are subjected to the rule of the state. Responsible citizens are, therefore, obliged to accept governance of the state through government. On the other hand, the state is obliged to look after the citizens, make provisions for their food, clothing, shelter, education, employment, healthcare and other basic needs and above all, guarantee their security of life. So, the responsibility of citizens and the obligation of the state are supplementary and complementary. While the state has power to rule, the citizens have rights to exercise and enjoy. Citizens have right to food, right to shelter, right to education, right to employment and so forth. Let us take the question of right to food. The state is under obligation to provide food to the citizens. Now the question is at what price will the food be available and from where and when? The state has to arrange that. Citizens ought to be provided the ability to purchase food items from the market at reasonable price. The Constitution stipulates what are the rights people are to be assured of by the state. Right to food is one of these rights. So, the state must guarantee that right by ensuring availability of food to the citizens. Means of guaranteeing that right are to be decided by the state. Best way would have been to introduce all out state trading meaning disbanding private trade in food items and the government

would have itself procured and distributed food articles to the citizens at affordable price. But our state did not traverse that way. Instead, the government chose to provide 'subsidy' to peg down the price. This subsidy is provided from the exchequer created out of the amount of tax paid by the citizens. So, there is no charity involved in it. If subsidy is now reduced to an estranged 'economic term' by the self-styled pedants and academicians and hence recommended for being jettisoned, it is tantamount to depriving the citizens of their legitimate political right to food. This basic question is fought shy of by the "learned" of the vested interest.

If subsidies are withdrawn, the citizens will have to purchase food or for that matter any essential item hitherto covered by subsidy in the open market at the price determined by the seller. The advocates of 'market economy' will say that prices are determined by the market forces. But we know that prices are fixed by the sellers—not the retail vendors but the owners of the means of production—the big monopolists and big business with the motive of maximizing profit. The latter are the controllers and as experienced by all, manipulators of prices. This is no conjecture of any individual but the very law of capitalist economy itself. So, when a citizen is exposed to market price minus subsidy, his very political right to entitlement is curtailed. The champions of market economy argue that market is independent. Whoever brings money can purchase goods. Depending on the amount he spends, he gets goods. If there is more demand, there will be more supply. If there is more supply, there will be more exchanges. If there are more exchanges,

economy will flourish. Moreover, increased supply means increased production, means further economic activity. So, if the citizens come to open market, they will pay market price. If they cannot pay more, prices will come down and vice versa. What a simple logic!

But, problem is that market economy does not operate in so simplistic a way. Demand depends on paying capacity of the people. If there is no paying capacity, there is no demand. If there is no demand, there is no supply. If there is no supply, production stops. If production stops, people have no job. No job means no money. No money means no demand. No demand means no more supply. As a result, there is shrinkage of market. This is a vicious chain. And so ensues market crisis which dying capitalism today is enmeshed in. Moreover, in decadent moribund capitalism, fall in demand does not entail fall in price. Price is predetermined by the sellers-cum-owners with definite mark up of profit. They do not sell below that price even if there is enough supply. Who does not know that often food items are allowed to rot, even in government godowns, but not released in the market lest the price should fall. Moreover, over and above the price so fixed at the point of production and distribution by the big business and its machinery, market price also has to factor in middlemen cost. Middleman system is part and parcel of capitalism. To jack up price, the hoarders and blackmarketers also merrily manipulate supply. That is how, price is regulated at the end of the vested interest, not "determined in the market" based on simple demand and supply. So-called claim that "market determines everything" is a hoax as market is not free but is at the disposal of these manipulators and regulators.

Now, come back to the question of subsidy. Withdrawal of subsidy exposes the citizens to the vagaries of such a market where following inexorable law of capitalism, prices soar and purchasing power of the buyers is squeezed. So, if withdrawal of subsidy denotes recovery of economy, then surely such economic revival militates against the interest of the nation. By nation, we do not mean a handful of rich owners and their affluent servitors but the common people at large. Prosperity of the nation does not lie in the so called calibrated figures of economy hinged upon and centring round high-ups, but in guaranteeing a decent livelihood of the citizens—a livelihood where

there is enough food, clothing, proper shelter, availability of healthcare and education, remunerative income and growing standard of life. When such a livelihood is guaranteed, the state discharges its true obligation. But if such a livelihood is denied, the state could well be accused of being irresponsible, and defaulter in discharging its obligation to the citizens.

Next question is whether the state is discharging its responsibility to all its citizens or there is discrimination. The government which is the caretaker of the state and its lackeys are admitting that to administer growth, subsidies will have to be rolled back putting heavy burden on the immensely suffering people. But, is it that subsidies are withdrawn for all and sundry across the board? Answer is a big NO. While strongly pleading for roll back of subsidies in food, fertilizer, fuel and other areas of public welfare even the much touted Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the economists-columnists in the pay roll of the capitalist rulers, the ministers-bureaucrats are emphasizing on granting enough sops, concessions, waivers and exemptions to the industrialists so that their cost of production could be brought down further and they could maximize profit with much more comfort. Not that they are talking so straight like this. To camouflage, they have been saying that the government should actively cooperate with the investors and take positive measures to improve 'investment climate'. How the investment climate (read deployment of capital) could be improved? The industrial houses, corporate bigwigs, foreign monopolists and MNCs should be offered fabulous tax concessions, tax holidays, total tax exemptions as in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), free water and electricity, readily built-in infrastructure like roads and shipping facilities, convenience in raw material sourcing, availability of loan and finance at cheapest possible rates, forgiving repayment defaults declaring them as non-performing assets etc. In fact, a plethora of such waivers and concessions was granted to the capitalist owners in the name of 'fiscal stimulation' by the former Congress government. A rough calculation shows that the figure of fiscal stimulation has already crossed Rs 7 lakh crores. Compared to this sum, subsidies granted towards public welfare are

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SUBSIDY

People are denied right to food, right to live

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nothing. In other words, had not such waivers and concessions been granted to the monopoly houses and industrial barons who are accumulating huge wealth and featuring on the list of the front-ranking riches of the world, exchequer could have been richer by that amount and deficit would have come down substantially, if not wiped off altogether. What will then one call this fiscal stimulation and exemptions? Are these not "subsidies" to the owning class? Can the self-styled economists-columnists afford to deny this with pedagogic utterances? Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his previous capacity as the chief minister of Gujarat granted huge concessions to the Tata, Ambani and Adani groups for setting up capital-intensive industries. Land, water, electricity everything was virtually doled out at either minimum or no cost. Had those been charged at normal rates, the government's revenue earning could have jumped appreciably. So, there has been virtual "subsidization" to the monopolist tycoons at the cost of the exchequer. Lately published figures show that non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans with the banks have crossed Rs 2 lakh crores and most of the defaulters are big corporates. And as usual, the government would not touch the defaulting corporates but only "persuade them to repay at the earliest". Bank receives deposit from the common public. The monopoly houses are taking loan from that deposit and defaulting, means swindling. Would the official economists-columnists be taken umbrage if we say that the banks are "subsidizing" the monopolists at the cost of the public? There is a tough battle going on among two camps in the ruling circle as to whether bank interest should be brought down further. The government and the ministerial bureaucrats, planning commission bosses are arguing in favour of drastic slash in the rates so that corporate houses whose trackrecord of repayment is so splendid (!) get cheaper bank finance. But the Reserve Bank of India authorities are stated to be opposed to that because they feel lowering interest would discourage people to save and prompt them to spend more thereby pushing up inflation further. We are no body to arbitrate in their dispute as the very premises on which they both are engaged in the debate are fraught with questions that present decayed

capitalism cannot answer. But, we find that if the rates are lowered and bank loans made cheaper for the corporates, banks will be deprived of an otherwise modest return. So, this will also be a "subsidy" to the industrial barons and big business of course at the cost of the poor bank depositors because the latter, in that event, will receive less return on their hard-earned savings.

Thus it could be seen that the government and its mentors, the ruling monopolists, are not against subsidy, *per se*. They only want, rather keen to ensure, that the beneficiaries of subsidies are switched. As against the common toiling people assailed by ongoing gruelling capitalist exploitation and unable to make both ends meet because of relentless sky-rocketing of prices, subsidies and subventions, exemptions and concessions, favours and care should be extended to the handful of owner capitalists so that they could add more and more to the heaps of wealth they are piling up. According to these self-proclaimed pedants and demagogues, economics should supersede politics and not vice versa. To put it differently, very political rights of the people to live, to food, to education, to health ought to be superseded by the "economic" need of fattening the purses of the corporate sector and industrial tycoons for the sake of "economic growth". This is the saga of subsidy, the fable of bourgeois economics, the parable of economic revival and growth as mouthed by the government and the peddlers of scholastic discourses basking under the shelter of the rulers. If the state spends for the people, it belies economic logic. But, if the state sacrifices revenue accretion and earnings for the sake of the corporates and monopolists, it perfectly befits economic logic. One can only pity the advocates of such a bizarre theory! As these hawkers of trash motivatedly pen the 'growth' story with economic jargons and verbiages to hide the truth, the common people have every right to reject such puerile notations as utter rubbish. Let not people in the camp of the rulers feel even in the wildest of their dreams that they only are the clever lot and therefore can get away with any nonsense by giving that an academic cloak. There are socially conscious people having necessary erudition to unmask their chicanery and bring out the truth boldly and assertively.

Comrade A. Jalaluddin passes away

Comrade A. Jalaluddin, senior member of Kerala State Committee, SUCI(C) and Vice-President of State Committee of AIUTUC, breathed his last on June 19 at 9.45pm in Trivandrum following a scooter accident. He was 67. He was one among



the first batch of comrades who came forward to organize our Party in Kerala from T.K.M College of Engineering, Quilon at the end of nineteen sixties, getting deeply inspired by the Thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. As soon as he understood from the life and teachings of Comrade Ghosh, that it is the noble way of life to dedicate oneself to the cause of working class and to organize the downtrodden millions on the path of anti-capitalist socialist revolution, Comrade Jalaluddin took up the task, becoming a full time organizer of the Party, shunning his old lifestyle. He had to undergo many a challenge and hardship including threat to life in this course which he faced boldly and undauntedly. During Emergency period he was taken to police custody and was secretly kept arrested for days together under the instigation of the employer of the private technical educational institution where he was working. The employer was taking revenge for organizing the teachers and employees raising certain genuine demands of theirs.

Party assigned him to work in the Trade Union Front which task he undertook whole heartedly and fulfilled commendably initiating and leading AIUTUC activities in a number of industrial units and areas under organized as well as unorganized sectors. He effectively performed his role in different joint forums called up by Central Trade Unions such as National Campaign Committee, Sponsoring Committee, Joint Platform of TUs, etc., with a view to building up mighty protracted working class movement in the country which is the urgent need of the hour as shown by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He thus earned wide respect and appreciation among the TU leaders of different political affiliations.

He was Party's Quilon District Secretary for a period. He was one of the All India Vice-Presidents of AIUTUC for a long time.

Comrade Jalaluddin met with the accident on 12 June and was admitted to Hospital where he underwent surgery due to head injury and internal bleeding. Though the doctors tried their best to save his life, he succumbed to the injury, also due to his already existing complicated ailments.

Wreath was laid on his body on behalf of the Party's Central Committee, State Committee, different district committees and frontal organizations.

People from different walks of life including prominent political leaders came to pay homage to him. In his Last Journey a large number of people accompanied party comrades and supporters to the Crematorium. Choked with emotions, comrades bid farewell paying red salute to Comrade A. Jalaluddin. In a condolence statement, Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, AIUTUC, expressed severe grief and pain at the untimely demise of Comrade Jalaluddin. In his tribute, Comrade Saha said that, by his involvement in the affairs of working class movement he did uplift himself to emerge as one of the leaders of the state. In 1987 he was in the team of a Trade Union delegation to USSR. From 1992 onwards over a period of 16 years he occupied the post of Vice-President of All India Committee. Also during this period he represented AIUTUC in various committees constituted by Government of India.

RED SALUTE COMRADE A. JALALUDDIN

School of Politics in Jaipur

A school of politics was organized by AIDS0 and AIDYO in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 8 June last. Comrade Satyawan, Member Central Committee, SUCI(C) conducted the school. Participants who were asked to read the book "Tasks ahead of the students and

youths" by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh asked many questions which Comrade Satyawan discussed in details. Present in the school was Comrade Pratava Nayek, President AIDYO. Besides Jaipur, participants were from Jhunjhunu, Dousa, Kota, Bundi and Jodhpur,

SUCI(C) vehemently opposes the steepest ever hike in Railway fare and calls upon people to build up countrywide powerful resistance movement

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 21 June, 2014 :

When the common people are bleeding white under relentless capitalist exploitation and having no more capacity to bear anymore economic burden, the BJP government has exposed its out and out anti-people character in a pronounced manner by steeply hiking railway passenger fare by 14.2%, freight charges by 6.5% and almost doubling the monthly ticket charges of daily commuters thereby slaying the slain. As fallout of this step, not only the passengers will have to pay exorbitantly, prices of all essential items transported by the railways will shoot up beyond limit. By trampling underfoot even whatever little residue of parliamentary democracy is in vogue, this highest ever increase in railway tariff has been slapped on the suffering people through an administrative fiat bypassing Parliament when the latter is in session—the trend set by the erstwhile Congress government. In fact, the government has arrogated to itself an autocratic power to raise the tariff as and when it deems fit under any pretext whatsoever. As usual, the gangster's logic advanced in support of this hefty raise is salvaging cash-strapped railways while the fact is that there is not even an iota of attempt to rein on rampant corruption, pilferage and theft which is causing massive drainage to the railways kitty. As malpractices, nepotism, misappropriation, loot and larceny are spiralling, passenger safety, amenities, sanitation facilities, maintenance of the bogies, tracks and stations, punctuality of running trains are nose-diving making the passengers shell out more money but receive only disservice, discomfort, inconvenience and harassment on a rising scale and often lose life in regularly occurring accidents. Without making any attempt to address these pertinent factors which are ailing the railways, the BJP

government like its predecessor Congress government is now clearing the deck for eventual privatization of the railways by talking of so-called modernization through infusion of 100% FDI and opening up the sector more and more to private operators through Public-private-partnership (PPP) route which will bring in its trail further shrinkage of job opportunity in the Railways, trigger massive retrenchment and convert regular jobs into contractual ones at lower wage. Naturally, while the people are back-broken by this draconian rise in fare and freight charges, the big industrialists, monopolists, corporate bigwigs who find new opportunities of maximizing profit by making forays into the railway operation and a section of the economists-columnists allegiant to the ruling bourgeoisie are hailing the move as a step in the right direction. It is worth recalling that BJP prime minister Narendra Modi who in 2012 had opposed the decision on the part of the Congress government to raise freight charges bypassing Parliament and called it "backdoor" manoeuvring "diminishing the supremacy of Parliament", is now himself presiding over such a move in naked demonstration of a height of hypocrisy. The BJP is thus proving itself to be much determined to prove itself more inimical to people's interest than the previous governments.

While we strongly condemn this unjust and phenomenal hike in railway charges, we call upon the common people to rise up in vehement protest and spare no more time in releasing a countrywide massive organized resistance movement to repel such ongoing attacks on their life and livelihood by the governments subserving the exploitative ruling bourgeois class which would become more and more unbridled in running the steamroller of oppression if allowed to get away with such felonious moves one after another.

Countrywide protest by SUCI(C) against massive hike in Railway fare-freight charges



June 23, Dharwar, Karnataka



June 21, Rohtak, Haryana



June 21, Kolkata, West Bengal



June 21, Hyderabad, AP



June 21, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand



June 21, Allahabad, UP



AIDSO, AIDYO, AIMSS demonstrate on June 9 against atrocities on women, in front of Lucknow Assembly, UP

Memorial Meeting of Comrade Yakub Pailan

7 July, 2014 at 3 pm, Sarat Sadan, Howrah

Speakers : Comrade Provash Ghosh
Comrade Krishna Chakraborty

President : Comrade Ranjit Dhar

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH