

# Proletarian Era

Volume 48 No. 24  
August 1, 2015

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)  
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Price : Rs. 2.00  
Total — 10 pages

## Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought Illumining the Path



August 5, 1923 — August 5, 1976

*[In India, as also elsewhere in the world, common exploited people cutting across views and social positions, are coming out, slowly yet surely, to raise their voice against exploitation, oppression and discrimination. To their dismay, they face the hard reality. Time and again their sincere massive efforts are fizzling out into fruitless despair. Why? How to get over it? These are among the questions that torment minds of thoughtful, sensitive, compassionate people.]*

*On the occasion of the Fifth August, the 39th commemorative day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, Founder General Secretary of SUCI(C) and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, we present a few excerpts from his different speeches and writings. We hope those will stand out as glowing beacon to lead people looking for their way.]*

“... on the question of directing a United Front ..., the objective and outlook of a true Marxist-Leninist party is fundamentally different from those of petty bourgeois social democratic parties. A true Marxist-Leninist party views the United Front as an indispensable tool to further the cause of the revolutionary struggle of the masses at a given stage of democratic movement. On the other hand, for the petty bourgeois social democratic parties of all shades, United Front is a mere exigency, a tool for serving their petty parliamentary interest and fulfilling their ambition. Thus,.... on almost every issue, on the question of fundamental principle, a revolutionary party has to wage a constant ideological battle with other petty bourgeois parties, even while fighting together from a common platform, with a common agreed programme.....

In fact, the United Front is a historical and objective necessity to free the mass mind from the ideological and organizational influence that the different bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties still have over the people. A United Front acts as an instrument of struggle to organize and mobilize in the united movement that section of the people who suffer from illusion about the petty bourgeois social democratic parties and are still under their spell; as a result, on the one hand, the movement gains strength, and at the same time it offers an opportunity to the vast

masses drawn in the vortex of movement to get more and more acquainted with the revolutionary politics, and be imbued with it. Of course, coming in direct contact and close proximity with the higher cultural, moral and ethical standard reflected by the leaders and even the general workers of a revolutionary party in their day-to-day conduct helps the people a lot in identifying the revolutionary politics and ideology. .... This is the only objective way to make people free from ... pernicious bourgeois influence and to attract them to the noble ideology of communism. ...

It is for this reason that a revolutionary party attaches so much importance to protecting the unity of the United Front as the apple of one's eye, ... Conducting united struggle against the common and the main enemy on the basis of an agreed common minimum programme and with a code of conduct, while unleashing at the same time within this unity an uncompromising ideological struggle to resolve the ideological differences between the different parties that are reflected in the adoption of the programme of movements and its implementation, and thereby strengthening the unity of the Front more and more — this is what is called the principle of unity-struggle-unity. This is the essential revolutionary principle of United Front politics. Therefore, until, through the development of very wide and deep mass consciousness, other constituent parties of the United Front are completely isolated from the people, we do require this United Front.”(*Some Aspects of United Front Politics and Party Work*; SW, Vol. III, p. 142, 145-7)

“... if judged in the context of ... all pervading crisis in the country and from the perspective of organizing an effective movement of the people ... then, according to my view, the crisis and degradation of culture and

morality in society is posing a problem far greater than economic distress and other severe problems. I do not say that this is the main problem with respect to everything. But ... this indeed poses the most serious problem for building up movement. Because, not to speak of building up movement based on correct theory, even for developing any purposeful movement with firm determination and resolve, courageous planning and preparedness for sacrifice, the question of moral and cultural standard of the people of the country assumes utmost importance. .... In a situation when someone suffers from acute penury, or starvation death stares in his face, a person has two options. If he has a minimum moral standard, he can take to the path of movement. But if he lacks a minimum moral standard, he might turn into a beggar or a wagon-breaker, become immoral and unscrupulous but can never be a movement-maker. It is not true that a person automatically becomes a fighter if he faces starvation, or is in the grip of severe wants or undergoes tortures and assaults. .... Marxism-Leninism does not subscribe to such views, nor do Marxist-Leninists have any faith in such a theory of spontaneous movement. So I want to emphasize the point that if all problems are examined with the objective of building up movement, then the question of moral degeneration and lowering of cultural standard which are eating into the very vitals of our morals, destroying the very essence of political principles and morality and spelling disaster from behind, becomes extremely important. (*Left movement in India and task of the students*, SW, Vol III, p.470-2)

“... the question of revolution and the revolutionary party are inalienably linked together. For, it can never be that revolution happens, but the revolutionary party is not ready to provide leadership. This has never

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### Observe Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day on 5 August with due solemnity

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## Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought Illumining the Path

*Contd. from page 1*

happened in history, this does not happen, this cannot happen. Out of discontent of workers, peasants and all exploited masses, revolution will again and again try to surge ahead in waves after waves. In waves after waves it will try to burst forth. The contradiction within society will deepen and sharpen many times more, calling for radical transformation of this order. It will beseech our consciousness, it will appeal to humanity that revolution is the necessity. Still, revolution will not come, again and again it will recede, it will go astray, and reaction will again and again gain by that — revolution will not see the light until the revolutionary party emerges, capable enough to lead revolution. .... The correct revolutionary consciousness is the correct proletarian class

consciousness, and the correct proletarian class consciousness is the correct proletarian party consciousness — which means, whether you have been able to recognize the genuine revolutionary party or not.

*(Tribute to a Revolutionary character, SW, Vol. III, November 2005 edn., p.390-1)*

“..... for the success of a revolution there are three preconditions. The first is, on the basis of a correct revolutionary theory, ideology and base political line, the emergence of a genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat with adequate organizational strength to provide leadership. Evading this basic issue and undermining the importance of the base political line, those who speak only of organizational strength,

confuse in reality the main point at issue. ....

The second essential condition for revolution is the United Front. At the initial stage of democratic movement, building up of United Front of left and democratic forces and after passing this phase, giving birth to the proletarian United Front — a front essential for the anti-capitalist revolution.

The third prerequisite for revolution is to develop through the united mass movements or joint struggles people's own instrument of struggle, meaning thereby, giving birth to the political power of the people.... organizations, .... developed through united struggle of the workers and peasants having the competence to accept or reject any programme, as also having the initiative and capability to apply them concretely and independently.

Unless these three essential preconditions of revolution are fulfilled, movements may come in wave after wave, millions of people may plunge in these movements and lay down their lives again and again, but there will be no revolution.

Revolution and revolt or agitations are not one and the same. By revolution we mean the politically conscious, organized and armed uprising of the masses on the basis of a definite aim and object, a correct ideology and the genuine revolutionary political line of the proletariat. And the more the people will advance towards fulfilment of these essential conditions, the brighter will become the prospect...”

*(Under the banner of the great November Revolution, SW, Vol. III, p. 467-8)*

## FACTS SPEAK

### COMMUNAL VIOLENCE RISING IN MODI'S RULE

India has seen a near 25% increase in incidents of communal violence in the first five months of 2015 under the National Democratic Alliance government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Home ministry data accessed by Indian news media shows that 287 incidents of communal violence were reported between January and May this year compared to 232 in the first five months of 2014. Deaths in communal incidents also saw a hike. (The Express Tribune — 22-07-15)

### FARMERS COMMITTING SUICIDES DUE TO FAILED LOVE AFFAIRS, SAYS BJP MINISTER

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh has claimed that farmers are committing suicides due to failed love affairs, barrenness/impotency, cancellation/non-settlement of marriage, dowry dispute, fall in social reputation and unknown causes. His remarks come at a time when thousands of peasants have been committing suicide being unable to bear the pain of hunger and starvation, caught in debt trap and denied remunerative price of the produces. It only goes to show how the BJP government is not just disdainful of the plight of the peasants but is utterly cruel and insensitive to them. The BJP minister who had the audacity to make such remark in course of an official statement in the parliament

should be sacked and asked to tender unconditional apology to the countrymen. (NDTV 24-07-15)

### IMPERIALIST CHARACTER OF INDIAN MONOPOLISTS PROVED BY RISING EXPORT OF INDIAN FINANCE CAPITAL

Signalling the financial muscle of theirs, the Indian monopolists are progressively becoming a formidable section of the investors of capital in various parts of the world including USA and UK. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the auditing firm Grant Thornton (GT) released a report showing India-based companies invested \$15 billion across the United States. According to the CII-GT report, 84.5% of companies surveyed plan to make more investments in the United States. Investment from India increased by 65 per cent, making it the UK's third largest source of FDI. Current investments of Indian corporates in Africa amount to more than \$50 billion, in Singapore \$14.11 billion, Mauritius \$11.57 billion and Netherlands \$6.54 billion. Indian companies announced Merger and acquisition transactions worth US\$ 8.4 billion in July 2014 alone. Great Lenin had shown that export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities is one of basic features of imperialism. The rising export of capital by Indian monopolists in various parts of the world confirms that they have acquired imperialist character and is exploiting raw material and cheap labour abroad to maximize profit. (Times of India 16-07-15 and Economic Times—17-06-15)

### RENOWNED DOCTOR EXPOSES WANTON COMMERCIALIZATION AND CORRUPTION IN HEALTHCARE

Dr. Sandeep Mishra, renowned Heart Specialist of AIIMS, in an article titled “What ails the practice of medicine: the atlas has shrugged” published in the January-February, 2015 issue of Indian Heart Journal, organ of the Cardiological Society of India, has unmasked the rampant commercialization and corruption that has gripped the healthcare system abandoning medical ethics. He says the arena of medical profession is filled up with rotten apples. One doctor is referring to another doctor and receiving cut money. Unnecessary tests including even angiogram and angioplasty are prescribed and necessary commission, in cash or kind, is pocketed. For example, there is no need of stenting in case of a patient suffering from prolonged stable coronary disease. Still, exploiting the weakness of the people, stents are planted in the artery. Then, expensive medicines are prescribed for a longer period which often leads to other symptoms. This is a vicious circle. Some of the people have been viewing the doctors as criminals giving a bad name to the whole profession and causing severe grief, embarrassment and even disillusion to an average physician. When contacted, Dr Mishra said that he has written what he has seen. He believes that there are many doctors who are honest, ethical and moral. But the profession is undermined because of a handful of dishonest. That is

why, he has penned this article. Eminent heart specialists and physicians have appreciated the article and concurred to his views. (Source:— Bartaman, Bengali daily, dated 25-07-15)

### 30% OF LAWYERS IN INDIA ARE FAKE

In a shocking revelation, Bar Council of India (BCI) chairman Manan Kumar Mishra has said 30% of all lawyers in India are fake, holding fraudulent law degrees. In BCI's estimation, about 20% of lawyers were practising in courts without valid law degrees. Fake lawyers and non-practising law graduates are degrading quality of the profession, Mishra said. The two-time BCI chairman expressed concern that thousands of fake law certificates are being issued and thousands of lawyers, without proper degree, are practicing in courts and tribunals. According to former judge of the Madras high court Justice K Chandru, mushrooming professional colleges have made verification of academic qualifications of practising professionals such as doctors and lawyers difficult.

One can well imagine that if bogus lawyers are handling legal disputes in the country, what could be the standard of juridical examination and how tampered is the justice delivery process. It obviates to say that widespread corruption devouring the entire system is the root of producing such counterfeit legal practitioners with the government-administration-ruling parties as either accomplice or indulgent onlookers. (Source: (Times of India 26-07-15)

Findings of Socio-Economic Census report

# Harrowing Spectacle of Appalling Misery and Penury of Rural Poor Proves Much Hyped 'Growth Story' a Damn Lie

The common refrain of all the leaders of the ruling parties has been of what spectacular growth and development India has registered over all the years since independence. Earlier, it was the Congress leaders who raised pitch on this. Now it is the turn of the BJP to surpass Congress in that regard. Even economists-columnists wedded to the task of drum-beating in favour of capitalist India, ruling Indian monopolists and their political agents as well as the capitalist economy in operation, have not been lagging behind in penning the growth story of India. Of late, the advocacy is in favour of expediting sweeping economic reforms stated to be pending for years so that there is acceleration of growth and India can surpass China in GDP. But, publication of the report of the provisional data of the Social Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 for rural India, has pierced the balloon of much-hyped growth. Notwithstanding the fact that this report is prepared by government agency with bourgeois outlook, yet the findings have brought out a grim picture of how the distress and privation of the rural masses who constitute over 80% of Indian population has been exacerbated over the 67 years since independence. What is even more shocking is the fact that the proportion of penury and misery is *higher than at the time of independence*. It has also been exposed that all other previous surveys including census hitherto reported that poverty is receding were incorrect, if not deliberately fudged to shield the reality and endorse the fable of growth authored by the ruling Indian bourgeoisie and its servitors.

## Chief findings of the SECC Survey

At the outset, it is necessary to mention that object reality of capitalist India is much more harrowing than what this SECC survey has revealed. But whatever little has been exposed in the report is dismal enough to disprove all brag and bluster of the ruling circle about so called growth and development. According to the survey, 49% of rural households show signs of poverty. The last government-commissioned figure had put the poverty line at a much lower 30%.

In a staggering 92 per cent of households, the main earning member makes less than Rs. 10,000 a month. In nearly 75% of all rural household, the income of the highest earning member is Rs 5,000 or less. It could be either Rs 1,000 or even Rs 10. Obviously, they have to be categorized as abysmally poor. Over half of the rural households are landless. 50% of these landless households rely on casual manual labour for the larger part of their income, enjoying no rights, no job protection, and no income security, while being subject to the immensely oppressive drudgery of arduous manual work. As many as 2.37 crore (13.25 per cent) families in villages live in houses of one room with 'kaccha' (fragile) walls and roof. Landlessness and dependence on manual casual labour for a livelihood are key deprivations facing rural families. Agriculture remains at subsistence levels. The reasons attributed for that are low mechanisation, limited irrigation facilities and little access to official credit. All these factors have their root in exploitative capitalism governing rural economy. The countryside is unable to find jobs that can pull families out of poverty. 23.52 per cent rural families have no literate adult above 25 years. Just over 3 per cent of rural households have a family member who is a graduate, so skilled jobs are going to be hard to get. 6.68 lakh families survive on begging while 4.08 lakh families earn their livelihood by rag picking. Whichever way the SECC figures are sliced and diced, the grim spectacle of appalling poverty and desolation that marks rural India comes to the fore so brazenly, proving the tall claims of the gains made in agriculture and fall in poverty levels in recent years as heartless hoax.

## Saga of growth and prosperity of the rich and affluent

On the other side of the coin, dazzling is the glaze and glitter with which are shining the oligarchs and the affluent. When the 90% of the countrymen are barely eking out a bare living, wealth of the ruling monopolists, their lackeys, political managers and favoured circles is multiplying in geometric, rather 'astronomic', progression. Total wealth of 10 top Indian industrialists climbed to \$261.6 billion in just one

year. (Forbes report, October 2014) The combined wealth of top 100 billionaires is up more than a third in last 11 months to stand at \$346 billion. A 'Wealth X and UBS' report shows that in 2014 India had 8,595 ultra-high net worth (UHNW) individuals having wealth amounting to \$1.01 trillion. This places India 6th in the global rankings on this count. Significantly, the number of UHNW individuals in India grew by 9.5 per cent in 2014, and their wealth grew by 8.3 per cent. This is higher than the global growth rates of 6 per cent and 7 per cent in the number and wealth of UHNW individuals, respectively. Industrialist Mukesh Ambani, the richest Indian, added \$2.4 billion to his wealth last year to take his wealth to \$24.4 billion (about Rs 1,49,474 crore. Combined personal wealth of the top five Indian multi-billionaires is \$85.5 billion (about Rs 5,23,897 crore) (Economic Times-13-08-2014) While SECC report has shown that over 75 % of rural households do not earn even Rs 5000 a month, Arjun Sengupta report showed that 77 per cent of India's population was surviving on less than Rs. 20 a day. So, whose kitties were swelling in India's estimated GDP of \$ 2066.90 billion (over \$2 trillion)? (1 billion = 1000 million. 1 trillion = 1000 billion. 1 million = 10 lakhs. 1 crore = 100 lakhs. \$1 = Rs 60 approximately)

The SECC data have two implications. First of all, these clearly show how wealth is amassed in the hands of a few while the millions of countrymen are languishing in wrenching poverty below subsistence level. In other words, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening more and more. Secondly, these prove that the very endeavour of the ruling dispensation and its subservient economists-columnists to highlight GDP growth as a measure of country's prosperity is nothing but a deception. Several times, we had pointed out in our earlier articles that GDP growth is no indicator of the economic growth of the people at large because it does not state the manner and pattern of distribution of the generated wealth.

## Why is the picture so dismal?

Obviously, the first question that agitates the mind is why this disparity? Is it because of some

faulty planning or inept handling of the economy by the government irrespective of whichever party ran it? Had that been so, then remedy could have been very easy—take corrective action. The BJP leaders and its government are also trying to impress that the slew of reform measures they have been rolling out one after another in keeping with the recommendations of capitalist-imperialist globalization or so called economic liberalization will reverse the process that has hitherto been making rich more rich and the poor poorer. But this is a lie, a big lie that the BJP leaders like their predecessor Congress top brass counterparts are dishing out to hide the truth. The suffering and deprived people pauperized day in and day out, assailed by the scourge of poverty and doomed to sub-human life condition often holding their ill-fate responsible for all their hardship, ought to know that their predicament is not due to any ill-fate or sin of past life as they often believe. The truth is something else that is being craftily shielded from them. Neither the BJP nor the Congress or for that matter, no other vote-based parliamentary party nurturing aspiration for riding to power and working at the behest of the ruling monopolists would unravel that truth before them, the hapless. These election-oriented parties would only trade charges against or take potshots at each other with the sole objective of deriving electoral mileage. Similarly, the economists-columnists-political analysts-expert commentators on the pay-roll of the rulers would only try to divert people's attention from the lurking truth with a surfeit of high-sounding academic discussions, pedagogic discourses and pedantic write-ups. The truth is that poverty, inequality, discrimination, deprivation, denials and all such other evils that have made life hell for not just the rural people but common toiling people are all bred by the decadent moribund capitalist system and capitalist economy bestriding the country like a deadweight.

## What is capitalism?

What is the fundamental economic law of capitalism? To put it simply, based on capitalist-wage labourer production relation, capital grows by investment of capital —

*Contd. on page 4*

SECC report**SECC report lays bare the fable of growth penned by the ruling bourgeois camp***Contd. from page 3*

whether in land or in industry — that is, to grow capital through production by investing capital. The motive force of production is not to meet the need of the people but to earn maximum profit. Profit is the amount in excess over the invested capital. This profit is generated by way of exploiting the worker, exploiting the labour-power of the worker, depriving him of his due wage or, in other words, usurping the surplus value of the labour power. So, there is built-in deprivation, oppression and exploitation of man by man in the system itself. Capitalism fostered social progress during the days of its advent by overthrowing obsolete feudal system and economy. But once, following inexorable course of history, capitalism entered its decadent and moribund stage, it lost all its progressive role and on the contrary began hindering economic development and social progress in the truest sense of the terms. Exploitation and oppression of the working class, peasants and other sections of the toiling people became more and more ruthless.

**Objective reality of capitalist India**

Production system of India runs on this very capitalist production relations. Production, whether in agriculture or in industry, takes place under the control of private ownership with the motive of earning maximum profit. The truth is that our society is not an undivided or an indivisible society. It is class-divided. On the one side is the ruling capitalist class, the owners of all wealth and means of production along with their servitors who own and control the entire production and appropriate the value of surplus labour power to heap fabulous wealth on their coffer. On the other side are the toiling millions, the downtrodden who sell their labour power and are relentlessly fleeced with galloping accretion of affluence to the capitalist owners. Those who control economy also control politics. So like the economic system, the political system is also totally skewed against the poor and the downtrodden. Creating a smokescreen of growth, development and prosperity, the ruling class with the help of its subservient government, pliant administration and obedient advisers draw out plans, formulate policies and adopt measures that buttress its

sinister class interest of profit maximization and cornering of all the benefits by squeezing every drop of blood of the oppressed proletariat and other sections of the toiling masses. So, when the ruling class or its servitors talk of “the country’s interest”, they conceal the vital truth that the interest they mean is not of the people but the narrow sectarian interest of their own. The interest of the ruling capitalist class is undisputedly diametrically opposite to the interest of the oppressed people. In a class-divided society, there is nothing as common interest of the country. Either it is the interest of the oppressed exploited people or the interest of the oppressor, exploiter ruling bourgeoisie. The recommendations of the ‘high power’ former planning commission or current Niti Ayog (National Institution for Transforming India), prescription of economic reforms or liberalization, monetary policies, budget proposals, fiscal rules—all are aimed, in their immediate and ultimate analysis, at protecting and serving the class interest of the rulers. More crisis-ridden is capitalism because of its laws of operation, more it is finding ways and means to squarely pass on the burden of that crisis on the back-broken people under the camouflage of ‘poverty alleviation’, ‘inclusive growth’, ‘empowering the poor’ and so forth and by creating illusion of ‘better days in the offing’. Another trickery of the ruling quarters is to call upon the countrymen to bear with some ‘hard measures’ like subsidy cut, withdrawal of welfare schemes, stiff rise in indirect taxation rates etc. and make some sacrifices to bring the economy back on rails. Instead of acquainting people with the truth, the bourgeois media also plays its role in the cover up operation. But the derailment of economy persists and the ‘hard measures’ stay on permanently to abet instead of abating the predicament of the people. Hence, the wails and woes of the oppressed countrymen have been intensifying with every passing day after independence. After the ruling bourgeoisie began pursuing the ruinous doctrine of capitalist globalization, things have worsened further.

**‘Trickle down theory’ – a mockery indeed!**

It is pertinent to mention here that being unable to veil the rising prosperity of the handful of rich in

capitalism, some fertile brains of the bourgeois stable once advanced a ‘trickle down’ theory which argued that economic gains primarily benefiting the wealthy—investors, businesses, entrepreneurs, and the like—would in the long run “trickle-down” to poorer members of society, creating new opportunities for the economically disadvantaged to attain a better standard of living. Prosperity for the rich leads to prosperity for all was the logic. This theory was patronized by the former US President Ronald Regan and later came to be known as a part of, what the bourgeois world called, Reaganomics. Riding on this theory, US and many other imperialist-capitalist countries including India went for doling out plethora of tax cuts, tax waivers and other concessions to the industrial houses and MNCs. Tax and other concessions of nearly Rs 7 lakh crores were granted by the Indian government to the Indian monopoly houses and corporate sector in the name of fiscal consolidation in the last few years. But, within no time, the imperialists-capitalists and their henchmen could realize that the growing disparity between the rich and poor is manifest so nakedly that hoodwinking people with the ‘trickle-down’ story was no more possible. So, now the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has declared the idea of ‘trickle-down’ economics to be a joke. “Income distribution matters for growth...Specifically, if the income share of the top 20 percent increases, then GDP growth actually declined over the medium term, suggesting that the benefits do not trickle down”, observed the IMF. There is no reason to believe that suddenly wisdom has dawned upon the IMF prompting it ridicule Reaganomics as a comic strip. The fact is that sometimes internal contradictions within the bourgeois camp are often manifest in one group deriding the other by lampooning some of the latter’s propositions. In any case, the findings of the SECC report only corroborate the truth of the ‘Trickle Down theory’ is indeed a hoax. The report eloquently testifies whose ‘growth and development’ the ruling quarters and their pet economists-columnists are waxing day in and day out.

**Unfazed BJP leaders continue with anti-people reforms**

But the BJP government is unfazed. Shamelessly it states in a

press release that “SECC provides an opportunity to simultaneously address the multi-dimensionality of poverty by addressing the deprivation of households in education, skills, housing, employment, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, social and gender mobilization and entitlement.” A clever game of words! How would the problems be addressed? Answer is provided by the BJP finance minister Arun Jaitley in the following reaction: “The way to eliminate deprivation is to achieve rapid economic growth of 8-10 percent. Growth and economic reforms help the poor as do targeted schemes.” It means the so called growth path and reforms which have devastated the rural poor so harrowingly will continue to be pursued “to improve the economic lives of the poor”. What could be a better delusion than this particularly after IMF itself could not but abandon the ‘trickle down theory’!

The BJP leaders are defrauding people on two counts. First of all, they are preaching that industrialization in the country as well as economic development is halted because of inadequate supply of capital particularly foreign capital, inflexibility still persisting with labour laws and government being burdened with so many compulsions of running social welfare schemes and footing hefty subsidy bills. So is the need to further liberalize the economy, relax labour laws to make contract labour, hire and fire, extended working hours and low wage the normal practice at the discretion of the employers, eventually eliminate all subsidies, enact laws for forcible grabbing of fertile agricultural land by private entities, open up the sectors like healthcare, education, defence, electricity, insurance, banking, civic amenities and railways to private operators, scout for more and more foreign capital even in key sectors and hand over all the existing Public Sector Units (PSUs) once created with public money to the monopoly houses and MNCs. This, in brief, is the reform agenda of the BJP obviously in compliance with the dictates of the ruling monopolists who have brought the party to power.

Let us put it straight. Industrialization is not in logjam because of paucity of capital or non-availability of easy credit to the

*Contd. on page 5*

SECC report

# Poverty, Inequality, Discrimination, Deprivation, Denials and all other Evils bred by Moribund Decadent Capitalist System

*Contd. from page 4*

industrialists from banks or so called stringent labour laws. Industrialization which means spurt in industrial activities particularly in the key sectors cannot take place in capitalism today. Because, increasingly pauperized people have no purchasing power. If they cannot buy industrial goods, industrial barons whose motive, as stated above, is to earn maximum profit, would find no market. If they have no market, they are plagued with market crisis and down shutters on the existing industries throwing workers and employees out of job. No new industries are set up. So, the number of both job seekers and job losers go on swelling. With these unemployed having no buying capacity, the capitalist market shrinks further and the crisis accentuates.

To somehow stave off the crisis, the imperialists-capitalists are diverting their capital, apart from stock market speculation and usury, to the 'opened up' sectors, the service sector in particular, for minting profit by further squeezing the people and making them more wretched. Over and above, they want that they should, besides depriving public exchequer of its dues by way of hiding income, accumulating black money and evading tax by tampering the system, also be endowed with more

and more monetary concessions as well as financial assistance from the government kitty. Also they want complete freedom in deciding how many workers they should employ for how many days, at what terms and with what pittance in the name of wage. The demand for establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is also purported to elicit all kinds of concessions and unbridled power to fleece the workers. During the days of rising capitalism, the capitalists used to give workers wage which was at subsistence level. But today in dying capitalism, no such consideration weighs with the monopolists and MNCs. It is the need of maximum profit which decides everything. Spurred on by this insatiable thirst of profit, the imperialists-capitalists are dismantling all barriers to ensure free flow of capital across the border. Ruling Indian monopolists are also exporting capital abroad manifesting their imperialist character. So, they are also equally eager to see that there is no hindrance in channelizing investment abroad. Of late, it is revealed that investment of Indian capital as FDI in US is as high as \$ 15 billion whereas investment by Indian monopolists is the third largest source of FDI in UK. Naturally, in order to have easy access to others' markets, they are also in turn opening up domestic market and key

domestic sectors to foreign capital and assuring compliance with all prescriptions of 'reforms' and 'liberalization' of globalization which also are suited to serve their heinous agenda of exacerbating exploitation of domestic market. This is the underlying truth of the reform agenda of the BJP, or for that matter of any of the present or past ruling bourgeois parties—the reforms that are going to make life of the poor more nightmarish than what the SECC report has brought to the fore.

## Positive action needed to reverse the plot

Surely, the suffering people including the rural poor cannot consign themselves to fate and allow the capitalist sharks and their lackeys to make fortunes riding roughshod on them. They ought to rise in protest and prepare themselves to build up resistance. Scattered and sporadic outbursts would not scare the ruling class and its servitors. Nor would any movement which ends up in the blind alley of parliamentarianism. While the long term objective ought to be to overthrow capitalism, what is needed at this moment is a conscious organized powerful mass struggle under correct revolutionary leadership and based on higher ethics and culture which alone can shake the rulers and force them to

take some remedial measures thereby bringing some relief to the back-broken people. Repeatedly, we have been harping on this so that the toiling people can accelerate the process of their emancipation from this gruelling capitalist oppression. The rural poor, the have-nots or proletariats ought to imbibe the importance of building up this movement without any further delay. As their sub-human life condition partly revealed in the SECC findings reflects truth, so also the exhortation for developing the aforesaid conscious people's movement for mitigation of the hardship reflects the objective truth. The exploiting rulers burn midnight oil to hide truth while the oppressed people must find the truth and tread along the path of truth. Truth is that emancipation lies in overthrow of capitalism by revolution at the culmination of the revolutionary struggle under the leadership of revolutionary working class. And to accomplish that revolution, it is imperative to develop and intensify all class and mass struggles making those conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement. This is the only way to remedy the appalling misery and penury of rural poor as exposed in the SECC and other reports. Once again it goes to prove correctness of what we have been repeatedly emphasizing upon.

## Amartya Sen and others ousted from premier academic institutions

Ever since installed in power, the BJP Government, as part of its pernicious anti-education policy, has been subverting academic autonomy and planting definite RSS-BJP persons at crucial positions in academic institutions with a clear motive of turning academics into an appendage of the ruling dispensation and preacher of heinous doctrine of saffronization. The sword of saffronization of education has not spared even Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate economist and Bharat Ratna awardee. His chancellorship of Nalanda University has not been renewed by the BJP government despite the recommendation of the governing board of the university. The reason obviously lies in Sen's criticism of some of the government's policies who rued that

"academic governance in India remains so deeply vulnerable to the opinions of the ruling government."

Visibly enraged at this virtual ouster, Dr. Sen in a 4000 word candid essay about to be published in the August issue of the New York Review of Books, has written about his exit from Nalanda University and said that Nalanda is by no means an isolated incident but part of a wide ranging attempt by the Modi government to seize direct control over academic institutions. In an interview to the Times Of India, he remarked: "Governments must understand that winning Lok Sabha election does not give you permission to undermine the autonomy of academic institutions" and that "...academic freedom is

based on the government understanding the limits of its formal power as opposed to its actual power..." Dr. Sen also referred to some more cases where academic heads were removed because the incumbents were not yes men.

At the TIFR (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research), the government refused to ratify appointment of Sandip Trevedi as Director. At the NBT (National Book Trust), well-known writer Sethumadhavan has been asked to step down as an RSS ideologue was to be nominated to replace him. Then again, at the ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) Dr. Lokesh Chandra reportedly holding an opinion that Narendra Modi happens to be a greater personality than Mahatma Gandhi has been appointed as the head. On the contrary, Yellapragada Sudearshan Rao who does not have to his credit

any mentionable contribution in the form of historical research but has reportedly authored an article that showed caste system which is beneficial enough for the nation is wrongly blamed for being exploitative has been given the honour to head the institution. In protest against the naked interference of the government in academic institutions, some of the noted academicians like Delhi IIT Director Raghunath Shevgaonkar has opted out of the institution.

So, it is imperative that academicians, intellectuals, members of the civil society, students, youths, guardians and all other education-loving people unite and build up an organized powerful save education movement throughout the country to foil such attempts to subvert academic autonomy by the BJP government as part of its fascist agenda.

# Mystery Behind Sudden Jump in GDP Growth

After taking 60 years to reach the \$1-trillion mark, India's GDP has crossed \$2 trillion in just seven years in 2014 as per data released by World Bank. Gross domestic product (GDP), as is known to all, is the total value of a country's production and services within its boundary, whether by its nationals or foreigners, arrived at by multiplying all final finished goods and services in volume terms by their market prices. It is also boasted by the government that Indian economy has almost doubled in size since the financial crisis hit the country in 2008, and has more than quadrupled from the start of this millennium. The objective is to show that when other economies are wrestling to come out of stagnation, India has beaten recession and propelled to scale further heights. And now it has been made official that the GDP growth of India in 2014 is whopping 7.4% as a result of which India could be shown to have officially overtaken China as the world's fastest-growing economy.

## GDP growth has no meaning for the oppressed people

Obviously, the BJP-led central government and the bourgeois economists-columnists have made it an occasion to celebrate claiming that India has emerged as a formidable economy in the world overcoming recession and the shock of a global economic slowdown. But, how could this magic growth be arrived it? Is it that Indian economic growth has indeed been so spectacular or some cosmetic surgery has been performed to showcase a repaired number? Though it is customary with the bourgeois governments and economists to claim that a better GDP indicates development and prosperity of the country, improved living standard of the people and a spurt in the earning of the countrymen, fact is otherwise. GDP growth has hardly any meaning for the common people in a capitalist economy where distribution of wealth is grisly unequal. The unequal distribution of wealth is not reflected in GDP which is a gross figure. Rather, the boasted growth in GDP is found to be inversely proportional to the hardship and pauperization of the masses as has been brought out even by various officially commissioned surveys like the recently published SECC report. But, the bourgeois rulers and their subservient economists and financial analysts persist with highlighting GDP growth to divert attention and distort reality. It is pertinent to mention here that as per the laws of

capitalist economy, rich becomes richer and poor poorer with every passing day. When scope for profit maximization reduces in one sector, the ruling class finds newer avenues and sectors to mint profit by squeezing people as is seen today when capital is shifted from stagnating manufacturing and basic industries to 'opened up' sectors like education, health etc. So, a weak economy does not indicate ailment of the owner capitalists but only the crisis of the capitalist economy brunt of which is borne by common people.

## Magic wand behind claim of a motoring economy

But, how is that the GDP could jump so high as to have everyone awestruck? What made economy which showed 4.7% growth in 2013-14 to turn around so magically? Answer lies not in the performance of economy but in the sleight of hand of the 'fertile' brains the ruling class employs and maintains to run workshop of fabrication of theories and statistics to suit its class need and interest. In fact, much to the discomfort of the ruling bourgeois circle, since there is marked economic downturn in every imperialist-capitalist country including India because of insoluble crisis capitalism is enmeshed with because of its inherent laws, even GDP growth is appreciably retarded. So, the ruling bourgeoisie assigned the 'manipulation brigade' the task of covering up the festering sores with cosmetics. And they obliged by changing the very methodology of calculating the GDP so that a sinking economy could appear to be a surging one. It is not that the hitherto existing methodology was not flawed and reflected the objective reality. It too comprised lot of manipulations and manufacturing in compiling the data. But, as that method was found by the ruling class and its government and servitors to be inadequate to artificially inflate the growth to the extent desired, it was discarded.

Basically, three major changes were brought in the calculation to inflate the figure.

- i) First of all, the base year for estimating GDP was changed from 2004-05 to 2011-12 on the pretext of incorporating the "changing structure of the economy".
- ii) Secondly, as against calculating domestic GDP at factor or basic cost which took into account prices of products received by producers, the new formula takes into account market prices paid by

consumers (i.e. adding GDP at factor cost and indirect taxes). Manufacturing data is compiled taking into account selling and marketing expenses instead of just production costs. Production taxes, such as property tax are also added and subsidies are stated to have been deducted.

- iii) Thirdly, as against 2,500 companies, data from 5 lakh companies including the under-represented and informal sectors as well as items such as smart phones and LED television sets is taken into account.
- iv) Some new coinages such as "gross value added" (GVA) to explain the difference between the old and the new method.

Consequent to applying these revisions, GDP could be shown to have grown by 6.9 per cent in 2013-14, as against 4.7 per cent calculated per older method and is pegged to grow by a solid 7.4 per cent in the current fiscal year. The BJP Finance Minister lost no time in mentioning this revised GDP growth figure in his last budget speech to boast of a turnaround of economy. Most of the bourgeois media also projected this 'phenomenal success' of Indian economy under the stewardship of the BJP government. But the common people as well as the informed quarters wondered how such a sharp growth could hitherto go unnoticed. They are also unable to relate it with the ground reality where industries are grappling with plummeting demand, high debt and low earnings and the government is plagued with increasing budget deficit, production slum, mounting recession, slowing of productive investment, spurt in closure of existing factories and rising market borrowing. Even many belonging to the bourgeois circle also thought it would be too much a travesty of truth to endorse this jugglery. The RBI authorities are also reported to have differed with the inference drawn from the revised estimate. "We do need to spend more time to understanding the GDP numbers. At this point, it is premature to take a strong view based on these GDP numbers," RBI governor Raghuram Rajan had said on February 3, 2015 after releasing the bi-monthly monetary policy that retained the forecast of 5.5 per cent GDP (based on old method) growth in 2014-15. Some economists had also pointed to other indicators such as industrial production, trade and tax collection figures, which suggested that the economy was immensely suffering. The government's chief economic

adviser, Arvind Subramanian, had warned against framing policies based on the recent revisions, which he branded "mystifying". "I am puzzled by the new GDP growth numbers," he said.

## Anomalies and diversionary efforts are glaring

Even if one is not familiar with the technicalities, certain glaring anomalies in the newly 'invented' method cannot remain unnoticed by them. First of all, there is no explanation as to what did the formulators of the new methodology mean by the 'changing structure of economy'. It is an absolutely vague term and hence a convenient tool for camouflage. Secondly, when the prices of all commodities and services are soaring and indirect taxes are hiked substantially (For example, Service tax is officially increased to 14% but in reality, the consumers on most of the occasions end up paying more than 14% VAT as well as an bear an additional load in the name of service tax.) and there is fall in production, any calculation based on so called market price would always result in an inflated figure. Next point is that the service industry constitutes over 60% of GDP today as manufacturing industry is in severe recession because of shrinking market caused by menacing fall in the purchasing power of the pauperized people. Already there is galloping rise in the prices of essential services like education, financial services, hospitality, healthcare, transport, power, communication etc. to satiate the lust for profit maximization of the private operators who own the bulk of these services. Over and above, if the valuation is revised taking into account rising indirect tax and progressively reduced subsidy, it would jump and consequently indicate a higher GDP growth. Apart from that, an overstated figure of GDP through this slew of manipulations would come handy to the bourgeois government to justify raising indirect taxes further. Thirdly, while the new GDP shows 5.3 per cent growth in manufacturing in 2013-14 (a figure highly disputed in a scenario of downing shutters on one after another manufacturing units), the actual performance of manufacturing companies listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) shows that their earnings have been declining in the last two years (by 4% in 2013-14 and 5% in first nine months of 2014-15). Yet, the architects of the new methodology has projected that growth in manufacturing industry would touch

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## Comrade Sankar Saha forcefully upheld workers' rights in ILO conference in Geneva, called for strengthening conscious working class movement

While taking part in the 104th International Labour conference organized by ILO in Geneva from 1<sup>st</sup> to 13 June 2015, Comrade Sankar Saha, Member, Central Committee, SUCI(C) and General Secretary, AIUTUC, spoke on 'Right to Association (Agriculture) and Rural Workers' Organization' and "Right to strike". Dwelling on the first topic, he showed that with capitalist law of production governing agricultural economy almost in all countries of the world, the life of the peasants, agricultural labourers and rural poor in general has become a nightmare with escalating job loss, wage reduction, privation and misery. The central and foremost problem of landless agricultural labourers, poor peasants, sharecropper and marginalized workers is mounting unemployment. They can get job only when there is rapid uninterrupted industrialization which is impossible in moribund, decadent, crisis-ridden capitalism. Moreover, under globalization, in order to serve the sinister class interest of national monopolists and MNCs, the national governments, in the name of so-called development, are forcibly grabbing vast fertile agricultural lands of poor peasants utilising the governmental power, undermining democracy and

changing the existing legislation and doling out to the capitalists for building SEZs, Defence Parks, Hospitals, Institutions and service industries throwing millions out of their home and hearth. In this way vast majority of the rural workers in present days have become landless agricultural workers. They are unemployed and under employed and are proletariat and semi-proletariat. Now their basic demands for decent work and living conditions have become identical with that of the demands of industrial workers which, inter alia, are: job throughout the year for every workable person in rural areas, security of job and income, guaranteed minimum wage and social security, adequate healthcare facility, housing, proper sanitation facility, supply of drinking water and free education to the children.

Speaking in the plenary session on "Right to Strike", Comrade Saha said that strike is one of the most powerful weapons of working class struggle and the highest form of trade union movement. In course of united strike action the working class realizes that they are not alone and unity makes them powerful while the employers realise that it is the workers and not they who are the real masters.

The profit amassed by the employers is nothing but the surplus value generated by labourers. When workers stop working, the employers' profit earning is stopped. Working class has earned the right to strike as an industrial action after a long struggle and not as gift. Now the ruling class has launched an onslaught to take away the right to strike by flouting the decade-old ILO jurisprudence. The birth of ILO is linked to the establishment of the USSR that emancipated the Russian working class from capitalist exploitations and heroically defeated the devil German fascism. The strong presence of the powerful and inspiring Socialist Bloc contributed favourably for the working class to achieve ILO instruments granting Right to Association and Protection of Right to Organise, Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining and many more including all other Core Conventions. After the dismantling of the Socialist camp, emergence of unipolar world, imposition of capitalist globalisation, the capitalist exploitation has accentuated manifold and to muzzle the voice of protest of the workers, there is a planned move to rob the very fundamental 'right to strike'. Relevant is the famous quote of

great Lenin: "strikes, which arise out of the very nature of capitalist society, signify the beginning of the working-class struggle against that system of society ....always instil fear into the capitalists, because they begin to undermine their supremacy...Every strike brings thoughts of socialism very forcibly to the worker's mind, thoughts of the struggle of the entire working class for emancipation from the oppression of capital.....". Referring the proposal of issue of "Right to Strike" to be resolved in the International Court of Justice he said, "We firmly believe that right to strike earned by the working class at the cost of lives of martyrs all over the world cannot be left to the judiciary of class divided social system. What has been earned by struggles must be protected by struggles. He urged upon the international fraternity of workers to build up mighty struggles including strike action under the worthy leadership to protect right to strike and other fundamental rights and also to expose class collaborationists so that the workers' movements can be built up conducive to replacing this exploitative system by establishing the society, free from exploitation of man by man."

## New methodology is nothing but a crafty move to distort reality and benefit ruling bourgeoisie

*Contd. from page 6*

6.8% in the current fiscal year. Similarly, it is also an enigma as to which are the "under-represented and informal sectors" left out in the earlier method of calculation and what is the 'prudence' of including data of these sectors in figuring out GDP. It is also unknown what 'spectacular' improvement this sector has displayed in productivity as to merit inclusion in GDP calculation. In fact, the small and mid-cap (medium capital) companies which are listed on the NSE have seen their earnings shrink further in the nine months of 2014-15. Next point is about the claim that the new methodology takes into account, what is called, GVA (Gross Value Added) and hence represents more realistic picture. The old method was also calculating based on value-added concept. So, what is novel in so called GVA? For instance, despite

an output contraction in manufacturing in 2012-13, the GVA at basic price shows increase by 6.2 per cent. Is this not quite flummoxing doubting the very basis of the new calculation methodology?

Another baffling area is in factoring quantum of inflation. In calculating market price of goods and services, the proponents of the new methodology has assumed a lower growth in both Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for 2014-15. This assumption is ludicrous given the fact that prices of each and every item are skyrocketing making people bleed white. All these prove that the new methodology is nothing but a crafty move to distort the reality.

What prompts the ruling class and its government to spruce up data?

Clearly, the ruling class and its servitor government are poised to

derive good number of benefits by this jugglery of figures. First of all, it would enable the ruling bourgeoisie to highlight before the world that while entire Europe and many other countries are experiencing an economic meltdown, India is ascending a growth path. Secondly, it is known to all that of late it has become a practice to measure fiscal deficit as a ratio of GDP. If the ratio is lower, it is deemed to be an indicator of plummeting deficit and hence better fiscal management. If GDP figure is inflated, the said ratio would automatically come down adding feather to the cap of the incumbent bourgeois government. Moreover, a lower deficit to GDP ratio enhances the borrowing limit of the government. Incidentally, alongwith boasting a spurt in GDP growth, the bourgeois economists and formulators of government policies are also claiming 7% rise in income

level to arrogate to themselves credit of having pulled up the economy. The World Bank data also show that India's gross national income per person rose to \$1,610 (around Rs. 1 lakh) a year during 2014. Here also there is a deception. Government surveys have all indicated a rapidly falling income of the people at large whereas wealth of the industrialists and monopolist barons is soaring sky high. So, there is glaring inequality in distribution of wealth and income. But average which is simply arrived at by dividing the total wealth by the total number of people is going up and that is being passed on as country's prosperity. This is how the oppressive rulers use statistics to befool people. Rightly bantered one commentator that "the Indian economy seems to be savouring the glad tidings ushered in by a statistical adjustment, instead of worrying about how they square with reality."

## All-out Bandh at Barak Valley in Assam against depriving religious minorities of bona fide citizenship right

On 10 July, an all-out 12-hour long bandh at the call of the 'Committee for the Protection of Citizenship Rights' was observed at Barak Valley in Assam against the Government's conspiracy to deprive the lingual minority people of their citizenship rights in the name of renewal of NRC (National Register of Citizens). In the three principal cities of the valley, Shilchar, Karimgunge and Hailakandi, right from the dawn institutions including factories and industries, schools and colleges and central government concerns were all closed for the day;

vehicles were totally off the road, barricades were built up at places. Leaders of BJP, Congress, AIUDF etc. had campaigned against this bandh extensively. Yet foiling all their attempts to disrupt the unity of people through instigation of communal and ethnic feelings, people cutting across all differences extended united and active support to the bandh call. They included tribal people like the Dimasas, Manipuris, Rangmais and Riangs and others as well as those belonging to Bengali and Hindi lingual groups who resolutely took to the streets.

## Students earn victory in Telangana

In the ECET Entrance Examination, 1000 top-ranking students out of 20,000 who qualified this year 2015 have been allowed full fee imbursement by the Telangana Government. This was a victory for a

sustained movement by the students lead by the AIDSO as earlier even students with good rank had to pay the entire amount. The movement is being continued demanding full fee imbursement to all students.

## Education Convention in Odisha

An education convention was organized by AIDSO Odisha State Council on 12 July at Ravenshaw College in Cuttack in which students, teachers, guardians and intellectuals participated. The convention which was inaugurated by Honourable Justice Manoranjan Mohanty voiced protest against abolition of pass-fail system till class VIII, commercialisation and privatization of education, fees-hike, introduction

of semester system, distortion of history, unscientific syllabus, the anti-education *Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan* etc. and also on the demand for appointment of required number of teachers. Former Professor of Utkal University Dr. Birendra Nayak, Sourav Mukherjee, former General Secretary of AIDSO, and representatives of students, teachers, guardians and intellectuals addressed the gathering.

## Meeting on education in Ahmadabad

Gujarat chapter of All India Save Education Committee organized a massive meeting, at H. K. Arts College, Ahmadabad on 13 July 2015 to elaborately deal on the rising problems of and severe attacks on education. Prof. Rohitbhai Shukla, well known economist and President, Gujarat Chapter, AISEC, presided over. Among others who attended were Prof. Hemantkumar Shah, Shri Prahladray Avasthi, Shri Dineshbhai Shah, Shri Buddhidhanbhai Trivedi, Dr. Subhash Brahmabhatt, Shri Prakashbhai N. Shah, Prof. Bharatbhai Mehta, Prof. Kanubhai Khadadiya, Shri Dwarikanath Rath

and others.

Dr. Ashish Nanda, Prof. Navdeep Mathur, Dr. Darshini Mahadevia, Dr. Manvita Baradi, faculty, CEPT, Sh. Jharnaben Pathak, AWAG, Sh. Ramya Rangrajan, Sh. Bhairaviben Dave, and other well-known educationists and intellectuals who could not attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances conveyed their wishes and sent messages. It was decided to hold similar conferences or meetings at district and even taluka levels to develop a powerful Save Education movement in the state.



Campaign for successful Madhya Pradesh bandh on 16 July at the call of the left parties including SUCI(C) against the VYAPAM scam and in demand of resignation of the BJP chief minister of the state

## Victory of Municipal Workers' movement in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

25,000 municipal workers who are working on contract/outsourcing basis in the entire Telangana State struck work since July 6, 2015, demanding salary raise, regularization of all contract/outsourcing workers, housing and providing health cards etc. After bifurcation of erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh, the municipal workers in Telangana State led by AIUTUC, CITU, AITUC, BMS, HMS, IFTU and TNTUC made many appeals to the TRS government. But there was no response. So, after a series of agitational programmes, the struggling workers formed a Joint Action Committee (J.A.C) and served notice for a strike from 25<sup>th</sup> of June. Immediately, the state labour and home minister invited J.A.C leaders for talk and requested them to wait for a few days. Complying with the request, the JAC postponed the strike for ten days, up to 5<sup>th</sup> July. But, there was no further response from government side. So, the workers went on continuous strike from 6 July. On seventh day of the strike, TRS government issued an ultimatum to the workers that if they did not report to their duties, they would be removed from service and new workers will be recruited. The TRS chief minister even threatened of deploying army and police to break the strike. Against this undemocratic,



Massive gathering of striking municipal workers

adamant and dictatorial attitude of the state government, ten left parties namely SUCI(C), CPI, CPI(M), RSP, AIFB, CPI(ML)-Liberation, CPI(ML), two sections of CPI(ML-ND), and MCP(U) sat on a hunger strike in Hyderabad on 16 July. On the same night police arrested the leaders and cadres of the agitating left parties and forcibly broke the hunger strike. Then the left parties gave a state level bandh call on 18 July in support of the municipal workers. Finally, under pressure of movement, the TRS chief minister Chandrasekhar Rao had to announce pay hike for the municipal workers from Rs.8,500 to Rs.12,500, and for drivers upto Rs. 15,000 but only for GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) workers and not for others in 67 municipalities and five corporations in the state. This way the government is trying to disrupt unity of the workers. Finally the GHMC workers called off the strike on 18 July but strike is continuing in the remaining 9 districts of Telangana state. It will go on until the demands are met.

In the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh also 50,000 odd municipal workers are on strike from 10 July 2015 on same demands. But the TDP chief minister Chandrababu Naidu is also displaying the same anti-worker attitude and refusing to honour the just demands. This only proves that all talk of bettering people's conditions consequent on bifurcation of the state by both TRS and TDP leadership were only ploys for riding to power by hoodwinking people. The AIUTUC and SUCI (C) made all efforts to give correct orientation to the movement going on in AP also. Ultimately, the TDP government also bowed down and agreed to increase the salary from Rs8,300 to Rs 11,000 for contract and outsourcing workers, regularize these workers on par with the state government employees and no cut in wages for the strike period of 16 days.



Successful Bihar bandh on 21 July at the call of six left parties including SUCI(C), against the anti-people policies of the central and state governments

## Civil Society and Intellectuals voice protest against Black Land Bill in Kolkata

The Forum for Artistes, Cultural Activists and Intellectuals, which was formed during the historic Singur-Nandigram movement and played a key role in rallying support of the intellectuals and eminent thinking persons behind those just struggles, held an All India Convention in Kolkata on 16 July at Moulali Yuba Kendra to voice protest of the civil society against the anti-peasant Land Acquisition Amendment Bill. The convention was presided over by Prof. Tarun Sanyal, President of the Forum and a renowned educationist and poet.

Shri Santu Gupta, General Secretary of the Forum, placed the draft resolution. Messages sent by

Shri Satyawan, front-ranking leader of anti-SEZ and peasant movement leader of Haryana, explained how the black Land Acquisition Bill will not only displace the land owners but take away whatever means of livelihood the sharecroppers, agricultural labourers and others dependent on agriculture have. He showed how the proposed business corridor of the government will swallow 32% of the entire land of the country. Mukesh Ambani grabbed 10,000 acres of arable land grabbed in Haryana which he is now selling at astronomical prices.

Former MP Tarun Mandal pointed out that like the Land bill of the UPA, the present Bill is too anti-



Meenakshi Joshi addressing the convention

Smt. Medha Patkar, well known social activist and Shri Sumit Chakravorty, noted journalist and editor of 'Mainstream' were also read out. Taking part in the discussion, Smt. Meenakshi Joshi of anti-land grab movement of Gujarat thoroughly exposed the so-called Gujarat model of BJP, its cunning moves to turn agricultural land into arable ones, gifting thousands of acres to Reliance and Adanis, subsidizing Tata's Nano project allowing corporates to invest uncoupled black money in land while labour laws are blatantly violated, workers are drastically retrenched, migratory workers work in inhuman conditions. Shri Sadashib Das, leader of the anti-Posco plant movement in Odisha informed how the movement gathered momentum and support that compelled the South Korean MNC to back out and saved 22,000 people from being displaced. Also 6000 acres of land that was to be gifted to the Jindals, were saved.

people and is in the interest of the corporates. The very argument that industrialization is halted because of non-availability of land is a hoax as stretches of land acquired earlier as well as the land of 12 lakh odd closed down factories are remaining unutilized.

Miratun Nahar, noted educationist and social activist severely criticized the sinister intent of the BJP government behind bringing this Bill. Among others who spoke were theatre personality Shri Chandan Sen, well known scientist Shri Meher Ali Engineer and singer and ex-MP Kabir Suman. Other eminent persons present were Smt. Malabika Chatterjee, Dr. Subhas Chakraborty, Shri Tapan Roychowdhury and Dr. Dhruvijyoti Mukhopadhyay. Shri Dilip Chakraborty, veteran journalist and General Secretary, of the Forum, conducted the convention. The resolution was carried out unanimously.

## Movement in demand of drinking water in Sagar, MP

On 9 June, at the initiative of *Jan Samasya Sangharsh Morcha* (Platform for Mass Problem Struggle) a memorandum demanding immediate solution of problem of potable water was submitted to the *Ayukta* and the Collector, at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Attention was particularly drawn towards the plight of Lal Tairia of Tilee Baghraj Ward. 95% people residing there being poor, they can not access proper sanitation facilities either. Demand was made for overhead tank and thicker pipeline to meet water problems.

## Village safai workers Movement in Haryana

On 11 June, village *safai workers* (Cleaning staff) held a demonstration at the District Headquarters of Narnoul, Haryana, protesting against their sufferings because of non-release of arrear payments and on other demands. Earlier, a meeting was held at local Chitwan Vatika, with President, Gramin Safai Karmchhari Union affiliated to AIUTUC presiding over. Later a memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister through the District authority. In the memorandum such demands were included like safai workers were to be allotted the status of government servants with the minimum monthly salary of Rs.15000, yearly two dresses be allotted for them, and arrangements should be made for providing safai equipments and gas masks, insurance, pension and other social security schemes be introduced etc. Local AIUTUC leaders addressed the demonstration.

## AIDSO movement in Tripura

A 4-member AIDSO delegation led by Comrade Mridul Kanti Sarkar, AIDSO State Secretary, met the chief of Higher Education Department on 8 July and handed over to him a memorandum containing demands for ensuring college admission of all HS students who have passed, setting up proper infrastructure in the colleges, completing syllabus within due time, starting honours course in all subjects and increasing seats in the honours course. The Higher Education chief admitted the

legitimacy of the demands and assured appropriate action on his part.

## AIDSO rally in Rajasthan

AIDSO organized a students' rally in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, on June 15 to protest against privatization and communalization of education, abolition of pass-fail system. A memorandum submitted to the Collector. Comrade Deepak Dahia, AIDSO Rajasthan State Secretary and other State AIDYO leaders addressed the rally.



Delhi ASHA Workers Association [DAWA] affiliated to AIUTUC, staged a protest on 18 July before the residence of Delhi state health minister after he refused to talk to them on their just demands.

## AIDSO and other left students' organizations hold National Education Convention in Delhi and call students' strike on 2 September

In a national convention held at Aiwan-e-Ghalib Hall, New in Delhi on 28 July, leaders of five left students' organizations viz. AIDSO, SFI, AISF, AIFB and PDSU called for a nationwide students' strike on 2 September against abolition of pass-fail system in schools, no detention policy, semester system, CBCS, RUSA, CCE, commercialization, privatization and saffronization of education,

exorbitant fee hike in colleges and universities and other anti-education policies and measures. The convention was inaugurated by renowned educationist Prof. Anil Sadgopal. Those who addressed were Dr. Nandita Narain, president DUTA & FEDCUTA, and Comrades Ashok Mishra (AIDSO), Amaresh Kumar (AISB), Vishwajeet Kumar (AISF) and Vikram Singh (SFI).

# Countrywide Massive Protest on 20 July demanding resignation of tainted ministers

Responding to the letter issued by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), six left parties comprising CPI (M), CPI, RSP, Forward Bloc, CPI (ML, Liberation) and SUCI(C) decided to hold countrywide joint demonstrations on 20 July against corruption of the BJP governments at centre and in the states and demanding sacking of the tainted BJP ministers.



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Edited & Published by Asit Bhattacharyya from 48 Lenin Sarani, Kolkata 700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited, 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Kolkata 700013. Phone : 2249-1828, 2265-3234 E-mail : suci\_cc@vsnl.net, proletarianera@gmail.com, Website : www.sucicomunist.org