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Iran — the latest target of war-monger US imperialism in the Middle East

Once again, dark clouds of war are thickening over the Middle East. After failing to tame Syria, the US imperialists are now turning their guns towards Iran for opening a new front. The economically resourceful, geo-politically strategic region of the Middle East, including Arab countries of West Asia and North Africa, has long been a target

of the imperialists, unquestionably headed by the chieftain of brigands, the US imperialism. To ensure its unchallengeable grip over this region, the US imperialism, towing this or that capitalist-imperialist ally or allies with it, is continuously searching out and fixing one target after another.

In the more recent bid for this ascertaining of dominance by US imperialism, it was first Iraq, then Libya, then Syria and now it is Iran. Of course, it plays from the wings in many other cases, for instance Afghanistan, Sudan or Yemen in the recent times, to keep war and war hysteria alive. Iraq-Libya-Syria-Yemen series among these stand out as the grand examples of imperialist brutality- fraudulence- treachery and arrogant brigandage besides forcible occupation of sovereign countries at gunpoint. Rulers of a few countries like Israel and Saudi Arabia have long been working as the front-office of US imperialism or springboard of its war machination. But despite repeated attempts, the Pentagon rulers could not make Iran, a formidable power of the region and one of the biggest oil-producing countries bend before its dictates. So, Iran has been on the radar of US imperialism for long but

refrained from pouncing on it as Iran is capable of retaliating and retaliating strongly. So the US imperialism finds it difficult to manage things smoothly and hence creating grounds for bringing down military assault on Iran with the help of its notorious espionage network, making provocative moves like seizing Iranian oil tankers with the help of its British allies and planting fabricated news about Iranian aggression. Rightly observed the Iranian president that the imperialist nexus of US-UK are causing "problems and insecurity for their people and for their region."

Cruel belligerent war-monger US imperialists are lie-monger too

Before going any further on Iran a brief recap is needed about the recent misdeeds and war-mongering of the US imperialism in the Middle East. People of the world will recall how devastatingly the US imperialists preyed upon the poor country of Afghanistan or Iraq, the land of ancient Mesopotamian human civilization. The imperialist camp has developed a powerful propaganda and communication machinery, the print and the

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NRC is a sinister ploy to pit one section of common people against another and create a panic in them : SUCI(C)

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 25 September 2019:

Instead of showing any interest and taking any effective step in right earnest to solve the pressing problems of rising unemployment, job loss, skyrocketing price line, peasants' suicide etc., which are wreaking havoc in people's life, the BJP-led central government has brought down another severe attack on the toiling countrymen in the form of so-called NRC. It first implemented it in Assam against which our Party was the first to launch protest and develop resistance movement. Now the poisonous effect of such a sinister move is gradually becoming evident. 19 lakh odd people have been declared as 'foreigners' in Assam as per NRC. Many of them have become mental patients out of panic. As per official report, 72 of them have already committed suicide. In reality, the figure is much higher. Efforts are on to put those so identified as "foreigners" in detention centres built on the line of anti-Semitic concentration camps by Hitler. Now the BJP government is intending to undertake similar exercise in other states including West Bengal. In West Bengal, a fear has already gripped the people and many have already committed suicide.

As per the declaration of the BJP government, 130 crore countrymen are now to prove themselves their genuineness as Indian citizens. Why are the documents of citizenship asked from the

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HOW CORRUPTION-FREE IS THE BJP RULE

The BJP Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said before coming to power that his government would neither get corrupt nor would he allow others to get corrupted. ('Khaunga Nahi, Khane bhi nahi dunga!'). But as he and his party president-cum-union home minister go on giving chest-thumping speeches about having given India a corruption-free administration, facts speak otherwise. The country under BJP rule is, apart from a total devastation of economic life of the toiling millions; and murderous attack on the civil and democratic rights,

marked by rampant corruption, along with spurt in crime with the administration-ruling dispensation as accomplices in most of the cases, complete travesty of justice, communal-casteist-chauvinist frenzy and polarisation instigated and precipitated to exacerbate all such maladies and aberrations. It is not possible to mention in one write-up the spate of incidents which happened over the past few years to corroborate this reality. We need to go issue by issue. In this write-up, we shall dwell on the issue of corruption only. According to a recent CNN survey, the BJP has

been ranked the world's fourth most corrupt political party in the world. A few instances would suffice to corroborate that and show how the aura of incorruptibility assiduously built by the BJP around its Prime Minister and his government is nothing but a hoax.

A few instances of corruption and gross irregularities in BJP rule

It bears recall that the Congress rule from 2005 to 2014 was a saga of mega scams and scandals. So its credibility was dented. That provided fodder to the canon of the BJP who raised its anti-corruption

pitch to the peak and pretended as if it was genetically poised to cleanse the polity of all malpractices such as fund-swindling, bribe taking, extortion and befriending scammers and fraudsters. People were carried by this hyper-propaganda fuelled by the monopoly-controlled media and quarters of establishment and brought it to power. And within no time the people have found what spurious the high-voltage publicity was. In fact, there had been quite a number of instances where the leaders and ministers of the BJP and its saffron brigade were embroiled in

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US-Iran conflict

Despite repeated attempts, US imperialists could not make Iran bend before their dictates

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electronic media, on global and regional basis. This machinery is being effectively used for moulding public opinion in favour of imperialist war plans and designs. It was used to launch the aggression upon Afghanistan on the plea of fighting against the terrorism of the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda, whom the US imperialism itself have virtually created and nurtured. Then again, the same imperialist-controlled world media painted Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi president as a demon, violating human rights and producing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and thereby sanctified the invasion of Iraq. About Iraq producing WMD, it was irrevocably proved that the allegation was a total lie, which was later admitted by the US imperialists themselves and their henchmen. But the US aggression upon Iraq again brings one to wonder which kind of human rights the US imperialists had upheld by killing millions of innocent children, women and old in the name of collateral damage, by destroying Iraq's fairly well built infrastructure, by looting the immensely precious remnants of ancient human history, by fomenting communal frenzy among its inhabitants and lastly by murdering its President staging a fake trial ignoring world opinion.

Targeting Iran

Having devastated Iraq and then Libya the US imperialists needed new targets. Iran is a strong country. So the US played peace manoeuvre with Iran, withdrew sanctions and jumped upon Syria. The imperialist-controlled media accused Syrian government of deploying chemical weapons and killing thousands of its own people. In course of time the allegation turned out to be a hoax! The US ultimately faced deadlock in Syria. But in the meantime it had got oil-rich, in the main anti-US imperialist Syria ravaged, waging first a horrible proxy war followed by active participation for a change of regime in its favour. The several year long war continues at a very high cost of human lives and destruction of properties. Countless people had to flee their motherland and try to cross over tumultuous sea to reach foreign shores. In the process how many people and children perished and how much

misery the survivors had to suffer, there is no record of it. Let not there be any mistake to identify this character of the imperialist US to whom human life is meaningless. Then there was the nearly two-year long brute war on the small and poorest Arab country Yemen. More than 50,000 are already reported to have been killed. 14 million people — nearly 80% of the entire Yemeni population — are severely pressed to find food, clean drinking water or basic medical care and the country is on the brink of famine. Many people, especially children are dying every day from malnutrition or preventable illnesses like cholera. What is their fault? Their fault is they are citizens of Yemen which includes many important port cities, including Aden and Mocha and well-constructed pipelines which are most convenient for transporting Middle East oil to other countries. So, to take control of that route, the US imperialists waged a proxy war taking into its fold the pliant Yemeni government and one of the most loyal allies of the US rulers in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia. Does not reason say that the Yemenis should have been left to themselves to decide their choice of rulers without the rich neighbour, the Saudis, or far away 'benefactor' the US imperialism poking their nose into the scene? In any case, with continuous bombing, the US and its accomplices have butchered millions of innocent people of that country, destroyed its scanty infrastructure and thus brought about a pathetic humanitarian crisis. It does not end there. When there is a drone attack on Saudi oil refineries, the US imperialists and Saudi rulers conveniently passed on the blame on the Houthi rebels and cunningly trying to shift the onus on to Iran for supplying the drones to the Houthis. Even if it is assumed that the Houthis have carried out the attack as a desperate attempt to defend themselves against ghastly foreign aggression, how does it absolve the US-Saudi duo from the crime of pounding a tiny country with most sophisticated weapons with a singular purpose of overrunning it to buttress hegemonic design? Who should be accused of war crime? Common oppressed Yemenis or vulgarly rich and armed to the teeth Pentagon-Riyad combine? And it is now

getting increasingly clear that Yemen is used as a pawn to frame Iran and elicit global sanction in favour of launching military assault against it.

Iran deal and US withdrawal from it

Towards the beginning of this millennium, Iran came on the hit list of the US imperialists, when it was included in the so-called 'axis of evil' by the US and was pushed under severe economic sanctions. The demand of the imperialists was that the Iranian nuclear programme was dangerous for the region and the world and hence it must be abandoned. One may wonder how much beneficial and benevolent the much more powerful US nuclear programme is for the world. US has not given up providing more teeth to its nuclear arsenal, not refrained from creating military bases round the world and has not hesitated from using weapons of mass destruction (WMD) including nuclear weapons against the countries it consider as enemies. It has not moved away from stationing its troops on foreign lands. It is the US imperialists who invade one country after another without any compunction, erect several hundred military installations all over the world, butcher millions of innocent people. But, they go on asking others to disarm themselves and give up the right to defend themselves. Incredible indeed!

Reeling under severe sanctions which took its toll on economy and life, Iran entered into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, on July 14, 2015. It involved Iran, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, namely—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany, and the European Union. It was approved after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Iran had met all the conditions under this agreement. The deal made Iran to eliminate or reduce its stockpile of medium- or low-enriched uranium respectively, to largely reduce its gas centrifuges, to allow the IAEA unprecedented regular access to all Iranian nuclear facilities, install tamper-proof seals and collect surveillance camera photos, measurement data and documents etc. In return for

verifiably abiding by its commitments, Iran had the nuclear-related trade and financial sanctions lifted with effect from 16 January 2016 and instead started to receive relief from US, European Union, and United Nations Security Council. The IAEA Director, Yukiya Amano in March 2018 and, more importantly, the US rulers themselves in April 2016 and in July 2017 certified that Iran was complying with the deal.

But suddenly on 30 April, 2018, the US imperialists and Zionist Israeli rulers following the same script as that of Iraq invasion, declared that Iran has not disclosed a past covert nuclear weapons programme to the IAEA. On 8 May 2018, the US officially and unilaterally withdrew from the agreement and ordered imposition of harsher sanctions on Iran. In his May 8 speech, Trump called the Iran deal "horrible" and said the US would work with its allies to find a real, comprehensive, and lasting solution to prevent Iran from developing nuclear arms. It must be noted also that the US rulers' move was not just unilateral, it was despite the IAEA's reaffirming Iran's compliance with JCPOA with no credible indications of activities in Iran relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device after 2009.

War and sanction threat on Iran are accompanied by lies as usual

Presently, the US imperialist rulers are training the gun on Iran; the peace manoeuvre has changed into a war one. As usual, US imperialism raises a hue and cry that Iran aggressively produces WMD, exports terror and represses Iranian people's hope for freedom. From the past experiences, nobody takes these as seriously enough. So apart from unilaterally withdrawing from the Iran deal, Trump, the US President played a trick that reminds one how the US imperialists extended their war of aggression into North Vietnam based on a complete cock and bull story. Reportedly near the Strait of Hormuz, between Oman and Iran, an important sea-link route, there had been an attack on 13 June 2019 on two oil tankers including one from Japan. The US administration claimed that it was a mine attack

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US-Iran conflict

US imperialists are arming themselves to the teeth, generating wars, occupying foreign lands but asking others to disarm themselves and give up their right to defend

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and held Iran responsible for it. But again this proved to be a lie. The incident took place when the Prime Minister of Japan was visiting Iran. Why should Iran choose such a time for attacking a Japanese ship, particularly when it was facing war threats from a tyrannical imperialist superpower like US? Besides, the President of the Japanese ship company called reports of a mine attack "false" because damage to the ship was above the water line whereas mines cannot make any attack on ships above the water levels. Instead sailors on board had seen "flying objects" before the attack, that could have been bullets from above.

Iran emphatically denied any responsibility for any attack, if that might have taken place and called for regional dialogues. But the US rulers openly threatened to attack Iran by sending aircraft carrier, B2 Bombers, anti-Missile defense System in the region (Assault Carrier USS Boxer). Its Navy has conducted exercises in Arabian Sea with aircraft carrier strike group last month. It was a show of its military might. Side by side, there was at least one suspected Israeli strike on Shiite forces in Iraq, which are alleged to enjoy Iran's support. Iran had also shot down a US military surveillance drone flying in its sky. As the latest, there came the allegation of Iran helping the Houthis with drones. It means the US imperialists and their allies, more so Zionist Israel are hell bent upon keeping a war-hysteria alive in the region, if not go to war in actuality.

Parallel to it, the US imperialism is pushing for more sanctions on Iran, forcing all other countries not to buy Iran's oil. It expects that this nefarious game will cripple Iran's economy as source of 40% of its revenue is from the export of oil and gas. In fact, the overall export of oil and gas from Iran has drastically come down after November 2018 after the US imperialists escalated their belligerent moves. Such moves are also aimed at crippling the life of Iranian people, create social unrest, force people to come on to the street and demonstrate against the government for a change and bring in a regime which would compromise with US imperialists and be bullied to submit before US dictates.

US imperialists do not find it smooth sailing this time

However, this time, there are oppositions at different levels against Trump's belligerent approach. Turkey, a US-led NATO member, has emphasized that as a country sharing a border with Iran it could not adhere to US sanctions and stop trading with Iran. European countries are refusing to support US blindly, because breaking up with Iran would cause immense loss to their own trade and business interest besides losing the cheaper Iranian oil and gas. "France, Britain and Germany have set up a special-purpose vehicle called Instex, designed to allow payments to Iran that would legally bypass sanctions. It is yet to be launched". Germany's foreign minister called the US threats "ill advised", unilateral and an additional fuse. The Austrian President warned: No one in Europe wants a second Iraq. He said the US moves are provocative. France is also in two minds. Iraqi officials warned the Pentagon against using its territory in a war against Iran. Even the compliant Gulf State monarchies voiced apprehension. Anwar Gargash, the foreign minister for the United Arab Emirates, said, "I don't think it's in anybody's interest to see a flare up, a confrontation, with Iran." US Congressional members, both Democrats and Republicans, usually compliant on US military moves have stayed away from lending support on the pretext of demanding more information. Many raised the instance of disaster of the US invasion of Iraq on false information in 2003.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Iranian Supremo stated: "I said from the first day: don't trust America". Anti-US feeling for good reason has gone up so much that American flag was set on fire in Iran's Parliament. Now, after unilateral annulment of bilateral nuclear treaty, Iran has threatened to resume, at least partially, its nuclear activities, on the obvious reason that every nation has the right to defend itself. Particularly in the face of war threats by the US imperialist pirates and the history of their occupying Iraq after disarming it, Iran cannot but go for nuclear security. Iran is also trying to

convince the European Union countries not to back out under undue pressure from US. The new conditions the US has put on Iran would prohibit Iran from conducting sensitive civil nuclear activities not only its ballistic missile programme but also its policies regarding Syria, Iraq and Yemen. The US Secretary of State has gone to the extent of demanding Iran to effectively capitulate to the US government and agree to a dozen demands. Iran has clearly expressed that the conditions of the new deal are very suffocating and would be like surrendering the sovereignty of the country and hence are not acceptable to Iran. "On 14 May 2019, in a meeting with senior officials, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, described negotiations with the United States on another nuclear deal as "poison" and said, "We don't seek a war, and they don't either. They know it's not in their interests.

Imperialism generates and survives on war

The question that begs answer: What makes the US imperialist, or for that matter imperialism as a whole, war-crazy? Once great Lenin unambiguously spelt out that imperialism generates war. Because of its inherent law of operation, capitalism inevitably gets sucked into crisis, the crisis of market which does not abate but intensify with every passing day. That brings industry to a grinding halt, leading to industrial stagnation and hence economic recession. To artificially stimulate the market, capitalism-imperialism goes for increased militarization of economy, maintains and nurtures a military-industry complex. And that complex does not produce what people need; it produces arms-arsenals and all its accessories. Those are not materials to play with. Those can only be used in wars. And they need to be used in wars or at least in war-like conditions. Once the stockpile is depleted, replenishment takes place through new production. So is needed wars, full-fledged or partial, perpetual or occasional. Those are the wars to somehow stave off insoluble capitalist crisis by way of helping the huge arms industry to flourish, aided and abetted by tremendous high-tech

growth and fed by fabulous budgetary provisions in every capitalist country. War and war-hysteria consume the arms. One country is instigated against the other country so that both can buy arm, weapons from the imperialist's countries and war merchants. The industry finds a fresh impetus to produce more, produce still more lethal weapons and so on and so forth. Besides releasing arms in wars orchestrated by them, the US imperialists, and for that matter all imperialist powers, are involved in selling arms to other countries. This is what the US imperialists did in the infamous Iran-Iraq war. It sold weapons to Iran and gave maps to Iraq indicating where to bomb in Iran. Facts corroborate this truth. As per report of SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) released on 10 Dec 2018, the arms exports by US companies in 2017 amounted to \$222.6 billion and 52 percent of US arms exports were to the Middle East in 2014-18. Obviously huge defence budget deprives the allocation for health, education, sanitation, housing, social welfare schemes etc. and common people are forced to sacrifice and made to pay more and more taxes. And this goes on. The war industry flourishes, the sagging economy manages to survive. Hence, wars, war-like situations and war psychosis are essential for capitalism-imperialism, for meeting both economic as well as political interests. This is true with the war-monger US imperialism also. So it is precipitating war and creating war tensions for the past few decades in the Middle East.

US imperialists refused to go for disarmament

After the Second World War, it was Stalin, the great leader of the working class of the whole world, who had proposed not just nuclear disarmament but total disarmament to free the world from the holocaust of war. But the USA refused. The USSR knew it. That's why, it purposefully brought itself into a commanding position in both conventional and nuclear arsenal. Owing to it, the USSR could keep the imperialists in control at that time to a large extent. Later as revisionism overwhelmed the USSR

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Corruption

Association of top BJP leaders with scamsters and fraudsters is no secret

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corrupt practices in various states.

Name of Vasundhara Raje, former BJP chief minister of Rajasthan, surfaced in the IPL-Lalit Modi episode and mining scams. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, former BJP chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, was named in the DMAT and Vyapam scams, while Raman Singh, the former BJP chief minister of neighbouring Chhattisgarh, found himself in the middle of the PDS/NAN controversy. Anar Patel, the daughter of former Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel too was accused of acquiring land for resorts for her partners at discounted prices. Let us elaborate a bit.

Lalit Modi, a person of dubious past floated the idea of IPL cricket obviously with the backing of and financing from big monopolists and 'secret' investors. The monopolists romped in glamorous film stars and scantily dressed cheer-girls to add 'elegance to the show'. The pompous show served the twin purpose of reaping huge commercial gains and at the same time stripped the game of cricket of its essence and used it for intensifying the fast degenerating cultural-moral mosaic of the country. 10 year back, it was a \$4.1 billion cricketering

extravaganza and now 10 times more. Lalit Modi who held considerable political clout in Rajasthan and called "Super Chief Minister" during Vasundhara Raje's first term as the state chief minister was instrumental in launching the IPL and became its first Chairman and Commissioner. Later, he was accused of a host of criminal charges including bypassing the governing council while taking decisions, not following proper processes, rigging bids and awarding contracts to his friends, accepting kickbacks on a broadcast deal, selling franchises to members of his family, betting and money laundering. Soon after that, Lalit Modi, facing a probe by the Enforcement Directorate, migrated to London where he is staying not as an absconder or fugitive but as a normal citizen. The late Union Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj was exposed for having abused her official position to intercede with the UK government and arrange in a highly illegal manner the travel documents in favour of Lalit Modi. Soon afterwards it became known that Vasundhara Raje had also backed Modi's immigration application as a witness. It also came to be

known that here were shady financial deals of mutual interest between Lalit Modi- Raje and her family.

Vyapam (*Vyavsayik Pareeksha Mandal*) scam of as high as Rs 36,000 crore, involved all recruitments along with the professional examinations or eligibility tests for government jobs including police, bank officials, teachers as well as entrance examinations for medical and engineering colleges in Madhya Pradesh under BJP rule. It came to light that all such malpractices happened in exchange of huge amount of money to favour candidates recommended by or close to ministers including BJP chief minister of the state, ruling party leaders of the state or elsewhere, RSS-BJP big-wigs, bureaucrats across the board, as well as the office of the Governor. The horrible feature that earned this scam its notoriety and propelled it from the status of even a high-ranking scam to a well-orchestrated ghastly crime perpetrated by a powerful nexus of persons in the corridors of power with the help of strong band of mafia and professional killers, lies in the fact that as many as 48 accused persons, witnesses, government approvers, probing officials- professors- deans or investigating journalists, media persons and whistle-blowers died in suspicious circumstances. Though the CBI filed chargesheet against the BJP education minister of Madhya Pradesh and 86 others, the BJP chief minister was given a clean cheat and none has been convicted till date.

In March 2015, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) found that the BJP-led Chhattisgarh government which boasted of providing Re 1 per kilogram rice to the poor families was supplying low quality rice, gram and iodized salt to the poor households in the state under the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Nagrik Apoorti Nigam (NAN) does all the procurement for some departments, and specifically for the food department which covers paddy procurement and redistribution through ration shops. It was alleged that there was large scale fraud involving over 35, 000 crores and acceptance of kickbacks in procurement of the rotten stuff. A diary recovered from an employee of NAN, has hand-written entries of kickbacks running into several

crores to different government officials, ministers, MLAs, and several high profile individuals who, however, were named in the charge-sheet filed by the Chhattisgarh Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in the Special Anti-Corruption court of Raipur which smacked of several grey areas and cover ups.

The buck does not stop here. On 1 May 2015, in an audit report placed in parliament, the CAG named Nitin Gadkari, now union transport minister, as the "promoter and/or director of *Purti Sakhar Karkhana* that had taken loans from government in violation of guidelines. 16 BJP ministers were accused of corruption in Maharashtra in 2014. Of them, Pankaja Munde was accused of making money even on the food for poor children in the ICDS schemes while Eknath Khadse faced charge of dubious land deals. The BJP suspended its Darbhanga MP, Kirti Azad, when he made statements saying there was "corruption" in the Delhi District Cricket Association when late Arun Jaitley, the then Union finance minister was heading it. Between 2005 and 2007 when he was not even in power, the assets of Laxmikant Parsekar who subsequently became chief minister of Goa increased by 749 per cent from 1.26 crores to 10.74 crores, an increase of 9 crores over a five-year period when he was just an MLA.

C. M. Ramesh and Y. S. Chowdary, leading industrialists and two of the four Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MPs who have defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), are currently under investigation by three central agencies for financial irregularities. In November last year, BJP MP and spokesperson G.V.L. Narasimha Rao had called both Chowdary and Ramesh "Andhra Mallyas". He had written to the Rajya Sabha Ethics Committee for initiating "suitable action" against them. Mukul Roy, former second-in-command of TMC and Shovan Chatterjee, former mayor of Kolkata and a heavy-weight minister of TMC government in West Bengal who were found accepting cash in camera from a camouflaged operator in Narada scandal have been welcomed in the BJP with much fanfare.

The CAG recently observed that fund generated through *swachh bharat tax* is either remaining idle or being diverted elsewhere.

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and finally reversed it into a capitalist country through counter-revolution, the controlling effect on the war-monger imperialists gradually waned to the present nil. The weaker nations are thus compelled to go for nuclear arsenals for their own security, even if that deprives its people of basic needs.

Only militant anti-imperialist movement can provide deterrent

Iran may be right in its firm stand. But at the same time exploited millions of Iran as well as of the world, should keep in mind the truth that capitalism-imperialism is the source of all wars. Once the capitalists argued that existence of socialism compels the capitalists to go for war preparation. But now that even after the sad dismantling of the socialist camp, the world is facing danger of war in this or that part of the world, this clearly shows how hollow was the claim of the imperialists. So long as capitalism

will exist, there will remain the danger of war. Peace-loving people thus have a single choice before them. And that is to strive with all means to develop a militant anti-imperialist movement, particularly directed against the brigand-chief US imperialism, and with such forces at the core of the movement that could keep them firm ideologically and organizationally and thus lead them along the right course of history, to give defeat to the enemy of mankind, capitalism-imperialism. Our appeal to the oppressed Iranian people as well as the entire anti-war peace-loving people of the Middle East countries and other countries of the world is to imbibe this truth and act accordingly.

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Corruption

CAG and media reports reveal a host of financial irregularities in BJP rule

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The Gujarat model

Anar Patel, the daughter of Anandiben Patel, former BJP chief minister of Gujarat, was accused of obtaining a sugar-coated deal of getting land at a discounted rate for resorts that were never built and for obtaining agricultural land that was used for other purposes using the influence of her mother. The scam created such a furore that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was reported to have directed Anandiben Patel to “dispel the perception” and “rectify her image”

When Tata’s Nano plant was shifted to Gujarat, the Gujarat government granted a soft loan of Rs 9,570 crore which was close to 25 per cent of Gujarat’s annual budget for 20 years at 0.1 per cent interest rate and allowed repayment of the land price in eight equal annual instalments. The state government also provided four-lane road connectivity and exempted Tatas from electricity duty, registration and transfer charges of land. The state also put up a waste disposal plant, supplied natural gas through a pipeline and provided 100 acres of land near Ahmedabad for a township. This deal was not made public despite several RTI applications on the pretext of not divulging ‘trade secrets’ but were leaked out in the form of a Cabinet Note by the state Industries Department.

CAG’s five audit reports on the last leg of Narendra Modi’s rule as the Gujarat chief minister, had fished out disputed transactions worth Rs 25,000 crore, which pointed to fiscal profligacy and a rising debt burden. A 600 million square meters of land was rented away out to one Archian Chemicals, a company belonging to the family of BJP leader Venkaiah Naidu, now Vice-President of India, in remote Kutch area by the BJP government of Gujarat at the rate of just 15 paise per annum! In 2013, Purushottam Solanki, the then BJP minister of state for Ports and Fisheries, was accused of illegally granting the contracts of 58 reservoirs to his favourites. For just 28 dams, the lost income to the exchequer totalled an eye-popping Rupees 420 crore. Gujarat High Court Division Bench ruled the contracts were awarded not by the competent authority and the minister usurped the powers to

award the contracts for extraneous reasons to favour certain parties for illegal gratification. Around 36.25 acre farmland in Kutch district was purchased and sold in violation of all norms by Indigold Refinery Ltd. 49% of the shares of Pipavav Power Station of GSPC were sold to Swan Energy without inviting any tenders. The Gujarat government had purchased cattle feed from a blacklisted company at Rs 240 per 5 kg whereas the market rate was just Rs120 to Rs140 per 5 kg. State government, in 2008, awarded contracts for fishing activities in 38 lakes without inviting any tenders. The BJP-led state government had allotted 2.08 lakh square metres of land to Essar Steel. But part of the Coastal Reserve Zone and forest land that could not be allotted as per Supreme Court guidelines. Land was allotted to Adani Group for the Mundra Port & Mundra Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Re1 per square metre which was grossly lower than the market rate. The list would go longer and longer. Also the BJP government of Gujarat refused to make public inquiry commission report on corruption prepared by the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability.

Some recent instances of corruption—Demonetization-Rafale-Nirav Modi-Yeddyurappa

In the late evening of 8 November 2016, the BJP prime minister announced on TV that from approaching midnight, i.e. in a mere four hours’ time, 500 and 1000 rupee notes would cease to be legal-tender. The justification advanced for this demonetization of 86% of currency in circulation was that it would, among other things, curb corruption and strike at “black money”. It was stated that the move was kept a strict secret and barring the Prime Minister and his inner-circle, no one not even his cabinet colleagues were aware of this. But, to everyone’s dismay, *Dainik Jagaran*, a well circulated Hindi daily indicated about this impending demonetization as early as in its edition dated 27 October 2016. Bhawani Singh, BJP MLA from Kota (Rajasthan), alleged that “top monopolists like Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani had prior knowledge of demonetization of Rs 500 and 1,000 notes and

sorted their money in advance.” It also came to light that following the decision of the BJP government to raise the upper ceiling of overseas remittances by resident individuals from \$ 75, 000 to \$2,50,000 per annum from 26 May 2015, as high as Rs 30,000 crore (\$4.6 billion) had been transferred out of India in 11 months since then. Many believed that a substantial portion of this remittance was black deported to foreign lands. Is it that a section of those who so stashed funds abroad had prior information of impending demonetization? It also came in mainstream media that bank deposits rose by almost 10 times (Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore) in the fortnight ended 2 September 2016. It is difficult to allay the apprehension that black cash was being transformed into white on receipt of the news of forthcoming demonetization beforehand. In an open letter to the Prime Minister, Yatin Ojha, a former BJP MLA from Gujarat writes, “information of demonetization must have been conveyed well before announcement to your near and dear industrialists who in total control 50% of black money of this country.... all district co-operative banks controlled by people committed to BJP... exchanged Rs.500 and Rs.1000 currency notes against smaller denomination right from 9 PM on 8/11/2016 till 5 AM on 9/11/2016...I have a video recording with me which will clearly and beyond reasonable doubt prove that all the near and close associates of Shri Amit Shah since 8 November till today (i.e. 9 November 2016) are engaged into exchange business. There is a big queue outside their office and residence for conversion of black money into white at a discounted rate of 37%.” Even as high as Rs 21,000 crores were deposited overnight in the much publicized zero balance accounts under Jandhan Yojana. Was it that the government indirectly facilitated the black money holders to turn unaccounted money into white by exploiting the uninformed poor, might be with a lure of minuscule commission.

The BJP government also launched a voluntary disclosure window for black money with a clear assurance that those who would respond and deposit black money can get away by paying

50% as tax and penalty and they would neither be punished nor asked any question. Was not this amnesty to black money holders akin to pardoning a formidable crime? Was the BJP thus fighting corruption through demonetization and such other policies?

Next was the case of allowing high level economic offenders to flee the country and relax in foreign lands. Vijaya Mallya, a corporate magnate and a Rajya Sabha MP of the BJP who defaulted more than Rs 9000 crores of bank loans managed to escape to London with ease. Mallya claimed that he met late Arun Jaitley, then union finance minister, in the corridor of parliament—a fact Sri Jaitley did not deny. Not only that. The BJP government also waived Rs1,200 crores of tax to Mallya. State Bank of India reportedly wrote off loan worth Rs 1200 crore of Vijay Mallya-promoted Kingfisher Airline which, howsoever loudly the government denies, was nothing but an indirect waiver. Soon, Nirav Modi, a luxury diamond jewellery merchant who was ranked 57 in the Forbes list of India’s billionaires in 2017, Mehul Choksi, his uncle, other relatives and associates, who are owners of four top diamond companies in the country have defrauded Punjab National Bank (PNB), a leading public sector bank, to the tune of Rs 11,300 crores by simply tampering with the system. Informed sources said that the amount could well be over Rs 20,000 crores. Both the Prime Minister and the then Finance Minister had observed code of silence for the first few days of revelation of Nirav Modi scam as if nothing had happened. Why so? Because all these corruption-kings are very close to the ruling BJP, the Prime Minister and other ministers. Nirav Modi was part of the delegation of Indian businessmen and corporate leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2017 and featured in a group photo with Prime Minister Narendra Modi there. He was also part of the 2016 delegation to Davos led by late Arun Jaitley, the then Finance Minister. Many affected persons lodged a complaint in 2015 that Mehul Choksi had cheated them by alluring them to invest in a kind of Ponzi-like fund operated by him. But the Gujarat police refused to

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Corruption

Persons accused of corruption and swindling of funds are found to occupy plum posts

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have any FIR registered against him. Mehul had also received a wide publicity in the so called "Vibrant Gujarat" campaign of Narendra Modi. Many prominent BJP leaders and their relatives were reported to have participated in the publicity of Mehul's firm 'Gitanjali'. Mehul Choksi was even invited to a programme at the Prime Minister's Office in November 2015, where Narendra Modi reportedly addressed him in the customary Gujarati style as "Mehulbhai" and praised him for his remarkable business in jewellery. Vijay Rupani-led BJP government of Gujarat projected Gitanjali Group as a "collaborator" for the 2017 Vibrant Gujarat summit. It was also alleged that a close associate of the then Finance Minister who unsuccessfully contested Punjab Lok Sabha election as a BJP candidate was inducted in the PNB board before the fraud was committed. And within days, Vikram Kothari, owner of Rotomac Global Pvt., a luxury pen manufacturer, was found to have cheated a consortium of seven banks by siphoning off bank loans to the tune Rs 3,695 crore. Nitin Sandesara, promoter of Gujarat-based Sterling Biotech, holder of 37 passports and owner of 37 firms in US who was being probed in a Rs. 5300 crore banking fraud case also fled the country. Enforcement Directorate itself informed that 36 businessmen who had criminal cases against them had fled the country. Could such large scale frauds over such a long period and safe passage of the fraudsters to foreign lands be possible without connivance of high-ups in various seats of power? Even a school-going child would say, 'no, it could not'.

It has also been revealed that monopolist Gautam Adani group, alleged to have got unimaginable favours from Prime Minister Narendra Modi from time to time, owes to the Public Sector Banks (PSU) almost Rs 72,000 crore, which is equal to the crop loans to the peasants of the whole country. Let alone forcing him to repay the loan, State Bank of India was stated to have granted him a fresh loan of Rs 7,000 crore to build a cold mine in Australia. Of late, the Adani Group is reported to be a likely strategic partner of a Rs

45,000 crore Indian Navy submarine construction project though it does not have a shipyard of its own.

Next is the much discussed Rafale Aircraft deal. It is already known to all that the BJP government has paid a much higher price for the acquisition of the Rafale fighter jets (Price of 126 jets as decided during the previous UPA government in 2012 is now being paid for buying only 36 jets i.e. over 300% increase in price). Secondly, soon after the agreement was completed, it came to be known that state-owned HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd) which has a 60 year long experience of manufacturing aircrafts, including fighter jets, has been removed from it. Instead, the bulk of that Rs 30,000 crore (with all these accumulated benefits, some quarters claim the sum to be as high as Rs 45, 000 crore) that has to be invested in the Indian defence system as per the deal would be channelled through Dassault Reliance Aerospace, a 49:51 joint venture established between Dassault and Indian industrial tycoon Anil Ambani's Reliance Aerostructure which has no past experience and expertise of manufacturing aerospace and defence equipment. This deal was part of 'Offsets' which are 'domestic content-based requirements' imposed on an exporting foreign entity by an importing government or public entity as a *quid pro quo* for placing a large order with the exporting entity. 'Offset' is usually rendered in French as 'contrepartie' (compensation). There has been a major political controversy over Dassault Aviation's choice of Indian Offset Partners (IOPs), notably Anil Ambani's Reliance Group, and the non-transparent arrangements for the discharge of offset obligations. Because, at the time of inking the Dassault deal with Anil Ambani, nearly all of the companies run by him were in serious debt involving over Rs 10,000 crores and constituted perhaps the biggest debt-heavy enterprise. Anil Ambani did not have even a land to set up an aircraft production unit. Still, he got the contract. How could then Dassault select such a heavily debt-burdened non-experienced Indian firm for such a maiden joint venture

in defence? Answer is plain and simple. Anil Ambani group was backed by the Indian government and the BJP Prime Minister himself, and the French government was keen on materialization of the deal to strengthen its business relationship with India and improve its global status as a formidable contender in arms manufacturing business. Mr. Hollande, the former French President who was in power when the deal was finalized openly declared that the Indian government had proposed Anil Ambani's name as the offset partner for Dassault leaving the French government with no choice. It is also reported in the media that the deal had materialized during a closed door meeting in France between Prime Minister Modi and the French President Hollande in 2015. During that visit of the Prime Minister to France, neither the defence minister nor the foreign minister accompanied him. Only Anil Ambani had been with him. All these crucial facts were brought up in the official talks by the Indian Negotiating Team with a singular lack of success, mainly because their efforts had been undercut by the "parallel negotiations" conducted by officials of the Prime Minister's Office and the National Security Adviser. Not only that. In early 2015, the French government auditor had found unpaid taxes worth €60 million and then €91 million by Reliance Flag Atlantic France, which is owned by Anil Ambani. The tax liability had been pending for years. But on the eve of Rafale deal, the French government accepted a final settlement at €7.3-million (Rs 57 crore at current rates) only. As per leaked documents, Acquisition Manager (Air) in the Ministry of Defence who had been part of the Contract Negotiations Committee (CNC) is reported to have raised questions about the deal's benchmark price and put his objections on record. But his objections were "overruled" by the Director General (Acquisition).

The Panama Papers clearly list, with documentary evidence, the illegal commissions/bribes paid to consultancy companies and agents by the Italian defence manufacturer ElettronicaSpA for the sale of defence equipment to the Indian air force and navy during the BJP rule from 2000 to 2004. ElettronicaSpA

has also had business partnership with Finmeccanica, the Italian defence and aerospace company whose former boss has received a jail sentence for corruption in the sale of the controversial Agusta Westland choppers to India. No FIR has been filed yet by the Modi government in the patently illegal commissions paid by ElettronicaSpA as documented in the Panama Papers. It is not yet been obliterated from people's mind how the earlier / first BJP-led NDA government was embroiled in the coffin procurement scam. After Kargil war in 1999, the then BJP-led NDA government had purchased 500 caskets worth \$2500 each, which was alleged to be of poor quality and priced exorbitantly at thirteen times the original amount. CAG audit found several flaws and frauds in that purchase from Buitron and Baiza, an US-based company rendering funeral service. As a result, the government had incurred a heavy loss of \$1,87,000. The size of the scam amounted to a purported Rs 24,000 crore. The CBI investigated the case and then registered a case against the late George Fernandes, the then Defence Minister and several others under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 420 IPC (cheating) and the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act for alleged abuse of official position for personal gains. But a special CBI court found no evidence and hence discharged all the accused.

Now let us rewind to the seat of chief minister of Karnataka which has now come back to B S Yeddyurappa, the BJP leader, after a prolonged and extensive horse-trading obviously involving crores of rupees. Yeddyurappa was accused of liberally allotting residential and industrial land to his family members and supporters abusing his power during his tenure as state chief minister between 2008-11. On charge of illegal de-notification of land, he was jailed during that term and was convicted of corruption. He was also accused of mega-mining scam involving infamous Reddy brothers of Bellary. The allegations were so obvious that he was sacked from his CM post in June 2011 and then expelled by the BJP. He then floated a regional party and kept himself visible in the corridor of

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SUCI(C) on NRC

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impoverished misery-stricken landless people, the economically backward scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities, the illiterate millions and the religious minorities who have been residing in this country for decades? This has nothing to do with the interest of the people and the country. The interest is of the ruling capitalist class and the parties subservient to it. The fundamental principle of democracy is that those who are residents of a country are its citizens. The motive behind this move to ask for proof of citizenship is to pit one section of the people against another based on religious-casteist-communal divide, evict a good number of people from their home and hearth, snatch away their means of livelihood and drive a wedge between the masses as 'citizens' and 'foreigners'. The ancestors of those who came here as refugees after partition were all Indian citizens. There is a national obligation to them. To disregard that obligation and designate *bona fide* Indians as 'foreigners' also constitute the hideous underbelly of the NRC conspiracy. Besides, it is well-nigh impossible for the poor refugees, slum-dwellers, footpath-dwellers, flood victims and those who migrate from one province to another just for eking out a bare living, to possess and produce the kind of documents asked for proving citizenship.

We know that the ruling oppressive bourgeoisie and its pliant ruling parties always weave ploys to disrupt the solidarity among the toiling oppressed masses so that the latter cannot build up united movement against oppression and repression. To buttress that vile objective, the ruling dispensation does not hesitate to use the differences centred on religion, caste, ethnicity and language. NRC is such a noxious ploy. We demand immediate annulment of this atrocious ruse of NRC.

We call upon all sections of toiling people irrespective of caste-creed-religion-region-language-ethnicity to come forward and join the all-out resistance movement against this nefarious design.



A mass meeting was organised at Puducherry Swadeshi Mill junction on 7 September 2019. Comrade Lenin Durai, Secretary, Puducherry State SUCI (C) presided over while Comrade K Radhakrishna, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) was the main speaker [inset, at left]. Also present among others were Comrades K Sridhar, member, Central Committee, A Rengasamy, Tamil Nadu State Secretary, Muthu, Puducherry state leader, SUCI(C) and Anavarathan, Co-ordinator, Puducherry state SUCI(C).

Jharkhand Anganwari workers launch indefinite strike and fast until death

Led by Jharkhand State (Rajya) Anganwari Workers' Union, with which the Anganwari federation under the leadership of AIUTUC are associated, 88,000 Anganwari workers (called *Sevikas* i.e., Service-providers) and Mid-day meal workers (*Posan Sakhis*) attached to 39,000 Anganwari centres of Jharkhand are on indefinite strike since 16 August 2019, squatting in front of the Governor's House. They have also started 'fast until death' since 13 September 2019. With a pittance of Rs 59 a day and without any recognition as government

employees, they have recently been burdened with the assignments in Play schools for children below 6 years attached to the existing primary schools. It must be noted that such play schools are recommended in the Draft National Education Policy 2019, which till remains a draft facing stiff opposition from people, but its recommendations are already being implemented by the BJP-led state and union governments. Comrade Achintya Sinha, Secretary, AIUTUC, was present in the dharna at Ranchi on 7 and 8 September 2019.

AIDSO victory in Garhwal Central University

All India DSO won joint secretary and two executive member posts uncontested, at HNB of Uttarakhand students' union election 2019. On two earlier occasions (2016 and 2018), AIDSO candidates had bagged the post of Joint Secretary by huge margins. AIDSO had waged a series of education movements in the University last year under leadership of the former joint secretary Comrade Pooja Bhandari, which created a strong ground for victory.

SUCI(C) Tripura organizes protest against mind-boggling hike in medical charges

The BJP government of Tripura has dealt another serious blow to the suffering people of Tripura. Now they have announced substantial hike in charges of medical treatment in the government-run hospitals and made even facilities hitherto available like out-patient department chargeable. In protest, the state SUCI(C) led by Comrade Arun Bhowmik, State Secretary organized a demonstration in Agartala on 11 September 2019.

How Corruption-Free is the BJP Rule

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power. Later, all the charges against him were vanished in the air by a sleight of hand and he was readmitted in the BJP. Now the BJP has found in this alleged scamster a most suitable incumbent for the seat of chief minister.

the Thefts of Wood, in *Rheinische Zeitung*) How glaringly the prognosis is corroborated today when one finds what abysmal depth government-level corruption has gone to in the BJP rule.

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Veneer is coming off

It might be recalled that on the occasion of completion of two years in the government in the previous term, Prime Minister Modi in a public meeting Saharanpur in UP asked: "Have you heard in these two years that the Modi government indulged in corruption? Have you ever heard anybody in my government being accused of bungling of accounts?" With whatever little glimpse one would have from the preceding paragraphs about the state of affairs in the BJP rule, it would also be clear how the party which takes dig at others for corrupt practices is itself sunk in the quagmire of corruption. It cannot be otherwise. Rampant corruption is the stamp capitalism-imperialism today. Anybody subservient to the capitalist-imperialist system and offering his or their service to work as political managers of ruling capitalism-imperialism, no matter howsoever loudly he or they may arrogate to him or them self-certification of being away from corruptibility, cannot but be corrupt from top to bottom. About capitalism, Great Marx had said long back: "The representation of private interests ... abolishes all natural and spiritual distinctions by enthroning in their stead the immoral, irrational and soulless abstraction of a particular material object and a particular consciousness which is slavishly subordinated to this object." (On

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SUC(C) calls Amit Shah’s advocacy for introducing Hindi as national language is ill-motivated and ill-disposed towards the unity and solidarity of the Indian people

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C) issued the following statement on 16 September 2019 :

The way Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and president of the BJP, yesterday preached for ‘one country one language’ with a view to introducing Hindi as the national language is not only unrealistic and unhistorical but is fraught with immense danger. Since all languages including Hindi are mother tongues of Indian people, we are in favour of development of all the languages and not against any of them. But while a highly developed language with international reckoning like English is also an Indian language, we all along supported a 2-language policy—mother tongue and English—and consider it be correct even today. English should be the link language and used in administrative works. In a multilingual country like India, no particular language in the name of national language can be imposed on other linguistic communities. If it is so done, it will inevitably cause adverse reactions among the people and impair the unity and solidarity of Indian citizens. Everyone is aware that once a blood-wrenching movement surged forth in the country against similar attempt on the part of the union government to impose Hindi. So, we are of the opinion that Amit Shah’s views are ill-motivated and ill-disposed towards the unity and solidarity of the people of the country. Hence, we are totally opposed to any such move of thrusting one particular language on others.

SUCI (C) will contest in 18 seats in ensuing Haryana assembly election

Sr. No.	District	Assembly	Candidate
1	Bhiwani	Bhiwani	Comrade Raj Kumar Basiya
2	Bhiwani	Tosham	Comrade Rohtash Saini
3	Gurgaon	Badshahpur	Comrade Ram Kishan Prajapat
4	Gurgaon	Gurgaon	Comrade Wazir Singh
5	Hisar	Hansi	Comrade Satyanarayan Bhataul
6	Jhajjar	Bahadurgarh	Comrade Bharat
7	Jhajjar	Beri	Comrade Ravi Ahlawat
8	Kaithal	Pundri	Comrade Krishan Chand
9	Karnal	Assandh	Comrade Kartar Singh Malik
10	Kurukshetra	Thanesar	Comrade Raj Kumar Sarsa
11	Mahendragarh	Ateli	Comrade Sube Singh Yadav
12	Mahendragarh	Narnaul	Comrade Sita Ram
13	Mahendragarh	Nangal	Comrade Chaudhary Chhaju Ram Rawat
14	Rewari	Kosli	Comrade Rampal Bhakli
15	Rewari	Rewari	Comrade Naresh Kumar
16	Sonipat	Rai	Comrade Jai Karan
17	Sonipat	Sonipat	Comrade Jai Bhagwan
18	Sonipat	Gohana	Comrade Ishwar Singh Dahiya



Massive gathering (inset, top left) in the open session of the 4th Assam State AIDSO Conference was held in Guwahati on 9 September 2019 amidst turbulent political situations in the state with Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, veteran Polit Bureau member, SUCI(C) addressing the gathering



Massive demonstration by Odisha state AIKKMS (All India Kisan Khet Mazdoor Sangathan) before Odisha State Assembly, Bhubaneswar, on 16 September 2019 against anti-peasant government policies

AIDSO condemns ABVP hooliganism in Jadavpur University

In a statement issued on 19 September, West Bengal state AIDS O, strongly condemned the pre-planned hooliganism and vandalism of the ABVP—BJP at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, noted for its long heritage of progressive movements, education and culture as well as for its history of struggle to establish an educational institution going against British imperialism and as of day continuing to be one of the foremost Universities in the country. It is a kind of re-enactment of what they did in JNU in Delhi. The need of the hour is to forge an all-out unity of well-meaning people against such onslaught of the BJP-RSS-ABVP.



Protest demonstration on 5 September 2019 in Trivandrum, Kerala, against so called NRC in Assam

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