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Relentless brute atrocities on *Dalits*, the ones among the most downtrodden in the country — cause and remedy

My father was begging them to stop. He kept saying we had gone to pick up a dead cow but they insisted we had killed it. They made us take off our shirts, tied us to a vehicle and used big lathis to hit us. More than 50 people were watching us getting beaten including some policemen but no one helped. Instead they were filming it on mobile phones: Thus reported one of the four *dalit* youths who were brutally assaulted by a bunch of *Hindutva-wadi* self-professed *gaurakshaks* (self-proclaimed cow-protectors belonging to Hindu fanatic group) in front of the Una police station in Una town of Gir Somnath district in Gujarat on July 11 last. The *gaurakshaks* claimed they had done a great service (as the cow is considered mother in the Hindu religion) and boastfully posted videos of the beating on social media. In an aftermath, over 30 *dalits* either committed suicide or attempted it. Buses were stoned and the Gujarat State Road Transport

Corporation cancelled services to the region. People's outrage across the country reached a height that ultimately compelled the Prime Minister make a rare speech on the issue. However, just a day before the Una incident, five *dalits* were attacked by twenty-five activists of the Bajrang Dal, a well-known aggressive *Hindutva* group at Shantipura village about 300 kilometres from Bengaluru in Karnataka for allegedly stealing a cow and slaughtering it.

Crime and violence on the *dalits* are on the rise

These are just two incidents which show how *dalits* are treated across the country. And the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) data and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports present a shocking picture showing an almost 40 % increase in the incidence of crime against *dalits* across India between 2011 and 2014. In 2015, Gujarat reported the highest crime rate against *dalits*,

followed by Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. As a matter of fact, despite there being a newly amended Atrocities Act, 2016, the rate of conviction of perpetrators of violence on *dalits* has all along been poor that has made the latter know they could get away with whatever they did.

Such a sorry state of affairs is known to people even beyond the boundary of the country. The United Nations Human Rights Council recognizes (once in early 2000, and more recently in a January 28, 2016 report) that the caste system contradicts "the principles of human dignity, equality and non-discrimination". It is not caste violence or caste discrimination that is objectionable, notes the report, but caste hierarchy itself. The UNHRC report also observes that governments, including that of India, pass laws, create awareness-raising campaigns and adopt reservation and quotas as mechanisms to combat caste discrimination. Yet, violence against *dalits* and exclusion

on social and economic lines continue in a harsh and brutal manner. No amount of sophistry by the Indian government can sideline the brutality of caste discrimination. (Frontline 29 April 2016)

And what kind of atrocities is perpetrated on *dalits*? The ghastly crimes range from brutal murders of *dalits*, as well as, and if desired, their non-*dalit* spouse (as in Rajula of Gujarat), burning individuals alive, not sparing even teenagers, or stabbing them to death, to gang rape, arson, and infliction of grievous injuries. But these are after all open ghastliness. There is stealthy daily humiliation which force the *dalits* to live constantly in an atmosphere of fear. *Dalit* women have to take their own glasses for tea as no *dhaba* will offer them theirs. They cannot dip their vessels in the wells to draw water. If some other woman touches them by mistake, she washes her hands. If their family refuses to skin dead animals, they face the wrath of the local

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Inter-state water conflicts kept unresolved — in whose interest ?

Even in a land of rivers, when rainfall is scanty causing shortage of water, the question of river water sharing becomes a most sensitive and emotive issue for the affected people. And river water issue may develop into a bone of contention even across national borders, as can be found very recently in case of the Indus river system or the Brahmaputra (Tsang Po) river system involving India and Pakistan and India and China respectively. If not resolved properly such issues can have grave consequences, since water is an essential need of life, be it for drinking or irrigation. Passions are easily roused and people can get violently pitted against each other.

Of late, the controversy and violence that rocked the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in India over the question of distribution of

Cauvery water has brought this burning issue once again to the fore. Following Supreme Court Order to Karnataka to release 12000 cusec of Cauvery water every day to Tamil Nadu, quarters of vested interest immediately swung into action, raked up the dispute once more, fomented parochial sentiments and virtually pitted people of one state against people of another. The violence claimed 2 precious lives and substantial damage was caused to properties. The IT city Bangalore was held hostage by such violence for a whole day, as parochial elements there went on the rampage; the government turned a blind eye and the police mostly remained mute spectators. Finally the security forces stepped in at night and curfew was declared, which continued to the next day in

some areas. There was reportedly retaliatory violence in Tamil Nadu as well. Assets worth crores of rupees were destroyed mainly in Karnataka, especially buses and trucks. The bourgeois governments of both the states played their parts through their actions, claims and counter-claims and selective dishing out of facts which in turn led to inciting their respective people leading to a 'people vs. people' conflict.

It is therefore of utmost importance to critically analyse the issue in a dispassionate way. All the more so when even after 69 years of independence, the question of judicious allocation of water has not been resolved amicably and instead the judiciary is depended on for a solution. Briefly, we touch upon the essential points. It is worth

mentioning that although our country has rich water resources, successive central governments have neglected and miserably failed to evolve a comprehensive and scientific water management policy on a national level to effectively manage these resources. This has resulted in a host of problems, such as: faulty planning of dams, deforestation in the catchment areas, siltation of reservoirs, reservoirs running dry in drought conditions and creating havoc during flood by releasing water, over-extraction of ground water, etc., which are giving rise to many disputes between different states on the question of sharing of river water. Cauvery dispute is, by no means, a singular case. Many more conflicts flare up now and then, and they are kept unresolved.

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Dalit issue

Caste system made *dalits* outcastes, capitalism continues to shove them to the lowest among the lows

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elites. If they perform the skinning, they face the brutality of the *gaurakshaks*. They tend to ask the society and even themselves: Are we not human beings like everyone else and do we not have the same human blood flowing in our veins? Are we born to be tortured, highly discriminated against, relentlessly persecuted and even socially ostracized at places by the quarters of power and vested interest?

Atrocities on *dalits* are taking place in this country since the ancient days and have continued even after independence. Yet a sudden spurt is evident in a period when the BJP assumed power not only in states like Gujarat, Rajasthan and some others but also at the Centre. In addition to the atrocious crimes of some arrogant fanatic individuals or the high-handed village heads belonging to the upper castes, even the administration and government do not betray any different attitude. Neither are atrocities on *dalits* presently confined to only the BJP-run states, or to small towns or villages. A glaring instance comes from the Hyderabad Central University where a *dalit* student Rohit Vemula had to end his own life in the face of humiliation and pressure out of worst type of discrimination from local BJP leader- ABVP activists, the university authority and reportedly even the Union HRD Ministry. There were also such deplorable cases reported from Bihar, UP and other states. It is not that such incidents were lacking in the earlier regime under the Congress. However, these were not so frequent, nor so abominably ghastly perpetrated with arrogant defiance of any law or norm, as in the present case of the Hindu communal BJP government. In fact, with the BJP in power at the Centre the saffron brigade seem to feel they can do as they please.

Mounting capitalist oppression and accompanying social maladies

And at the same time these heinous crimes that only bring shame to the country, take place at a time when the entire poorer toiling section of people are fleeced to their skeleton from capitalist exploitation. Menacing unemployment and ever-widening poverty are creating havoc; sky-high price-rise adds to bring about further impoverishment. Leave aside the statistics, the

unemployment scene is painfully evident from the hundreds of thousands of youth, of whom *dalits* make a sizeable chunk, daily running helter-skelter from their home-state to some far away ones in search of jobs. Uprooted from their homestead and planted precariously in a hostile environment within his or her own country, they even tend to lose faith in life, its moral-ethical values. Then there are victims of rampant human trafficking. The ease with which the agents allure them, mainly women and children mostly belonging to the poor and downtrodden *dalit* families, for a better life even with the consent of their families, show how unbearable and uncertain has become the poverty-stricken life for them, whatever data on poverty the government may produce to claim credit from the world. On the other side, the monopolists and their corporates make merry. They are being successful in driving the governments, the Union or the state, to bring one reform after another foxing people with the phrases of growth, development and so on. Their henchmen, the page-bearers of the monopolists and corporates, starting from the subservient political parties of all shades from the bourgeois petty bourgeois to social democratic ones, the highly paid well-groomed bureaucrats and administrators, even members of other 'sacrosanct' pillars of the state, the whole band chant and trumpet in tune with the real rulers, the monopolists, to be rewarded with crumbs thrown at them. The country, in lieu, witnesses chopping of a girl on the road of the capital city in broad daylight; murder of wife by husband or vice versa; brother killing his sister raising bogey of 'love jihad', father raping his daughter and so on. The 'omnipotent' administration remains a passive bystander. More often than not, if the victims belong to the backward communities including the *dalits*, the administration is vulgarly biased against them. If the criminals or miscreants are found to be basking under the umbrella of the ruling parties, the police becomes busy in 'finding no evidence against them'. The caricature of democracy and civility exceeds all limits.

Why these growing atrocities on *dalits*, virtually the poorest, yet inalienable part of downtrodden people? Why after seven decades of independence, the country is not only witness to these ugly deprivation, discrimination and

oppression, but is fast sliding down to lower and lower depths? The answer is singular: The reason of all these evils, vices and maladies, the source of all these aberrations is the prevailing system of capitalism, which through these decades has consolidated itself and in course, pushing the vast multitudes into severest plight. More the market crisis of the ruling capitalism aggravates, more pronounced and accentuated is the attack on the oppressed in all spheres.

For exploited people what was needed to get over this plight was powerful democratic movement of their entire mass united across all differences of caste-creed-language- religion, across all walks of life and livelihood. Only such a movement could have exerted some pressure upon the perpetrators of crime, generators of deprivation-discrimination-oppression. And that would have acted as some deterrent to bring about some relief in the life of people. But that remains a far cry. On the contrary, people are being divided with pernicious ideas and divisive measures of all sorts planted and fomented by the ruling monopolists and their servitors. Their one and only aim is to disunite people into religious communities, sections, fragments and what not. Starting from keeping them suspicious about each other, people are misled to be pitted against each other into lethal fratricidal bloodbaths and prevented from fighting united against the exploiters. The crisis-ridden tottering system continues to survive.

The ruling capitalist class, the monopolists are hatching this design. The political parties, which are inextricably linked with the ruling class and its prevailing system, be it national or regional in spread, are gleefully playing the subservient role with utmost efficiency for the rulers, giving shape to this design and aggravating its bite and filth. So people find, if some party makes it convenient to rise to power hoodwinking exploited people of this community, another party gets hold of their brethren from another community to help it contest for power making those hapless people act in tow behind it. Now and then these parties and their leaders make speeches from raised platforms of election campaign or write articles with high-sounding words for their heavyweight, well-funded journals. In those they proclaim their commitment to the cause of some or

other section of poor, exploited people including the *dalits*. But invariably those speeches or articles end in or serve only their vote-politics. Once the vote-ritual is over, their compassion for the poor vanishes into thin air. Only the ruling and exploitative capitalist system remains unabashed. Naturally, no good whatsoever is brought to people.

If this trend is not checked, capitalism garnering more and more strength will mount more vicious attacks, will grind people more and more under the wheel of their exploitative state machine and the bourgeois petty-bourgeois parties thriving upon the crumbs of the rulers will invent newer and newer routes and newer tricks to befool people, divide them and ride to power based on that division. The only road to deal with these ever-aggravating problems of life-livelihood of oppressed people including *dalits* is launching a united democratic movement on burning problems of their life because the downtrodden abjectly poverty stricken condition of *dalits* is an inalienable part of the ruthless capitalist oppression on suffering multitudes.

Who are *dalits*? Why are they called so?

But how does a section of people come to be designated as *dalits*? Who made them *dalits*?

Literally meaning *broken people*, *dalits* were formerly known also as *untouchables*. In the caste system, the age-old rigid social order created, eulogized and maintained by the dominant section of the society in India, who had also placed themselves at the higher or upper rung in the hierarchical order of the caste system, *dalits* were the people placed at the bottom of the system. As defined — and that definition was naturally framed by the dominant upper castes, — castes were determined by birth and were based upon the good deeds and sins of individual's past life. Castes also determined and controlled individual's life including marriages, daily scores, occupations and even residence, that is which part of the village or locality they should live in. This idea was made to be firmly entrenched in social mindset in the form of irrefutable belief. It made the system as rigid as to carry on for ages with awe and reverence. Among the four major

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Dalit issue

Dalits are inalienable part of exploited downtrodden masses

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(Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Sudras) castes, *Sudras* were ranked the lowest as they were to perform menial tasks required by the society. And *dalits* at the lowest rung of the hierarchical order of this system, were branded so low in the social hierarchy that they were termed *outcastes*, really a fifth group created to perform tasks considered too menial or degrading to be performed by members of other castes. Incredibly, these menial jobs are essential to keep the society moving. Yet, those performing these jobs and giving relief to others were slapped with outcaste tag. Along with this, the rigidity of the system simply pushed them to be doomed to maintain their position through generations and ever on. Thus as members of the lowest rung of the Indian society, *dalits* faced and still face discrimination at almost every level in every activity of life, from access to drinking water, education and medical facilities to restrictions on where they can live and more often than not what jobs they can have, which vary from the job of agricultural workers, almost three-quarters of the *dalit* workforce, to that of leather workers, street sweepers, cobblers, to manual "scavengers". The last-named group, considered the lowest of the low and officially estimated at one million, traditionally are responsible for digging village graves, disposing of dead animals, and cleaning human excreta. These jobs that protect the society from health hazards hardly provide enough income for *dalits* to feed their families let alone procuring other bare necessities of life. Going to school or receiving medical care is virtually a far cry for them. As a result, by and large *dalits* are impoverished, uneducated, and illiterate, even physically emaciated facing extreme deprivation and discrimination, even though they constitute over 16 per cent of the total population, figuring approximately 167 million.

Here we must underline this. The section of the exploited poor toiling masses known as *dalits*, who are branded lower castes and make almost invariably the poorest section of the society, apart from being subject to other kinds of oppressions, by all counts form an inalienable part of the vast broader masses of exploited toiling people ruthlessly oppressed by the ruling

capitalist system. Yes, among *dalits*, there is a handful of privilege-accumulating people, in the same way as there are privileged among other sections of toiling population. These privileged few, termed as the 'creamy layer', are actually created by the ruling capitalism and its agents by identifying among the *dalit* communities the aspirant individuals intending to enjoy wealth, luxury, and power in lieu of committed subservience to the oppressing rulers and virtually turning into their servants by utterly betraying the real interest of their own communities. The ruling capitalism projects the prosperity and affluence of this miniscule 'creamy layer' to claim how the *dalits* are coming out of the shackles of backwardness, abject poverty and social ostracism in 'democratic' India cruising along the path of 'progress'. But, by and large *dalits* belong inseparably to the downtrodden gruellingly impoverished have-nots.

Stamp dalit, a means to disunite people to foil their united fight against capitalism

Dominant higher castes, also surely and till today, form by and large the dominant richest strata of the society, particularly in villages because of peculiar fusion of the hierarchical set up of the old casteist system with the kulak-based rural scenario in decadent moribund capitalist society of our country in which democratization has remained truncated due to definite socio-historic reasons. Violence on *dalits* perpetrated by them seems to be driven in many cases by these higher caste landed gentry operating capitalist rural economy and by virtue of controlling economy also calling the shots in socio-cultural affairs. In order to keep the rural poor divided, maintain their dominance and ensure obedience of the oppressed to them, they by design refuse to allow *dalits* to own land so that *dalits* like bonded labour are forced to work on lands owned by this rural bourgeoisie as well as serve as their domestic hands at arbitrarily fixed substandard wages. This cruel economic oppression runs parallel with other cruel forms of socio-political violence and persecution, briefly referred above. Even if, under people's pressure, land is legally sanctioned anywhere to *dalit* families for cultivation, the unholy administration-bureaucracy-

landowner nexus works in a way that very few and that too those virtually signing a bond of perpetual allegiance to it can receive allotments. Naturally, nepotism and acquiescence to the ruling party play major role in this regard also. In recent years, the younger *dalit* generation are with great efforts getting into other jobs such as driving, painting and construction work, which provide them with slightly better earning. But in the present employment scenario, such jobs are hardly to be found, leave aside the problem of facing hazards and humiliation from their politically unconscious non-*dalit* colleagues made to think wrongly and possessing such disaffection for their *dalit* brethren by the vested interest in dying capitalism. Besides, shutting down of traditional labour-incentive industries is causing loss of so-called decent jobs for all. So the dream of a better life and some relief from the ongoing torture and discrimination continue to elude *dalit* populace.

Thus, even in this present age of digital India, an economically-educationally-socially backward section of the society continues to bear the stamp of *dalits*, put on them by an age-old caste system and preserved as well as nurtured by the obsolete reactionary corrupt capitalism. With this stamping, *dalits* are sought to be separated from the rest of the exploited masses. Thus is obfuscated the principal question before the toiling millions, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and region. And that principal question is why this hardship and sustaining of sub-human life of the increasing penury and misery-stricken people, *dalits* included? The answer is that the society, irrespective of communities-castes-religions etc., is basically divided into two segments: the few rich and the multitudes of poor masses, the owner class and the owned toilers. In other words, the ruling oppressors, the capitalists and their henchmen on the one side and the exploited, oppressed working masses on the other side. This is the class division now in vogue in capitalism as division between the ruling capitalist class and exploited working class and other section of toiling people. All problems of the society crop up basically from the clash of interests, from the basic contradictions between these two classes—more emphatically put as labour and capital. Other problems,

for instance the issues or problems of caste-creed-religion etc. all stem from this and come over and above this, though on occasions those assume significant dimensions.

Stamping a large mass of downtrodden people as *dalits*, also hinges upon this. In fact, it is an integral part of the frantic attempt of the rulers of this capitalist society and their henchmen to get over the situation of crisis created by none other than themselves and prolong their mutilated existence by thwarting united organized conscious upsurge of oppressed people rising above all divisiveness. Continuing with such categorization as SC- ST, OBC and along with them *dalits* is nothing but the attempt to divide the exploited people so that they cannot stand united against exploitative capitalism. Truly and though, based on regional or local factors, there are differences in the nature and intensity of oppression on these exploited people, even among the SC, ST, OBC or *dalits*, there can be no two opinion on the truth that these exploited masses by and large, and unquestionably are subject to extreme sufferings and plight, the root of which is decadent moribund capitalist system.

Absence of democratic movement aggravating the situation

The unfortunate part of the situation is that this sinister design is getting good dividend in absence of desired powerful united democratic movement, which, as indicated above, was and is needed by exploited people as the only way to pave the road for ultimate emancipation from capitalist exploitation. It was expected of those who clamour of Marxism, pose for democratic values and feign to be fighting for toiling people, would come forward in right earnest, shoulder the responsibility of building up such struggles involving all sections of the toiling masses including *dalits* based on correct thought approach and objective. But these pseudo-Marxists do not care to develop such desired movement step by step. The intent is not reflected even in the words and behaviours of these forces. Like any other bourgeois or petty bourgeois parties, the objective of these compromising forces between labour and capital is also to use these destitute *dalits* as

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Water Conflicts

Frustrate sinister bourgeois conspiracy to pit people against people over deliberately kept alive contentious issues

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To mention a few, the Ravi and Beas dispute between Punjab and Haryana, the Godavari water sharing dispute between Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, the Krishna water dispute between Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. All these go to show that it is imperative to frame a scientific and integrated national policy for water management, keeping in view the drinking water and irrigation needs of the people. Such a policy does not include simply some measure of water release and water flowage. To make it comprehensive it needs to include afforestation in catchment areas, judicious land use, rain water harvesting, recharge of ground water and other water conservation measures. Even to this day no central government, whether of the Congress or the BJP, has implemented any such policy.

Without going into details it may be recalled that as regards the Cauvery conflict the Water Dispute Tribunal had passed its final Award in 2007, allotting each state its share of water: namely, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry, the former two being the main disputants, each with a large part of the river basin. But this Award did not help to resolve the inter-state conflict and satisfy the disputants. This year both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu had received less rainwater than normal which has exacerbated the problem. When difficulty arises over river water sharing, it is possible to resolve the impasse if the governments of the contending states enter into a dialogue, approaching the issue with a scientific and pro-people attitude to find ways and means to tide over any crisis, and at the same time take remedial measures to address the problem on a long-term basis, by properly implementing well-planned, suitable measures for water conservation, water management and judicious land use. In a federal structure like ours, it is also incumbent on the central government to intervene, if necessary, and ensure proper settlement of the dispute. No matter how irreconcilable the conflict may appear, the fact remains that the interest of 95 % of the people are one and the same, irrespective of which state they live in, what community they belong to, irrespective of caste, creed and language. Their interest

and their needs are not antagonistically opposed to each other, as made out by the contending ruling parties, and clever bourgeois propaganda. They all need water; it is not that if one section gets water the other is bound to be deprived as the issue is being projected at times. The issue is that ways and means for fulfilling people's need for water have to be found: and measures taken up in a scientific manner to effectively tap other sources of water taking into account people's need and proceeding with pro-people approach. So, if along with remedial measures and proper monitoring of actual water position, scientific awareness is cultivated and sense of unity promoted among the people imbibing them with a higher culture, the conflict can be resolved amicably. But neither have the two contending state governments taken above course nor has the Centre set up in all these years the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Regulatory Authority to monitor the actual water flow at different places and ensure the technicalities of sharing the river water.

On the contrary, the Congress and AIADMK governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, respectively, have been fighting it out, and refusing to budge even an inch from their stands, putting up claims and counter claims, and dishing out facts selectively. If one government is suddenly turning off the tap, so to say, without a thought for necessity of people in the other state, the other government on its part is equally adamant in its demands, without a consideration for the consequences of people of the other state, and is moving the Supreme Court and suing for damages. In the ensuing battle they are causing irretrievable harm to the unity of people; pitting the people of one state against another by inflaming passion, resentment and parochial sentiment, while posing as the champion of their cause to derive electoral dividends, as elections are round the corner -- elections for local bodies in Tamil Nadu and for Assembly in Karnataka. Not just the ruling parties, but the bourgeois, petit bourgeois and social democratic parties of all political hues too have plunged into the fray to reap their harvest. A section of the media, not only local or regional, even claiming national character, too, is playing

their part in this conspiracy quoting 'facts' selectively to prove how this or the other state has been or is being deprived of water, or is acting in what way, in a bid to whip up parochial sentiments and instigate people of one state against another over such a sensitive and emotive issue. But how can this be in the interest of the people?

Long back in 1991 after violence had flared up over Cauvery dispute, the Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu State Committees of our party SUCI(C) in a joint statement said: *"We strongly feel that as the interests of those poor and middle peasants who have been traditionally depending on the Cauvery water shall not be undermined, so also the interest of those poor and middle peasants who could not utilize the water of Cauvery, because of the failures of their governments to arrange proper irrigation systems shall not be ignored. Keeping the interests of both sections of the people in view, and depending on the scientific and unbiased findings, based on data on availability of Cauvery waters by an impartial expert committee, an amicable settlement should be arrived at, without further delay. If it is found from facts that the requirements of both states cannot be met from the Cauvery water, then alternative sources, including tapping of ground water should also be seriously explored"*. The point was reiterated by us in 2007 (Proletarian Era, Dated, 01.05.2007).

Today, if we view the issue of inter-state river water conflict in isolation from the existing capitalist set up it is not possible to truly understand the problem and analyze it correctly. For capitalism, caught in ever growing crisis engendered by its own exploitative character, is desperate to divert the attention of people from the cause of their misery and grievances and foster dissension, division and fratricidal strife between the toiling masses. The capitalist class is mortally afraid of the unity of people, for it knows it well that if toiling people from different communities and states become conscious they will unite in mighty democratic movements against this obsolete and decadent system that has become rotten to the core which would spell their doom. So, the different governments, who are

subservient to their capitalist masters, keep problems and conflicts unresolved, and use these to drive division deep into the ranks of people in order to safeguard survival of the capitalist system, and to derive dividends at the hustings.

Today both the governments in Karnataka and in Tamil Nadu are posing as the champions of people's interest in their respective states. Yet can one forget that these same governments have not hesitated to ruthlessly implement the pro-monopoly, anti-people policies of globalization, privatization and liberalization, as do the governments of all political hues, be it at the central or state level, pushing the exploited masses across the country into utter ruination?

As knowledge grows and technology advances many new ways for making use of untapped sources of water, replenishing groundwater and water management in general have come up that can solve the existing problems. But the fact remains that capitalist rulers do not want to solve these problems: they want to keep these unresolved to bring them up from time to time as handle for dividing the people. And even if they take up some scheme purportedly to address these problems, their inherent anti-people approach, endemic corruption, wrong planning, bureaucratic bungling, involvement of vested interests, and ulterior political motives reduce these to nothing.

We call upon the people, particularly the peasants of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka not to fall victim to the nefarious games played by the governments, bourgeois, petit bourgeois and social democratic parties that are all seeking to prolong the lease of life of this exploitative and rotting capitalist system. Rather they should join together and jointly voice the demand of solving the problem by properly implementing the scientific measures for water management, afforestation and judicious land use, taking the people into confidence. Instead of quarrelling among themselves, they are to jointly fight against and pressurize the central as well as the state governments for implementation of the common demand. They need to unite to foil the conspiracy of the rulers to use the weapon of divide and rule while

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Odisha AIMSS holds protest rally at Bhubaneswar

Recently the Odisha Government issued liberal permission to open more liquor shops in the state with a target of earning Rs. 3300 crore revenue from the excise duty, double of the present earning. Protesting against this unjust decision of the Odisha Government, AIMSS Odisha State Committee organized a mammoth rally of two thousands women at State capital, Bhubaneswar, on 3 October, 2016. Along with the said issue, other demands on several burning issues were raised. Those included demands for banning obscenity in printing and electronic media, stopping propagation of pornography and vulgar pictures in internet, stringent action against the perpetrators of crime on women and

those involved in women and child trafficking, fulfilment of just demands of women working in unorganized sectors like ASHA, ANGANWADI, Mid-Day Meal Cooks, Domestic Help, etc. A memorandum was submitted to the chief minister by a delegation team led by the Odisha AIMSS State Vice-President Comrade Chhabi Mohanty. A protest meeting was held which was addressed by the AIMSS State President Comrade Binapani Das, who also conducted the meeting, the State Secretary Comrade Swayamprova Nayak and other leaders. The speakers condemned the anti-people and undemocratic attitude of the government and urged it to take necessary steps to fulfil all demands immediately.

Premchand-Saratchandra Birth Anniversary observed in Patna

On 3 October under the auspices of Premchand-Saratchandra Memorial Committee, birth anniversary of the two great humanists and progressive writer-litterateurs of the Indian Renaissance was observed at the Kalidas Ranganalaya in Patna, Bihar. The programme was presided over by the veteran member of the Committee and well known literature critic, Arun Shadwal, who in his address urged the students to study the literature of Premchand and Saratchandra, as these were still essential to fight the increasing cultural degeneration of the present time. Committee member and well known poet Jitendra Rathor also highlighted the relevance of the literary works of Premchand and Saratchandra even

today as the social problems depicted in those days crop out now and then still today. Secretary of the Committee Suresh Kumar conducted the proceedings. In his brief address he thanked the guests attending the programme. He also thanked the liberal support extended by the parents, teachers-professors- principals, musicians, artists, poets and writers towards making the extensive cultural competitions organized by the Committee for students from all levels of schools to universities. Prizes awarded were handed over by many of these intellectuals present. The programme was brightened with colourful and quality cultural performances by the students and artists of different schools and colleges and troupes of repute.

SUCI(C) holds massive protest demonstration at Karnal, Haryana

On 4 October a massive state level protest demonstration was held at Karnal in front of the Chief Minister's office against pro-capitalist, anti-people policies of the BJP government of the state and the Centre as well as against their going back upon pledges of 'achhe din' and others. Relentless exorbitant price rise and unemployment have totally disoriented people's life, including even life of highly educated or skilled youth. Debt-trapped peasants are being pushed towards suicides. Education, health facilities, electricity, drinking water, road or rail journey fuel and edible oil, pulses and vegetables everything are getting dearer every day. Women and children are living a total insecure life. Voices of protest are being throttled, labour laws are being changed with eyes on the interests of the ruling capitalist class. Syllabii are being filled with blind superstitious unscientific obscurantist ideas. Communalism and casteism under the garb of

reservation are being fanned up to shatter people's unity and drag them into fratricidal clashes. On the face of all these the governments are only concerned about the monopolists, providing them with relief from bank loans to the tune of lakhs of crore of rupees, while people are being taxed heavily. In the interests of the indigenous or foreign monopolists, they are raising slogans of 'Make in India', 'Start Up India', 'Skill India' or 'Ease of Doing Business', etc. Along with these, allowing 100% FDI only attests to the anti-people, anti-national policies of the Modi government. Summing up, the situation urgently demands powerful united people's movement. To that end, the 4 October demonstration was organized by the SUCI(C), which was participated by thousands of people from all over the state of Haryana. It was addressed among others by Comrade Satyawan, Member, Central Committee and Haryana State Secretary.



Huge response to sale of Party literature at the book stalls set up during Durga Puja in West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam and Tripura

Dalit issue

Reservation proved neither the cause of, nor solution to the problem

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nothing but vote banks or stepping stone for riding to power. So when they talk of *dalit* interest or make show of *dalit* movements, such movements like any other movement of theirs remain confined within the bounds of bourgeois vote-politics. And wherever desired democratic movements of oppressed people are either weak or absent, the ruling capitalist class with a sizeable section of rich privileged upper castes in its camp and fold, use this abhorrent caste-system and accompanying stampings on various sections of exploited people like the *dalit* categorization to throw people into confusion so that they could continue humiliating these wretched have-nots and subject them to virulent oppression. The forces subservient to the capitalist class, political-social- administrative or otherwise join the fray to press the poor more inhumanly under the steamroller of oppression on them. Even at many places and on many occasions, out-and-out bourgeois-petty-bourgeois parties have sprung up for the purpose of rising to power through vote playing upon *dalits*' problems and exploiting the abject plight and penury of the *dalit* people. After riding to power they, however, lose all steam and enthusiastically serve the rich, the capitalists and become cog and screw of the oppressive capitalist machine sparing none including *dalits* for whom they shed so many pond-full of crocodile tears. Let oppressed *dalit* masses harbour no illusion about such self-styled pro-*dalit* outfits often propped up by ruling capitalism from behind to serve its vested class interest. Their experience would prove how these so called *dalit* outfits had more often than not betrayed their cause which is inseparably linked with the cause of all oppressed people. Have they not seen *dalit* leaders sharing power with declared upper caste parties and thereby make fortunes like any other bourgeois leaders? Have not some of the leaders of such self-proclaimed *dalit* outfits become MLAs, MPs, ministers and even chief minister in alliance with or being backed by mainstream bourgeois parties? Has that brought any succour to the immense suffering of theirs? Some dalits have also left the ambit of Hindu religious community and adopted neo-Buddhism as new religious identity. Has that alleviated their poverty? In the past also, many *dalit* people

embraced Christianity or Islam (this was stated by Vivekananda himself). Has that mitigated their hardship? These are the questions oppressed *dalit* brethren and honest sympathizers to their cause should seriously think over.

Is 'reservation' a way out?

For seeking an answer to the question as to what is the way out, be it from honest intentions or under confusion or guided by some ulterior motive, there were and, there still are, people to suggest reservation as a measure to solve the problem, to help *dalits* and other sections of downtrodden people to earn relief from the problems of casteism and related issues. Even a man of the stature of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, suggested some way for the so-called lower castes guided by his own ideas and outlook; his followers are treading the same path. But has the solution been reached or does it show any inkling of possibility? Rather is not oppression on *dalits* mounting, as reports reveal?

Then where lies the problem? All right-thinking people as well as oppressed millions including *dalit* have-nots need to realize that the growing unemployment problem has provided the most fertile ground for the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties, more particularly by the casteist and regional-communal-parochial forces, to play the nefarious game of reservation to make their political careers. To mislead vast unemployed masses, they raise slogans like 'reservation for the downtrodden' or 'jobs to the sons of the soil'. As a consequence, an overwhelming downtrodden population of our country today stand divided into mutually two hostile camps, 'reservationists' and 'anti-reservationists'. There is no job but there is ongoing mutual fight and bickering over reservation. This is exactly what the rulers want. Let people remain busy in some illusory things, turn guns against each other, exhaust their energy on fratricidal feuds unmindful of such feuds and conflicts being internecine in nature ultimately giving dividend to the ruling bourgeoisie. This is why on the face of rapidly growing unemployment problem, the bourgeois, petty-bourgeois, communal, casteist and the regional parties are inciting one section of the unemployed against another by

blaming the other to be the cause of their joblessness and thus creating mutual hatred and animosity. And now the situation has reached such a painful stage that centring round this issue, fratricidal clashes are taking place and claiming lives of innocents. There are incidents of self-immolation as well. Is it very difficult to understand that had there been jobs for all, would have there been any question of reservation? Then what exactly is this issue?

Nobody can miss that it is a time when in inevitable consequence of endemic crisis of dying capitalism, jobs are on the wane; unemployment is ever mounting; workers are robbed of jobs; no new jobs are created, peasants are being evicted from land and turned into migrant workers with barely any certainty of survival. Accentuating market crisis caused by rapidly falling purchasing power of the people due to their ongoing pauperization is leading to economic recession. Leave apart setting up of newer labour-intensive industries, even the existing ones are going out of operation. Automation, computerization, high-tech industries bring in further devastation with prevalence of capital-intensive industries based on a meagre and that too highly skilled work-force. Even government and semi-government enterprises have virtually declared moratorium on fresh recruitment, forcing people towards early retrenchment and accepting lower wages etc. Just the other day, it came out that for 5000 class four level jobs in West Bengal government, 26 lakh applications including from some Ph D holders have poured in. It is this stark reality that is being hidden or camouflaged from the oppressed people particularly the youth who see no future for themselves. In order to disorient them from proper remedial roadmap, the carrot of reservation is dangled before them to push them into confusion and mutual distrust and disaffection.

What is the outcome? If the anti-reservationists reflect upon the question dispassionately then it will become clear to them that if there were no reservation at all, even then the available job opportunities would not have been enough to provide jobs even to a small fraction of the total unemployed. On the other hand, if the reservationists examine the problem

and the history of our country after introduction of reservation, they will also find that if all the jobs were made reserved, then also other than a very small section even of those belonging to *dalits* and other backward castes, would not have got jobs. In fact, reservation policy so far has benefitted only a tiny privileged section of *dalits* and other communities and the condition of the vast majority of the oppressed people has not improved by an iota. Reservation has been proved to be neither cause of nor solution to the deep-rooted problem of unemployment. In fact, in any and every capitalist country, in this period of unprecedented depressions, which world capitalism is passing through, to talk of solving the problem of unemployment through measures like reservation or by any other such means is only to mislead people and satisfy petty sectarian ends of winning over this or that section of the exploited masses in petty electoral interest.

The situation has come to such a pass that on one side, not only the most deprived, downtrodden section of the people, even those sections and communities which once enjoyed a little affluence and for whom there was no question of reservation to be brought in, are also now clamouring for it. These relatively better off sections along with others not covered by 'reservation' are instigated against their jobless counterpart on the plea that because of reservation, they are deprived of employment. Those enjoying reservation are made hostile towards the other equally exploited unemployment-ridden communities of toiling masses as if it is those 'non-reservation' sections who are taking away jobs. The truth is thus concealed from all the sections of the oppressed masses. Repeated misleading, fomenting of sectarian passion and peddling palpable falsehood by interested quarters have obscured their vision so much that they fail to see how the ruthlessly oppressive bourgeoisie and its lackeys are pulling all the strings from behind to embroil them in fratricidal feud even blood bath over reservation. To reiterate once more, the more intensified are the people versus people conflicts, the more advantageous it is for the rulers to disrupt people's unity, fraternity and solidarity which they dread most.

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Dalit issue

United movement based correct line and higher culture — the only way out for downtrodden including *dalits*

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The problem cannot be addressed without the class approach

Oppressed people including *dalits* will have to understand the historical fact that all capitalist countries, including ours, are having two opposing classes — the capitalists owning the means of production and the vast masses of labouring masses who sell their labour power. The former is the exploiter, the latter exploited. Capitalism is breeding all evils, aberrations and miseries. It is only by overthrowing this dying, exploitative capitalist system and replacing it by a system in which ownership of the means of production would change from private to social, and where, unlike in capitalism, production will not be meant for maximization of profit by very few capitalists-monopolists, but for meeting the growing needs of the society, both material and spiritual, that can solve the burning problems including that of *dalits*. For this, as we have stated above, a powerful countrywide united democratic movement on demand for solving the burning problems of life, more particularly on demands for education and jobs for all has to be developed involving all sections of toiling people including *dalits*, the

interests of whom are common and identical. In course of developing that movement based on higher culture and under correct leadership, both pro-reservation as well as anti-reservation attitudes have to be given up and unity of oppressed people cemented rock-solid.

When reservation was introduced in the country, the genuine Marxist forces brought out all these points and hinted that not only would this prescription of reservation not bring any relief to the target population, even this would keep them unconscious of their real enemy and would thus drag them into confusion and frustration. Yet the voice was lost in the high pitched hype deliberately created by the ruling bourgeoisie and its bootlickers to shield the truth.

It is now high time to recognize that in our class-divided society, the problems of *dalits* cannot be solved without this working class approach, without developing any movement for this cause on the class approach and class ideology-culture of the oppressed working class and, at the same time without developing and strengthening the genuine working class party to lead those movements. It should not be missed or disdained that it is only a genuine revolutionary working class party which can stick to the gun

honestly, sincerely and till the end. If this vital aspect is ignored, desired solution would never come by.

Solution of the problem lies in revolutionary overthrow of capitalism

So, as could be seen from the above discussion, there are in fact two problems; one coming from the capitalism, the basic cause and over and above that, the added oppression on *dalits* which is aggravating to cross all limits. Side by side, in the name of granting reservation or not, the movement on the *dalits'* cause is being jeopardized. All the parties, the big bourgeois parties as well as their regional counterparts, and even the social democrats are practising this cheap stunt-based vote politics. The truth is being white-washed to conceal that the problem is intimately linked with class exploitation and rule. The only antidote lies in making people conscious about this truth.

So, it needs to be reiterated that without launching united movements of toiling masses comprising both *dalits* and non-*dalits* based on higher ideology of Marxism-Leninism, on the edifice of higher proletarian culture-morality-ethics and spurred by rational mental

make-up and scientific methodology of analysis, the oppressed millions including immensely suffering *dalits* would not be able to remedy the situation so inimical to them. Till then and so long as the capitalism will remain to rule over, there will persist, even accentuate, the terrible, ever-sharpening economic social cultural exploitation of capitalism, plus the problems hinging upon *dalit* issue. The stark reality will only stare hopelessly in the face of exploited masses, to demand that they recognize the truth and stand up courageously to right action in correct line under correct leadership shunning all shades of obstructive, divisive and retrogressive ideas and thoughts. It is only in the cultural ambience of such a sustained powerful democratic movement based on higher ethics and morality and premised on correct base political line conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement that all artificially created divisiveness among the toiling masses and proletariats would gradually be wiped out and their fraternal struggling unity would be so cemented as to send chill down the spine of the ruling bourgeoisie and its henchmen playing this treacherous game of dividing people.

AIDYO-led Karnataka youth conference held in Mysore

The 4th State Conference of AIDYO was organized in Mysore on 22 and 23 September, 2016. Various problems plaguing the youth such as unemployment, cultural degeneration, alcohol and drug menace, casteism and communalism, etc., were discussed in the conference. The conference was attended by more than 3000 participants in the open session held on 22 September and about 425 young delegates in the delegate session that was held on 23 September. A massive procession preceded the open programme which was inaugurated by veteran Kannada litterateur Siddalinga Pattanashetty. He said 'Youth in the country are directionless and aimless today. Only a fighting organization like AIDYO can show a way to the youth. You have a historic task on hand'. Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest, veteran writer

Devanoor Mahadeva explained 'the root cause of the problems faced by the youth in the country is Corporate LPG policy pursued by the governments. The governments are pro-rich and anti-people. All the resources of the nation are pledged to the growth of corporate sector. Every sector of the society is being privatized and role of private capital is growing. This must be resisted'.

Speaking as one of the guests in the inauguration Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Central Committee member and State Secretary, SUCI(C), narrated the task ahead of youth movement in the country. He said 'in the class struggle to achieve emancipation of the working class, the youth have a particularly important role to play'. Reacting to a question on 'violence' he explained 'during class struggle, when violence is imposed on the working class, it

will not shy away by uttering the mantra of 'non-violence' but confront with full force taking it up as a historic challenge. AIDYO must organize the youth throughout the length and breadth of the country and bring them in the vortex of struggle.'

Veteran social activist Pa. Mallesh, who was the Chairman of the Reception Committee formed to make preparation for the conference said that 'the dedication and efforts of the activists of AIDYO in making the event a success is commendable.' Comrade B R Manjunath, All India President of AIDYO, also addressed the gathering. Comrade Ramanjanappa Aldalli, President, AIDYO, Karnataka State Committee presided over the inaugural programme.

In the delegate session having participation from 20 districts of the

state, Comrade K. Radhakrishna exhorted the young delegates that 'the roots of AIDYO lay with the glorious petty-bourgeois revolutionary sections of our freedom struggle as shown by the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. You must intensify life struggle to acquire higher character in life. AIDYO upholds only those fighters whose struggle laid the foundation of future working class struggles in the country. Great revolutionary freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Netaji Subhashchandra Bose were attracted to Socialism and to Bolshevik Revolution. Today's youth must be taught the right history and must be readied for future struggles'.

The conference elected Comrades M Umadevi as President, and G S Kumar as Secretary with 6-member State Secretariat and 21-member state committee.

Hyderabad district AIDYO holds youth conference with a lot of enthusiasm

The Hyderabad District Youth Conference was organised at Press Club Basheerbagh, Hyderabad on 4 October, 2016.

On this occasion an exhibition was arranged on the contributions of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, great secular humanist and towering personality of Indian renaissance. The conference was inaugurated by Prof. P. L. Vishweshwar Rao, former Principal Arts College and Dean Osmania University, Hyderabad. He observed that the governments have become insensitive to the problems of people. Education is being sold. No jobs are being provided. Farmers are committing suicides. Workers are not getting proper salary, but the ministers in power are not at all worried about that. On the other hand they are instigating communalism. They are dictating what to talk, what to eat, what to wear, etc. The youth must raise voice on this injustice, he said. He hailed the movements organised by AIDYO and he called for further big movements to be organised.

Comrade Ch. Murahari, Hyderabad District Secretary, SUCI(C) said that the problems of today's society are the outcome of the system i.e. capitalism. Hence the youth must develop the movements with that ultimate goal of anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

Comrade S. Govindarajulu, State Secretary, All India Save Education Committee exposed the design of central govt on war. He said that war brings taxes to the people and profits

to the capitalists. He appealed to the youth to raise voice against wars.

A new AIDYO Hyderabad District committee was formed with Comrades K. Bharath as President and N. Sailaja as Secretary.

Tripura state AIDYO conference

A convention on a 7-point charter of demand including job to all unemployed organized by Tripura AIDYO was held on 30 September in Agartala. It was inaugurated by Comrade Arun Bhowmik, Tripura State Secretary, SUCI(C). After the youth delegates had spoken. Comrade Mahiuddin Mannan, Vice-President, AIDYO, dealt on the various problems confronting the youth and how the power that be is trying utmost to smash the moral backbone of theirs with a free flow of vulgarism, sex-perversion and all other kinds of anti-life thoughts. He called upon all to build up a powerful youth movement in the state based on the invaluable teachings and guideline provided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. The convention elected Comrades Bhabatosh Dey and Shyamal Das as President and Secretary respectively of the new state body. Comrade Sanjay Chowdhury, former state president, presided over.

AIKKMS condemns brutal killing of two adivasi peasants in Jharkhand

In a statement issued on 02-10-16, All India Krishak Khet Majdoor Sangathan (AIKKMS) strongly condemned the inhuman brutal killings of peasants and adivasis in Jharkhand by police yesterday at Badla village in Hazaribag district.



Comrade C K Lukose, member, Central Committee, SUCI(C) addressing at Kollam

They were struggling hard to save their land being grabbed under force at unjustified terms and conditions denying the genuine compensation and rehabilitation. Jharkhand government and state administration have been acting as the agents of oppression and suppression without following even minimum norms of natural justice, even violating the promises to the affected people. AIKKMS demanded a high level judicial enquiry, withdrawal of police and all type of suppressive activities with immediate effect, stringent action against all those police and administrative officers responsible for these killings and injuries and due compensation to the family of those killed and injured and stoppage of wrongful acquisition of the land.

Kerala AIDSO organises 9th State Students' Conference

The 9th state conference of the AIDSO, Kerala chapter, was held at Kollam on October 7, 8, and 9.

In a manner befitting the revolutionary fervour that characterises AIDSO, the revolutionary students' organisation in the country, the conference began with a rally of the student

representatives from across the state. The rally was followed by a rousing inaugural ceremony which was held at the Public Library Hall. The conference was inaugurated by Comrade Kamal Sain, President, AIDSO. Comrade Voltaire, President, AIDSO, Tamil Nadu Chapter also spoke on the occasion. In the evening, a 'Save Education, Save Culture' Meet was organised. The meet was inaugurated by Kuripuzha Sreekumar, a renowned poet in Kerala, and also the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the conference. Comrade G. S. Padmakumar, Secretary, Kollam District, SUCI (C) and M. Shajarkhan, Secretary, All India Save Education Committee, Kerala Chapter were among those who spoke.

On October 8, the two-day Delegate Session was inaugurated by Comrade C. K. Lukose, Member, Central Committee and Kerala State Secretary, SUCI(C). Comrades Jaison Joseph, and V. N. Rajashekar were among the speakers. The conference elected a new State Committee with Comrades Binu Baby as President and P. K. Prabhaskar as Secretary. Comrade V. Venugopal, Member, Kerala State Secretariat, SUCI(C) delivered the concluding message.

Inter-state water conflicts

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failing all these years to use water for drinking and irrigation purposes of the states concerned. If people are to cast off their fetters and step out from an unbearable crushing and dehumanizing existence and march forward along the road of emancipation, it is precisely their unity that is absolutely essential – the unity of the overwhelming majority of people. We appeal to the people not to lose heart and reject this dirty election politics while raising the demand that the problem is to be solved by properly implementing the scientific measures for water management, afforestation and judicious land use, taking the people into confidence. It is only mighty democratic movements based on higher culture and ethics and correct base political line provided by a correct leadership that can lead them towards their aspired emancipation. There is no other way.

Against Unemployment
Communalism
Obscenity and
growing atrocities
on women

**2nd
All India
Youth
Conference**
22 - 24 October, 2016
Muktakash Manch (Nriyoo Kala Mandir) • Patna • Bihar

**22 October
Open Session**
Main Speaker: **Comrade Satyawan**
Member Central Committee, SUCI(C)
Speakers: **Comrade Pratibha Nayak**
General Secretary, AIDYO
Comrade Deepak Kumar
Vice-President, AIDYO
Delegates from abroad and others

**23-24 October
Delegate Session**
Main Speaker: **Comrade Provash Ghosh**
General Secretary, SUCI(C)

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Concluding Speech: Comrade Provash Ghosh
General Secretary, SUCI(Communist)

Inaugural Speech: Comrade Asit Bhattacharya
Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C)

AIKKMS

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