

# Proletarian Era

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## STALIN MEMORIAL MEETING AT GHATSILA

# World Proletariat will remember Stalin as a great Communist Leader

On March 5, 2000, with due solemnity, 47th death anniversary of Comrade J.V. Stalin was observed in the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism and Shibdas Ghosh Thought. In the morning, the Red Flag was hoisted by Comrade Tapas Dutta, a Central Committee member. Floral tributes were paid by Comrades Dutta, Sitesh Dasgupta another Central Committee member and Malay Bose on behalf of the Study Centre. The memorial meeting was held in the overcrowded General Assembly Hall with Comrade Dutta as President and General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukhrjee as main speaker.

Comrade Dutta said in his address that the worldwide hate campaign by the bourgeois media took inspiration from the de-Stalinisation scheme, first launched by the revisionist Khrushchev leadership. The imperialists, capitalists and revisionists want to erase all memory of Stalin. But Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed clearly that forgetting Stalin's teachings, one cannot correctly grasp Marxism-Leninism in the present era. Only under Stalin, the USSR grew as a mighty socialist state, inspired confidence in the workers all over the world and unleashed a worldwide current of national liberation struggles, proletarian revolutions and progressive movements. But

Stalin's line was discarded by the revisionists. And how the situation is now changed ! The US imperialists are plunging the world in war now. They have destroyed Iraq, Yugoslavia, isolated Cuba. And the BJP Government is welcoming Bill Clinton — the President of this very imperialist superpower ! Imperialist Clinton is arriving as the guest of India — a country with such long tradition of anti-imperialist movement! Could anybody imagine it before? How could it happen? It could happen because of the fall of the socialist camp and also because of the absence of democratic movement here. This is why it is

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## Anti-Imperialist Convention, Delhi

# Capital reverberates with slogan : GO BACK CLINTON, NO TO CLINTON

The first salvo of people's protest against the visit of imperialist chieftain Bill Clinton to India was fired in New Delhi by the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum. On the 10th of March, an All India Citizens' Convention against Imperialism organised by the Forum at Sapru House in the heart of the capital city saw a rekindling of the fire of India's anti-imperialist tradition. The Indian bourgeoisie has systematically dampened this tradition over the years through its use of mass media and control over education. But the captivating illusions created by the bourgeois propaganda machines cannot allay the rage and the pain of a people constantly under imperialist-capitalist attack. Expressing the feeling of millions of Indians suffering under the attack of imperialism-capitalism, hundreds of people marched from Tilak Bridge to Sapru House shouting slogans and waving placards and banners, "Killer Clinton, Go Back, Go Back" and "No to War-monger Clinton". The auditorium at Sapru House was filled to capacity as people from all walks of life heard a group of eminent citizens

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(Top) Dais of the Citizens' Convention. Justice Krishna Iyer speaking. From left — Jayati Ghosh, Sunanda Sanyal, Sukomal Dasgupta, Sushil Mukherjee, N. Sharma, N A Karim, Satyavrata, Leone Reinhold and Dilip Chandulal. (Below) A section of the gathering at Sapru Hall, New Delhi

# BJP-led Government Trying to Foist Fascist Education Policy

NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) has come up with sets of new proposals for young learners at school level. These include, inter alia, compulsory religious education for school students and also making optional the learning of mathematics and science from class VIII. It is holding regional workshops, involving state school education ministers, government officials and teachers' organisations to 'clarify' its new stand. In the second such workshop held at Calcutta in February, Mr J S Rajput, its Director, while justifying the need for religious training observed: 'we stand for value-based education, the Indian culture and tradition.'

Before going into the merit of the proposal, let us refer to the BJP-led Central government's some recent moves in the field of education. Of late some key officials of the NCERT were replaced by men belonging to the Sangh Parivar. Similar actions were taken earlier for the Indian Council for Historical Research and the Indian Council for Social Science Research, the two national level institutes of importance, when their chiefs were changed. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, the Union Human Resource Development Minister, has been pursuing consistently introduction of Sanskrit as compulsory subject and Saraswati Bandana as a theme of recital during prayer-time for all at school and the recasting of text books on history in RSS way. 'Vedic Mathematics' and 'Hindu Physics' are two subjects which they also plan to introduce. All these indicate that the BJP since assuming power has been pursuing a hidden agenda in the field of education and culture. NCERT's present move must be part of this all out BJP game-plan.

By floating this proposal the BJP thereby tries to build up an image that it also feels serious concern for the declining standard of values in the society and adopts measures to restore it. That moral and ethical standard is falling, is not a matter of dispute and all sensible people feel serious concern about it. But the point is that the proposal is coming from a party like BJP whose moral standard is very much doubtful. What standard of value the party does itself reflect in the country's political and social life? The party of much publicised 'value-based' politics has surpassed all previous records in adopting unscrupulous means and associating with corrupt politicians in climbing to power and clinging to it. In the run up for the 1998, 12th Lok Sabha elections, it forged alliance with Ms Jayalalitha whom it had earlier labelled as the 'queen of corruption' and Mr Sukh Ram, protesting against whose telecom-corruption it had stalled the proceedings of the parliament for days. On assumption of power after those elections, the BJP for protecting Jayalalitha selected the law minister as per her choice, and the probe process was manipulated by changing the concerned officers according to her will. During the 13 days in power in the 11th Lok Sabha as well as in the 12th after the threat of no confidence motion was admitted, the BJP went for all-out horse-trading to attain the required majority. Before the election to the present Lok Sabha it formed the NDA. But if the people question what valued principle was behind the formation of the NDA, the ruling combine it leads, what answer would it provide? The parties or individuals who only the other day were arch rivals of it and hurled criticisms at one another, became friends and ultimately alliance partners overnight after the election was announced. The record is that in all the elections it associated itself with criminals, anti-socials and mafia dons and took their help criminal practices to make their nominees return. This party did not even hesitate to nominate mafia dons and criminals in Parliament and Assembly elections. The leaders of the party who wax eloquent about values, are occasionally found raising slogans against corruption but charges of corruption have already been raised even against Mr Advani and Mr Vajpayee. Instances of such display of 'values' by

this party abound. Can people rest faith on it for promoting social values?

Let us now consider the BJP's conception of values. According to their views, it is religion and religion only that can infuse values in the people. Now, is the term religion used here in a way generally used in this multi-religious country? The cat is out of the bag when we see, they mean Hindu religion only. This point will be discussed later. On the first point, it may be said that laws of development of human civilisation do not corroborate that religion alone can instill values. In fact religious values is one of the many value-concepts that emerged down the ages in the civilisation. Human society, in general, gives birth to a particular concept of ethics and morality conducive to that particular stage of social development; this sense of value provides guidance to the people so long that system exists. Ideas of newer form of social system gradually grows in the womb of the older one and through revolutionary transformation, the older system disappears, yielding place to the new. The new system comes and brings in its wake a new set of values conducive to its own necessity.

Following these laws of social development at a particular stage religious values emerged, flourished and served the society. More particularly, during the period of slave system, some religion played very effective role in developing people's fight against social oppression and injustice. This fight in turn gave birth to a galaxy of personalities having higher ethical and moral values. While recognising this very role of religion in the social evolution, it should also be remembered that for historical reasons, time came when religious values yielded place to new values based on bourgeois humanist ideals. This is historical truth and any refusal to accept this is a denial of the course of development of human society and social science. Though it is not expected from a party which distorts history, rewrites it as per its own requirement without any scruple and demolishes a historical monument like Babri Masjid for petty political gain, to accept historical truth.

These so-called protagonists of 'religious-values' would have to answer a moot question

how they regard the towering personalities like Rousseau, Voltaire in Europe; Rammohan, Vidyasagar, Phoolle, Tilak, Premchand, Saratchandra, Bhagat Singh and others in India and such other personalities in the countries who led the renaissance movement and became instrumental in freeing the social, cultural and political life from the influence of religion and paved the way for secular democratic concept of life and secular humanism. It is due to their ceaseless struggle against religious superstitions, bigotry and dogmatism that secular democratic concepts, thoughts and values came to be established in the society. All secular concepts start with non-recognition of any supernatural entity and centre round man and man only. Therefore, those stalwarts of renaissance movement wanted to induce an uncompromising mind against all blind faiths. That is why Vidyasagar observed: "That the Vedanta and Sankhya are false systems of philosophy is no more a matter of dispute." None could persuade him to go to a temple even for once in his life time. Will the BJP call Vidyasagar, the most uncompromising character of Indian Renaissance as a man devoid of values?

We can refer here to an article of Saheed-e-azam Bhagat Singh written in the condemned cell weeks before he went to the gallows. A strong disbeliever and atheist as he was, he was approached by others to rest faith in the supernatural power at least in the last days. In reply he wrote: "I know in the present circumstances my faith in God would have made my life easier, my burden lighter, and my disbelief in Him has all the circumstances too dry, and the situation may assume too harsh a shape. A little bit of mysticism can make it poetical. But I do not want the help of any intoxication to meet my fate. I am a realist. I have been trying to overpower the instinct in me by the help of reason." [*Why I am an atheist*]. Do the ideologues of the Sangh Parivar denounce Saheed-e-azam for his atheism?

Let us judge the question from another angle. If religion has the eternal power as claimed by the BJP to influence people for the ages to come, they should provide answer to why it was historically exhausted and superseded in the period of renaissance? All of them were not people of common standard. Why did a person of the stature of Raja Rammohan write to Lord Amherst, the Viceroy, while commenting on the establishment of Sanskrit College, "The pupils will there (Sanskrit College) acquire what was known two thousands years ago, with the addition of vain and empty subtleties since produced by speculative men..."? Why did he add in this letter: "...as the improvement of the native population is the object of the government it will consequently promote a more liberal and enlightened system of instruction, embracing mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry and anatomy with other useful sciences..."? Will the protagonists of reintroducing Sanskrit education and making optional the teaching of mathematics

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# BJP Trying to Destroy Rationality and Scientific Bent of Mind

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and science from class VIII dare to answer these questions?

That BJP had an altogether different intention is clear from its prescription of what religious study the learners would be subjected to. Its advocacy of religious training should not be interpreted as being in favour of studying any religion. That party is interested in promoting the teaching of Hindu religion only is amply clear from Mr. Rajput's version that the NCERT means Indian culture and tradition. So in the name of education reform whither BJP is going? Is it not pursuing the hidden agenda of dividing the country on communal and religious lines? Yes, there is a great appeal of value-based education in people's minds. Also they may have weakness regarding their religion. But this feeling for their religious faith has nothing to do with the BJP's agenda of dividing them on communal basis. Then why they are capitalising all these for a petty interest? So education, values — all are ploys at their hands to hoodwink the millions. They are out to hoax the people using their concern for value-oriented education. This is utter dishonesty on the part of the party leading the ruling coalition of NDA. Now, if the BJP's prescription is accepted and implemented, it is clear from our previous discussion that neither education nor values would be promoted. Then what actually it would promote? The answer is clear when it is seen that they like to make religious education compulsory on one hand and mathematics and science optional on the other. If from a very tender age the students are subjected to blind faith and obscure ideas of religion and the teaching of science and mathematics is made optional, what would be the fate of them? What would be the fate of the country as a whole? In the formative stage of mind at tender age mathematics and science develop reasoning faculty and scientific bent of mind. They learn how to differentiate between the right and the wrong on the basis of reasoning. So science and mathematics education is very much necessary for all the students. But they are discouraging it on a peculiar plea that it would give birth to a kind of 'Ugra Yuktibad'

(fanatic rationality). Thanks to the BJP ideologues for their valuable piece of contribution in vocabulary! A man can be either fanatic when he suffers from blind faith or rational when he is guided by reason. But how one can be a mixture of these two opposite characteristics is up to the BJP leadership to clarify. In fact they are prompted by sinister motive of keeping away the young minds from the real process of developing rationality. It is nothing but a crime against civilisation.

Again in the name of religious training why they are up to reintroduce a course content which were discarded 200 years back? Do they not know that our predecessors, during the period of national movement fought hard to introduce modern education based on science, mathematics, scientific philosophy and others in place of the course content of middle ages? So is it not true that what imperialist rulers intended to teach our students and against which our national leaders waged relentless battle, the present BJP leadership is out to reintroduce these days? Have the present BJP leaders better perceptions than the renaissance stalwarts? Is this not trying to put the clock of history back?

So, the entire proposal, if it is implemented, would in the long run dehumanize the students. They would come out of their institutions with fossilised minds, devoid of any rationality. This would be an ideal ground for fascism. What BJP is out to do? To promote values or fascism?

Now, why the BJP is doing all these? In this era of acute crisis of capitalism, with the mounting crisis in every sphere of life people's discontent is rising and is going out of reach of the ruling parties to contain. No bourgeois party, be it BJP or not, can change the plight of the people by any means. They have now taken recourse to manipulate the field of education and culture. They are out to interfere in the process of development of mental faculty of the people. They conspire to stifle it and with it rational thinking. Because rationality, and scientific reasoning, the products of humanist ideals and principles have become counterproductive to the

bourgeoisie. This makes man think over the cause behind his plight and the present sorry state of affairs in the society. Once the bourgeoisie had to launch fight to free the people from age-old obscurantist ideas and blind faith in order to encourage rationality to develop. But today all lofty ideals of bourgeois humanism pose danger to their existence. So kill them, choke them, stifle them, raise wanton slogans against Submerge the people in all sorts of decadence and degeneration. Teach them all anti-logic and anti-science. Promote all obscure, blind and fanatic ideas. Put the clock back. Say no to philosophical aspect of science that gives birth to scientific bent of mind. Give people that minimum dose of science-education which enables them to run the capitalist production machines and war-industries. In brief, dehumanize the people by regimenting their thought. All this would pave the ground for fascism, the most dreaded enemy of mankind. If the bourgeoisie become successful in this conspiracy, they would never have to ponder over the threat from any dissenting voice from the people at large.

It has already been mentioned that there is a crisis of values in society for which all well-meaning people feel serious concern. In fact, this is not the problem of this country alone. This is a general crisis in the countries the world over. In the western countries the problem is far more critical. Since the capitalist system is mainly responsible for this, with its crisis mounting day by day, the crisis of values is becoming more and more severe. So long capitalism would exist, this process of degeneration would continue to destroy whatever moral and democratic values have been remaining in the society. The only way out from this situation lies in building up of anti-capitalist movement. People would engage themselves in fight against all sorts of oppression, exploitation and injustice in society. Politics centering round the present petty electoral power of the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties would be overpowered by the struggle of the exploited millions. A new concept of values conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution would then be grasped by the people. This is the need of the hour.

## Bank Employees' Unity Forum

### Emerges as the only fighting organisation of bank employees

On 27th of February Moradabad, a city in UP witnessed a historic event. The bank employees of the state (divided into 81 districts) overwhelmingly rose in revolt against the old and compromising leadership of the union leadership and founded an organisation of their own through its first conference.

In the main resolution adopted unanimously by the Conference, attended by about 700 delegates from more than 40 districts and observers from different states, contended:

"After suffering for long from betrayal and treachery of the leadership of old and established unions like the AIBEA, NCBE, BEFI etc. and being faced with imminent danger of losing jobs in lakhs coupled with reversal of service conditions, gained through long struggles, the bank employees are convinced that a new union with new leadership, sincere in struggling spirit has emerged as a historic necessity.

Not to respond to this is to commit suicide by surrendering to the multifarious attack coming

down in the forms of VRS, redeployment, forced duty beyond working hours, seven day working multi-shift duties, extension of computers to cover almost all jobs, closure of branches, threats of compulsory reduction of staff, freezing of wages and of wage reduction etc."

"...In this concrete context, this convention resolves to fight every onslaught that the management is bringing down. It pledges democratic process of functioning and to be free

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**Make 11th May All India General Strike a Success — NPMO**



# Clinton's Visit Condemned in Delhi Convention

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from all over India. The auditorium was adorned with banners and posters that expressed the anger of the Indian people against the red carpet welcome extended to the imperialist chieftain by the BJP Government. Outside the hall, copies of the new publication of the Delhi Branch of the Forum, "The Clinton Visit and BJP Government-US Relations: A Mirror of Imperialist Designs", were eagerly brought.

Prof. Narendra Sharma, All India Committee member of the Forum set out the objectives of the Convention in a brief but powerful speech. He then proposed the name of Prof. Sushil Mukherjee, the General Secretary of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum and former Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University to preside over the Convention. Prof. Sunanda Sanyal seconded the proposal.

Prof. Sushil Mukherjee assumed the presidential chair and placed a condolence resolution in memory of Prof. Yashwant Shukla, Shrimati Malati Choudhury, Padma Bhusan Radha Nath Rath and Shri Bimal Dasgupta. All present observed one minute's silence. Two messages wishing success of the Convention, one from Dr. Indira Parthasarathy of Tamil Nadu and the other from Prof. D. P. Barooah of Assam, were read out by R. Rajesh, Assistant Secretary of the Forum.

The Draft Resolution of the Convention was read out by R. Rajesh in English and then summarised in Hindi. The full text of the resolution is given separately.

The first to speak was Justice V R Krishna Iyer, former Judge of the Supreme Court and President All India Anti-Imperialist Forum. Shri Iyer said, "Bill Clinton is a surrogate for American corporate power and backed by the military power of the Pentagon. His visit is part of a strategy to weaken South Asia, a region rich in natural and intellectual resources. The US piously talks of improving Indo-Pakistan relations. But the real intention is to enhance tensions between the two countries and make its own presence as mediator inevitable. The US wants a monopoly of nuclear power so as to threaten the whole world. The perpetrators of Hiroshima and Nagasaki preach human rights." Shri Iyer criticised both the BJP and the Congress for their economic policies that allow both national and international corporate power to impoverish people. Lashing out at the imperialist culture of credit-financed consumption which is corrupting the middle class, he called upon people to shed their feeling of dependence on the imperialist powers, struggle for economic justice and assert their sovereignty. To take the help of America is to push the country into total bondage. American MNCs are polluting the Indian Environment and bringing disaster into the lives of people.

Next spoke Shri Sathyavratha, an eminent freedom fighter from Karnataka. He said that Clinton is a most unwelcome guest to our country. He comes to put pressure for signing the CTBT by India which helps his country. He is but

a prisoner at the hands of the MNCs. About Pakistan he charged Clinton guilty of double speak. Clinton represents the evil design of US imperialism and the vile culture. Both the present BJP government and the previous Congress government are responsible for the New Economic Policy. He suggested that a reference to the NATO Doctrine be included in the Draft Resolution. The Doctrine, whose principal architect is Bill Clinton, reserves the right to intervene militarily in any part of the world or against any new country that is producing nuclear weapons.

Dr. N A Karim, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Kerala University, emphasized that the strong resentment of Indian people against the visit is not due to the person nor the American people but against the evil design of the US imperialism he represents. It is regrettable that the US imperialism, representing 6 % of world population is imposing its domination on economy, military, politics, culture, everything, in the post-second world war period. The vicious character of the US imperialism has been witnessed in the wars of aggression in Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf etc. The illusion of permanent membership in the Security Council is being offered, but the fact is that the US periodically defies Security Council directives and acts unilaterally. The recent attacks on Yugoslavia and genocide as also inhuman torture on the Iraqi people show the real intention. It is to create crisis atmosphere, whip up war tension and the people the world over are being steamrolled. The sole purpose is to get benefits out of those. In the name of Swadeshi, the BJP is actually selling out the interest of the people and the country.

Prof. Sunanda Sanyal, an eminent educationist and linguist of West Bengal said: globalisation is according to the dictates of the US imperialism. The profits earned are privatised while the cost is socialised. By investing for 7 days in sharemarkets in the economies opened up, it is reaping 18 % in the sharemarkets. The foreign capital coming is not for building up industries, but for reaping speculative profits. He said, we are not opposed to the American people who are equally the victim of exploitation. In that country only 10 percent have in possession wealth and resources, the rest are ruthlessly exploited. The US is patenting seeds we are to import for food production, the cost of which is increasing. The IMF is pressurising for providing markets to foreign powers. The BJP despite its talks is exclusively Hindu nationalist but is not against the globalisation policy. We must rise against globalisation. The people must unite to resist the onslaughts of global corporate power.

Social activist Shri Dilip Chandulal, Gujarat, stressed the need to expose before the people the monstrous character of US imperialism. At the same time, he said we must not allow imperialist Yankee culture to sweep us but must find our own cultural identity. In order to resist imperialist onslaught we have to organise people in democratic anti-imperialist movement, reaching out to the masses from every walk of life, including farmers, youth, students, women etc. We have to form committees at grassroots level and

prepare a blue print of action.

Prof. Jayati Ghosh of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU gave an elaborate account of the South East Asian crisis and pointed out that the imperialists destroyed the very national industries of those countries which they had helped to create in the Cold War period as a bulwark against Communism. They were able to do this by forcing financial liberalisation on these countries to enable flows of short-term speculative capital. As MNCs carve up and buy the assets of local monopolies, unemployment is growing by leaps and bounds. Development indicators show that three decades of national development have been wiped out by the crisis. Dwelling on the threat posed by the internal collaborators of imperialism, she said that the elites of developing countries had become entranced by the American illusion of competition and individual prosperity which could never be realised in the utterly different ground reality of a developing country.

Miss Leone Reinbold of Direct Action Network (USA) said that in US police took recourse to unprecedented brutality in Seattle to protect Clinton's imperialist policies implemented through WTO. In USA democracy is confined to choice between the Democrats and the Republicans, both of whom represent American imperialism. Clinton represents US military-industry complex and 50 percent of US budget expenditure goes to it. Clinton perpetrates inhuman brutality on Cuba and Iraq but still he imports oil from Iraq.

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member Central Committee SUCI, highlighting the need to build up anti-imperialist movement, said its objective has to be clear. Even though this meeting has been convened based on the slogan: go back Clinton that is not against Clinton, the individual. Our fight is against the system, against the design and role of US imperialism and Pentagon. Even if Clinton goes, that will not change anything. But even though the fight is against the system, the individual through whom this system and design is being implemented has to be fought.

What is the nature of the attack brought on by the BJP? Why has BJP invited Clinton? If Congress had been in power it would have done the same, for they started the ball rolling.

Clinton wants to dominate the global arena in the political, economic and cultural field. American imperialism wants friendship with India. India has already attained imperialist character. The BJP, while implementing the same liberalisation policy as done by the Congress previously, is forging even closer links with US imperialism in the interest of Indian monopolists, who with US backing want to emerge as a regional superpower, more strongly, and rope in the other countries behind itself.

BJP's nationalism is based on Hindutva. It is fostering all sorts of superstitions and blindness. In the sphere of education too, it is trying to give a Hindutva orientation. In a country like ours with

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# Citizens' Convention against Clintons' Visit

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a glorious anti-imperialist tradition, to spread red carpet welcome for Clinton is a matter of shame for us all.

It is beyond my comprehension how the lefts who are taking out protest demonstration are going to participate in the joint session in Parliament. However, a silver lining along the dark horizon is provided by this Convention that has met with such great response. It is definitely very encouraging that so many dignitaries are participating in this meeting. We firmly believe it is the democratic, peace-loving and right thinking people who will determine the future.

Prof. A K Nagar (Haryana) said, US bureaucracy is no different from that of India. If anybody comes he should come here as an equal power not as a superpower. Imperialism is an offshoot of capitalism. Pakistan and Afghanistan are creations of American imperialism. Without outside provocation there could be no Indo-Pak war. What did the US imperialists in Vietnam, Korea and Iraq? Did they attack them for establishing peace?

The BJP is bringing down attack on education. They are rewriting history in their own communal way. A perusal of school books introduced in Rajasthan and UP by the BJP will bear this out. Actually their doctrine is : "It is Hinduism only that is to stay in India. Their approach towards freedom movement is totally anti-Muslim. All toiling people should join the fight against US imperialism and rise in one voice 'Go back Clinton.'

Prof. Sushil Mukherjee, in his presidential speech pointed out that already so many prominent speakers had supported the resolution and the forum should start working on the basis of it. He told, Clinton is a symbol only and we should fight imperialism tooth and nail. We have to fight not only against the external enemy but also against the internal one. The BJP government is never anti-imperialist in character. It has got a sinister design behind inviting Clinton.

Finally Prof. Mukherjee expressed his heartfelt pleasure to see this Convention called at short notice to be so successful and for that matter gave his thanks to all present there. He firmly believed that all anti-US imperialist forces were with them. He informed that in course of time a committee would be formed and all would be intimidated. He concluded, it is my firm believe that imperialism must ultimately go back from all over the world.

After Prof. Mukherjee's speech Assistant Secretary Dr. V Venugopal placed vote of thanks on behalf of the meeting.

## RESOLUTION

**Adopted at the All India Citizens' Convention Against Imperialism organised by the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum and held at Sapru House, New Delhi on March 10, 2000**

This Citizens' Convention held under the auspices of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum expresses its deep resentment against the red-carpet welcome extended by the BJP-led

Government to President Bill Clinton, the chieftain of imperialism in the world today, and calls upon the people of this country to rise against the visit of this butcher of humanity. Riding roughshod over the glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle of the Indian people and throwing to the wind all sense of national honour and dignity, the Government and the media subservient to the ruling class interests are projecting President Clinton as the sentinel of peace and democracy taking advantage of the absence of democratic mass movements in the country.

President Clinton is most hated in his own country, and whenever this leader of the imperialist camp goes outside the USA he faces hostile demonstrations. He could not stay in Athens because of angry anti-US demonstrations by more than 40,000 Greek people.

This so-called champion of peace, upholder of democracy and votary of human rights is the perpetrator of the worst form of criminal activities in the international political arena. He launched murderous missile attacks on sovereign countries like Afghanistan and Sudan on the plea of fighting terrorism, while the US administration itself has been aiding and abetting terrorist groups and is exporting terrorism to different countries. Who does not know that the Taliban was the creation of America to further its interests in Central Asia? Taking advantage of the contradictions between the urge for independence of the East Timorese people and the domination of the Indonesian ruling class, US forces have moved into East Timor under the flag of the UN and have established a military base in the heart of the Indian Ocean.

Clinton despatched a marauding army to Somalia which indulged in wanton torture, murder and rape of the Somalian people. The US imperialists arbitrarily imposed 'no-fly zones' over Iraq and have been periodically bombing the country, causing death and destruction of the Iraqi people and their property. The US is responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children for want of food and vital medicines which Iraq has been debarred from importing because of economic sanctions following the Gulf War.

Clinton's hands are stained with blood in the war in Yugoslavia. He pursued a "burn-all", "destroy-all", "kill-all" policy there. Countless children have been orphaned, thousands have been killed and tens of thousands of people have become shelterless. Hospitals, educational institutions, churches, residential complexes and even embassies were not spared from bombing. And this is the person who is welcomed with open arms by the BJP-led Government.

During the WTO Conference in Seattle, Clinton's police attacked the protesting demonstrators with batons, bullets, grenades, teargas, irritant chemicals and unconventional gases that medically affected them. The arrested persons were beaten and tortured in jails.

President Clinton has been threatening socialist Cuba and is continuing economic sanctions against it. Cuba is subjected to US intrigue and threat of invasion and subversion. North Korea is also threatened with dire

consequences if it does not capitulate and toe the American line.

The long history of predatory activities of USA in Latin America - in Columbia Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Haiti etc. is fresh in our memory.

Clinton is the principal architect of the NATO Doctrine that was announced during the bombing of Yugoslavia. This diabolical Doctrine reserves for NATO the right of military intervention in any part of the world without any deference to international law. While promising to preserve the existing nuclear weapon monopoly, it threatens the use of nuclear weapons against any nation that upsets the existing 'balance of power' and promises to expand NATO's nuclear arsenal into Eastern Europe.

The role of the US imperialists in the Indo-Pak subcontinent is equally heinous. They are inciting India against Pakistan and at the same time supporting Pakistan in its aggressive designs. The Kargil war has provided President Clinton with the scope to meddle in Kashmir affairs and to take full advantage of the situation. The real motive of the US imperialists is to keep alive war tensions in the subcontinent in order to create a permanent arms market in both the countries.

Such is the person whom the Indian ruling class and big industries are inviting - the leader of the imperialist camp, a warmonger, butcher of common people, the epitome of death and destruction. The Government's objective is to serve the interest of the Indian capitalist class for further penetration in the world market and to emerge as a regional superpower with US backing. And on the other side, the US' motive is to further its sinister design to make India a partner in global monopolists' dominance and in its global military strategy, and to gain further entry into the Indian market. Already, in collaboration with the World Bank, IMF and the WTO, the BJP-led Government is taking, one after another, anti-people economic measures and the working class and common people are suffering under grinding exploitation. The entire burden of the economic crisis is thrust on the shoulders of the working class. Poverty, hunger, destitution and unemployment are looming large before them.

We shall not remain silent spectators while the Indian monopolists, in their desire for profit, barter the welfare of the Indian people with the imperialist powers. It is the bounden duty of every patriotic Indian to condemn and expose the BJP's real design in welcoming the imperialist leader and number one war criminal President Clinton.

This Convention calls upon the people of India to rise up in protest against the visit and build up a militant anti-imperialist movement. We urge them to organize protest demonstrations against Clinton's visit in all the state capitals. Let the cry resonate in every nook and corner of India, on every rooftop, in every street and road of every town and village:

**GO BACK CLINTON,  
GO BACK — BUTCHER OF HUMANITY**

# Thrust of Budget to make Indian Monopolists Global Players

Mr Yashwant Sinha, the Union Minister for finance, presented the budget for the year 2000-2001 in the Lok Sabha on 29 February last. The budget reveals a record fiscal deficit as well as a record allocation on military expenditure. Mr Sinha admitted, "critical challenge posed by a weakening fiscal situation." As to the course of this weakening fiscal situation he said, "a long history of high fiscal deficit had left us with a legacy of a huge public debt and an ever growing bill of interest payment." But instead of taking any corrective measures like unearthing of the huge amount of black money which is running a parallel economy causing havoc in economic and social life of the people, prevention of corruption in high places or the like, he has himself kept a record fiscal deficit adding further to the burden of the already huge public debt. Every year the government is reducing its expenditure on capital account. Yet he expects a growth rate of 7 to 8 percent of GDP!

The Finance Minister has stressed that "to put the fiscal house in order hard decisions and sacrifices are necessary". The Prime Minister of our country also reminded the other day of the necessity of hard decisions in overcoming the critical economic situation of the country. In this connection it is to be mentioned that all the previous finance ministers spoke of taking hard decisions. They exhorted the people to make sacrifices and to tighten their belt, so that the country could be flooded with honey and milk. But each year while the people were squeezed with mounting taxation and abnormal hike in prices, the capitalists were given liberal concessions through tax relief. With hardship and sacrifices the condition of the people deteriorated year by year while the monopolists of our country amassed huge wealth since independence. Even the manipulated official statistics show that the number of people living below the poverty line has been gallopingly increasing both in urban and rural areas since the adoption of the policy of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation. When the present finance Minister speaks of hard decisions and sacrifices, he has not deviated from the path of his predecessors. He has imposed heavy dose of taxation and price hike on the common people while he has announced a bonanza of tax relief to the Indian monopolists and multinationals. In his budget speech he has indicated the clear direction of his budget when he said, "We must encourage Indian firms and businesses to grow into strong India based multinationals." So, with this aim in view, the finance Minister took steps "to give effect to the agreement between the European Union and the United States" by cutting down the customs duty in the interest of the monopolists and the multinationals.

Consequent to the international trade treaty obligations and to conform to the WTO norms, several hundred items were placed under free list for imports effective from 1.4.2000. These measures toll the death knell of the small scale and medium sized industries of the country, causing large-scale shrinkage of employment in these sectors. As a result of these measures, the foreign multinationals will have easy access to the Indian market while the Indian monopolists will get an opportunity to be global players. The main thrust of the budget is to provide all sops to the national and international capital at the cost of the sufferings and hardship of the common people.

Incidentally, it is to be pointed out that for the last few years, the budgets have lost much of their

relevance as exercises in projecting annual estimated income and expenditure. Budgets have become budgets by instalments. The government has been taking recourse to pre-budget and post-budget hike in administered prices and even in the middle of the financial year, such financial measures which grossly affect the prices and the tax structure are often adopted. During the last financial year, the price of diesel was hiked by nearly 35 percent causing massive hike in transport charges and rise in prices of all items of daily necessities as a cascading effect. This year too hike in prices of LPG, kerosene, diesel and other petroleum products is on the card. The decision has been kept deferred, at the request of the Telugu Desam, till the panchayat elections in Andhra Pradesh are over. The Railway budget has already imposed a 5 per cent hike in freight. The cascading effect of the hike in petroleum products and in railway freight will be abnormal rise in prices of all essential commodities, affecting the life of the common people of the country. So the budget for 2000-2001 is to be viewed against this background.

Another aspect is also to be kept in mind in this matter. Of late, the projected revenue receipts are being overestimated and the expenditures as well as fiscal deficit are being underestimated. Last year the fiscal deficit was projected at 4 percent of GDP but in reality, it shot up to 5.6 percent. This year, the projected fiscal deficit is 5.1 percent. But it is sure to shoot up further. It is also to be noted that in calculating the fiscal deficit the entire amount of the huge small savings collection has been excluded. Moreover the set of norms in calculating the GDP has also been modified. If these factors are taken into account, the projected fiscal deficit would be 7.5 percent of GDP as against the 5.1 per cent shown in this budget. But as already pointed out, in the budget estimates the fiscal deficit is now-a-days deliberately underestimated to present a less alarming view of the economy and so the fiscal deficit is surely to be even higher.

The Finance minister advocated 'sustained growth with social justice' and expressed his concern for the poor and the people below the poverty line. But the measures proposed by him in the budget totally contradict this verbosity. The Finance minister targeted the food and fertilizer subsidy, interest on Provident Fund, PSU and public sector banks. As a result the prices of rice, wheat and sugar will steeply rise even for the people below the poverty line. Excise duty has been increased on practically all essential items, including kerosene. Any one having minimum

knowledge of economics know that the businessmen pass on this additional burden of excise duty to the consumers. So the prices will rise as a result of mopping up of additional Rs. 8,000 crore by imposing indirect taxes.

The interest on small savings was previously lowered, and now in his budget proposal the Finance minister lowered the interest on Provident Fund by 1 percent, thus hitting the employees hard. The old and the retired persons having no other source of income depend on interest on small savings and on the hard earned money saved through Provident Fund. While the cost of living is increasing day by day because of huge taxation and hike in administered prices, the income of these people are reduced drastically by cutting the interest rate. And yet Mr Sinha speaks of social justice!

The total allocation on health and human resource development is less than one fifth of the military budget and it is less than the money kept aside for the purchase of new weapons. Moreover, the money allocated for elementary education was not spent fully last year. This also happened in case of secondary and higher education where the ministry spent Rs 100 crore less than the sum allocated. This year the budgetary allocation for secondary and higher education has been reduced by Rs 100 crore.

In case of public sector banks, Mr Sinha said that the government would implement Narasimham Committee report and its stake in these banks would be reduced to 33 percent. Mr Sinha also announced closure of nonviable PSUs and disinvestment of other PSUs, with government stake in them remaining not more than 26 percent. No firm measures were indicated for recovery of the NPA (Non Performing Assets) of the banks barring setting up of five more Debt Recovery Tribunals and four more Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals. It is well-known that these tribunals are nothing but eyewash to protect the real culprits, the big monopoly houses which have misappropriated huge amount of bank loans, making many public sector banks sick. Now the disinvestment of PSUs and banks for the purpose of meeting fiscal deficit is like the act of a man who sells his household belongings to repay his loan.

Mr Sinha prescribed downsizing government even though the present Central ministry is a jumbo one ! He hinted at a moratorium on recruitment to government departments. Thus the promise of creating one crore jobs per year made by the Prime Minister earlier has been bid a good bye. Not only no new jobs would be created but the existing ones would be curtailed by closing down of PSUs, moratorium on recruitment by the government and VRS to 10 lakh bank employees as per the recommendation of the Narasimham Committee report. Besides, several lakhs of people will lose their jobs as a result of closures of small scale and medium industries as stated earlier.

While the common people have been target of

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# Budget to Enhance Economic Burden on Common People

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attack through abolition of food and fertiliser subsidies, imposition of additional taxations, attack on their employment opportunities and hike in administered prices of petroleum products to be announced very soon besides very depressingly low allocation for social service sectors, the capitalists on the other hand have been given various tax concessions. Reduction of the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) from 10.5 percent to 7.5 percent, 100 percent exemption to the income of Investment Protection Fund to the Stock Exchanges, reduction of penalty to the duty defaulters from 100 percent to 25 percent, abolition of the 2 percent interest tax for banks and insurance corporations and tax extension of holiday to industries set up in industrially backward states by another two years. Besides these the infotech sector and the electronic industries have been given various liberal concessions.

Mr Sinha has made a record allocation of Rs 58587 crore, Rs 13000 crore more than that of last year to the military. This amount of Rs 13000 crore is only slightly less than the entire military budget of Pakistan. Mr Sinha boldly proclaimed, "We shall not shrink from making any sacrifice to guard and protect every inch of our beloved territory." He further continued that more fund would be provided for this whenever needed. In this connection, it is to be pointed out that the actual figure for military budget would be much more than shown since more fund is allocated to other military related industries and researches like atomic and scientific research and missile projects. So, the total amount to be actually spent for war preparations is much more than what is shown under the head of military budget. Mr Sinha must know that a mercenary army and sophisticated weapons cannot protect the country at the time of a grave crisis. The sovereignty and integrity of our country can be defended only by the patriotic people of the land. The country means the people of the entire land. But in the name of the defence of the country the rulers are squeezing the people who are denied food, shelter, education, health care, employment and even drinking water. Mr Sinha did nothing new in increasing the military budget by adopting out and out anti-people measures in the budget. But this is his compulsion in serving the interest of the ruling capitalist class. The capitalist economy of the country is in serious crisis. Mr Sinha presented a false picture of the economy by pointing to the soaring of the stock market index. But the reality is that this index is artificially inflated by the ballooning of the infotech sectors while the shares of the traditional blue chip companies are plummeting to lower and lower levels every day. So, if the inflated balloon of the infotech sector is any way pricked there is going to be a disaster to the Indian capitalist economy. So what is needed is artificial stimulation of the economy. The military expenditure provides the artificial stimulation to the economy. Here the government places order to the industries for military hardwares. So the market of their products is assured. But when the majority of the

people are at destitution level, the people cannot support such profligacy in military spending. So to get public sanction to the military spending, the rulers often raise the bogey of the country's danger. Warlike tensions, even if not actual war, will serve the purpose of the rulers in mobilising public sanction for military spending. So war hysteria is calculatedly created by Pokhran blasts or Kargil border conflicts. This is not only true for our country, it is true for Pakistan as well. So an arms race is to ensue in this subcontinent in the interest of the ruling capitalist classes of both these countries.

The bourgeois dailies representing the interest of the monopoly houses have also attacked this budget for not fully implementing the second generation reforms. Pushes and pulls from the NDA partners which do not want to lose their votebank have compelled Mr Sinha not to implement the second generation reforms in full. The NDA partners are now objecting to the cut in food and fertiliser subsidy. The leaders of these parties met the Prime Minister who advised them to talk to the Finance minister. But all these

parties are resorting to this gimmick not from any pro-people angularity. They are doing tight rope walking. They parties represent the interest of various regional capitals. The government is forced to take anti-people measures in the interest of the ruling capitalist class. The leaders of these parties are concerned that these anti-people measures must not go to that extent where the people are so much antagonised that even by all-out rigging through money power, muscle power and media power the manipulation of the election results will go beyond their control. The monopolists are after the blood of the people. But the parties representing them, in addition to serving the monopolists, will have to contest in elections. So the budget could not fulfill all the aspirations of the monopolists right now, as desired by the bourgeois dailies.

People should remember that attacks on their life and livelihood would keep on mounting in the interest of crisis-ridden capitalism of the country and this must have to be resisted by building up sustained countrywide united mass movement.

## Bank Employees' Conference

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from sectarianism. It will work to develop leaderships from below. It reminds employees present that this is a moment of joy, no doubt, but at the same time taking of great responsibility."

Comrade Vijay Pal Singh, Muradabad, UP moved the resolution. Supporting the resolution about 40 speakers spoke. Comrades Amar Roy, veteran leader of Bank Employees Unity Forum, West Bengal, M.C. Jagi, UP, Chandrasekhar, Tamilnadu, A Natarajan, Karnataka, Vedpal Dangi, Haryana, Pratap Singh Delhi, Subhas Kausik, Vedram Singh, Mukul Sarma all from UP etc. were among them.

Before the resolution was tabled and discussions started, a three-member presidium was elected after the address of welcome from the chairman of the Reception Committee. Comrade Jagannath Roymondal, Convener of the Central Coordination Committee of the Bank Employees Unity Forum gave the inaugural speech.

A state committee, 51-member strong was formed with Comrade M.C. Tyagi as President and Comrade Bejoy Pal Singh as the General Secretary. Comrade Rajender Singh was elected as Secretary besides 9 Deputy General Secretaries each for 9 banks joined in the UP State body of the Bank Employees Unity Forum. The Treasurer was elected from Moradabad to be in close contact with the General Secretary. The headquarter of the State body will be at Moradabad.

The Constitution of the State body was adopted after animated discussions. The body will get itself registered soon. It will hold state level convention of the employees in the Punjab National Bank, Punjab and Sindh Bank,

Allabhad Bank within months to build up state level bodies of the same. It will take up the deceptive 7th bipartite wage settlement at court of law so that patently illegal decisions are not allowed to pass for a bilateral settlement as also to expose the glaringly anti-employee approach and attitude of the existing union leaderships obedient to the dictates of the Government-IBA combine.

The National Coordination Committee met on the next day. The action programmes adopted are the following: (i) Observance of protest day on 7th March, in every state against the Government's move to dilute its shares in public sector banks to make those wide open for private capital to loot and plunder; (ii) Convention to be held in every state as the national campaign programme on the following issues: (a) privatisation of banks; (b) opposition to VRS, CRS deployment and all other anti-employee measures; (c) immediate institution of effective legal machinery to recover huge amount of NPA (currently Rs.58,000 crore); (d) expose and oppose deception in the name of wage settlement.

(iii) As fund is very much needed all state bodies were instructed to send immediately the dues payable on bulletin, poster as also subscriptions and donations.

A sum of Rs.7,000 was collected on the spot. All state units were called upon to form state committees on the model of that in UP within shortest possible time. They are to intensify propagation among the bank employees for an effective united resistance movement to grow up to defend job and service conditions. The bubbling enthusiasm noticed in UP should travel to all the states for a regeneration of struggling spirit among the bank employees.



# Stalin Memorial Day at Ghatsila

(Contd. from page 1)

necessary to remember Stalin. Stalin was a mortal enemy of and a terror to the imperialists. That is why they vilified him from those very days when, after Lenin, Stalin emerged as the great and beloved leader not only of the communists of Russia, or of the Russian people, but of the working masses of the world. So, slandering Stalin is not a new thing. But why such hatred against Stalin, when he is no more? Because they know that Stalin still very much lives in the minds of many. People in all corners of the world — in China, in Vietnam, in Cuba, in Korea — fought with Stalin's name on their lips. Even now, they are doing it in Russia. Decades of lies and slanders have not erased his memory. Could a 'heartless' and 'brutal' 'dictator' achieve it? Stalin will always be remembered as a great Communist leader.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee said in his speech that observing Stalin's death anniversary was not a ritual for us. Stalin was a giant communist leader. In all giant communist leaders, starting from Marx to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh their thought and their life-struggle was inseparable. Their character was of such a height that without oneself acquiring a relatively high standard, it is not possible to even realise their greatness. Through ceaseless struggle to advance the class struggle of the proletariat, and also the struggle to develop their own character, did they become so great. They were not media-made leaders. So we can show our respect to Comrade Stalin in the truest sense only by engaging ourselves in this struggle.

We know that Lenin made fundamental contribution to the science of Marxism in his time, which was different from the time of Marx and Engels. At the time of Lenin's emergence, imperialism had already become a world wide system. The period of Marx and Engels was the period of preparation for proletarian revolution; that of Lenin was the period when this revolution became an inevitability. In this changed condition Lenin developed Marxism on many basic questions as concept of the three major contradictions governing the then world affairs, the concept of dictatorship of the proletariat, of the proletarian party, of imperialism, of colonial struggle and many more such. All these teachings of Lenin were already there. Stalin's great contribution is that he gave the correct interpretation to them in course of fighting against the 'left' deviation of Trotsky and the 'right' deviation of Bukharin. Stalin first said that Leninism is the Marxism in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. He applied Leninism so correctly and so decisively that despite all the anti-Stalin campaign, Stalin's practical achievements cannot be effaced.

Stalin started his revolutionary life among workers of the Tiflis Railway workshop and then in the Baku oilfields. In reply to the great praises towards him, Stalin himself said how he started as an 'apprentice' of revolution. This was in 1926, when he was already the leader of the Soviet party, the Soviet state and of the Communist International. Stalin further said, in the same meeting, that only under Lenin, 'the great teacher' of the proletariat, he finally became what he was. Again, when already a world famous leader, Stalin said that : I'm just a pupil of Lenin and the

aim of my life is to be a worthy pupil of his. This is the man who is so vilified by the bourgeois media!

Stalin ruthlessly criticised blind following. A book on his childhood was published. Stalin saw it. He wrote that much in it was not factual, exaggerated, and above all, it depicted a 'superman'. He advised that the book be burnt. He wrote to a comrade that one should not 'mix up' devotion to the revolution and party with devotion to an individual.

Stalin himself gave all his devotion to the cause of building and protecting socialism by following the teachings of Lenin. He had no other aim in life, nothing personal. He was the enemy of all that obstructed this course, whether outside or inside the party. His ridicule against 'communist windbags' is well known. His resolute and firm handling of counter-revolutionary elements — in the Great Purge of 1936 — helped to make USSR victorious in the Second World War. None other than the then US ambassador, Joseph Davies, admitted that the trials were completely 'free and fair.' Stalin unhesitatingly applied the Marxist principle that by purging the counter-revolutionaries and fifth columnists the party becomes stronger, today this is being shown as proof of Stalin's 'dictatorship'. Was it so easy to save Russia, without this firm and wise guidance? Was it so easy to arouse the masses, advance the country, meet and defeat enemy in the war? Stalin said, after the war, that even though huge regions like the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Baltic etc. had to be abandoned by the Red Army initially, the people did not abandon the government. Another people might choose another government for signing a treaty with Germany and give them peace, but the Russian people did not. Why? Because the people had faith in the party and the government. Could this faith be achieved by coercion? Now the ex-USSR is going to pieces. There is a separate Ukraine and separate states in the Baltic of the separate nationality people ruled by their own bourgeoisie.

## Comrade Nihar Mukherjee Condoles Comrade Gita Mukherjee's Demise

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, has issued the following condolence message on the demise of Comrade Gita Mukherjee on 4 February, 2000 :

We deeply mourn the demise of Comrade Gita Mukherjee, an ardent fighter against all sorts of social injustice and stalwart of anti-imperialist movement.

Long Live Comrade Gita Mukherjee.

Why did these very nationalities not secede from the USSR, chased by the Nazis while abandoned by the Red Army? It was due to Stalin's correct handling of nationality problem. And after the war there was the great wave of militant anti-imperialist peace movement. All this is connected with Stalin's name.

Today, US imperialism is the greatest danger. Its design is to dominate the whole world, to have a 'unipolar' world. Imperialism is on the offensive and the danger of war is on the increase. Not necessarily that another world war is inevitable, but the danger has increased. Arms race and war tension are increasing in this subcontinent also, between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. US imperialism is also trying to fish in this troubled water. You have to see the visit of US President Bill Clinton, number one war criminal, to India in this connection. You know that our Central Committee has condemned this visit and has called for a countrywide protest against it.

I have full faith that from this meeting you all will go back and spread this message among the people, as a step towards building a powerful anti-imperialist movement, conducive to the revolutionary movement.

The meeting started with the song on Comrade Sbhidas Ghosh and ended with the internationale.

## MAMMOTH RALLY AT DELHI



Protest demonstration by 56 Mass Organisations under the banner of NMPO against BJP-led government's policy of privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation, price rise etc. held at Ram Lila Maidan, New Delhi. Comrade Satyawan of UTUC-LS is addressing the gathering.

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