

Proletarian Era

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Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
Founder Editor-in-Chief.: COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

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On the occasion of 5th August

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh remembered in states

This year the 5th of August marked the 21st death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. In the background of the overwhelming crisis of capitalism and the suffering millions being pushed towards despondency, it has become more urgent to cultivate the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of the SUCI. Thus, with a greater significance, 5th August was observed this year in different parts of our country. Red Flag was hoisted and portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh garlanded at party offices, party centres and street junctions.

Quotations from the works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh were exhibited attended by cross sections of people. Many mass meetings were held on this occasion. The mass meetings everywhere started with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and ended with the Internationale. Reports received so far of the observance of 5th August are given below.

Ghatshila

At the Study Centre of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, Ghatshila, the memorial day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was observed on 5th August. At 9 a.m. in a solemn situation the Red Flag was hoisted and portrait of the great leader of proletariat was garlanded by Comrade Tapas Dutta, member, Central Committee, SUCI.

At 7 in the evening the memorial meeting was held at the Assembly Hall of the Study Centre. The meeting started with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. At first, Comrade Swapan Ghosh, member, West Bengal State Committee, spoke. After him Comrade Tapas Dutta, the main speaker, delivered his speech. Comrade Dutta described the different aspects of the great struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh which he conducted since he was in teens and that culminated in the formation of the SUCI. That was a struggle most difficult. At the formative period of the party comrade Shibdas Ghosh started the struggle almost alone only with a handful of compatriots amidst indescribable hardship, opposition and banter, etc. The party founded by him had not only spread to 18 states, the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was now creating

interest in different countries of the world. The thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh would illumine the path of world revolution, beside guiding revolution in our country. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had built up the SUCI as a genuine communist party by developing and concretising Marxism.

Comrade Dutta in conclusion urged everybody to dedicate themselves more in the struggle to rectify and elevate themselves.

The memorial meeting of the great leader of the world communist movement, Frederick Engels was observed at the Study Centre on 12th August. It was also addressed by Comrade Tapas Dutta.

Rewari : Haryana

Under the banner of Haryana State Organising Committee, SUCI, a memorial meeting was held at Rewari on 5-8-97 on the occasion of the 21st death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Satyawan presided over it. Comrade Vijai Kumar, district party organiser made an introductory speech while Comrades Rajender Singh, member, State Organising Committee and Satyawan spoke at length.

Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, member, Central

Committee, SUCI was the main speaker. In the very beginning, he called the attention of the youth and students and told them that Comrade Ghosh at the age of 13 joined the independence struggle and became a revolutionary in due course. He said that Comrade Ghosh showed the path to all — the youth, students, workers, peasants, agricultural workers and women and showed them the real object of life. He dwelt upon the development of human society. Comrade Banerjee also stressed the glorious role of Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Subhas Chandra Bose in our national liberation struggle.

Comrade Banerjee asked the party workers not just to work for party day and night, but to be
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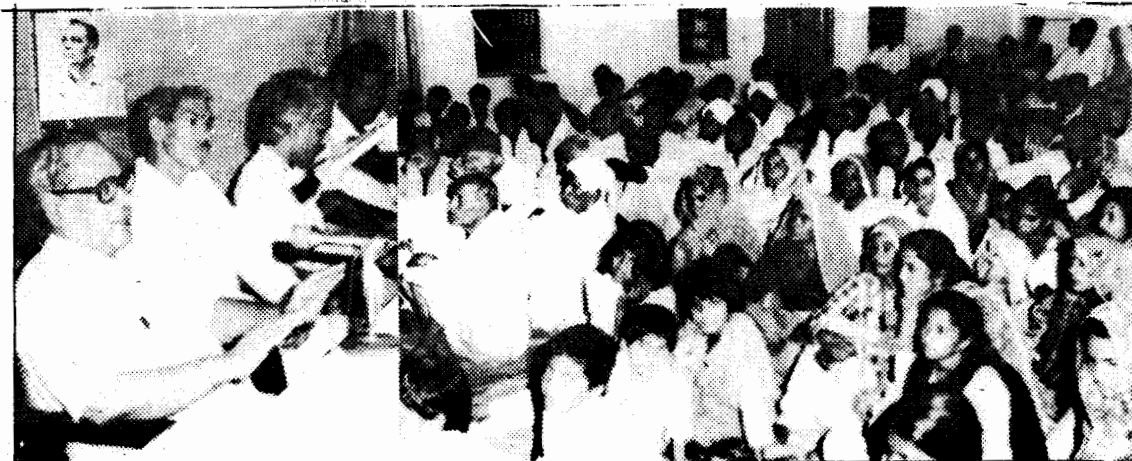
Why Proletarian Era?

[*Proletarian Era completed 30th year since its first publication. There have been many changes in the international and national situations since then. But main analysis made at that time is still very relevant. So, we are reprinting the editorial article, 'Why Proletarian Era' published on August 15, 1967.]*

According to the great Marxist revolutionary leader Comrade Lenin, the philosopher, teacher and leader of the international communist movement, the present era is the era of disintegration of imperialism and the victory of proletarian revolution. It is in the light of this Leninist teaching, at the living inspiration of Marxism-Leninism, being imbibed with the ideals of proletarian internationalism that "Proletarian era" is making its appearance.

What does the present era signify? Does it mean that all the countries of the world irrespective of their specific conditions, whether they are advanced capitalist, resurgent nationalist, colonial or semi-colonial countries, live today in the phase of proletarian revolution? No; not at all. Rather it means that in any country — be it engaged in the struggle for anti-capitalist socialist revolution, anti-feudal and anti-imperialist peoples democratic revolution or national liberation movement — it is only the revolutionary proletariat that can unite all the revolutionary forces belonging to different

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Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee, member Central Committee, addressing the memorial meeting at Rewari, Haryana. Comrades Satyawan, Ramphal and Rajendra Singh are on the dais.

Present Situation in Bihar Statement of Bihar State Committee

Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee of the SUCI issued the following statement on the present situation in Bihar on 1.8.97.

The resignation of Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav from the post of Chief Minister of Bihar and his subsequent surrender to the CBI Court at Patna are the sequel of a protracted movement of the people of this state. Though the central government led by the Premier I.K. Gujral, despite his best efforts, could not save him from resigning and going to jail, it helped Laloo Prasad install her wife Rabri Devi as next Chief Minister to govern the state from behind the curtain. It is no doubt a mockery of democracy, which deserves protests from all democratic citizens of our country.

The Congress(I), true to its tradition of consistent patronage to innumerable scams in the country and responsible for plunging the country in all-out corruption, has come forward to lend its full support to Laloo's move to retain in his hand the governmental power directly or indirectly. Perhaps Congress(I) leaders are eager to get his support in the next election and to regain the lost ground in the state.

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leaders already accused in the MP bribery case, have blackened their faces again by supporting Laloo's corrupt government. Like the unprincipled political leaders, Laloo Prasad made a volte-face regarding the Jharkhand issue only to save his government. He, who was opposed to the demand of separate Jharkhand state even the other day, came out with his full support to it when his chair was at stake particularly after the division in Janata Dal.

We are of opinion that these unabashed moves of the power-greedy politicians will actually help the communal forces to rise in the state and pose a dangerous threat to the ramshackle democratic polity of our country and strengthen the hands of the ruling class eager to bring about fascism in this land. The formal exit of Laloo Prasad from the governmental power does not mean that the goal of our movement has been fully achieved. So, we call upon the people to continue their struggle until the corruption rampant in all spheres of administration is checked to a great extent and democratic norms restored.

AIDSO's protest march in Trivandrum

The AIDSO organised a strong protest march before the Government Secretariat at Trivandrum and DPEP (District Primary Education Programme) headquarters on July 29 last against destroying of primary education system of Kerala with the help of World Bank aid. The World Bank started this scheme in the name of economic help. Now they have grabbed the curriculum - syllabus restructuring.

Inaugurating the march Comrade B. K. Rajagopal, AIDSO said that even the Education Department was sidetracked through these reforms. Now the DPEP is pressurising the Education Department. The ministers, CPI(M) leaders, teacher leaders and KSSP are acting as agents of World Bank and DPEP.

Flood Relief work in Bihar

The seven day long incessant rain have caused havoc in the regions of north and central Bihar flooding thousands of villages, resulting in unspeakable damage of crops and property. But the Bihar government is indifferent to people's distress and has not done anything to redress it. The ministers of the government are busy with the question of Laloo's resignation and his arrest and to get a berth in the new ministry of Rabri Devi government. So, they could not find any time to think and to do something for the flood-stricken people. Patna, the state capital has also been waterlogged for nearly 15 days. Boats began to ply in the main thoroughfares of Patna and the epidemic has begun to break out.

In the background of government's utter failure and negligence to meet the flood and waterlogging situation, Patna High Court has commented that a "Jungle Raj is now prevailing in Bihar. There is no administration or government in this state."

In this situation, our party activists of Muzaffarpur and Patna undertook relief operation. They collected some relief materials, i.e. clothes, food, medicines from the members of the public and distributed it in the Paru Block of Muzaffarpur district and Khusrupur area of Patna. SUCI activists of Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur staged demonstration before the block offices of the flooded areas and submitted memorandum urging the Block Development Officers to carry on relief operation on war footing.

Massive Demonstration by AIMSS in Orissa

A massive state level demonstration was organised by the AIMSS Orissa State Committee to protest against collection of user's charges from government run hospitals and medical colleges, and mismanagement and anarchy in health services throughout the state. The demonstrators marched from the Cuttack Rly. Station in a militant procession and demonstrated in front of S.C.B. Medical College Superintendent's office. The procession was led by Comrades Binapani Das, President and Lily Das, Secretary, Orissa MSS. A protest meeting was organised in front of Superintendent's office. It was presided over by Comrade Binapani Das. Among others Comrades Shanti Parida and Basanti Swain addressed the gathering and deplored the pathetic condition of government run hospitals at the state and castigated the government for allowing the condition to continue for a long time and make it an alibi to privatise health services. They also condemned the so-called all party committee comprised of MLAs belonging to Congress, Janata Dal, BJP and CPI for recommending fees in government hospitals.

Later, the demonstrators forced the reluctant Superintendent to come and meet the demonstrators and receive a memorandum containing eight point demands. The agitation was temporarily withdrawn after the Superintendent gave assurance to take up the demands within his administrative purview immediately.

Mayavati using Dr Ambedkar's name for Election Politics

A few days ago, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Ms Mayavati renamed the 'Chandrasekhar Azad College' of Etawa as 'Bhimrao Ambedkar College' and commented "Who was Chandrasekhar? What was his contribution? He was merely a terrorist. Can he be compared with Ambedkar?" This outrageous comment will surely make Dr Ambedkar turn in his grave.

Curiously enough, all the leading parties of UP including the BJP who is in combination with the Mayavati government and claims to be the inheritors of the fighters and martyrs of our independence movement, is maintaining discreet silence. RSS, Viswa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal are also mum on the issue. Not only this; these propagators and champions of 'Hindutva' maintained silence even when a few days ago at Etawa, Ms Mayavati removed an idol of Shiva and installed a statue of B R Ambedkar in that place. The main reason of their reluctance to object to these is only the fear of losing 'Dalit' votes and the BJP which is now aspiring for the seat of power in the central government cannot afford to lose it.

It is a matter of shame and regret that a Chief Minister evaluates our immortal martyrs as 'terrorists' and is out to negate their contribution. She is using Dr Ambedkar's name to gain mileage in election politics. The British government used to call them 'terrorists' in order to malign their struggle before the world. But the people of India always opposed it and never accepted that term

used in regard to them. Dr Ambedkar, a great man as he was could never have tolerated this insult heaped on a great martyr like Chandrasekhar Azad.

It is regrettable that on the 50th anniversary of our Independence, a Chief Minister is uttering those words. It is natural indeed for Ms Mayavati and her privilege-seeking supporters who do not love the country and are always in quest of pelf and power. So, only to capture and retain the governmental power, she and her party are always ready to join hands with any party irrespective of its ideology and principle. She is eager to woo the 'Dalit' sentiment which only can help her to be in the chair of Chief Minister. So, she thought that renaming the college as 'Bhimrao Ambedkar College', she will be able to please the 'Dalits' again and will earn dividend in the ensuing polls. In Mumbai also we find the same opportunistic politics. By insulting and desecrating the statue of B.R. Ambedkar, some circles are out to incite the feelings of the Dalits only to meet their narrow political ends. This game has already cost some innocent lives while the game makers are at safe distance.

We strongly condemn this heinous move to wipe out the name of Chandrasekhar Azad in UP and to insult the statue of B.R. Ambedkar in Mumbai and appeal to the well-meaning people of all sections of our country to preserve unity and foil the conspiracy of the vested circle to engage them in fratricidal feud on the basis of caste, religion, language and region in order to serve its petty parliamentary interest.

Rally and Dharna against Medical Fees

Against the anti-people medical fee hike and new introduction of fee on 54 tests (medical) of the state government, a rally was organised on 26th July last at Jeypore, Orissa. Two thousand people including three hundred women took part in the rally in Jeypore town. The procession marched through the main roads of Jeypore and a memorandum addressed to the Governor of Orissa was handed over through the Sub-Collector. Before this, the party workers moved along the streets to collect signatures from the people against the medical fee hike. More than five thousand signatures were collected and those were enclosed with the memorandum which demands complete withdrawal of medical fees. The Sub-Collector received the memorandum and assured to send it to Raj Bhavan through the Collector, Koraput.

After this a public meeting was held at Gupeswar Complex. Comrade Duryodhan Mohanty, ex-General Secretary of Sewa Paper Mill Workers' Union, presided over the meeting. Comrade Sadasiva Das, member, State Committee, SUCI addressed the gathering. Comrades Surya Bisoi, Prakash Mohanty, ex-Chairman, City Coordination Committee, K. Suryanarayana of Unit Sewa spoke in the meeting.

Angul AIDS O's Massive Students Demonstration

The AIDS O, Angul District Committee, Orissa organised a massive students' demonstration before the Angul District Collector's Office demanding complete exemption of admission, tuition and examination fees of all the students of the district in drought situation; appointment of teachers in vacant posts of schools and colleges and to stop fee hike, to stop black marketing of text books and to stop privatization and commercialization of education, etc. About a thousand students from different parts of the district marched in a massive procession to District Collector's Office and staged demonstration there. The rally was addressed by Comrade Rajendra Burma, Secretary, AIDS O Orissa State Council, Comrades Nabakishore Pradhan, President, Angul District Committee, Ashok Mishra, Secretary and Jaisen Meher, Treasurer. A delegation on behalf of the demonstrators submitted a memorandum to the District Collector addressed to the Chief Minister of the state demanding immediate solution of those problems.

Textile Workers' Demonstration against Closure of Mill at Chennai

The one of the biggest and oldest textiles mills, the B&C Mill in Chennai, has been closed for the past one year. Five thousand workers and their families are under starvation. Any pro-people government should take up the issue and open the mill. Tamilnadu government has not shown any sort of concern towards the plight of the five thousand workers and their families who have been under starvation for the past one year and more. In this situation, in support of the struggling workers demanding the Tamilnadu Government to take over and open the mill, the

Memorandum to Assam Chief Minister

A team of Assam State Committee of the SUCI led by two State Committee members Comrades Kantimoy Deb and Chandralekha Das visited the flood affected areas of Dhubri and Goalpara districts and submitted a report to the State Committee on the basis of which a memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister of Assam.

In the memorandum, it was said that thousands of people were rendered homeless due to devastating river erosion in the Dhubri district and flood in Goalpara district. The government has totally failed to provide any rescue operation nor did it supply the relief to the affected people. Around ten thousand people took shelter under open sky braving sun and shower.

The memorandum demanded to the government the following :-

1. Adequate relief is to be provided to the affected people till they reap their next harvest ;
2. Adequate medical help is to be provided ;
3. Grants to be provided to the affected people for repairing or erecting their dwelling houses ;
4. Erosion affected people should be properly rehabilitated ;
5. Erosion affected people who have already taken shelter in any government land should not be evicted without providing them alternative shelter ;
6. Cattle food should be provided ;
7. Seeds should be supplied to the cultivators free of cost for their next crop ;
8. The affected people should be exempted from land revenue ;
9. At Beguripara and Fetengapara, at the points of breach on the embankment of the river Brahmaputra in the Goalpara district, ring bandh is to be erected on war footing before the spate of next flood ;
10. The damaged communication system should immediately be restored ;
11. Specific stress should be given to reconstruct the NEC road connecting Nidanpur of Meghalaya and Fakirganj of Dhubri district which is the only communication for a vast population ;
12. To take steps to stop the erosion of South Salmara.



Comrade B. R. Manjunath, Secretary, Bangalore District Committee, SUCI addressing the gathering protesting against the US nuclear test.

Protest against Nuclear Test

The Bangalore District Committee of the SUCI organised a protest demonstration on 13th July last near Majestic Bus Station, B'lore against nuclear test conducted by the USA in Nevada recently. Hundreds of people took part in the demonstration.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Simhadri, member, Karnataka state committee of the SUCI said that the USA which was looting the natural resources and cheap labour force of the underdeveloped countries including India was

conducting nuclear tests with the design of establishing supreme control over other countries.

Addressing the gathering Comrade B.R. Manjunath, Bangalore District Secretary, severely condemned the US nuclear test in Nevada. He said that America which was posing itself as the champion of peace by bringing force on all countries to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) had itself shamelessly resorted to the nuclear test, exposing its aggressive imperialist design to cow-down other countries and establish its supremacy in the whole world. He then explained how the fall of Soviet Union and other socialist countries, which was the bastion of the world peace movement, resulted in unfettered bullying and ruthless naked aggression by the USA. He then called upon the people to build up mighty peace movement to thwart its evil designs.

An effigy of Bill Clinton, the president of the USA, was burnt amidst slogan shouting against imperialism.

Chennai-Chengai District Organising Committee, UTUC-LS organised a massive demonstration in front of Kuralagam on July 30, 1997.

At the end of the demonstration, the Secretary, Chennai-Chengai District Organising Committee of the UTUC-LS. Comrade Jawahar and others including Comrades Sriramalu, M Subramani, Malaichamy and Adikesavalu addressed the demonstrators and the public assembled there.

ON 5TH AUGUST

Teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Recalled

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professional revolutionaries with full submission and dedication so as to lead the party at various levels. To be a professional revolutionary means to be a new man having new values, new outlook which is the prime need in order to build up a new society. There can be no compromise in this struggle to be a new man.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh always stressed to acquire new values, new thought to be a revolutionary. All great men always had to change themselves first. The SUCI has been built up on this principle through such arduous struggles.

He recalled the great role of Comrade Ghosh in the international communist movement. He reminded the audience that today his thoughts and his works were creating keen interest even in other countries also. He told that in Asia, Europe, Latin America, representatives of the SUCI were being invited to various international forums on different occasions.

In fine, he exposed the hollowness of the parliamentary system which is out and out rotten and decayed today. He appealed to all to learn and re-learn the teachings of Comrade Ghosh and participate in movements so that people may see socialism as the only alternative.

Hyderabad

A public meeting was held in a hall at Kushal Towers, Khairatabad, Hyderabad on 8th August, 1997, on the occasion of 21st memorial day of the great leader of the proletariat and Founder General Secretary of our party Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Ch. Murahari, member, Andhra Pradesh State Organising Committee and in-charge, Hyderabad district, presided over the meeting.

Comrade Sitesh Dasgupta, member, Central Committee, SUCI was the main speaker. Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary, State Organising Committee also addressed the gathering.

Comrade K. Sridhar, in course of his speech, narrated some of the significant events of Comrade Ghosh's life, paid rich tributes to this great revolutionary, a source of unending inspiration and urged all comrades, supporters, sympathisers

present in the meeting, to conduct life struggles uncompromisingly following Comrade Ghosh's teachings and become good communists and take forward the Indian revolutionary movement.

Comrade Sitesh Dasgupta, the main speaker of the meeting said: 5th August is the date on which the world proletariat and the Indian proletariat have lost two great Marxist philosophers, Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Marx and Engels were founders of scientific socialism while Comrade Ghosh's life struggle and works help to dispel all confusions that engulf today's international communist movement. Continuing, Dasgupta said: Today everybody, starting from bourgeois philistines to pseudo-leftists are propagating that Marxism has become obsolete. But Marxism, unlike other philosophies, is based on science, and is the science of all sciences. So the question of science becoming outdated does not arise at all. By taking the inner kernel of Hegelian dialectics and rational kernel of Feuerbach's materialism, Marx gave birth to the noblest of all philosophies, Marxism.

The emergence and development of the SUCI, the real revolutionary party of the proletariat on Indian soil, has become possible owing to the unique struggle conducted by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on the basis of Marxism-Leninism throughout his life. He used to conduct relentless struggle for truth and never compromised on any point on the question of principle. Through this arduous struggle to build communist character in the party life a band of professional revolutionaries had come into being in the party.

In conclusion, Comrade Dasgupta said: Today, the decadent imperialist culture is polluting the entire society and so we must be on guard against this filthy culture and release an intense counter-current of cultural movement to forestall its pernicious effect.

Orissa

Under the auspices of Orissa State Committee, Memorial Day of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on 5th August, the day of their passing away, was observed at Shaheed Bhawan, Cuttack. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Jagabandhu Boral and Comrade Sitesh

Dasgupta, Central Committee member was the main speaker.

Dwelling on the life struggles of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Sitesh Dasgupta brilliantly showed how Engels through his life-long struggle endeavoured to build up international working class movement and in its wake concretised the thoughts of Karl Marx which he left unfinished. Similarly, Comrade Dasgupta continued, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, had to plunge into life-long struggles to concretise Marxism-Leninism on the Indian soil. In this process, he emerged as the leader of the Indian proletariat

In his presidential speech, Comrade Jagabandhu Boral dwelt upon the current situation obtaining in the country in Oriya language.

West Bengal

Despite incessant rains all day long the memorial meeting in Calcutta held at Subodh Mullick Square on 5th August was overflowed with people. The meeting, presided over by Comrade Yakub Pailan, member, West Bengal State Secretariat of the SUCI, had Comrade Provash Ghosh, Central Committee member and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the party as its speaker. CC members Comrade Anil Sen, Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, beside Comrade Provash Ghosh garlanded the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, along with many other comrades.

Comrade Provash Ghosh in his speech painted a vivid picture of the sufferings of the teeming millions due to the brutal capitalist exploitation. Unemployment, retrenchment, price rise, deteriorating law and order, anarchy in education, dark health scenario, etc., and above all the pathetic cultural degeneration were driving people back to the wall. Corruption at high places had become naked and it was not Laloo Yadav alone, but the BJP, the Gandhites and even the leftists and so-called Marxists, also were steeped in corruption. It was inevitable for any party, which, despite its proclamations, served the ruling capitalist class that survived on sucking the blood of toiling people, to be corrupted to the core. It was a stinking system, long dead, nothing to offer to the people. Capitalism could not but thrive only on the backwardness of the people, communalism being one of the curses that it imposed. But it was a big curse which was responsible for the meteoric rise of the BJP, which undid Congress in this game. Communal card could be used by Congress most because it was the biggest and most trusted party of the capitalist class. But the BJP stole the show in the changed situation, whose only objective was the Indian throne. So we see that the New Economic Policy, floated by Narasimha Rao government in 1991 July, had no true opposition in Janata Dal, or BJP, or Lefts, or the regional parties. But was not there any way out? Marxism was the way out for it was the only ideology that alone could lead people against the capitalist exploitative system.

But the treacherous role of the CPI(M), CPI, etc. coupled with the setback of socialism had gravely disturbed the hope of the people about socialism and socialist revolution. The ruling lefts in West Bengal were inviting monopolies and multinational corporations, practising like the Centre, globalization, liberalisation and privatization, bringing doom on people and crushing peo-

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A section of the gathering at Subodh Mullick Square, Calcutta at the memorial meeting

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's Teachings can alone show the path of emancipation

(Contd. from page 4)

ple's movement. This had encouraged communalism to rise in West Bengal as also in the country.

Against this dark perspective, our party, guided with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, which was the concretised form of Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil, had been initiating and building up mass struggles in different parts of the country for the last two decades at the cost of life and blood.

It was the need of the hour to develop and strengthen the movements all over the country against the anti-people policies of the Centre and state governments on the basis of higher culture and ethics as shown by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Memorial meeting of Frederick Engels, the great leader of the proletariat was held on August 10 last at the Muslim Institute Hall, Calcutta. Comrade Manik Mukherjee addressed the gathering as the main speaker.

Assam

Addressing a big public meeting held at District Library Auditorium, Guwahati, on 9th August, 1997, on the occasion of the 21st Death Anniversary of the Founder General Secretary of the SUCI and a great Marxist leader of this era Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Asit Bhattacharjee, member, Central Committee of the party, while paying homage to the great leader of the proletariat, strongly criticised the CPI(M) and the CPI for shunning the path of forming a genuine left-democratic front on the basis of a common minimum programme, certain basic principles and code of conduct as an instrument of struggle for advancing the people's struggle against the exploitation of the ruling capitalist class and for aligning with the branded bourgeois parties with the sole object of pelf and power.

In this connection, Comrade Asit Bhattacharjee also deeply deplored the fact that although since 1979 Assam was witnessing different types of movements under different slogans, age-old unity between different sections of public was not only

fast breaking down, Assam as a state was on the verge of disintegration. Practically Assam was today under the grip of fratricidal bloodbath in which people were killing people everyday; because of this vicious atmosphere it was becoming too stiff to develop any united movement against the growing attack of the capitalist class and its rulers.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Kalyan Choudhury, Secretary of the Assam State Committee.

Tripura:

The 21st Death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was solemnly observed on 5th August at Kaman Choumohany, Agartala under the auspices of the Agartala District Organising Committee, SUCI. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Milan Chakraborty, party organiser, while Comrade Asit Bhattacharjee, Central Committee member of the party, was the main speaker. In his speech Comrade Bhattacharjee lucidly explained the root causes of the present unbearable political and economic crisis obtaining in the country, on the basis of the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Bhattacharjee stressed that militant mass movement on the basis of unity of the left democratic forces of the country was the need of the hour to face the present challenges. But the parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) had abandoned this path, and were making unprincipled alliances with the branded bourgeois parties with the sole aim of sharing power and pelf. Dwelling upon the question of terrorism in Tripura, Comrade Bhattacharjee emphasized the urgent necessity of building up united movement of all the exploited people by rising above race, caste, creed and religion, to counter the onslaught of capitalism. He pointed out that in Tripura, the parties like the CPI(M) and the CPI instead of following this only logical course to combat divisive tendencies were actually fomenting dirty politics involving tribal people. He appealed to the people to build up united movement for solving the problem of terrorism.

Kerala

The 21st Anniversary of the demise of the great

leader, teacher and guide Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was observed in a solemn and befitting manner in the state. On 5th August, a memorial meeting was organised at 'Yatra' Auditorium at Ernakulam under the auspices of the Kerala State Committee of our party. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee was the main speaker while Comrade C K Lucose, Kerala State Secretary presided over the meeting.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, paying revolutionary tribute to our great teacher, discussed in outline, the invaluable contributions Comrade Ghosh made in different fields of knowledge. With deep respect, he mentioned about the legendary struggle led by Comrade Ghosh along with a handful of revolutionary compatriots to concretise Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil.

Referring to the international situation, he said that though apparently reactionary forces had gained strength after the collapse of the socialist camp, ever deepening crisis of capitalism was pushing the whole world to a volcanic situation. If only the communist movement could provide correct leadership steering clear the ideological confusions created by modern revisionism, the onward march of proletarian revolution would be irresistible. The thoughts of Comrade Ghosh provided the invincible ideological weapon to the genuine communist revolutionaries the world over in their fight against modern revisionism which was acting as the main danger in the communist movement today.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty urged the audience to grasp and realise the revolutionary teachings of Comrade Ghosh and engage themselves in organising militant mass struggles of the toiling people on the base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution and help develop people's instruments of power in the form of people's struggle committees. Only by responding to this call of the hour could we really pay revolutionary homage to our beloved departed leader.

Comrade C K Lucose, in his presidential address, strongly criticised the UF Government at the Centre supported by Congress (I) and the Left parties as well as the CPI(M)-led L.D.F Government in the state which were vigorously implementing the anti-people policies of the erstwhile Congress(I) governments. He called upon the people to rally behind the SUCI to organise democratic mass movements to resist the anti-people policies of the Central and state governments.

A resolution condemning the recent High Court ruling banning bandhs and imposing severe restrictions on demonstration and dharnas, was unanimously adopted by the meeting. Before the meeting, hundreds of party workers had held a well decorated procession through the main thoroughfares of the city. On the strength of the High Court ruling, the police tried to virtually prohibit the demonstration imposing many restrictions and exhibiting an arrogant attitude. But it was decided that defying the undemocratic and highhanded postures of the administration, procession would be taken out on this solemn occasion holding high the portrait of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and the Red Flag. The repeated attempts made by the police to obstruct the demonstration led by Comrade CK Lucose and the State Committee members evoked indignation among the public at large.

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(Above) Comrade Krishna Chakraborty member, Central Committee addressing the memorial meeting at Ernakulam, Kerala. Comrade C.K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State Committee is seen in the middle with other state leaders. (Below) A section of the gathering.

CPI (M), CPI aligning with Branded Bourgeois Party

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Chennai

The Tamilnadu State Organising Committee of the SUCI observed the 21st Memorial Day of the great leader of the proletariat and the founder General Secretary of the party by organising a public meeting near the Periyar Statue in Villupuram, the district headquarters of Villupuram district on August 9, 1997.

The meeting was preceded by a procession through the main thoroughfares and streets of the city. Hundreds of the party supporters from the neighbouring villages as well as comrades, supporters from other districts, especially Cuddalore and Madras districts took part. A good number of the participants were women.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Narayanasamy, State Organising Committee member. Comrade A. Anavarthan, the District Secretary of the Villupuram-Cuddalore (previously South Arcot) District Organising Committee, and Tamilnadu State Organising Committee member, addressed the large gathering.

The main speaker in the meeting was Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Central Committee member of the party, who analysed the national situation in the country, explaining to the people how every bourgeois party in the country, whether national or regional, had become downright reactionary and anti-people in character, that each party was vying with others to serve best the ruling class. He showed by examples how these parties, whether it

was the Congress or the UF or any of the regional parties, were least interested in solving the burning problems of the common people, rather tried all ways and means to disrupt people's unity for petty, selfish electoral gains. Corruption had become all-pervasive in parliamentary politics, and everywhere a political-criminal nexus had cropped up. He also said that it was a matter of deep regret that the so-called left parties had totally abandoned the path of people's movement and had entrenched themselves in bourgeois parliamentary politics. The services of the leaders of these parties were being highly lauded by the bourgeois class because of the long history of these parties in helping whichever government was at the Centre, whether Congress or UF, to survive crisis situations. Instead, if their actions had matched their social-democratic rhetoric, by now a powerful democratic and left movement would have been built up in the country, the only way that many of the problems faced by the masses today could really be fought and solved. He very clearly showed how the only force of movement left today was the SUCI founded and nurtured by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, and he appealed to the people to realise this and to come forward to strengthen the party. He also appealed to all comrades to intensify their own struggles so that they would be able to rise to the task of successfully carrying out the anti-capitalist revolution in the country.

Karnataka

The Karnataka State Committee of the SUCI

had organised a memorial meeting of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on 5th August at Alumni Association Hall at 6.00 PM. The meeting was presided over by Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Secretary, SUCI, Karnataka. The main speaker in the meeting was Comrade Manik Mukherjee, member of West Bengal State Secretariat, SUCI. The meeting was attended by people from different walks of life.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee in his address dealt about the early life of Comrade Ghosh and explained that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh from his childhood days engaged himself in the movement against British imperialism and joined a revolutionary organisation, Anushilan Samiti. Later, the leaders of Anushilan Samiti formed the RSP. Comrade Ghosh in course of his struggle realised that the RSP was not a real communist party. Then he himself along with his few companions took up the struggle to build up a genuine communist party. In building up of the SUCI he had to face insurmountable difficulties and tortuous struggle. Despite all this finally he could give shape to the genuine revolutionary party.

After the fall of socialism in the USSR and east European countries, Comrade Mukherjee continued, a big hue and cry was being raised throughout the world that Marxism had become obsolete. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh long back showed that the modern revisionism was rising its ugly head posing danger to socialism in the USSR. The Soviet leadership headed by Khrushchev deviated from Marxist-Leninist line and practised revisionism. This revisionist line in its logical culmination restored capitalism in the USSR. Comrade Ghosh time and again pointed out that if struggle was not conducted on proper line even a developed socialist society might one day degenerate into an exploitative capitalist society.

Dealing on the national situation Comrade Mukherjee told that the ruling capitalist class had become corrupt to the core. All the political parties who tried to protect this rotten and worn out capitalist order were bound to become corrupt. He showed that all parties starting from Congress to CPI(M) were enmeshed in corruption.

Finally, he showed that only by practising the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in our own life we could free people from the grip of this exploitative capitalist society and free ourselves.

Comrade K. Radhakrishna in his presidential address told that the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was the elaboration and concretisation of Marxism-Leninism in India. It was the only scientific philosophy which answered every question of modern day life.

Bombay

The death anniversary of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was observed with due solemnity on 10th August at the B.N.N. College Hall, Bhiwandi in Bombay. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Ramayour Mourya while Comrade Ranjit Dhar, member West Bengal State Secretariat, was the main speaker. Others who spoke were Comrades Anil Tyagi, Omprakash Mourya and Kulsreshtha.

Nagpur

In Nagpur also the death anniversary of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was solemnly observed at the Gurudev Shebashram Hall. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Anand Gajbhiye, advocate, and Comrade Ranjit

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Comrade Manik Mukherjee, member, West Bengal State Secretariat addressing memorial meeting in Bangalore. Comrade Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka State Committee is third from left on the dais along with other state leaders. (Below) A section of the gathering

Why Proletarian Era?

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social strata in their struggle for emancipation and can lead these revolutions to their logical culminations. As the worst victim of capitalist exploitation and the system of private and individual ownership over the means of production — it is the proletariat that has emerged today as the most revolutionary class in the society. It is only the working class, the proletariat that can hold high the red banner of revolution. This is why, it is “Proletarian era” — the era of proletarian revolution and the victory of socialism.

It is only the working class party — a conscious, organised and vanguard detachment of the working class — that can lead it to power. It is, therefore, futile to talk of revolution and emancipation from all sorts of exploitation without building a genuine working class party, a communist party worthy of its name, without its political and organisational leadership being established over the Indian masses and without the correct ascertainment of the co-relationship of the social forces, i.e., the phase of revolution of India. “Proletarian era” derives tremendous pride from the fact that it carried with it the glory of being the mouthpiece, a fortnightly organ of the genuine working class party — the Socialist Unity Centre of India.

Leaving aside the question of fighting tooth and nail those political parties which are variant of bourgeois parties and accredited representatives of the Indian bourgeoisie, “Proletarian era” will conduct relentless political and ideological battle against all those who have smuggled themselves inside the rank of the militant working class and are acting as the forces of compromise between labour and capital under different shades of revolutionary phrase mongering.

In India there are some parties who speak loudly of socialism but do not accept Marxism-Leninism rather represent in reality the discredited flag of social democratism, acts as the stooges of imperialism and fan up national jingoism of the worst type, “Proletarian era” is convinced of the fact that without putting an end to social democratism it is impossible to put an end to capitalism. To fight against these forces, to give constant exposure to the masses of their mockery of revolutionary phrase mongering and so-called militant gestures will be considered a paramount responsibility on our part.

There are some others who not only clamour about socialism but also claim to accept Marxism-Leninism. But the problem with these forces is that they do not feel slightest obligation towards proletarian internationalism nor do they consider themselves to be communists. They are not the camp-followers of international communism and have been found in every crucial moment to completely submit to and join in the chorus of national jingoism. Ours will be a fight against these forces as well.

The third category broadly represents those forces which not only accept Marxism-Leninism but owe their allegiance to proletarian internationalism — the forces that deem themselves to be communists and who still enjoy, rightly or wrongly, the confidence of a section of our people as communist. This section may be classified into two categories :

(i) Those who have international recognition behind them and (ii) those who are still

unrecognized by any international authority. To put it more concretely, the former is represented by the parties like C.P.I.(M) and C.P.I. and the latter by Socialist Unity Centre of India ventilating its opinion for the first time through this new medium, the new organ — the “Proletarian era.”

Parties like the CPI(M) and CPI view their relations with international authority (be it the Chinese Communist Party or the Communist Party of the Soviet Union) to be somewhat formal instead of being dialectical which alone can guide the inter-party relation of the communists of different countries. In the absence of this dialectical relationship — which presupposes the elements of both unity and struggle in inter-party relationship and also recognizes the role of every communist party, representing revolutionary proletariat of the respective countries, to contribute creatively in policy making matters of international collective leadership — the acceptance of an international authority is bound to degenerate into blind authoritarianism resulting in the development of a very mechanical outlook. About the justification of this observation “Proletarian era” intends to throw light from time to time in future.

“Proletarian era” considers that it is the duty of a genuine communist party of a particular country to analyse and decide independently the situation of that country on the basis of their own analysis and assessment of the international situation. We are convinced of the fact that no party can lead today any revolution to its logical culmination unless it has been able to concretise

the experience of Marxism-Leninism in its own soil, unless it has anything to contribute in the store-house of Marxism-Leninism, unless it has a positive role in the formation of the international collective leadership. Only from this one can ascertain whether in the name of Marxism-Leninism a party is actually behaving in a parrot-like manner, copying international authority blindly or it has been able to concretise the experience of Marxism-Leninism in its own soil being enriched by the teachings of different international Marxist-Leninist authorities. If an independent analysis about a particular country made by the genuine communist party of that country is in conformity with that of the international leadership — it is very good. But if not, then it will be the bounden duty of that particular party to come into struggle with the international leadership in order to arrive at a collective decision quite distinct from so-called common agreement reached generally by adjustment and patchwork. This does not mean rejection of international leadership at all; moreover this is the only correct method to strengthen the collective whole.

It will be the solemn task of “Proletarian era” to concretise the experience of Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil, to contribute such valuable things in the storehouse of Marxism that will guide not only the Indian revolution but will also make positive contribution to the communist movement of the world. In that event the futility of the approaches of all other pseudo-Marxists will be thoroughly exposed without which it is impossible to pave the way for the emergence of a real revolutionary collective leadership with its concrete expression which alone can lead our revolutionary masses to power.

Now something about the present Indian situation. Those people who think in terms of anti-feudal anti-imperialist peoples democratic revolution in India either directly or through a phase of national democracy have completely failed to reflect the reality of the social-economic-political situation of the country. They forget that India is not a semi-feudal or semi-colonial state — it is distinctly a bourgeois national sovereign state of highly centralized character. These people advocate non-capitalist path of development without breaking down the existing well established capitalism. They gloss over the significant change that took place along with the transference of political power into the hands of the Indian bourgeoisie.

These pseudo-Marxists very often forget that agricultural economy as such does not mean feudal economy. They also fail to understand that the nature of land ownership — be it nationalisation of land, individual land farming, cooperative farming or small equitable land holding — does not determine the character of agricultural economy. The character of agricultural economy depends on the nature of commerce and production and more specifically on the relations of production. Judging on the anvil of this Leninist analysis one could easily find that Indian agricultural economy has been completely transformed into capitalist one. Apart from the question of concentration of land in the hands of a few, who are no longer Zeminders but rich peasants and who have already transformed themselves into rural bourgeoisie, the question of tremendous increase in the number of agricultural labourers, and the question of transformation of agricultural produce into the commodity of capitalist national market — few

more points need thorough and clear-cut understanding. That the agricultural produce has lost today the character of pre-capitalist commodity meant for localised market and has assumed the character of capitalist commodity meant for national capitalist market. That the labour powers of the agricultural labourers, who constitute almost fifty per cent of the labour power engaged in agricultural economy, has already become commodity of the capitalist market. All these unmistakably confirm the view that not only there has been infiltration of capitalism in Indian agriculture but also the agricultural economy as such has been transformed into capitalist one notwithstanding its tremendous backwardness in the matter of technique of ploughing, i.e. condition of cultivation, etc.

These pseudo-Marxists have failed to understand that India has already given birth to, apart from private monopoly capital, state monopoly capital as well. And any student of Marxism cannot but agree that state monopoly capitalism is the rock-bottom foundation of fascism. Not only that; however insignificant it may be in comparison to the western imperialist countries, there is no denying the fact that Indian capitalism has already given birth to finance capital, a distinct feature of imperialist economy. Precisely because of the failure to understand this important phenomenon these pseudo-Marxists fail to realize that Indian bourgeoisie has neither the role of a progressive revolutionary bourgeoisie nor is the Indian bourgeois state a satellite one.

This is why they fail to understand that Indian bourgeoisie has become a partner, although a junior partner, of the international imperialist trusts and cartels. And last but not least is the

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5th August Observed in States

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Dhar was the main speaker. Other speakers were Comrades Gurucharan Tamboli, TU leader of Sindhi Camp Khadan, Akola, Madhav Bhande and Ramdas Godbole. Mass songs was presented by Comrades Ravindra Sakhare and Sailesh Janbandhu.

Bihar

To mark the 102nd and 21st Death Anniversary of Comrade Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh respectively, the two great leaders of the world proletariat, the Bihar State Committee of the SUCI organised a memorial meeting at the Panchayat Bhawan, Patna on 5th August last. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Hem Chakraborty, member of the State Secretariat. Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Bihar State Secretary, was the main speaker and Comrade Arun Kumar Singh also addressed the gathering.

While delivering his speech, Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty highlighted some aspects of the life struggle of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and said that we the communists must take lessons from them if we really mean to accomplish revolution in our country. In dealing the present political situation of our country, he said the corrupt political leaders like Laloo and others were out to retain the governmental power by hook or by crook. Corruption was the offspring of capitalism more so in its total decay. As long as moribund capitalism was there, corruption would also be there. But this widespread corruption would to some extent be checked under the pressure of mighty mass movement.

The corruption of Laloo Prasad and Congress leaders, Comrade Chakraborty said, had paved the way for the thriving of the communal forces in the country. Though in the name of containing communal forces, but only to be in the governmental power, Laloo Prasad used casteism as a tool which on the contrary, had given fillip to the communal forces in the state to thrive.

He also warned that with the exit of Laloo Prasad, corruption would not cease to exist. So to put an end to corruption, this capitalist social system was required to be replaced with a socialist one.

In fine, he appealed to the democratic minded

well-meaning people of the state to build up a militant mass movement against corruption and anti-people policies of the government throughout the state which would effectively check this evil menace on the one hand and the rise of the communal force on the other.

Sagar, MP

The SUCI, Sagar District Organising Committee, observed the memorial day of Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on 5th August, the day of their demise, and on the occasion held a mass meeting at Yadav Colony at 6.00 PM.

Comrade Ramavatar Sharma, Secretary, Sagar District Organising Committee, recalled the great struggle of Frederick Engels, the lifelong comrade-in-arms of Karl Marx, to establish Marxism. He identified himself with this great philosophy. Comrade Sharma also said that the struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to build up the SUCI as the genuine Marxist party on Indian soil was unique. In course of this struggle Comrade Shibdas Ghosh made valuable contributions in the treasurehouse of Marxism-Leninism.

Clinton's effigy burnt

SUCI activists burnt the effigy of Clinton, the US president in front of the Secretariat at Trivandrum on July 8 last against the underground nuclear tests conducted by the US imperialists and their decision to launch satellite for spy work over other countries the world over.

In the protest meeting in front of the Secretariat, Comrade B.K. Rajagopal, President, AIDS, Kerala State Council and the State Committee member, SUCI, condemned that it was the USA, claiming themselves to be the champion of the CTBT, which had become aggressive and was making preparations for nuclear war. He called upon the democratic minded and peace loving people to unite against the war threat posed by the imperialists.

Activists of the Delhi branch of the All India Anti-imperialist Forum held a demonstration to protest against the recent nuclear test by the United States of America. The demonstration was held at 1 PM on 6th July in front of the American Centre, Kasturba Gandhi Marg and lasted about

45 minutes before it was dispersed by police. Demonstrators carried placards condemning the US war-mongering and shouted slogans against US imperialism.

A memorandum addressed to the American President condemning the test was later sent by post to the American Ambassador with a request to forward it to the President (since 6th July was a holiday for the American Centre).



Activists of All India Anti-Imperialist Forum protesting against the recent US nuclear test in New Delhi

Why Proletarian Era?

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undeniable fact of the existence of a most centralized and modernized type of capitalist state machinery in India which challenges the validity of the programme of anti-feudal, anti-imperialist peoples democratic revolution. When capitalism is our main enemy, the adoption of the programme of anti-feudal, anti-imperialist peoples democratic revolution will tantamount to sabre-rattling in air against an imaginary enemy, keeping the main enemy, the bourgeoisie unhurt, unnecessary wastage of energy of the revolutionary forces and, above all, pushing the unorganized revolutionary movements of the masses, quite untimely and helplessly, before the tremendous onslaught of the bourgeois state. Otherwise, under the garb of high sounding revolutionary slogans of the leaders it will objectively mean slow and surreptitious surrender to the current of parliamentary reformism.

“Proletarian era” will be failing in its duty, in discharging its historic responsibility if it does not bring in the lime light the following: What is the correct process of formation of a working class party? What is the methodology and process of thinking of a working class party? Why did the Communist Party of India (meaning undivided CPI) which was later on split into CPI(M) and CPI fail to emerge as a genuine communist party inspite of tremendous sacrifice of the rank and

file? What is really meant by collective leadership and what are its concrete features? Does not the nature of split inside the undivided CPI leading to the formation of CPI(M) and CPI and then again the recent formation of a group which is openly revolting against the CPI(M) leadership indicate complete lack of sense of collective leadership inside the party — whether in the part or in the whole? Under the circumstances, what are the prospects and possibilities of the leadership of the SUCI over the revolutionary masses of our country? “Proletarian era” will endeavour its utmost to highlight the above points.

It is obvious that one cannot do justice to the questions raised above unless one is provided with a clear-cut understanding regarding the assessment of the present international situation, communist movement in general and Sino-Soviet relation in particular. We promise to throw light upon these points as well.

Finally, “Proletarian era” considers it to be the bounden duty to support all the struggles of the masses for emancipation and against injustice in any country. We declare our unshakable determination to deem all just struggles of the people of any country to be our struggle and pledge our unflinching patronage behind them. “Proletarian era” is destined to act as the leader of all the struggles of the revolutionary masses. We deserve the support and cooperation of all who stand by the cause of new civilization, the cause of socialism and proletarian revolution.

Long Live Proletarian Era!

Long Live Revolution !!

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