

The Call of All India Industrial General Strike

Maintain Unity, Consolidate The Gains, Carry Forward The Struggle

Warm greetings to the working people of India! Boldly and courageously they responded to the call of the National Campaign Committee for an All India Industrial General Strike on 19th January, 1982, the first of its kind in the history of trade union movement in our country and made it an all out success, in protest against the unprecedented and unbridled price rise of essential commodities, the draconian act like ESMA, NSA etc. imposed by the Central Congress (I) Government to snatch away all the limited democratic rights of the people for the benefit of the Indian ruling class. In fact, the ruling class enacts a law today only to find it not sufficient enough next day to suppress people's rising resentment against utter exploitation, backbreaking taxation, against all the steps the Governments at the Centre and the States are taking to pass the entire burden of the intense crisis of capitalism on to the shoulders of the common people. So they are enacting one law after another, one ordinance after another to give more and more power in the hands of the administration and thus are paving the way for the establishment of all out fascism in the country.

But should the exploited multitude remain dumb spectators and allow themselves to be fleeced and oppressed? Should they not organise themselves and rise boldly and courageously against oppression and repression, deprivation and exploitation? They should and for that should forge

broadest unity of all sections of the exploited millions, about the importance of which our party SUCI and UTUC (Lenin Sarani) guided by the thoughts of the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, have been urging for a long time.

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Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI Strongly Protests the Increase of Post and Telegraph Tariff

Calcutta, February 3, 1982.

Strongly protesting against the proposed increase of the Post and Telegraph tariff by the Union Government, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI has in course of a statement said:-

"Coming close on the heels of the new 20-point programme and the Cabinet reshuffle, the increase in Post and Telegraph tariffs covering registered articles, money orders, telegrams, phonograms, telephone rentals etc. to be effective from March 1, 1982 as decided by the Union

Cabinet has come as another severe blow against the already hard-hit poor people with back-breaking taxation one after another. It is really a shameless attempt to hide the failure and put the entire burden of the crisis of the ruling capitalist class on to the shoulder of the common men without caring a bit what hardship of severe inflation it will entail upon them.

"We call upon the people in general and Left and democratic parties in particular to organise united and massive protest against it."

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Grasp inner kernel of Marxism and reflect in day to day life and behaviour a high standard of Communist Character

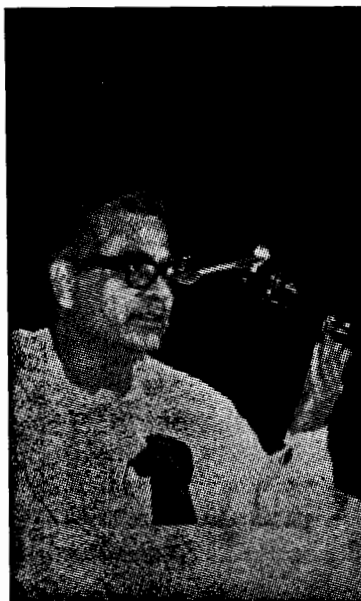
Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's appeal to the delegates

Comrade President and
Comrade Delegates,

This is a session of the delegates and I think that mainly the delegates should take active part in the deliberation of this session. The thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, so far I have grasped, is the guideline before all of us—students, youths, workers, peasants, agricultural labourers i.e. all sections of the people. I urge you to follow this guideline but draw your attention only to one point. We all know that starting from Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tse tung and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, all giant Marxist thinkers of the world emphasised this point again and again. They taught that those who dare to change the world they will have to change themselves first. That is the burning lesson and teaching of them all. This is the beacon light in the onward and forward march of all sections of

the toiling people. Remember, you are the inseparable part of the toiling millions of our country and should play a significant role.

The struggle which you are going to build



up throughout the country requires a correct base political line on the edifice of higher proletarian culture, ethics and aesthetics. Now, who can develop such a gigantic struggle?

Only those people can do it who, imbued with a correct philosophy and higher ideology, have been able to change themselves culturally, ethically and morally. That is the clarion call, set forth by all the great Marxist thinkers of the world. Only by changing your culture, character and object of life and consciously conducting the battle, you can become a new man. Not by acquiring theoretical knowledge meant simply for giving lectures but by acquiring the mettle of a revolutionary character blended with higher ethics, culture and morality can you draw millions of toiling people in the country. Your character should be such that it can symbolise the citizens of the future society. Look, we have, before us, the exemplary character of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the highest model of character to be

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Build up Mighty Students' Movement Conducive to Democratic Mass Movement throughout the Country

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee's ardent appeal

[We reproduce below the full text of the speech delivered by Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, at the Open Session, All India Students' Conference organised by AIDS0, at Gandhi Park Maidan on January 8th, 1982.—Ed. P. Era]

Comrade President, Comrade delegates and friends,

You have assembled here today on the occasion of the inaugural session of the All India Students' Conference under the auspices of the AIDS0, at a crucial juncture in the history of our country. All the delegates who have come here from different parts of the country, I think, have come with a great mission—the mission of building up a country-wide mighty democratic students' movement and, in its course, taking an active part in and associating themselves with the growing democratic movements of the workers, peasants and toiling millions of our country. In order to fulfil this noble mission you must take up in your hands the flaming torch of truth based on scientific knowledge in all aspects of life which alone can illumine the path.

First of all, you should keep it in your mind that those who have the opportunity to study in schools, colleges and universities are very limited in number. Secondly, the very education system in our country today does not provide the student community with real and integrated knowledge, does not build up a sense of social responsibility, does not foster scientific reasoning or a bent of mind essential for building up of a character which makes man worthy of the name. Professor Samuel Mathai, an eminent educationist and Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Conference, whom you have just now heard also expressed the same view with anguish and pain. I urge all the delegates and also those who have gathered here to acquire correct knowledge, learn and study social problems confronting us in all spheres of the society—economic, political, social, ethical, moral, cultural and aesthetic. We have to probe deeply into the root cause of all these problems. What do we find then? We find that not only a shadow of crisis is haunting but

the entire society is gasping in the midst of an intense crisis. This crisis flows from the very economic base—the capitalist mode of production and production relation—which has gripped its superstructure, including the parliamentary political system of our country. As students of social science we are to understand that we live in a law-governed society. To discharge our responsibility we are to study correctly the natural laws that govern the social activities in entirety. For this you must have a correct philosophy of life. Only by studying these laws and integrating them with concrete events and experiences can you have a correct understanding as to why and wherefrom these social maladies are cropping up and what is the way out. We should know that ours is a capitalist country. This capitalism came into being in the process of development of human civilisation. The intense and antagonistic contradiction which we witness in the capitalist society today is also a by-product of history and surely not the creation of the communists who believe in classes and

class struggles. What do we, the communists, do? We just recognise this truth, i.e. the reality of the existence of classes and class struggles; and, since we are living in a law governed society, by studying the laws of class struggle we can act consciously to accelerate the process of change and thus correctly discharge our subjective role as social being. Because, we know that man cannot create the natural laws, nor can he change laws at will.

Our society is passing through capitalist exploitation not of the earlier period when free competition in the market, uninterrupted industrialisation, commitment to humanist sense of values and liberties brought about, despite the sufferings of the common people, certain measures of social progress. Capitalism at that time had a progressive character as against absolutism, feudalism, obscurantism, religious bigotry, etc. It upheld the banner of equality, liberty and fraternity and stood for science and scientific reasoning. In the economic sphere it was the phase of laissez faire or free competition. But within a short spell of time it gave birth to monopoly capitalism-imperialism and began to extend colonial rules all over the world. It was quite natural then that the capitalists, gradually drifting away from the professed slogan of equality, liberty and fraternity, reduced these slogans into mere writings on paper. Capitalism had already become corrupt and reactionary, and had lost its earlier vigour. And in our case, as a colonial

country for centuries under the alien British imperialist rule, India developed a decadent capitalist system. This decay in social system is writ large on every sphere. Education or academic life cannot be an exception to it.

As students you have opportunity to study; for which your parents are striving hard to make you 'man' worthy of the name. Since you study in schools, colleges and universities you are called students—meaning you have got a social obligation, too. Students cannot remain unconcerned about social maladies, or the sufferings of the common people. This Conference is being held at Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala—the State which is at the top of literacy. But the acuteness of illiteracy can be ascertained from the fact that even after 34 years of independence only 30% of the population are literate but not educated. You cannot but feel a real concern and anguish for these illiterate people, who are creating wealth in fields and factories, on which the modern civilisation has been created. So, as civilised men you, students, have got a great responsibility to discharge. You cannot remain silent spectators, nor allow yourselves to be victim of decadent bourgeois thought and culture which make man self centred, self-seeker and careerist. To act correctly therefore the first thing you have to decide over is what should be the philosophy of your life which can provide with the correct path. Is there any other philosophy which can show the real process of change of this universe other than the dialectical materialist philosophy which we call the Marxist philosophy? In fact, there is none. Because, all other philosophies only interpreted the world; but dialectical materialism has not only interpreted the world, it has shown how to change it, and it acts as a guide to action. Moreover, this is the only philosophy which is based fully on

science and scientific, experimented truth. From the point of view of being truthful in all aspects of our life and society the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism as concretised, enriched and brought to a newer height on our soil by our beloved leader, teacher, guide and a foremost Marxist thinker and philosopher of the era, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, really acts as a beacon light.

So, I will urge you to study assiduously the science of dialectical materialism, Marxism-Leninism and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts. Otherwise, knowingly or unknowingly, you will be pushed to a blind alley, falling prey to the influence of the bourgeois idealistic thoughts prevalent in our society.

Now let me tell you one thing clearly, my friends, that India, being an inseparable part of the world capitalist system, is passing through the intense third general crisis of the world capitalist market as pointed out by Comrade Ghosh decades ago. This crisis-ridden capitalism has lost its relative stability which is evident from the very fact that the bourgeoisie are trying utmost to come out of this impasse through planning after planning only to plunge the country into a deeper crisis. That has become the order of the day for the entire capitalist world. But this crisis-ridden capitalism will not end by itself automatically. The intense economic crisis today is being reflected in the socio-political sphere and in the field of ethics, morality, aesthetics and culture. That is not an accident, my friends. It is cropping up from the very exploitative capitalist social system. So we must put an end to this social system. But we cannot do it by wishful thinking. Until and unless we equip ourselves with dialectical materialism, Marxism-Leninism and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's

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Education has no meaning unless it imparts sense of social responsibility

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thoughts as our life's philosophy, the emancipation of the toiling millions from capitalist exploitative system—not only of our country but all over the world—will remain a far cry. And to bring about emancipation of the people of our country, you, as students, have to share a great responsibility.

Here you must remember the caution given by our beloved leader and teacher, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, that spontaneous outbursts, revolts, slogan mongering, agitational form of movement or aimless desperateness cannot provide us with the way. In order to bring about a revolutionary change of our society, you must choose the correct path, the correct philosophy from among the two antagonistic world outlooks. Otherwise, knowingly or unknowingly, you will serve the capitalist rulers—having capitalist world outlook based on capitalist mode of production. The aim of the capitalist rulers is to reap maximum profit at the cost of blood and sweat of the common people, deceive them in the name of nation, national interest, country and country's interest and confuse the reality of class divided society. So you will have to consciously grasp and apply in your life the proletarian world outlook based on collective or social ownership of the means of production, collective way of life and struggle. So, not by sporadic and spontaneous outbursts but by organised, conscious and protracted mass movement with necessary combatibility of the masses can the present tyrannical rule of the capitalist rulers be put an end to. Comrade Ghosh has shown that at the initial stage in every age you find a few people, not many

people, who stand for social progress and for the cause of social revolution. But who are these few people? They are the young, bright and students. They can take up the challenge and share the responsibility as social being. The real meaning of studying in schools, colleges and universities attaches here. It means that by learning or acquiring appropriate knowledge they can lead a life with proper sense of dignity and can also realise the truth that study is not for building up career but for discharging the social responsibility. The bourgeois philosophers, thinkers and rulers are trying hard to spread the idea that students must be kept out of politics, democratic movements and class struggle. They have been holding out a bright prospect for the common people. But if you are to live as man, you are to realise the actual state of affairs of the society. You must ask them: What is hindering the progress of our society? What stands in the way of uninterrupted growth and development, or modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture and also industrialisation of the country as a whole? Why are the workers losing their jobs because of lock-out, layoff, etc? Why is unemployment mounting day by day in galloping proportions? Why is the number of agricultural labourers increasing day by day? Why are the peasants being evicted from lands? Why are 70% of the population living below the poverty line even after 34 years of independence?

What we are witnessing in reality is that the capitalist rulers and the social democratic forces are all engaged in extending the lease of life of the moribund capitalism. The ruling parties are

liberally giving subsidies and subventions to the capitalists from the public exchequer, bringing in its wake heavy taxation, price hike, inflation, etc., etc., the entire burden of which is being shouldered by the workers, peasants and middle class people. When this ruthless exploitation and oppression surpass the limit of forbearance, the people become restive and take recourse to revolt and spontaneous outbursts. They do never hesitate to shed their blood.

Now, see how the rulers feel concern for the people. They are spending crores and crores of rupees for nuclear research and military build-up but they cannot feed the people and raise their standard of living. They say that they are doing it for peace, not for war. In a country where the overwhelming majority of the people are half-fed, half-clad can we afford the luxury of sending satellites and ask the people at the same time to tighten the belt around their empty belly and to be proud of this? This is but one side of the picture. There are other sides, too.

It is a stark reality that moribund capitalism cannot really try to solve people's basic problems. Its crisis has reached such a stage, you can see, that the crisis in the economy is reflected in every sphere of life. The moral and cultural degradation which you see in the country all generate from the decadent capitalist system. The bourgeoisie have lost all sense of democratic norms, values and are trampling underfoot the hard-won democratic rights of the people.

You see, the bourgeois leaders are advancing obscurantist and revivalist ideas and the education system of our country is not free from religious tutelage. And even the

they claim it to be a secular state. Comrade Ghosh has pointed out that a really secular state considers religion as a private affair of its citizens and does not, therefore, interfere, either by encouragement or by opposition, in profession, practice and propagation of religion by the individual. On the contrary, it guarantees full freedom to the believers to profess any faith as well as to the non-believers. He has further pointed out that while secularism means non-recognition of any supernatural entity, the rulers of our country have reduced the concept of secularism to equal encouragement to all religions. In that case if Pakistan is called an Islamic theocratic state, will it be wrong to call India a multi-theocratic state? You, as students, must ponder over all these questions.

Let me recapitulate in this connection certain teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. During the freedom movement the nationalist section of the Indian bourgeoisie was naturally stirred into movement against imperialism. But like all colonial bourgeoisie in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolution they were mortally afraid of revolutionary mass struggle against imperialism. Antagonism with imperialism on the one hand and mortal fear of revolutionary struggle by the people against imperialism on the other made the nationalist section of the bourgeoisie maintain a reformist oppositional role against imperialism. Indian capitalism, therefore, tried to develop through compromise with both imperialism and feudalism with the result that it could not carry out the task of social and cultural revolution necessary for democratisation of the

society. Indian nationalism, therefore, remained by and large religion-oriented nationalism, particularly Hindu religion-oriented, dominated by the upper castes. This very fact obstructed the Muslims to join en masse in the nationalist movement. Not only this. As a reaction to this religion orientation dominated by the upper caste Hindus, the down-trodden people of the backward communities, who had come forward to join the freedom struggle, in the main, kept out.

In a vast country like India where multi-nationality and multi-religious people are living it is the solemn duty, being a capitalist state even to keep unity among all. During the freedom movement of our country although the nationalist section of the bourgeoisie who were at the helm of the movement had failed, owing to their inherent weakness, to forge greater unity among the people by holding aloft the banner of social and cultural revolution, it can never be denied that it had to seriously strive for bringing unity among the people on the political plane in order to capture the Indian State from the Britishers by using the patriotic feeling of the people. But today, after achieving independence and being faced with a severe crisis, the Indian bourgeoisie are frantically trying to extend their lease of life by fanning up disunity and divisive tendencies, overtly and covertly, among different communities of the people. Besides, we cannot forget that in a multi-nationality capitalist country like ours, apart from capitalist exploitation, there is also nationality oppression by the dominant nationality bourgeoisie over others. All these facts clearly point to the urgent necessity of fulfilling the

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Tremendous Response of the Working People Throughout the Country

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The Central as well as State Governments made all efforts to foil this active protest of the working people. Mr. N. D. Tiwari, the Central Labour Minister, in a meeting with the NCC asked them to withdraw the strike. Having failed to persuade them the Governments started to issue threatening Orders. The Bihar Government issued "shoot at sight order." "In a broadcast from the Bangalore station of AIR, Karnataka Chief Minister Mr. R. Gundu Rao warned that the Government would not hesitate to use force to break the 'Bandh'....

"The Uttar Pradesh Government warned its employees that it would take strict action against, if they took part in the proposed Bharat Bandh'.

"Talking to newsmen in Lucknow, an official spokesman said, unauthorised absence of employees from their respective offices would amount to a break in service" [The Economic Times, January 16, 1982]

"In Andhra Pradesh, a penal levy of eight day's salary will be imposed on each employee who stays away from work."

[Statesman, January 18, '82]

But having failed to dampen the spirit of the working people through these threats the Governments started to make indiscriminate arrests. Statesman dated 19th says. "More than 6000 arrests were made in different states as major trade unions and the Government tonight were set for a showdown over the first ever nation-wide strike..

"Reports received here tonight spoke of continuing arrests besides clamping of prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr Pc and deployment of paramilitary forces at major industrial centres".

The Central Committee of our party in a state-

ment extended full support to the Industrial General Strike and denounced the arrests of labour leaders and workers in various states. The statement condemned Home Minister Mr. Jai Singh's statement threatening to crush the 19th January Strike, and the anti-strike propaganda on All India Radio. The statement urged the working class to make the Strike a resounding victory and appealed to the common people to extend full support to the strike and urged them not to be confused by the slanderous lies spread by the ruling party leaders and the Central Ministers.

In a joint statement signed by the NCC leaders including Comrade Pritish Chanda, General Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) it was stated "that the Government had not challenged the soundness of the NCC proposal to repeal the ESMA, and yet it embarked on the course of confrontation with the working class.

"Substantiating the charge, they accused the Government with gearing up all its forces and officialdom to terrorise the workers and employees." [Patriot, 17.1.82]

Even though on many occasions Mrs. Indira Gandhi declared and tried to impress upon that the ESMA, NSA, etc. were not meant to suppress trade union movements but to punish the anti-social elements, hoarders, blackmarketeers etc. but how hollow was the declaration and what was the real intent of these anti-people Acts was amply evident from the fact that "the arrests were carried out under the National Security Act."

[Statesman, 19.1.82]

News of arrests of our Party workers are pouring in from different parts of the country. Even the incomplete reports, received so far, amply demonstrate how our party and our different frontal organisations including

UTUC (Lenin Sarani) made all out effort to make the General Strike successful and that attacks that have come upon us, both prior to 19th and on the Strike day of 19th, by the Governments in different states testifies to this truth.

From the reports it is obvious that our party and mass front workers were the main target of Government's vindictive measures in Orissa.

In Cuttak District, Comrades Kailash Misra, President Ravenshaw College students' union as also a member of the State Committee, of A I DSO, Narendra Panigrahi member DSO State Committee, Maheswar Majhi (DSO), Kamalakanta Mahapatra (DSO) Normal Chowdhury (UTUC, Lenin Sarani) LIC worker and Krushna Panigrahi, LIC were arrested.

In Puri, Comrade Raghunath Das, member District Committee of our Party, in Mayurbhanj Comrades Shambhu Nayek our Party's District organiser, Pradip Choudhury (UTUC—Lenin Sarani), in Angul, Comrades Basanta Pradhan (DSO), Bhimsen Behera (DSO), Comrades Banpada Das, Treasurer Rourkela Workers Union, Comrade J. S. Routb, Secretary Rourkela Workers Union Chhabi Mahanti member All India Council AIDS O was arrested when she was going to address a public meeting. Rabindra Routh (DSO) was also arrested. Besides, Comrade Shibaprasad Sahoo and 14 others were arrested in Bolangir district. In Rajgangpur, Comrade Samar Sarkar, in Jharsuguda Comrade Digamber Patnaik, in Balasore Comrade Rabindra Behera, General Secretary Balasore Municipality Workers Co-ordination committee were arrested. The police broke open the door of the union office to arrest Comrade Behera at 1 O'clock on the 11th night. Comrade Anil

Parida, Secretary, Balasore District Committee and Comrade Kartik Snee (DSO) were also arrested while they were picketing on the Strike day.

At Birmaharajpur, Comrade Sanat Panigrahi, Comrade Prasanta Karua were arrested. The above list of Orissa is only partial received till going to the press.

In Bihar Comrade Amar Kumar Pandey a renowned Trade Union leader and Secretary Bihar State Committee UTUC (Lenin Sarani) was arrested at Marhowrah on 19th. Comrade Md. Yasin a UTUC (Lenin Sarani) organiser was also arrested together with Comrade Pandey.

Three activists of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) were arrested in Hindusthan Copper Limited in Mosabani, Bihar on 12th January.

In Vijaynagram, Andhra Pradesh, Comrade R. Mazumder, an organiser of our Party and another Comrade were arrested on 16th night.

In a statement on 17th January our Party unit at Andhra Pradesh strongly condemned the illegitimate arrest of more than 200 leaders and worker of different trade unions, opposition parties and student organisations including that of ours under the black acts like ESMA, NSA etc. by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

In a statement on 18th January our Party unit at Kurnool A. P. condemned the illegitimate arrests of political leaders and workers including three of our Party workers and AIDS O members Comrades M. Naganna, A. Ramanna and Kumar on 17th night.

In a statement on 19th January Comrade C K. Lukose President, Quilon District Committee UTUC (Lenin Sarani), Kerala strongly condemned the arrest on 19th morning of Quilon District UTUC (Lenin Sarani) leaders Comrade Sudarshan Rajendran, Vijaykrishnan, S. Natarajan and leaders of other central trade

union organisations together with 250 workers from a peaceful demonstration organised in support of the All India Industrial General Strike. He congratulated the working people and the general members of the public who magnificently responded to the call of the Strike and made it a total success.

One more thing is to be taken note of here. Observing the solidarity and the determination of the working people, the Government got scared and realised that the working people cannot be daunted by the threats, intimidations. So it muffled the voice of the news media by issuing directives, "The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued a circular to all radio and television centers with regard to preparation of news bulletins on Bandh on Tuesday. The circular says that 'the bulletins must not project the success of the Bandh.' The Bandh must not be described as 'Bharat Bandh', but as a strike call by a few central trade unions.

"The circular has asked the Radio and T V centres to highlight all anti-Bandh demonstrations. Officials concerned have been asked to get stories on the Bandh checked and passed by the Chief Secretaries of the States," before publication.

[Statesman, 19.1.1982]

Even though the Central Government and the State Governments and news media controlled by them claimed that the Industrial General Strike was totally unsuccessful, the actual picture is just the reverse.

In Delhi, the Strike was by and large successful despite the heavy obstacles set by the Government and the ruling party. Throughout the day Comrade Pritish Chanda, General Secretary UTUC (Lenin Sarani) together with other NCC leaders went to different

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Working people have shown they are ready to fight and undergo sacrifice provided they get the correct leadership

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industrial areas and noted tremendous response from the working people.

Reports from Bombay shows that the Industrial Sector was totally closed. Docks were totally silent, main gate remained closed. The main shopping area like Ranada Road etc. remained closed. Trains, buses ran but there were no passenger.

Reports from Orissa shows that the strike was a resounding success everywhere. The untiring energy and initiative of our Comrades and the extensive propaganda taken up by them drew admiration of the common people.

At Jamsbedpur, Bihar Strike in Bank, LIC and Industrial units in Adityapur Industrial complex the Strike was a complete success.

At Dhanbad, Bihar the Strike including a Bandh, called by the Seven party combination, was a total success. At Bokaro, the strike was on the whole successful.

Just like Orissa in Bihar too where the unions were under the control of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) Strike was everywhere almost 100% successful.

In Rajasthan at Pilani, Chirawa and Khetri the Strike was by and large successful. Special mention may be made about Khetri Copper Project where the Strike was 100% successful.

In West Bengal in Ranigunge - Assansol coalery belt the coaleries where we have unions, the Strike was successful. In Andal no train moved on the day.

In Durgapur Steel Project from the night shift of 18th the strike was almost complete.

In ASP the position was almost the same. In MAMC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) along with some of the fraternal organisations organised big pro-

cessions, squad meetings and the Strike was completely successful.

In AVP although Congress-(I) tried to create disturbances, the Strike was a grand success.

We refrain from giving a detailed report of the success of the Industrial General Strike in West Bengal observed under the leadership of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani). In this connection we cannot but mention the sectarian attitude of the CPI(M) and CITU. When the need of the hour was to forge and protect broadest possible unity upto the plant level in the model and under the guidance of the NCC in order to give a fitting rebuff to the onslaught of the ruling class let loose by the Congress (I) led by Smt. Gandhi, we found to our dismay that our repeated appeals for the same went on deaf ears of the leaders of the CPI (M). Had this unity move been taken up seriously and a closer unity cemented at the grass root level against the fascistic attack of the ESMA, NSA etc. not only the fighting spirit of the people could have been lifted to a higher plane—the ruling class could have been given a great challenge also in this state, which was once considered the citadel of left movement. It is really painful, even on this occasion all the eight Central Trade Unions could not present a united face against this attack. Contrary to the historic need of forging struggling unity within the working class the CPI(M) thought it expedient, while in the Government, to call a 'Bangala Bandh' only to refurbish its severely damaged image but not really to build up a genuine united struggle of the working people. And this they did without

consulting with any of the partners of the NCC in the state. Facts have proved that although ostensibly this bandh call of the CPI (M) was against ESMA, price rise etc. but in point of fact it was overwhelmingly a campaign for holding election in West Bengal by the mid-March. Even this does not explain why on the day of the strike the CPI-(M) workers, may be in a single instance, did not fight shy to burn the dwelling of one of our supporters, kill Comrade Dayal Mondal and his father with bullets when they attempted to run out of their house, set ablaze by them, injure four others of the same family with gun-shot in a village under Joynagar PS. in 24-Parganas.

Be that as it may, the disunity of the working people was no doubt a source of jubilation to the Congress (I) in the state to carry on with all anti-people and even anti-social activities in the face of the strike. They were so much inspired that, taking advantage of the situation on many account, they brought the matter to the court. This led to the serious infringement of the judiciary on the strike struggle of the working people for the first time in our country. But the leaders of the Left Front preferred to keep silent on such a grave consequence but proved its "struggling mettle" by advising the citizens not to come out of their house in face of the threat of the Congress (I) hoodlums and by suggesting how the employees should draft their leave application to get their salary inspite of being absent on this day. This is the kind of 'sacrifice' and 'struggle' the call of 'Bangla bandh' of the CPI(M) stands for! But really the mood of the

people everywhere was remarkably in favour of the Strike.

The overwhelming participation of the working people in this All India Industrial General Strike proves thoroughly that the people are ready to fight, they are ready to undergo any hardship and sacrifice—provided they get correct leadership.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of our Party in a statement on 20th

January extended revolutionary greetings to all the industrial workers of the country for making the All India Industrial General Strike a success.

The Statement condemned the indiscriminate lathi-charge, firing, tear-gassing and large-scale arrest of the industrial workers and the common people by the different State Governments in connection with the Strike and demanded

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By Acquiring the mettle of a Revolutionary Character blended with higher ethics, culture and morality can one draw the toiling people

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followed by all of us. Comrade Ghosh developed such a height of Communist character through his life's struggle, unceasing and uncompromising, covering all aspects of life in course of building up the only genuine communist party on Indian soil, the SUCI, by not only concretising Marxism-Leninism in the concrete conditions of India but by bringing the understanding of Marxism-Leninism to a new height.

We should understand that the emergence of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in history is not an accident. In fact, he appeared as a product of collective struggle in which he himself took the leading role. In him the concept of collective leadership also developed as the culmination of this collective struggle and was crystalized in the idea of being personified through an individual. In the process of conducting an intense socialist ideological struggle covering all aspects of life based on Marxist or Dialectical Materialist world outlook and methodology he emerged as a great Marxist thinker and a Dialectical Materialist. In the realm of epistemology, there was not a single branch which

was not illumined by his thoughts. His thoughts were inseparable with him, the thinker and cannot be correctly grasped in isolation of his life's struggle. By carrying out this undaunted struggle both individually and collectively he was able to identify himself with Revolution, the Class and the Party. So to fulfil our mission of life we must strive hard to identify ourselves with the cause of the Party and Revolution. For that, apart from grasping the inner kernel of Marxist philosophy, politics and ideology we must be able to reflect in our day to day conduct, behaviour, personal life, mass activities, or in short, in every sphere a high standard of Communist culture.

Comrade delegates, I am confident you will succeed in your struggle and be able to undertake the responsibility historically bestowed upon you. Only the burn of struggle can give you the character to fulfil the mission of your life. With these words, I conclude my address here wishing success of your Conference.

Red Salute Comrade
Shibdas Ghosh I
Revolutionary greetings
to you all I
Long Live Revolution!

The danger of all out fascism looms large over the country

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unaccomplished task of bourgeois democratic revolution in our country, which has been repeatedly pointed out by Comrade Ghosh.

Today, you will find that not only the branded bourgeois parties like Smt. Gandhi's Congress (I) ruling at the Centre and different states, but even the so-called 'lefts', the pseudo-Marxists, are also indulging in this nasty game to reap dividend in parliamentary politics.

These bourgeois and pseudo-left social democratic parties, whether within or outside the Government, are equally serving decadent capitalism. You will notice that not only the Congress (I), Janata, Lok Dal, Cong(S), BJP, etc. but even parties who talk of communism, Marxism-Leninism, wave the red banner and are vociferous with Marxist vocabularies, parties like the CPI, CPI(M), are all engaged in the same aim. What matters to them is retention of governmental power. They may have deceived the people for some time but they cannot hide their real character from the people for long.

The CPI and CPI(M), in reality, are playing the role of social democrats—as the force of compromise between labour and capital, as the last prop of defence of moribund capitalism against the fierce class struggle going on within the society. Once again I remind you, Comrades, there is no midway in this class struggle. Either you fall prey, consciously or unconsciously, to the bourgeois thoughts, ideas, morals and culture, which serve the interest of the ruling capitalist class and which do not advance, rather retard, the cause of social progress, or you assimilate Marxism-Leninism—its revolutionary essence, the proletar-

ian culture and ethics concretised, elaborated and enriched by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. To advance the social cause you are to choose this course. This is the way to shape the destiny of our country. And in the course of advancement of the society, you can play a very bright and significant role.

To attain this noble object is precisely your task. As you have been building up and are going to build up student movements on the burning problems of education and students' life, you will also have to play a significant rôle in the democratic movements on the demands of workers, peasants and other sections of the toiling millions of the country. Because, to end the oppressive capitalist rule, we have no other way than to develop the alternative political power of the people. And this is possible only by forging unity of the toiling people through democratic mass movement.

Comrades, I have already told you that our country is passing through a grave crisis. In the midst of this deepening crisis the bourgeoisie seek to consolidate the dictatorship of capital. They are centralising powers—unbridled power to the bureaucracy. They are bringing draconian and fascist laws like Preventive Detention Acts, Summary Trials, NSA, ESMA, etc. and are showing more and more attachment to committed bureaucracy in place of relative neutrality. They are regimenting the thought process and snatching away the autonomy of educational institutions. You also know the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' Government in West Bengal is taking away the autonomy of educational institutions one after another following the foot steps of the Congress Government at

the Centre. It is discouraging study of language in general including the mother tongue and abolishing English in particular from primary education, which is sure to close the gateway to higher education for the poor people. Moreover, this Government is also devaluing the study of literature which cannot but destroy the finer faculties of minds and the thinking power, and thereby it is surreptitiously preparing the ground for mechanisation of the thought process. Again you know that the Preventive Detention Act against which the CPI (M) is so much vociferous has been brought about by the Tripura Government led by the CPI (M), which fact clearly brings to the fore how it acts as a compromising force between labour and capital and does objectively serve none but the onward march of fascism.

Our beloved leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh long back warned us against the danger of fascism and gave a brilliant and scientific exposure to this menace to civilisation. Only on the teachings of Comrade Ghosh we will have to build up a powerful democratic movement against the forces of fascism. He showed that fascism always and everywhere adopted a dual policy of suppression and persuasion. It shuns the path of conservatism and wears a radical cloak to deceive the masses. Fascism is, therefore, more dangerous than any kind of naked dictatorship including military dictatorship. The distinguishing features of fascism, as shown by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, are economic centralisation, maximum concentration of political power in the hands of bureaucracy cultural regimentation and making the state subservient to the monopolists. In the domain of culture it brings

about a peculiar fusion between spiritualism and the technical aspect of science. Comrade Ghosh has shown that fascism has become the order of the day in all the capitalist states, no matter whether developed or relatively under-developed, when capitalism has entered the third phase of intense general crisis.

We see that even the most powerful among the capitalist countries, the USA, has its crisis. But its crisis is of a different nature. It is suffering from the problem of excess capital. That is why they have completely militarised their economy. The Pentagon, the war merchants, are trying to unleash a war—whether global, local or partial. We cannot forget the teachings of Lenin that "Imperialism generates war." So long imperialism will remain the threat of war will also be there. So, by plunging the world or countries into wars they are seeking a solution to their problem which they cannot get rid of. Within a short spell of time Indian capitalism developed monopoly capitalism and through merger of Industrial Capital with Banking Capital it gave birth to financial oligarchy and began exporting finance capital to Asia, Africa and Latin American countries to rob them of their cheap labour power and natural resources, which is the characteristic feature of imperialism, as enunciated by Lenin, and this state of affairs of Indian capitalism and its deep-rooted crisis were shown by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh decades ago. To come out of this crisis Indian capitalism is manoeuvring in between war and peace. The crisis has pushed the ruling class to create a war-psychosis, even amidst talk of peace every now and then, with a view to misleading the people. If the danger of war is real and not hypothetical, why then are they not arming the people of the country despite the fact

that it is the people who alone can defend the freedom of the country from foreign attack? But the Indian bourgeoisie are not doing it, rather they are maintaining the old colonial legacy of the Arms Act. We find with anguish that patronised by the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties, hoodlums and anti-socials carry arms and they are doing all sorts of mischiefs against the people, even subjecting women to indignity. If people are armed they will protect the dignity of women, defend the country's freedom and basing themselves on the correct base political line under a genuine revolutionary party they will free themselves from the tentacles of capitalist exploitation and oppression. As the capitalist rulers are aware of this state of affairs, they are not arming the people. That is why, you see, they are maintaining the colonial legacy. Instead of highlighting this truth, and raising this demand all the bourgeois and social democratic parties are singing in chorus in the interest of the ruling class.

Here, I must say that we, the communists, are no less patriots, because we stand by proletarian internationalism which has no antagonism with real patriotism; rather today, when capitalism-nationalism has become reactionary and outmoded, true patriotism can play its historic role only through proletarian internationalism. The bourgeois and petty bourgeois leaders who talk of nationalism, in fact, exploit the patriotic feelings of the people in the interest of the rule of capital.

So, you see, calculated attempts are being made to bring about all out fascism in the country. Behind this design of the ruling capitalist class, the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties all stand

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Revolutionary Essence of Marxism-Leninism Concretised and enriched in Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts can alone guide our struggle to success

(Contd. from page 6) together. Their competition in the parliamentary field is for who among them can best serve this moribund capitalism. I would remind you here a historic warning of Comrade Ghosh. He sounded the note of caution that as the crisis of capitalism deepens and the branded bourgeois parties lose their grip over the masses, the social democratic parties who call themselves 'communist', 'Marxist' and wave the red banner but have actually degenerated themselves into nationalist parties discarding proletarian internationalism come to the rescue of moribund capitalism as its last prop. And these social democratic parties and forces if they can mix blindness, fanaticism with misguided militancy then they can also bring about fascism.

Comrade Ghosh showed "Once fascism came out of the womb of social democracy now social democracy has become the last prop of fascism." The role of the CPI (M), in particular, the backing and patronisation it is getting from the monopoly capital, both national and foreign, to rise as the third alternative for the ruling class should be viewed in this perspective.

The CPI(M) is very much interested in aligning itself with the bourgeois opposition parties like the Janata, Lok Dal, Congress (S), etc., in order to go to governmental power at the Centre. They are calling this combination 'left' and democratic to deceive the people and fulfil their parliamentary ends. We have been striving hard for long to forge a genuine left and democratic front but our concept is entirely different. In our considered view only those parties and forces can be called left and democratic which are ready to wage a

consistent fight against imperialism, which do not suffer from anti-communist bias, which are ready to join with the toiling people in their fight to uphold democratic norms, rights, values and principles. The bourgeois parties who do not fulfil these conditions can be called neither left nor democratic and, therefore, cannot be the constituents of the left democratic front which is not for manoeuvring in bourgeois parliamentary politics but which is to be a broad platform of struggle for the toiling masses on common minimum agreed programme and code of conduct. The CPI (M) is opposed to this front of struggle, it avoids struggles and joins hands with the bourgeois opposition parties to become the third national alternative.

This united front of genuine left and democratic parties, you can understand, is the urgent need of the hour. Because of its absence the people are paying a heavy price. To prevent the impending danger of all-out fascism, as I have already said, the bourgeois and social democratic parties, the parochial and communal parties and forces are dividing the people in fratricidal wars on communal and other parochial lines. Assam is a glaring example. The problem there could be solved within a short time if a democratic movement could be built up involving the toiling masses—and that was our repeated call. But parties like the CPI, CPI (M) who call themselves left did not respond. The Indira Gandhi Government at the Centre is least interested in solving the issue on a rational basis. Otherwise, it would have not only accepted our concrete proposal but would have implemented the same forthwith. From a

scientific approach to the nationality question and the question of nationality languages we demand that notwithstanding change in the composition of population the status of the Assamese language as the state language of Assam should be constitutionally guaranteed. Not only that; along with the Assamese speaking people the language, culture and education of the minority people should be provided with necessary safeguards. We also demand immediate taking of programme for economic development of the state to mitigate, even if to a little extent, the acute unemployment problem of the state.

But as I was telling you, however correct and scientific may be this approach, it requires mass-backing for its fulfilment, the backing of organised democratic mass movement. And on this issue, the 'left' parties like the CPI, CPI (M) and others have shown their apathy. They are gradually going out of democratic struggle. As a consequence of this policy of class collaboration, the mass fronts of these parties are showing not only their unwillingness to involve themselves in mass movements but are trying their most to arrest the masses in economism-reformism and all sorts of opportunism, thereby polluting the fighting spirit of the working masses. These parties have become parties of the Establishment as defenders of moribund capitalism.

So, this is the picture of the country. But I would request you: Don't get dejected at this conduct of parties like the CPI and CPI(M) who have maligned the nobility of communism. Observing the activities of the sham communists in this country or elsewhere, it will be suicidal if you turn your face away from the noble cause and ideology of communism. I tell

you again that communism and nothing else can show us the path. Now the bourgeoisie are going on steadily to fulfil their design of bringing all-out fascism. Whether they will do so by maintaining the facade of parliamentary democracy, or by the device of two or three-party or combination of parties or through constitutional dictatorship in the shape of Presidential type of government remains an open question. Whichever will suit their purpose, they will adopt for bringing about all-out fascism. I can tell you in this context of the warning of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to point out the gravity of the situation. If fascism succeeds then it dehumanises the people and there will be not many who can be called truly 'Man'. Fascism does not spare anybody. I would therefore, request the left and democratic parties and forces in general and their rank and file in particular to ponder over this impending grave threat and challenge of fascism.

This is the challenge thrown before you. You are to accept this challenge. You are to generate the counter-current of struggle against the current of degeneration and decay. You are to prepare yourselves for a protracted struggle, not for struggles of some days. To be victorious in this protracted struggle you will have to fulfil four conditions. You are to develop democratic student movements and associate yourselves with the growing movements of the different strata of the toiling people based on the correct base political line on the edifice of higher proletarian-culture. The people's own instrument of struggle will have to be built up and under it, a disciplined, dedicated corps of volunteers in thousands imbued with higher values, which in the course of development will give birth to the alternative political power of the people. And, above all, the genuine Marxist

Leninist party in the country, the SUCI, built and reared up by the great Marxist genius, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, which alone stands today as the only revolutionary alternative will have to be chosen.

Remember, guided by the real revolutionary party on the soil and the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our founder General Secretary, leader, teacher and guide, if a democratic mass movement, protracted in nature, can be built up throughout the country and through its course, the toiling people of our country can give birth to the instrument of struggle of their own and their alternative political power then that alone can meet the challenge by bringing an end to this oppressive and exploitative capitalist system. That is why to uphold the democratic norms, values, and rights to protect and further extend them as being conducive to anti-capitalist Socialist Revolution a country wide powerful democratic mass movement involving all sections of the oppressed strata has become the agenda of the day.

No other course is left before us to advance the social cause, the cause of humanity. And if from this Conference you take up this cause, stand firmly by it and prepare yourselves for whatever will be wanted of you, I am sure, the future is yours.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh
Zindabad!
AIDSO Zindabad!
Long Live Revolution!

Democratic movements based on anti-capitalist revolutionary base political line can only achieve the goal of emancipation

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adequate compensation to the families of all who were killed and injured by police brutalities and also demanded immediate release of all those who were arrested.

A statement jointly signed by NCC leaders including Comrade Pritish Chanda, General Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) demanded that "the Government should negotiate with the trade unions as the one-day general strike of industrial workers had conclusively proved that an 'overwhelming majority' of the working class had responded to the call.

"The Statement contained a 'warning' that if the Government did not change its policies and

favourably consider the demands put forward, the working class and the trade unions would be left with no other alternative but to intensify further the movements to achieve the demands.

"The Committee appealed to the working class to strengthen the unity already achieved by the one day general strike so that 'more and more determined struggles can be launched till our demands are accepted by the Government.'"

[Statesman, 21. 1. 82]

In tune with the Central Committee of our Party we too extend our heartiest and warmest revolutionary congratulations to the working people of India for the courage and determination,

solidarity and unity of purpose they have shown in this strike.

But the working people must realise one thing. They must realise that a one day demonstration at Delhi or a one-day All India Industrial General Strike cannot be the end in itself. This is just the beginning.

They should realise that only an organised, sustained united movement developed from the grass-root level on the correct base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution can help them achieve their goal.

So the task now is to consolidate the gains, preserve the unity like the apple of the eye, broaden the unity so far achieved. If they do this there is no power on earth that can keep them under slavery for long.

and others who call themselves 'left'. But they have shown least interest to forge this unity of the toiling people as an instrument of struggle and instead are all eager for electoral manoeuvre politics of aligning with bourgeois, communal, regional parties in the opposition like the Janata, BJP, Lok Dal, Congress(S) Muslim League, AIADMK, Akali Dal etc. just to appear as the alternative of the ruling class to defend the most oppressive rule of moribund capitalism. Apart from this basic difference in outlook, the CPI(M) and its followers snatched away the right of the constituent parties of the United Front to conduct healthy ideological struggle inside the Front that led to the disintegration of the front itself. Because, a party moving with people's cause not to speak of a revolutionary party like SUCI, can forego this inalienable right.

Comrade Singh's speech made a deep imprint on the people.

Police Brutality On Municipality Worker At Balasore, Orissa

Protesting against brutal police atrocity on an ordinary worker of the Balasore Municipality, employees of the municipality have gone on strike from the 17th December last.

The police had earlier, on 12th December, committed inhuman torture on Sri David Kumar Singh Bahadur, a chowkidar of the municipality, on the allegation that he was involved in killing a pig. The police detained him at the police station for more than 40 hours and tortured him brutally. A roll-stick was forcibly inserted into his rectum causing severe injury. Later, the police arrested him under Sec. 323 and 337 Cr. P.c and produced him before the court on 14th December when the Magistrate remanded him to Jail custody, ordering

medical examination and treatment. But no medical help was given to him. The municipality authority has not taken any step to help or protect their subordinate employee, although the matter has been brought to their notice by the three unions of the municipality.

The Balasore Municipal Employees' Union has come forward to take up the issue with all earnestness and demanded of the municipality authority intervention in the matter in order to secure release of Sri Singh Bahadur and ensure action against the guilty police officials. The union has struck work from 17.12.81 till proper justice is done to the victimised employee. The common people of the town have expressed their sympathy with the struggling union workers.

Public meeting at Nagpur organised by SUCI

On 28th December '81 evening, a hall meeting was organised by Nagpur Committee of our Party, on present political situation and left unity. The entire audience heard with rapt attention the speech of Comrade Shankar Singh, member Central Committee, and Secretary, Bihar State Committee of our Party, who was the main speaker. Professor R. V. Ranade, Reader in Political Science, Nagpur University presided over the meeting.

Comrade Singh dwelt at length with critical examination, the trends of developments in all spheres of social life—economic, political, social, educational, cultural, ethical etc. Integrating the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, founder general Secretary of our Party, our beloved leader, teacher and guide

with the concrete developments within the country, Comrade Singh pinpointed the danger of all out fascism.

Recalling the teachings of Comrade Ghosh, Comrade Singh showed that the only course left to the patriotic, democratic minded toiling people to defeat the sinister design of all out fascism, is to develop mighty waves of democratic movement, protracted struggle, not only on the burning issues but also for the restoration, preservation and further extension of democratic rights, principles, morals and ethical values. For this, a united front of all genuine left and democratic parties and forces on a common agreed programme and code of conduct is essential and for that our party has been appealing to the parties like CPI(M), CPI

SUCI leads movement in Hariyana against denial of ration cards to the poor

The villagers in Hariyana can get ration cards only if they paid house tax. The tax is collected by the village Panchayat and the form for getting a ration card is to be attested by a Panch or Sarpanch. The Panchayats have been given intimations not to attest the forms of those who have not paid the house tax.

According to a circular issued by Block Development and Panchayat officer, Badurgarh to the Panchayats in that block no form is to be attested without collecting house tax from the applicant.

The villagers are being harassed by the Panchayats for the collection of house tax. Even in cases where the forms had been attested without collecting

house tax and the Food and Supplies Department had issued ration cards, these are not being given to the villagers but handed over to Block Development and Panchayat officer concerned. The BDPO in turn would first ensure that the house tax had been collected from these units and then give the ration cards to, the Panchayat. About 800 ration cards of Mokhra Khas village in Rohtak district were withheld for non payment of house tax. The same system is being followed for issuing Cement permit also.

The people under the leadership of our Party have staged a number of demonstrations at different places in the State to protest against this system.

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