

Proletarian Era

Volume 44 No. 10
January 1, 2011

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

Price : Rs. 2.00

Recent spate of people's movements in Europe

How they stand out and what they signify

For the past few months a spate of militant workers' and students' protest movements has rocked country after country across entire Europe. Workers, students and toiling people in general have come out on the street in mounting anger as stringent socio-economic austerity measures adopted by governments, ostensibly on the plea of averting the looming economic crisis and people's responsibility towards sharing that unassailable task, bring down attacks, increasingly, one after another, on their livelihood, security and living standard. Millions have lost their job and pensions, still more millions are on the verge of being retrenched or laid-off, yet workers are made to toil longer hours. Wages are being cut, old age pensions delayed and cut, health care benefits reduced, and students' scope and right to education curtailed. Food and fuel prices are rising. Social benefits are slashed.

In order to misdirect people's mounting anger the ruling class and their subservient governments take recourse to guile and deceit. They place the responsibility of the recent sovereign debt crisis of this or that country on its people; elsewhere they try to whip up chauvinism and racist hatred thrusting the blame for people's growing hardship on others, say, immigrants. Yet toiling common people of different countries appear indomitable. They are coming out on the streets in huge numbers in storms of protest. They are taking part in marches, demonstrations and strikes, bringing countries to a standstill for days, for instance in France or in Greece etc., or giving vent to their wrath in militant indignation against some such force that had so long been projected as virtually sacrosanct by

the rulers and the media serving them, which became evident in people's militant demonstration against the convoy of the royal family in England. It is not that there have not been any democratic movements in this or that country of Europe. But the present movements stand out as unprecedented not just in their intensity and spread, but also character too. But before going into characterization of these movements, we may look at how these are coming out in different countries.

Movements spread across the continent, involve people of all sections

In last May, harsh austerity measures were introduced in Greece centring round its sovereign debt crisis. They brought drastic cuts in social benefits, wages and public spending, and steep increase in VAT, among others. It meant further loss of jobs when already unemployment had spiraled and people were reeling under the impact of the severe recession. Workers and toiling people in Greece gave vent to their deep indignation in a series of rallies, massive and demonstrations and strikes, including a 48-hour long general strike unleashing a wave of militant protest movements, that have not died down as seen in the recent total transport strike in Athens.

In France, the very announcement by the right wing Sarkozy government in May to increase the pension age and cut down pension benefits, too, has caused a growing storm of protest. Not since the tumultuous days of Railroad Workers' movement in 1995, Immigrants, Truckers' historic struggle in 1996 and massive strikes against the government's attacks on

public sector workers' pensions 2003, has France experienced such fervour and stir. In millions, people have come out on the streets, including students and youth, marching and protesting in hundreds of militant demonstrations throughout France in the past few months. They staged strikes through September and October. A general strike called for one day in October actually lasted 9 days. Significantly, 72 per cent of French people voiced their full support for this general strike in an opinion poll. Even then the Sarkozy government passed the pension bill in the Senate and the President signed the bill into law trampling this forceful majority opinion. But people's resentment

could not be suppressed, nor could the movement be stopped, making the apparently stubborn government, shaky.

Particularly striking is the instance of Britain. It is a country, where, as per latest report, jobless total has risen above 2.5 million (*Guardian*, 16-12-10) It is a country where, in the near past, during Tony Blair's premiership, people's resentment rose high not only against the policy and role of his Labour government in the Iraq war, but also against the economic policies of globalization-privatization-liberalization by the same government. It went to such an extent that in the election in 2005,

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SUCI (C) demands immediate and unconditional release of Dr Binayak Sen

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C) has issued the following statement on 26 December, 2010 :

The arrest of Dr. Binayak Sen, charging him with sedition and sentencing him to life imprisonment is an outright subversion of democracy and a downright fascistic measure. Any time, such misuse of law with clear mala fide intention can take place against democratic mass movement. Already, 22 Nobel laureates along with thousands of democratic-minded people of the country and abroad have held that the charges of treason levelled against Dr Binayak Sen are fictitious and framed up, and have severely condemned the act of thrusting life term on him.

We have said earlier on a number of occasions that the activities of those calling themselves as Maoists are totally against the thoughts of great Mao Zedong, detrimental to growth and development of democratic movement and virtually providing a handle to the ruling class and ruling party in ruthlessly crushing legitimate struggles of the toiling masses. We have also demanded of the government that the 'Maoist' problem has to be resolved by initiating appropriate political process. Even if it is assumed for argument's sake that Dr Sen had supported the 'Maoists' or was in touch in them, how could that be construed as a crime equivalent to culpable homicide for which he should serve life term? This portends a serious threat to democracy and democratic movement. We strongly condemn this verdict and demand immediate unconditional release of Dr Sen.

Recent people's movements in Europe

Unprecedented in massive participation, spread and character

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Tony Blair could scrape through with a wafer-thin majority slumping drastically in popular support. But after coming to power, leave aside trying for bringing any solution to economic problems, the government policies simply aggravated them. As a result people's resentment went on mounting, casting its shadow within the Labour Party itself. To save it from greater calamity, the party had to remove Blair and bring Gordon Brown to the chair. But the situation hardly changed and subsequently, cashing in on the intense and increasing people's resentment, the conservatives rose to power and a Tory-led Coalition government with Cameron as the Prime Minister was formed. Soon the new government brought down newer and more severe attacks, announcing slashing of 81 billion Pounds of public spending, including expenses on welfare, child benefits, housing and disability benefits. In protest, people have come out on the streets and the number of massive demonstrations is swelling. The cuts on education budget and the trebling of already high university tuition fees later announced impelled students and lecturers to give vent to their anger and protest in huge, militant demonstrations, one after another. They stormed the conservative party office and tried to attack the office of the Liberal Democrats, a coalition partner, accusing them of betrayal. Braving freezing cold and mounted police, protestors surrounded the Parliament on the day of vote. Even the royal family, which the ruling capitalists and the media serving them had always held beyond criticism and movement, was not spared; people's wrath mounted to such an extent that they surrounded the car of the royal family, smashed its windows and heckled even the family members inside the cars. The entire phenomenon was unique to the country, for there, from the machinations of the bourgeois and social democratic parties, opposition to the government policies, remained, in the main confined to the four walls of the parliament. Extra-parliamentary movements were few and far between, if there were any. But this time, people's wrath had reached such a peak, that people did not hesitate to come out on the streets. Under pressure of the mounting people's agitation, the

government could not think of undertaking any misleading move to distract the movement and channelize it along parliamentary course.

Similarly, students and academics in Italy are outraged about curtailment of their right to education through drastic cut in funds and the proposed loss of 130,000 jobs in the education system. Throughout the country, from Milan, Venice and Perugia to Palermo and Naples they demonstrated in thousands upon thousands, somewhere peacefully and in other places clashing with police. They brought Rome to a standstill. They occupied the leaning Tower of Pisa. These were but the latest of a spate of militant workers movements in Italy.

One striking feature of recent movements is the growing solidarity among workers of different countries. They held a series of parallel demonstrations and strikes on 29 September last throughout the European Union in their respective countries, including Portugal, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Serbia, Romania, Poland, Ireland and Spain. In Spain, where unemployment has doubled, workers observed a general strike on that very day — the first in 8 years — to protest a 5 % general wage cut as part of austerity measures by the social democratic government. And at the same time these countries sent workers representatives to Brussels, the headquarters of the European Union to protest the austerity measures imposed by the different governments in the EU. In the end this city resembled rather a battlefield as about 1 lakh of militant protestors marching through the streets of Brussels were set upon by the police. Since then toiling people's protests in different EU countries, far from abating have further grown and spread, to name but Denmark and Ireland.

It is clear from even the few instances mentioned above that this time it was not going to be the way the bourgeois parties and compromising social democratic forces could sneak into whatever democratic movements came up in European countries and mislead them into the confines of parliamentary politics. This time, in the recent spate of movements,

people of all these countries seem to have awoken afresh to launch their movement with more vigour, so much so that the rulers are not being able to contain people's wrath and indignation any more, making those unprecedented in most cases. And notably further, among the people yearning for a change, the thought, at least in its germ, is spreading that an alternative system is needed and possible.

Crisis of capitalism has pushed people beyond endurance to come out on streets in protest

What does it signify? All these countries are ruled under their respective decadent capitalist-imperialist system. And it is no denial a fact, that in this era of imperialism, the capitalist system has become totally decadent giving rise to unassailable crisis. Its exploitation impoverishes the masses; impoverishment of people gives rise to market crisis. Today, even after the collapse of the socialist camp and the entire world having been opened for the capitalists-imperialists to exploit through globalization, the system has slumped into a depression that surpasses all of its kind of the past. Continuous recession, market crisis and concomitant lack of industrialization, closure, lockout, retrenchment, unemployment, inflation, tax-hike, price rise, deficit financing, etc., are rocking the very foundation of world capitalist economy. Hourly fluctuation and collapse of the share market, currency devaluation, disaster in the banking system, etc., are all exposing how severe is the crisis-ridden state of the imperialist-capitalist economy. Even a few decades earlier, a recession used to be followed by a recovery, a slump by a boom, to give some breathing space to the dying capitalist system. But the present depression, the recent recession is so severe that even the staunch protagonists of capitalist economy are not being able to assertively predict any recovery in the near future. The recession is an unavoidable compulsion for the capitalist system. Capitalist production with motive of maximization of profit leads to maximization of exploitation and hence of market crisis. And that crisis is manifested in the maximization of depression. To save

this dying system from its unassailable crisis, the governments of capitalist-imperialist countries one after another, are taking resort to economic stimulation. Thus when during the present recession, banks and financial institutions that had resorted to highly speculative activities and raked in staggering sums of profit for their top financial players were faced with bankruptcy in 2008 and 2009, it was with tax payers, money and by borrowing heavily that the different states came to their rescue. In the instance of Europe, in 2009 the EU indicated that the cost of measures approved by the European Commission and its member states to support financial institutions amounted to an estimated 3 trillion euros. Naturally this gave rise to debt crisis in one country after another, which the capitalist governments of different countries tried to avert through so-called austerity measures, meaning drastic cuts in social benefits, wages and public spending. These, in turn, created further loss of jobs when already unemployment had spiraled and people were reeling under the impact of the deep recession. Crisis loomed large; only the ruthless rulers in their frantic bid to leave the profits of the monopolists unscathed, shifted the entire burden of the crisis on to the people. It was the people who had to pay for this crisis of capitalism, for all its maladies, greed, corruption, fraudulence and so on. Not today, long back Stalin pointed out that after the Second World War capitalism had lost even its relative stability and entered in its third phase of intensive general crisis. So it is giving birth to one crisis after another. While characterizing the crisis further elaborately, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our departed leader and teacher and one of the eminent Marxist thinkers of the present time, added that capitalism is giving birth to daily, hourly crises, one after another. One measure is taken by the bourgeoisie to get out from the impasse of crisis only to be swamped by a greater crisis. The present crisis once more corroborates the brilliant analysis of these great Marxist thinkers.

The recent spate of peoples' movements need to be seen in this background of the crisis of the world system of capitalism-imperialism.

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Cultivate and assimilate Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought to launch powerful revolutionary youth movement

Comrade Provash Ghosh at All India Conference of AIDYO

(We give below a synopsis of the speech delivered by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C) at the concluding session of All India Conference of AIDYO in Bhubaneswar on 5 December, 2010)

Addressing the delegates of the conference, Comrade Provash Ghosh at the outset said : This conference of AIDYO has been so successful despite its preparation having commenced just seven months earlier. This is because of three factors — the organization is armed with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought which is the most developed understanding of Marxism-Leninism ; it received wholehearted support from the oppressed people craving for a young revolutionary leadership, and it was buoyed up by the untiring and painstaking efforts of the organizers imbued with the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

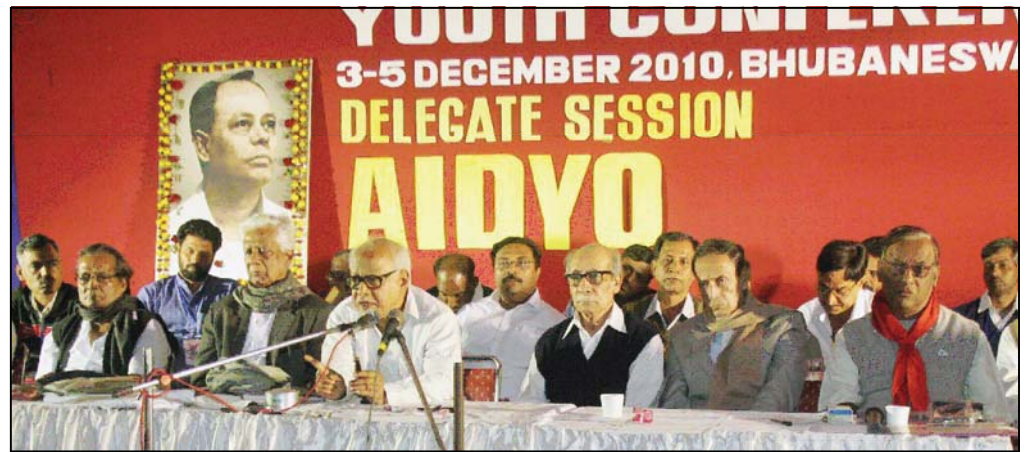
Referring to the obtaining socio-economic-political scenario, Comrade Provash Ghosh observed: World capitalism-imperialism is in the grip of an acute insoluble crisis. We, as students of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, know that when a particular production relation becomes completely outmoded and fails to meet the growing need of the society, it obstructs the growth and development of the productive forces at the disposal of the society. So, a crisis ensues. Capitalist relations of production has become historically obsolete and hence the crisis capitalists-imperialists are suffering from is endemic of the system and all their attempts to wriggle out of it is proving abortive. And crisis at the economic base is giving rise to crisis in the entire superstructure centring round it— political, social and cultural. US, the chieftain of imperialism-capitalism is mired in this crisis. India which, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had shown long back, had acquired imperialist character is no exception. Crisis in every aspect of life is devastating the people. People are languishing in abject poverty, dying of starvation, committing suicide. Festering sores of social maladies are surfacing with all virulence. Cultural degeneration is all-embracing.

Women including minor girls are being dragged into the flesh trade-net. Corruption has engulfed every field of administration, penetrated into every walk of life. The youth find the entire future shrouded in darkness, devoid of any hope. Alienated from the rich tradition of the glowing characters of our freedom movement like Bhagat Singh, Kshudiram, Masterda Surya Sen, Pritilata and others, the youth of today have become rootless, wandering around in aimless desperation. There will be no respite from this stifling situation unless and until capitalism is overthrown by revolution. And in this regard, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in course of deducing the strategy of anti-capitalist revolution in India by correct application of Marxism-Leninism in the concrete situation of this soil has also

Marx discovered the laws governing social transformation and developed the philosophy of dialectical materialism by scientifically coordinating and generalizing the various truths unraveled by the various branches of science. The ruling capitalists discourage and even deliberately obstruct any scientific understanding of history and course of social development, epistemological developments based on newer discoveries of science lest that should enable the suffering people to locate the root cause of all the problems of life and threaten the very existence of exploitative capitalist system. Instead, theirs is a sinister endeavour to keep people arrested in fatalist thoughts, blind religious faith and view all the penury and misery as something ordained by almighty god. Carried over by this heinous bourgeois preaching, suffering people get dissuaded from the essential task of organizing themselves for rising

wherefrom they got the concepts of parliamentary democracy, nation, national freedom or sovereignty as well as the modern discoveries in physics, chemistry, mathematics or biology. Knowledge has no geographical or political boundary. It is universal.

Rebutting bourgeois propaganda about failure of socialism, Comrade Provash Ghosh pointed out that though painful, setback of socialism has occurred owing to definite historical reasons not unknown to the Marxists. But this setback is temporary. It has taken hundreds and hundreds of years for any emerging ideology even religions to score final victory over forces of obsolescence and reaction. Victory came only after a spate of defeats. The victory of bourgeois democracy over feudal-monarchical rule had been the culmination of three hundred and fifty years of struggle. But, in all these social transformations, one exploitative society was replaced by another



Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing the concluding session of the AIDYO conference on 5 December, 2010. Sitting on the dais (front row from left) Comrades Ranjit Dhar, member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C), Mobinul Haider Chowdhury, member Central Committee, BASAD, Krishna Chakraborty and Asit Bhattacharyya, both members, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) and Dhurjati Das, Secretary, Orissa State Committee SUCI(C)

provided concrete guideline about the role every conscious youth should discharge in bringing about this revolutionary transformation.

Explaining that Marxism is based on science and is the science of all sciences, he said: Marxism is no fancy or product of anyone's subjective thinking. As Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Einstein, Max Plank and others discovered various scientific laws governing Nature,

against oppressive bourgeois order. The bourgeoisie and its subservient quarters propagate that India is a land of religion, of idealist philosophies and hence Indians should seek salvation in spiritualist thoughts. They say that since Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Zedong are all foreigners, Indians should reject their thoughts. This is a travesty of truth. Those who say like this, ought to explain

one. But in socialism, for the first time, exploitation of man by man is going to be abolished. Considering that, 50 years of socialism is too small a period to achieve the final victory over thousands and thousands of years of class exploitation. Every defeat leaves behind its lessons. Defeat of Paris Commune, which showed that a bourgeois state has to be smashed to

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Revolutionaries must master Marxist methodology through all-embracing life-struggle

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establish a socialist state, enriched the understanding of Marxism. Dissolution of the Second International educated the genuine Marxists about the emergence and character of modern revisionism and gave foundation to Leninism. Great Stalin fought against all enemies of Marxism and socialism, both inside and outside Soviet Union, to defend Marxism-Leninism, strengthen the socialist state and prove its supremacy in every aspect. Great Mao Zedong had to face defeat after defeat to finally achieve victory for socialism in the most populous country of the world. Comrade Chou En Lai in a conversation with Charlie Chaplin recalled that after liberation of China, Comrade Mao could not speak before a mammoth gathering in Beijing as his voice was choked in emotional remembrance of thousands of his comrades who laid down their lives to pave the way of victory.

Comrade Provash Ghosh then drew attention of all delegates to the historic arduous struggle Comrade Shibdas Ghosh conducted, along with just six revolutionary compatriots, to build up SUCI(C) as the genuine communist party based on Leninist principles on this soil. He also mentioned that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was the first communist leader to point out the danger which bourgeois individualism before the growth and development of proletarian revolutionary movement. He was the first to explain, applying Marxist methodology, that although bourgeois individualism might have had some role in the success of people's democratic revolution in China as also socialist revolution in a extremely backward capitalist country like Russia with substantial peasant population in the then given socio-economic contexts, such is not the case with a relatively more developed capitalist country like India when capitalism is in its death throes and has turned utterly reactionary.

Elaborating further he said: In course of his penetrating analysis, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also showed that in order to attain the character of a true communist today, one has not only to be completely free from individualism,

from private property mental-complex, both in material as well as mental domains, but must identify one's individual interest with the interest of the proletarian class, party and revolution. Right from the inception of the SUCI(C), Comrade Shibdas Ghosh emphasized this and he himself attained through struggle a heightened standard of communist leader and thereby emerged as a living embodiment of the developed understanding of communist character and culture. He taught us that one cannot assimilate the essence of Marxism-Leninism only by reading Marxist literature or merely being engaged in practice divorced from theoretical grasp of the ideology. Both theory and practice should be dialectically integrated to acquire desired communist culture. Since this struggle is inseparably linked up with the very process of our Party, the setback of the international communist movement or its falling standards due to inappropriate understanding of Marxist philosophy coupled with the attack of modern revisionism from within, did not affect our Party. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as far back as in 1948 warned, if the mechanical thought process, as against dialectical thought process, noticed in the international communist movement, went on unabated, it might cause serious harm to working class movement and endanger socialism as well. His was also the first voice against opening of the floodgate of revisionism by Khrushchevite clique and its ulterior move to ultimately uncrown Lenin by undermining the authority of Stalin through unleashing of noxious vilification campaign.

Continuing further, Comrade Provash Ghosh said: In absence of mighty socialist camp and due to considerable weakening of the international communist movement, capitalist-imperialists are on a rampage today. Apart from ruthless economic and political oppressions, the ruling capitalists-imperialists have been arraying their entire arsenal to bring about total degeneration in the realm of ethics and culture so that the moral backbone of a nation, particularly the youth, is shattered, conscience is killed. Individual conscience cannot survive if social conscience is

exterminated. The ruling capitalist class is pandering to all kinds of perverse proclivities, inciting the youth to plunge into sex-perversion and crude consumerism by remaining oblivious of social responsibility and obligation, thereby seeking to dehumanize them. As a part of this sinister design, the rulers are making every effort to alienate the youth from the glorious past, delink them from the highest standard of bourgeois humanist values and culture so that proletarian culture cannot, in the main, grow as culmination of and in continuity with the uncompromising youthful secular trend of bourgeois humanism. To foil this heinous bourgeois conspiracy, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh repeatedly called for releasing a counter-current of healthy cultural movement based on higher proletarian ethics and morality. He again and again urged us to deeply study the life and teachings of the luminaries of the past, learn from them, exhaust that learning by applying those teachings in life and then step ahead to acquire higher communist culture. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our departed beloved General Secretary and closest comrade-in-arms of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also guided us along that path.

Armed with the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, AIDYO has an immense responsibility to guide youth along the right track. As soldiers of revolution the AIDYO members must struggle hard to acquire higher communist character, organize the masses, workers-peasants for revolution. Most of them are coming from middle class families. So, they need to declass themselves. Unless they are alert, viruses of degraded capitalism would attack them, make them victim of self-centeredness, careerism, self-glorification, cultural degeneration. So they must rid themselves of all bourgeois vices through unceasing struggle to study and apply Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh repeatedly stressed on keeping the self under strict surveillance of self-criticism and learning from others' criticism. Critics, even if they are enemies, must be considered as teachers. Otherwise, one cannot detect one's mistakes, shortcomings and

weaknesses. One must also keep one's mind open to learn. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in his celebrated works like 'On Communist Code of Conduct' and others elaborately discussed all these essential points and provided concrete guidelines for the leaders and cadres of any revolutionary organization as to how to carry on unfaltering pursuit of a life-style and day to day conduct imbibing higher proletarian culture, ethics and norms free from vulgar bourgeois individualistic traits. AIDYO members must learn and relearn those valuable teachings.

Briefly touching upon the three principles of Dialectical Materialism, Comrade Provash Ghosh mentioned that the very operation of these principles in a given situation, in a given phenomenon or even in a human being is to be understood correctly to determine right course of action. The very nature of the contradictions is to be specifically identified to resolve or handle it rightly for facilitating social progress. This is Marxist methodology or approach. Revolutionaries must master this through all-embracing life struggle. Whatever little in that direction we have been able to advance based on the illumining thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh which are the most developed understanding of Marxism-Leninism, is making people attracted towards our Party, the SUCI (C) and its class and mass organizations. Rising above frustration and apathy towards politics, people are coming close to us, appreciating our comrades as honest, dedicated fighters. But what is needed is to imbue them with our revolutionary politics, with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, make them politically conscious to come forward, to participate in mass and class struggles and take up cudgels against decadent, moribund capitalism, the root of all evils.

He concluded by reminding everyone of the fervent appeal Comrade Shibdas Ghosh made to the students and youth: "Remember, we are all mortal beings. So, if to die, don't die begging, don't die humiliating yourself. When to die, die with honour, and you have got

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Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury on the movements conducted by the Party in Assam

(In our earlier issues, we published the speeches of Comrades C. K Lukose, K. Radhakrishna and Satyawan, all Members of the Central Committee and State Secretaries of Kerala, Karnataka and Haryana, respectively, delivered in the meeting of West Bengal Party comrades and leaders, held at Mahajati Sadan in Calcutta on 29 August 2010. Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury, Member, Central Committee and State Secretary, Assam, who could not be present there due to serious ailment has subsequently submitted written version of his scheduled speech in that meeting. It is published here.)

In course of building Party organization in the state of Assam as a part of realizing the objective of accomplishing anti-capitalist socialist revolution based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, we have been engaged in developing various class and mass struggles braving all odds, overcoming all difficulties. Some of our major experiences I would like to share with you.

Assam is a state inhabited by different linguistic and ethnic groups, big or small. But unlike other states of India, no singular community constitutes the absolute majority here. It is like a mini-India. This very nature owes its origin to the manner in which the state of Assam was given shape in 1912 by British rulers. Without taking any cognizance of this typical composition of population and the lurking objective reality as well as the imperativeness to fulfil the aspirations of all sections of toiling people of the state through development of united mass struggles, the chauvinist, parochial and separatist forces within the Assamese speaking people and other ethnic groups have been raising some obnoxious and unrealistic demands in such a manner as to precipitate conflict and confrontations between various ethnic groups. This has been happening since day one of independence of our country, and the state had to witness frequent communal and ethnic clashes. The history of development of our Party in the state is the history of continuous ideological struggle against all brands of chauvinist and separatist forces so as to free the people from their clutches and develop democratic movements uniting all sections of toiling masses, irrespective of caste, religion or ethnicity.

The task of Party building in the state started in the month of October, 1965, when our beloved teacher and guide Comrade Shibdas

Ghosh deputed Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, now a member of the Polit Bureau, for the purpose. Due to his intense struggle, within a short period, some working people belonging to both Assamese and Bengali speaking communities came in touch with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. After this nucleus of organizational base was created, a school of politics was organized in Guwahati in the month of March, 1969, which was conducted by the great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. This was a historic visit of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to Assam. Besides holding the school of politics, he also addressed a public meeting. Many who attended that school joined the Party.

In the same year, a movement developed on the demand of establishment of second oil refinery in Assam. The movement was conducted by an all party struggle committee of which our Party was a constituent. Our Party participated from all over the state with all our strength. A demonstration of thousands of students and youth was also staged before the State Secretariat at Shillong, the then capital of the state, by our Party and the AIDS0. All other political parties within the all party struggle committee were reformist and compromising in character. In the first convention held with delegates from all over the state, though our Party suggested undertaking picketing before all government offices, others insisted on 'Satyagraha'. But even after that Satyagraha, the Central Government remained unmoved. In the second convention, the delegates endorsed

our suggestion and a programme of picketing in front of the government offices was announced. Immediately, the Central Government conceded the demand. This helped people to understand the pro-movement militant character of our Party.

In 1970, the Party for the first time contested an election at Dhalai(SC) constituency of Barak Valley in a bye poll. Though we lost the election by a meager margin of around 4000 votes, the thoughts of the Party propagated by a very limited number of com-rades

impressed people so much that some of the college and school teachers as well as from other sections of the masses joined the Party. This helped to create a strong foundation of the Party in the entire Barak Valley.

In the same year, some college and school teachers and other category of people of undivided Goal-

para district came in contact with the Party. Being convinced of the correctness of the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, they joined the Party with firm determination. A strong movement developed against corruption in issuing mutation certificates to the peasants for their land. Thousands of peasants gheraoed the circle officers. Ultimately, the officers concerned went to the villages to issue mutation certificates on the spot. The success of the militant movement created a mass base. It may also be mentioned that the entire south bank of the river Brahmaputra gets continuously affected by flood and erosion. Our Party also developed strong movements for immediate protection of the affected people, permanent scientific solution of their problems and proper rehabilitation. Due to that movement the government was forced to construct 'Ring Bandh' or embankments at different places and also had to arrange temporary shelter for the affected people. Besides, famine broke out in Dhubri

Subdivision of erstwhile Goalpara district (presently Dhubri district) in 1974, in which at least 19,000 people, mostly poor, died. Initially the state government tried to suppress this fact from the people. As no other Party showed any concern about this grave situation, our Party took up the issue, mobilized poor masses and developed powerful movement seeking immediate remedial measures on the part of the government. Because of our persistent efforts, other political parties could no more show indifferent attitude. Under pressure of united protest, government had to concede to certain demands of immediate relief and forced to open *langarkhanas* (food camps). We also at our initiative collected relief material, distributed those among the affected people and with the help of UNICEF, ran some children's feeding centres. As a result of all these struggles and the way the Party led the movements from the front, the Party overcoming strong 'Janata Party wave' won two assembly seats from the district in the 1978 election.

In 1977, Party organization also developed in Darrang district dominated by Assamese speaking people. In fact, in the mid-seventies, left politics gained strength in Assam. 23 MLAs of different left parties including 2 of our Party won the election in 1978. To forestall the growth of left and democratic movement, all the reactionary forces of the state backed by the regional bourgeoisie, bureaucrats and police gave birth to the 'Assam movement' under the banner of Ganasangram Parisad of which the AASU (All Assam Students' Union) was the principal force. Many of the leaders of the movement had strong Congress(I) leanings and the AASU was an organization virtually controlled by Congress(I). It was a bid on the part of the Congress(I) who was dislodged first time from the governmental power in 1978 to stage a comeback. The RSS and other communal forces also hatched various ploys. Among the agitators those who professed chauvinist, parochial, separatist and secessionist thoughts initially raised slogans against the 'outsiders', meaning people coming from other parts of

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Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury

Assam needs surge of democratic movements to defeat chauvinism-secessionism-separatism

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the country. But later on, on tactical ground, they raised slogan for deportation of so-called foreign nationals. They fomented the Assamese speaking people by creating a false notion in their mind that the existence of Assamese language and culture would be at stake due to the presence of these Bengali speaking people whom they termed foreign nationals. This movement was fascistic in nature and its culture was based on racial hatred. The conductors of this movement not only killed thousands of innocent minority people but also projected a figure of 'foreign nationals' which was found to be almost equal to the total number of minority people of the state. They openly threatened the leaders and cadres of all national political parties to either leave their respective parties and join them or face the consequence. Many of them were attacked, many were killed. This semi-fascist uprising brought democratic movement to a standstill. The real intention of these chauvinist and rabid communal forces was to drive out all Bengali speaking minority people branding them as foreign nationals and if it was not possible to drive out all, then at least to disenfranchise a vast section of these people. With this vile intention they demanded to fix 1951 as the cut-off year for detection and deportation of foreign nationals. In the face of such a situation, our Party thought it absolutely necessary to develop an alliance of all left and democratic forces opposed to the secessionist-separatist-chauvinist forces. Consequent to our tireless efforts, ultimately a seven party combination was given shape to face the situation. As against the demand of the agitators to make 1951 as cut off year, a consensus developed within the seven party combination that taking into consideration the Indian Constitution, Citizenship Act, the national commitment and International Pact (Indira – Mujib Pact), the cut-off date should be 25th March, 1971. It was also agreed upon that detection of foreign nationals should be done through judicial process. The seven party combination accepted our viewpoints and placed it before the

central government. It was because of the pressure of movement that the central government had to concede to these two demands and accordingly IMDT Act was enacted. The Assam State Committee of our Party guided by Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought exposed the anti-people racist trend within this movement through various mass meetings at several places, distribution of thousands of leaflets and publication of booklets. For this, we incurred displeasure of and faced wrath from the chauvinist forces of the 'Assam movement'. Our Party cadres faced murderous attacks from these forces and sustained grievous injuries. Recognizing the legitimate aspirations of all sections of people including the Assamese speaking people, the State Committee of the Party formulated a four-point formula for solution of the problem. Though it caught the imagination of a vast section of people including the Assamese speaking people, neither the agitators nor other parties within the seven party combination due to their narrow political interest gave any weight to the formula. Our ideological struggle and sincere attempt for the just solution of the problem gave the Party a high-standing. Whereas the organizations of other left parties were virtually smashed as many of their cadres joined the Assam movement out of confusion created by their own leaders, our Party organization not only remained intact but also gained strength even in the Assamese speaking areas.

The Assam movement not only destroyed the unity of the people but also frustrated the natural process of assimilation of the people. The process through which various ethnic groups and communities could come closer to each other was severely disrupted. This disruption was further accentuated after AGP, a political party formed by the AASU leaders who signed the so-called Assam Accord with Rajiv Gandhi, came to power in 1985. The AGP government issued a circular making learning of Assamese compulsory in the schools. This unjust chauvinistic circular was strongly protested by the people of the three districts of Barak valley dominated by Bengali speaking people and where Bengali was

accepted as the official language at district level. A struggle committee was formed at our initiative. Two youth died from police firing and became martyrs after which the government was forced to withdraw the circular. But, as a result of this circular, separatist forces got impetus to launch movements demanding separate states in Bodo and other tribal people dominated areas. The State Committee of the Party published many leaflets and ultimately a booklet explaining therein from different angles and citing experiences of newly created states carved out of erstwhile united Assam that whereas the cause of extreme poverty and discrimination is due to the ruthless exploitation of the capitalist class and the policy framed by the capitalist rulers, forming of separate states or autonomous areas can in no way bring any remedy to the problem. Rather, an elite class will come to power and in connivance with the ruling capitalists will continue to run the rule of exploitation further. The net result will be considerable weakening of the struggling unity of the people against the oppressive capitalist rulers. The booklet further highlighted the point that the chauvinist forces within the Assamese speaking people who were responsible for framing of worst forms of discriminatory policies against the oppressed tribal people and other ethnic groups, could be cornered and isolated even from the common Assamese speaking people by developing united democratic movement of all sections of common people, irrespective of caste, creed, language and religion, based on the burning problems stemming from the capitalist system. Many Bodo and other tribal people appreciated our stand but all other political parties including the CPI (M) and CPI pushed the decision towards formation of separate autonomous regions. This has seriously hampered the struggling unity of the people.

Besides, secessionist movements including that of ULFA grew within the womb of this Assam movement. More than 12 thousands ULFA cadres have died facing the bullets of the military. But the net result is that to whatever extent people's democratic movements

were developing along the right track, these got diverted towards a wrong course. Our Party published a booklet on ULFA movement, exposing its wrong line from historical, political and social angles and highlighted the urgent need of united movement against capitalist rule. To the extent we could push the booklets amongst the masses of the entire state, it was found that the analysis presented by our Party received widespread acceptance among various sections of the people. What was noteworthy is that in some places, ULFA activists who bought our booklet were highly impressed by our analysis. Noticing that, the ULFA leadership eventually proscribed it. But, it was evident that our booklet created a great impact among the right-thinking people, and the intellectuals who at the beginning maintained silence over the state of affairs started to speak out against this ULFA movement.

Our Party not only tried to free the Assamese speaking people from the clutches of all these parochial-chauvinist forces, but also stood firmly by the side of the oppressed minority people, who were under severe attack from the chauvinist and communal elements, developed strong movement against all sorts of attacks based on the principle of democratic values and norms. We stood firmly against the conspiracy to delete the names of lakhs of minority people from the voters list branding them as doubtful voters on flimsy ground and depriving them of legitimate democratic right, including the right to vote.

While continuing the ideological struggle, the Assam State Committee having gained the confidence of the people even in such dark days, could develop successful democratic movements centring round the genuine demands of the people. It is due to the movements organized by us in the troubleworn days of Assam movement that the demand for rail-cum-road bridge over the river Brahmaputra at Jogoghopa-Pancharatna had to be conceded by the central government. Now the trains are running through this new route. Similarly, during the hot days of ULFA movement, the movement organized by our party on the

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Recent people's movements in Europe

Cry for correct revolutionary leadership to see the desired end

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There is no country in Europe where this crisis has not left its mark and where the toiling people are not coming out on the streets in ever-increasing masses to voice their protest and press their demands – many for the first time.

Striking features of the movements

At the same time, these movements are characterized by certain features. As mentioned before, these stand out as more intense and widespread than others of its kind in the past. Then again, these are marked with solidarity of fighting people, where workers of one industry have come out in support of the struggling workers of some other industries; exploited people of one section, say workers, have stood up in support of others say, students and teachers, or the latter standing by struggling workers. Not only that, another marked feature of these movements is the growing solidarity among workers of different countries. Such massive participation of people, as could be found this time, is taking place largely spontaneously without any bourgeois, petty bourgeois-social democratic parties organizing them.

It may also be noted that in the past the imperialist countries of Europe could fetch huge super-profits exploiting their colonies and semi-colonies, and could appease and purchase the workers of their own countries with shares from that booty, doling out increased wages, social benefit schemes, welfare measures and others for the workers. This time, the rulers of these different capitalist-imperialist countries are finding it hard to succeed with this trick. As the crisis of capitalism is ever deepening, the government will be compelled to take even more stringent measures in their bid to serve the ruling capitalist class, causing more sufferings to common people. It appears, the more there will be exploitation and oppression, there will be greater and more powerful movements in days to come. People's yearning for change, their aspiration for a better, nobler human life free from exploitation and

oppression, already being expressed in the recent movements will also deepen and take more concrete shape. Peoples' movements will be sharper and wider no doubt.

It has been observed in the past that in absence of a proper leadership, the bourgeois petty bourgeois and social democratic parties in opposition, acting nakedly in defence of the capitalist system sneaked into the movements, usurped the leadership and finally ended them in parliamentary changes. In course of this, making use of peoples' resentment some of them replaced another party or coalition in the governmental seat, but immediately after coming to power, they shunned the course of movement and followed the same policy of serving the capitalists knowing fully well that it will bring them people's wrath, even at the cost of losing power. The recent spate of movements brings out that people's indignation is reaching such a stage that it is not being possible for these parties to continue even with this trick.

But at the same time it is painful to observe that such massive movements, in which people of different sections of life are coming out spontaneously, which are spreading like wild fire, and are even taking militant character, lack the proper revolutionary leadership, which could guide these in correct direction. Because of the absence of a genuine and correct leadership and with persistent propaganda and machinations of the bourgeois or social democratic parties posing as friends of people, even such massive movements, as the present ones may ultimately tend to end half way, virtually in nothing, mostly not even in wresting the immediate demands. In such cases, only the oppositional bourgeois, petty-bourgeois parties waiting in the wings while leaving people in the lurch, would use peoples' resentment to rise in power and implement the same anti-people policies.

Revolutionary ideology, revolutionary morality and peoples' power : three pillars that help movements see the success

History is replete with instances

of how even powerful massive peoples' movements may fail for want of a proper leadership. It happened even in the instance of the Paris Commune of 1871 — a historic upsurge of workers in which the latter could continue to hold the power for few months. But they could advance no further and even such an upsurge failed due to absence of correct revolutionary ideology and leadership. Naturally, the critical questions that will agitate thinking mind are : what could then be the right way to lead these movements in the right direction on a correct political line that would help achieve the immediate demands — that would be conducive to leading ultimately to a battle for overthrow of the very capitalist-imperialist system which incessantly breeds and nurtures exploitation, oppression, fraudulence, corruption and discrimination etc. — what could be the right way to imbue people with the firm conviction to brave all oppressions and stand resolutely till the immediate demands are realized?

Obviously such tasks cannot be performed by a leadership subservient to the system itself. Only a correct and genuine Marxist-Leninist leadership could and would guide people in the right direction till the desired end. In case of Europe there were powerful Communist parties in countries like Germany, France and Italy. The Nazi Germany of Hitler perpetrated the carnage first on the millions of communists, followed by the extermination of the Jews. Besides, the powerful anti-fascist movement that cropped up during second world war in Europe was led by the communists and the communist parties of Italy and France had glorious role to play in that. But falling victim to the Khrushchevite modern revisionism, even those parties have not only been ideologically emasculated; they are in fact organizationally almost destroyed today. So the crying need of the European working people rests upon the emergence of genuine Marxist revolutionary parties which would guide the movements of their respective soils in the right

direction; which through every struggle would educate people that the real object of struggle is to achieve people's emancipation from exploitation and would gradually organize them to ultimately decide the question of their emancipation; this they would do on the strength of revolutionary ideology and revolutionary morality and culture building up peoples' power, so as to guide peoples' movements in such a way that in course of time those will lead to revolutionary upsurge against this exploitative and oppressive capitalist system. For all these tasks to perform, it needs to be such a leadership that would bear the proper understanding of Marxism-Leninism as distinct from all shades of modern revisionism- Trotskyism by assiduously studying the invaluable teachings of the great proletarian leaders Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong and Shibdas Ghosh.

In case the problems are not viewed this way and the movements are not led in this correct manner by a correct leadership, the reality may turn out to be as was visualized by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of our party "... out of discontent of workers, peasants and all exploited masses, revolution will again and again try to surge ahead in waves after waves. In waves after waves it will try to burst forth. The contradiction within the society will deepen and sharpen many times more, calling for radical transformation of this order. It will beseech our consciousness, it will appeal to humanity that revolution is the necessity. Still, revolution will not come, again and again it will recede, it will go astray and reaction will again and again gain by that – revolution will not see the light until the revolutionary party emerges, capable enough to lead the revolution."

From this far away land, rather from all the different corners of the globe, we, the people yearning for emancipation and thus standing in solidarity and fraternity with the fighting people of Europe, will hope earnestly that the toiling people of that continent and its different

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Comrade Krishna Chakraborty at All-India Conference of AIDYO

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only one surest way to live and die with honour, that is by taking active part in the revolutionary struggle of the masses to bring about revolutionary transformation of the society.”

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty's speech

(Placed below is the synopsis of the speech delivered by Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Polit Bureau, SUCI (C) at the open session of All India Conference of AIDYO in Bhubaneswar on 3 December, 2010)

Greeting the assembled gathering, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty said that this conference of AIDYO is being held at a time when an all-pervading crisis has gripped life, particularly that of the youth. Corruption and crime have penetrated into every walk of life including all seats of governance. Cultural degeneration has reached an abysmal low. Social maladies and aberrations like dowry deaths, honour killing, female foeticide, gang rape, consumerism, sex-perversion, alcoholism etc. are abounding. Education is being thoroughly commercialized, stripped of its essence, turned into a passport for career building and being made so expensive as to become the exclusive preserve of a handful rich. Let alone ethics and morality, even finer senses, rudimentary fellow feeling are on the verge of extinction. Ruling capitalists have turned all relations into money relations. So the time demands of the socially-conscious, ideologically imbued young people to come forward, close their ranks and develop powerful struggle against the heinous bourgeois conspiracy to shatter life in every respect. All the political parties, irrespective of hues, who are serving bourgeois class interest for pelf and power have been indulgent onlookers to this progressive downward slide and degradation. Inspired by the revolutionary teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, AIDYO has taken the correct initiative to organize the right-thinking vibrant youth round the country for developing a well-knit sustained powerful youth movement on the edifice of higher ethics and culture to stem the rot

and project before the people the alternative revolutionary current of healthy progressive culture, which is the anti-thesis of the prevailing rotten bourgeois culture and thought and hence historically poised to usher in new civilization free from exploitation of man by man.

Continuing, Comrade Chakraborty observed: Society looks at the youth for waging battle against

injustice and oppression. Roused by patriotism and bourgeois humanist values, countless blossoming youth like Kshudiram, Baghajatin, Surya Sen, Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Asfakullah or Netaji Subhas were stirred and drawn into the freedom struggle; they laid down their lives for unchaining their motherland from the tentacles of foreign rule and thereby emancipating the countrymen from the yoke of exploitation. Struggle gave them character, made them living embodiment of youthful fervour and unquestionable social obligation. In those days, the slogan of 'Bande Mataram' represented patriotic feeling, true nationalist feeling. The struggle to build up a new nation was then progressive and revolutionary. But today, in the changed context, when oppressive Indian bourgeoisie is in power and world capitalism-imperialism is gasping in its death throes, humanist values cannot illumine the path. In order to depose exploitative capitalism from power by revolution and force open the path of social progress, one needs a higher ideology. And it is Marxism-Leninism, the comprehensive life philosophy based on science which alone can guide the people and the youth to accomplish the cherished objective. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought is the most developed understanding of Marxism-Leninism. But, as we have been taught by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, this new culture or higher ideology cannot be grasped automatically by raising slogans and professing adherence to the same. These are to be acquired through a process, by



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty addressing the open session of the AIDYO conference on 3 December 2010

establishing due link with our glorious past, learning from the great humanist luminaries and freedom fighters and then step on yet higher rung after completely assimilating and exhausting those values — a task Comrade Shibdas Ghosh repeatedly stressed upon. If one can understand this, it will be clear to him that the slogan of 'Bande Mataram' is now a privilege in the hands of the ruling bourgeoisie and its bootlickers who are projecting persons like Rahul Gandhi — the Prime Minister in making — by dint of blessings from the top monopolists like Tata, Birla, Goenka, Ambani, and others, as the icon of the youth. Not to speak of known bourgeois parties like Congress, BJP and others, even self-styled Marxists like CPI (M), CPI do not run their youth organizations following the ethics, morality and culture necessary for creating a new civilization. Rather, these organizations are operated based on a typical mixed culture of old feudal thoughts and worst bourgeois individualism, and thereby mislead the youths.

Briefly touching upon the politico-economic character of capitalism, Comrade Chakraborty said that in this system, the character of production is social while the ownership of the means of production is private and motive of production is to earn maximum profit for the owning capitalists by usurping the surplus value of labour. This is squeezing the purchasing power of the people which engenders the problems of overproduction, closure, retrenchment, unemployment and

all other accompanying problems, making the future bleak for the youth. This is capitalist exploitation which has reached its peak of ruthlessness. A new civilization can come about only if this oppressive capitalism is replaced by scientific socialism through revolution. To accomplish that, a new cultural revolution has to be brought about to equip the vanguards of revolution. This new culture, proletarian culture, as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had shown, will emerge based on collectivism as against individualism. All India Democratic Youth Organization has been founded upon the concept of proletarian culture. It is for this reason that their organization AIDYO is advancing. AIDYO must show the right course to the youth many of whom out of frustration are either embracing unethical livelihood or falling in the trap of divisive forces and vote-based political parties or exhausting their spirit of revolt by blindly following ultra-adventurist politics of the so-called Maoists.

At the end, Comrade Chakraborty appealed to the youth assembled to embrace the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, apply his teachings in every aspect of life, remould themselves by acquiring and nurturing higher proletarian culture and cultivate knowledge in course of undertaking relentless struggle to bring revolutionary change of the society. Then only they would be able to call themselves true representatives of blossoming youth and discharge the responsibility history has adjured them.

Red Salute Comrade Subrata Chowdhury

Comrade Subrata Chowdhury, first District Secretary of Coochbehar district, West Bengal and former member of the State Secretariat passed away on 17 December last at 1 a.m. at the AMRI hospital, Kolkata. He was 64.

Comrade Subrata Chowdhury was one among the few youth who began the difficult and arduous struggle to build up Party organization in Coochbehar. Comrade Chowdhury was a brilliant student skilled in different games like football, cricket, hockey, and a connoisseur of art, literature and music. As a student he was dearly loved by teachers and students as also by guardians. While studying at Jalpaiguri A C College, Comrade Chowdhury came in contact with the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh through Comrade Dilip Bhattacharya, former Jalpaiguri District Secretary. At that time, regular study circles were being held at the college hostel at the initiative of Comrade Bhattacharya. Comrade Subrata Chowdhury used to participate in those study circles. In this process he got involved in Party work. In 1968 when flood devastated Jalpaiguri, he plunged into relief work. During this period, he took up teaching at Kachuaboalmari High School and became very popular as a teacher. In 1969 Comrade Shibdas Ghosh went to Jalpaiguri town. In a meeting attended by workers and supporters of our Party and citizens, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh discussed on 'Why SUCI is the only genuine communist party on Indian soil', which later was published as a booklet. Discussion by Comrade Ghosh had such an impact on him that he decided to completely dedicate himself to the cause of revolution. He bent all his strength to recruit Party workers, on the one hand, and on the other developed mass organizations and mass democratic movement. Apart from building up students' organization he organized powerful movements of the poor peasants and sharecroppers to win their legitimate rights. Combating armed atrocities of the criminals of the jotedars and vested interests, the peasants wrested many significant demands, and AIKKMS organization developed in all the six talukas of Haldibari block. This was the period when Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, departed, former member of Central Committee, used to come to North Bengal regularly. Under his guidance Comrade Subrata

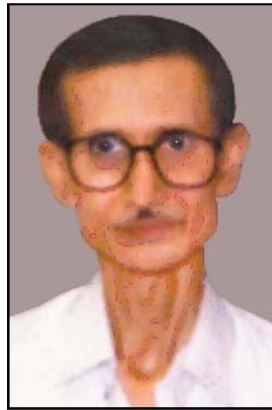
Chowdhury became an able organizer.

Comrade Chowdhury left his mark as an able organizer in building up Workers' Union of Haldibari Seed Farm, Handloom Workers' Union, North Bengal Jute and Tobacco Godown Workers' Union, Cleansing Workers' Union and others as also developing various movements on their many demands. He came to study at Jalpaiguri BT College as a part of his teaching assignment. There too he was in the leadership of the movement against the injustice committed by the college authority. The authority rusticated all the students leading the movement. Among them everybody stooped to undertake bond never to join movement and rejoined the college. But Comrade Chowdhury refused to do the same. The Congress-led school governing body had been harassing him long since and was trying to oust him, even by physically tormenting him. The incident at B T College provided them a handle and his job was terminated. Later he got back his job by court order but he voluntarily resigned and continued his Party activity as a wholetimer.

Following Party instructions he worked for a period among teagarden workers staying at Birpara, Jalpaiguri. From 1974 he permanently stayed at Coochbehar town to spread Party organization throughout the district. He built up a cultural organization with the name Dristikon and published a fortnightly with the same name. He recruited some workers through cultural activities. Party activities and work of mass organizations spread, besides Coochbehar town, at Dinhat, Mathabhanga, Tufangunge, and at Alipurduar subdivision of Jalpaiguri. He toiled hard and untiringly as a result of which Party organization spread and was strengthened, mass movements developed one after another with demands of the students and youth,

workers, peasants, women as also against burning problems of life. He played a leading role against transfer of the Teen Bigha corridor. It was his initiative and leadership that was behind installing the statue of Martyr Kshudiram in Coochbehar town.

Comrade Subrata Chowdhury ignored a bright career and a secured stable life and dedicated himself to a very difficult and strenuous struggle in the interest of revo- lutionary



movement. He had deep interest in theoretical cultivation about politics, society, philosophy, etc., and used to encourage others. During outbreak of separatist, divisive movements in North Bengal, he played a very strong positive role in combating them. Comrade Chowdhury always stressed on encouraging and

inspiring the comrades to develop self-initiative and political consciousness in the light of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. He took great care about workers' development. Despite totally broken health he discharged his responsibility that the party had entrusted him with till his last day.

He fell seriously ill as he reached Kolkata on 23 November to attend the Extraordinary Party Congress. At first he was admitted at the Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital and as his condition deteriorated he had to be shifted to the AMRI Hospital. All attempts of the doctors failed to save Comrade Chowdhury suffering from severe lung dysfunction. At 11am on 17 December, he was brought to the state Party office in Kolkata where Comrade Provash Ghosh, General

Secretary, Polit Bureau members Comrades Ranjit Dhar, Manik Mukherjee, Asit Bhattacharyya offered floral tribute. Central Committee member Comrade Sankar Saha paid floral tribute on behalf of Politbureau member Comrade Krishna Chakraborty. Central Committee members Comrades Debaprasad Sarkar, Gopal Kundu, Sankar Saha and Chhaya Mukherjee paid their respects. Comrade Tapan Roychowdhury, West Bengal State Secretariat member, on behalf of the West Bengal State Committee and Comrade Chiraranjan Chakraborty, Calcutta district Secretary, on behalf of the district committee paid floral tribute. Other State Committee members present there also paid tribute. Comrade Mani Nandi paid respects on behalf of Coochbehar District Committee. Tribute was also paid on behalf of state and district committees of the mass fronts. Party units of Calcutta district paid their respects. Following offerings of floral tribute the hearse carrying Comrade Subrata Chowdhury left for Coochbehar district amidst slogans — Red Salute Comrade Subrata Chowdhury, Red Salute the great leader of the proletarian Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. When the hearse carrying Comrade Chowdhury reached Coochbehar Party office, Party workers, supporters, sympathizers of the district as well as leaders from Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and neighbouring Assam bade him farewell with tears and flowers. A long silent procession with the body of Comrade Chowdhury then marched through the city and reached the crematorium where his mortal remains were consigned to flames. Memorial meeting of Comrade Chowdhury will be held at Coochbehar Saheed Bag on 6 January.

People's movements in Europe

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countries, the working class of the respective countries will correctly realize the ins and outs of their problems and will strive with all their might and wisdom to give birth to the correct revolutionary leadership to lead their movements. It will be a leadership, that, during this critical hour of their

sufferings and deprivation, will lead people to resolute struggles till fulfillment of each and every legitimate immediate demands. At the same time, it will integrate all these struggles making them conducive to a battle, that will guide people towards the struggle for overthrowing the ruling capitalist system, towards the revolution.

Mass Democratic Movement Must Conduce to Anti-capitalist Socialist Revolution

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demand of construction of rail-cum-road bridge over the river Brahmaputra at Bogibil connecting Dibrugarh and North- Lakhimpur districts was also won. The construction of the bridge is in the process. Amongst the series of movements organized by our Party let us mention a few only. The successful movements conducted against the bus fare hike, medical fees hike etc. twice during AGP rule in which our leaders and cadres faced severe lathi-charge and sustained grievous injuries, drew the attention of the people.

Following the misrule and corruption of AGP government from 1985 to 1990, people started to get disillusioned about these leaders of the Assam movement, and the scope of developing left-democratic movement in the state brightened. But, in spite of our repeated request, the CPI (M) and the CPI instead of coming forward to develop united left-democratic movement centring round the burning problems of the people, preferred to align with the chauvinist AGP to anyhow gain electoral benefits. The CPI even joined the AGP government and the CPI(M) supported it from outside from 1995 to 2000. So, it was our Party alone who had to hold aloft the banner of leftism in the state.

In the recent period, the chauvinist forces have launched a newer attack on the minority community. In the name of updating National Register of Citizens (NRC), they have drawn up a blueprint, so that lakhs of genuine Indian citizens belonging to minority community could be deprived of citizenship. Instead of following the all India rule of house to house enumeration as per Rule 4 of Citizenship Act, they have proposed a new Rule i.e. 4A, which stipulates that all residents will have to apply for citizenship and these applications after comparing with

NRC, 1951 and voter lists prior to 1971, will be settled. The fact is that these documents are not available with the government in a full-proof manner. The motive is amply clear. But the central government in the name of isolating the secessionist forces like ULFA and to save the market of Indian capitalist class has adopted the policy of appeasement of the chauvinist forces and conceded to their unjust demands. Whereas all political parties including minority organizations kept mum about this conspiracy, it is our Party alone who exposed the inner design of this scheme, roused the people, held conventions, formed peoples' struggle committees and organized massive demonstrations. The continuous movements organized by us led to a stage when people of Barpeta, where the 'pilot project' of this ill-conceived process was first rolled out, developed a mood of boycotting the process. Frightened at that, the government had to stall the process temporarily. To that extent, some victory could be achieved, but our Party is continuing to mobilize the people against the process which may be resumed any time. The state committee is also launching a sustained campaign amongst the common Assamese speaking people

explaining to them that this move is not only an unjust attack on the minority people and their descendents who are genuine Indian citizens and consider Assam as their birth place but has also been aimed, at the behest of the capitalist class, at bringing a rift between the oppressed minority and majority people so that they cannot develop united struggle against the exploitative attacks of the ruling class. Our continuous ideological struggles since the days of Assam movement have yielded some result too as it is observed that this time the chauvinist forces have failed to rouse a greater section of the Assamese people in the manner as they could do so during Assam movement.

The task of uniting all sections of ethnic and linguistic groups is a prerequisite for developing strong united democratic movement. In the days of freedom movement, Jyotiprasad Agarwalla, the great litterateur and uncompromising freedom fighter, played a great role to develop larger society uniting all ethnic, linguistic and religious groups on the basis of modern ideas. In order to initiate a healthy cultural movement throughout the length and breadth of the state in the finest continuity of this great son of

Assam, the State Committee of the Party has installed a full size bronze statue of this great man at a park in Guwahati depending on public charity. People at large have immensely appreciated this initiative. Many people have come closer to our Party in the process. The Party organization has also spread in many Assamese speaking districts. Party district conferences and conventions were held this time before the Second Party Congress (2009) in these new districts where the Assamese speaking people constitute the majority population. At present we have Party organization in 15 districts.

It has been our experience that notwithstanding an unfavourable situation marked by widespread confusion among the greater section of the masses created by the chauvinist-secessionist-separatist forces, wherever we could reach with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, we got tremendous response. But dearth of adequate number of leaders and dedicated cadres is standing in the way to explore the potential fully. We have been striving to overcome this limitation following Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teachings and are hopeful to emerge yet stronger in the days to come.

Class and mass struggles intensifying in Bangladesh



Comrade Khalequzzaman, General Secretary, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, discussing on present political situation in Bangladesh at a massive gathering at University Institute, Kolkata, on 13 December, 2010. Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) is sitting among others on the dais.

Corrigendum

Please read post-Lenin era as 'post-Lenin period' on page 1 in the coverage of extra-ordinary Party Congress published in P Era-dated 01-12-10. Error regretted.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH